

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

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'ASTRO'NOMICAL...

The clinicians for the 1996 BBF/MLBI Annual Coaching Clinic will primarily be provided by the Houston Astros.

The BBF and MLBI are pleased to announce that Houston Astros manager, Terry Collins, along with Brent Strom, pitching coach of the Tuscon Toros, the Astros AAA affiliate of the Pacific Coast League, will be the main speakers at this years event. They will be assisted by Ralph Rago, the Great Britain manager and the Junior clinic will be run by Alan Ashkinazy from Pony Baseball.

Once again the quality of the speakers is outstanding and hopefully this will assure that the

clinic is another success. Bookings have already started to come in for the event which will take place 19-21 January next year.

Strom has been a pitching coach in the Astros organisation for the last five years and during a career cut short by injury pitched for the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians and the San Diego Padres.

Collins was appointed Astros manager in 1994 and spent the majority of his playing career with the Dodgers. He turned his hand to managing in 1981 and spent much of the 80's managing the Dodgers AAA affiliate, the Albuquerque Dukes.

Ashkinazy played in the Red Sox minor league organisation for four years and coached high school ball for six years. He has been a Pony Baseball coach for the last five years and coached the Greensboro Palomino team to victory in the 1993 World Series.

Rago has coached for thirty five years and most recently for University California Davis where he held the position of Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Co-ordinator.

There will also be a MLB Umpire present running an umpires clinic at the event and details of this person will be made available as soon as possible.

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in British Baseball, call the
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CALLING ALL GB PLAYERS

Is there a player on your team who you think has the right aptitude and attitude to play in the Great Britain senior squad, but never seems to be seen by the right people? Well now is the chance for them to make themselves known.



If they are interested in trying out for the 1996 Great Britain senior squad then they should attend a meeting on Saturday 2 December, 12 noon at the Tally Ho Club, West Midlands Police Training Academy, Birmingham.

For directions to the club, and to confirm their interest, please phone or fax Ralph Rago on 0113 266 9530.

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El Presidente

The season has ended but with many meetings and preparation of the year end accounts for the AGM, the officials of the BBF are continuing to work for the growth of baseball in Great Britain.

Next year the emphasis will be on the push to get our Senior squad out of the B-pool. This must be done for our game to progress, to attract increased funding and most importantly sponsorship. The drive must not stop there as we expect to get into and remain in the A-pool of European baseball. Ralph Rago has outlined his coaching staff for both squads and with camps budgeted for the juniors and cadets it looks like a busy year ahead. Feeling in Europe is that we should be a major playing force and I cannot agree more with that sentiment.

The world of baseball has still yet to make it's decision to allow the participation of professionals into the Olympics. This is still the main contentious issue splitting the main continental confederations of the IBA. The IBA now has 99 members and a probable extra-ordinary congress will be called before the Atlanta games to pave the way for inclusion of the worlds supreme athletes for Sydney in 2000. This seems an easy statement but confusion is still rife that a pre Atlanta vote would mean professionals competing in those games. This is a non-starter and a pre-condition of any vote taking place. So one last time, "There will be no professional players in the 1996 games!"

The congress in Havana was mainly uneventful with the statutes finally being passed by the members. This has

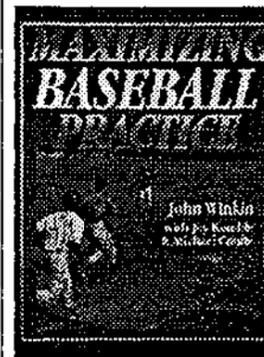
taken far too long to do but the need for an unambiguous document that will stand the test of time is important. With some way to go on the use of the language the basic principles are however sound. Further drafting next congress is expected. Those of you familiar with travel to some foreign climates will know exactly what I mean when I say that for most of the time I had the "Cuban two step" and what with getting sun burnt as well was glad to arrive back home to sunny Sheffield.

Meetings this month include Junior and Senior Leagues, Board, Council and NPL. Preparation for the AGM and the finalising of the European B Championship committees will see most of this year out. The revision of tasks and personnel will continue and I expect a document to be issued to all voting members at the AGM outlining the administration, functions and goals for the next year. Negotiations with MLB, Steve Baker and Clive Russell, for the commencement of the Pitch, Hit and Run program for 1996 are being finalised. This program will go into select schools and be run with local and regional championships. The national finals will be held at a major event in the Autumn giving a high profile and awareness to baseball and our youth programs.

I hope that all your input was submitted to the office for any bye-law considerations as this was your chance to put right your rules. I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in December and of course at the Annual Clinic and dinner in January.

Yours for baseball
Stephen R Herbert.

