

# BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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# BRIT BALL

British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice  
of the  
British Baseball  
Federation

Issue No 19  
December 1994  
75p



**Here's  
to  
1995.....**

The 1994 Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday 4 December in Birmingham.

The news from the AGM is that affiliation fees for the 1995 season will remain the same with a slight reduction for 16-18 year olds. The meeting went well and once again showed what great steps forward the Federation has taken in 1994.

This years awards went to deserving owners with the Presidents Award going to the Birmingham Braves, the Majestic Trophies Sportsmanship Award to the Droitwich Spa-Tans, the Brian Holland Trophy to Clive Maude and the Norman Houghton Umpires Award to Frank Scherer.

On the playing front, Steve Sewell of Nottingham Hornets won the Sonny Goings Pitching Award. Lee Mayfield of Hounslow Rangers won the Gridiron Sports Batting Award and Ray Brownlie of Humberside Mets won the Benson Majestic Golden Glove Award. These trophies will be presented at the 1995 BBF/MLB Coaching Clinic.

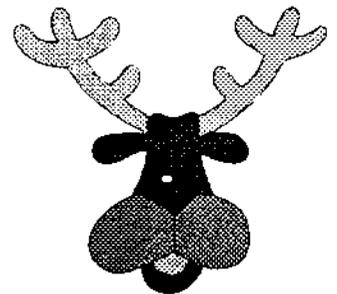
Places are filling up for the 1995 clinic so send your application off soon to avoid disappointment.

*Which leaves me to wish you on behalf  
of the Board of the Federation a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
Year!*

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# THE LOTTERY GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

## A 10 STEP GUIDE

### Step 1

Telephone the Sports Council Lottery Line on 0345 649649 for your application pack. The line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and calls are charged at a local call rate. Please help the operators by having ready when you call a Project Title -effectively a brief description of your project, and idea of the total project cost and full contact address including postcode.

### Step 2

Receive your application pack together with its unique reference number

### Step 3

Read the contents carefully, particularly the "Guide to Project Development" and "Guidance Notes for Applicants". For assistance with the technical dimensions and specifications complete the technical "Guidance Notes" order form.

### Step 4

Send off the Consultation forms provided in your application pack to the relevant national governing body of sport, other national organisations, and, in the case of the voluntary sector, your local authority.

### Step 5

Complete your application form and return it to the Sports Council National Lottery Unit. These should not be returned before 4 January 1995. No applications will be processed before that date, and the first grants are not expected to be made before March 1995.

### Step 6

Receive confirmation of receipt of your application to the Sports Council



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### Step 7

Please be patient - your scheme will be thoroughly evaluated by the Sports Council. This will involve verification of your project, detailed consultation with the relevant organisation and a financial and technical appraisal. You may be requested to provide any further information at this stage.

### Step 8

Your scheme will be put to the Sports Council Lottery Board, after which you will be informed of the outcome.

Successful applicants will receive a formal offer of grant at this stage. As far as is possible, unsuccessful applicants will be informed why their submission did not gain priority for support.

### Step 9

For successful schemes, payments will be made on a staged basis as your project proceeds. You will be asked for regular progress reports and we will monitor the project. You will be asked to participate in an initial presentation awarding your lottery grant.

### Step 10

Completion! You will be required to hold an official opening and to supply information demonstrating the achievements of your project.

### Remember.....

\* Do not make speculative

applications. The Sports Council is seeking good, well designed, viable projects that appeal to the widest cross-section of the community.

\* Application packs are only available through the Lottery Line.

\* Do not send in videos or other expensive presentations.

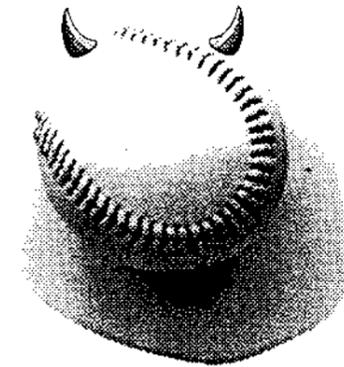
\* If you wish to contact the National Lottery Unit, as of 4 January 1995, calls will only be answered between 2pm and 5pm Monday to Friday

A quote from the Sports Council "The money generated by the National Lottery presents a great opportunity for British sport at all levels and in all areas. We at the Sports Council look forward to receiving ideas from around the country and to investing in new capital projects which until now have been financially prohibitive".

I'm sure you will agree that baseball "fits the bill" to perfection. Let's all make the most of the National Lottery and bring baseball to the forefront in British Sport.

If the British Baseball Federation can be of any assistance with your application, in terms of technical details, letters of support etc, do not hesitate to contact Head Office.

Watch out next month for details of other bodies whom you can apply to for funding. Now is the time to apply in preparation for next season.



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# 1995 BYE-LAWS

At the BBF Council meeting in November, the Bye-laws for the 1995 season were set.

The Bye-laws contain rule changes that will affect all of us and hopefully this article will make things a little clearer. Please remember that this article is just a general overview and not the letter of the law. Before the start of the season, team managers should have a thorough read of the bye-laws to ensure they know all the relevant requirements and rules for a successful season.

The first change (1.21), only affects some of us and states that members of the BBF Executive are not allowed to hold the position of senior team manager with any club they have an association with.

The section on Registration has changed dramatically.

From now onwards, the teams in the National Premier League will be the only teams who will have BBF Registration cards. All other teams will use a roster system. That means that this year your team contact will be sent a roster with all player details on and

once you have checked it then it needs to be sent back to Head Office with the appropriate registration fee. No need for photos just written details. If you suspect an illegal player during a game then the usual protest may be lodged to the relevant Conference Coordinator with the appropriate fee of £10.

Any team found to be playing illegal players will be severely punished either being relegated or banned. Rosters must be available at all games.

All single games this year will start at 1400hrs with double-headers starting at 1200hrs. There is no time limit on any game.

If games are postponed then the fixture will be played on the next available Sunday the teams have. If this cannot be achieved then when the teams next meet the game will be played as the first game of a double-header.

If a game is protested, it must be done within 48 hrs to the relevant Conference Coordinator or the appeal will be lost.

As you can see the Conference Coordinators will be the point of contact on all matters concerning that Conference. They will deal with protested games, scheduling, disciplinary matters etc.

In double-headers the slaughter rule can now be invoked in the fifth inning.

