

The 2014/15 Annual General  
Meeting and Congress  
of the  
British Baseball Federation

Participate. Enjoy. Succeed.



10.00am, 15 November 2014  
Holiday Inn, Leicester



## Our mission

Organise, develop and promote baseball  
across Britain as a participatory sport  
and represent the country internationally

## Our vision

- Is built on five core principles (see below).
- Defines where we want to be.
- Tells us what success looks like, so that when we achieve it we will be able to recognise it.
- Allows us to focus on the actions that get us closer to where we want to be.
- Provides evidence, both within and outside our sport, as to our values and principles.

### Baseball is for everyone

We are committed to making baseball an inclusive and welcoming sport for all, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity or ability. We will seek to provide a wide range of opportunities for all individuals to participate, enjoy and succeed in baseball, whether as a recreational pastime or a competitive passion.

### Youth is our future

We acknowledge the central importance of engaging, retaining and nurturing youth participation and we are committed to providing a pathway from youth to adult baseball.

### Growth drives progress and opportunity

We will grow our community by recruiting new participants throughout the country at every level and in every capacity. We will broaden opportunity by assisting the establishment of new clubs and facilities, and by encouraging the creation of new teams.

### Excellence and quality delivers a rewarding experience

We will strive for excellence and quality through education, communication and skills development by investing in our players, coaches, officials, administrators and fans. We will strengthen the national governing body and clubs by adopting best practice and by building productive partnerships with other organisations and sports.

### A strong international reputation builds pride and respect

We want to see our national and club teams representing Britain, and competing and succeeding at international level. We will pro-actively seek to host international competitions in the UK and we will seek to obtain leadership positions across baseball's international organisations.



# Event information

## 2014/15 AGM & Congress date and times

Saturday 15 November 2014  
10.00am to 5.30pm

## Venue

Leicestershire Room  
Holiday Inn  
129 St Nicholas Circle  
Leicester LE1 5LX

## Registration and facilities

Members who will be attending the AGM and Congress are instructed to complete an **Online Registration Form** to help the organisers arrange facilities according to the number of members expected. The form can be found [here](#).

The BBF has negotiated the following room rates for members who wish to stay overnight, which includes full English breakfast:

2 people (twin doubles) – £59  
3 people (twin doubles) – £69  
4 people (twin doubles) – £79

To book and pay for your accommodation at the 2014/15 BBF AGM and Congress please contact Holiday Inn reservations on 0116 242 8708 or 0116 242 8707, quoting reference: **IKWED**.

Tea, coffee and bottled water will be provided with compliments of the venue during the day. Food is not provided but there will be a scheduled lunch break allowing for food to be purchased in the nearby city centre.



## **AGM delegate code of conduct**

Only invited and registered voting club members/representatives are able to participate in the AGM.

Motions submitted from non-voting members are not allowed and have been excluded from the AGM agenda.

Motions or statements received after the stated deadline of 18.00 Thursday 16 October 2014 have also been excluded from the AGM agenda.

Voting members moving a motion, will have a maximum of five minutes to present their motion. Voting members who wish to counter or comment on a motion will be provided with a maximum of 2 minutes. Voting members exceeding these limits will be asked by the Chair to sit down.

Any comments, statements or actions that disrupt the natural flow of the AGM will not be tolerated. Any person who persists with causing such disturbances may be asked to leave the AGM. Disturbances or actions by any attendee that bring this AGM into disrepute could be subject to formal disciplinary action by the BBF.

It is recommended that you allow plenty of time for your journey, ideally arriving early, in view of ongoing roadworks close to the Holiday Inn venue.

Please note we cannot delay our AGM proceedings or allow sections to over-run as there is a full schedule for the day.



## About the BBF

The British Baseball Federation is currently governed by its constitution. At the 2013/14 AGM it was confirmed that a Limited Company structure has been created with the intention of formally incorporating the Federation, subject to the future approval of our membership.

BBF Limited is incorporated in England and Wales (registration number 08679850). This is a private company limited by guarantee. The BBF has not yet moved any of its non-incorporated operations into the new Limited Liability Company.

A company limited by guarantee:

1. is a legal entity
2. has the ability to enter into contracts
3. has additional legal requirements (such as adhering to company law, filing annual returns etc.)
4. has limited liability
5. must offer transparency just like other incorporated companies
6. doesn't have shareholders

The difference between companies limited by shares v guarantors:

1. the main difference is that the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount unpaid on the shares; whereas the liability of guarantors is limited to the amount of any outstanding guarantee
2. this guarantee amount is usually £1 per member; the member liability is therefore limited to this amount

BSUK and the BSF are also private companies limited by guarantee.



# Directions to the venue

## **By Road (all routes)**

Leave the M1 at Junction 21. At the roundabout, take the third exit onto the A5460 towards Leicester. At the next roundabout take the second exit onto the A5460 towards Leicester for approximately three miles.

At the conclusion of the A5460, keep in the right-hand lane, then at the traffic signals turn right onto the A47 towards City Centre. At St Nicholas Circle, bear right into Holiday Inn NCP Car Park.

## **By Train**

There is a regular train service to and from Leicester. The hotel is about a 25-minute walk from the railway station, so a five-minute taxi is recommended instead. The taxi rank is immediately outside the railway station on your left hand side.

## **By Bus**

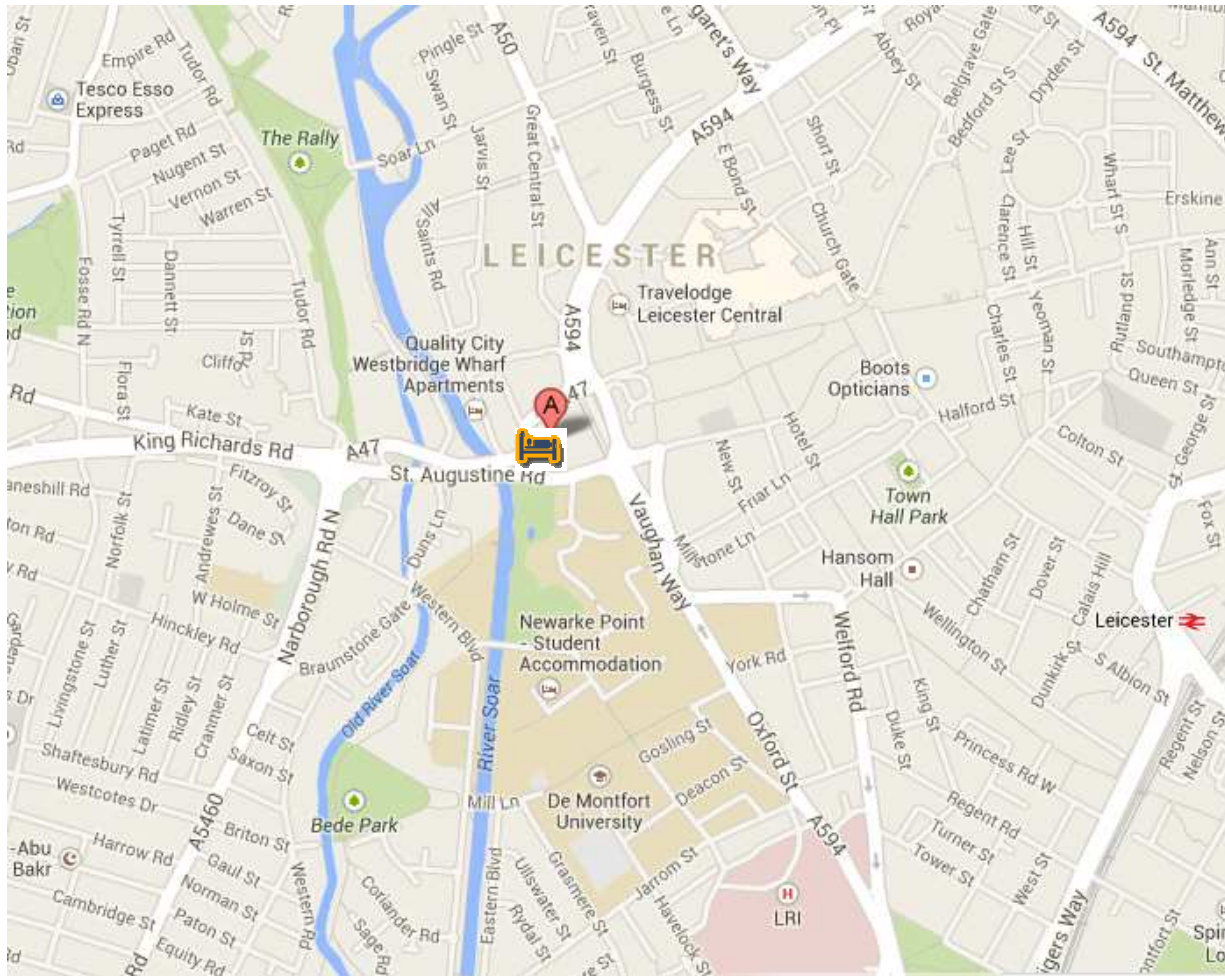
There is a regular National Express coach service to and from Leicester St Margaret's Bus Station. The hotel is approximately a 15-minute walk from the bus station.

