

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

As you may be aware, from 3 - 11 August 1996 the British Baseball Federation are to host the 1996 European Championships 'B' Group in Hull. Teams competing will be from Ireland, Poland, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Norway, Croatia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Yugoslavia 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 are holding regular meetings of all volunteers and hope you will be able to join us.

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.

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 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. The are available in either white with a royal 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 royal 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 more information on any of the above please contact:
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BBF CONSTITUTION

At the 1995 Annual General Meeting Gary Mortimer informed the members present that the current constitution we have is very outdated, and does not fit with our Bye-laws.

The process of re-writing the constitution has now commenced. If you have any amendments that you wish to be considered, please submit them in writing to BBF Head Office by 16 March 1996.

SECOND TO HOME

Authors: Ryne Sandberg with Barry Rozner

Sure-to-be Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg could have loafed through the remaining years of a 28 million dollar contract. But "Ryno", the Chicago Cubs perennial All-Star second baseman, gave it up all one sunny Monday in June 1984. His mid-season retirement startled sports pundits and fans everywhere.

Now Ryno tells his story. Why he left the way he left. As he reviews his 17-year career, this reticent man now discloses what he never felt comfortable discussing as an active player. Here are the contract details. Here, at length, are discussions of players, coaches, managers, and general managers with whom he spent 17 years of professional baseball. Here are batting tips that converted him from a singles hitter to a feared home-run slugger.

Here is Ryne the human being, Ryne the father, and Ryne the ball player. Here is the Ryne Sandberg that no-one ever knew - until now.

Ralph Rago, GB Head Coach

As a postscript to this review, Ryne Sandberg as of two months ago unretired himself. He will play this coming season with the Chicago Cubs.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this book, please contact Gazelle Book Services, details below.

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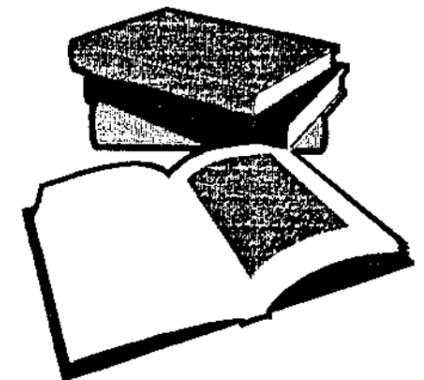
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POSITIONS VACANT

Southern Conference Umpires Commissioner

Applications are invited for the above position. The applicant should live within the BBF Southern Conference, and be a BBF registered umpire.

The role of the umpires commissioner is to ensure that all BBF games have an umpire in attendance, with the Premier Division as first priority. He / she should also be available to answer queries from fellow umpires.

Attendance at two half yearly Technical Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting is also required. Travelling expenses will be paid for these meetings, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

Great Britain Junior Squad Coach

Applications are invited for the above position.

The applicant should be a BBF registered coach and have passed the advanced coaching course. He / she must also be willing to follow the coaching philosophy of the Great Britain Senior team.

Attendance at junior coaching sessions and any games / competitions in which the team compete and the BBF Annual General Meeting are required. Travelling expenses will be paid for these events, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ. If you wish to discuss the position further please contact Ralph Rago on 0113 266 9530.

National Umpiring Evaluator

Applications are invited for the above position. The applicant should be a BBF registered umpire.

The role of the umpiring evaluator is to attend BBF games, primarily GB and Premier Division to assess and assist umpires with their role. This review will be used as a baseline toward promoting umpires through the leagues and recommendation for CEB registration. He / she should also be available to answer queries from fellow umpires, and to conduct umpiring clinics around the country. Another function of the successful applicant will be to assess ground standards.

Attendance at two half yearly Technical Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting is also required. Travelling expenses will be paid for these meetings, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

Scorers Commissioners North, South and Scotland

Applications are invited for the above three positions. The applicants should live within the relevant conference area and be a BBF registered scorer.

The role of the scorers commissioner is to ensure that all BBF games have a scorer in attendance, within their conference, and to produce statistics for each division within their conference on a monthly basis for inclusion in Brit-Ball. He / she should also be available to answer queries from fellow scorers.

Attendance at two half yearly Technical Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting is also required. Travelling expenses will be paid for these meetings, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

UMPIRES - You missed out big time!

Runner on 1st and 3rd, no outs...batter hits a pop-up in the infield.....

Batter swings at a pitch and the ball hits his hand and rolls back to the pitcher.....

These were just a couple of the situations presented at the Manchester '96 Umpire's Clinic by Mr Dick Nelson, with the Baseball Office for Umpire Development in the United States. Mr Nelson brought many years of practical as well as teaching experience to the clinic and it was an absolute pleasure for those in attendance (and it wasn't many) to listen to him and learn. I know everyone there managed to learn a few things about umpiring baseball games. From the youngest and least experienced to those with many years on the field, it was time to put the thinking caps on 'cause school was in session.

We were given instruction in the various stances an umpire can take behind the plate and how to call balls and strikes the proper way. After the classroom session we headed into the gym for some practical work. Timing, timing, timing. If we heard that once, we heard it a hundred times. When to

get "set" for the pitch to how to make a proper signal on a called strike. All of these required concentration and work. And believe it or not, by the end of the session everyone was in the groove. Guys who had never even been behind the plate were calling balls and strikes with authority and confidence. However, calling pitches in a controlled environment and calling them in an actual game are two entirely different things. This was just the beginning.

We were given many, many situations to work out in the classroom instruction. Situations that occurred in Major League games where the four umpires had just seconds to work out the ruling and placement of the runners, we were given minutes to work out. It wasn't easy. Sometimes the obvious ruling isn't always the correct one.

Handling pitchers, catchers, managers (not coaches) and working with your partner. It was all covered in detail with illustrations and examples from Dick's experience.

