

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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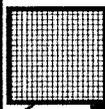
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PITCHING SCREENS

The British Baseball Federation have nine pitchers 'L' screens and 3 square first base screens available to teams.

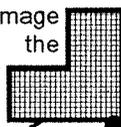
The screens measure 8' wide x 8' high, the frame being made of galvanised steel and covered with a green rope mesh. They each have two wheels, making them easy to transport around your diamond.



BBF Affiliated teams are welcome to use these for the 1997 season, with the following stipulations:

1. You have a secure storage area to keep the screens in.
2. You arrange and pay for transportation of the screens from BBF Head Office to your ground.
3. When the screens are required by the BBF for use in European Championships, National Finals etc, they are made available.
4. The costs for loss or damage to the screens are the responsibility of your club.
5. The screens will remain the property of the British Baseball Federation at all times.

The screens will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please contact BBF Head Office if you are interested.



BBF MARKETPLACE

The following items are available from the BBF to help develop your club.

Diamond Development - contains details of who you can apply to for funding.

Diamond Construction - Full details on how to construct a baseball diamond.

Introduction to the Game - briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - a brief history of baseball in the UK.

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 teeball.

Baseball Information Sheet - 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.

Pitch, Hit and Run - This leaflet gives a brief introduction to the Pitch, Hit and Run scheme which we operate in schools. It is ideal for handing to your local schools to see if they are interested in the programme.

Baseball Qualifications - gives the aims and objectives of the coaching association and 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.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1995 Edition - only £1 per copy.

BBF Scratch Cards - an easy way to raise funds. Available at a special price of 15p a card.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - Details of how to organise a baseball camp this summer. It full of ideas and available at a cost of £3.50.

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 are the same length as a normal baseball bat - 32" and are approximately twice as thick. They are printed with a union jack design. £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. Available in either white with a blue peak or red with a royal blue peak at a cost of £10.

BBF Polo Shirts - Again an

excellent way to promote the British Baseball Federation. Available in red, royal blue, or white with the BBF logo on the left breast in sizes S, M, L or XL). An excellent price of £13.

European Championship Caps - An excellent high quality souvenir from this year's event. Available in royal blue, red or black with the baseball, stars and Union Jack logo at a cost of £10.

European Championship Polo Shirts - Again an excellent souvenir from the championships, available in red, royal blue, or white with the baseball, stars and Union Jack logo on the left breast in sizes S, M, L or XL. An excellent price of £13.

European Championship T-shirts - These are white t-shirts with the 1996 European Baseball Championships logo on the front. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL at a bargain price of £10.

BBF Line-up Pads - Each pad contains twenty quadruple sets which will last you the season. At £4.25 a pad can you afford to be without?

BBF Pin Badges - Identifies you with the BBF - excellent as end of season gifts for players - these iron based three colour badges are a snip at £1 each.

If you require more information on any of the above please contact:
 British Baseball Federation, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, HU13 9JJ
 Tel: 01482 643551 Fax: 01482 640224

1996
**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday 8 December 1996

1.00pm prompt

Edward Herbert Building,
 Loughborough University, Loughborough

Every BBF Full Affiliated Senior Team (not farm teams)
 and Affiliated Junior team are entitled to a vote, please
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BBF / PONY BASEBALL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

These Sportsmanship Awards are available to all junior teams, to nominate a candidate from their club.

These awards are aimed at the child with outstanding integrity, dedication and enthusiasm. Ability should not be a major consideration in your choice.

It may be a kid who is not physically gifted, but who tries hard and who you and or your team deem is worthy of this prestigious award. It is up to you how you choose, and who you choose.

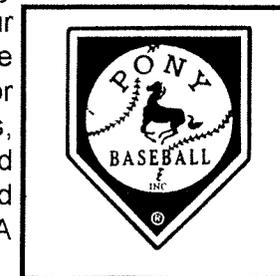
Each child chosen from their club will then be eligible to win the National Sportsmanship award. To enter the National Competition, simply write and tell why your player is worthy of the award, stating his or her achievements, endeavours and qualities both on and off the field of play. A

panel of judges will then decide the National winner, who will be presented with a special certificate and prize at the BBF Annual Dinner in January. PLEASE NOTE ONLY REGISTERED PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL AWARD.

Please do not sell your kids short. If you have a deserving child, let us know. Even if they do not want to enter the National competition, they will still receive a certificate, as their clubs' Sportsman of the year.