## **City Centre**

The main city centre shopping area is less than five minutes' walk from the hotel. Fast food outlets such as Subway, McDonalds and KFC are easily accessible during the scheduled lunch break.

# Location Map

## Holiday Inn, Leicester LE1 5LX



<https://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=LE1+5LX&hl=en&ll=52.8382,-2.327815&ssp=7.728394,16.325684&t=h&hnear=Leicester+LE1+5LX,+United+Kingdom&z=16>



# Agenda

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>1 AGM Registration and Board Election Ballot</b>  | <b>10.00-10.30</b> |
| <b>2 AGM opens</b>   | <b>10.30</b>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome from the President (Earl Dix) and introduction of the Chair.</li><li>• Welcome from the Chair (Mike Jennings).</li><li>• Roll call of voting members present.</li><li>• Apologies.</li><li>• Declaration of non-financial voting members.</li><li>• Confirmation of Associations.</li><li>• Appointment of tally keepers.</li><li>• Matters arising and approval of November 2013 AGM Minutes.</li></ul> |                    |
| <b>3 Financial matters</b>   | <b>11.00</b>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2014 Financial Statements, 2015 Budget and Financial Motions (presented by Dan Lally).</li></ul>   |                    |
| <b>4 Proposals and Motions (Mike Jennings).</b>  | <b>11.30</b>       |
| <b>5 BBF Limited update (Gerry Perez).</b>   | <b>12.00</b>       |
| <b>6 GB update (Marty Cullen).</b>   | <b>12.30</b>       |
| <b>LUNCH</b>   | <b>13.00-13.45</b> |



- 7 **Development initiatives update (Gerry Perez).** **13.45**
- 8 **Growing your Club Part 1 (Matt Crawshaw & Will Lintern)** **14.00**
- Planning, support and volunteers

#### **LIFE MEMBER PRESENTATION**

- 9 **Growing your Club Part 2 (Kevin Macadam)** **14.45**
- Funding and strategy
- 10 **Update on 2015 official balls** **15.15**

#### **COMFORT BREAK** **15.15-15.30**

- 11 **Breakout meetings** **15.30**
- NBL
  - North
  - Central
  - South
  - Youth
- 12 **Congress closes** **17.15-17.30**
- ✦ Closing comments (Earl Dix).
  - ✦ Outline plan for evening social.

Note: all attendees are cordially invited to the second annual "British Baseball Social Evening" being held in Leicester City Centre from 18.30.

Full details will be provided on the day to AGM delegates.



# Voting Members

Voting Members (Clubs)	Region	Senior Votes	Youth Votes
Birmingham Maple Leafs	Central	1	
Bolton Baseball Club	North	1	
Bracknell Baseball Club	South	2	1
Brentwood Baseball Club	South	2	2
Cambridge Royals Baseball Club	South	2	
Cartmel Valley Baseball Club	North	1	2
Daws Hill Spitfires	South	1	
Edinburgh Little League	North		1
Essex Arrows Baseball Club	South	2	1
Essex Redbacks Baseball Club	South	2	3
Guildford Mavericks Baseball Club	South	1	
Halton Baseball & Softball Club	North	1	2
Harrogate Tigers Baseball Club	North	2	
Haverhill Blackjacks Baseball Club	South	1	
Hertfordshire Baseball Club	South	4	2
Hove Tuesday Baseball Club	South	1	
Hull Scorpions Baseball Club	North	1	
Kent Baseball Club	South	1	
Leicester Blue Sox Baseball Club	Central	2	1*
Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club	North	2	
London Meteorites Baseball and Softball Club	South	5	4
London Sports	South		17
London Youth Baseball League	South		13
Manchester Baseball Club	North	1	2
Milton Keynes Bucks	Central	2	
Newton Aycliffe Spartans	North	1	
Northants Baseball Club	Central	1	
Nottingham Rebels Baseball Club	Central	2	
Oldham Baseball Club	North	1	
Oldtimers	South	1	
Oxford Kings Baseball Club	South	1	
Richmond Baseball and Softball Club	South	3	
Sheffield Bladerunners Baseball Club	North	1	
Southampton Baseball Club	South	2	
Southern Nationals Baseball Club	South	1	
South London Pirates Baseball Club	South	2	
Stourbridge Titans	Central	1	
Tonbridge Baseball Club	South	1	
<b>Total Teams</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>

**\*Note:** The Leicester Blue Sox youth team is in the North region and their youth vote is allocated as such.

Eligible voting members should cast their votes upon arrival via the available ballot boxes in the AGM reception area.



### Other Voting Members

Amateur Baseball Umpire Association Great Britain (ABUA-GB)
British University Baseball Association (BUBA)
Great Britain Baseball Scorers Association (GBBSA)
Life Member - Kevin Macadam
Life Member - Ted Gerard-Thesingh

### Total Voting Members

- ❖ Affiliated Clubs : 38 (comprising 107 teams)
- ❖ Associations : 3
- ❖ Life Members : 2

### Total Voting Members: 43

The AGM will be quorate if at least 30% of Voting Members are present. The quorate level is therefore 13 Voting Members.

### Affiliated Clubs Voting Split for League Commissioner Roles (split by teams)

Region	Senior	Youth
North	12	8
South & Central	44	43
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>

### Non-Financial Voting Members

BBF Constitutional, Article 6.21:

6.21 If a Voting Member is declared "unfinancial" by the Board i.e. owes money to the BBF, and has made no arrangement for meeting this debt, then that Voting Member is not entitled to vote. The declaration of "unfinancial" status shall be communicated by the Board to the Voting member not less than fourteen (14) days prior to any meeting at which voting privileges may be exercised.

As at 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 the following Affiliated Clubs owed fees and/or insurance premiums for seasons prior to 2015 and had made no arrangements to meeting this debt and are therefore unable to vote on any matter:

Birmingham Maple Leafs  
 Edinburgh Little League  
 Southern Nationals Baseball Club

Clubs should contact Treasurer Daniel Lally as soon as possible if they dispute appearing on this list.



# 2013/14 BBF AGM MINUTES

## 9 November 2013

### Holiday Inn, Leicester

#### List of Attendees

Bracknell	Brentwood	Bristol	Cambridge	Cartmel
Essex Arrows	Essex Redbacks	Guildford	Halton	Harrogate Tigers
Herts Baseball	Horsham	Hull Scorpions	Leicester Blue Sox	Liverpool Trojans
London Mets	London Sports	LYBL	Manchester	Milton Keynes
Nottingham Rebels	Richmond	Sheffield	Southern Nationals	ABUA-GB

#### Non-Attendance

Birmingham Maple Leafs	Bolton	Cobham Cougars	Daws Hill	Haverhill Blackjacks
Hove Baseball	Kent Baseball	Lakenheath	Leones de Feltham	Menwith Hill
Newton Aycliffe	Oldham	Old Timers	Oxford Kings	Sidewinders
Southampton	South London Pirates	BUBA	GBBSA	Ted Gerard-Thesingh

#### Apologies

BBF Secretary	Kevin Macadam	Stourbridge	Tonbridge	
---------------	---------------	-------------	-----------	--



## Welcome from the Chair

Mike Jennings opened the meeting at 10:40 am and welcomed all to the 2013 BBF AGM.

## Non- Voting Members

- ⤴ Kent
- ⤴ Birmingham Maple Leafs

## Confirmation of Associations

- ABUA – Present
- Scorers Association and British Universities – Not Present

## Welcome by Earl Dix, BBF President

- ⤴ Thanked the members for their time and arrival, with special thanks to Matt Crawshaw for his work in setting up the Venue.
- ⤴ Brief overview and announcement of Incorporation.
- ⤴ Brief overview of BSUK review.
- ⤴ Overview of the day's Agenda.
- ⤴ Asked the room which clubs had youth programmes and whether those who didn't would be planning on launching one in 2014. There was a good show of hands for those planning to launch.
- ⤴ Closed by stating his passion for youth baseball, outlined the work put in by the BBF Board and expressed his thanks for the work carried out by BBF volunteers.