Dick's ability to instruct and receive the maximum participation from his students speaks volumes about the man. He had us all thinking and interpreting rules; placing runners; scoring runs; rendering outs; as

much as anyone could have hoped for in such a short session.

I'm sure those in attendance will agree, these were three days well spent.

So the next time you're on the field and the manager wants to chat, and it's not about the family, the weather, or if you'd like a cool drink.....you'll wish you had attended the clinic to learn how to handle the situation in the proper and professional manner.

Clinics are for EVERYONE! The only way to get better at your game is to work at it by reading, discussion, practical exercises and attending clinics!

Thanks go to those who attended and a hearty "BOO..HISS" to those who didn't.

Frank Scherer
Northern Conference
Umpires Commissioner

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BBF GRAND PRIZE DRAW

PRIZE	TICKET NO	WINNER	PRIZE	TICKET NO	WINNER
Holiday for two in Tenerife	0131	Ray Quayle, Harrogate	Baseball Cleats	2046	F Parker, Hull
Bottle of Rum	7217	Alan Milliken, Belfast	Baysox Cup	3952	P Howarth, Preston
Baseball Cap	0123	Ray Quayle, Harrogate	Baseball Cap	5417	A Whittaker, Hull
Inflatable Bat	5126	Janet Sparrow, Hull	T-shirt	2405	S Gilbert, Cambridge
Baseball Cap	2274	E Swanson, Hull	T-shirt	3016	H Scott, Dundee
Baseball Cap	2281	T B Thompson, Hull	Baseball Cap	1193	J Knight, Hull
Rookie of the Year Pack	3187	Valerie Mylesm, Forfar	Bottle of Red Wine	6064	Mrs A E Bond, Bournemouth
Bottle of Red Wine	2658	Mr F Codd, Hull	Baysox Cup	7258	J Hopkin, Hull
Umpires Ball Bag	2659	Mr F Codd, Hull	WCBF T-shirt	2653	M Walker, Hull
WCBF T-shirt	0055	M Hagen, Harrogate	Baseball Cap	0023	M Craig, Harrogate
Baseball Cap	6531	Mrs S Churchill, Poole	BBF Polo Shirt	4612	B Morris, Sheffield
Line-up Card Holder	7210	Gary Abbott, Harrogate	Maximising Baseball Practice Book	0125	Paul Bevacqua, Knaresborough
Bottle of Red Wine	0063	Ken Lockwood, Harrogate	T-shirt	7181	N Garner, Hull
Baseball Cap	5418	Andy Whittaker, Hull	Easton Bat Bag	1728	A Haines, Bracknell
All-Star Game Baseball	2608	Terry, Hull	Baseball Cap	6740	F Hoar, Chichester
T-shirt	2406	S Gilbert, Cambridge	Baseball Cleats	1380	A Cross, Hull
Coaching Baseball Book	1177	R Mercer, Hull	Scorers bag	3470	B Edwards, Dundee
Baysox Cup	7124	S Watts, Sompling	Baseball Rule Book	3184	R Skaton, Dundee
Baseball Book	5381	T Holland, Hull	Baysox Cup	6499	M Heissenbittel, Manchester
BBF Polo Shirt	4862	C Richardson, Leeds	Clinic T-shirt	6525	Mrs D Kingsbury, Poole
Baseball Cap	2761	S Pollard, Oxford	Baseball Cap	2425	Mrs A Megson, Hull
Easton Bag	2365	Parker, Hull	Easton Bat Bag	5149	M Symonds, Hull
WCBF T-shirt	3010	N Kinnear, Dundee	Germany Pennant	1601	D Hodgson, Stretford
Bottle of Whisky	2254	G Evans, Brigg	T-shirt	0013	F Scherer, Harrogate
Sporting News Chronicles of Baseball	4463	A Kendal, Manchester	Baysox Cup	2096	A Parker, Hull
Baseball Cap	7326	F Scherer, Harrogate	Baseball Cap	7214	A Milliken, Belfast
Baysox Cup	2638	Conyers, Hull	Baseball Cap	2640	P Kinsley, Hull
Easton Bat Bag	2323	M Kinningham, Hull	Baseball Cap	3973	F Longford, Sheffield
All-Star Game Baseball	1376	L Denton, Hull	Baseball Cap	2041	Jo Fry, Hull
Baseball Cap	5319	L Mayfield, Feltham	Baseball Cap	6875	Jo Collings, Grimsby
Sporting News Complete Baseball Record	2360	C St Quinton, Hull	WCBF T-shirt	2664	Mrs D Codd, Hull

PRIZE	TICKET NO	WINNER
Baseball Cap	1544	Mr C Urry, Hull
Baseball Cap	5176	Mrs H Elliott, Hull
T-shirt	1386	Mark Anderson, Hull
Baseball Cap	2589	Paula Trowell, Hull
Easton Bat Bag	1052	Dave Sharpe, Hull
T-shirt	0156	Colin Cross, Harrogate
Baseball Cap	0149	G D Sellers, Harrogate
Baseball Cap	3214	Tom Gray, Perth
Baseball Cap	3189	D Bryning, Dundee
Baseball Cap	7227	Wright, Hull

If after reading through this list you're thinking what a fix, all the prizes were won by people in Hull, Harrogate and Dundee, then you're wrong. The reason there are more winners from these places is because the teams in these three areas sold more than 75% of the overall tickets sold. Is there anybody else out there?????

If there is, now is your chance to make some money. We will be running another raffle during the summer months. The same system will apply, ie for each book of 4 tickets you sell, your club keeps 50p and 50p is returned to the BBF.

The draw will take place at the final of the European Championships in August, with the first prize being a holiday for two. Again there will be many other smaller prizes.

Sell tickets to your spectators at each game, they could help pay for your ground rent and umpires fees - what could be easier. Each team will initially be sent 10 books of tickets. If your club can sell more, give us a call now and let us know how many you require.

