



Bristol Baseball Club

Newsletter 12th February 2010

Bristol Baseballers! Here it is - your next newsletter!

Executive meeting

The executive committee met on the 7th February and formalised several appointments and motions. Chris Cook will be the coach during practice, Duncan Phillippo and Paul Gregory ('Allstar') will be leading the Bats.

Important: Chris is a Badger through and through and will coach the trainings. During games, however, he will be very much part of the team as a player. He calls for two captains to step forward and help him run the team. As Chris comes all the way from Cheltenham, it is only fair that we step up and help him out.

Trainings will start on the first Sunday in March at 1 – keep an eye on email.

Field

Ron & Pat (Mr Pat) also represented our baseball club at a meeting on the 1st February called by Southmead Community Sports (SCS). At this meeting it was confirmed that SCS will be ploughing and re-turfing their fields, including the baseball diamond, beginning in June in order to do essential maintenance and improve the facilities. The fields will be out of use from June onwards for baseball practice or matches thus we are currently considering all options. This may include finding another field, asking the British Baseball Federation (BBF) if we could play home games early in the season, offering to play all games after June at the field of the opposing team, or some other option.

We are preparing to simply move altogether. The football side of Southmead is growing and so are we. Our diamond is not in the way but clashes in schedule will become more likely. Southmead is supportive as always and we are sad to leave our 'home-made' diamond. The up-side of this is that we can find a new field with room for expected growth in the future. We are talking to several alternative fields within the Bristol area, but if you know of any ideal locations please feel free to suggest this via email to Remmert (remmertschouten@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, there is plenty of time to enjoy our home-made diamond this season!

This means we have the field until the start of June. After that, we will train on our new field. Should we fail to find a new permanent field by then, we will train on a temporary field, giving us the after-season to spend finding a field with a future.

Departures and familiar faces

Peter Sampson has found a temporary job in Bournemouth. He will not be able to join us for trainings and the weekends he will spend with his family of course. We wish him luck and hope to see him for the occasional match! Maybe he can join the trainings of the Bournemouth Sharks.

The 'Allstar' Paul Gregory has stepped up to the plate and taken on Peter's leading role in the Bats. Welcome!

Important matters for coaches and aspiring coaches:

February 21st and March 14th are level-1 coaching course days. These courses are in Coventry and well worth it. We encourage any one to take this one-day course.

For more information, please contact Ian Adams – chief of coaching matters.

For youth matters, please contact your chairman Ron and/or Pat Truitt.

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.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!

BSUK announces the first British Baseball Photography Competition

With the aim of recognising photographers capturing the 2010 baseball season as an important part of the British baseball community, BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) is teaming up with Project Cobb (the Project for the Chronicling of British Baseball) to launch an annual British Baseball Photography Competition. Photos that capture an element of British baseball in 2010 can be submitted from January until the end of September, and each photographer is invited to enter up to 20 images over the course of the competition. The competition is focused on adult baseball and any individuals pictured should be aged 18 years or over.

All the best entries will be featured in galleries on the British Baseball Federation website and the Project Cobb website, and the overall winner (as assessed by a panel of judges from BSUK and Project Cobb) will receive £100 in photography vouchers. Galleries of the best shots will be published periodically, rather than waiting till the end of the season. Please let us know if you are interested in photographing during training sessions or matches.

Details of how to enter and full competition rules can be found on the Project Cobb website; <http://www.projectcobb.org.uk/photography.html#bbpc>

(Please note that submitting a photo constitutes an agreement to the use of that photo - with a photographer's name credit - in BSUK press and corporate materials, as well as on the BBF and BSUK websites.)

Other news from the world of baseball

Early February saw the resumption of the annual Caribbean Series held this year in the Estadio Nueva Esparta in Porlamar, Margarita Island, Venezuela. Teams represented by winning their winter league this year included Leones del Caracas from Venezuela, Indios de Mayagüez from Puerto Rico, Naranjeros de Hermosillo from Mexico, and Leones del Escogido from the Dominican Republic. Overall the Dominican Republic has won 17 previous Caribbean Series titles, Puerto Rico has won 14, Venezuela and Cuba have seven each.

Felicitaciones a los Leones del Escogido quienes ganaron el torneo continuando de esta manera la racha de triunfos de la República Dominicana durante los años!

British brilliance

These are very interesting times for Baseball in Britain – the sport is growing!

After years of decline, the growth is now not just steady but rapid. This proves what many people already know - there is a strong demand for Baseball in this country. In the last few years some teams have appeared and now there is the potential of 8 teams joining the league this season. The Bats could be one of them – it all depends on turn-out.

If you would like to read background on this great turn-around, please see:

http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/gen_insert.php?from_level3=Articles&db_story=3536&this_page=baseballnews&back=Current%20%20News

At three years old, we are part of this news story!

Looking ahead to our 2010 plans

Training starts on Sundays in March (weather permitting). These trainings are very much part of the try-outs for the Badgers. The evening light much improves

come April and so 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.