## Appointment of Tally Keepers

Cody Cain and Darrin Muller

## Matters arising and approval of 2013 Minutes

Motion C3 – typo: wording that says “motion passed” needs to be “motion failed”.

- ⤴ Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Richmond.
- ⤴ Minutes passed.



## **Introduction and Update on BBF Incorporation**

Presented by Gerry Perez on behalf of the BBF Board.

### **Dave Shaer – Essex**

Q – If there is a surplus will the BBF have to pay tax?

A – The question of whether we become VAT-registered is being reviewed.

Q – Will there be an attempt to make a profit?

A – Not to be profitable, but to find more funds to put back into baseball within the UK.

### **Lee Manning – Herts Baseball**

Q – Has Incorporation already gone through?

A – Yes, the BBF is incorporated.

Q – Why wasn't the membership asked to vote prior to moving forward?

A – The BBF Board has the authority to move forward in this matter. Discussions on Incorporation were in Board Minutes throughout the year.

### **Darrin Muller – Umpires Association**

Transparency is mentioned a lot but not delivered on this occasion. Agrees with Incorporation but not with the way it has been delivered.

Changes to the Constitution were questioned. Gerry Perez explained that changes will be in line with the requirements of Companies House now that we are incorporated but there will be no change to the fundamentals that relate to baseball.

### **Mark Mullins – London Mets**

Is in favour of Incorporation but shares the concerns over transparency. When will the membership see the governing documents that will form the members' rights within the incorporated Company?

He was concerned about the statement that the consent of the AGM may not be required for moving forward and expressed concerns about voting members' rights.

**Ian Marchment – Manchester Baseball Club**

Addressed the room and the question raised by Mark Mullins to say the bare minimum to start the process has been put in place. The coming months will allow time to circulate future governing documents and for consultation to show the membership what the new incorporated company will look like. Gerry Perez explained that there will be full communication and members will be invited to comment on the final outlook of the new incorporated Company.

**Tom Keegan – Brentwood**

Can the Board display a clear path and dates for the operational transfer from A to B?

Mike Jennings asked whether an AGM or EGM would take place prior to the full transfer.

Ian Marchment explained that there will be a final meeting to vote on the official transition to an incorporated Company.

**Cris Hiche – Herts Baseball**

Expressed concerns and wanted to clarify the process and shareholder rights, and whether changed documents etc would be presented to the membership for voting on.

Ian Marchment explained that all documents will need to be presented to the membership prior to taking effect.

Matt Crawshaw clarified that the new documents (Articles) will go through a consultation process and be voted on by the membership, and that these documents will then supersede the old documents when the final decision is made.

**Dave Shaer – Essex**

Q – Who will be final owners and shareholders – will it be clubs, player etc?

A – This is under review and will form part of the consultation process. Ian Marchment explained there are many ways in which this can be broken down.

**Tom Keegan – Brentwood**

Said that, as a priority, the membership should hold onto the current Constitution for as long as possible.

**Mike Jennings**

Explained how the BSF went through the Incorporation process. A key benefit was that before Incorporation, members of the BSF Executive were financially liable but now no one person can be liable for more than £1. Also explained that the final decision had to be voted on.



Dan Lally explained that the BBF, once incorporated, would be a Company limited by guarantee, but there would not be shares.

Mike Jennings said that the BSF is the same and is non-profit, so there is no tax to pay. Its income comes primarily from members' fees. The only thing taxable is commercial income and this would need to be over £60k.

Ear Dix explained how he started the process and that it is designed specifically for non-profit organisations. The company used for consultation specialises in this field.



## Financial Matters: Proposals, Motions and Ballot Results

### Financial Statements

Dan Lally gave a brief overview of income and expenditure.

Q – Dan Looney from Bristol asked what the £11k due from the World Baseball Classic, shown under other debtors, was for. Dan Lally explained that it was money owed to GB for participating in the WBC Qualifier and that the money was in due in very soon.

Dan explained that GB accounts were historically shown as a separate entity for purposes of transparency, but moving forward, all details from Teams GMs will go through Dan as Incorporation brings additional financial requirements.

### Financial Motions (total number of votes in the room = 51)

F1 – Appointment of Auditors (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Aspi Dimitrov, Herts Baseball Club)

- For – 48
- Abstained – 1
- Against – 2

F2 – Approval of 2012-13 Financial Statements (Proposed by BBF, Seconded Aspi Dimitrov, Herts Baseball Club)

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0

F3 – 2013-14 Budget (Proposed BBF, seconded Eddie Fannon, ABUA-GB)

### Aspi Dimitrov – Herts Baseball Club

Should there be a separate fee for teams that want to be affiliated to the Little League but not take part in the NBCs? Matt Crawshaw explained briefly how Little League and the BBF will be one and the same.

### Sean Briscomb – Essex Redbacks

Does the increase incorporate Little League fees? This was addressed by Dan Lally and Matt Crawshaw. Is there any thought to offer discounts to clubs with adult and youth teams as against teams with no youth? Dan Lally addressed this point.

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0



F4 – 2014 Fees Proposal (Proposed BBF, Seconded Mark Price, Nottingham Rebels)

- For – 41
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 10

F5 – Personal Accident Insurance (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded David Criss, Harrogate Tigers)

**Tom Keegan – Brentwood**

Questioned whether the level of cover the Federation currently receives for the money paid is value for money. Ian Marchment referenced the review that took place a few years ago, which showed that it was very expensive to move to a higher level of cover. Matt Crawshaw explained that group policies are more expensive than individual ones.

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0

F6 – Civil Liability Insurance (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded David Criss, Harrogate Tigers)

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0

F7 – Insurance provided to unaffiliated clubs (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Dave Burke, Leicester Blue Sox)

Cody Cain asked which clubs are covered; Dan Lally replied.

- For – 49
- Abstained – 2
- Against – 0

F8 – Payment dates (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Mark Price, Nottingham Rebels)

- For – 47
- Abstained - 0
- Against – 4

F9 – Discounts for new teams in existing clubs (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Dave Burke, Leicester Blue Sox)

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0



F10 – Equipment rebate for clubs (Proposed BBF Board, Seconded Dave Burke, Leicester Blue Sox)

- For – 51
- Abstained – 0
- Against – 0

There was an open discussion regarding budgets beyond 2014. Some concerns were raised around whether budget increases will be passed on directly to players, Marty Cullen explained that the BBF has a small budget and thus a small amount for discretionary spending. Until the budget grows the BBF will not be in a position to increase spending which will in turn enhance the UK baseball experience.

### **Constitutional amendments (Late arrival – LYBL with 2 additional votes. New total = 53)**

There were no Constitutional amendments proposed.

### **Motions to the AGM**

M1: Alteration to existing playing-down rules

- For – 17
- Abstained – 12
- Against – 24
- **Motion denied**

M6: Affiliation between clubs (Nick Hadley to re-write for inclusion in the Minutes as per floor discussion)

Clarification: for adult clubs only.

Clarification - Single clubs to only affiliate with one other club.

- For – 31
- Abstained - 4
- Against – 18
- **Motion Passed with the Clarification Points to be added as above**

M2: Change to Single-A format

Matt Crawshaw suggested that this should be included in the League Operations review, not as an AGM Motion. The membership should not decide on a single division's playing capabilities; those decisions should be made by clubs in that division.

- For – 8
- Abstained – 17
- Against – 28
- **Motion Declined**



M3: Publication of disciplinary actions and transfers

- For – 49
- Abstained – 4
- Against – 0
- **Motion Passed**

M4: Balk rule in U17 Leagues – Motion withdrawn due to current review of league rules and Little League alignment.

M5: Online statistics

- For – 26
- Abstained – 6
- Against – 21
- **Motion Passed**

M7: Youth team requirements for BBF clubs

- For – 45
- Abstained – 4
- Against – 4
- **Motion Passed**

### **Life Member Nominations**

There were no Life Member Nominations for 2013.

### **Board Elections**

National Teams Programme Director: Marty Cullen

- ✦ In favour – 44
- ✦ None of the above – 5

Officials Commissioner: Candidate withdrawn.

Northern Adult Leagues Commissioner: Robert Dollin

- ✦ In favour – 6
- ✦ None of the above – 0

**AGM Closed / Congress opened at 14:02 pm.**



# Board official's reports

Please note that separate reports from other BBF Board officials may be sent out prior to the AGM and published on the BBF website. It is not a Constitutional requirement that reports be included in this AGM Pack. Where available, they have been included.

