

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT



British Baseball Federation

BALL

The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 32
January 1996
85p

1996 A Great Leap Year!

The British Baseball Federation Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday 10 December 1995 at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre, Birmingham.

Despite atrocious weather, teams from as far afield as Brighton and Dundee braved the elements to have their say and vote on the agenda items. A budget of over £100,000 was approved by the membership and plans for the 1996 season should ensure that this will be our greatest season ever.

Once this years MLB/BBF Coaching Clinic has passed, the start of the season will soon be on us. In June, the 1996 MLB envoys will arrive on our shores to assist clubs around the country with game development. As part of the build up

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in British Baseball, call the
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to the 1996 European Baseball Championships B Pool in Hull and Hesse in August, the Great Britain squad will be touring the country playing Premier Division clubs on Saturdays. In July, the Atlanta Olympics will take place with Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium hosting the games. Hopefully with the games taking place in the United States this will mean that there may even be some games on TV (I live in hope!).

Then in August the 1996 European Baseball Championships B Pool will get underway from the 3-11 August with teams from ten countries taking part. All competitors will be striving to ensure that their team gains one of the two top spots and promotion to the A Pool.

It Could Be You!

The BBF Grand Draw will take place at the BBF/MLB Coaching Clinic on Saturday 20 January, and we hope that you will all be able to give your support to it by purchasing a few tickets.

If you have any ticket stubs then please make sure they are returned along with the money by Thursday 18 January. First prize is a holiday for two in a self catering apartment in Tenerife.

In next month's issue look out for interviews with this years Coaching Clinic clinicians and if you have a specific question to ask them then call us straight away. Also a breakdown of next years league structure and details of coaching clinics in your area.

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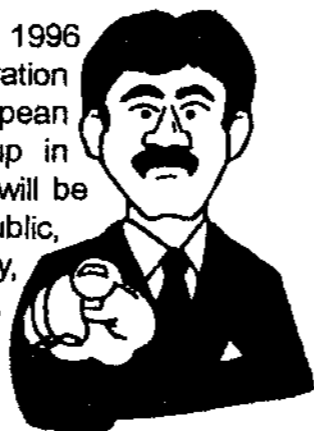
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BBF Handbook: Printed annually, price £4.00 inclusive of postage. Contains all contact details for BBF teams and league fixtures. Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'British Baseball Federation' and sent to BBF Handbook, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

As you may be aware, in 1996 the British Baseball Federation are to host the 1996 European Championships 'B' Group in Hull. Teams competing will be from Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Austria, Slovakia, Norway, Croatia and of course our own Great Britain squad.



The British Baseball Federation would like to make this tournament the finest that Europe has ever seen and to do this we need assistance from as many volunteers as possible.

Some ideas of how we need people to help are as follows:

Publicity - TV, radio, press both prior to the event and during the competition
Programme / poster production
Stewards
Photography
Video
VIP Escorts
PA system technicians
Raffle sales
Programme sales
Announcer / commentator
Technical Commission liaison
Merchandising
Cheerleaders
Chaperones for all participating teams
Mascot
Finding sponsorship
Scheduling
First Aid
Car Park attendants
Communications - fax, telephone
Security

I'm sure you'll agree the list is endless and not everything has been covered here. If you think that there is some way in which you will be able to assist, even if it is only being a car park attendant for one day of the tournament or you have an idea that we may not have thought of then we want to hear from you. Please contact BBF Head Office as soon as possible. We will be holding a meeting of all volunteers early in the New Year, and look forward to seeing you there.

BBF MARKETPLACE

The following items are available free of charge from the BBF to assist in the development of your club.

Diamond Development - contains details of all bodies to whom you can apply for funding.

Diamond Construction - every possible dimension you could require for building and marking out your diamond.

Introduction to the Game - for beginners to baseball, it briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - a brief history of baseball in the UK, good for any youngsters doing a school project on baseball.

How to set up a Baseball Team - How do you go about starting your own team - Ideas for fund-raising, recruiting players, details of fees, where the BBF spend the money etc.

Teeball - an instructional leaflet on the game of tee-ball. Ideal for passing on to your local school to encourage them to play the game.