1996 EUROPEAN BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 'B GROUP'

Join us and give your support to the GB Squad

3 - 11 August 1996 in Hull, Hessele and Leeds

Watch out in future editions of Brit-Ball for details of local accommodation and the game schedules.

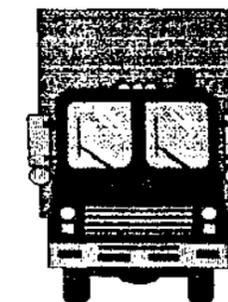
ON THE MOVE.....

BBF Roadshow

The BBF roadshow based in the south has a new home. Should you wish to make use of it for your club this summer, remember all it costs you is to transport it to and from your event, such as your local fete or fair. It's also a great opportunity for your club to make some money by charging members of the public to test their skill and have a few hits against the pitching machine.

It is now based with

Lee Smith
Eastbourne Mariners
93 Princes Road
Langney Point
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN23 6HR
Tel: 01323 739034



Old Timers

Barry Mayfield will be moving on 1 March 1996. His new address is 7 Cedar Road, Bedfont, Middlesex, TW14 8EU, Tel: 0181 751 3080.

We would like to thank Barry for taking good care of the roadshow over the last three years, and wish him and his family a long and happy retirement.

(Continued from page 1)

several new awards made. The first were the PONY Sportsmanship Awards to two outstanding junior players. They had been nominated by their team managers, not just because of their playing ability but their dedication to the game of baseball. The two winners were:

Louise Walker - Tonbridge Bobcats Youth

Simon Robinson - Windsor Little League.

To quote their managers;

Louise has not missed a coaching session, practice or game, being very willing to remain on the bench if required and supporting the team fully. She volunteers to attend matches for which she is ineligible age-wise, helping in any way she can. She readily asks for help and advice and is most willing to learn as much as possible in order to improve her game. She plays the game primarily for enjoyment but is a competent player, able and willing to play where needed and was a valued member of the Tonbridge team for the National Youth Final.

Simon has invaluable contributed towards the League's success this past year. He has run the 9-12 years league, both coaching and organising the teams. This season was his rookie year as a coach and he coped extraordinarily well. Simon was totally reliable and committed to the League, not only running the 9-12 years sessions but also giving up his time to set up the diamond, sort and check the safety of the equipment. He has shown character, commitment, dedication, determination and flair throughout the season and has more than proved himself a good coach.

The National Premier League All-Star team certificates were also presented. Players were selected to the All-Star team by managers of the other teams within their conference. It is hoped that the two teams will play a game during the 1996 season. More details will appear in a future edition of Brit-Ball. The recipients are listed below:

PITCHING

Following the MLBI clinic, Brent Strom, Pitching Coach of the Houston Astros left behind two booklets:

Weight Ball Training

and

Shoulder and Arm Exercises for Baseball Players.

If you or any member of your team would like a copy of these booklets, please send an A4 SAE to Head Office and we will be happy to send them on to you.

NORTH			SOUTH	
POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM	PLAYER	TEAM
Starting Pitcher	Martyn Dutton	Birmingham Braves	Don Knight	Hounslow Rangers
Relief Pitcher	Martin Godsall	Liverpool Trojans	Martin Sawyer	Bristol Black Sox
Closing Pitcher	Gary Abbott	Menwith Hill Pirates	Cody Cain	London Warriors
Catcher	Andy Maltby	Humberside Mets	Gary Bedingfield	Enfield Spartans
First Base	Darren Cross	Hull Warriors	Scott Miller	Hemel Red Sox
Second Base	Neil Read	Humberside Mets	Alan Bloomfield	London Warriors
Third Base	Simon Radge	Humberside Mets	Marco Vettese	Brighton Buccaneers
Short Stop	Mark Vickers	Humberside Mets	Harry Atwood	London Warriors
Left Field	Gary Sewell	Nottingham Hornets	Iain Lanario	Enfield Spartans
Centre Field	Joe Yarnold	Birmingham Braves	Stephen Khan	Hounslow Rangers
Right Field	Brian Thurston	Humberside Mets	Ben Moore	Essex Arrows
Designated Hitter	Frank Parker	Humberside Mets	Sean Ozolins	Hemel Red Sox
Manager	Matt Arlitt	Menwith Hill Pirates	Cody Cain	London Warriors

REVIEW OF THE 1995 WORLD SERIES VIDEO ATLANTA BRAVES V CLEVELAND INDIANS

The video opens with a review of both teams season highlights and how they got to the World Series. It also shows what players each of the teams had, their strengths and how they made an impact on each of the teams success.

Once into the 'meat' of the World Series the video takes a close-up focus on the Atlanta Braves rookie Chipper Jones (I still do not know why he was not Rookie Of The Year). We also get an introduction to his family. Both parents seem very keen that their pride and joy is finally playing in such an event. Chipper's father, who is also a baseball coach, is seen strutting his stuff with chest fully expanded, and rightly so ... who wouldn't ...!
Note: if you do buy this video ensure that you pay particular attention to Chipper's wife almost worth staying in every night for ...!!!

The video quickly moves to Game 1 of the series as Atlanta - Maddux v Hershiser

My personal highlight was good old Fred McGriffs first World Series at bat. What a way to open up with a home run off Hershiser!

The video continues to show baseball action highlights of game one complete with plenty of crowd shots and what I think are excellent comments from players and team managers regarding the game and how situations progressed. Players of the game especially pitchers should take notice of what is being said as there are some great psychological and mental tips to be listened to during this video.

Chipper Jones and family were shown throughout the game. Although Chipper did not make any great impact on this game he did make the final out for Atlanta who took the win.

Game 2 at Atlanta - Glavine v Martinez

The main highlight was probably Eddie Murray becoming the third oldest man in World Series history to hit a home run.