All clubs must register at least one umpire and one scorer and shall forward the name of these individuals to BBF Head Office.

Scoresheets must be sent to Conference Statisticians within 72 hrs of the end of the game or teams will be penalised.

Players who attain the age of 18 in the 1995 season are eligible to play junior baseball up to that age.

Each conference should appoint a Publicity Officer. Anyone interested in this position should contact the Publicity Director.

The BBF National Knockout Cup has been discontinued. Over the past few years, fewer games have been played and last year cup games caused havoc with the league schedules. Teams have indicated they would prefer more competitive league games than meaningless high up fixtures.

If teams wish to play games against other teams by the start of the season they are encouraged to hold tournaments these provide teams the opportunity to raise the profile of the game in their area and raise funds. Please remember that at the end of the day we are here to play baseball and let common sense prevail.

A dim view will be taken of teams trying to win games on technicalities. However, read the bye-laws and make sure your team abides to them. Good Luck!

## SCOTS AWAY!

ich are going around up here in Scotland as well as my own views. 1995 season are eligible to play junior baseball up to that age!

ase turn to the next page!

ain, there was no official junior league set up north of the border. Over the past few years, fewer games have been played and last year cup games caused havoc with the league schedules. Teams have indicated they would prefer more competitive BBF would be more than willing to play games against other teams by the start of the season.

Even then, the Cobras developed a few organisation problems and barely kept their senior teams together. At which point, Gordon Jack Kane Bluejays registered against other teams by the start of the season.

Even told of others who were to join, including teams from Tayside, Glasgow Little League and Kirkcaldy. I please urge these teams to late on time next year so that I can enjoy official games too.

### Club Organisation

ere have been problems in the past with teams not raising enough players for official games, but this year it seems to have come to a head. With the team officially folding, another club for a short time and others continually struggling for players, this season has been a face. As usual, I got blamed for this.

w, I feel that a £17 registration fee is excessive and it bothers me that the squad were budgeted to get £10 of it when they should have got sponsorship instead. I know sponsorship is not easy to obtain but I don't think enough has been done to it. Also, as far as I'm concerned, £6 insurance is a waste of money. It should be abolished to be replaced with a decent policy which is purely optional and pays out injury

money whether the player is employed or not.

However, the main underlying problem which many teams face - not just in Scotland, is the lack of organisation and responsibility required to run a club properly. Again, this is not a BBF fault. Granted there are a lot of people out there who love baseball and want to play, score, coach or umpire. But how many of them are willing to help organise their teams?

Every team or club needs a secretary who is willing to carry out all the functions necessary for things to run smoothly. A publicity officer is needed to sort out poster and articles in the paper so that there is a steady inflow of new players at practices which hopefully reduces player shortages. Each club should also have a treasurer and not to mention a manager. I'm sure there are a lot of clubs out there who have just one or two people who perform all of the above tasks. The club to which I belong, has two teams, a senior and junior with about 30 members altogether. It is run by two people, (one who is reluctant and one totally marvellous, dedicated, generous person) without whom the club would cease to exist.

### 1995 Season

At the moment, there are six teams, plus the Kirkcaldy Warriors coming back from a two year absence.

There are several rumours flying around about the Scottish teams wanting to break away from BBF and form a league of their own. Some want the Alan Chell approach of

individual regions controlling their own leagues, etc. But for Scottish and British baseball, that could be like one step forward and three steps back. I was the treasurer way back when there was a BBF Scotland and all I remember of it was the constant bickering that went on. At one meeting, five hours were spent arguing over one issue. A vote was taken which was overturned at the next meeting because someone felt it hadn't been debated properly! Do we want to go back to that?

Others feel that we pay BBF too much and get nothing much in return and that we could have our own "federation" at a reduced cost. It is up to Steve Herbert and Kevin Macadam, whom I hear are the two "lucky" BBF representatives who are coming to the January 1995 meeting, to answer all of our own questions and encourage us to rejoin. Well, good luck.

Yours for more organised baseball  
Brian Edwards  
President, Secretary, Treasurer, Scorer  
Dundee Dodgers Baseball Club

## Major League Baseball

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# WHAT IS SCORING ABOUT AND WHERE IS IT GOING?

To most people scoring is about counting the number of runs so that you know who has won the game. You would be correct in assuming that this is scoring, but only at its most simple level. When the BBF Scorers Association talks about scoring they mean something entirely different. They are talking about completing a score sheet fully so that statistics can be compiled, in order that trophies can be awarded to certain players and also to help managers look back at how players have performed against certain teams. A properly completed score sheet is a complete picture of the game, recording every play in the game.

To be successful a scorer must be as familiar with the rules of playing the game as the umpire. But in addition the scorer must also be totally familiar with the rules governing scoring. Section 10 is devoted purely to scoring and, for those of you unfamiliar with it, runs to 24 sub-sections. This is a section of the rules which most players, and some umpires will not have read. In addition the scorer must be able to apply these rules, instantaneously to any play or combination of plays occurring at the same time. The scorer will often be wrestling with the problem of keeping his score sheet dry and/or thwarting its desire to join the centre fielder. When players have had their shower and left the field the scorer still has about an hours work summarising and proving the score sheet before sending it to the relevant statistician.

That is briefly what scoring is about. It sounds quite a challenge doesn't it?

Do all games/teams have the services of a qualified scorer sending their score sheets into a statistician? The answer to this question is unfortunately no. The majority of teams do not submit score sheets and so even if they have outstanding players only the teams and their opponents will know about it. This is the situation we have reached in scoring.

So what is being done about it?

Unfortunately not a lot, and it was this state of affairs which led me to put forward a proposal to the BBF Board for them to consider and use as a platform to launch an improvement programme for scoring. This proposal was aired at the November Council meeting and it was agreed in principle as a potential way forward. There is still work to be done on the detail of the proposal and it requires wider debate among the BBF membership because it affects all of you. I was asked to summarise the proposal for inclusion in Brit-Ball to try to stimulate that debate. The BBF wants to hear your views on the subject. Think about it and let either the BBF or the Scorers Association have your views on the following proposal.

Currently scores are graded based on the percentage they achieve on a written paper. According to this percentage they are graded 'A', 'AA' or 'AAA'. The current grading of scorers is not a true reflection of the needs of the game. This should be replaced by a two grade system of intermediate and advanced. Both gradings should be based on a written and practical assessment. Also the gradings should be based on being able to score certain situations correctly, this has more relevance to the sport's needs.

