



Bristol Baseball Club

Newsletter March 2011

- Outdoor practices begin this Saturday
- Selection date for Badgers
- Bristol player named to Great Britain Junior squad
- Umpire Training Course held in Bristol
- Pre-season friendly on 3rd April

➤ **Outdoor practice this Saturday, 26th March, Patchway Sports Centre rain or shine, from 10 am to 12 noon.**

Our first outdoor practice will be dedicated to new members or beginners to baseball, although players of all abilities are welcome. We will meet outdoors if the weather is nice, and head to our field through the hedge at the far corner of the playing fields. If it is raining we will meet in a room above the gymnasium. All players who have attended indoor practices (photos are on our web site!) are also welcome to attend outdoor sessions if you would like to, as it would be great to have some experienced hands available.

We ask that all people attending outdoor practices fill in our 2011 membership form online so we have emergency contacts and other important details. If you are new to the club, the first 2 practices are free and you can then decide if you would like to continue under the membership plan.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, from 10 am to 12 noon!

➤ **Selection date for Badgers the week of 4th April 2011**

We are planning to name our core Badgers squad of players the week of 4th April. This is following our first 2 outdoor practices and one pre-season game (below). Our plan is to name 14-16-18 core Badgers, but we won't know the final numbers until we see people at outdoor practice and they tell us they wish to try out. For anyone who has ambitions to play for the Badgers in 2011 the initial selection should not be read as final selection. We know from experience there will be several weekends in the season where we need to draw one or two players from the Bats squad. A combination of holidays, weddings, illnesses and work will inevitably need flexibility built in. We are very confident we can get the Bats squad up to 8 games in a season although this will take some organising and assistance. (For example Plymouth will be willing to play 4 games home &

away. We have a pre-season game at Thames Valley Bisons on the 3rd of April, and they will return the favour and play the Bats in Bristol one day. The Leicester Blue Sox sent 4 people to our Umpire's Training Course and they wish to play the Bats.) Anyone playing for the Bats will benefit greatly from this proposed game time and will be ready if called upon by the Badgers.

➤ **Bristol player named to Great Britain Junior National Team**

The club are pleased to announce to our members that Luke Looney has been selected for the GB Junior squad for the second season running. His play on the field and attitude to the playing the game has impressed us and the GB coaches. This spring Luke has been joined at GB Academy training sessions by Miles Sampson, another of our teenage players. Miles is improving his game at the Academy and we would love to see 2 of our players selected by GB in 2012!

➤ **Successful Umpire Training Course held by Bristol Baseball Club**

On Saturday the 12th of March the club held one of the most successful Umpire Training Courses ever. Attended by 12 delegates and potential umpires, but amazingly hosted by 5 qualified umpires! This must be a UK record. It meant for a day well spent on the rules of the game, how to position yourself behind the plate and in the field, how to make calls, how to communicate during games. We would urge anyone who has the chance to attend a future Umpire Training Course to do so. Here are some photos, and more can be seen in the "Photo Gallery" on our web site.



➤ **Pre-season friendly, away to Thames Valley Bisons, 3rd April**

We have arranged a pre-season friendly at Thames Valley on Sunday 3rd April, and so far we have 15 players committed but more players are welcome. If you are hoping to play in this match please let us know at outdoor practice this Saturday 26th March or indoor practice this Sunday 27th March.