Again the video shows plenty of action and excited crowds from the game including Ted Turner and Jane Fonda getting into things. Yet again Chipper Jones makes the final out of the game for an Atlanta win.

Game 3 at Cleveland - Smolt v Nagy

This is probably the game to watch. An exciting 11 inning game which shows all of the excitement a baseball game can show, with extra innings, changing of pitchers, and hits all around the baseball field. The final score is 7 - 6 to the Indians.

Game 4 at Cleveland - Avery v Hill

In this section we are introduced to the new Cleveland "Bubble Head" Club. This has to be seen to be believed. Although some bubbles are fake, some are in fact for real. Just keep looking and you can spot the real ones ... What a mess...!!

Again we are treated to some good baseball along with the obligatory excited crowd shots. Following another good game Atlanta manage to battle hard for the win.

Game 5 at Cleveland - Maddux v Hershiser

Another big face up of pitchers as per game one. But this time the Cleveland hitters had done their homework. This game shows how the Cleveland hitting coach had done his job in analysing Greg Maddux. And his advice proved to be invaluable for the Cleveland win.

Game 6 at Atlanta - Glavine v Martinez

Glavine pitches the fifth ever World Series one-hitter, much to the despair of the Cleveland hitters. What during the regular season proved to be one of the biggest hitting sides in the majors was held to just one hit, a bloop over the infield. But both teams battled for their cause and gave everybody a good baseball treat. However, Atlanta battled that much harder to take the game and the series.

Summary

In all the video is good to have in your library due to the lack of baseball shown on TV over here. Apart from that there are a number of special highlights from this series that could be in the history books for some time to come.

However, the only real down side of the video was that for me there seemed to be a little too many shots of the crowd. Yes, some of it was quite entertaining but I would rather see the baseball game as opposed to the crowd.

All of the players / manager interviews were good and great deal of players over here could do with taking some advice and tips that are given.

This video is a must for real baseball fanatics but to the uninitiated the things which are going on throughout the video could seem a little weird and confusing to say the least.

**Gary Roberts
Birmingham Bandits**

If you would like to purchase a copy of this video, please contact Silver Vision, 36 Queensway, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 4SA, Tel: 0181 805 1354

Coaching Clinic Chatter

This years BBF/MLBI Annual Coaching Clinic took place at Hopwood Hall College, Manchester through 19-21 January.

The speakers Terry Collins, Brent Strom, Dick Nelson, Alan Ashkinazy, Ralph Rago and Bill Arce were once again outstanding with the only disappointment being the lack of people there to hear them. I took time out to speak to the clinicians and the interviews follow.

Editor: Could you tell me what takes place on a normal game

day?
 Collins: In Houston our games start at 7.00pm and I'm at the ballpark at 12.30pm. I write my line-up out and post so that if a player comes in he knows whether he is playing that night or whether he has the night off. Then I go for a little workout session. At about 2.00pm our players start to arrive. I think it is very important for the managers and coaches to be there when the players come in. At that particular time we start to talk about the opposing pitchers and how we are going to play the opposing line-up. We exchange line-ups in the

we are going to pitch to the opposition that day or how we are going to hit against them. Then we go back out and take infield practice then we come back in and get ready and change uniform to play at 7.00pm.

Editor: What has been your opinion of the clinic attendees you have met so far?

Collins: They have been very attentive and they ask a lot of good questions and that is the best way to start a good programme by learning something and passing it on to the next person who perhaps is younger.

Editor: How did you start playing baseball?

Collins: I started very young and was involved in the Little League programme. Continued on through High School and went to College on a baseball scholarship. When I graduated from college the Pittsburgh Pirates drafted me and fell in love with the game and tried to learn as much as I could and have been very fortunate to be involved as long as I have.

Editor: Was it easier managing in the minors?

Collins: No question about it. In the minor leagues the player's job is to get better and the manager's job is to make that player better. Winning is second and the development of the player is the primary function. At the major league level the job of the manager is

States at 2.30pm in the afternoon before a 7.00pm game so I know well in advance who the opposing team will be. At about 3.00pm we take batting practice with a few of the players. Our regular batting practice starts at 4.00pm. At about 5.00pm we get together in our various groups and discuss how



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to win. You end up dealing with players with different egos and earning many more dollars than you are. You have to make sure you get the right mix.

Editor: Which players do you admire most and why?

Collins: I have two players on my team that I admire immensley and that is Jeff Bagwell my first baseman who is a National League MVP. He has a tremendous intensesness about the game, works at his art, takes pride and is a good baserunner. He never wants to come out of the line-up. My second baseman Craig Biggio is a four time All-star and is how you would like every player on your team to play. He comes out every night to win no matter what it takes. Those two guys set the personality of our team and because we are a fairly young team our players to get any sort of recognition have to play the same type of game that those two players play or they are going to be overlooked.

I then had the opportunity to speak to Alan Ashkinazy from Pony Baseball who had been conducting a junior clinic during the weekend.

Editor: What do you think about the players you have seen this weekend?

Ashkinazy: The young kids about 10,11,12 seem to have the most athletic ability. I think the overall standard from day one to day three went up 150% so I am really encouraged by

that and as long as these kids continue to play there will be a good future for baseball in this country.

Now here is your chance to let us know your views on what you would like to see at next years clinic and how it could be improved. If you didn't attend the clinic this year then please take the

time to let us know why. With your input we can hopefully make the 1997 Clinic the best yet.

For those of you that couldn't afford to buy your clinic t-shirt on the day or wanted to go but couldn't make it we still have some left and they can be purchased for £10.

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

For the 1996 season each BBF affiliated team must register an umpire and a scorer, as well as send the nominated person to one of the clinics which will take place around the country.

The reason for this stipulation is that during the course of the season we will be sending out several pieces of information which are pertinent to their roles. We would like to ensure that this information is received by the correct person, who can make most use of it. It is a waste of your registration monies to send out information which is just going to sit on a shelf gathering dust!