Baseball Information Sheet - again another leaflet which is ideal for people new to the game, it explains what the BBF is and what we can provide.

Parent Information - a leaflet designed for you to hand out to your junior players parents. It explains

baseball to them and gives details of how they should become involved in your club.

Baseball Qualifications - a booklet which explains the aims and objectives of the coaching association and gives you details on how to attain level A, AA and AAA qualifications.

The Great Game of Baseball - an A2 poster explaining the game and it's history. Ideal for displaying in your local library, sports centre and schools to encourage people to play.

We also have the following items for sale. Payment should be made by either cheque or postal order, made payable to the British Baseball Federation.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1995 Edition - SPECIAL PRICE - only £1 per copy - can your team afford to be without them.


BBF Scratch Cards - what easier way can there be for your team to raise funds. Available at a special price of 15p a card.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - This 45 page book is a must for anyone organising a baseball camp this summer. It's full of ideas for schedules, lesson plans, posters, advertising, competitions etc to make your camp a success plus examples of certificates and awards that can be made at the end of the camp. It's available at a cost of £3.50 per book.

The Sporting News Chronicles of Baseball - the story of America's National Pastime from 1900 to the present day. An A4 hardback book containing 700 historic photographs and 351 pages of great baseball events - £15 including postage and packing

Inflatable Baseball Bats - You've seen Atlanta Braves chop, now here's your chance to start a new trend and do the BBF Bash! These inflatables blow up to the same length as a normal baseball bat - 32" and are approximately twice as thick. The barrel of the bats is coloured red, white and blue in a union jack design. A must for supporting the GB squad in the European championships, and they're only £1 each

BBF Caps - Let people know that you belong to the British Baseball Federation.

 These caps are of an exceptional quality, embroidered with the BBF logo. They are available in either white with a blue peak or red with a royal blue peak. At a cost of £10 can you afford to be without one this summer?

BBF Polo Shirts - Again an excellent way to promote the British Baseball Federation. These shirts are available in red, royal blue, white, grey or white with a blue collar. We have XL sizes in stock but S, M, or L may be ordered at an excellent price of £12 each.



If you require information on any of the above please contact:
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BBF / PONY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

In 1996 the BBF plan to introduce league play for youth teams throughout the country. In each conference leagues will be regionalised, creating more localised competition and reducing travel and other associated burdens.

The respective champions of these local divisions will then be eligible for the play-offs, which will culminate in a National Youth Final.

The BBF have entered into a partnership with PONY Baseball, who have assisted in the development of a set of rules, that have been devised especially for BBF Youth play. These rules are intended to allow children to experience all the aspects of baseball, while having some restrictions to meet the needs and abilities of our kids.

Meetings to introduce teams to this concept have been held in the North West, North East, South and Scotland. The next meeting is to be held:

Date: Sunday 28 January

Time: 10.30am prompt

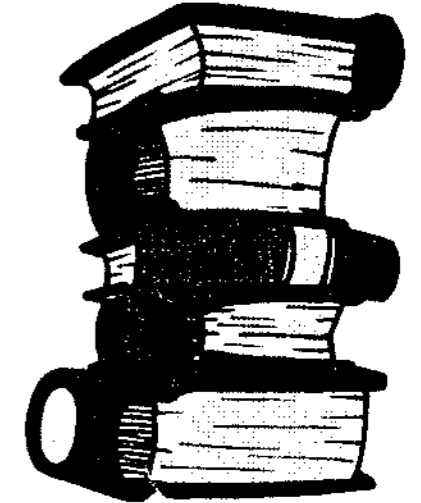
Venue: BBF Indoor Training Centre,
 Mill Street, Birmingham

If you require more information regarding PONY baseball, or would like your junior team to be included in the league, please contact Ian Smyth on 0113 261 2571. If you require a map to the Indoor Training Centre please contact Gary Roberts on 0121 503 0967.