All requests for certificates should be made to Head Office, with the child's name, address, and reasons for their selection. Please also indicate if you want to enter the National competition.

For further information and advice please contact Ian Smyth on 0113 2817150.



Umpires and Fan Interference

Some thoughts on the fan interference in the O's/Yank's game.

There's no question in my mind that the fan interfered with the ball while it was still in the park. That was clear to me even before the replays. One can quibble about whether Tarasco would have caught it cleanly or not, but he was clearly camped under it and it would not have gone over the fence (unless it first bounced off of Tony's head).

It's rare to see fan interference called along the outfield wall. Usually, umps will call it near the grandstand then they can get right on top of the play; but even if they're hustling they're still 50 feet away from the outfield wall and so they can't / won't

call it.

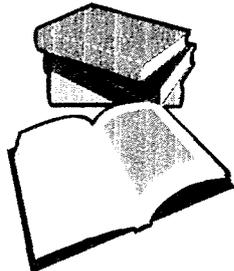
The one exception to the above is play-off games where they have six umpires - two of whom are specifically assigned to the outfield. This is exactly the type of call they're out there to make. Richie Garcia appeared to have a good angle, if not the distance, but he couldn't make the call.

If umpires can't / won't call fan interference along the outfield wall, the solution is simple: MLB should require barriers

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on all outfields to prevent the fans from reaching out over the field. I don't watch ball games so I can see 12 year-old fans making crucial "plays."

And why is this kid being treated like a celebrity? If the ball had been a legitimate home run, then he's just another fan who caught a home run ball - no big deal. Don't people realize that the 'only' reason this kid is (in) famous is because he interfered with the ball in play (i.e., physically influenced the outcome of the game)?

"True mastery can be gained by letting things go their own way. It can't be gained by interfering."

-Lao "Lefty" Tzu in The Tao of Baseball, chapter 48.

CONGRATULATIONS

The BBF Board are delighted to announce the appointment of the following positions:

Southern Conference Youth
Commissioner
Paul Vernon

Northern Conference Youth
Commissioner
Alan Wilson

National Schools Development
Officer
Kevin McCallion

We're sure you will join the Board in wishing them all every success in their new roles.

Should you wish to contact them, their details are as follows:

Alan Wilson
32 Savery Street, Southcoates Lane,
Hull, North Humberside, HU9 3BE
Tel: 01482 703460

Paul Vernon
44 Ringwood, Bracknell, Berks, RG12
8YG Tel: 01344 52682

Kevin McCallion
South Halifax High School, Park Lane,
Siddal, Halifax Tel: 01422 362215

BASEBALL CAP COLLECTORS CORNER

Do you collect baseball caps? If so, why not add a few original British designs to your collection. Two for starters are:

Hunslet Harriers - a royal blue cap with a jet propelled 'H' design at a cost of £6.50 plus 50p p&p. Contact Tom Blears, 0113 271 2250.

Hessle Apaches - a black cap with an interlinked Humber Bridge and letter A design at a cost of £6.00 plus 50p p&p. Contact Wendy Macadam, 01482 643551.

And of course, don't forget the BBF and European Championships caps detailed in the BBF Marketplace on page 3.



If you would like your cap to be featured, please send details to BBF Head Office.

GOOD HOMES REQUIRED FOR EXPERIENCED BALL-PLAYERS

Ralph Rago, GB Manager, has been contacted by three baseball players who would like to spend the summer in the UK playing baseball.

Two are from Australia and available from March to September and one from Canada who is available from May to September.

They are willing to play and coach your local team for the summer, and all they ask is for you to house and feed them for the duration of their stay. Why not use them to run baseball programs in your local schools or run camps during the summer holidays. Let them assist with, or help you set up a junior team. The possibilities are endless for a minimum outlay - all you need is someone in your team with a spare room.

If you are interested, please contact Ralph Rago on 0113 266 9530.

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1997 CLINICS REGISTRATION FORM

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Address:			
		Postcode:	
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Team Name (if applicable)			
I enclose the following sum of money (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation)			
Clinic		£	
Dinner (Saturday evening)		£	
Accommodation		£	
TOTAL ENCLOSED		£	
I would like to share a room with:			

Please return your completed form and money
BY FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 1997 to:
 British Baseball Federation 1997 Clinics
 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, HU13 9JJ

conducted some excellent umpires clinics over recent years. The clinic will consist of both classroom and practical work. The clinic is open to not only those who umpire every week, but also those players who occasionally have to umpire for your team. Give them the opportunity to improve their knowledge and the benefits to your team will be enormous.