(Note: BBF official's reports were limited to 1,000 words)

## **BBF President - Earl Dix**

Another year of baseball concluded and another year where our board and GB staff have worked very hard to ensure a successful season. All of them volunteers, with full time jobs outside the sport, they commit to attending regular meetings plus keep the administration of our Federation going.

I want to thank the two GB GM's, Glen Robertson and Phil Edmonds who travelled with the GB Seniors and Juniors respectively. Both displayed great organisational skills and a relentless focus on ensuring their tours were successful. GB Seniors successfully kept their place in the European A Group and the Juniors reached the final of the European Qualifiers to move into the elite A Group next year.

Sam Dempster, GB Senior Head Coach, retired and he will be missed. The BBF is very grateful for his many years of service.

I also want to thank National Teams Official Marty Cullen who organised and ran the GBASS tournaments, which were invaluable preparation for our National teams to ensure they were ready for their respective tournaments.

Thank you also to Development Official Gerry Perez and Southern Youth Commissioner Matt Crawshaw who took on a lot of the workload in running the administration of the BBF Board, whilst also taking care of their own areas.

## **NBCs/YNBCs**

We had three weeks of NBCs/YNBCs and I ensured that I watched most games. It was very well organised and there was a wonderful atmosphere at Farnham Park, our excellent new facility, thanks are due to Sport England, the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, MLB and BSUK.

## **Youth**

At the beginning of 2012 I set terms of reference for Will Lintern of BSUK to look at the optimum organisation for youth baseball in the UK. We now embrace Little League and this culminated with a weekend-long tournament at Farnham Park.



Little League teams then travelled abroad and did themselves proud. There has been a small explosion in youth baseball in the UK and although we are far from any comparison with other sports, we are at the beginning of the journey.

Herts Baseball Club's motion of last year which requires clubs at the top tier to establish youth programmes will start taking effect in 2016.

## **BSUK**

The BBF has three representative directors on the BSUK board: myself, Gerry Perez and Cody Cain.

We have become more active on the board than the BBF has been in the past and we have become more demanding in seeking accountability from our development agency.

We are taking part in a Structural Review which is examining options for the optimum structure and organisation for our sports. We are using an independent consultant and depending on the details of the outcome, we might want to present any changes to the current structure to the BBF membership for approval.

## **GB**

By the time you read this I am hoping that we will have announced some radical changes to the GB landscape.

- There will be a proper and transparent process for appointing GB coaches, GMs and other staff. Our constitution states that the BBF governs the GB programme and the board will retain the right to make appointments as they see fit given the conditions at any one time. Most importantly, it is the BBF board that will make the decisions about GB appointments and structure.
- We will have made a start on developing GB U21 and Juvenile teams alongside the current Cadets and Juniors.
- We will commit all our teams to playing in the relevant CEB qualifiers and competitions. We are a member of CEB and we demean our influence and reputation when our GB teams don't fully participate in CEB competitions. I also believe that we should find our rightful place in Europe and start developing a greater relationship with stronger federations who can help us with the development of baseball in the UK.
- In the light of Sam Dempster's retirement, we will be looking to appoint a person who is committed to taking away the glass ceiling that our home grown players face, by reducing the number of overseas-based players playing in our National teams. Sam started this process and we are committed to continuing it. The teams below the senior team will have strict quotas for overseas players.



## **Umpires**

This season we trained almost 30 umpires to a BBF Level 1/2 grade. Thanks to Darrin Muller and Petter Nordwall for their huge efforts and to Marty Cullen for kicking it off.

We still need to recruit many more umpires and we will expect each club to make a contribution this coming season.

## **Coach Development**

We are still behind on coach development. It is my intention to establish a proper registration process, enabling training and development for all coaches who wish to advance through their qualification levels.

In the future coaches will not be allowed to coach in BBF competitions without having the appropriate coaching qualifications. My personal observations at NBL games this year leads me to believe that there are some areas where development is sorely needed.

## **Incorporation**

The Memorandum and Articles for BBF Limited will soon be complete and we will see a proposal for a radical new structure for our Federation. An important part of the new structure will be skills-based elections to the new board. Gerry Perez has been working on this special project and it's likely that we will call an EGM to agree the final document.

I want to assure you that democratic elections and the supremacy of the membership AGM will be at the heart of any new agreement.

## **Finally**

A big thank you to all of you for the spirit in which you have conducted yourselves this season. We only had three disciplinary actions, which I think is something of a record.

I was very pleased to notice the standard of uniforms at the NBCs this year. It is very important to portray a professional image alongside developing our baseball skills.

I wish you all a happy closed season and best wishes for a successful 2015 season.



## **BBF Southern Youth League Commissioner - Matt Crawshaw**

After a difficult first year in office, it was pleasing to see many of the strategic changes announced at the last AGM take shape during the 2014 season.

It was the first time that the BBF youth baseball regular season fully operated under the Little League banner. The long-term objective is to create local league structures across the length and breadth of the country. We are still a long way short of this ideal in many areas of the country, but I thank those clubs who got behind the vision and played their part in moving us nearer to our goals during 2014.

I have recently networked with a number of partners who organise youth sport outside of baseball and I can tell you that the most successful programmes adopt a bottom-up approach to development, where clubs play a more significant role in organising their fixtures, recruiting volunteers, securing funding, providing coach education and growing participation. The combined scale of the BBF and BSUK is simply too small for clubs to expect a top-down "cure-all" to enable British baseball, and in particular youth baseball, to reach its full potential.

Simply put, clubs should expect less from their NGBs and be prepared to do more in their regions, networking with local development partners such as Satellite Club Contacts, Local Council Sports Development Officers, Schools Games Co-ordinators, Community Development Fund Co-ordinators and County Sports Partnerships.

The good news is that the BBF and BSUK can point clubs in the right direction to obtain local on-the-ground support to start or grow their youth programmes, whether it be free training to help write better funding applications or free advertising for the recruitment of volunteers, which could include anyone from youth coaches to scoreboard operators to concession stand personnel. You will hear more about this at this AGM.

This season has seen the largest amount of youth baseball participation for a generation, with a record number of teams and age-groups playing baseball, from local Teeball all the way through to the High Performance Academy and National Team programmes.

But the glass is nowhere near half-way full. We still have lots more to achieve, and with your ongoing support and bit more hard work on the ground, I truly believe we can unlock the potential for much more growth.

Youth baseball is our future, let's invest in it wisely.



## **BBF South & Central Senior League Commissioner - Ben Davis**

For the third year in a row, the number of adult teams in the Southern and Central leagues has remained about the same, at 46. There are, however, several teams waiting to join and enlarge the adult leagues in the southern half of the country, which is very promising.

Of the current teams, I would like to congratulate the following NBC winners for the 2014 season:

NBL: Essex Arrows  
AAA: Cambridge Royals  
AA: London Mammoths  
A: London Marauders

Each team endured its own struggles, but the finals were a great success. I hope that all teams and spectators enjoyed the various formats, and have the same pride in our National champions as the BBF does.

There is still a lot of work to do to tighten up the scheduling and playoff formats, which in my first year as Commissioner was a massive learning curve. However, there are some definite things we can improve on to make the 2015 season the most successful ever for British baseball. There needs to be a greater uptake of Iscore and more teams with qualified scorers in order to furnish the BBF website with up-to-the minute live information. This is something many other leagues in Europe are nowhere near, and we can pave the way.

In the few months I have been in post, I have seen many positive things in the South and Central regions, and some of the tightest playoff races in over a decade. I am proud to be part of this organisation, and I hope that all others within the BBF's extended family can also be proud to be part of this great game.



# Financial matters

## 1. 2013-14 Financial Statements

The BBF result for the year ending 30 September 2014 is a surplus of £1,131. See overleaf for a comparison of actuals against budget.

Full accounts are noted in the appendices at the back of this AGM pack.