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Foreword by Tommy Lasorda

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BASEBALL

The New Show From Momix

Tuesday 28 November -
Saturday 9 December

Tickets: £5 - £22.50

Following the company's hugely successful visit last year, Momix returns to Sadler's Wells with the new and already much applauded Baseball. Originating from a 20 minute dance commissioned by the San Francisco Giants to

One dancer made up like a huge ball skims along on roller blades and, in dim light, seems to be flying off the floor.

inaugurate a new ball park at their winter home in Arizona, it has now been transformed into a full evening multi-media performance set to rock, classical music and a radio announcer's play-by-play chatter.

Founded in 1981 by Pilobolus originator Moses Pendleton Momix is a company of dancer-illusionists who conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humour and the human body.

Momix has won a reputation for presenting works of great inventiveness and physical beauty and has developed a world-wide following through its stage performances and its work in film and television.

Outside of Momix Moses has worked with Julian Lennon, Cathy Dennis and Prince on the video 'Batdance'. He choreographed the feature film

....A giant baseball floats into a fielder's glove formed by dancers standing, swaying bodies.....

'FX11'; has directed the Berlin Opera; choreographed for the Joffrey Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala Opera in Milan and Ballet National de Nancy. He is also the recipient of many awards including an International Emmy Award.

Baseball unleashes a cornucopia of baseball myth, legend and nostalgia, conveyed through a combination of archival sound bites, cleverly juxtaposed music from rap to chant, and witty choreography.

.....A slow windup and throw display a pitcher's beautifully controlled contortions

It revives the buoyant, untrammelled spirit of what playing and watching the game has been and ought to be.

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PUZZLE CORNER

MOUND MYSTERY

Devised by Will Cosgrave

When the pitcher's mound was being raked down after the NPL Series the London Wolves were amazed to uncover a strange tablet bearing weird inscriptions. Local archaeologists explained it was First-Age Ballscribe and that it listed extinct British Baseball teams. As a guide to translation *:=£:+ !:*,-% is London Wolves. Can you work out the extinct teams' names?

/?,' %0)=.%
-*(0+ -0!*-%
&)=.:' /;0,-%
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'..'' /?**&,:!%
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*-)@-%.-; (0!''%

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

Doubtful Divisions

- Northern Conference Division Two - England
- Southern Conference Division One
- National Premier League - North
- Southern Conference Division Three
- Northern Conference Division One - England
- Southern Conference Division Two
- National Premier League - South
- Northern Conference Division One - Scotland

BBF LEAGUE STANDINGS END OF SEASON 1995

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Humberside Mets	23	1	
Menwith Hill Pirates	18	6	5
Nottingham Hornets	12	12	11
Birmingham Braves	11	13	12
Liverpool Trojans	9	15	14
Humberside Warriors	8	16	15
Leeds City Royals	3	21	20

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Warriors	19	5	
Enfield Spartans	16	8	3
Brighton Buccaneers	14	10	5
Hounslow Rangers	14	10	5
Essex Arrows	11	13	8
Hemel Red Sox	5	19	14
Bristol Black Sox	1	23	18

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hull Royals	13	2	
Preston Bobcats	8	7	5
Stretford A's	7	8	6
Tamworth Strikers	7	8	6
Barnsley Strikers	6	9	7
Nottingham Pirates	4	11	9

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Darlington RFC Demons	10	2	
Birmingham Brewers	8	4	2
Hessle Apaches	6	6	4
Manchester Cougars	4	8	6
Sheffield Bladerunners	2	10	8

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Edinburgh Reivers	7	1	
Dundee Dodgers	4	4	3
Glasgow Comets	4	4	3
Tayside Cobras	3	5	4
East Coast Pirates	1	7	6

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Cambridge Monarchs	17	2	
Essex Eagles	17	2	0
Waltham Forest Angels	11	8	6
Gloster Meteors	11	8	6
City Slick Sidewinders	10	9	7
Stevenage Knights	4	15	13
Droitwich Spa-Tans	3	16	14

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Wolves	16	3	
Bournemouth B's	10	9	6
Arun Panthers	10	9	6
Croydon Pirates	9	10	7
Tunbridge Wells Royals	9	10	7
Hounslow Hawks	3	16	13
Tonbridge Bobcats	3	16	13

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Milton Keynes Truckers	10	4	
Gillingham Dodgers	10	4	0
Lashings Sluggers	6	8	4
Totteridge Trailblazers	5	9	5
Tiptree Rays	5	9	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Burgess Hill Red Hats	10	5	
Caterham A's	8	7	2
Brighton Buccaneers B	8	7	2
Guildford Mavericks	7	8	3
Chichester Kyotes	6	9	4
Bracknell Blazers	5	10	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Brentwood Stags	9	3	
London Wolverines	9	3	0
Eastbourne Mariners	7	5	2
Waltham Abbey Arrows	7	5	2
Cambridge Monarchs B	6	6	3
Fulham Flames	4	8	5
Guildford Mudcats	0	12	9

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END OF SEASON STATISTICS

National Premier League

Batting	
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	0.565
Sean Ozolins (Red Sox)	0.547
Brian Thurston (Mets)	0.537