To gain an intermediate qualification a scorer should be able to demonstrate knowledge and ability in a written and practical test to credit and record a base hit, a base on balls, a hit by pitched ball, a fielding error, a put out, a simple assist, a strike out, a run batted in, a stolen base, a sacrifice hit, a batting/fielding change, a pitching change and winning and losing pitcher correctly. They must also be able to compile and balance a score sheet.

To gain an advanced qualification a scorer should be able to demonstrate knowledge and ability in a written and practical test to credit and record a dropped third strike, earned runs, runs against a pitcher, wild pitches, passed balls, catcher errors, saves for relief pitchers, interference, infield flies, batting out of turn, pinch hitters and pinch runners, complex assists, value of a base hit, called and forfeited games correctly, in addition to those

listed in the intermediate qualification. In addition an advanced scorer must be able to determine percentage records, including earned run average. The method of qualifying scorers will be by written and practical scoring assessments.

The BBF, or Scorers Association, should hold clinics twice a year if there are more than 5 potential scorers wishing to attend. There should be separate clinics for intermediate and advanced scoring. The clinics should be held just before the start of the season and just after the end of the season. At the end of the clinic the candidate will undertake a written test to check their level of knowledge.

Following a candidate passing the written examination the BBF, Scorers Association, will nominate a qualified scorer to score independently, the same game as the candidate. Both the nominated scorer and the candidate will submit their score sheets to a nominated person who will adjudge the candidates ability to score a live game.

All of this is based on a vision of scoring in baseball. The ultimate vision must be present at every game played under the auspice of the BBF at both senior and junior level. This cannot be attained overnight and it is therefore of importance that a migration path for this vision is formulated, agreed and adhered to.

The following milestones offer a way to achieve the ultimate vision.

By the start of the 1995 season all National Premier League (NPL) teams must have a qualified scorer (1 grade) in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet in summary to the National Premier League Statistician. All Conference statisticians must be advanced scorers.

By the start of the 1996 season all 1st division teams, both senior and junior, must have an advanced scorer in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet to the National Premier League Statistician.

By the start of the 1997 season all 1st division teams, both senior and junior, must have a qualified scorer (intermediate or advanced) in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet to their reference statistician.

By the start of the 1998 season all 1st division teams, both senior and junior, must have a qualified scorer (intermediate or advanced) in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet to the junior reference statistician.

By the start of the 1998 season all 1st division teams, both senior and junior, must have an advanced scorer in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet to their reference statistician.

By the start of the 1995 season all National Premier League (NPL) teams must have a qualified scorer (1 grade) in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet in summary to the National Premier League Statistician. All Conference statisticians must be advanced scorers.

## DUNDEE DODGERS AWARDS PRESENTATION 1994

By the start of the 1996 season all 1st division teams, both senior and junior, must have an advanced scorer in attendance at every game who will be responsible for completing and sending in the score sheet to the National Premier League Statistician.

for their outstanding achievements and sends others diving for cover!

Firstly, we scoffed the buffet and downed a few pints. Then we started with the trophy awards. Brian Farkas, out pitcher, scooped 3 out of the 6 trophies. He was voted Player of the Year and based on statistics, he got Batting Champion (.496) and MVP. David Seal received Rookie of the Year and Gold Glove Outfield. The last actual trophy, Gold Glove Infield was won by Gary Cumming.

Then the certificate awards were presented. Brian Farkas took 6 out of the 8, including Most Hits (23), Most Stolen Bases (37), Highest RBI (26) and Best Slugger (.755). He was first equal for Most Runs (33) with Ryan Smart who won Most Walks (29).

Ryan was also presented with a trophy for MVP for the Scotland v England game by Jim Wilde of the Tayside Cobras.

Now with the serious stuff out of the way, the important and highly acclaimed Dundee Bodger Awards are presented to their lucky recipients. For those of you who didn't read last year's article, the Bodger Awards are for silly plays, embarrassing errors and other similar acts connected to the club. This year, there were 19 issued compared with 26 last year. They are issued in the form of a piece of paper.

Having heard that the winner of the Strike Out King Award tends to chuck his awards in the bin, we thought we would bring out a shield in the form of a large Wooden Spoon which he could not throw away. It has a medal on it of a woman bending over and mooning along with yearly plates backdated to include 1992-3 and this years. It just so happens the same person won it in those years. Examples of some others are as follows:

**The Dean Martin Award** - for never showing up to a game without massive hangover.

**The Egg Shell Award** - for his ability to crack under very little pressure.

**The Harry Carpenter Award** - for giving everyone a really interesting breakdown of every play he makes.

**The ME Batting Award** - for not

running on dropped 3rd strikes.

**Best Base Coach Award** - for advising to tag up after his hit was caught!

**The Wild Thing Award** - for most wild throws in practice!

**The Cartoon Time Award** - for trying to run in mud and rain whilst wearing trainers.

**Best Non-Tag of a Baserunner** - after catching a pop-up and tagging runner with the wrong hand!

**Best Style Award** - for those really cool NHS sunglasses.

**The Mike Tyson Award** - for knocking out the Perth catcher whilst running home.

As usual, I have omitted the recipients names for self preservation purposes. Some of the suggestions where were not used this year because they are a wee bit offensive are as follows (assuming the editor's wife doesn't censor them!) (*Editor's wife - would !!*)

**The D'Artangyan Award** - for naming his daughter after a musketeer!

**Most Offensive Girlfriend** - for the third consecutive year, gets to keep the award.

**The Team Spirit Award** - for being more enthusiastic about showering together than the game itself.

**The Acting the Donkey Award** - for pushing Halibut into the

River Tay while he was taking a leek and his hands were too busy to save himself!

**The Brands Hatch Award** - for the unfeasibly large skid-marks he leaves on his sliding pants.

**The "Okay I'm your best pal, just don't tell anyone" Award** - for being over-friendly and the strangest umpire in baseball.

Is it just our team, or do other clubs give their players weird nicknames? Examples are Fido Dido, Halibut, Moose, E6, Thor, Fast Ed, Lucky Al, Homer (only plays home games) and Ozzie, and not forgetting our favourite strange umpire, Beetlejuice!