	CATEGORY	Budget	Actuals	Variance
		Full Year		
<b>INCOME</b>				
	Affiliated club fees	£ 21,382	£ 22,084	£ 702
	Insurance (civil liability)	£ 5,332	£ 5,580	£ 248
	Insurance (personal accident)	£ 2,092	£ 2,274	£ 182
	BBF service charges	£ -	£ 80	£ 80
	Late payment penalties	£ -	£ -	£ -
	Discounts for expanding clubs	-£ 43	£ -	£ 43
	Commercial income	£ 500	£ 349	-£ 151
	Other income	£ 200	£ -	-£ 200
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 29,463</b>	<b>£ 30,367</b>	<b>£ 904</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>League Operations</b>				
	Insurance: civil liability	£ 5,332	£ 6,160	-£ 828
	Insurance: personal accident	£ 2,092	£ 1,684	£ 408
	Grants / rebates to new clubs	£ 150	£ 150	£ -
	Little League affiliation	£ 300	£ -	£ 300
	Tournaments and events	£ -	£ 3,518	-£ 3,518
	Umpire development	£ 2,000	£ 1,500	£ 500
	Coaching development	£ 1,000	£ -	£ 1,000
	League reporter	£ 300	£ 300	£ -
<b>Championships</b>				
	Senior NBCs	£ 3,600	£ 3,258	£ 342
	Youth NBCs	£ 2,300	£ 2,821	-£ 521
<b>Communication &amp; Promotion</b>				
	Website costs	£ 2,700	£ 1,519	£ 1,181
<b>National Programme</b>				
	International tournaments - entry fees (junior and cadet)	£ 3,400	£ 1,565	£ 1,835
<b>International Representation</b>				
	International affiliations : CEB	£ 300	£ 296	£ 4
	International affiliations : IBAF	£ 125	£ 121	£ 4
	International conferences and meetings	£ 1,200	£ 935	£ 265
<b>General Administrative Costs</b>				
	Bank charges	£ 250	£ 174	£ 76
	AGMs/league/board meetings	£ 1,200	£ 1,365	-£ 165
	BSUK service charge	£ 3,000	£ 3,000	£ -
<b>Other Costs</b>				
	Bad debt write-offs	£ 1,430	£ 545	£ 885
	Social media expenses	£ 250	£ -	£ 250
	Contingency for other expenses	£ 500	£ 326	£ 174
			£ -	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 31,429</b>	<b>£ 29,236</b>	<b>£ 2,193</b>
	<b>EXCESS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-£ 1,966</b>	<b>£ 1,131</b>	<b>£ 3,097</b>



## 2. 2014-15 Proposed Budget

CATEGORY		Budget
		Full Year
<b>INCOME</b>		
Affiliated club fees		£ 25,125
BBF service fees		£ 80
Insurance (civil liability)		£ 5,590
Insurance (personal accident)		£ 2,360
Bad debt write-offs		-£ 1,654
Commercial income		£ 200
Other income		£ 200
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>£ 31,901</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>League Operations</b>		
Insurance: civil liability		£ 5,590
Insurance: personal accident		£ 2,360
Little League affiliation		£ 300
Tournaments and events		£ 1,500
Umpire development		£ 2,000
Coaching development		£ 1,500
League reporter		£ 300
<b>Championships</b>		
Senior NBCs		£ 3,800
Youth NBCs		£ 3,000
<b>Communication &amp; Promotion</b>		
Website costs		£ 1,700
<b>National Programme</b>		
International tournaments - entry fees		£ 600
National teams training costs		£ 1,300
Senior national team costs (in excess of participant contributions)		£ 1,500
<b>International Representation</b>		
International affiliations : CEB		£ 300
International affiliations : IBAF		£ 125
International conferences and meetings		£ 1,200
<b>General Administrative Costs</b>		
Bank charges		£ 250
AGMs/league/board meetings		£ 1,200
BSUK service charge		£ 3,000
Transition to limited company		£ 300
<b>Other Costs</b>		
Contingency for other expenses		£ 500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£ 32,325</b>
<b>EXCESS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>-£ 424</b>

### 3. 2015 Fees Proposal

The total fee per club shall be calculated by reference to the total number of teams it wishes to register with the BBF (and Little League teams in the case of youth teams). In the table below, the 2013 fees are shown in brackets.

Team	Fee Per Senior Team	Fee Per Youth Team
1	£385 (£375)	£125 (£85)
2	£310 (£300)	£115 (£75)
3	£255 (£225)	£105 (£65)
4	£200 (£151)	£60 (£55)
5	£150 (£ 75)	£50 (£45)
6+	£125 (No Extra Fee)	£10 (£10)

Table 1

The increase in fees for youth teams reflects the objective for youth income to at least match direct expenditure. In 2013, affiliation fee income from youth teams was not sufficient to cover even the costs of the Youth NBCs. The focus of the fee increase is on the first three youth teams, due to the practical limits on participation in the Youth NBCs and any preceding Qualifiers.

A £100 supplement payable by all NBL teams (2014: £85) is proposed. This is to reflect the additional services these teams receive, in particular increased spending on events such as GBASS, as well as costs associated with national teams.

The cumulative total per club is therefore:

		Number of Senior Teams					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
Number of Youth Teams	0	-	£385	£695	£950	£1,150	£1,300
	1	£125	£510	£820	£1,075	£1,275	£1,425
	2	£240	£625	£935	£1,190	£1,390	£1,540
	3	£345	£730	£1,040	£1,295	£1,495	£1,645
	4	£405	£790	£1,100	£1,355	£1,555	£1,705
	5	£455	£840	£1,150	£1,405	£1,605	£1,755

Table 2

#### Personal Accident Insurance Premium

At the time of writing it is estimated that each registered team in a club will pay a flat premium of £20 (2014: £18). This is calculated on an average of 18 participants (players, coaches, umpires, scorers etc) per team at £1.11 (2014: £1) per participant.



## Civil Liability Insurance Premium

At the time of writing it is estimated that each affiliated club will pay a flat premium of £130 (2014: £124). This is a pass-through cost. The BBF charges exactly what it has paid the insurance broker.

## 4. Financial Motions

### F1 – Appointment of auditors

To accept the Board's recommendation to not have an external audit performed on the 2013-14 financial statements.

### F2 – 2013-14 Financial Statements

To approve the 2013-14 financial statements.

### F3 – 2014-15 Budget

To adopt the 2014-15 budget in the table above.

### F4 – 2015 Fees Proposal

To adopt the fee structure in Table 1 (above), including the proposal to charge an NBL supplement of £100 as recognition of the extra services that NBL teams receive.

### F5 – Insurance and services provided to unaffiliated clubs

To charge a £100 administration fee to unaffiliated clubs (such as those in the South West Baseball League and University teams) that source insurance cover and website coverage via the BBF.

### F6 – Payment

To set 30 April 2015 as the deadline for all fees and insurance premiums to be paid and to charge each club an additional £100 penalty on 1 May 2015 if any sums remain outstanding.



To set 31 May 2015 as the final deadline for all fees and premiums to be paid, including the £100 penalty, and to suspend non-paying clubs from the BBF and its teams from leagues and competitions on 1 June.

Removal of the suspension will require both payment of all fees and agreement of the Board. League games missed as a result of suspension will be recorded as forfeits.

Arrangements may be made with the BBF Treasurer for settlement of fees; such arrangements to be agreed no later than 30 April 2015. Such arrangements will avoid penalty fees or suspension if the terms of the arrangement are subsequently met by the club.

## F7 – Discounts for new teams in existing clubs

To discount the club affiliation fee (not insurance premiums) by 50% for existing affiliated clubs that register a senior team/s where the club has previously (in the preceding three years) comprised youth teams only; or for a youth team/s where the club has previously (in the preceding three years) comprised senior teams only. The discount applies only to the fees relating to the new team/s, not the club's entire fees. The discount must be applied for by clubs no later than 15 April 2015, in writing to the BBF Treasurer.

*Note: This is to encourage existing clubs to expand into the other age category – e.g. a senior-only club adding a youth programme, or vice versa.*

## F8 – Equipment rebate for new clubs

To provide a rebate of up to £150 per club against the cost of club equipment purchased in the period 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015, and claimed before 30 June 2015 in writing to the BBF Treasurer. The club must be affiliating to the BBF for the first time in 2015 to qualify. The decision on whether a club is entitled to the rebate is solely at the discretion of the BBF Treasurer.



# Constitutional amendments

No Constitutional amendments have been proposed.



