

# British Baseball

*The 2012 Annual General Meeting  
of the  
British Baseball Federation*

Participate. Enjoy. Succeed.



10.30am, 21 January 2012  
Birmingham City University

British Baseball Federation



## 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
- ✦ 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 upon 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 practices and by building productive partnerships with other organisations and sports*

### A Strong International Reputation Builds Pride and Respect

*We see our national and club teams representing Britain, and competing & succeeding at the international level. We will proactively seek to host international competitions. We will seek to obtain leadership positions across baseball's international organisations*



# 2012 AGM

Saturday 21 January 2012  
10.30am to 4.00pm

## Venue:

Lecture Theatre B208  
Baker Building  
Birmingham City University  
(Formerly University of Central England)  
Perry Barr  
Birmingham

*Lunch and tea/coffee are **NOT** provided and there are no on-site catering facilities. Food and drink is available for purchase near the venue.*



## DIRECTIONS TO THE VENUE

### **From M6 South or North-West**

Leave the M6 at Junction 7 and follow the A34 (Walsall Road) towards Perry Barr (Birmingham City Centre). After about 2 ½ miles when the Greyhound Stadium is on your left, filter left in the outer of the 2 inside filter lanes. When you arrive at Aldridge Road (A453), take a left ready to take the first right into Wellhead Lane. The first right turn along Wellhead Lane is the entrance to the student car park while all other car parks are accessed by means of Franchise Street, which is further down on your right.

### **From M5 South-West**

Leave the M5 at Junction 1 and travel towards Birmingham City Centre along the A41 for about ½ mile before forking left along the A4040 (Outer Ring Road) towards Perry Barr. After about 2 ½ miles you will arrive at the main Perry Barr traffic island. Go straight over this island and then take the first left into Wellhead Lane. The Birmingham campus is now on your left and the staff car parks are at the end of Franchise Street which is the first turning on your left. To access the student car park, travel further along Wellhead Lane and the entrance is on your left.

### **From M40 Oxford and South**

Arrive on the M42 and travel west towards the M5. Travel north on the M5 leaving at Junction 1. Follow directions "From M5 South-West".

### **From M42 East Midlands**

Join the M6 heading towards Birmingham Central and leave the M6 at Junction 7. Follow directions from M6 South or North-West.

### **By Train**

Trains to Perry Barr Station (approximately every 30 minutes) leave from New Street Station where there is a regular train service to and from all parts of the country. Trains run every half hour from London Euston – the approximate journey time is 100 minutes.

### **By Bus from Birmingham**

Take the 51 or 52 bus from Carrs Lane in the city centre and get off at the One Stop Shopping Centre in Perry Barr. From there, use the pedestrian crossing to reach the campus. Alternatively, get the 33 or 34 bus from Dale End and get off either at the One Stop Shopping Centre or on Aldridge Road.

## **University Website**

<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/>





# AGENDA

<b><u>No</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>AGM Registration</b>	10.30
<b>2</b>	<b>Awards presentations</b>	11.00
<b>3</b>	<b>AGM Opens</b>	11.30
	❖ Roll-Call of Voting Members Present	
	❖ Apologies	
	❖ Declaration of Non-Financial Voting Members	
	❖ Confirmation of Associations	
	❖ Welcome from the BBF Board	
	❖ Appointment of Tally Keepers	
	❖ Matters arising & approval of the 2011 AGM Minutes	
<b>4</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b>	12.00
	❖ 2011 Financial Statements	
	❖ 2012 Budget	
<b>5</b>	<b>Reports</b>	12.30
	❖ BBF Board Officials' Reports	
	❖ National Teams Report	
<b>6</b>	<b>Proposals &amp; Motions</b>	13.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Board Elections 2012</b>	13.10
	❖ Elections	
	<b>LUNCH</b>	13.30 – 14.15
<b>8</b>	<b>BSUK presentation</b>	14:15
<b>9</b>	<b>League meetings with Commissioners</b>	14:45
<b>10</b>	<b>AGM Closes</b>	16.00



# VOTING MEMBERS

<b><u>Voting Members (Clubs)</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Senior Votes 2012</u></b>	<b><u>Youth Votes 2012</u></b>
Birmingham Maple Leafs	Midlands	1	0
Bolton Baseball Club	North	1	1
Bracknell Baseball Club	South	2	1
Braintree Rays	South	1	0
Brentwood Baseball Club	South	1	1
Bristol Baseball Club	South	1	0
Cambridge Royals Baseball Club	South	1	0
Cartmel Valley Baseball Club	North	0	3
Cobham Cougars Baseball Club	South	0	1
Croydon Pirates Baseball Club	South	2	0
Essex Arrows Baseball Club	South	2	1
Essex Redbacks Baseball Club	South	2	2
Guildford Mavericks Baseball Club	South	2	0
Halton Baseball & Softball Club	North	1	2
Hertfordshire Baseball Club	South	3	1
Horsham Baseball Club	South	0	1
Humber Pilots Baseball Club	North	1	0
Kent Baseball Club	South	1	1
Lakenheath Diamondbacks Baseball Club	South	1	0
Latin Boys Baseball Club	South	1	0
Leicester Blue Sox Baseball Club	Midlands	2	0
Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club	North	1	0
London Meteorites Baseball and Softball Club	South	3	2
Manchester Baseball Club	North	2	2
Menwith Hill Baseball Club	North	1	2
Mildenhall Bulldogs Baseball Club	South	1	0
Milton Keynes Bucks	Midlands	1	0
Northwich Baseball Club	North	0	1
Nottingham Rebels Baseball Club	Midlands	1	0
Oldham Baseball Club	North	1	0
Oldtimers	South	1	0
Oxford Kings Baseball Club	South	1	0
Poole Piranhas Baseball Club	South	1	0
Portstewart Eagles	North	0	2
Richmond Baseball & Softball Club	South	3	0
Sheffield Bladerunners Baseball Club	North	1	0
Sidewinders	South	1	0
Southampton Baseball Club	South	2	0
Southern Nationals Baseball Club	South	1	0
Thames Valley Baseball Club	South	1	0
Tonbridge Baseball Club	South	1	0
Windsor & Maidenhead Baseball Club	South	0	1
<b>Total Teams</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>
<b><u>Other Voting Members</u></b>			
British University Baseball Association (BUBA)			
Scorers Association - Clive Maude/Joe Gray			
Life Members - Kevin Macadam			
Life Members - Ted Gerard Thesingh			