Runs	
Harry Atwood (London Warriors)	38
Neil Reid (Mets)	38
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	36

Hits	
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	48
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	39
Pete Edwards (Rangers)	33

Doubles	
Sean Ozolins (Red Sox)	12
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	12
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	11

Triples	
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	3
Harry Atwood (London Warriors)	3
Nick Welsh (Trojans)	3

Home Runs	
Jerry Foreman (Pirates)	7
Jay Stichberry (Pirates)	6
Two players tied on	5

RBIs	
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	38
Ray Brownlie (Mets)	30
Brian Thurston (Mets)	29

Stolen Bases	
Lee Mayfield (Rangers)	34
Gavin Keffer (Buccaneers)	23
Rob Yuille (Spartans)	19

Innings Pitched	
Don Knight (Rangers)	96
Martin Godsall (Trojans)	78.2
Alan Smith (London Warriors)	68.1

Base On Balls	
Nick Carter (Buccaneers)	69
Rob Dixon (Hull Warriors)	60
Don Knight (Rangers)	56

Strikeouts	
Don Knight (Rangers)	119
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	106
Martin Godsall (Trojans)	77

Wins	
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	10 - 0
Gavin Marshall (Mets)	9 - 1
Ray Brownlie (Mets)	8 - 0
Don Knight (Rangers)	9 - 4

ERA (min. 60 Innings)	
Cody Cain (London Warriors)	0.77
Matt Arrildt (Pirates)	1.51
Alan Smith (London Warriors)	2.05

Northern Conf Division One England

Batting Average	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	0.647
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	0.611
Alan Milhench (Bobcats)	0.528

Home Runs	
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	3
Five players tied on	1

Stolen Bases	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	33
Nick Thoresby (Royals)	22
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	21

Base on Balls	
Andrew Whittaker (Royals)	14
Keith Wilson (Royals)	12
Anthony Howarth (Bobcats)	10

Runs Batted In	
John McDonald (Royals)	17
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	16
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	16

ERA (min 20 Innings)	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	4.329
Alan Milhench (Bobcats)	8.859
Anthony Howarth (Bobcats)	9.212

Pitcher Win Loss Record	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	10 - 0
Danny Morris (A's)	2 - 0
Three players tied on	1 - 0

Strike Outs	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	77
Peter Shone (Bobcats)	23
Two players tied on	15

Northern Conf Division Two England

Batting Average	
Len Morrill (Apaches)	0.633
Steve Sturman (Demons)	0.605
Rick Tomlins (Brewers)	0.6

Home Runs	
Charlie Bruin (Apaches)	2
Eight players tied on	1

Stolen Bases	
Len Morrill (Apaches)	33
Mark Carty (Apaches)	31
Brian Jones (Brewers)	21
Dave Garrett (Cougars)	21

Base on Balls	
Rick Tomlins (Brewers)	12
Kevin Macadam (Apaches)	12
Darren Sedgeman (Durham)	11
Anthony Stansfield (Apaches)	11

RBIs	
Tom Yard (Demons)	24
Len Morrill (Apaches)	24
Steve Sturman (Demons)	17

ERA (min 30 Innings)	
Tom Yard (Demons)	3.833
Gary Banner (Brewers)	6.319
Scott Akester (Apaches)	7.251

Pitcher Win Loss Record	
Tom Yard (Demons)	7 - 0
Gary Banner (Brewers)	3 - 1
Barry Marshall (Apaches)	2 - 0

Strike Outs	
Tom Yard (Demons)	86
Scott Akester (Apaches)	63
Gary Banner (Brewers)	30

Southern Conference

Batting	
M Gilbert (Cambridge)	0.685
Winston (Totteridge)	0.6
S Gilbert (Cambridge)	0.54
Ackroyd (Guildford Mudcats)	0.444

Home Runs	
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells)	4
Walmsley (Cambridge)	3
Jim Pearce (Tunbridge Wells)	3
8 players tied on	2

Pitching (min 20 Innings)	
M Gilbert (Cambridge)	2.05
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells)	7.88
Sparrow (Guildford Mudcats)	13.05
Routledge (Totteridge)	15.95

Scottish Conference Statistics

Batting Average	
A Reid (Glasgow)	0.562
G McIlhinney (Glasgow)	0.538
G Crawford (Tayside)	0.533
G Lindsay (Kirkcaldy)	0.529
G Smith (Glasgow)	0.500

Slugging Average	
G McIlhinney (Glasgow)	0.923
J Wilde (Tayside)	0.867
S Takhim (Glasgow)	0.846
G Crawford (Tayside)	0.767
R Harrison (Tayside)	0.741

Hits	
B Farkas (Dundee)	17
G Crawford (Tayside)	16
G Cumming (Dundee)	11
R Harrison (Tayside)	11
P Moodie (Dundee)	10