PONY baseball have offered a British Umpire the chance to officiate at their world series next year, and only participants at this years umpires clinic will be considered for this opportunity of a lifetime.

Brian Holland and Clive Maude have many years scoring experience between them, and both were scorers at the European Championships earlier this year. They hope to be able to introduce

the CEB scoring system to all participants. This event is a must for all scorers.

And what better reason to attend can there be than the BBF Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation. A chance to meet all your baseball colleagues in a relaxed and entertaining environment and congratulate this years award winners.

Details of all these clinics will be sent to every registered senior player, scorer, coach and umpire over the next few weeks. Please encourage your team to attend. The only way we can improve baseball in this country is to improve our knowledge of the game and what better way to do so?

FEE STRUCTURE

Coaching Association Member (1996 Registered Coach)	£20.00
BBF Member	£25.00
BBF Non-Member	£30.00
Umpires Clinic	£10.00
Scorers Clinic	£10.00
Team Rates - 1 extra free clinic place per group of 10	
Annual Dinner - (Dinner, after dinner speakers, auction of equipment and souvenirs, annual coaching and player awards presentation)	£15.00
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Address _____

Yester-years Baseball gives our players of the past the opportunity to recount their playing days. The information will also prove valuable historical information on our sport.

IN THE BIG INNING

How I ever became interested in baseball in the first place would fill a book, so we will skip over that part.

Before I found out that the game was in fact being played here in England it was a case of do-it-yourself. One of my three brothers was keen, and two pals helped me to recruit enough of their mates and bribe them into getting out of bed on Sunday mornings to join us at the local park. We had found that a store in London, Lilywhites, carried some baseball stock and had bought a glove each (I still have mine) a bat and two baseballs. We set about making all the other things by hand. Canvas bases were easy, and one of my friends who was working for the L&B Rubber Company acquired for us enough rubber

to make a home plate and pitching slab. Not knowing anything about fixing spikes we simply dug up the turf and set the blocks into the ground. All the catchers equipment was hand made using what few photographs we could find as a guide. My uncle welded a frame for the mask and I made all the straps and padding. Shin guards were lengths of zinc cut from an old bathtub, bent to shape and covered in handsome red leatherette. The chest protector was sheet rubber with ribbing strips stuck on and the whole covered in canvas hessian. The finished effect was most impressive - the fact that it weighed almost as much as me didn't seem to matter.

And so we practised. An old photograph shows that many of the lads wore jackets and ties, their only concession being to roll up their shirt sleeves. As youngsters will do we took on names borrowed from favourite players heard on games via AFN radio, I was Clint Courtney - he was a catcher and wore glasses like me. We became the LEYLAND TIGERS after the buses being manufactured here at the time and pretty soon were sponsored a set of

WESTERN EARS BASEBALL

uniforms by a pen-friend in Providence Rhode Island, a Blackburn lass who had married and gone there to live. The manager of the Palace Cinema in Leyland who was into all things American heard about us and generously provided more gloves and bats so we were now in business. We looked so sharp, although it never occurred to me for a moment that we didn't have a clue how to really play the game.

What we needed was some opposition. In a roundabout way that would take too long to

explain I brashly contacted the Burtonwood US Base and the outcome was a visit by a team from that camp to Leyland. This would be sometime in 1950 or '51.

Our team was sorted, now all I had to worry about was the field. The local park would not be grand enough to stage such an auspicious game so permission was obtained to use the Leyland Motors Mayfield grounds which were normally home to rugby and hockey. It did have changing rooms and a bath and

seemed ideal although the grass was so long that it took several men a good few hours pushing a hand mower to get it down to a playable level. Then out with the liner to mark out the field, no easy job if you never had to do it before. We cobbled together some hockey goal nets to act as a backstop and could feel proud of our efforts. Sandwiches, cakes and tea had been ordered from a local confectioners and we eagerly awaited our visitors.



Lord, they were huge! or so it seemed to me, but full of pep and keen to get started. We knew nothing

about things like pre-game practice and I had not even thought about umpires. However they quickly assessed the situation and took complete charge and did everything to make this game work. It soon became evident that we would never be able to make enough put-outs so our new found buddies generously mixed the two sets of players and helped us through the game. Our home made equipment was cause for some good natured amusement and we were invited to share their proper stuff.