### Total Voting Members

- ❖ Affiliated Clubs : 42 (comprising 75 teams)
- ❖ Associations : 2
- ❖ Life Members : 2

### Total Voting Members: 46

The AGM will be quorate if at least 30% of Voting Members are present. The quorate level is therefore 14 Voting Members.

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

<b>Region</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Youth</b>
North	9	13
South & Midlands	41	12
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</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 22 December 2011 the following Affiliated Clubs owed fees and/or insurance premiums for seasons prior to 2012 and had made no arrangements to meeting this debt and are therefore unable to vote on any matter:

Mildenhall Bulldogs Baseball Club  
 Northwich Baseball Club  
 Portstewart Eagles

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



# 2011 AGM MINUTES

## British Baseball Annual General Meeting

Participate. Enjoy. Succeed.



**11 am Sunday, 13 February 2011  
Birmingham City University, Perry Barr**

### **Voting Members Present**

Bracknell	Rob Rance (RR)
BUBA	John Irving (JI)
Cartmel Valley	Jonathon Pearson (JP)
Essex Arrows	David Shaer (DS)
Essex Redbacks	Sean Briscoombe (SB)
Halton	Bryan Hulme (BH) & Alex Heesom (AH)
Herts	Aspi Dimitrov (AD)
Humber	Simon Langton (SL)
Liverpool	David Martin Baez (DMB)
London Mets	Pietro Salletico (PS)
Manchester	Ian Marchment (IM)
Old Timers	Jean Crook (JC) & Ray Reynolds (RRe)
Richmond	Daniel Lally (DL)
Sheffield	Nick Wills (NWi) & T. Stearns (TS)
Southampton	Simon Taylor (ST) & Simon Barnes (SBa)
Windsor	Jeremy Neads (JN)
ABUA-GB	Eddie Fannon (EF)
Life Member	Ted Gerard Thesingh (TGT)

### **Guests Present**

BSUK	Geof Ellingham (GE)
BSUK	John Boyd (JBo)
BSUK	Jenny Fromer (JF)
BSUK	Jason Greenberg (JG)

### **Board Officials Present**

Mark Salter	MS	(President)
Daniel Lally	DL	Treasurer (also represented Richmond)
Marty Cullen	MC	(National Teams representative)
Nick Hadley	NH	(Southern Senior Commissioner)



Paul Vernon PV (Southern Youth Commissioner)  
 Earl Dix ED (Assistant Southern Youth Commissioner (co-opted))  
 Larry Hansford LH (Northern Youth Co-Commissioner (co-opted))

