



Bristol Baseball Club

Newsletter 5, April 2010

Member's news

Ron Blakeney, aka Rockin' Ron, our chairman, has not been well. He has been to a few practices but he needs to rest. It is clear that it might take time, so we all wish him a speedy recovery, and we hope to see him on the diamond soon.

Please send cards to 6 Keswick Walk, Bristol, BS10 6DD.

"Badger goes up in Flames"

Not quite spontaneous combustion but, Chris Cook has accepted an invitation to try out for a National League club, and he has successfully made the Richmond Flames team.

The Flames were the top of their division last year with a 17-7 record, so we are proud to have a Badger make their way up to the crème de la crème of the highest division in British league baseball. All of us at Bristol Baseball Club owe a great thanks to Chris...for those of you who are new at the club you might not know he contributed in a number of ways. Several times last year he drove 45 minutes to our diamond with his lawnmower in the back of his car, mowed the infield and outfield before anyone arrived, and then lead a full practice. He sourced several of the team bats and balls. Then Chris was asked to take on coaching duties which he put his all into.

The only thing that slowed Chris down was during a game when he tried to steal second with the bases loaded, got caught in a rundown and pulled something in his ankle. He was out of action for the next week, and we suggest he does not try this in the National League!

We will definitely keep in touch with Chris and wish him all the best. Don't be surprised if you are practicing or playing a game for the Badgers one day and Chris shows up! He will always be welcome, and he will always want you infielders to get your glove dirty. Chris is a very capable all rounder with great coaching skills. Bristol Baseball is proud that Chris is moving from here to a National league.

Finally, some familiar faces from last year have left the club due to relocation. Guy Davies, Evan Pun, Asato Mardani and Bastiaan van Griensven have all moved away from Bristol. All of them contributed to the club significantly. We wish them all the best and some of them we may see again on the diamond!

This Thursday, 22nd April, practice at 6pm, & Sunday 25th April at 10am, last practices before league games

These practices will be held at Patchway Sports Centre. For directions see our web site at the bottom of this newsletter.

IMPORTANT NOTE, First Game Postponed: We have just received word that our first game, scheduled for 25th April, has been postponed to 6th June.

Many baseball clubs share their ground with football clubs. Unfortunately the snow in January saw football games postponed, and baseball clubs across the league are now affected. We have tried an alternative venue for 25th April but this has not been possible.

Our home games will all be at the start of the season and our first, the season opener, will be played on the 2nd of May against the Oxford Kings.

Overview of season-(The Sett is in Southmead – see web site for directions)

Manage League Fixtures Bristol Badgers

Away Team	Date	Home Team	Venue	Notes
Herts Eagles	25/04/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Herts Eagles	25/04/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Oxford Kings	02/05/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Oxford Kings	02/05/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Kent Mariners	09/05/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Kent Mariners	09/05/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
London Metros	16/05/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
London Metros	16/05/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Bracknell Blazers 2	23/05/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Bracknell Blazers 2	23/05/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Essex Redbacks	30/05/2010 12:00	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Essex Redbacks	30/05/2010 14:30	Bristol Badgers	THE SETT	
Bristol Badgers	20/06/2010 11:00	Herts Eagles	GROVEHILL PLAYING FIELDS	
Bristol Badgers	20/06/2010 13:30	Herts Eagles	GROVEHILL PLAYING FIELDS	
Bristol Badgers	27/06/2010 12:00	Oxford Kings	HORSPATH ROAD ATHLETICS GROUND	
Bristol Badgers	27/06/2010 14:30	Oxford Kings	HORSPATH ROAD ATHLETICS GROUND	
Bristol Badgers	04/07/2010 12:00	Bracknell Blazers 2	WESTMORLAND PARK, BRACKNELL	
Bristol Badgers	04/07/2010 14:30	Bracknell Blazers 2	WESTMORLAND PARK, BRACKNELL	
Bristol Badgers	18/07/2010 12:00	London Metros	FINSBURY PARK	
Bristol Badgers	18/07/2010 14:30	London Metros	FINSBURY PARK	
Bristol Badgers	25/07/2010 12:00	Kent Mariners	MAPLEDEN NOAKES SCHOOL	
Bristol Badgers	25/07/2010 14:30	Kent Mariners	MAPLEDEN NOAKES SCHOOL	
Bristol Badgers	08/08/2010 12:00	Essex Redbacks	MELBOURNE PARK, ESSEX	
Bristol Badgers	08/08/2010 14:30	Essex Redbacks	MELBOURNE PARK, ESSEX	