While we do not recommend any particular training regime in the off-season, it is always good to prepare your body for throwing, catching and hitting. There is fine stuff on youtube.com for example. A search for pitching warm-up exercises will show certain arm and shoulder exercises that will benefit every positional player in the long run. One recurring issue on the field has been the hamstring! This is also one that is easily avoided by taking time to stretch.

[Bristol Baseball Fans](#)

As a non-Brit, I've found Bristol a difficult place to settle into. I've tried to explain to friends back in the US the differences: culture, politics, holidays, sports. Okay, sports aren't the biggest challenge, but nonetheless they are missed. So it has been such a pleasure to discover the Bristol Badgers. It's not just that I miss baseball, but I miss sitting outside on a beautiful day, hearing the crack of a bat, seeing a diving catch, cheering for a homerun.

Even the language reminds me of home. Listening to players cuss each other out in Spanish, as well as cheer on their teammates, transplants me immediately back to Chicago, listening to Ozzie Guillen and his White Sox. Sox fans joke it doesn't matter if Ozzie speaks English or Spanish; he's perfectly incomprehensible in either language.

But while watching the Badgers, I hear a lot more than Spanish. I hear a Boston accent in the coach. I get to sit on the sidelines with Americans, Portuguese, Chileans. The Badgers' roster includes Brits, Americans, Canadians, Japanese and more. On one Sunday afternoon I can soak up the sunshine and travel the world without ever leaving Bristol. It's a celebration of Bristol's diversity and like that, I am much at home.



Anne Anderson

Club Fees for registration and team equipment

Club fees are due soon so we can pay our membership of the BBF. We also need to purchase team equipment. This is why we are asking you to reply to our covering email regarding your desires for the season. As a reminder, here are the 2010 fees:

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

Youth fees are £25.-

Fees can be paid in instalments – please contact your treasurer Bert about this.

New this year is the Friendship membership which comes at £30.-.

This is introduced as many of you want to support the club but cannot be on the field as much as you would like. We appreciate this kind of support – especially because we need it.

It is important that the club officers know what your intentions are this season. It helps a great deal in our planning. Please fill in the membership-form accompanying this newsletter and send it to the treasurer soon.



Our diamond from space...



it would be nice if it could show up before it disappears!

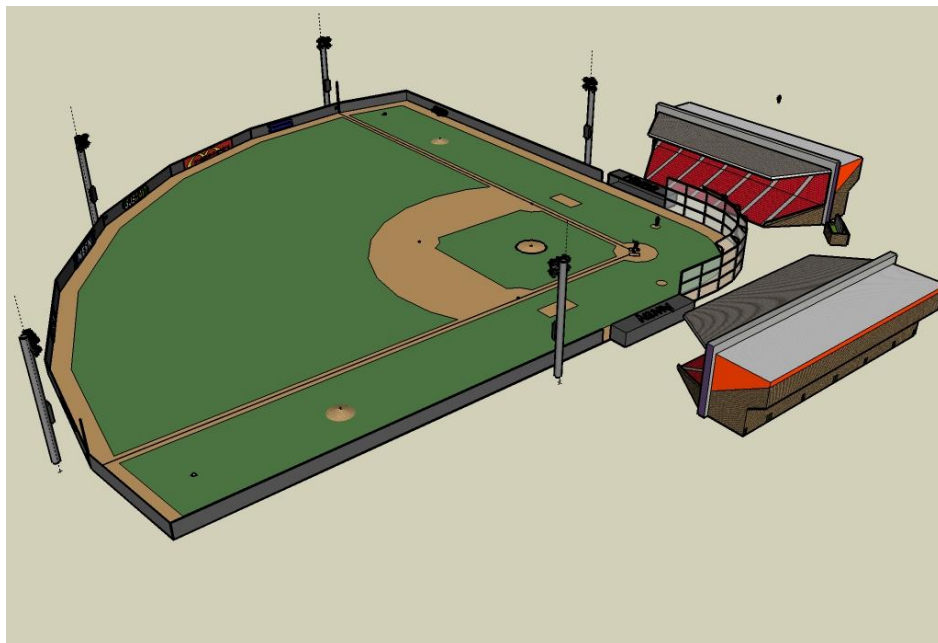
Contacts:

Questions, suggestions and feedback can be directed to your Chairman Ron Blakeney, Secretary Pat Blakeney, and/or Vice-chairman Remmert Schouten.

We welcome contributions to the newsletter. Questions, ideas, etc, please let us know!

See you soon on the baseball diamond!

Ron	Chairman	ronblakeney2002@hotmail.com
Remmert	Vice Chairman	remmertschouten@gmail.com
Pat	Secretary	pat_thetaff@hotmail.com
Bert (Alberto)	Treasurer	beto93@hotmail.com
Ian	Coaching matters	ian@damagedgoods.org.uk
Pat Truitt	Youth	mister.pat@btinternet.com
Chris Cook	Badgers	chriscook@sendoutcards.com



Will our new field look like this... ?