**Brian Edwards  
Dundee Dodgers**



# BAFFLED BATTER

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

Pick one letter in turn from each of the actions below (in order 1, 2, 3, 4 etc) to spell out the result of your trip to the plate in the tenth space:

1. Ground out
2. Sacrifice
3. Foul Ball
4. Swing Away
5. Line Drive
6. Strike Out
7. Foul Tip
8. Base Hit
9. Home Run
10. ....

# WHO WON THE LEAGUE

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

At the half-way stage of the season ACES are unbeaten, the other seven teams trail as follows:

	Games Back
Bees	1
Cubs	2
Eels	3
Jays	4
Mets	5
Rays	6
Yaks	7

In the second half of the season the teams Won-Lost records are as follows:

	Won-Lost
Rays	7 - 0
Cubs	6 - 1
Yaks	5 - 2
Bees	4 - 3
Jays	3 - 4
Aces	2 - 5
Mets	1 - 6
Eels	0 - 7

- a. Who won the league
- b. Who were the runners-up?
- c. Who finished in fifth place?



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- d. Who were the last-place team?
9. Billings Mustangs
10. Louisville Redbirds

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

Answers to last month's anagram puzzle sent in by Frank Counce are as follows:

1. Albany Polecats
2. Toledo Mudhens
3. Pocatello Pioneers
4. Idaho Falls Gems
5. Syracuse Chiefs
6. Rochester Red Wings
7. St Lucie Mets
8. Peninsula Pirates

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# OBITUARY Geoff Moffitt 1924 - 1994

It is with much sadness that I have to report the death of Geoff Moffitt in the early hours of 22 November 1994. He leaves behind his wife Pam, son Bruce, daughters Joy and Lynn and to them, we in baseball, send our heartfelt sympathy, on their great loss. Geoff first came into baseball in 1948, when he founded the Wokingham Monarchs, in Berkshire. He was a player of great aptitude, playing short stop, second base, pitcher and catcher over the years, until the teams' demise in 1956. During the period 1951 - 1955 I got to know Geoff as a well respected ball player on the other team, playing in the South's Western League. In 1975 Geoff was back again, this time as a Manager / Coach for the resurrected Monarchs. This team was unique, as Geoff's son Bruce, and future sons in law Roger and Trevor, all played on the team and Lynn,

Geoff's daughter, was the scorer. It was my privilege to play on this family team for three years. Frequently at games was Joy, Geoff's daughter and Pam, his wife, the latter I remember with her knitting. This was the way to play ball, in a happy family atmosphere.

In 1977, Geoff organised a youth team named the Wokingham Dukes, which played in the London Youth League. Many of its players graduated to the Wokingham Senior side and one, Peter Edwards, went on to play for the GB squad which says much for Geoff's ability as a coach.

In 1984 the Monarchs finally went under, but in 1985 up sprang the Reading Royals, with Geoff still coaching and advising on the club committee. Geoff also coached the Reading Youth Team.

In 1989 Geoff joined the Old Timers, but due to failing health was only able to play on a few occasions over the next year or so. His grandson, Lee, took up junior ice hockey and Grandad transported him around, as he also did when Lee later took to baseball umpiring.

No matter when or where one saw Geoff, he was always ready to talk

baseball and, in the words of one of his early team mates, Dennis Sargeant, Geoff always seemed to be able to pull out a ball and two gloves and utter those words "do you wanna play some catch". Geoff was indeed an ambassador to baseball.

Geoff's wife and family have always been extremely supportive to him over the many years of baseball and Geoff has repaid them by maintaining a homely atmosphere and a standard by which to set their lives.

Geoff was a very clever man, apart from building portable backstops from his own plans, he also built small speedboats in his garage, which he and the family used for waterskiing on their summer holidays on the South West coast.

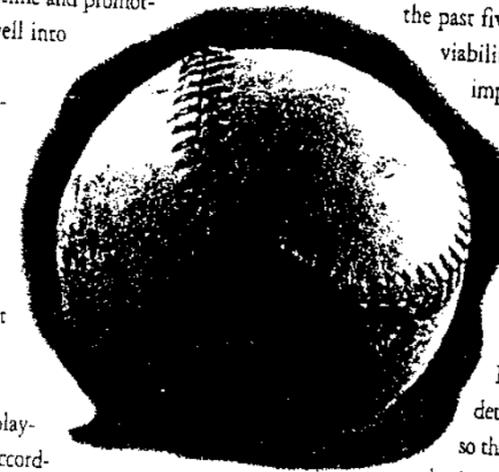
To me Geoff has been a great baseball friend and I shall miss him a lot, as I know the baseball world will in the South of England.

**Barry Mayfield  
Old Timers  
Association**

## Baseball In The 21st Century: Still Accessible, Affordable, And Competitive.

Major League Baseball's exciting 1994 season was halted by a play-off strike on August 12. For the first time in 90 years, October came without the World Series being played. But this unhappy situation is not about labor versus management. It is about the game and is, about preserving our National Pastime and promoting its growth not just for today but for well into the next century.

Major League Baseball's 28 clubs have diverse histories and traditions, unique cultures, and vastly different financial circumstances. They do have this much in common: They all strive for excellence. They want to put a winning lineup on the field for their hometown fans and attempt to field the best possible players on their



Anyone who knows Major League Baseball play knows they are the best in the world. They are paid accordingly. Club owners and management must address their own special needs. Owners do not bat or pitch. Instead, they are responsible for filling their lineups with talented players who do what they must make certain the game continues to grow, allowing more fans the affordable opportunity to enjoy the best baseball in the world, in big league stadiums— and minor league ballparks throughout North America.

What the current controversy is all about. How will Major League Baseball meet this obligation to its fans? How will baseball remain accessible, and competitive next year and in the years ahead? Professional sports organizations have recognized they must maintain competitive parity, market their product intelligently, and protect the financial integrity of their individual teams.

These other professional leagues have done so with labor agreements that establish team salary mandates or ranges—establishing pay ceilings and, just as important, salary floors—that enable more teams to be competitive. Skyrocketing costs in baseball have doubled over the past five years and threaten the long-term financial viability of MLB franchises. Huge payrolls also

impair the League's competitive parity, especially in smaller markets that lack the local television, radio, and cable revenue levels of larger markets. This disparity makes MLB's revenue sharing plan essential not only to preserve the sport's rich heritage everywhere but also to keep it alive in baseball cities such as Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Kansas City. MLB remains

determined to reach an agreement on a new contract so that the 1995 baseball season can begin on schedule. Anything less would be a disservice to baseball and

*MLB remains determined to reach an agreement on a new contract so that the 1995 baseball season can begin on schedule.*

its fans. MLB has offered the players a 50/50 split of all its revenues, as well as an opportunity to share equally in the future economic growth of the game.