Apparently the day was a huge success. When it was over tea was taken and in the evening the two teams went dancing and carousing at Leyland Motors Social Club and the event is still talked about to this day. I have to confess that I was so upset at our poor showing that I felt unable to join in the fun afterwards - *and that was my first big lesson*. It's just a game and I missed out on some of the best bits.

I don't want to glorify the so-called "good old days", merely to emphasise that to get things up and running takes a lot of hard work and determination so don't ever take your own volunteers for granted.

Almost fifty years on and I am still working at it, and it really is fun. Frustrating sometimes, but fun.

(The score for that game by the way was something like 35-2 - and that was only the first inning.....)

*Frank Caunce
Preston Bobcats*

So come on all you Old Timers, let's hear some on your memories. Handwritten notes will suffice for us to produce a story.

ANNUAL AWARDS

It's that time of year when you are getting together with your club to hand out awards and generally celebrate the end of the season. Why not write an article for Brit-Ball and let us know who your star players are.

Hunslet Harriers are holding their Annual Awards evening on Friday 29 November and have invited along PHA Leisure to sell equipment. Everyone is welcome to join them, and perhaps purchase a few baseball Christmas presents. The event will be held at Clapgate School, Cranmore Drive, Leeds from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. If you require directions please contact Tom Blears on 0113 271 2250.

Watch out in next month's Brit-Ball for the Dundee Dodgers Annual Bodger Awards.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY HAYWARD BASEBALL

As part their continuing commitment to the game of baseball and the development thereof, the California State University, Hayward have begun an outreach program to coaches and players around the world. As part of that program, they are opening their doors to the world this January and inviting players or coaches from all countries to take part in their pre-season work-outs. From January 2-16, they will welcome visitors interested in learning some new techniques and concepts as well as being part of the inner workings of a college baseball program.

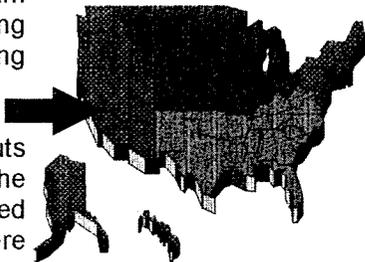
During this period, they are extending to each country a maximum to two invitations. This will allow more people from more countries an opportunity to take part. The length of the stay will be for a maximum of two weeks during any portion of the 14 day period. It is at this time that they will be selecting their team for the coming season and putting their players through very rigorous work-outs each day. The guests will be treated as if they were

players as well, but will also be treated to a behind the scenes look at what the coaches do in preparation and in making final decisions.

Many such invitations come with some sort of financial 'catch'. Not this one (at least not this first year). The only thing they ask is that each participant be responsible for his own air transportation to San Francisco, as well as feeding themselves while they are there. They will provide sleeping arrangements for each either with their players or coaches however space allows.

January weather in Northern California tends to be quite mild. An average temperature is around 60 degrees (15 degrees centigrade). Rain is periodic but they have facilities to combat such difficulties should they arise.

Overall space is limited so if you have an interest should respond immediately, in the first instance contacting Ralph Rago on 0113 266 9530.



Tips For Youth League Baseball Parents

Last year was my son's first year in Youth League Baseball. I had heard the horror stories about the overbearing Youth League parents and coaches, but last season was my first chance to see for myself. And I saw a lot, some bad, but mostly good. But what I did learn was important; how to make the Youth League more enjoyable, and a greater learning experience, for the kids. And, after all, no matter how much we enjoy it, too, Youth Baseball is for the kids.

So, I would like to share some thoughts with you, too. I honestly believe that these ideas will help to make next season more fun for your children, more enjoyable for you, and a heck of a lot easier on those people who volunteer their time and skills. Hope they can help!!

PLAY BALL!

Work with your child. There really is little more satisfying than going out at least a few evenings a week and playing ball with your kids. This gives quality time, and helps your child improve his / her skills (and, trust me, the better your child can play, the more she / he will enjoy the youth baseball experience!). Some day, your child will look back on the summer evenings spent playing catch with mom and dad.