Doubles	
G Crawford (Tayside)	7
R Smart (Dundee)	4
5 players tied on	3

Triples	
G Cumming (Dundee)	2
B Jenkins (Edinburgh)	1

Home Runs	
R Harrison (Tayside)	2
S Takhim (Glasgow)	2

Walks	
A Baird (Tayside)	15
P Carracher (Tayside)	15
B Farkas (Dundee)	11
P Moodie (Dundee)	11
G Smith (Glasgow)	11

Stolen Bases	
B Farkas (Dundee)	25
G Crawford (Tayside)	24
A Reid (Glasgow)	20
P Carracher (Tayside)	19
K Graham (Edinburgh)	19

Runs	
G Crawford (Tayside)	15
G Cumming (Dundee)	15
G McIlhinney (Glasgow)	15
K Graham (Edinburgh)	13
S Kennedy (Dundee)	13

RBIs	
B Farkas (Dundee)	19
R Harrison (Tayside)	15
G Crawford (Tayside)	14
K Graham (Edinburgh)	12
G Cumming (Dundee)	10

Strikeouts	
G Burnett (Tayside)	14
S Thain (Dundee)	12
P Carracher (Tayside)	10
G Cumming (Dundee)	10
G Thomson (Dundee)	9

Many thanks to the statisticians for providing these results:

Gerry Walmsley

Brian Holland

Clive Maude

Brian Farkas

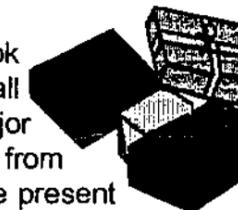
If you team has not received a mention it could be because you have not sent in your scoresheets. Please ensure that you do next season.

The Perfect Christmas Present

The Sporting News 'Chronicle of Baseball' is the story of America's National Pastime from 1900 to the present day. The hardback A4 book by Ron Smith tells the story of baseball month by month from America's leading sports weekly.

The book contains all the major stories from 1900 to the present day plus the rest of the news in brief, 700 historic photographs and 351 pages of great baseball events and leading personalities combine with the most memorable quotes of the baseball legends. Tables of key statistics for each year also provide at-a-glance reference material. The book also devotes special features focusing on some of baseball's most famous individuals including Ty Cobb, Pete Rose and Nolan Ryan.

If you would like a copy of this book then they are available including postage for £15 from BBF Head Office.



WORLD CHILDREN'S BASEBALL FAIR 1995



Back in August you will remember that five young players were lucky enough to attend the 1995 World Children's Baseball Fair in Gifu City, Japan. Judging by their stories below they all had a brilliant time.....

I enjoyed the baseball clinics which we went to every morning, they helped us with our skills. I learned the correct ways of sliding, throwing and the full pitching action. We also learned many new techniques at the clinics and enjoyed playing with people from other countries.

All our coaches had played baseball at some time in their lives. My favourite was Kevin Bly from the USA as he could do funny impersonations and made up funny exercises to help keep you alert. Also I met Joe Dimaggio during the clinics. He played for the New York Yankees in 1936 and was probably one of the best baseball players of all time.

I learned to talk to adults more easily and made lots of friends with people from other countries. I enjoyed relaxing in the communal baths.

My favourite activity was the All Stars match between USA and Japanese legends, even though we had to leave the game early at 8.00pm because we had to get up early the

next morning to catch our plane home.

I managed to get autographs of Lou Brock (Cardinals), Harmon Killebrew (Twins), Bert Campaneris "Campy" (Oakland A's), Mike Torrez (New York Yankees) and Shozo Doi (Tokyo Giants).

After the clinics we did some afternoon activities, the all-stars match was one of them. My second favourite was the trip to Monkey World and Pleasure Land.

I didn't like the opening ceremony in the heat. I also really disliked some of the food particularly sushi.

I had a great time in Japan. Thank you to all those who made it possible for me to take this wonderful trip.

**William Lintern, age 11
Tonbridge Bobcats**

I would like to tell you about being chosen to go the World Children's Baseball Fair in Gifu City, Japan.

I travelled to Leeds Bradford for the flight to Heathrow Airport. I had never flown before, but I was really looking forward to it. We arrived at Heathrow at 4.15pm on Sunday 30 July. The flight to Osaka wasn't until 7.00pm so we went to find the other boys. When I say we, I mean myself and

Nigel Moss, our escort for the trip.

To pass the time we all went to Burger King and looked round the airport. After checking in, we boarded a Japanese Airline plane. It was a 12 hour flight. Also on the plane were boys from Switzerland and Germany, all going to the WCBF. When we arrived in Japan, we were all really tired. We collected our luggage and boarded a coach for the 5 hour journey to the hotel. It was nearly time for bed when we got there, we just had time to look around and sign some autographs.

We awoke at 6am, breakfast was at 7am. We tried a Japanese bath. You had to have a shower first before you were allowed in.

We then went to get our uniforms fitted and collect our equipment. I picked out a black baseball mitt with yellow on the top. I rang my mum and dad to tell them about all the equipment I had got.