# Motions to the AGM

## **M1: Proposed by Herts Baseball Club**

### **Amendment to the promotion and relegation process in BBF leagues**

With effect from the 2015 BBF season, to introduce a promotion and relegation system with the following parameters:

1. The rules and format which will determine the promotion and relegation of teams in the BBF senior leagues shall be announced before the start of the season.
2. One or more teams which are ranked highest at the end of the season in their respective league are to be awarded automatic promotion to the next higher league tier of the BBF. They shall take the place of the team or teams ranked lowest in that higher league tier, which shall in turn be relegated to the next lower league tier. As an alternative to automatic promotion/relegation, the BBF, at its own discretion, may introduce a promotion-relegation playoff between or among the highest ranked team(s) of the lower league tier and the lowest ranked team(s) of the higher league tier. Promotion/relegation playoffs are recommended especially when there is a significant disparity in the standard of play between the two league tiers, so as to reduce the risk of a weaker team being promoted to a higher league tier in place of a stronger team.
3. If promotion and/or relegation is to be determined in a playoff with teams from the same or a higher/lower league, such game(s) are to be played after the end of the season at a venue and with a format to be determined by the BBF. Such game(s) is to be treated as a post-season game with all the resulting implications such as the post-season eligibility of players etc.
4. To protect the integrity of the National Baseball League (NBL), which is the BBF's highest league tier, a team from a lower league shall not be promoted to the NBL if another team affiliated to the same club already competes in the NBL. In such circumstances the promotion place, or promotion playoff place, shall be awarded to the next eligible team in the standings.
5. The restriction in Article 4 shall not apply to league tiers below the NBL.
6. The BBF may from time to time introduce minimum requirements which may apply to teams competing in a specific league tier. Such minimum requirements may relate to ballpark and other facilities, youth development, financial stability etc.

The BBF shall have the right to relegate a team to a lower league tier if that team fails to meet the applicable minimum requirements in their respective league tier. Such minimum requirements shall be announced by the BBF in advance in order to give teams adequate time to satisfy them.



7. Teams are permitted to apply for transfer from one conference to another – e.g. from Central to North – but must remain at the same league tier. If the conference which the team is moving to does not have that particular league tier, they shall be assigned to a league tier at the discretion of the BBF.
8. The BBF may change the number of teams in a particular league tier or in a pool or division within a league tier. Such changes shall be announced one year in advance, with confirmation of the promotion and relegation implications. For example, if the BBF decides that in 2016 the Triple-A North division should increase from 6 to 8 teams, the BBF must make an announcement before the start of the 2015 season, indicating the promotion and relegation process that will be put in place – e.g. to award two extra promotion places to Double-A North during the 2015 season.
9. A new team or club which enters the BBF leagues shall enter the lowest league tier. If such new team or club feels that they are better suited to play at a higher league tier, they have the option to approach team(s) in a higher league(s) with a view to acquiring their licence or right to play in such higher league. For example, if a new team wishes to enter Triple-A, they must reach an agreement with a team from the Triple-A and a team from the Double-A league tiers to each move one league down, to Double-A and Single-A respectively. In all cases, such transfers of the right to play at a certain league tier shall be subject to approval by the BBF and will be valid only if all teams involved in such transaction comply with any minimum requirements applicable to the league tier which they intend to move to.
10. If, for any reason and during or after any season, any team ceases to participate in or to be a member of the BBF, the BBF may take such steps and make such determinations as to league position and/or promotion and relegation and/or results in and the outcome of any competitions or games, and shall take any and all such further or other steps or measures as the BBF shall consider appropriate in the circumstances.
11. If the system of promotion and relegation is deemed to be unsuitable for one or more of the league tiers or conferences – e.g. North or Central – the BBF may decide not to adopt that system in those conferences and/or tiers.

### **Related Materials**

Pages 27 to 30 of [this document](#) contain some additional information which may be relevant.



## Supporting Statement

Over the last few years, promotion and relegation of teams in the BBF senior leagues has been determined not on the basis of a team finishing in the pre-determined promotion and relegation places at the top or bottom of the standings, but instead the process has involved clubs submitting a written request to the BBF after the end of the season.

If a system is introduced where teams are promoted or relegated based on where they finish in the standings, this is expected to bring the following benefits to the BBF and its members:

- ✦ A more exciting league.
- ✦ Removal of the current ambiguity over the BBF's decision-making process.
- ✦ Teams will have a clear understanding of what they must do to secure promotion or avoid relegation.
- ✦ There will be a dramatic reduction in the number of meaningless games, especially in the second half of the season when a large number of teams are already eliminated from the post-season race.
- ✦ The reduction in the number of meaningless games will also reduce the number of forfeited games – a problem which the league is still struggling with. In 2014 there were 61 forfeited games in the four leagues (NBL, AAA, AA, A). In addition, there were another 66 games which had no scores reported, which may imply that some or most of them were forfeited. A total of 82% of the forfeited games were in the second half of the season (June to August) when a large number of the teams are aware that the results of their remaining games do not matter as they are out of the playoff race.
- ✦ The option to introduce relegation/promotion playoffs will provide post-season drama for teams that have missed out on the post-season playoffs.
- ✦ The British media gets very excited when their home town team is involved in a promotion or a relegation battle. In such circumstances, we have seen how communities rally behind their local team, and this could provide much-needed publicity for clubs and British baseball as a whole.

**M2: Proposed by Essex Redbacks Baseball Club****Amendment to forfeit rule**

We would like to amend the rule in the BBF Handbook to enable regulation games to still go ahead where one team is short of players, if a player or players are offered from the opposing team to make nine. The object is to avoid an automatic out in the batting line-up or automatic forfeit of the fixture.

**Supporting statement**

We believe this is a common sense solution, good for the game, and will help fixtures to be completed.

**M3: Proposed by Essex Arrows Baseball Club****Player Transfer Window(s)**

Our proposal is that players are free to move between teams, but that player movement can only take place during a fixed two-week transfer window in June, to be determined each season. For 2015, the window would fall from 12-26 June.

Once a player is signed to a team's roster, the player is obliged to play for that team until the transfer window. If he decides to leave, then he cannot join another team until the transfer window opens. Before the window opens, he can request a transfer from his Team Manager, which must be granted as long as the player does not owe money and/or equipment and/or a uniform to the club.

The Manager of the team the player wants to move to must communicate with the opposing Team Manager to ensure that the player is free to move. The BBF Commissioner must be copied on any correspondence and a letter must be written to the BBF Commissioner from the team the player is moving to, by the last day of the transfer window, to confirm the transfer.

**Supporting statement**

During the past few seasons, players have decided when to come and go from teams as they wish. This has made it hard to plan financially and has also left teams in the lurch.

There are already rules that have to be adhered to for player movement, but the crux of this proposal is the fixed transfer window.



## **M4: Proposed by Essex Arrows Baseball Club**

### **Playoff Eligibility**

We would like to propose a similar structure to that of MLB – i.e. players must be rostered with a team for a certain number of weeks before the playoffs in order to be eligible to play in the post-season.

We propose that being on the line-up sheet should count towards playoff eligibility, whether it is the starting line-up or on the bench, as those players are still present. The line-ups would be verified by the umpires and those players that the umpire doesn't know would be required to present identification (driving licence, passport, student ID etc). These verified line-ups could then be confirmed by the Managers at the plate conference and the scorer for that day would be responsible for sending them to the league's scorer.

Proposed rule changes:

1. Roster cut-off date for players to be eligible for the playoffs will be by the second Friday of July (so for 2015, 10 July).
2. Any player rostered after the cut-off date will not be eligible for post-season play.
3. To be eligible for post-season play, a player must have been verified to have been at at least 40% of his team's games throughout the season. Line-ups to be confirmed by umpires prior to the game, with players the umpires are not familiar with having to produce a form of identification.
4. By 6.00 pm on the second Friday of July, each team must send its post-season roster to the BBF, with images of each player rostered. Maybe this can be done online in a separate playoff roster section.
5. After the last regular season game, the BBF will check to make sure that each rostered player matches the list submitted in July and that each player has played or been on the scoresheet for at least 40% of regular-season games.

### **Supporting statement**

According to the Handbook on the BBF website, to be eligible for the playoffs, a player must have participated in a minimum of 40% of regular-season games. The problem with this rule is that in order to ensure that players are eligible, a Manager can bring players in and out for one pitch, which is what some teams had to do this season, especially those with large rosters. Doing this is far from ideal and can cause issues for both teams.



We also feel that the current requirement of 40% of games played is unfair and unrealistic for teams trying to build depth. For example, if you have a reliever in your bullpen, but both your starters throw a complete game in one doubleheader, that would now take three weeks of pitching at least one game in a doubleheader to get past 40% just because your starters happened to throw complete game in a particular week.

## Life member nominations

There have been no Life Member nominations



# Board elections 2014/15

Board nominations received

## **President**

Earl Dix – proposed by London Mets, seconded by Leicester Blue Sox.

Henry Chmielewski – proposed by Tonbridge, seconded by Brentwood Stags.

## **Secretary**

No nominations received.

## **Officials Commissioner**

Chris Deacon – proposed by Daws Hill Spitfires, seconded by Leicester Blue Sox.