### **Apologies for absence**

Darrin Muller ABUA-GB  
 John O'Boyle Northern Youth Co-Commissioner

<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Roll Call, Non-Financial Voting Members, Observers, Associations</b></p> <p>42 Voting Members, including Voting Life Members, were appropriately financial. The quorum therefore was 13. 17 Voting Members were in attendance. The meeting was quorate.</p> <p>The following Voting Members were declared non-financial:          Baseball MK, Horsham Baseball Club, Kent Baseball Club, Mildenhall Bulldogs Baseball Club, Portstewart Baseball Club, Rudheath Baseball Club.</p> <p>There were no objections to ABUA-GB and GBBBSA being confirmed as the umpiring and scoring associations respectively. There is no coaching association.</p> <p>ED indicated that an audio record of the meeting would be taken if there were no objections. The recording would be only used to assist with the production of minutes and will be destroyed as soon as that has been achieved. There were no objections.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>ED indicated that the Board would like the meeting to take a vote of confidence in the current board. The vote of confidence was:</p> <p>This meeting has confidence in the BBF Board in the manner in which it is attempting to deal with harassment and intimidation generally but in particular of the people who volunteer their time and efforts in a genuine effort to administer and develop our sport.</p> <p>ED asked PV to explain the process which had been followed in respect of two current disciplinary processes. PV explained the timeline.</p> <p>It was asked if it is appropriate to discuss the disciplinary processes whilst they were still ongoing. The Board felt that it was appropriate and necessary. There was no intention to breach confidentiality rights of individuals.</p> <p>PV explained to the meeting the timeline of the process that had been followed to date regarding the two specific cases the board had recently been dealing with. Anonymity of the subjects of the processes was preserved.</p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<p>ED explained that the Board are happy that the process has been followed as well as could reasonably be expected.</p> <p>Ian Blease – Liverpool Trojans, suggested that it was difficult to give support to this in terms of the disciplinary processes in hand. ED explained that the board intended the vote of confidence to be more general than being applied to the current processes.</p> <p>James Pearce spoke on behalf of the vote of confidence. He stated that at every recent AGM there had been a common theme. The faces on the board are different every year. A small minority of people in our sport conduct themselves inappropriately, harassing and intimidating others. He had tallied up a list of 25 people who had resigned their positions on the board in recent years and who had blamed the relentless harassment in part, at least, for doing so. The BBF adopted a Code of Conduct at the last AGM and this board has been trying, whilst being attacked for doing so, to work to the Code of Conduct and the Disciplinary Process formed in response to requests at the last AGM. We are working through the procedure on the membership's behalf.</p> <p>MS also spoke to the vote of confidence. He was very keen to be on the board when he stood for election last year. He stated there had been a continuous and constant stream of noise about the board doing things wrong. He stated that the board members in front of the meeting wanted what is best for the sport and were united in combating the problems they faced.</p> <p>RR pointed out that motions need to be published 30 days ahead of the meeting. ED pointed out that this was an emergency issue given recent threats of legal action and that it was a vote of confidence and not a motion.</p> <p>IM admitted that he was one of the 25 people that JP had mentioned. He pointed out that every recent AGM has started with the phrase "it's been a difficult year". He was happy that at last something is been done about this. Points of view get missed. He asked whether the appeals process now needs to go outside the board. He also pointed out that there was no-one on the board looking after the Northern Adult teams and wondered what the process is going to be to assist with schedules etc.</p> <p>PV stated that an appeal could go outside the board but that there are enough remaining board members who could sit on an appeal. The board were considering whether to utilise an outside agency but there would be a cost implication in doing so.</p> <p>NH stated that he was happy to assist northern teams with dealing with registrations and schedules for 2011. LH also said he would assist.</p> <p>Ian Blease – Liverpool Trojans – reminded NH and LH that travel was an issue in 2010.</p> <p>TGT asked what BSUK's involvement was in this process as most of the</p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<p>harassment is aimed at them.</p> <p>PV stated that, although he agreed that a large amount of harassment had been aimed at BSUK that he, personally, could speak to receiving harassing and intimidating e-mails on a regular basis and understood that other board members also regularly received similar e-mails.</p> <p>GE stated he would like to reply to TGT's question once the discussion had been completed if the meeting agreed.</p> <p>Ian Blease – Liverpool Trojans asked about Mark Meredith's resignation. JP spoke to his stated reasons; his family commitments and the fact that he was unsure that the disciplinary procedure had been followed.</p> <p>SB recognised that a lot of good volunteers have been lost and that the constant changing of board members did not help with consistency.</p> <p>TGT proposed that the meeting took a vote on the vote of confidence; no speakers wished to speak in opposition.</p> <p>45 votes were cast expressing confidence in the board. There were 2 abstentions.</p> <p>GE expressed gratitude on behalf of BSUK to the members for supporting the vote of confidence and for the BBF Board's support. He stated that it was extremely difficult for BSUK staff to respond to these issues and lots of time gets wasted which could be much better spent on development and more positive issues.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Appointment of Tally Keepers</b></p> <p>Brendan Cunliffe and Ryan Trask were appointed Tally Keepers.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising &amp; Approval of the 2010 AGM Minutes</b></p> <p>TGT raised a Point of Order; the agenda referred to the 2009 minutes and not the 2010 minutes. This was recognised.</p> <p>EF wished to confirm that Henry Chmielewski was not speaking on behalf of ABUA-GB at the 2010 AGM.</p> <p>The 2010 Minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 47 votes to 0.</p> <p><b>47 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention</b></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Reports from board officials</b></p> <p><b>President's Report</b></p> <p>MS expressed his great respect for his fellow board members. To some</p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<p>degree he was surprised we are still here but recognised that the board is united. He stated that current board members do not agree on everything but that we make decisions, accept the decision as a board and get on with things. We have made several significant achievements over the last year. He was happy we had re-confirmed ABUA-GB and stated that the board supported the sport's umpires. Marty Cullen has made great strides with the infrastructure and staffing of the Great Britain programmes. There were no questions.</p> <p><b>Development</b></p> <p>JP gave a presentation; the key aims were increasing quantity (participants, opportunities) and quality (competition, satisfaction).</p> <p>Off the field it was planned to increase involvement in the decision making processes by utilising sub-committees. An Annual Calendar had been produced and would be refined. He also proposed the creation of agreements with Associations.</p> <p><b>Coaching</b></p> <p>JP – formed part of Development Presentation.</p> <p><b>Umpiring</b></p> <p>JP – ABUA-GB, BSUK and BBF had been working hard on a plan to deliver courses to BBF members. Each club would be required to send two people per TEAM on these umpiring courses during 2011. The cost of the course per delegate would be paid for by money secured for the purpose by BSUK. Clubs not sending the required number of delegates would be surcharged £20 per delegate not attending.</p> <p>IM expressed concern that regular club umpires might qualify upwards and not be available to that club and raised again the costs of umpires travelling from some distance away.</p> <p><b>Adult Leagues</b></p> <p>NH gave a general update.</p> <p>RR asked if there was to be a team meeting. NH stated he hoped he could conduct communication via e-mail.</p> <p>DS asked who is the current BBF contact for adult leagues. JG replied Liam Carroll is BSUK point person and NH is BBF point of contact.</p> <p>AD stated that, in his opinion as the ex-SC Commissioner there were lots of very positive aspects reported in the report including the NL expansion.</p> <p><b>Youth Leagues</b></p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<p><b>Southern Conference</b></p> <p>PV reported a terrific spirit of co-operation amongst the coaches and managers to get young people playing baseball, whether that meant team v team or, essentially, pick-up games involving smaller groups of players where a team wasn't possible. Coaches of established teams were very supportive of developing teams. Goals for 2011 were to add teams and playing opportunities, increase satisfaction and enjoyment.</p> <p><b>Northern Conference</b></p> <p>LH reported an issue with the small number of games played; 8 Pony, 6 Bronco. For 2011 he was proposing a schedule of 20 Pony, 16 Bronco games for 2011 and encouraged clubs to develop youth teams. He was hoping to organise, with PV, a North / South tournament, perhaps in Midlands, during the season.</p> <p>ABUA-GB has published proposed fees on its web-site. The board needs to agree those fees. AD stated that he felt the proposed fees would have a very difficult effect on clubs.</p> <p><b>National Teams</b></p> <p>MC reported that he was very happy that the best possible coaching staffs had been appointed. The programme now has a good structure and organisation. It was planned that the Cadet and Junior National Squads would play at USSSA Gold games in 2011. This would provide better value development opportunities and playing opportunities for all players without as much pressure placed on coaches to win. The Senior Squad would participate in a European Qualifying Tournament in Tel Aviv, Israel at end of July. MC was confident of the team doing well. There were also unsubstantiated rumours of an invitation to a World Baseball Classic qualifier.</p> <p>There was a long term goal to indigenise the programme whilst keeping it as competitive as possible. It was also desirable to Integrate GB players into NL schedules. Support of domestic baseball is needed for the programme to be successful. MC would like to ensure that there is no fear on behalf of club coaches to bringing players in front of other high-level coaches. LH had been appointed the Chair of a Fundraising Committee.</p> <p>Lunch was taken.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>New BBF / BSUK Websites</b></p> <p>JG gave a presentation on the new BBF website.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Financial matters</b></p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<p>DL presented the draft 2010 Financial Statements. Income and Expenditure are both increased because GB finances are included.</p> <p>GB accounts are controlled by International Committee under control of Board.</p> <p>There was a core surplus of £3,850. The GB programme includes net assets of £11k.</p> <p>DL noted that he spends a lot of time acting as a debt collector. AGM agrees fees and budget. Only fair that clubs should pay their fees on time. Ruling teams ineligible for playoffs improved money collection and this will be repeated.</p>
<b>7A</b>	<p><b>External audit</b></p> <p><i>Motion F1</i> (to not appoint an external auditor) was passed:  <b>45 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention</b>            (One voting member, Humber Mets, represented by Simon Langton, had left the meeting before the Financial Motions.)</p> <p>DL explained that the minimum fee for an audit is about £3k if one is conducted every year. The BBF's turnover is around £20k per annum so it is not a good use of our money to pay for an audit. DL as always, offered to provide accounts and supporting information to any members who would like to review them.</p> <p>Ian M asked if it might be an idea to put money aside to perform an audit periodically. The Board would discuss and investigate.</p>
<b>7B</b>	<p><b>2010 financial statements</b></p> <p><i>Motion F2</i> (to approve the 2010 financial statements) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>7C</b>	<p><b>2011 Budget</b></p> <p>DL presented the 2011 budget.</p> <p><i>Motion F3</i> (to approve the 2011 budget) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>7D</b>	<p><b>2011 fees proposal</b></p> <p>DL proposed that affiliation fees across all levels and regions were to be held at the same levels as 2010.</p> <p><i>Motion F4</i> (to approve the proposed affiliation fees) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
<b>7E</b>	<p><b>Personal Accident Insurance</b></p> <p>DL reported the premiums for personal accident insurance had been held at £27 per team.</p> <p><i>Motion F5</i> (to approve the Personal Accident Insurance, recharge at £27 per team (league and non-league)) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>7F</b>	<p><b>Civil Liability Insurance</b></p> <p>DL reported the premiums for personal accident insurance had increased to £125 per club. DL explained that insurance costs are passed through from the insurer to the clubs without a BBF margin. Civil liability premiums had increased across all sports in the past year. The cost increase for baseball was smaller than for most other sports.</p> <p><i>Motion F6</i> (to approve the Civil Liability Insurance, recharge £125 per club) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>7G</b>	<p><b>Payments</b></p> <p>DL noted the deadlines for clubs to pay deposits and fees for 2011. He emphasised the success of the decision to exclude unfinancial clubs from post-season play in 2009.</p> <p><i>Motion F7</i> (to approve steps for late payment) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention</b></p>
<b>7H</b>	<p><b>Discount for new teams in existing clubs</b></p> <p><i>Motion F8</i> (to provide a 50% discount for fees for youth-only clubs expanding into a senior programme or vice-versa) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention</b></p>
<b>7I</b>	<p><b>Discount for Old Timers</b></p> <p><i>Motion F9</i> (to discount the Old Timers Baseball Club (Enfield) fees by 80%) was passed:  <b>41 For, 5 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>7J</b>	<p><b>Equipment Rebate for New Clubs</b></p> <p><i>Motion F10</i> (to provide a rebate of up to £150 to new clubs) was passed:  <b>46 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Constitutional Amendments</b></p>