The following day was the opening ceremony and after that was our first baseball clinic. We managed to do some fielding and batting and still have time for a practice game. The evening provided a welcome party. There were speeches, lots of food and a disco. The next day was hot, very hot. We went to the historical Gifu Castle which was very interesting and then travelled along the great Bagara River watching the Cormorants fishing for their food.

We trained very hard throughout the week which was sometimes hard because of the heat.

On the Friday we went to Gifu's Monkey Park. All the rides were free and we went on a giant rollercoaster which I didn't like. We also went on a real life earthquake experience.

On Saturday after training we went to an amusement Park, and then on to a stadium for a fireworks display.

On Sunday after training we had a goodwill party and everybody got up on the stage to dance.

On the Monday we had a baseball tournament. The group I was in won it (this left Nigel in a bad mood). At 4.30 they had the closing ceremony and at 5.30 they had a home run competition between the USA all stars and Japan. The USA came out winners 6 - 0.

The all-star game followed. Joe Dimaggio threw the first pitch striking out Hank Aaron.

Tuesday we awoke at 4am to start the long journey home. I was very tired when I got back, but I will always have lots of happy memories of my time in Japan, and of the many friends I made. My most treasured memory will be of meeting Hank Aaron, Lou Brock, Bert Campaneris and Joe Dimaggio.

I would like to give a big thank-you to the WCBF and the to the BBF for giving me a chance in a lifetime, and to Nigel Moss for putting up with me.

**Christopher Radge, age 11
Hessle Apaches**

I left Manchester on a hot, humid day for my long awaited trip to Japan. I flew first to London to meet with the other British Baseball boys and then I went on a Jumbo Jet to Japan. After a 12 hour flight I finally arrived in Osaka. A coach then took us to Gifu City where we were greeted by our Japanese hosts.

We attended an Opening Ceremony with the children from 26 other nations. Every morning we had a baseball clinic in Gifu City stadium, where I picked up a few skills. I met and watched the USA All-Star players (Old Timers). The afternoons and evenings were spent sight seeing, observing cormorant fishing, lighting fireworks and generally having a good time.

My 9 day holiday to Japan was a wonderful experience and one that I will never forget. I made friends with children from different parts of the world, Canada, Germany and American and my British friends and maybe one day we can all meet again.

**Ryan Garner, age 11
Trafford Saints**

Please remember to register your junior players for the 1996 season on time, so that if we receive an invitation to the 1996 WCBF your players have an opportunity to attend. As you can see from the above, it's an opportunity of a lifetime.



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ON THE MOVE.....

Please note the following changes to your BBF 1995 Handbook:

Essex Arrows

1st contact is now:
Paul Raybould, 27 Cambridge Crescent, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP13 7NE
Tel: 01494 438502

Bournemouth B's

New address for 2nd contact Daryl Verion is:
49 Copper Beech Gardens, Ensbury Park,
Bournemouth, BH10 5DB



Nottingham Pirates

1st contact is now:
Ben Stanley, Apartment 3, 11 Cavendish Crescent South,
The Park, Nottingham, NG7
Tel: 0115 979 9077



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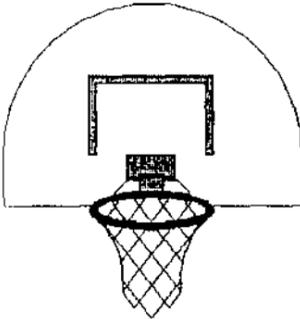
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SCOTTISH JUNIOR LEAGUE

1995 RESULTS

10 June

Jack Kane Blue Jays 13 Dundee Dragons 8
Tayside / Fife Juniors 0 Glasgow Little League 9

17 June

Dundee Dragons 37 Tayside / Fife Juniors 1
Glasgow Little League 6 Jack Kane Blue Jays 14

1 July

Tayside / Fife Juniors 10 Jack Kane Blue Jays 36
Glasgow Little League 6 Dundee Dragons 8

8 July

Dundee Dragons 9 Jack Kane Blue Jays 0
Glasgow Little League 9 Tayside / Fife Juniors 0

29 July

Jack Kane Blue Jays 22 Glasgow Little League 3
Tayside / Fife Juniors 15 Dundee Dragons 32

5 August

Dundee Dragons 22 Glasgow Little League 23
Jack Kane Blue Jays 9 Tayside / Fife Juniors 0

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
Jack Kane Blue Jays	5	1
Dundee Dragons	4	2
Glasgow Little League	3	3
Tayside / Fife Juniors	0	6

JUST A LITTLE BOY

Arthur Kendal of Trafford Saints came across this poem in a coaching manual recently. He comments that with more and more junior clubs springing up he though it might just put things into perspective and remind us all that they are just boys and not men. I'm sure you'll agree.



He stands at the plate with heart pounding fast,

The bases are loaded, the die has been cast.