Many of you have called Head Office to say that you don't have one specific person who scores or umpires, but several of your players take it in turns. If this is the case, please just

register one of these people. They can then be responsible for passing the information on to the other people with whom they share the role, and they can all attend the clinics.

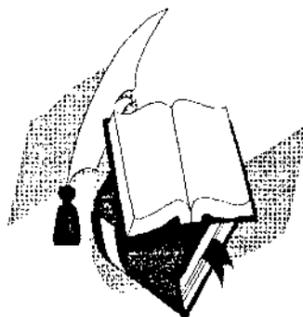
Another fear of many teams is that if they do register an umpire or scorer then this person will be sent off around the country to officiate at games other than for their own team. This is not the case. We are giving both scorers and umpires the opportunity to state where they would like to officiate, ie

1. Anywhere in the country
2. In their local area only
3. For a specific team only

So, not more excuses, register those people!

SABR (UK)

SABR stands for the Society for American Baseball Research (In SABR (UK) we tend to soft-peddle the 'American' bit). The Society has over 6,500 members world-wide, the majority in the United States and Canada, but with eighteen other countries represented. Of these the UK has the third largest membership behind Japan. SABR has two main organisational units: its Chapters, which are regional; and its Committees, which are open to all members. The UK Chapter is named in honour of Bobby Thomson, the Glasgow-born hero of the 1951 New York Giants who hit the famous 'shot heard round the world' which defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers in the National League playoffs. Most members of the Bobby Thomson Chapter are also members of SABR's Baseball in UK / Europe Committee (one of SABR's sixteen recognised specialist Committees). I chair this Committee and our interest is to research into all aspects of the game in this part of the world. Our primary objective is the production of an authoritative History of Baseball, Britain & Ireland, beginning with baseball's roots in the family of bat, ball and running games which are primarily British in origin and continuing right up to the present day. This is a long-term job for many hands, prominent among them BBF Board member Ian Smyth.



membership subscription is US\$50.00. This should be paid directly to SABR's headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio (details are below). The Bobby Thomson Chapter does not have a separate subscription, although we do collect a few pounds from members at our periodic meetings, mainly to cover the costs of venue and catering. SABR members receive a copy of the monthly SABR Bulletin, the magazines The Baseball Research Journal and The National Pastime, as well as other one-off SABR publications. A recent example was the beautifully produced 382pp **The Negro Leagues Book** which, retailing in America for US\$29.99, was free to SABR members. The Bobby Thomson Chapter also produces the **SABR (UK) Examiner**, which acts as a newsletter for both the Chapter and the UK / Europe Committee. All in all, we think a worthwhile investment for the student of baseball research. Any Brit-Ball reader wishing more information on SABR may contact:

Patrick Carroll (Chair UK / Europe Baseball Committee)
10 Court Barton
Crewkerne
Somerset TA18 7HP
Tel: 01460 74183

or

SABR
PO Box 93183
Cleveland, Ohio 44101
USA

The first step to participation is SABR (UK)'s activities is to join SABR itself. The annual

BBF TEEBALL PROGRAMME

Teeball is an adapted version of baseball, which is ideally suited to the needs and abilities of young children. It provides the opportunity for children to develop physical skills, within an enjoyable, interactive environment. Teeball fulfils the criteria of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2 for primary schools. Teeball can be adapted for playing fields, playgrounds or school halls. In essence it is ideal for primary schools.

The BBF are looking to establish Teeball Programmes throughout Great Britain. Obviously to get a programme off the ground, we need people at the local level to be involved. This could be a teacher, sports development officer or a volunteer at your club.

A teeball programme in primary schools in your area will provide your club with a ready made junior section. This will bring in more members and partents of the children participating.

It costs nothing to be involved in this programme. The time commitment is negligible, as after the initial training, schools will be equipped to operate their own programme.

The BBF Teeball Programme

As part of the programme, the BBF will provide free of charge the following:

- 1. Training:** A half day training session, covering the rules, basic techniques and practices. Where necessary this could be conducted as a two-light course.
- 2. Handbook:** A coaching manual designed to show skills and drills, which can be used as a reference source.
- 3. Starter Pack:** A pack containing a set of throw down bases, a Teeball bat and incrediballs.

After the initial training day, teachers will be equipped to start teaching Teeball as part of the Physical Education programme.



As part of the programme, it may be possible for coaches to come into school to help or offer advice.

The training course will be delivered by fully qualified and experienced coaches and / or physical education specialists.

Should you require any further information, or wish to start a Teeball programme in your area, please contact Ian Smyth at Head Office or direct on 0113 261 2571.

MY WAY

Scottish Baseball Version

And now the end is near,
and so we face the final curtain.
Four teams we have this year,
and one of these is still uncertain.
We've lived a life of fools,
we've tried it warrent's and even Brian's way,
but still the Scottish League is in a dire way.

Yes there were times I'm sure you know,
when we didn't have a clue.
But through it all, without a doubt,
those blasted meetings went round-a-about,
so we'd blame the BBF and shout we're in a dire way.

Regrets, we've had a few,
actually then again, too many to mention.
Will Scotland have another team,
before it's time to collect our pension.
Players go, we know not where,
the list goes on they're MIA
And we can't understand, why we're in a dire way.

For what's in our team,
who have we got?
A second rate Englishman,
with a big pot.
He tried to pitch us out of a jam
a few years back, a very brave man
We've messed it up, but Scotland can say
"I did it my way".

Sing to the tune of My Way.

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Scottish Team Manager

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Contains all the contract details and fixtures for the 1996 season. An excellent buy for any intrepid baseball fan.

To reserve your copy (to be published mid March) please return the form below along with a cheque for £4.00 made payable to the British Baseball Federation.

Please ensure I receive a copy of the 1996 British Baseball Federation Handbook. I enclose my cheque for £4 (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation).