## **South & Central Senior Leagues Commissioner**

Ben Davis – proposed by Southampton Mustangs, seconded by Leicester Blue Sox.

## **Northern Senior Leagues Commissioner**

No nominations received.

## **Southern Youth Leagues Commissioner**

Matt Crawshaw – proposed by London Youth Baseball League, seconded by London Mets and Essex Redbacks.

## **Northern Youth Leagues Commissioner**

No nominations received.



# Candidate statements

## **Candidate for BBF President – Earl Dix**

During the debate to reduce BBF Board terms from four years to two at the 2012 AGM, I promised to submit myself for re-election after two years in the spirit of the motion even though my current term is for four years.

During the past two years my experience has further developed the competencies and skills required to fulfil this post.

**Youth** – in 2012 I gave Will Lintern terms of reference for a youth project and we have made great progress in establishing local league play which culminated in the Little League and BBF Youth Championships in 2014. We must consolidate on this achievement and I want to make sure that we do so.

**GB** – Our hard-working volunteer coaches and GMs were brilliant this year. Our senior team kept their place in the European Championship A-Pool and our Juniors achieved promotion to the A-Pool. I am currently working on re-establishing our rightful place in European Competitions and I want the glass ceiling for local home-based players to disappear. 2014 saw the largest number of local players in the senior team for many years and they played a crucial role in maintaining our status.

**BSUK** – I am a Director on the Board of our development agency and their work on baseball facilities these past two years has been superb. I am currently part of a structural review of the relationship between the BBF, the BSF and BSUK and it is an important issue that needs continuity and consistency. I feel that I am currently in the best place to provide that. BSUK's relationship with Sport England is a huge asset for us and we cannot put this at risk.

I submit that I am the only qualified candidate to take our Federation forward and I ask for your confidence and vote.



## Candidate for BBF President - Henry Chmielewski

I believe that I can give even more to British baseball than most other colleagues in our sport.

My 40+ years as a baseball player and the longest still-serving internationally qualified umpire in Britain – head of LYBL's umpire group, senior umpire in the US international high school leagues, ex-BSUK Softball/BBF/ABUA-GB registered etc – gives me a unique perspective on how to fully and properly develop our beloved sport.

As a qualified financial analyst with near perfect fluency in five languages who has lived and umpired in many countries, I want to initially effect some major changes to restore British baseball to at least half of what it was just before the year 2000 – but then bring some international aspects to our game, including overseas corporate funding.

With almost no money from the Sports Council, we once had 104 clubs and 163 BBF registered adult teams. Today, however, after over £6+millions of our Sport England funding passing through our "administrators" (BSUK) and their softball "friends," we've now declined to barely one-third of the number of baseball clubs and teams that we once had.

Additional funding from foreign and other sources is available, but with minimal imagination, even today, we could distribute at least £1,500+ to the treasury of each English baseball club – with an extra £500+ for youth teams. Our clubs could therefore reduce their "subscriptions" to almost zero.

Among other things, we'll also have neutral, fully-trained umpires at every level of baseball play, from Little/Youth Leagues to the highest National League levels – pre-paid by the BBF, not by the teams.

A vote for me will bring major changes to our sport -- and precious money to your club for years to come.



## Candidate for Officials Commissioner - Chris Deacon

### Background

I have been involved in baseball since my then six-year-old son started at Herts in 2008. As a keen sportsman, I have played competitive hockey at school and in the Royal Navy. I am an avid rugby union follower and have always been keen to understand the laws of the games I play or watch.

I also starting playing at Herts, and with my son's move to LYBL in 2012, I joined the newly-formed Daws Hill Spitfires as they were co-located. Having been a willing volunteer early on, I now am involved more formally as follows:

- Secretary, Daws Hill Spitfires.
- LYBL field maintenance & future Development Coordinator.
- Level 1 qualified umpire (progressing to Level 2 next season).
- National Academy U13 Assistant Coach.

### Objectives

I have experienced and heard about many of the wide-ranging issues faced by clubs, players and officials in trying to improve the availability and experience of officials so that:

1. All games can be consistently umpired and accurately scored.
2. Players can be educated as to the rules and their implementation in game play.
3. Statistics can be recorded for everyone's benefit.

To achieve these objectives, clubs, players, supporters and officials will need to support and contribute to agreed plans forming part of the BBF's overall development programme.

### Credentials

While I am still learning about baseball, my professional background is in senior operational and administrative roles (Royal Navy and financial services) that necessitate the attributes of a proficient organiser, communicator and leader as well as having a comprehensive understanding of regulatory frameworks and the procedures and processes operating within these frameworks.

These attributes, coupled with being a current player and administrator within baseball, will enable me to engage at all levels (e.g. youth/adult, experience, knowledge, complexity) to meet the above objectives.



## **Candidate for South & Central Senior Leagues Commissioner – Ben Davis**

After filling in as Southern Adult League Commissioner for the past several months and over the 2014 season, I would like to ask for re-election from the British baseball community.

There was an extreme learning curve involved in having to take over just before the schedules were due to be done, and I felt that I handled it well, learned on the fly and got the biggest part of my job done within an acceptable time line. There are still some improvements to be made in terms of scheduling and I would like to try to fix these issues going forward.

I would also like to continue to ensure that the rules of the game we all love are being followed, and that the game is continually held in high regard, and I will do my utmost to bring the BBF closer to perfection regarding the managing of teams and players.

After having a season of being Commissioner under my belt, in addition to a decade of managing in this country and an additional decade-and-a-half of baseball in the States, I feel I am well placed to really add value to the Board and to British Baseball.



## Candidate for Southern Youth Leagues Commissioner - Matt Crawshaw

Over the past two years, we have seen growth in youth participation and new teams. There has also been a significant restructure of our regular-season leagues and signature tournaments. This has led to an expansion in the number of teams competing and a wider range of age groups.

The main achievements over this period can be summarised as follows:

2013

- ✦ First competitive UK Little League Tournament for a generation (consisting of two teams in one age-group).
- ✦ First-ever Youth National Baseball Championships at a new flagship venue (Farnham Park).
- ✦ Youth Baseball Review conducted in partnership with BSUK and member clubs.
- ✦ Proposals for youth league re-structure, integrating traditional BBF Youth Leagues with Little League regular season.
- ✦ Graduation towards international safety standards for non-wood youth bats.
- ✦ Successful motion to encourage all NBL/AAA clubs to have youth sections by 2016/17.

2014

- ✦ BBF youth scholarship programme fully subscribed, providing kit and equipment to talented youth players from modest backgrounds.
- ✦ First regular season under new integrated BBF / Little League structure.
- ✦ Largest UK Little League Tournament in a generation increased from two teams in one age-group to 12 teams across four age groups.
- ✦ Largest-ever BBF youth post-season, featuring Southern Playoffs, Play Ball! National Championships, Youth Northern Baseball Championships and Youth National Baseball Championships, with 26 teams competing for six different titles across four locations.
- ✦ Launch of strategy and support initiative to help clubs start and grow youth sections (to be announced at 2014 AGM).

We still have a long way to go to achieve the vision of youth baseball being 'Played In Every Park', but I believe we have created a more solid foundation over the past two years that we can build upon to get us closer to this goal in the coming seasons.

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
(AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**Contents**

BBF Board report	1
Income and expenditure account	3
Balance sheet	4
Great Britain accounts	5
Notes to the financial statements	13

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

The British Baseball Federation (the “BBF”) is the National Governing Body for the sport of baseball in Great Britain. It is an unincorporated body comprising affiliated clubs and their members (players, officials, etc.). The four Great Britain national team programmes also fall under the organisation of the BBF. A General Manager is appointed to each of the four programmes.

As of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, a new company, British Baseball Federation Ltd, limited by guarantee, has been incorporated with registered company number 08679850. It is intended that the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated entity will be transferred into British Baseball Federation Ltd in early 2015.

The financial statements of the four Great Britain programmes are presented separately on pages 5 to 12. This presentation has been chosen in order to provide the clearest representation of the practical operation of these elements of the British Baseball Federation.

*Officers of the Board:*

President: Earl Dix  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Daniel Lally

*Elected Board Officials:*

Giovanni CIOTTI – resigned September 2014  
Matthew CRAWSHAW  
Marty CULLEN  
Ben DAVIS – appointed November 2013  
Earl DIX  
Robert DOLLIN – appointed November 2013  
Daniel LALLY  
Gerald PEREZ  
Rob RANCE

*Co-opted Board Officials – the following were co-opted to the board since the November 2013 AGM:*

John EATON – appointed November 2013

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

We, the Board of the British Baseball Federation, are of the opinion that during the year ending 30 September 2014:

- Proper financial records were maintained, and financial statements prepared in accordance with the organisation's constitution.
- A system of internal control appropriate to the size of the organisation was operated.
- An effective system of corporate governance was in operation.
- Value for money was sought in the expenditure of funds.
- Assets were properly safeguarded.