Get involved in your local team. Youth baseball is run on a volunteer basis, and they can use all the help they can get. Anything you can do to pitch in will make the League run more smoothly, and will help all the kids, from helping out at tryouts, to scorekeeping or field preparation, to umpiring. If your child sees that youth baseball is that important to you, he / she will learn that it is important to the kids, too. In 1995 I helped out by field preparation, scorekeeping, and umpiring; in addition to making it a satisfying experience for me, I was able to teach my son some of the things that others (umpires!) look for in a game. And, the League provide all of the training anyone needs. Some people worry that they are not qualified - I say if you make a mistake, you can offer to give back the money you earned that day (remember - it's volunteer work!!). Besides, even coaches and players make mistakes, the point is to learn and to have fun - and to teach kids that you can!!!

Different coaches have different philosophies. Some believe in having players play all positions, some want players to become good at one. Some coaches



place more emphasis on winning (and I can tell you, from experience, that players have more fun when they are winning). It is IMPORTANT to remember that your child's coach is not being paid, he is working for the love of the game and the kids. Let him be the coach! Don't argue and criticize if you think your child is being treated unfairly (as parents, it is natural to be very protective, but most coaches aren't discriminating). If you think there is a problem, discuss it with the coach AWAY from the ball field; chances are that you will see his point of view. The important thing is not to make an issue in front of the players; along with baseball, they are learning to work as a team and to respect authority and experience.. work not to ruin this teaching.

For heaven's sake, show up for the games AND the practices. In today's busy world it is sometimes hard to juggle schedules, but this is your child! I cannot begin to tell stories of kids I've seen who never tried to excel at baseball, and invariably these kids were dropped off at practices and picked up afterwards, without the parent(s) ever watching a single practice. It's only a couple of times a week, a couple of months out of the year! The most irritating are the parents who don't ever watch practice (and, therefore, never understand the coaches philosophy), but will question (yell!) at a coaches decision during the

game. Most people wouldn't dare to not show up for work and still tell the boss what's wrong with the company, but they will turn around and do just that with their child's coach. Respect the rules! This is what the kids should be learning. If you don't agree with an umpires call, keep it to yourself. If there is a team rule that bothers you, well, its their team.. not yours. If you think there is a serious problem, take it up with the coach or a league official on your own time, not your child's. Rule of thumb: during practice or games, don't speak unless spoken to (except, of course, to cheer on ALL the kids).

Don't create pressure. Just about every father dreams of his son becoming a major league star, but they are only children. Don't expect more than they can deliver. Give positive encouragement, and be there when they need you. Besides, often a child in early years will lack certain skills, and blossom later on. Don't fight nature, or the kids.

Ice Cream!!! No one likes to lose, but the nature of a team sport is that one team will always lose. Teach your child that he/she didn't lose, the team lost. And they lost to a team that just happened to play better that day. There is always next time, and the important thing is to learn from the defeats. Its okay to analyze why someone lost, and how

they can do better next time. It's never okay to place blame!

Have Fun!!!! Baseball should be a positive experience for everyone: kids, coaches, support staff, and parents. Winning is nice, but losing is inevitable. Being a star is fun, but being a bench player is just as important. Take the opportunity to enjoy your child's childhood, and to teach some important life lessons!!

(This suggestion is from a Mum) Although baseball is considered a non-contact sport, there are occasions when players collide, or non-contact injuries occur. We are all concerned about our childrens safety, but if your child suffers an injury, remember: kids are able to sustain a lot more than adults - and, coaches are trained in dealing with injuries. Let the coach handle the situation... he doesn't need a panicked parent to deal with.

I can't stress this enough: VOLUNTEER... they need you. One of the biggest irritants I see is those who will not give their time, but are quick to criticise. If you can't be part of the solution, don't be part of the problem. If you think that something needs to be changed, get involved so that you can change it.

(This suggestion is from a manager) One of the most frustrating things for a manager is to have a parent

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3 Baseball bases. hard vinyl professional shape, steel anchor
colour WH
size M-L, XL
Price : £ 200



BBE-01 ECONOTICAL VINYL BASE
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colour WH
Price : £ 38



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come up after the season and say, "great season, but you kept doing something that bothered me. . ." A manager/coach cannot change problems if they don't know the problems exist. Most managers/coaches welcome input.

A Poem

One of the many books I own is one called 'You Can Teach Hitting', by Dusty Baker. Along with being an excellent text, there appears inside of the front cover a poem about a Youth player... I gave a copy of this poem to several parents and coaches last year.

Alone at the Plate

He pulls on a helmet, picks up the bat,
and walks to the plate, "gotta hit and that's that."