Name: _____

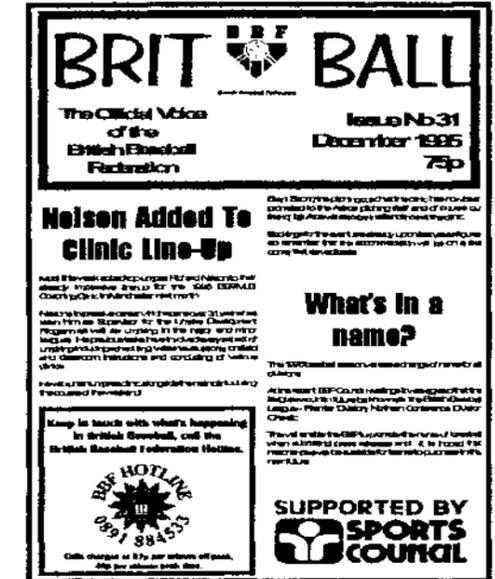
Address: _____

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BBF / MLBI 1996 ENVOY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Envoy Programme is to provide the CEB Federations with continuous instruction in baseball fundamentals, to players and coaches of all ages and levels.

People in the UK don't dislike baseball, they are just unfamiliar with it. In time, this country will have a rich tradition in this sport. Keep up the good work.

Vince Garcia, MLBI Envoy 1995

minimum of four and maximum of eight hours per day. The majority of their time should be spent on the field in practice or clinic situations.

As an envoy host your responsibilities will be:

- To provide housing and food for the envoy, whether this is in your own home or a local hotel. The envoy coach must have available his own bedroom, with an adequate supply of linens, blankets and hot water. Three meals per day must be provided, which meet the requirements of the coaches themselves.

- To provide transport to and from his airport of arrival / departure, as well as all local transportation.

- To arrange coaching sessions with local teams and schools for the duration of his stay. You will also need to supply a certain amount of

baseball equipment for the envoy to use during his visits to schools etc, where equipment is not available.



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL

coach will be invaluable to your club this summer, then you need to send in an application to BBF Head Office giving the following details. Envoys will be allocated on a first come first served basis in blocks of a maximum of 4 weeks.

- ◆ Your name, address and telephone number
- ◆ The names of your senior and junior teams
- ◆ An outline of the programme you intend to use for the envoy for the duration of his stay, and how you intend to publicise this.
- ◆ A brief summary of why your area will benefit from the envoy's expertise.

Applications should be sent in by 31 March 1996.

From our formation in 1993 to National Youth finalists in 1995 owes a great deal to the expert coaching received by both our coaches and junior players.

Our envoys Ted Novio and Tom Mendoza have put Hesse firmly on the baseball map.

Kevin Macadam, Hesse Apaches

The Envoy instructors' time and efforts will focus mainly on our youth and schools programmes, helping existing BBF clubs to grow their junior membership. They will bring to your club many benefits:

- * Develop your junior programme
- * Players receive expert coaching
- * Develop baseball in your local schools
- * Enhance your own coaching skills

..... 600 kids in 8 schools have spent a total of 90 sessions with Vince. He has also taken most of the 12 youth Blazer practices and the 24 summer holiday sessions and did most of the work at the Bracknell Schools Baseball Tournament. In addition he has helped the club team through 28 club practices, 9 games and 1 tournament. That's the bare bones of it. However the most important aspect of having an envoy is the enthusiasm that they can generate in the kids and people with who they come into contact.

Paul Vernon, Bracknell Blazers

The coaches can be expected to work five or six days per week, a

So, if you like the sound of the above, and think that the envoy

PRESS RELEASE

The Birmingham Braves of the British Baseball League have changed their name from the Braves to the Bandits, and following extensive negotiations the club can confirm the signing of Michael Harrold as Team Manager.

This now brings to the club a wealth of baseball experience and knowledge at both International and Club level spanning over thirty years.

Birmingham Baseball Club, Director of Operations, Raymond Brownlie said "It is with great honour and pride that we welcome Mike onto the team and his immense knowledge of the game in this country and at international level will prove to be invaluable to the running of the set up we have in Birmingham. Everyone involved with the Club are excited about this coming season which should prove to be an interesting year".

Dear BBF Board

Thank you very much for the Majestic Sportsman Award which you gave to me for services to Scottish Baseball - I was absolutely delighted to receive such a prestigious trophy - what a Christmas present - I am very proud to have been considered, far less being the successful candidate. I love baseball and of course being involved because of David I have met many interesting



and dedicated people. It's a great sport. I hope Scotland will continue to excel and perhaps in the not too distant future we will have a team to play in the European Championships.

Thank you again for the honour and good luck to British Baseball in 1996.

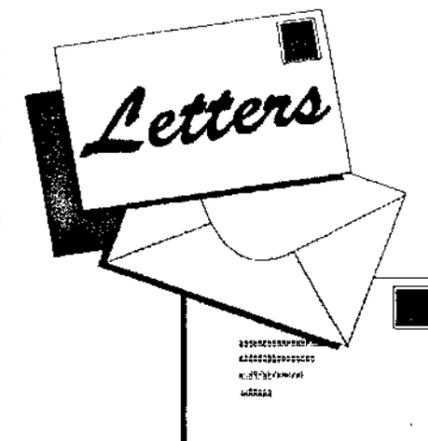
Yours sincerely
Karin Donaldson
Tayside Cobras

Dear Brit-Ball

Why is it at this time every year I start spring training without a thought to do a decent warm-up? I only remember the day after when I've bruised the muscles in my legs and arms so much that I am walking around like Frankenstein's monster!