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>				
	<p>One constitutional amendment had been proposed.</p> <p>C1 – Creation of an additional elected official: The role would initially consist of creating formal working agreements with associations, beneficial to both parties. If agreed the board would co-opt this year. The amendment was seconded by RR.</p> <p>EF suggested the name of the position could cause confusion; Technical Commissioner is a title used to describe a senior position at tournaments. Officials Commissioner was suggested as an amendment. The meeting agreed to allow the board to revisit the title and agree something more suitable.</p> <p><u>Amendment C1</u> was passed:  <b>45 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention</b></p>				
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Motions</b></p> <p>No motions were proposed.</p>				
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Life Member Nominations</b></p> <p>RR spoke to the nomination of Joe Gray; TGT seconded. JP pointed out that, in his opinion, without questioning the great work that Joe had undoubtedly done, the Life Member Nominations should be reserved for people perhaps coming towards the end of their baseball careers.</p> <p>The nomination was passed:  <b>45 For, 1 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p> <p>TGT pointed out that Life Members have nothing to show for the privilege. The Board promised to investigate and correct this oversight.</p>				
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>ED asked if there were any objection to holding an open vote. There were no objections and no requirement to hold a secret ballot.</p>				
<b>11A</b>	<p><b>Northern Youth Commissioner</b></p> <p><u>Voting results:</u></p> <table data-bbox="264 1727 651 1798"> <tr> <td>Larry HANSFORD</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John O'BOYLE</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Larry HANSFORD	7	John O'BOYLE	3
Larry HANSFORD	7				
John O'BOYLE	3				
<b>11B</b>	<p><b>Southern Senior Commissioner</b></p> <p><u>Voting results:</u></p> <table data-bbox="264 1977 651 2007"> <tr> <td>Nick HADLEY</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </table>	Nick HADLEY	22		
Nick HADLEY	22				