Mom and Dad cannot help him, he stands all alone,

A hit at this moment would send the team home.

The ball meets the plate, he swings and he misses,

There's a groan from the crowd, with some boos and some hisses.

A thoughtless voice cries, "Strike out the bum",

Tears fill his eyes, the game no longer fun.

Remember, he's just a boy who stands all alone.

So open your heart and give him a break, For it's moments like this a man you can make.

Keep in mind when you hear someone forget,

He's just a little boy and not a man yet.

Bob Fox



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wht/gry/ryl/nvy/scr/blk/kly/mrm/gld/aqu

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Dear Brit-Ball

I have just received your latest copy of Brit-Ball and may I congratulate you on the excellence of your publication.

I am only too well aware of how difficult it is to organise a magazine and newsletter and you certainly have achieved a very newsy and worthwhile publication.

I certainly look forward to it and read it with great interest.

Once again, my congratulations and if there is anything we can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kindest regards and Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

John C Ostermeyer
Executive Director
Australian Baseball Federation

Dear Sirs

Cocoa Expo Sports Center is a privately owned, multi-purpose sports facility located in Cocoa, Florida. In the past, it has served as the spring training home for the Houston Astros and Florida Marlins. Cocoa Expo currently plays host to events ranging from indoor soccer leagues to international baseball tournaments. With its own air-conditioned dormitory and cafeteria, Cocoa Expo is capable of housing and feeding those who partake of the facility's athletic offerings. Of particular interest to those involved with baseball and softball are the complex's ten baseball / softball fields, lighted 5,000 seat stadium, mine lighted batting tunnels, and clubhouse facilities.

We at Cocoa Expo have enjoyed a successful partnership with international baseball. National and club teams from over twenty nations have participated in various events at our complex, including the 1992 IBA Merit Cup, which attracted teams from China, Brazil, Guatemala, France, New Zealand, Peru and the former Czechoslovakia. In order to further increase world-wide awareness of what Cocoa Expo has to offer, we are contacting national federations to inform them about upcoming events at Cocoa Expo, such as our popular week-long sessions of Spring Training that take place in February and March each year, and the Cocoa Expo International baseball tournament scheduled for 1-6 July 1996.

We look forward to seeing your federation's athletes in sunny Florida.

Sincerely

Jeff Biddle
Director of Athletics
Cocoa Expo Sports Center
500 Friday Road, Cocoa, Florida 32926
Tel: 407 639 3976
Fax: 407 639 0598

Dear Steve

I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Brent Conway and I'm the Undergraduate Assistant Baseball Coach at the University of Rhode Island. I'm writing to you to let you know that I will be studying at the University of Liverpool in fall of 1996. I'm doing this as part of an exchange program but I would like to incorporate a few other things.

I would like to express my interest in performing either player clinics or coaches clinics while I'm enjoying my stay in Liverpool. I've done a little bit of research into baseball in England and as I understand it, baseball is primarily played in and around London. However I would be willing to travel almost anywhere in the country.

I think baseball is on the brink of becoming a major international sport. I would really enjoy the opportunity to bring my coaching knowledge and experience to your country in hopes of expanding baseball world-wide. This opportunity could not only be valuable to baseball in England but it could also be a very enlightening cultural experience for myself.

I would appreciate your correspondence on this letter and feel free to contact the Head Baseball Coach, Frank Leoni at the University of Rhode Island, tel 401 792 4550.

I really appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and I hope to hear from you soon. Please send any additional information about your program.

Brent Conway
Rhode Island Baseball
URI Union Express #575, 50 Lower College Road,
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Tel: 401 874 1782
Fax: 401 792 2458

NOMINATION APPEAL!

Who and Where are Britain's Young Champions?

Following last year's overwhelming success - Desmond Wilcox Productions are once again seeking your nominations for the 1996 Iceland Champion Children Awards from friends, relatives, or anyone who knows a youngster aged between 8 and 16 years, who has shown community spirit, selfless devotion, an act of heroism, triumphed over adversity. Perhaps an exceptional young

musician, artist or potential Olympic medal winner.

BUT maybe possible champions are know to your organisation or group, perhaps a friend of a friend, someone you've known all your life, even a recent acquaintance; a young unsung hero, outstanding talent, or simply a very courageous and brave girl or boy, whatever the story our production office want to hear about it.

The 1996 Iceland Champion Children Awards will take place, once again, as part of a special one hour Carlton TV networked television programme. In the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, this Gala Awards Ceremony will be presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan, with Gavin Campbell as film reporter. It will transmit next Easter and will be a real chance to highlight and applaud the spirit of today's youth on prime time television.

We need nominations for the judges to choose in six categories; Art, Bravery, Music, Sport, Triumph over Adversity, Young Carer. Please don't delay in sending in your nominations, they should reach us by Friday 29 December.

If you require a nomination form please contact Pamela Kaufman, Tel: 0181 743 7431 or Fax: 0181 740 7454.