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PUZZLE CORNER

MUDDLES MANAGERS

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

A well-known BBF senior team manager complained to me that his name had not been used in a quiz. So here are some anagrams of deprived team managers' names

1. ORN CHEFTERL
2. TAMT TRILARD
3. ARGY MIMCUNG
4. HILP BERRETH
5. LING ECQUMEN
6. RAGY BRERSOT
7. GRICA AVEGAS
8. KNARF NACCUE
9. KRANF KRAPER
10. VESTE BRITLEG
11. VIDDA BUSHEG
12. TWATHEM DRAR

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

	B	S	R	L	O	L	S	Y	
T	*								B
U									S
E							*		K
H						*			S
A								*	J
W						*			S
S			*						A
K								*	S
	C	A	M	O	G	S	Y	A	

* Nick-names (read from top to bottom of map-grid):

- BATS
- CUBS
- ELKS
- HOGS
- JAYS
- OWLS
- RAMS
- YAKS

BASEBALL ON THE INTERNET

At the recent IBA Congress in Cuba, I was pleased to hear the IBA's commitment to ensuring amateur baseball information is available on the Internet. This was of great interest to Steve Herbert and myself who had been toying with the idea of a BBF page on the net. For the uninitiated (yes that's you Ian Smyth!) this means that via a PC and a modem, anybody in the world can access information about the BBF 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, just by typing in the BBF's web address. We now have a page on the Internet which can be accessed by typing

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com:80/homepages/SRHERBERT/bbf.htm>

On the same subject Nick Clark has been surfing the net to discover other information on baseball, and has discovered the following.....

1995 has been hailed as the year of the Internet with everyone interfacing with the World Wide Web. But where's the Baseball? It's out there, tons of it, so here's a guide to help you find it. The Major, and even Minor, league clubs have caught on to the growing interest in this area and many are already on the 'net' with Home Pages. These pages contain everything from player stats, schedules,

merchandise, photos, fan club details, quizzes, competitions, interviews to really cool audio and video clips. All of these sites are really easy to use and can keep you engrossed for hours. All are updated regularly so it means you hear about that big trade the day it happens rather than reading about it tomorrow.

I have listed the baseball addresses I have found so far and listed my (biased) thoughts on them (Ratings are out of five stars). Give them a go and see what you think Happy Linking!

Atlanta Braves -
<http://www.atlantabraves.com>

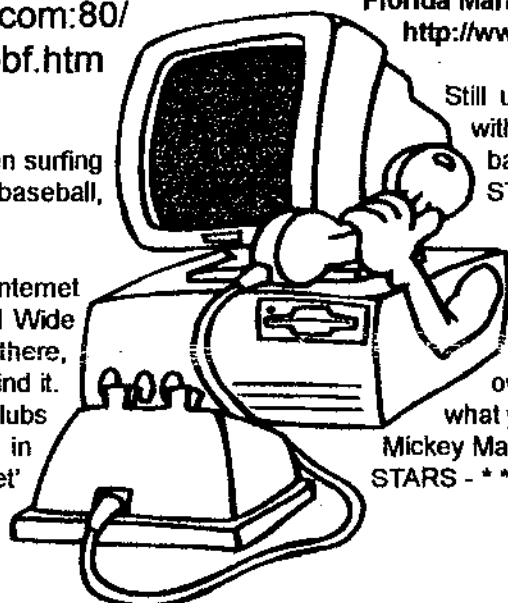
A new site that is packed with stuff on the World Champs. Archives section is huge, with player interviews and radio/tv clips. Check out Chipper Jones' voice ... is it cool or what!? STARS - *****

Florida Marlins -
<http://www.pwr.com/marlins>

Still under development but looks good with its Marlin-aqua pinstripe background. No archives section. STARS - **

New York Yankees -
<http://www.yankees.com>

Bronx Bombers site is good with its own search facility to help you find what you are looking for. Good stuff about Mickey Mantle and other Yankee greats. STARS - *****



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Oakland Athletics -
<http://oaklandathletics.com>

Colourful site with a neat way of finding information, you click on an area of the Coliseum. Tons of player data. STARS - *****

San Francisco Giants -
<http://www.hooked.net/sfgiants>

Not bad. Not a patch on their bay area rivals. Good stuff on Barry Bonds and Matt Williams however. STARS - ***

