



## Bristol Baseball Club

### Newsletter 3, March, 2010

#### Training this Sunday and stuff!

The weather appears to improve. This is good! This Sunday is our first training – starts at 13.00. Please show early. Directions on our site.

Please wear long sleeves, trainers with good grip and expect a somewhat soggy field. Because of the time of year, we cannot expect to use the diamond as yet. So, we will probably train right next to it – this is fine, we did this last year. Please keep in mind we cannot train too close to the SCSC club-house.

Some gloves will be available to the new comers, but if you can bring your extra gloves for other people to use, this is appreciated. Our field is at the back.

#### Youth

For information about youth, please contact Rockin' Ron and Pat Truitt.



[ronblakeney2002@hotmail.com](mailto:ronblakeney2002@hotmail.com)



[mister.pat@btinternet.com](mailto:mister.pat@btinternet.com)

### Fees payment options

You can pay online (BACS) (state your name in the reference) directly into the club's account at Barclays Bank:

Account name: Bristol Baseball Club  
Account number: 60855898  
Sort code: 20 13 34 (Barclays bank)

Contact the club at [contact\\_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk) for other payment options, such as Paypal.

Payment can also be made by cheque made out to the  Bristol Baseball Club

Send cheque to: Bristol Baseball Club, 6 Keswick walk, BS10 6 DD, Bristol.

Or, please bring the cheque to the first training.

Please do not delay this  we need this money to run the club (BBF fees, field rental, etc).

Minimal first payment is £50.-. If you can pay upfront please do. Friends and youth, other fees apply of course.

### British Baseball AGM

Last Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> was the AGM for the BBF. It was a tumultuous event where some very positive results were achieved. Many highly qualified people were elected on the board. It is important to remember all these people do this work for free as volunteers. An incredible amount of work is done by great baseballers.

For details on the meeting:

[http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/gen\\_insert.php?from\\_level3=Articles&db\\_story=3622&this\\_page=baseballnews](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/gen_insert.php?from_level3=Articles&db_story=3622&this_page=baseballnews)

An example of what can be achieved, with essentially very few resources is demonstrated by the Great Britain national team. Their 2009 report can be found under 'National team' at the downloads section:

[http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/bsukdownload.php?from\\_section=Baseball](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/bsukdownload.php?from_section=Baseball)

### New field issues

We are talking a variety of clubs at the moment. If you would like to get involved in the search for a new field, please let Remmert, Dan or Alberto know.

## Equipment, where and how

We have some gloves for new comers to use. Of course we encourage you to buy your own glove, as this will always be most suitable.

There are no shops in Bristol to speak of, so, online buying is simply the best option. There are many sites and I find that between three sites, a lot can be done and a very reasonable cost. A reasonable glove can be picked up for as little as 25£. More likely, you spend 30 to 40£.

<http://www.baseballandsoftball.co.uk/>

but, cheaper is this one:

[www.baseballsavings.com](http://www.baseballsavings.com) (it needs registration with a credit card though)

and there is also an English section to this site:

<http://www.covee.nl/>

but this one requires checking the prices against other suppliers as they sometimes are more expensive. Good deals are very possible however.

On the Baseballsavings.com site, it becomes much cheaper if you look around the Softball gloves. I am a fan of the Wilson 500's and those series. The leather is good and supple and the gloves are much cheaper than baseball gloves but equally good. There are many, and as it is Softball, they start at 12 inches. A neat example is this one:

[http://www.baseballsavings.com/customer/category/product.jsp?SUBCATEGORY\\_ID=5798](http://www.baseballsavings.com/customer/category/product.jsp?SUBCATEGORY_ID=5798)

At 39\$ it makes for an even 30£. Good price.

Do not buy anything smaller than 11 inches; anywhere between 11.5 and 12.5 is generally good. Do not buy gloves that are not leather – they tend to crack pretty quickly.

Ebay has deals sometimes too, its worth checking.

## Club web site

We have updated the web site and hope you like the content. Use these links for updates on the club;

[www.bristolbaseball.co.uk](http://www.bristolbaseball.co.uk)

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2915875041&ref=ts>

You can see the club history in greater detail now via the web site. Please point this out to any prospective recruits and encourage them to join!

### [World Press Photo 2009 - sports](#)



Great shot!

### [BaseballSoftballUK relaunches Play Ball! programme with Major League Baseball](#)

BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) has announced that investment from the Children and Young People Fund in its 2009-2013 Whole Sport Plan will be used to re-introduce a local-league set-up programme, specifically targeted at building links between schools and clubs. These programmes will also be eligible for Sport Unlimited grants from local County Sports Partnerships. This simple league set-up tool is intended to be an easy-to-use solution to starting a league. Once established, leagues will be encouraged to become community-based Little Leagues. So, in 2010, BSUK will be supporting the creation of a small number of **Play Ball!** Leagues across England, with a particular focus on helping existing youth clubs to develop links between leagues and local schools. Support for this programme will be extended to clubs based on readiness to deliver and on need. Although this is a baseball and softball youth development programme, it is expected that the majority of programmes this year will be connected to baseball clubs with youth sections. (This information has been taken from the BSUK web site at [www.baseballsoftballuk.com](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com))

Bristol baseball welcomes this news as we are developing a good youth program in Bristol, and ultimately hope this will extend to surrounding areas. If you would like to be involved please contact one of our club officers.

## Other news from the world of baseball

Major League Baseball in the USA has started their spring training activities. This is focussed in the southern states and is known as the Grapefruit League for Florida based teams and the Cactus League for Arizona based teams. The official web site [www.mlb.com](http://www.mlb.com) will have all the information you need. You can also subscribe to mlb.tv if you are interested in following your favourite team by watching their live or archived pre-season and regular season games on-line.

The Japanese League is also starting the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> March for the first of their 144 game season. Their website can be seen at [www.npb.or.jp/eng/](http://www.npb.or.jp/eng/) (English version).

Other northern hemisphere leagues will be starting in March and April as well, and most can be followed on their web sites. If you have a particular league or team you think we should highlight in a future newsletter, please let us know.

## Looking ahead to our 2010 plans

As we said in our last newsletter, we are beginning training now (weather permitting). These trainings are very much part of the try-outs for the Badgers. As a reminder, once the clocks go forward on 28<sup>th</sup> March our trainings will be held Thursday evenings for the Badgers, Wednesday evenings for the Bats. Of course there will be flexibility to attend either evening on occasions. If you are interested in training you can find us on the field on Sunday mornings at 13.00

## Contacts:

Questions, suggestions and feedback can be directed at your chairman and Secretary Ron & Pat Blakeney and/or Vice chairman Remmert.

We are open to your ideas and suggestions – contribution to the newsletter welcome. If you would like to be involved in the club, coaching, umpiring etc, please let us know!

Many thanks, and we look forward to seeing you on the baseball diamond!

Ron	Chairman	<a href="mailto:ronblakeney2002@hotmail.com">ronblakeney2002@hotmail.com</a>
Remmert	Vice Chairman	<a href="mailto:remmertschouten@gmail.com">remmertschouten@gmail.com</a>
Pat	Secretary	<a href="mailto:pat_thetaff@hotmail.com">pat_thetaff@hotmail.com</a>
Alberto	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:beto93@hotmail.com">beto93@hotmail.com</a>