Well, spring training has not quite started yet. However, I attended the Umpires Clinic at the recent BBF / MLBI / PONY Clinics in Manchester and I thought there would be no practical lessons. Wrong! On the Saturday morning we all had to practice our stance, timing, calls and mechanics - in front of a pitching machine with only a mask on. I was glad that Billy Jenkins, from Edinburgh Reivers, was catching as I know he is one of Scotland's top catchers (I'll get the tenner later Billy). I found out on the Sunday morning that yet again I had forgotten to warm-up before taking part in physical activities that I was not used to.

I hadn't attended any of the previous National Clinics so I didn't know what to expect, or what to take with me for that matter. Oh, by the way, thanks again for the towel Wendy. The form I filled in asked who I wanted to share my room with. I asked for Meg Ryan but Kevin said she was apparently unavailable. So I was shoved in with Peter Harris from PHA Leisure who was representing Easton and had a stall in the main hall. Nice man. A very very nice man. I bought some umpires equipment from him at a good price. On hearing from me once or twice, that we in Dundee Dragons are going to start up a Rookie League team, he gave me a



superb beginners bat for 7-10 year olds. Thanks again Pete.

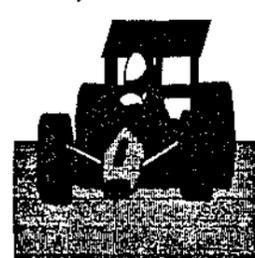
I found the whole weekend to be a most enjoyable experience. Everyone was friendly. Dick Nelson from MLBI, held the Umpires Clinic and did a great job. I am new to umpiring and I found his coaching to be excellent and extremely helpful. He went over all the basics plus a lot of tricky play situations. My only disappointment was that there were not enough people in the clinic. All you would be or existing umpires out there have definitely missed out.

I managed to grovel a lift down with the Tayside Cobras delegation which consisted of two juniors, Gary and Michael, plus David Donaldson and his infamous mum, Karin. (Majestic Sportswifey Award for 1995). We arrived on the Friday night at about 6.15pm, after travelling for four hours at Mach 2. I then met up with the other Scottish lot, none other than Nick Clark and his fellow Reivers, Billy and young David. We attended the opening ceremony then went off to our chosen clinics.

The Saturday night dinner and get together was great. Six of the countless raffle prizes were won by tickets sold in Dundee. I won a state of the art Scorer's bag containing everything a scorer needs except umbrella and hot water bottle! And yes, one of the prizes was a Chicago Bulls Cap. I spoke to a lot of people, some I knew, some I knew of and some I had never met. What we all had in common was a love of baseball and that was the main

ingredient which made for a happy and friendly atmosphere. Of course the booze had a bit to do with it too!

The closing ceremony on the Sunday afternoon arrived too quickly and then it was all over after the clinicians shared a few funny stories. I said my au revoirs to all my new friends and then went off to pack my things. After initially losing our way amongst the many intersections, we finally found the right road and with David driving, we sped north at warp factor 10.



Leaving the motorway at Perth, David tackled the hilly and twisting B-roads to Alyth with the style of Damon Hill without slowing down. My car was waiting for me upon arrival but it took two hours to wait on my stomach catching up before I could set off for Dundee!

Brian Edwards
Scottish Conference Commissioner

Dear Brit-Ball

I believe the British Baseball League needs to evaluate its proposed 1996 Premier Division schedule. If British ballplayers are to improve, they must play at least two 9 inning games every time their team is scheduled to play. The 9 inning doubleheader adds about an hour to the day's baseball activity, but it is a critical hour. When teams play one 9 inning game the players on the bench usually see little, if any, action. This hurts the game.

If the league insisted that every player play at least three innings a day, and no pitcher could throw more than 7 innings in a day, the league would be helping all clubs. Teams would have to develop a deeper pitching staff, and a teams bench strength would become critical to the team's success. Players - talented ones and not so talented - need to play a lot before they improve. Two seven inning games on 14 days in 1996 would be a welcome step for British Baseball

to take.

If there is any way I can help convince the other teams in the British Baseball League to change their vote to yes for two sevens everytime they take the field please let me know. I'd love to see the game take off in your country. My five seasons with Enfield Spartans were great fun - I only wish I had another five seasons left in my arm!

Rob Nelson

Dear Brit-Ball

I am trying to draw up a list of British Baseball champion teams since 1981 but there are a number of gaps and uncertainties in my records. I would be very grateful to anyone who could write to the address below with any information about the following queries:

- National Champions 1992;
- National KO Cup winners before 1986.



Former regional league champions: East Midlands 1981/2/3 and 1992; Humberside 1982; Midlands (overall 1991); Northeast before 1990; Scotland before 1993; South - Div One 1992; South - Div Two 1981/4/5 and 1992; South - Div Three 1981/2/4 and 1990 (overall / North / South); Southwest before 1991; Yorkshire 1989/90; Baseball Southwest 1993/4/5.

Yours sincerely
Will Cosgrave
26 Shelford
Burritt Road
Kingston
Surrey KT1 3HR

Editor: When you've compiled your list, we would appreciate a copy please Will.

Dear Brit-Ball

In the September 1995 issue, Doreen Megson wrote regarding weekly costs per player to play baseball under the umbrella of the BBF. I do agree that it costs more than £1 per senior

player. Having recently completed Dundee Dodgers annual accounts, I decided to do a bit of costing of my own. The average weekly cost, taking into account not only BBF charges but club expenses as a whole, shows £2.17 for seniors and £0.75 for juniors.

I also notice in Doreen's letter that it costs her club £50 per game for umpires, £5 for a scorer and that each home game requires 6 balls! I don't know the club's circumstances but in comparison I don't know of a scorer in Scotland who charges and the most an umpire charges is £15, if at all. Two baseballs are used at games, any more is excessive unless balls are lost. Doreen states that a typical game on Saturday and one on Sunday costs £162. One weekend's baseball at the home ground in Dundee in 1995 cost as follows:

Umpire's Expenses	£0.00
Scorer's Expenses	£0.00
Balls, 2 per game	£16.88
Ground Rent	£12.30
Changing / Toilets	£12.30
TOTAL	£41.48

It would be interesting to compare these costs with other teams, to find a pattern or consistency, so come on, is Doreen's club the highest for charges and is mine the lowest?