Players also will benefit directly from steps already taken to improve baseball's economic and marketing positions: new divisional alignments, another round of playoffs, and The Baseball Network. Furthermore, as baseball considers expansion and improved international marketing, players will be in position to benefit even more. In other words, as baseball grows, everybody wins, including the players.

Baseball's growth must be orderly and well planned and can be best accomplished through a spirit of good will and cooperation between management and labor. Only then will the game remain accessible, affordable, and competitive into and beyond the 21st Century.

Office of the Commissioner  
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



This statement, prepared by Major League Baseball on behalf of its 28 member clubs, is part of baseball's ongoing effort to keep our fans informed about the sport and its future.

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Dear Kevin

I would imagine you've already heard what I'm going to say first, but just in case I wanted to drop you a line just so there wouldn't be a misunderstanding. Our base is closing in the spring of 1995 and therefore we will not be able to field a team next year.

I also wanted to thank you for the support the BBF have given us in the past few years. It was obvious to me that not everyone was in favour of our team. We appreciate your help and everyone else who may have helped us behind the scenes. I'm sure that there are others who spoke on our behalf who we don't know and will not be able to thank, so I'm counting on you to pass the word on.

Those of us who played for the Indians will be leaving England with memories of British Baseball which I know we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Thanks again from the Chicksands Indians.

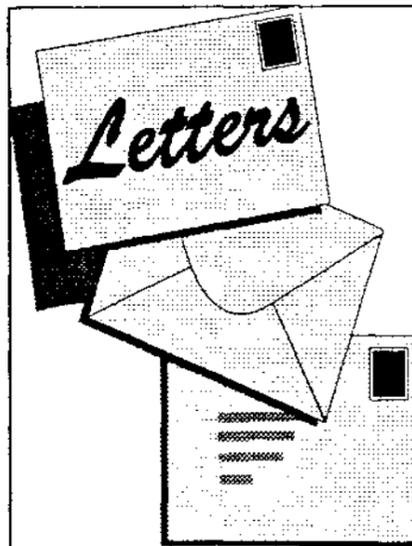
Yours truly  
Ronald A Peters DDS  
Bedford Chicksands Indians

*Editor: I'm sure all members of the BBF will join me in wishing you and your team the very best for the future back in the States. Keep in touch.*

Dear Britball

My view, for what it is worth, of the 1994 season, BBF North Division 2. The bye-laws of the Federation require of all teams certain basic standards of presentation. It is part of my responsibility at this club to attend to these requirements and I know from experience just how much time and effort this entails, so it would be unfair to malign those who can not always meet the demands, just so long as we all do our best and never lose sight of what the requirements are.

In this division I found that standards varied greatly and I have to say that we are not always faultless. Although players will accept having to dress in an open field and sit on the ground where benches are not provided, I do think everyone should have access to toilets, particularly for women and children who often travel with teams



-scorers for instance are officials and deserve proper treatment.

Travelling distances were a cause for some minor grumbling but it is the same for everyone so no argument. Seems the players did not mind so much so long as they got a good game. Teams in the league were generally good hosts and I found the interaction of players friendly almost without exception. My personal contact with fellow team managers gave me much satisfaction as I was treated with courtesy and kindness by all.

Umpiring seems always to be a problem and I am sure that all teams did their best and applaud those men who stood in the games.

Uniform dress was somewhat haphazard. New teams could be excused criticism, they will get there in time. However, established teams with uniforms who chose not to wear it puzzles me. Odd caps, tee shirts and sox when regular kit is obviously to hand is surely not on. We encountered three teams who allowed players on the field wearing shorts - good grief!

We would all like to see more spectators at our games so it is important that the teams and fields are presented in such a manner that, at the very least, it looks like real baseball. Thanks to the league organisers and officials for their work in often trying circumstances.

So the season is over and now it is time to get out the board game and dice and get the indoor winter league under way. Never mind the computer I play the old fashioned way. This winter will see the 1947 American League campaign played over - the Brownies might just one day come out on top ..... Well I can dream, can't I?

Frank Counce  
Preston Bobcats

Dear Kevin

I wish to extend my thanks for your help and advice in assisting us in launch junior baseball for the young people of High Wycombe during 1994. You may recall that we met at the recent NPL series games in Cambridge and I feel that perhaps I did not extend my thanks sufficiently for your advice back in April, when the idea of starting baseball in our area was little more than a wild dream in my 9 year old son's mind.

During the year, we introduced 53 kids between the ages of 6 and 13 to the game; attracted the help of 4 or 5 enthusiastic parents, uncovered an ex semi-pro player coach from Italy to instil some structure and much needed knowledge to our coaching, learnt enormously on the guidance, coaching, enthusiasm, kit acquisition and general all round brilliance of NLB star player Cody Cain; managed to invest in a little kit of our own along the way; and play a few tentative games. We took a party of 27 players and parents to the NPL series, for many of whom it was their first sight of live senior baseball. All had an enjoyable afternoon and our youngsters learnt a lot. They particularly enjoyed the pick up game with the Monarchs Matt Gilbert and his colleagues! For many of them, autographed balls now sit proudly on display in their homes.

If I may introduce a note of criticism. The marketing and publicity of the event was absolutely AWFUL. Nothing in the press, but even worse nothing on the BBF hotline or advance details in Brit-Ball. To find out who was playing, where and when, took several phone calls to BBF committee members and the Cambridge Club Officials. Like you, I was wrongly advised of the start time for Sunday's play. As a result we arrived during the bottom of the 5th inning. Thankfully the Mets took it to 3 games, or we would have made a 160 mile round trip to see less than 30 minutes baseball. Anyway, all enjoyed the day in the end and got to put some of the skills observed into practice the following weekend in our last game of the season, for which we had a feature in the 'Bucks Free Press', evidence of our continuing attempts to promote the

game at junior level locally. We hope to join the BBF fold for next season as we build upon the tentative steps taken this year.

Yours sincerely  
Ian King  
South Bucks Blue Jays

Dear Sir

In regard of the success of the past year, we would like to organise an international Baseball and Softball tournament in the Easter-weekend

(15, 16, 17 April 1995).