Click on the date to enter scores, lineups and stats

These home games will be our last games ever at our diamond. The Southmead grounds will then be levelled to improve the drainage and facilities. This is a big project which will be completed in 4 to 5 years. Meanwhile, we will find a new home.

[We need help with umpiring](#)

If you are an umpire, or know someone who is, please contact us via the web site or by using Remmert's email address at the end of this newsletter. This season is the last you will be able to umpire at our ground pictured below. Before we go, help us say good-bye to our fantastic diamond that has served us so well!



[Tip of the week!](#)

This one comes from Chris Cook..."Baking your glove".

Take your Brand New baseball glove and smear it shaving cream. I would use foam for this. Get it COMPLETELY covered inside and out. Put it on a cookie sheet, or on a piece of foil so you don't get in trouble, and cook it at 80 degrees Celcius for no more than 4 minutes. But you need to watch closely.

When the foam is gone take the glove out and start to form it. Let it cool and start to take shape. You can repeat the process, BUT I wouldn't do it more than 2 times. You will need to have the shaving cream covering the glove when it goes into the oven, this keeps it moist. NO ONE wants a burnt glove! This is a controversial form of glove breaking, but I have always done it and I love the results.

Here is an alternative to baking:

Warning: the following method is not advised for "suede-type" leather, vinyl, or other non-standard baseball gloves. This method is ideal for traditional, "hard" leather or steerhide gloves that are very stiff.

First of all, you'll need a five gallon bucket. Empty an entire can of foam-style shaving cream into the bucket. Do NOT use shaving gel or similar products! Take your new glove, put an old baseball in the pocket, and tie it closed. Make sure that you are happy with

the pocket. Next, place the glove into the bucket, and empty a second entire can of shaving cream on top of the mitt. Allow everything to sit undisturbed overnight. The shaving cream will have melted, and your glove will now be a soaking mess. You will be certain that you have ruined it. Be brave! The best is yet to come!

Place your glove somewhere where it can dry at room temperature. This will take at least another day, maybe two. However, once the glove is dry, you will discover that the leather is now soft and supple, and perfectly broken in. Quite a few professional baseball players swear by this un-orthodox method of breaking in a glove.

Your choice or try another way. As I said I prefer the first method to the second. Hope this helps, guys!

Cheers, Chris Cook

Thanks Chris! Let's hope our "Badger goes up in Flames" headline does not come true for you in your new role or any of our members who try this!

Reports on this technique are welcome. We can then get back to it in another newsletter. I have an old catcher's glove – it's stiff as a bat. I'll see how this goes.

For anyone without access to shaving foam or thinks this is simply mad – of course there are oils you can buy specially developed for gloves. Dan uses "Franklin Baseball Glove Conditioning Oil" and has always been happy with the results, although it can be difficult to source this particular brand in the UK. Extra virgin olive oil apparently has good effects too. Cold-pressed oils need to be used rather than your usual vegetable oils as they tend to go rancid quickly.

Club and league rostering requirements

Bristol Baseball Club needs you to fill in our membership form so we have emergency contact details and other important information. If you have not done this yet, please do so on-line in the "Downloads/Club Info" section at our web site address below.

Separately, the AAA league also has rostering requirements for anyone playing for the Badgers. Our vice-chairman Remmert has rostered several people and you should have received an email from BaseballSoftballUK to acknowledge you are on the roster. If you are a playing member of the Badgers and you have not received this acknowledgement, or if you have any questions about this, please contact Remmert directly by email using remmertschouten@gmail.com or use our club email contact_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk

As each day passes, we get closer and closer to hearing "Play ball!" Good luck to everyone in the 2010 season.

www.bristolbaseball.co.uk