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>				
	Henry CHMIELEWSKI 0				
<b>11C</b>	<p data-bbox="261 300 1433 336"><b>Coaches Commissioner</b></p> <p data-bbox="261 371 1433 407"><i>Voting results:</i></p> <table data-bbox="261 443 1433 524"> <tr> <td>Tom KEEGAN</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rob RANCE</td> <td>46</td> </tr> </table>	Tom KEEGAN	1	Rob RANCE	46
Tom KEEGAN	1				
Rob RANCE	46				
<b>12</b>	<p data-bbox="261 551 1433 586"><b>Closing</b></p> <p data-bbox="261 622 1433 766">MS wished to thank Board Members, the Membership, ABUA-GB, GBBSA for their efforts during 2010. He briefly mentioned the opportunity the BBF had to send some children to the World Children's Baseball Fair in Taiwan. More details would follow.</p> <p data-bbox="261 801 1433 837">TGT on behalf of the membership thanked the board for their efforts.</p>				
	<b>Meeting Closed 3.30pm. Duration 4h 30m</b>				



# BOARD OFFICIALS' 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.***

## **2011 Coaches Commissioner report – Rob Rance**

High hopes for 2012, although I was unable to achieve what I had hoped in 2011 with a massive amount of assistance from BSUK and Coach Sam Dempster the BBF and BSUK rekindled the annual coach's clinic that was received with huge praise for those coaches that attended.

My goal for 2012 is to take the foundations laid by BSUK and grow this event year on year for our British Coaches to attend and gain further valuable education around the fundamentals of coaching but to continue the emphasis on practical with some tutorial.

2011 saw 39 attendees and we are intending to have a follow up session in March/April where I would like to grow this to 80. Moving forward I would like to see this event grow into a 2 day event that can accommodate some of the legalities that surrounds coaches and allowing the expertise of BSUK present to our coaches the ins and outs of child safety, what you need to do as a coach, the benefits of registering to the coaches association and the importance of having insurance etc and exactly what it covers. In the years to come it's my belief that every single coach within the British Leagues will have to be registered and have to be level 1 accredited as a minimum to coach in the UK.

With Clinics like the one we held this year we can achieve a lot of the legalities as well as coaching knowledge in a condensed amount of time and limited costs whilst throwing in some social time in the years to come so coaches can sit back and do what they do best talk baseball. I plan to have some further details around this in early 2012.

## **2011 Interim Officials Commissioner report – Rob Rance**

The 2011 season proved to be an interesting one and it taught me a lot with regards to Umpire Scheduling and Tournament set up with regards to the Officials. I would like to start off by thanking all those that stepped up and umpired for the NBL teams in 2011 and for the most part the teams for being patient when I could only get 1 umpire to the field. I would also like to thank Darrin Muller for his assistance when I was preparing for the Tech Commissioner role at the National Baseball Championships.

What I have also learnt is that you cannot possibly do two board positions effectively. There is a lot to do in the Coaches role and the Officials role!