The crowd starts to yell, the game's on the line,
last inning, two outs, the score's nine to nine.

Dad yells, "Go get it," Morn wrings her hands,
coach hollers, "hit it," but alone there he stands.

Heroes are made in seconds such as this,
but he's just a little boy, what if he should miss?

Years after this game's ended and he's little no more,
will he remember the outcome or even the score?

No he'll have forgotten if he was out, hit, or a run,
he'll only look back on his friends and the fun.

So cheer this boy on, alone with his fate;
help him remember with fondness this stand at the plate-

Spend your time wisely and help in his quest
to be a hitter with confidence and always his best.

And when the game's over, this boy can stand tall,
for you've helped him prepare to give it his all!

The above article was written by Keith Taylor and taken from the internet. If you would like to see more of Keith's work look at 'Mudball!'

1997 BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION HANDBOOK

Contains all the contact details and fixtures for the 1997 season. An excellent buy for any intrepid baseball fan.

To reserve your copy (to be published March 1997) please return the form below along with a cheque for £5.00 made payable to the British Baseball Federation.

Please ensure I receive a copy of the 1997 British Baseball Federation Handbook. I enclose my cheque for £5 (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation).

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you wish to change the name of your team, or you are a new team starting out, one of your first tasks may be to think of a name.

Whilst you may wish to call yourselves after your favourite Major League team, it is not a wise move. Major League Baseball have advised us as follows:

"The use by European baseball clubs of Major League Baseball registered team logos and names has been discouraged by MLB International for many years.

There are benefits to both European clubs and to MLB if those clubs' players were to play in uniforms bearing the names and logos of well-known MLB teams; the clubs draw an association with one of the top American baseball teams and MLB achieves exposure for its logos.

The difficulty arises in the commercial use of the logos.

Only Major League Baseball has the right to trade in the team names and logos. Therefore, any European club using the name and / or logo of an MLB team would, having built a following keen to buy team memorabilia, find itself unable to trade in the logo and name with which it has become associated.

It is for this reason that MLB encourages all European clubs to ensure their name and / or logo does not conflict with one of the 30 Major League teams".

Surely the aims of any team is to grow, gain local support and eventually sell their own merchandise - it's an excellent way to raise funds. So, we advise you to be original in your choice. Many teams have already taken this stance, for example Hessele Apaches, London Wolves, Sheffield Bladerunners, Brighton Buccaneers to name a few. If you have any queries on this issue please do not hesitate to contact BBF Head Office.

Dear Sir

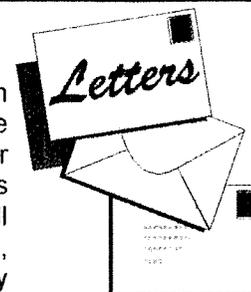
I am the person responsible for the preseason games for the Berendrecht Bears (a baseball and softball team near Antwerp, Belgium). I've recently got the idea to organise an international tournament on our field. The Berendrecht Bears play in the highest division of Belgium. For this international tournament I am looking for teams from other countries.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Roger Vandoren
Gen Slingeneyerlaan 38
2100 DEURNE
Belgium
Fax: 00 32 3 220 97 76

Dear Sir

I am currently a high school senior at the United Nations International School in New York City. I have been playing baseball on the high school varsity level for three years now, and have coached baseball at a children's summer camp as well. I will most likely be attending a university in the United Kingdom starting in fall 1997. I would like to continue playing baseball at that time. Would you please send me information about the possibilities available for playing on BBF-



affiliated teams. My mailing address is:

Martin Stabe
20 Waterside Plaza, Apt 9F
New York, NY 10010-2620
USA
Internet:stax@sprynet.com

Dear Brit-Ball

After lengthy research I have traced the venues used by the Boston Red Stockings and the Philadelphia Athletics for their games played during the tour of England of late July / August 1874; possibly this may be of use or interest to others. The games were mostly staged at cricket clubs, abbreviated as CC in the list below; the dates remain elusive but the order of travel is correct; one or more games took place at each venue.

The first stop was the Liverpool CC, Edge Hill, then to the Manchester CC, Old Trafford. Onwards to London: Marylebone CC, Lords; Prince's ground, Belgravia; Richmond CC, Old Deer Park; Crystal Palace, Sydenham; Surrey County CC, the Oval - five venues. North again to the Yorkshire County CC ground in Sheffield, then across the Irish Sea to Dublin after which the tourists returned to the USA.

