



## Bristol Baseball Club

Newsletter October 2010



**Annual General Meeting (AGM) 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 7 o'clock evening, Patchway Sports Centre – all members are invited to attend. Please come and help decide on the future of the club, vote in elections and be part of the club! More below in the newsletter.**

## The post season is here!

### Message from the Vice-Chairman

It has been quite the year. This year saw us start with an uncertain future and possibly without a team altogether! The AGM was delayed and then again once because of British blizzards. With Ron and Pat not well (get better please!) and some people leaving, meant we were few and we could not be confident of recruiting people without a field. We did exceptionally well this year in fielding the Badgers and playing very well against some top teams. Losing our field was something we could have done without as we already had plenty on, but without it – we may not have run into our current home. Having explored many fields, it quickly became clear that Patchway is a great place and opportunity. This year is the year we have found our new home.

Dan and Alberto deserve a special mention as they did everything to keep the club running and also pushed to improve and build further. Alberto did a grand job as treasurer and accounts are now accessible, understandable and business-like. This is on top of his website building, maintenance and ideas, all of which is vital to the club. The website is our main recruitment tool and this cannot be underestimated.

Dan took on the running of the team professional style. Training schedules looking months ahead were produced, and practice was always fun because of it. Dan also published the line-ups in advance of the games and every match where he was present received a match-report. It is conceivable that the Badgers are the only team in the country who publish the line-ups beforehand.

The club is also very grateful to a group of people who stood up and made themselves available as directors. Geoff Thomas looked after the equipment, Duncan Phillippo became a discerning acting secretary. Paul Gregory and Fabian Pereira pitched in as well. Paul looked after communication with other teams and Fabian ran some upbeat practice sessions. Monthly meetings were held and running the club was a lot of fun.

Mid-season a familiar face joined us at the club. Tom Hollies, still with knee injury, re-joined the club for practice purposes in the hope of being ready to play again for the 2011 season. He became coach and quickly made himself useful. We welcome him back and Tom too deserves mention!

We are looking forward to next season. Next year will be an exciting year as we will build our new field. We await some formalities, and applications to funds are well underway at the time of writing this newsletter. Patchway Community College and Patchway Leisure Centre (the new name) are incredibly supportive and for that special mention goes out the people there who are helping us (see newsletter 7).

All in all, despite some real set-backs, this year our still young club has come out stronger than ever. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to all people involved!

Your Vice-Chairman,

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## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**The AGM will be held at Patchway, at 7 o'clock in the evening at Patchway Leisure Centre on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2010.**

The constitution asks that we hold an AGM yearly where the board is elected and club finances are approved, both by membership. This is an important moment in the club where we come together and decide on leadership and directives. Motions and nominations are brought forward and voted on. All club-members who have paid their fees have a vote.

You can nominate yourself, or someone else for any position (maybe discuss this with the person you want to nominate first!). Motions can be brought forward, which can be amendments to the constitutions or ideas, plans and improvements.

The current board looks as follows:

- Ron Blakeney – Chairman (standing down)
- Rem Schouten – Vice Chairman – willing to stand
- Pat Blakeney – Secretary (standing down)
- Alberto Loreto - Treasurer – willing to stand
- Duncan Phillippo – Acting Secretary/Director – willing to stand
- Geoff Thomas – Director – willing to stand
- Paul Gregory – Director – (standing down)
- Fabian Pereira – Director – (standing down)

All positions are open to nominations; 'willing to stand' means people are happy to continue their roles or be nominated to do so.

There are 8 positions listed above. We would like to create another (9<sup>th</sup>) directorship to keep the board an uneven number, avoiding hung (50-50%) votes.

*If you are willing to stand and/or nominate (someone) for any position or activity, please let us know at [contact\\_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk).*

## Awards evening held 13<sup>th</sup> October

We held our first club Awards Evening last week in the centre of Bristol and we hope it is the first of many. It was a great way to celebrate the season's successes and achievements of players in our club. First we had a recap of some memorable moments, then we gave thanks to many

individuals who umpired, scored a game, or contributed in other ways. The night finished with 4 statistical awards, plus another 7 awards voted on by fellow players. See the results below.



***Runs Batted In – José Bobadilla (15)***

***Runs Scored – José Bobadilla (22)***

***Batting Average – Dan Looney (0.400)***

***On Base Percentage – Dan Looney (0.491)***

***Gold Glove, Best Defensive Outfielder – Dan Looney***

***Gold Glove, Best Defensive Infielder - José Bobadilla***

***Gold Glove, Best Defensive Catcher – Fabian Pereira***

***Golden Arm, Best Pitcher – Gian Jimenez***

***Most Improved Player – Scott Kuczaj***

***Badger of the Year – Rem Schouten***

***Most Valuable Player – Gian Jimenez***



## Spring league, indoor practice and field building

Next year we will hold a spring-league that will run for 2 months. This will start some time in February, depending on weather conditions. The league will be open to all and is part of our recruitment drive. To support this, we are applying for grants and it is pending success how we will run it. Watch this space!

There are opportunities here to get an early start to get ready for the season, run or coach a team, umpire, score, or help in other ways, and we would like to hear from you. Indoor winter training will also be looked into. See the provisional calendar below.

Former GB national player Tom Hollies will organise and coach this league. Two cricket teams have already registered interest to learn about baseball and improve their fielding and arm techniques in preparation for their season. We will also build a team with Patchway Community College. This is serious opportunity to get more out of the season for beginners and hardened experienced players alike! Eventually this will help us spread the good word of baseball in Bristol.

*Interested? Get in touch at [contact\\_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk).*

## Provisional calendar 2010-2011

- 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 – **Annual General Meeting**
- Early January 2011 – **indoor practice** – date to be confirmed
- The weekend 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> of January – **field building** (see newsletter 7)
- The weekend 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> of January – **field building** (see newsletter 7)
- February – infield cut-outs, **mound and back stop circle** finalised
- A weekend in February – **Level 1 coaching course** (register now!) – date to be confirmed.
- February/March - **Spring league** – 4 - 6 local teams

- First weekend of March – **Umpiring course** (register now!) – date to be confirmed.
- April – **Back stop fence** finalised (see newsletter 7)
- April – regular season starts

***For all of the above – we need you to show interest! We depend on you for the long term success of the club.***

*Please let us know at [contact\\_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@bristolbaseball.co.uk).*

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