In 2011 we had a month with next to no umpires on the field within the NBL and by June I had managed to get at least one umpire to all fixtures through to the end of the season with umpires at both Youth and Senior playoffs and championship weekends.

There is a simple fact that I am more aware of now than I have been for some time, we need more officials within baseball across the entire country, it saddened me on a weekly basis when I could not accommodate umpire requests from teams within other leagues of the BBF.



We need to tackle this and we need to do it now, I will be putting my recommendations to the BBF Board early in the New Year when I hope the BBF will have some new blood coming forward for the position. Bottom line is to get more umpires in the game we will have to start to look from within to start and build an organisation that people want to be member of and where they do not feel pressured to working but want to work each week.

I hope to announce a foundation clinic for umpiring early in 2012 so watch this space.

## **2011 Southern Youth Affiliated Leagues Commissioner report – Paul Vernon**

### **General Board Membership**

Attended several meetings via Skype and also attended October “Away Weekend” in London  
 Represented the BBF Board on the British Baseball Hall of Fame voting panel  
 Led arrangements for inviting Life Members to the AGM  
 Led discussions with GBBSA regarding recognising BBHoF members

### **Disciplinary Processes**

Continued to clerk the disciplinary process until a new Secretary was appointed

### **Clerking**

Clerked several later BBF Board Meetings, taking notes, and instigated an Action List to keep track of actions

### **Southern Conference Youth Leagues**

Successful Southern Conference Pony and Bronco seasons  
 Many thanks to Earl Dix for assistance re Pony season  
 Thanks to John Peters for assistance with Pony scheduling  
 Successful Southern Conference playoff tournaments  
 Bronco tournament schedule modified at short notice to include a third team to qualify for NYBCs  
 Thanks to London Mets and Cobham / LYBL for hosting  
 Successful NYBCs  
 Thanks to Richmond for hosting and Rob Rance for assistance with sourcing umpires  
 Extended discussions and resolution of clashes of NBCs, NYBCs, and adult / youth playoffs  
 Note: dates for 2012 already planned to avoid clashes  
 Southern Conference Youth meeting held in January  
 Southern Conference Youth meeting held in November

### **WCBF (World Childrens' Baseball Fair)**

Agreed to lead for the BBF  
 Week-long event in Taiwan  
 Open to five children aged 10 or 11 on the first day of the fair (end July)  
 Adult chaperone to accompany  
 Took lead on finding candidates - children and adult (chaperone)  
 Dealt with all liaison and documentation gathering / form completion for WCBF  
 Dealt with the withdrawal of initial chaperone, finding a second adult to attend  
 Dealt with the repercussions of two children withdrawing at short notice and lack of communication from one child leaving only two children ready to travel



Discussions with BSUK and NSPCC based on concerns re 1 adult accompanying 2 children\*  
Discussions with the adult who was to accompany the party  
Took the decision to cancel the trip after those discussions  
Dealt with making partial amends for the cancellation by inviting the two remaining children to the NBCs in Herts as guests of the BBF

Thanks to BSUK and GB Baseball, specifically Marty Cullen, for their assistance  
WCBF remain keen for children from the UK to attend subsequent WCBF events but their terms dictate that only one adult can attend.

\* The advice of the NSPCC and CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit) is that a minimum of two adults should accompany ANY sized group of children.

## 2011 Treasurer's report – Daniel Lally

### 2011 accounts

The BBF has made a surplus in 2011. See below for a comparison of actuals against budget:

### **2011 BBF budget**

CATEGORY	Budget	Actual	Variance	
	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Affiliated club fees	£ 19,447	£ 19,251	-£ 196	Unfavourable
Insurance (civil liability)	£ 5,500	£ 5,583	£ 83	Favourable
Insurance (personal accident)	£ 2,241	£ 2,664	£ 423	Favourable
Bad debt write-offs	-£ 2,719	-£ 1,042	£ 1,677	Favourable
Movement in provision for bad and doubtful debts	£ 1,175	£ 310	-£ 865	Unfavourable
Other income	£ -	£ 280	£ 280	Favourable
National programme income (GB teams)				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 25,644</b>	<b>£ 27,046</b>	<b>£ 1,402</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>League Operations</b>				
Insurance: civil liability	£ 5,625	£ 5,708	£ 83	Unfavourable
Insurance: personal accident	£ 2,241	£ 2,826	£ 585	Unfavourable
Umpire development	£ 1,000	£ -	-£ 1,000	Favourable
Grants / rebates to new clubs	£ 150	£ 600	£ 450	Unfavourable
<b>Championships</b>				
Senior NBCs	£ 2,250	£ 2,444	£ 194	Unfavourable
Youth NBCs	£ 1,500	£ 1,100	-£ 400	Favourable
<b>Communication &amp; Promotion</b>				
Website costs	£ 2,495	£ 2,549	£ 54	Unfavourable
<b>National Programme</b>				
International tournaments - entry fees (junior and cadet)	£ 500	£ -	-£ 500	Favourable
National teams training costs	£ 1,350	£ 1,225	-£ 125	Favourable
Senior national team costs - members' contributions	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ -	
National programme expenditure (GB teams)				
<b>International Representation</b>				
International affiliations : CEB	£ 304	£ 306	£ 1	Unfavourable
International affiliations : IBAF	£ 150	£ 130	-£ 20	Favourable
International conferences and meetings	£ 500	£ 959	£ 459	Unfavourable
<b>General Administrative Costs</b>				
Bank charges	£ 100	£ 257	£ 157	Unfavourable
AGMs/league/board meetings	£ 1,200	£ 1,194	-£ 6	Favourable
BSUK service charge	£ 3,000	£ 2,500	-£ 500	Favourable
<b>Other Costs</b>				
Implementation of members' proposals:				
- Grants to teams for Euro competition	£ 600	£ -	-£ 600	Favourable
- "Blue plaques" for historic sites	£ 200	£ -	-£ 200	Favourable
Coaching awards	£ 100	£ -	-£ 100	Favourable
Other Expenses	£ 100	£ 185	£ 85	Unfavourable
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 25,865</b>	<b>£ 24,483</b>	<b>-£ 1,382</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
<b>EXCESS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-£ 221</b>	<b>£ 2,563</b>	<b>£ 2,784</b>	<b>Favourable</b>