Yours faithfully
Will Cosgrave.

Hello!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Damir Karin and I am playing baseball in Croatia for Olimpija Karlovac. I am also the member of Croatian National team and I was on European Championship in Hull this summer. I am playing short-stop and pitching as well. In Hull this summer I was the best pitcher of the tournament (ERA 0.00). Also I have played my position O.K. and hit well (you can check out the stats).

Next year I would like to continue my playing in U.K. This year I was voted as the MVP of the Croatian League and won the batting title and also as the pitcher I had the lowest ERA 3.54.

Please forward this to any team interested to use my ability to play ball and if you would be so kind to publish informations about me in BRITBALL.

Thank you.
Damir Karin
e-mail dennyoliver.efzg.hr

P.S. Check out the Croatian Baseball Association Home Pages on www.efzg.hr/~denny

Dear Kevin

I read with interest a letter printed in the last edition of Brit-Ball, from Will Cosgrave. He was requiring information about the Ritchie

brothers.

I have no information regarding Alan Ritchie (before even my time), but I do have some knowledge of Jack Ritchie. Jack played professional ice hockey for the Liverpool ice hockey team, along with several other members of the Liverpool Giants baseball team. The Liverpool Giants were the Liverpool semi-pro team in John Moores pre-war Northern pro-league. Jack Ritchie played short

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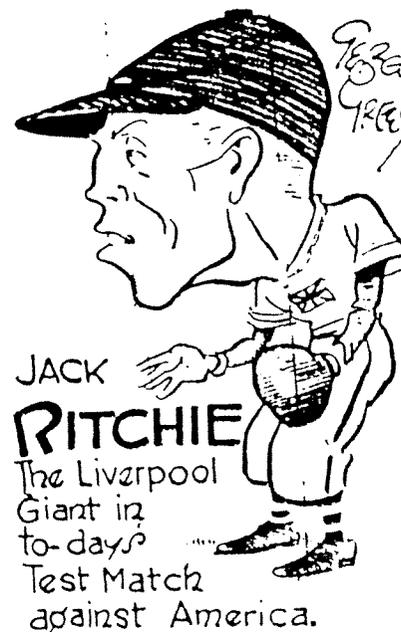
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stop for the Giants, and it was his enthusiasm and expertise that actually converted me to baseball. He also played for GB in the 1938 Amateur World Cup. See enclosed cartoons by George Green of Liverpool Echo.

After the war, he played for the NALGO CUBS in the Liverpool amateur leagues (again see cartoons). It was then that I had the privilege of playing many times against my erstwhile baseball idol.

At the end of his playing career, Jack was to become an umpire in the Liverpool Leagues. To the best of my knowledge Jack remained in



the UK and passed away when living in the Waterloo district of Liverpool. On conferring with Ned James, I was informed that Jack Ritchie's son played for the Automatic Aces, when Ned was their manager. Ned was also, at that time Great Britain's manager.

Incidentally, Ned who is now 84 years old, wishes to be remembered to all his old friends in the game. Ned is unable to get around too much these days, but occasionally comes to watch the games on Merseyside.

Yours in Sport
Norman Wells

PS: Congrats on the new Brit-Ball.

Editor: If anyone would like copies of the cartoons and newspaper articles that Norman has provided, please contact BBF Head Office.

APOLOGIES!

May we apologise to those teams who finished as either winners or runners up in their league this season, and who have not yet received their trophy.

Unfortunately last years recipients have not yet returned them to Head Office for engraving with your name. We will keep chasing them, so please bear with us. Perhaps this article may embarrass them into returning them.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ralph Rago on becoming a grandfather. Ralph's daughter gave birth to a baby boy, Devon, on 29 October weighing 8lb 10oz. and

To Jay and Cindy Stichberry of Menwith Hill who are the proud parents of a baby girl, Courtney Nicole, born on 7 November and



PITCHING MACHINE FOR SALE

Atec Casey Pitching Machine for sale. This is a two wheel machine that can be set up to throw fastballs, curves, sliders etc, at a variety of speeds ranging from youth league to professional speeds. The machine is in good condition, and comes with pitching machine balls included. **Any sensible offers will be considered.** Please contact either Paul or Andy on 0113 236 3213.