Brian Edwards
Dundee Dodgers

PUZZLE CORNER

'RUN RIDDLE' (Devised by Will Cosgrave)

The anagrams below describe the plays which enabled the batter to advance around the bases to score the winning run. Can you work out how it was achieved?

1. First Base
PHYTHIBICT
2. Second Base
LENSALBOBAS
3. Third Base
ISHABET
4. Home Plate
BELSALPADS

Answers to last month's puzzle are as follows:

'MUDDLED MANAGERS'

1. Ron Fletcher
2. Matt Arrltd
3. Gary Cumming
4. Phil Herbert
5. Glyn McQueen
6. Gary Roberts
7. Craig Savage
8. Frank Caunce
9. Frank Parker
10. Steve Gilbert
11. David Hughes
12. Matthew Darr

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Please send information on '96 Fantasy Camp
Please add my name to your mailing list

RETIREMENT

At the 1995 Annual General Meeting, Mr. Edward Gerard-Thesingh announced that he would be retiring from umpiring due to a knee injury.

Fed started his umpiring career in 1971 in South Africa, and continued in the UK when he moved here in 1979. His international umpiring career commenced in 1978 and spans some 103 games worldwide.

Fed was also been a member of the BBF Board for 10 years and Chairman of the Umpires Association for 8 years.

Fed hopes to continue his career assisting the BBF with umpiring clinics so that he may pass on his wealth of experience and knowledge of the game of baseball to other umpires.

I am sure you will join the BBF Board in wishing Fed and his wife Jean the very best for the future

HAVE YOU AFFILIATED YOUR TEAM YET.....

If not, it's now going to cost you an extra £20 for senior teams and £5 for junior teams.

To date 41% of senior teams and 40% of junior teams have paid their fees.

Please remember that if you have not affiliated by 29 February then your team will not be included in the league schedules for the 1996 season. If you're having difficulties let us know.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

At the 1995 AGM an explanation of the National Curriculum key stages was requested:

The National Curriculum applies to pupils of compulsory school age. It is organised on the basis of four Key Stages as follows:

KEY STAGE	PUPIL'S AGES	YEAR GROUPS
KEY STAGE 1	5 - 7	1 - 2
KEY STAGE 2	7 - 11	3 - 6
KEY STAGE 3	11 - 14	7 - 9
KEY STAGE 4	14 - 16	10 - 11

BBF COACHING ASSOCIATION LEVEL AA COURSE

Applications are now being taken for Level AA courses. Applicants must be registered coaches, should hold Level A, or have other applicable qualifications.

The taught element of these awards will be towards the end of the summer. However all candidates must produce a log book of their coaching activities. To assist coaches with this, BBF session planners are available from Head Office.

The cost of the Level AA course is £30. This includes all course materials, Level AA coaching manual, and examination fee. Examinations will include practical and theoretical aspects of coaching.

For further details contact Ian Smyth on 0113 261 2571.

BBF COACHING ASSOCIATION LEVEL A COURSES

Two level A Coaching Courses are being held over the next few weeks. Details are:

**Saturday 24 February
Stranmillis College,
Belfast**

**Saturday 9 March
Costello Stadium,
Boothferry Road, Hull**

On completion of the course the coaches will be able to teach baseball fundamentals, skills and drills, the rules of the game, how to organise

practices and how to take necessary safety precautions when coaching. All equipment will be provided and a BBF Level A Coaching manual will be given to each attendee.

The courses will be conducted by BBF Development Officer and GB Coach, Ralph Rago. Both courses will commence at 9.30am and finish at 4.30pm with a short break for lunch. The cost of the course also includes a certificate, coaching badge and registration as a coach for the

1996 season.

Directions to the venues and a detailed programme will be sent upon receipt of an application form and fee.

For anyone travelling a long distance to the course in Belfast, local accommodation is also available. Please contact David Ashby on 01232 681207 for further details.

If you would like a coaching course in your area, please contact BBF Head Office.



I would like to participate in the Level A Coaching Course in (please tick)

Hull Belfast

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel No: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Baseball Team: (if applicable) _____

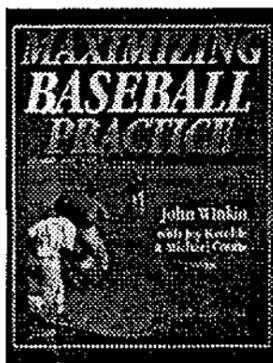
I enclose £18 registration fee for the course

All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation

Please return this form to:

BBF Level A Coaching Course
British Baseball Federation
66 Belvedere Road, Hessle
North Humberside HU13 9JJ

New!



Maximizing Baseball Practice

John Winkin with Jay Kemble & Michael Coutts
Foreword by Tommy Lasorda

"A great resource for all baseball coaches"

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"OK" Let's Get Straight To The Points



FBI are out in front when it comes to sorting you out with the kit you need at a price you can afford. Add this to the new points system which many teams are switching on to and you have a winning combination

FBI would like to Say a big Baseball Thank you to

**These Guys have
ready got the
Point**



The Birmingham Braves, The Chichester Kyotes, The Brighton Buccaneers, Essex Arrows, Hull Mets, London Wolves, The Birmingham Brewers, The Dundee Dodgers, Burgess Hill Red Hats, Darlington Demons, Bristol Black Sox, Totteridge Trailblazers, Liverpool Trojans, Droitwich Spatans, Kirkaldy Baseball Club, Nottingham Pirates, West Midland Razorbacks, Manchester Cougars, Bracknell Blazers, Sheffield Bladerunners. Brentwood Stags.

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