Seattle Mariners -
<http://www.mariners.org>

The first and BEST! If you can only look at one, this is it. Archives section is terrific with a huge audio file. Offers the chance to see a film of their new, under-construction retractable roof stadium. Two things you must do: hear Dave Niehaus' call of Edgar Martinez's play-off grand slam ('Get out the rye bread and mustard granmaw that one is a grand salami!!!!') and watch the video on Randy Johnson, get ready to duck! Absolute magic! STARS - *****

Toronto Blue Jays -
<http://bluejays.ca/bluejays>

An excellent site for the most fantastic team in all of

baseball, ever! Spot the Jays fan! No archives yet but you can e-mail to players on the big league roster. Player info section is fab. PS Alex Gonzalez is god! STARS - *****

Major League Baseball -
<http://www.majorleaguebaseball.com/mlb>

A good site that stays up to date with current news better than anywhere else. No archives though, yet. STARS - ***

Cooperstown - Hall of Fame -
<http://www.eneews.com/bashallfame/overview.html>

Terrific, if you can type in the address right! It's a nightmare! STARS - ****

Hickory Crawdads -
<http://www.hickory.nc.us/ncnetworks/crawdads.html>

I've never been able to access this one!

Huntsville Stars -
<http://quest.com/new3/stars/index.html>

Minor league site. Not a lot to it! STARS - ***

Carolina League -
<http://www2.interpath.net/baseball/>

Another minor league one. Good. STARS - ****

Skilton's Baseball Links -
<http://ssnet.com/skilton/baseball.html>

A good way of finding other baseball stuff. Handy. STARS - ****

Cleveland Indians -
<http://www.indians.com>

A split new site that will get better. Just now it can become confusing with so many ways to get into the same pages. STARS - ***

Mosey's Internet Card Shop -
<http://www.uvm.edu/mosey>

Now you can get that '52 Topps mantle you were after. STARS - *****

Hideo Nomo - ?
If you have access to one of the many search engines (try Skilton), then you can find tons about the Japanese Tornado! He even has his own Internet fan club called 'Tornado Boy' !!!