We aim to break even each year. This aim will continue. For one thing, this means that current year players contribute towards current year activities rather than contributing towards benefits enjoyed in the future. However, where we do create surpluses, as has happened in 2011, it is one of the few ways in which the BBF can ever build up a reserve for a large project.

To summarise and explain some of the main variances:

- In terms of bad debt write-offs and provisions, the BBF achieved a net £811 favourable variance. This continues an encouraging trend over the past few years. Particular thanks to all those clubs that pay on time without being chased.
- Umpire development costs came in at a £1,000 'favourable' variance. This is not really an area in which we want to save money and we hope that we can allocate funds to this area in 2012. Unfortunately, simply throwing money around does not create new umpires. The board needs to be smart about how we attract, train and keep new umpires. Rob Rance covers this more in his report.
- Some of the expected other costs were not incurred. In particular, a cost we like to encourage is the provision of grants to teams who wish to compete in European competitions. The grant is most likely to go to the highest ranked teams with the greatest chance of success. In fact, it was my own club, Richmond, which was in the best position to claim the grant in 2011. Sadly, it can be difficult to arrange the players and staff necessary for such a tournament. I would urge the Southern Nationals, Liverpool Trojans and perhaps some of the other championship winning or NBL clubs to plan European tournaments as early as possible and make a claim for the 2012 grant(s).

### 2012 affiliation fees and insurance

In the AGM pack I have proposed that 2012 affiliation fees are held at the same levels as in 2011. If voted on, this would mean that fees are now below their 2008 levels for the vast majority of clubs, the only element of fee increase in that time being the introduction of the £80 supplement for NBL teams. The fees have been held for several reasons. One of the main reasons is the reduction in the level of bad debts over the past few years, which has led to an increase in total income. This is an important point and it should be pointed out that bad debts are still too high. Clubs that don't pay are not contributing fairly. In effect they take money out of the pockets of other clubs and players. To combat this, I aim to impose sanctions more stringently than ever in 2012.

You will notice that the insurance costs are lower than in 2011. I would like to thank BSUK for sourcing lower cost insurance. The BSUK staff have compared insurance costs and services from a number of brokers and presented the results to me for a decision. This is one example of how BSUK provide value for money as part of their service agreement. The savings that were sourced amount to approximately half of the total annual service fee that the BBF pays.



### 2012 budget

The first thing you're likely to notice is that the 2012 budget results in a deficit. This approximately offsets the 2011 surplus, meaning that the BBF breaks even over the two year period. The net assets position is higher than I would like and I consider it a good idea to reduce it.

### National team finances

On the national teams side, Jason Greenberg has really improved the professionalism of the programme, and that includes the financial processes. He has set up separate bank accounts for each GB team. He has also recently introduced the Player Payment Scheme. This allows Cadet, Junior and Under-23 players to pay monthly contributions for their trips.

I made the decision to once again separate the national teams' finances from those of the 'core' BBF. I appreciate this appears to be a U-turn after last year's consolidation of GB's financial position and results into the BBF accounts. My reasoning is that I believe separate income and expense statements are more transparent. They also help to show any financial relationships between the BBF and the national teams. When consolidating the accounts, these transactions are less transparent. The national team programme is in practice a separate entity to the BBF. Of course the BBF retains effective 'ownership' of the programme, but I feel it's far clearer to show the financial results of each organisation separately. I'd be happy to hear any of your views on this.

On the field, I'd like to wish the Senior team the best of luck in the qualifiers for the World Baseball Classic. The team's participation is being funded by MLB. Should they reach the tournament stage, it would be a staggering achievement, plus it would provide the opportunity for significant prize money. Marty Cullen, Jason Greenberg and the rest of the guys have done an amazing job with the programme.

### External sources of funding

I continue to seek any assistance or leads in sourcing external finance for the BBF. Between a demanding job, self employed work, the basic work of holding treasurer roles for both the BBF and Richmond Baseball Club, and having a young family, this is something that I do not have time to do. If re-elected it will continue to be an area in which I will not be able to dedicate time. You can see from our accounts that any additional revenue would make a huge difference to what could be achieved. I urge members to contact me if you want to help out.

### Re-election



After four years in the role, I made the tough decision of running for re-election. I decided to run again mainly because of the huge dedication I see in other members of this board. Attending the IBAF congress recently also swayed my decision. Meeting members of other federations showed what a relatively strong group we have here in Great Britain (particularly considering our lack of outside support and finance) and I would like to continue as part of that.