Dear Brit-Ball

With the graded league structure having completed its third season perhaps a few comments, observations and suggestions might be passed on its workings. I doubt if some of my views will find much favour as they cut across decades of British Baseball thinking, but here goes anyway.

The NPL South nearly always provides games of good standard and judging by league results its the same in the NPL North. I believe standards could have been even higher but for some problems that affect all divisions.

In the lower divisions rising standards of play are much harder to see with often a wide gulf between top and bottom teams. I think withdrawals have not helped here. Promoting extra teams in replacement usually works quite well but relieving very poor teams is often a bad bet as they tend to get worse. In the interests of parity one gets the feeling that teams with a percentage of under two hundred should get relegated.

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The practice of voluntary relegations and refusing promotions would seem to act against parity as such teams usually do well enough to suggest their sacrifice was unnecessary; most teams seem prepared to overcome problems at their proper playing level.

I think a standard policy of scheduling at all levels with teams meeting each other 3 or 4 times would improve play in time.

It is puzzling that the southern half of the country - apart from East Anglia - has shown a healthy growth in teams while the northern half has generally remained static or declined. Perhaps the closure of USAF bases in the east counties has been a factor, but it still seems strange that growth remains elusive in the top half.

Finally; a suggestion for getting Scotland more involved in the mainstream. Suppose the Scotland national squad met each NPL North team just once during the season, the results counting in the league for the English clubs. Scotland would not play in the league but if they won at least half their games would take part in the National play-offs. They would still run a separate club league.

As I say, these are personal views of a non BBF person and are not intended in criticism; things can always seem different from the outside. Feel free to chew on and spit out before the AGM!

Yours faithfully

Will Cosgrave



British Baseball Federation

1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 10 December 1995
1.00pm prompt

Fox Hollies Leisure Centre
Shirley Road, Birmingham

Please make every effort to attend. Each BBF affiliated senior (not farm teams) and junior team is entitled to one vote. Make sure you use it. If you require a map to Fox Hollies, please contact BBF Head Office on 01482 643551.

WORLD SERIES BASEBALL 1903 - 1950

Congratulations to Ian Smyth and Gary Bedingfield who both answered 29 questions correctly and win a copy of the Sporting News Chronicle of Baseball.

Answers to the Mastermind quiz are as follows:

1. Sportsman's Park. The St Louis Cardinals and St Louis Browns contested the World Series that year.
2. Dizzy and Paul 'Daffy' Dean. They each won two games in the 1934 Series for the Cardinals against the Tigers.
3. Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants. He did it against the Philadelphia Athletics.
4. Cy Young
5. Satchel Paige. He appeared for Cleveland in Game 5 of the 1948 Series against the Braves.
6. 1918
7. George Stallings
8. Babe Ruth. He won two games extending his World Series scoreless-innings streak to 29.
9. Eddie Cicotte
10. Elmer Smith. In game five in 1920 between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians
11. The first unassisted triple play.
12. The spitball or spitter
13. The Chicago Cubs, in game three in 1932.
14. St Louis slugger Joe Medwick. Detroit Tigers fans pelted him with bottles and vegetables as their teams victory hopes disappeared.
15. 1907.
16. 1921.
17. Casey Stengel.
18. The Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Red Sox.
19. It was a 3-3 tie. The first in World Series history.
20. Shoeless Joe Jackson and Buck Weaver
21. The New York Giants
22. Most errors committed in a World Series. He committed eight in 1925.
23. Miller Huggins
24. Bill Klem
25. John McGraw
26. The Brooklyn Dodgers
27. Chicago in 1906.
28. Enos Slaughter.
29. It was the first pinch-hit home run in Series history.
30. The New York Giants

VINTAGE TIMES SENIOR SPORTS PERSONALITIES OF THE YEAR

Last summer, Vintage Times brought out the first ever section in a Lifestyle Magazine to cater for all the thousands of over 35's who regularly participate in sport. The response to this section has been such that to honour the success, the endurance and the dedication of Senior Sportsmen and Sportswomen, we proudly announce a new award - The Senior Sports Personalities of the Year.



This award will be made to one man and one woman whose sporting feat in the opinion of an expert panel show them to be exceptional people and an example for the oncoming generation. The criteria considered will be:

- * age
- * difficulties of handicaps overcome
- * sportsmanship
- * lifetime service



Nominations may come from:

- * Sports Governing Bodies
- * Sports Club(s)
- * Family and friends

There is no limit to the number of nominations from any one sport but each must be in writing bearing the:

- * Name of the nominee and the sport
- * A brief recommendation for consideration (no more than 250 words)
- * Contact details for the nominee and proposers

and they should reach Vintage Times at:

**VT SPORTS DESK,
CARA HOUSE,
196-198 BEDFORD HILL,
LONDON, SE12 9JH**

as soon as possible. Any queries can be answered by ringing our Sports Editor on 0181 675 2129. Details of the winners and the entries will appear in the Spring 1996 issue of Vintage Times.