Nick Clark
Edinburgh Reivers



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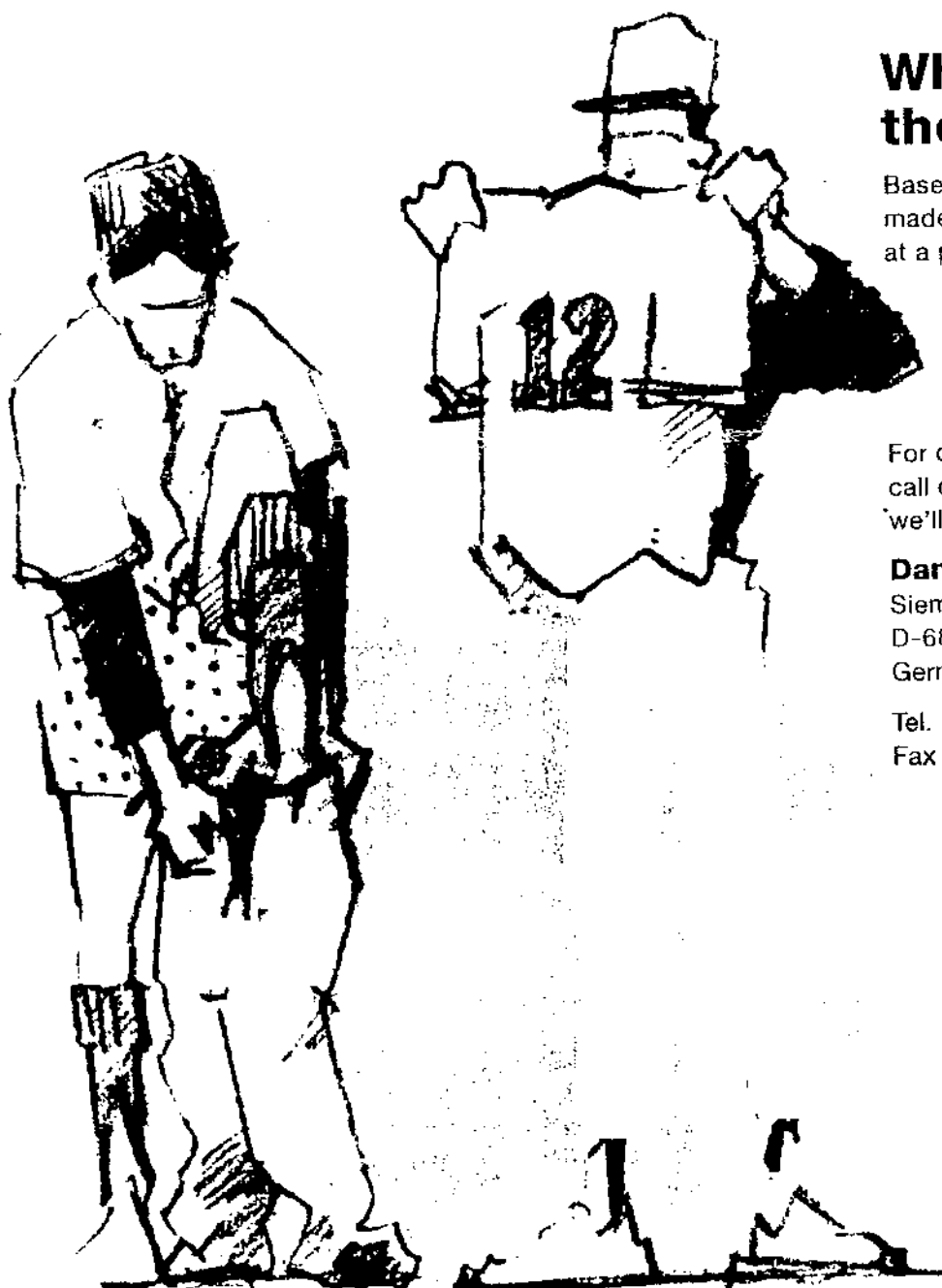
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Say Daniel's - you've said it all!

Dear Kevin

I am writing with reference to the recent AGM held in Birmingham to which I attended along with club colleague Kevin Gogan, and a representative from fellow National Premier League club, the London Warriors, namely Mr Cody Cain.

We would like to make it know that both myself and Kevin were absolutely disgusted with the appalling attendance of the registered clubs with only 38 from 105 voting members present at the meeting. Had it not have been for a couple of late arrivals, the meeting might not have gone ahead due to the poor attendance of clubs from around the country.

We as a club, had to ensure a 400 mile round trip, with a 5 hour return journey due to dense freezing fog. In comparison to some club's attendance this was a minor problem as certain members had to return to Scotland. It could have all so easily been a waste of time due to a poor lack of commitment from many clubs.

We feel it should be made compulsory for all clubs to attend the Federation's Annual General Meeting to discuss and vote upon important decisions that affect the future development of the sport. In future all club's failing to attend the meeting should have a fine levied against them, unless they have notified Head Office in writing no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

If each club continues to act in an unprofessional manner then baseball in this country will continue to be the poor relation of the big four American sports, two of which, namely

basketball and Ice Hockey have made huge strides forward in terms of support from the British public.

Craig Savage
on behalf of
Brighton
baseball Club

Dear Brit-Ball

I can't believe we've scrapped the foreign player restrictions. Has everybody lost their senses? One of the best rules the BBF has ever introduced in recent times has been abandoned for the 1996 season. People really have short memories.

I couldn't make the National Premier League (sorry, The British Baseball League Premier Division - hereafter referred to as BBL-P to save time and energy) meeting and for the first time in 10 years, missed the AGM. Not wishing to sound egotistical but I feel like I've stepped off the boat and it sank behind me!

In 1988, as BBF South President, I introduced foreign player restrictions. Prior to the introduction, we had been dominated by exclusively non-UK teams. They won our league championships, won our cups, offered nothing to British baseball in terms of coaching and administration. Jealousy was not the incentive for creating their demise. The object of the restrictions was not just to eradicate this monopoly but to encourage these talented players to join up with British teams and offer their skills and knowledge to British players.