These financial statements were approved by the Annual General Meeting of the British Baseball Federation on 15 November 2014.

On behalf of the Board

.....

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Notes	Year ending 30 Sep 2014	11 months ending 30 Sep 2013
		£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Affiliated club fees	1	22,084	20,230
Affiliated club insurance premiums	1	7,854	7,494
Other income		429	1,047
<b>Total income</b>		<b>30,367</b>	<b>28,671</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
League Operations			
Insurance: Civil liability and personal accident	2, 3	7,844	7,779
Umpire development		1,500	2,101
Coaches development		-	1,056
Grants to clubs	4	150	150
Little League affiliation		560	-
League reporting		300	300
Championships			
Senior NBC costs	5	3,258	3,562
Youth NBC costs	6	2,821	2,499
Other tournaments and events	7	3,518	-
Communications & Promotion			
Website costs		1,519	2,667
National teams		1,565	3,879
International Representation			
International affiliations		417	(449)
International meetings	8	935	1,642
General Administrative Costs			
Bank charges		174	240
AGM/EGM/League meetings	9	1,245	639
BSUK service charges		3,000	2,750
Other board meeting costs		120	371
Movement in provision for bad & doubtful debts (club fees)		574	(2,809)
Bad debt write-off	10	(29)	4,700
Other costs		325	980
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>29,796</b>	<b>26,049</b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>		<b>571</b>	<b>(1,587)</b>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

**BALANCE SHEET  
 AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Notes	30 Sep 2014 £	30 Sep 2013 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Affiliated club debtors	11	1,673	1,042
<i>less: Provision for bad &amp; doubtful debts</i>		<u>(1,648)</u>	<u>(1,074)</u>
Net club debtors		25	(32)
Stock		9,476	-
Other debtors	12	940	11,940
Prepayments		-	1,087
Cash at bank		<u>3,395</u>	<u>5,151</u>
		13,836	18,196
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	13	(311)	(6,823)
Accruals	14	<u>(2,300)</u>	<u>(669)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>11,225</u>	<u>10,654</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u><u>11,225</u></u>	<u><u>10,654</u></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Accumulated funds	15	<u><u>11,225</u></u>	<u><u>10,654</u></u>

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the British Baseball Federation on 15 November 2014 and were signed on their behalf by:

D. Lally

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN CADETS**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Year ending 30 Sep 2014
	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Player contributions	15,226
Other income	13,645
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>28,871</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Playing equipment	255
Tournament expenses	
Entry fees	160
Hotels	3,561
Travel	19,890
Other tournament expenses	2,776
Other travel costs	1,730
Venue hire – training	180
Other costs	319
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>28,871</u></b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN CADETS**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	30 Sep 2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash at bank	4,393
	<u>4,393</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Creditors	<u>(4,393)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
Accumulated funds	<u><u>-</u></u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN JUNIORS**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Year ending 30 Sep 2014
	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Player contributions	11,585
Other income	741
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>12,326</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Uniform	516
Tournament expenses	
Hotels	4,673
Travel	5,056
Other tournament expenses	1,476
Other travel costs	68
Insurance	267
Venue hire – training	270
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>12,326</u></b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN JUNIORS**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	30 Sep 2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash at bank	797
	<u>797</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Creditors	<u>(797)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
Accumulated funds	<u><u>-</u></u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN LIONS**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Year ending 30 Sep 2014
	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Player contributions	579
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>579</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Uniform	(309)
Other costs	(270)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>(579)</u></b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN LIONS**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	30 Sep 2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash at bank	123
	<u>123</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Creditors	<u>(123)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
Accumulated funds	<u><u>-</u></u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN SENIORS**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	Year ending 30 Sep 2014
	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Income from tournaments	18,597
Other income	830
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>19,427</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Uniform	956
Playing equipment	999
Tournament expenses	
Entry fees	2,810
Hotels	4,429
Travel	2,000
Other tournament expenses	1,376
Reimbursements to players	1,764
Bank charges	139
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>14,473</u></b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b><u>4,954</u></b>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**GREAT BRITAIN SENIORS**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

	30 Sep 2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Stock	5,016
Debtors and accrued income	3,080
Cash at bank	2,701
	<u>10,797</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Creditors	<u>(13,904)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u>(3,107)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u><u>(3,107)</u></u>
 <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
Accumulated funds	<u><u>(3,107)</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Affiliated club fees**

	2014	2013
	£	£
Affiliated club fees	22,084	20,130
BBF service charges for unaffiliated clubs	80	-
Affiliated club insurance premiums	7,854	7,494
<i>less:</i> Grants to new clubs	(150)	(150)
<i>less:</i> Total fees & insurance premiums received	(29,212)	(27,047)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Shortfall in current year fees	<u>656</u>	<u>427</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
Birmingham Maple Leafs	517	100
Edinburgh Little League	73	-
Kent Baseball Club	-	327
Southern Nationals	378	-
Overpayments	(312)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>656</u>	<u>427</u>

**2. Insurance : Civil liability**

The BBF entered into an insurance contract for 50 clubs (2013: 50 clubs) at £123.19 per club (2012: £117.33 per club).

**3. Insurance : Personal accident**

The BBF entered into an insurance contract for 1,684 (2013: 1,912) participants at £1 per participant premium for a total premium of £1,684 (2013: £1,912).

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**4. Grants to teams**

	2014 £	2013 £
Haverhill Blackjacks	-	150
Northants Baseball Club	150	-
	<u>150</u>	<u>900</u>

**5. Senior NBC costs**

	2014 £	2013 £
Umpires' fees	960	980
Trophies and awards	236	143
Facilities costs	720	1,150
Equipment costs	300	498
Volunteers' expenses	113	69
Other costs	200	518
Prior year costs	729	204
	<u>3,258</u>	<u>3,562</u>

**6. Youth NBC costs**

	2014 £	2013 £
Umpires' fees	640	795
Trophies and awards	158	71
Facilities costs	972	700
Equipment costs	200	332
Volunteers' expenses	75	46
Other costs	100	345
Prior year costs	486	210
	<u>2,631</u>	<u>2,499</u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**7. Other tournaments and events**

	2014 £	2013 £
GBASS	1,990	-
London Tournament	1,528	354
Senior leagues playoffs	-	157
	<u>3,518</u>	<u>511</u>

**8. International meetings**

	2014 £	2013 £
CEB congress	719	1,273
IBAF congress	217	369
	<u>936</u>	<u>1,642</u>

**9. AGM/EGM/League meetings**

	2014 £	2013 £
AGM room hire	800	430
BBF board travel expenses to AGM	379	209
Other meeting expenses	66	-
	<u>1,245</u>	<u>639</u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**10. Bad debt write-off**

	2014 £	2013 £
Latin Tigers	-	230
Thames Valley Baseball Club	-	605
Windsor Bears	-	41
Net small debts and overpayments	(29)	(175)
	<u>(29)</u>	<u>701</u>

**11. Club debtors**

	2014 £	2013 £
Birmingham Maple Leafs	1,222	705
Edinburgh Little League	73	-
Kent Baseball Club	-	327
Southern Nationals	378	-
Other	10	-
	<u>1,673</u>	<u>1,042</u>

**12. Other debtors**

	2014 £	2013 £
Club fines	440	440
World Baseball Classic, Inc.	-	11,000
Other	500	500
	<u>940</u>	<u>11,940</u>

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**13. Creditors**

	2014	2013
	£	£
ABUA-GB	-	1,675
Baseball Softball UK	-	4,710
CEB	15	-
Herts Baseball Club	-	157
Baseball clubs (member overpayments)	296	22
Other creditors	-	259
	<u>311</u>	<u>6,823</u>

**14. Accruals**

	2014	2013
	£	£
Coaches development	-	100
Insurance	400	400
Senior NBC costs	500	100
Youth NBC costs	490	-
Other tournaments and events	350	-
Little League affiliation	560	-
Other	-	69
	<u>2,300</u>	<u>669</u>

**15. Accumulated Funds**

	2014	2013
	£	£
Opening balance brought forward	10,654	12,241
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	571	(1,587)
	<u>11,225</u>	<u>10,654</u>