We are the Soft-en Honkbalvereniging Emmen (SHE). Up to now our club consists of 60 members. These members are dispersed over 1 senior baseball team, 1 ladies softball team, 1 pupils (10-13 years) baseball team and 1 youth (13-16 years) baseball team. Our senior baseball team participates in the major regional competition in the northern division "Het Noorden".

Emmen is a city in the north of Holland. It's population consists of

50,000 inhabitants. In the direct surroundings there are 250,000 inhabitants. We have our own facilities, fields, changing rooms and canteen / clubhouse. To provide the teams with dry sleeping accommodation we will rent tents. Several activities make it worthwhile to visit our community.

Our intentions are to organise a so called "mixed tournament" in which, 4 or 5 teams from different countries are competing against each other. This would be for both seniors and ladies as well as youth and pupils.

Our programme will be:

15 April - pupil baseball tournament and first day senior baseball tournament

16 April - youth baseball tournament and second day senior baseball tournament

17 April - ladies softball tournament and final day senior baseball tournament

Our aim is to organise this as easy as possible. Therefore we were hoping your could provide us with names and addresses of amateur clubs interested or worth inviting.

We hope as a result of this letter that future relations with England broaden in a sportive way. We have also sought contact with Federations in Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Deutschland.

In hope having provided you with the required information and waiting for your response I hereby remain truly yours,

H van Dijk  
Secretary SHE  
Edndenveld 23  
7827 LA Emmen  
Netherlands  
Tel: 010 31 5910 34121

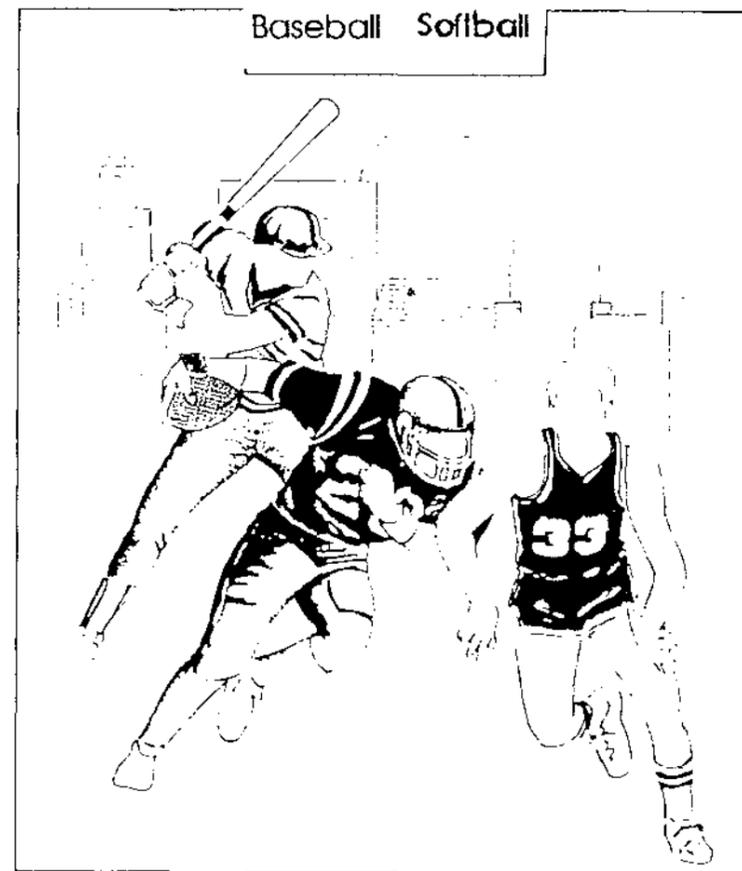


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Dear Kevin

One of the major projects I am currently working on in conjunction with the Director of Sport and Recreation from a number of British Universities, is the development of a national sports scholarship scheme for Olympic standard athletes. Unfortunately any such scheme will not be up and running for entry to higher education for 1995, given that the closing date for applications through the UCAS system is 15 December 1994. Notwithstanding the development of this scheme, I thought it might be worth mentioning to you that there are currently a small number of British universities which offer particular support for students who are also national and international sporting competitors. Assuming these universities offer the appropriate academic course, they would certainly provide a better sporting backup than most other institutions.

The range of support provided by these 20 or so institutions varies from simple bursaries, to fully fledged scholarships which include both funding and an extension of the academic period of study by up to a year. Clearly if we are interested, as I am sure we all are, in athletes in higher education doing as well as possible in their studies, but at the same time still being able to pursue excellence in their sport, these universities are offering a valuable service and deserve to be promoted.

If anyone within your federation is aware of competitors considering higher education for entry in 1995, and who perhaps has not already made firm applications, can I ask you to refer them to me here at the BOA as soon as possible, so that I can make sure they are fully aware of the range of options open to them. As the number of athletes in higher education form an increasingly large proportion of our Olympic teams, it seems crucial that we ensure any such competitors are aware of what is currently available.

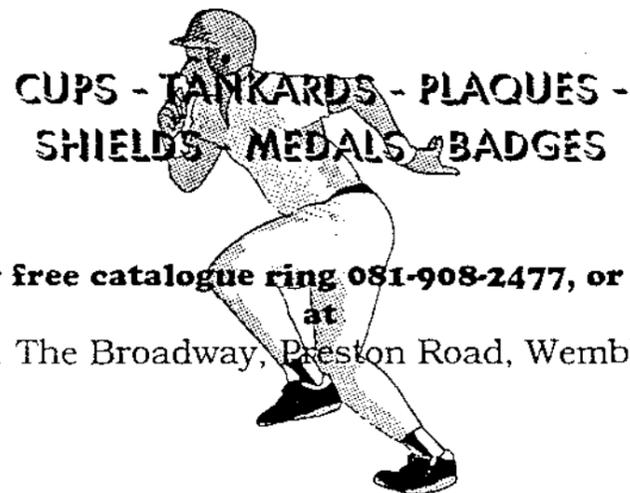
Yours sincerely

**Scott Nade**  
Athletes' Liaison Officer  
British Olympic Association  
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Dear Brit-Ball

Your report of the 1994 European Championship B Pool reveals only too well the shortcomings of the present format. My own feeling is the CEB has allowed the B pool to grow too large for any format to work very well. Perhaps a better answer might be a smaller pool of the eight best teams, with the remaining weaker countries and any new entrants forming a lower C pool. This might help also to reduce the number of one-sided slaughters.