In my mind, the restrictions have succeeded. In the NPL South over the last few years, the competition has been fairly balanced. Virtually all teams at this level have a sprinkling of foreigners and the general standard has improved.

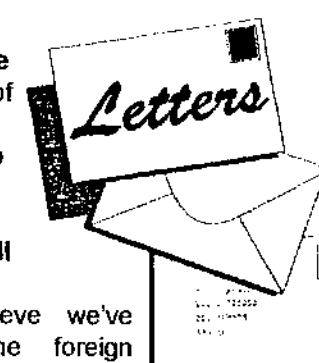
The benefits the restrictions offer far outweigh the disadvantages. My own team, the Essex Arrows, 'suffered' in 1995 because we interested an abundance of foreigners and, on occasions, some had to be benched to comply with the rule. The players accepted it. They knew the restrictions existed before they joined.

Lifting the restrictions is a cop-out for weak-willed and success-at-all-cost managers who have no interest in the future of the British game. No doubt they are already out scouting American bases and American and Japanese schools. We shall welcome back the fly-by-night foreigner on his summer holiday into our games - just in town to win the vital play-off game.

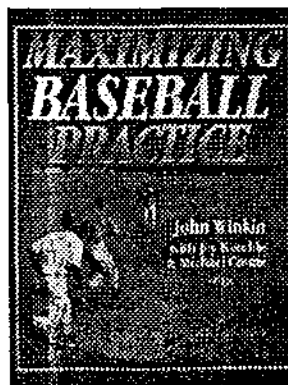
Before someone accuses me of being xenophobic, I was brought up in the States and my brother is American.

Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised by this insane change. I lost heart supporting the BBF membership a few years ago when I resigned from the Board. I decided then to never let myself get excited about what goes on in British baseball ever again. Unfortunately, this decision has raised the hairs on my back and I couldn't let it go without comment.

Paul Raybould
- a continually disillusioned BBF member.



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INSURANCE EXPLAINED!

A number of teams throughout last season and at the AGM had various queries about our public liability insurance. Perkins Slade, our insurance company have prepared the following article which I hope will make thinks a little clearer.

Public Liability Insurance

Public Liability Insurance, commonly known as Third Party Insurance, provides protection against the consequences of liability for injury or damage arising out of the actions of the insured. The association, executives, officials, clubs, members and voluntary helpers should all be covered. Officials and members at all levels could find themselves held personally responsible for court costs and damages awarded where an action has been brought against the association / club for negligence - it is essential that adequate Liability Insurance is arranged to avoid such consequences.

Unfortunately, Liability Insurance arranged in the general insurance market is invariably based on a standard commercial insurance policy with wording and exclusions not best fitted to the real needs of sports bodies. Such cover would only provide protection in the event of an accident, ie a single defined event, and would quite possibly exclude "deliberate acts". Within sport, losses and injuries can occur over a period, be attributable to errors or omissions in instruction or other advice and consequently are not insured under usual policy wording. Likewise, instruction and advice is nothing if not deliberate and any such exclusion is not acceptable.

The cover, therefore, should include liability to the public at large plus member to member liability, leased or rented premises, trespass, nuisance and similar problems, along with the interests of principals, such as leisure centre proprietors and authorities. It should also include liability arising out

of errors or omissions in advice, which result in injury or financial loss along with libel, slander and fraud liability.

Product Liability should also be insured - essential cover following Consumer Protection Legislation which holds suppliers responsible for injury or damage caused by a defect in a product sold or supplied by them whether they have been negligent or not. This particularly applies to refreshments, but can equally embrace kit, equipment, uniforms etc.

Instructor Coach Indemnity

It is right to expect that instructors and coaches in sport holding the required governing body qualifications should be able to rely upon insurance protection under the policies arranged by their respective governing body, but special care and attention needs to be paid to this aspect. Most Public Liability policies specifically exclude "advice given for a fee", some carry a "deliberate act" exclusion wording and all restrict the cover to claims arising out of an "accident or occurrence" only.

