



Bristol Baseball Club

Newsletter February 2010

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2010! This year promises to be a good year – new recruits, building on youth and with some luck, the 2nd team can join the AA league. We are all looking forward to "Play Ball!".

Club AGM

The club AGM was held on the 22nd of November 2009 and some new officers were elected. The results of this election are as follows:

Chairman – Ron Blakeney

Vice-chairman – Remmert Schouten

Secretary – Pat Blakeney

Treasurer – Alberto Loreto

Directors – Duncan Philipppo, Pete Sampson, Ian Adams, Pat Truitt and Chris Cook

Fun stuff

The people above are the Bristol Baseball Club executive – if you have any questions, you can ask any of these people and they will make sure your questions/contributions will get to the right place. We are all here to make sure the club works – with your comments and thoughts of course all this works much better.

You can find us here:

www.bristolbaseball.co.uk

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

A new design website this year is likely, so watch the updates!

Recruitment

Bristol Baseball welcomes all prospective players. We have 2 adult teams and a youth academy. At 3 years we are still a relatively young club, thus recruitment continues to be essential. In particular we need some specialists such as pitchers, catchers and umpires. There will always be circumstances such as holidays or family events that mean some players cannot play on a given weekend. The stronger the depth of our squad is the better it will be for a consistent performance out on the field.

If you know of anyone who would like to practice or play baseball please spread the word and let them know they are welcome. The Badgers had their second full season in 2009 and finished third in the British AAA league. 2010 brings a new season! The Bats, our new independent team, played several games in 2009 including a tournament. Will there be enough players to bring the team to the league this year?

News from the British AAA League

The league has recently announced the two best teams from 2009 will be moving up to the National Baseball League. They are the Essex Arrows and the Southampton Mustangs. We congratulate them on their success and wish them well for 2010. As the Badgers finished third in the AAA league in 2009, this news has a direct affect on the potential of our team to achieve higher goals. We hope the presence of a successful organisation in Bristol encourages other baseball enthusiasts to grow their clubs across Southwest England and South Wales. The BBF also announced that 8 new teams are likely to enter leagues around the UK in 2010.

Our AAA league is part of the BBF. Like many of our European counterparts, baseball is growing from strength to strength in the UK. As part of this organisation we can benefit from their nationwide initiatives. Have a look at what they are doing. Details can be found on this website;

<http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/baseballnews.php>

The work in the BBF is all grass root volunteer work just like our own club. We are endeavouring to help the BBF with anything we can do to advance baseball, and we can use their help with our future club plans.

Looking ahead

The season is just around the corner! The best way to avoid injury is to start preparing now. Any stretching and exercise you can do before the season begins will increase your chances of staying healthy. This in turn means you will have a happier, more enjoyable and more productive baseball experience.

Soon we will be able to start training, this will be Sundays to start with and for both teams. Important: These trainings are very much part of the try-outs for the Badgers.

In April trainings will be held Thursday evenings Badgers, Wednesday evenings Bats.

Fees

We have done very well in managing to produce a very affordable club membership – certainly compared to other clubs. This does present the problem of being broke a lot. Fees will go up this year and this will allow us to invest in the field and equipment such as a much-desired pitching-machine! A new membership design is introduced, including a friendship membership.

Badgers: £150.- yearly; Bats: £100.- yearly, training members: £50.-

Youth and friends of the club will soon be decided and more news will follow this month.

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!

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Pat	Secretary	pat_thetaff@hotmail.com