Yours faithfully  
Will Cosgrave

## TEEBALL

The first BBF Teeball pilot scheme opened in Leeds in November. The BBF, in conjunction with Burger King, organised the scheme. It was initially aimed at Primary School teachers, and teachers who worked with children with special needs.

These groups were specifically targeted, as we believed Teeball was ideally suited to their respective needs in terms of facilities, finances and the ability level of participants.

Ten schools were represented with all the participating teachers qualifying as Teeball coaches, under the Coaching Association Coach Education Programme. The course entailed a thorough grounding in the rules of Teeball, skills and techniques.

To support the course each teacher was given a Teeball coaching manual as a reference. This was developed by Steve Herbert, and was kindly printed by Dornier Tools Ltd. Burger King sponsored the equipment, and each school was given a Teeball starter pack.

I believe that this will prove to be an excellent scheme to introduce baseball into primary schools. The response to the pilot scheme in Leeds was overwhelming. Schools are already planning to run a league next summer, and follow up sessions and further expansion is planned.

Similar schemes are being planned for Hull and Sheffield. However, if you are interested in developing a Teeball programme in your area contact me on 0113 2612471.

Ian Smyth  
Director of Coaching

Dear Mr Macadam  
**ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED  
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN SPORTS  
MEDICINE**

In line with our current drive to raise the profile of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, we are writing to all Governing Bodies of Sport.

The ACPSM is a rapidly expanding association which now has almost 1000 members and we believe that individuals and teams at all levels of sport, from grass roots to international, can benefit from the input of a Chartered Physiotherapist who specialises in Sports Medicine. These physiotherapists can offer treatment and rehabilitation of injuries which may occur and, in conjunction with team managers, coaches and other sports professionals, can help to develop fitness programmes which aim to reduce the likelihood of certain injuries occurring in the first place.

Our association often receives enquiries from teams and clubs at all levels, requesting the names of physiotherapists who would be willing to give advice or treatment to their athletes or who are requesting physiotherapy cover for specific tournaments or tours.

Should any of your teams require the services of a physiotherapist, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lynda Daley MCSP SRP, Chairman  
Weaver's Lodge, 65 Station Road,  
Castle Donnington  
Derbyshire, DE74 2NL

Dear Sirs

We are a French baseball team, playing in a regional division and are looking for a British Team in order to play a match in London on the occasion of a 2 day journey.

If any of your teams are interested, I would be grateful if they would contact us to arrange a date and further details.

**Baseball Club Des Pirates D'Amiens**  
101 rue Delpech - 2nd étage, 80 000  
Amiens, FRANCE

Dear Kevin

Upon receiving a Prince's Trust grant (thanks for the info Kevin), we decided to buy new uniform tops to replace the ones which were faded and stuck to you like a leotard! I contacted several companies but the best appeared to be Keith Peskett, Unique Sports who was offering to put the BBF logo on them for free. However, after 4

months of excuses and stalling, I contacted Martyn Hebditch, Hope Leisurewear of Bourne-mouth. Shorty (Liam Bell) from Dalriada Demons had dealt with them and said their service was really good. He wasn't far wrong because within a month, we had great new button up tops complete with our own logo, numbers and names on them. 14 players bought their own and 15 were purchased for the club. Next spring, team members will have the chance to buy their own replacement pants that will be identical to the existing ones but with belt loops. That way, we won't have to replace the lot.

Brian Edwards  
Dundee Dodgers

## WATCH THAT SPEED!

As a manager and a spectator I often want to know at what speed a pitcher is throwing. Unless you own or can borrow a "speed gun" it is generally down to judgement or experience. The price of a speed gun is out of the pocket of most people and clubs and its purchase would be hard to justify. And yet even I am guilty of exaggerating the speed without technical aid. It can and should be every managers, coaches and players advantage to know what the guy is throwing to help timing of batters swing.

Not knowing is never good enough for me. If I do not know something I try to find out. So it is with the speed of a pitcher. I cannot afford or justify a speed gun and so I have devised a formulae which at least gives me an idea based on the timings of a stop watch. It will never be as accurate as a gun but it is a damn sight better than guessing. The formulae also needs calibrating to the reactions of the individual, but once used to it, consistency appears and to within a fair degree, accuracy can be achieved. I have tested my formulae against a speed gun and adjusted my marks accordingly. I have also tested it by timing pitching from Major League

televised games when they have given the speed from the gun.

I have reproduced my formulae below and would at least recommend it to you if you have no better method. I think you will be very surprised when you start to use it. I can assure you we all think a pitcher is faster than he really is. This is because of television. When we see a pitcher in action on the "box" throwing at 90+mph we use that as a guide. The foreshortening of distances on TV deludes our eyes and brain and we therefore assume pitchers "live" are quicker. Anyhow, try it and if it works you will be better able to assess the speed.

The timing works from the moment the ball leaves the pitchers hand to the moment it hits the catchers glove:

.40 sec	90mph
.41 sec	96mph
.42 sec	94mph
.43 sec	92mph
.44 sec	90mph
.45 sec	88mph
.46 sec	86mph
.47 sec	84mph
.48 sec	82mph
.49 sec	81mph
.50 sec	79mph
.51 sec	78mph
.52 sec	76mph
.53 sec	75mph
.54 sec	73mph
.55 sec	72mph
.56 sec	71mph
.57 sec	69mph
.58 sec	68mph
.59 sec	67mph
.60 sec	66mph
.61 sec	65mph
.62 sec	64mph
.63 sec	63mph
.64 sec	62mph
.65 sec	61mph
.66 sec	60mph
.67 sec	59mph
.68 sec	58mph
.69 sec	57mph
.70 sec	56mph
.71 sec	56mph
.72 sec	55mph

Mike Harrold  
GB Squad Manager

# PLAYABILITY VS LIABILITY

Was it bad hop? Was it an act of God?  
Or was it lack of maintenance?

These are the questions that are being asked daily across the country, not only on the fields where the bad hop occurred, but also in courtrooms and judge's chambers where the question is being challenged.

The lawyers and parents today don't believe a ground ball off the chest or a sudden fall while chasing a soccer ball is part of the game anymore. They are pointing the fingers at the parties responsible for the daily care and maintenance of the fields.