Coaching obviously involves professional advice, is quite "deliberate" and can, due to neglect, errors or omissions in training or treatment, lead to accusations that injuries have developed gradually over a period of time rather than a single "accident or occurrence".

It is not always possible to adapt standard policy wording to provide this cover and so there becomes a need for a separate "Professional Indemnity" insurance cover, similar to that provided for doctors, architects, solicitors, etc which can be quite expensive. By redesigning complete policy wordings, however, it is possible to widen the cover to provide cover for claims arising from "errors or omissions" along with Professional Indemnity and full Public Liability cover. Sports associations must draw this requirement to the attention of their insurance advisers.

Interests of Other Parties

The vast majority of sports associations rely on other bodies for accommodation and facilities, eg local authorities, schools, leisure centres, river authorities, etc. You must not expect their insurance to cover you as a sports association or user and nowadays it is common practice for such principals to insist that your insurance be suitably extended to include their interest. You will be required to sign contracts for leasing and using facilities and you must ensure that your Liability Insurances are extended to include contractual obligations and the interests of all principals.

Disclaimers

Do not rely on disclaimers. The Unfair Contract Terms Acts does not allow anyone to sign away their legal rights for redress if someone is liable for causing injury or death. Whilst they can discourage injured people from bringing claims, disclaimers can never replace adequate insurance cover. Better still, is to act at all times with reasonable care to avoid causing damage or injury and being found negligent.

Personal Accident Insurance

Whilst injuries in sport are quite common place and acceptable these can, at times, be so serious as to dramatically affect the injured party or even result in death. The natural reaction in such cases is to seek compensation and this will involve court action which may or may not be successful. It is estimated that only one in five such action results in an award of damages and a seven or eight year delay must be anticipated.

To provide immediate compensation without the need to prove liability or pursue court action governing bodies can arrange Personal Accident Insurance in respect of all their



members. This should ensure that in the event of death a sum is available to pay immediate funeral expenses but where permanent total disablement, such as loss of an eye, a limb, speech, hearing or total inability to pursue an occupation occurs, higher compensation to help rebuild a shattered life is called for. Whilst no amount of compensation can adequately replace the quality of living previously enjoyed, a sensible benefit or around £50,000 should be considered.

Weekly benefits to compensate for loss of wages can also be insured although this particular benefit only applies to people in waged employment. Associations should consider this fact relative to the ages and employment conditions of their membership - if most members are students or likely to fall in salaried employment it is unnecessarily expensive to embark on weekly benefits.

The cost of this insurance depends on the degree of hazard in the sport and obviously the benefit level paid.

Please remember that there is always strength in numbers and cover arranged through your governing body is bound to be wider in scope and more economical than any individual arrangements you can make.

SNIP...

The following is an extract from the local Dundee Newspaper:

A pony-tailed Dundee baseball enthusiast made the ultimate sacrifice yesterday to buy uniforms for the Dundee Dragons junior baseball team.

Brian Edwards (29) president of Dundee Dodgers and Scottish Commissioner for the British Baseball Federation has been proudly growing his hair for the last three years.

However, yesterday evening his growing pains came to an end as his shorn 10-inch locks went tumbling on to the floor of Salon Ritchie in Blackness Avenue.

Brian raised £60 through sponsorship to undergo the ordeal by scissors.

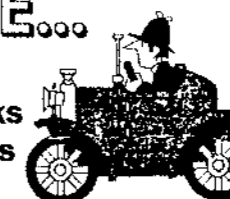
BEST WISHES ACROSS THE MILES.....



Ron Naylor, a baseball player from many years ago and now living in Australia would like to send his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to those who remember him, especially the Megsons, Frank Parker, Alan Asquith and Ron Marshall.

ON THE MOVE...

South Bucks Blue Jays Junior Baseball Club



New address for Ian King is as follows: 14 Trees Avenue, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4PQ, Tel: 01494 562615

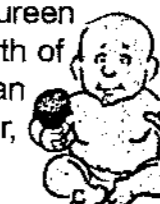
OBITUARY

We have received the sad news from CEB of the sudden death of our friend and Technical Delegate Mr Jules Vermeiren at the age of 60 years.