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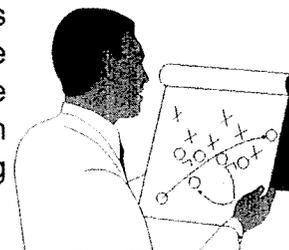
We carry in stock Baseballs (including the Kenko Air safety ball), personal Equipment Bags, Gloves, Batters Gloves and Bases (but so far no Bats). We still have a few top quality First Base Mitts to clear at £35 each plus special prices on protective equipment.

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completed the Level A course, they must have two years of practical coaching experience, and have their application

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approved by the Director of Coaching.

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At the end of each unit of study, an assessment paper will be completed and returned to Head Office.

Costs of the courses are:

Level AA £30
Level AAA £45

Overall assessment will be based on these papers, as well as a written examination, and a practical assessment.

If you are interested in these programmes please contact

Ralph Rago
7 Sandringham Gardens
Leeds
LS17 8DD
Tel/Fax: 0113 2669530

For Level AA it is strongly recommended that candidates have completed the Level A course. If candidates have not

NATIONAL JUNIOR SPORT PROGRAMME

Are you interested in having baseball included on your local schools curriculum. As part of the Government's policy statement 'Sport: Raising the Game', the English Sports Council have produced an information pack 'Cash In On Sport By Raising Standards' outlining their four physical education and school sport schemes. These are:

PUZZLE CORNER

PUZZLING PUTOUTS

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

Missing Message

Congratulations to the Great Britain National Team on their European Championships Victory

Fill in the missing letters below to discover the various ways the players were put out in a baseball game.

1. _ L _ E _ O _ _
2. _ I _ E _ O _ _
3. _ O _ C _ D _ O _ _
4. _ O _ L _ D _ O _ _
5. _ O _ P _ D _ O _ _
6. _ T _ U _ K _ O _ _
7. _ A _ G _ D _ O _ _
8. _ H _ O _ N _ O _ _
9. _ I _ K _ D _ O _ _
10. _ R _ U _ D _ D _ O _ _

Nameless Nations

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Italy | 2. Spain |
| 3. France | 4. Norway |
| 5. Russia | 6. Sweden |
| 7. Poland | 8. Holland |
| 9. Germany | 10. Belgium |
| 11. Ireland | 12. Croatia |
| 13. Austria | 14. Hungary |
| 15. Ukraine | |

- ◆ Challenge Fund: £1000 for 1000 schools to develop school / sports clubs links.
- ◆ Sportsmark / Sportsmark Gold: Awards which give special recognition to those schools which have particularly good policies for sport.
- ◆ Coaching for Teachers: Free courses to help teachers gain national governing body of sport awards.
- ◆ School Community Sports Initiative (SCSI): To help schools apply for increased levels of funding from the Lottery Sports Fund to develop good school / community sports facilities.

One such pack has been sent to every school in the country. Contact your local school and together help them to play baseball and develop their facilities. Copies of the booklets can be obtained from Elaine Burgess, Development Unit, English Sports Council, Tel: 0171 388 1277.

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*except for PL1

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Tel and Fax

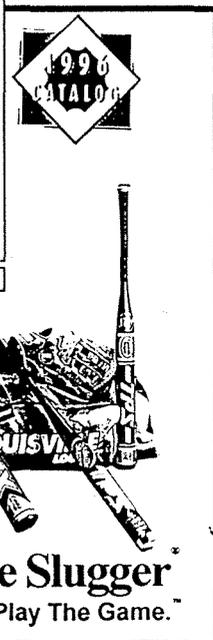
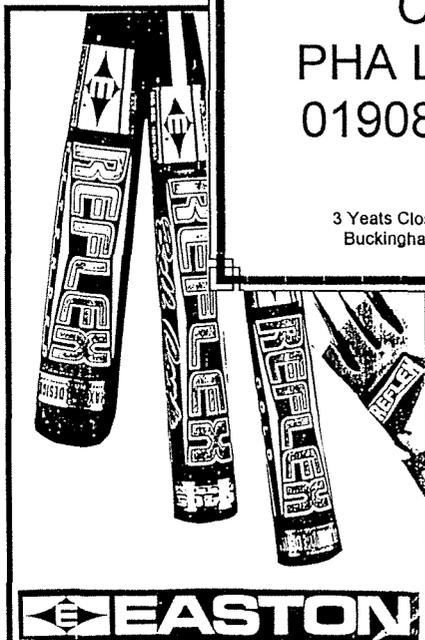
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