Who is responsible for the fields when the correct equipment is used in the proper manner? Are the maintenance staff prudent, reasonable and consistent with their daily maintenance techniques? Does

someone walk the property daily, weekly, bi-monthly to inspect the playing surface, the outfield turf, the bleachers and backstop areas as well as check irrigation heads, fence sections and base receptacles. Do they integrate with soil additives such as Turface to avoid wind drifts, to reduce compaction and to aid in water absorption? Does the staff actively solicit information on how to handle some of their serious problems through extension services and professional groups?

The attached short check list of baseball and softball fields is just a sample that maintenance groups should use to document their maintenance procedures.

Many school boards and municipalities are stretched to the limit in daily field care. Some parents will say the maintenance staff just doesn't care. I find that statement somewhat shallow because I know there is an honest attempt to prepare the fields properly. There's just too much extra traffic on the game fields.

Let me paint a picture as an example of what one school board did to ensure their fields were safe and relatively liability free. They locked the gates. Is

the chemistry lab open all hours for any taxpayer to come in and mix formulas after the school day? Is the library open all hours for any taxpayers to enter and destroy all the books? Why, of course not. Why then should the athletic fields be open for taxpayers to walk their dogs and hit golf balls?

As a taxpayer in our example community, you can use any school facility inside or out if you follow the rules.

- You fill out a request form with your groups insurance number.
- You find out if the specific area is not being used.
- You rent and / or pay for a custodian and grounds keeper to oversee your use while on the property.

This is a positive approach to handling a serious problem; facility abuse without repair compensation.

This school board has had tremendous success in communicating their message to the taxpayers; we want our students, athletes, and community groups to use the school board facilities in a safe and hazard free manner, no different from the Civic Centre, Courthouse or

City Park. It's called a users free and that fee replenishes the equipment and facilities used by the neighbourhood and / or leasing group.

I have tried to encourage school board maintenance supervisors in my workshops to initiate a programme of locking their gates to protect against excessive outside usage. The principal won back them and the gates must be left open after school as well as weekends. Can you imagine if the principal left the school doors unlocked all weekend? I don't think I have the time to explain what would happen in that scenario.

Aeration is excellent two or three times a year. Quality subsoil and drainage is almost a necessity with so many hard native clay soils. Proper mowing, irrigation and weed control is most important for quality turf. All of the above cultural practices are necessary for a balanced and liability free facility from the standpoint of the playing surface. But the part of the equation which is missing is the courage the school board, principal, and the municipal administration has in controlling the abusive foot traffic damage done after the field is supposedly finished for play that day.

The ground ball off the chest or the slip at mid-field may still occur on athletic fields, but at least we will know it's a natural game action and not bad maintenance.

Grass grows by the inch and is killed by the foot.

*About the author: Floyd Perry was a high school and college coach in Orlando Florida for 20 years as well as the Director of Baseball at Boardwalk and Baseball/ He just completed fifty grounds maintenance workshops and seminars around the country during 1993. His video series, the ABC's of Ground Maintenance or Baseball and Softball is now available on the market.*

## UMPIRES CLINICS 1995

Dates for the above are as follows:

NORTH - 25 - 26 March 1995  
Menwith Hill Station, Harrogate

\*SOUTH - 28 - 29 January 1995  
Ministry of Defence, Civilian Staff  
Restaurant  
Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, Middx

The objective of the clinics is to refine those skills which the prospective umpire may already possess. It is not designed to teach the rules of baseball to umpires. Individuals attending the clinic should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment.

The roles and responsibilities of the umpire (both plate and field) will be addressed at length. Discussion on conduct both prior to, and during the game; pre game meetings with partners and opposing coaches will also be discussed. Consistency of the strike zone and knowledge of the strike zone seemed to be a popular gripe amongst players and coaches

throughout the past season. The clinic will focus on breaking down the strike zone; how to set up properly behind the catcher to obtain the best view of the plate and batter; confidence in calling balls and strikes; plate mechanics and working with your partner.

Many of the basic rules and situations will be covered. How to identify a balk; what constitutes a fair and / or foul ball; interference and obstruction; the appeal play; anticipation of a play on a runner to include positioning; dead ball area and the resulting award of bases; and mots of all, communication between umpires.

Each BBF registered team **MUST** send someone on one of these courses. Further courses are also being held in the Midlands and Scotland. Look out in future editions of Brit-Ball for more details.

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# 1995 UMPIRES CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to participate in the 1995 Umpires Clinic to be held in the

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\* Delete as applicable

Name:			
Address:			
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Telephone No:		Date of Birth:	
Baseball Team: (if applicable)			
I enclose £5 registration fee for the clinic			
All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation			

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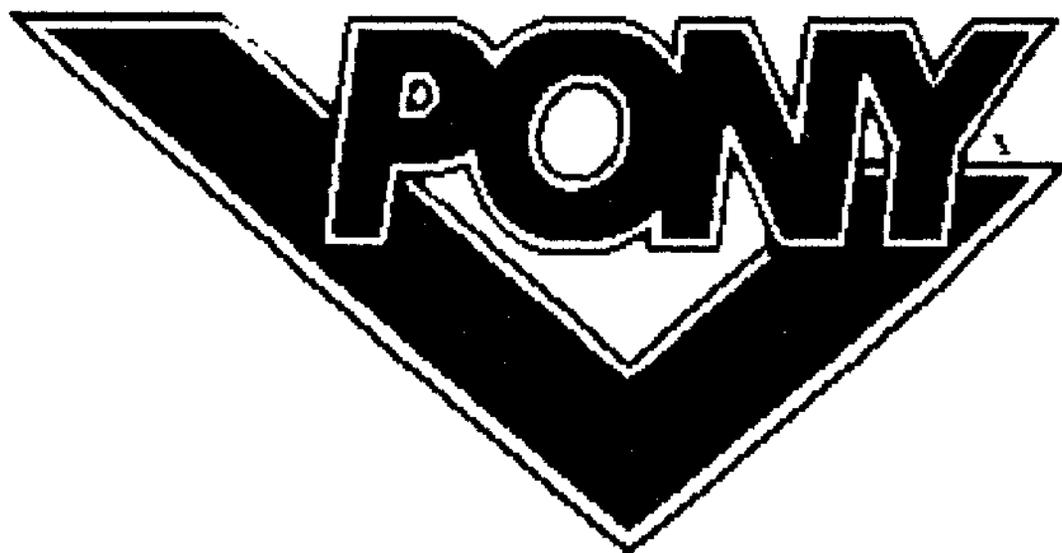


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