CEB has again lost a good friend and collaborator.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Dean and Maureen Davidson on the birth of their daughter Megan on 15 December, weighing 7lb 5oz.



DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

At a recent disciplinary hearing, Jeremy Bedford of Hounslow Baseball Club was banned from baseball for one season. This punishment was as a result of his physical abuse of an umpire.

Please take note, instances of this kind will be dealt with if we are informed of them by using the disciplinary procedures as defined in the BBF Handbook.

BOSOX XWORD ANSWERS

Answers to last month's crossword puzzle are as follows:

Across

2. Stuart
5. Fenway
7. Cy (Young)
10. Dwight Evans
12. Carl Yastrzemski
13. & 15. Jimmy Foxx
16. ER
17. Tar
19. Russ (Nixon)
20. Ken
21. SM (Stuffy McInnis)
23. Green
24. Boggs
25. Frazee (Sold Babe Ruth to Yankees to Finance his theatre play)

Down

1. JC (Joe Cronin)
3. Ted Williams
4. Ruth
6. A. L. E.
8. Red Ruffing
9. Buckner
11. Pilgrims (original team name)
14. Yankees
18. Russ (Thomas)
22. Sox

Book Information

PUBLICATION DATE 27TH MARCH 1995

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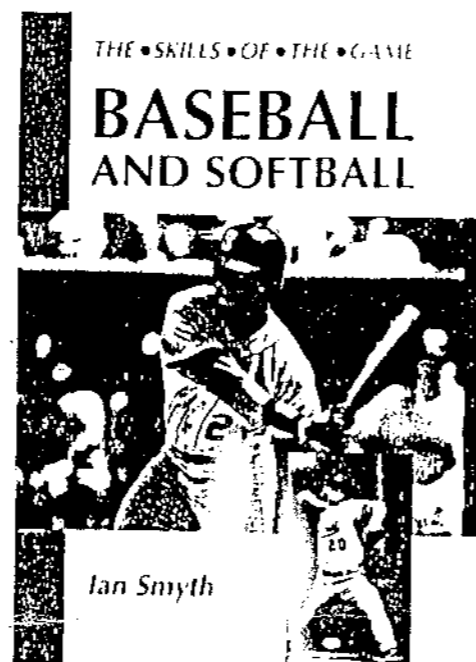
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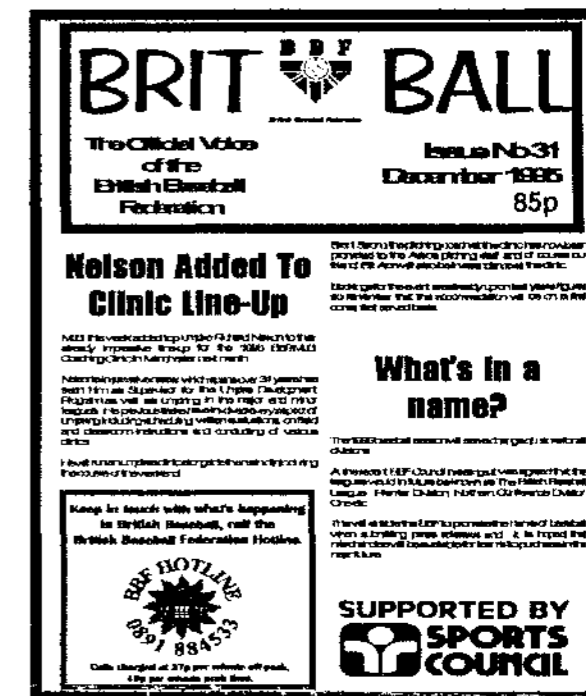
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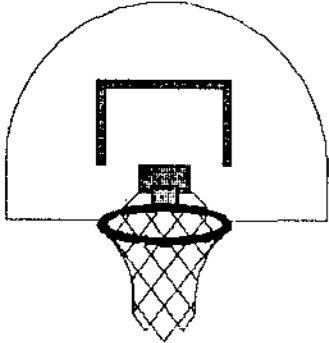
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