**Closing date for entries is
20 JANUARY 1996**

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL



1996 COACHING CLINIC



**Friday 19 January
- Sunday 21 January**

The 1996 British Baseball Federation and Major League Baseball International Coaching Clinic will be held at Hopwood Hall College, Hopwood Campus, Manchester.

This is the fourth clinic of its kind and will be building on the success of its predecessors. The BBF and MLBI are pleased to announce that Houston Astros manager, Terry Collins, along with Brent Strom, pitching coach of the Tuscon Toros, the Astros AAA affiliate of the Pacific Coast League, will be the main speakers at this years event. They will be assisted by Ralph Rago, the Great Britain manager and the Junior clinic will be run by Alan Ashkinazy from Pony Baseball.

Strom has been a pitching coach in the Astros organisation for the last five years and during a career cut short by injury pitched for the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians and the San Diego Padres.

Collins was appointed Astros manager in 1994 and spent the majority of his playing career with the Dodgers. He turned his hand to managing in 1981 and spent much of the 80's managing the Dodgers AAA affiliate, the Albuquerque Dukes.

Ashkinazy played in the Red Sox minor league organisation for four years and coached high school ball for six years. He has been a Pony Baseball coach for the last five years and coached the Greensboro Palomino team to victory in the 1993 World Series.

Rago has coached for thirty five years and most recently for University California Davis where he held the position of Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Co-ordinator. There will also be a MLB Umpire present running an umpires clinic at the event and details of this person will be made available as soon as possible.

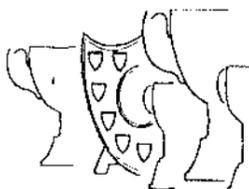
There will also be a MLB Umpire present running an umpires clinic at the event and details of this person will be made available as soon as possible.

The facilities are on a par with Cranfield University where

last year's clinic was staged and accommodation is available on a first come first served basis at a very reasonable price. The College is situated 35 minutes from Manchester Airport, 5 minutes from Castleton railway station (via Manchester Victoria) and within easy reach of all main motorways. The campus is situated 20 minutes from the centre of Manchester.

Also at the clinic there will be a BBF exhibition stand to give advice to teams on assistance available from the BBF and outside bodies. There will also be application forms available so that you may apply for grant funding, other ideas on how to raise money and details of how to develop your ground to name a few.

Once again the BBF Annual Dinner will be held on the Saturday evening with the presentation of the 1995 BBF Coaching and Player Awards, an auction of baseball equipment, souvenirs and a raffle.



It is also hoped that Top Athletic Facility Expert from Florida, Floyd Perry, will be in attendance running a Grounds Maintenance Seminar. We are also aiming to run scoring and umpiring clinics at both beginners and CEB advanced levels alongside the main coaching clinic. Watch out in future editions of Brit-Ball for more details of these clinics.

The clinic will commence on Friday night at 7.30pm with registration commencing at 5.00pm. The clinic will close at 3.00pm on Sunday. A detailed programme and directions to the college will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form.

To secure your place at the clinic please book as soon as possible. If you are interested in attending the dinner only, then this is possible however as places are limited priority will go to the clinic attendees.

You can also pay for the clinic by instalments between now and January. Just send in your registration form with a £20 deposit and we will then provide you with all the necessary details.

Whether you are travelling from abroad or within the UK, let Dragon Tours arrange your transport. Dragon Tours are the Official Travel Agent of the BBF and can arrange all types of transport so that you can get to the clinic. For further details call Ceri on 01495 791260 or fax on 01495 791266.

1996 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COACHING CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to participate in the 1996 Coaching Clinic:

Name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Telephone No:		Date of Birth:	
Team Name (if applicable)			
I enclose the following sum of money:			
Clinic	£		
Dinner (Saturday Evening)	£		
Accommodation	£		
I would like to share a room with:			
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	£		
All cheques should be made payable to the BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION			

FEE STRUCTURE

Adult BBF Member (£20 if booked before 1.1.96)	£25.00
Adult Non Member	£35.00
Junior - under 16 (MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult)	£20.00
Team Rates	1 extra free clinic place per group of 10
Dinner which includes: Dinner Auction of Equipment and Souvenirs Annual Coaching and NPL Player Awards Presentation	£12.50 After Dinner Speakers Raffle
Accommodation - Twin rooms only £17.50 per person per night bed and breakfast	£35.00 for weekend

Please return your completed form and money **BY FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 1996** to:

1996 Coaching Clinic
British Baseball Federation
66 Belvedere Road
Hessle
North Humberside
HU13 9JJ

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Can we be of service to you soon ?

And for all you other teams out there that have not had the FBI experience the season is not over for you yet. FBI are getting ready to have a mad, bad, end of season sale. All those established customers will get the details first, so if you are not on the hit list what are you waiting for.

**Give us a call
0171 837 5100**