Simply maintaining the status quo is a task in itself. The fact that many board members have achieved much more is something that makes me want to help them out. Having vacant positions spreads the workload more thinly and puts the burden on those that remain.

I'm honest with the amount of time I can dedicate to the role. I can't dedicate as much time to the role as some others on the board do. This won't change.

I feel I do a good job of record keeping and control. There are improvements to make. For one, I will make sure that all clubs are issued with invoices for their fees. Previously we have stated what the charges are and only issued invoices upon request. I also want to spend time considering incorporation of the BBF and perhaps also the GB Programme, and properly considering our tax risks.

Thanks for reading.



# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## 1. 2011 Financial Statements

See separate document



## 2. 2012 Proposed Budget

CATEGORY		Budget	
		Full Year	
<b>INCOME</b>			
	Affiliated club fees	£	18,128
	Insurance (civil liability)	£	4,787
	Insurance (personal accident)	£	1,722
	Bad debt write-offs	-£	1,848
	Other income	£	-
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>22,790</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>League Operations</b>			
	Insurance: civil liability	£	5,250
	Insurance: personal accident	£	1,668
	Umpire development	£	1,500
	Grants / rebates to new clubs	£	150
<b>Championships</b>			
	Senior NBCs	£	2,500
	Youth NBCs	£	1,500
<b>Communication &amp; Promotion</b>			
	Website costs	£	2,545
<b>National Programme</b>			
	International tournaments - entry fees (junior and cadet)	£	300
	National teams training costs	£	1,300
	Senior national team costs - members' contributions	£	2,800
<b>International Representation</b>			
	International affiliations : CEB	£	300
	International affiliations : IBAF	£	130
	International conferences and meetings	£	500
<b>General Administrative Costs</b>			
	Bank charges	£	200
	AGMs/league/board meetings	£	850
	BSUK service charge	£	3,000
<b>Other Costs</b>			
	Grants to teams for Euro competition	£	400
	Other Expenses	£	100
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>24,993</b>
	<b>EXCESS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>2,203</b>

The reason for budgeting an overspend is noted in the Treasurer's report.

### 3. 2012 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. This includes both league and non-league teams. The 2011 fees are shown in brackets.

Team	Fee Per Senior Team	Fee Per Youth Team
1	£375 (£375)	£56 (£56)
2	£300 (£300)	£45 (£45)
3	£225 (£225)	£34 (£34)
4	£151 (£151)	£22 (£22)
5	£75 (£75)	£12 (£12)
6	No Extra Fee	No Extra Fee

Table 1

There is no additional fee charge for teams beyond the fifth senior or youth team in a club.

In addition, there will be an £80 supplement payable by all NBL teams (2011: £80). This is to reflect the additional services these teams receive. It is proposed that affiliation fees across the board are held at their 2011 levels. Aside from the NBL supplement, affiliation fees are currently below their 2008 levels.

The cumulative total per club is therefore:

		Number of Senior Teams					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
Number of Youth Teams	0	-	£375	£675	£900	£1,051	£1,126
	1	£56	£431	£731	£956	£1,107	£1,182
	2	£101	£476	£776	£1,001	£1,152	£1,227
	3	£135	£510	£810	£1,035	£1,186	£1,261
	4	£157	£532	£832	£1,057	£1,208	£1,283
	5	£169	£544	£844	£1,069	£1,220	£1,295

Table 2

#### Personal Accident Insurance Premium

Each registered team in a club will pay a flat premium of £18 (2011: £27). This is calculated on an average 18 participants (players, coaches, umpires, scorers, etc.) per team at £1 (2011: £1.50) per participant.

This premium will need paying for sixth and subsequent teams.

#### Civil Liability Insurance Premium

Each affiliated club will pay a flat premium of £112 (2011: £125). This is a pass-through cost. The BBF charges exactly what it has paid the insurance broker.



## F1 – Appointment of auditors

To accept the board's recommendation to not have an external audit performed on the 2011 financial statements.

## F2 – 2011 Financial Statements

To approve the 2011 financial statements.

## F3 – 2012 Budget

To adopt the 2012 budget in table above.

## F4 – 2012 Fees Proposal

To adopt the fee structure in Table 1 (above), including the proposal to charge an 'NBL supplement of £80' as recognition of the extra services that NBL teams receive.

## F5 – Personal Accident Insurance

To re-charge £18 per registered team (league or non-league).

## F6 – Civil Liability Insurance

To re-charge £112 per affiliated club.

## F7 – Payment

To set 30 April 2012 as the deadline for all fees and insurance premiums to be paid and to charge each club an additional £100 penalty on 1 May 2012 if any sums remain outstanding.

To set 31 May 2012 as the deadline for all fees and premiums to be paid, including the £100 penalty and to suspend 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 to the removal. League games missed as a result of suspension will be recorded as forfeits against the club.

Arrangements may be made with the BBF Treasurer for settlement of fees; such arrangement to be agreed no later than 30 April 2012. Such arrangements will avoid penalty fees or suspension if the terms of the arrangement are subsequently met by the club.



## F8 – 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 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 2012, 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.*

## F9 (to be considered with Motion M2) – Discount for Old Timers

To discount the affiliation fee (not insurance premiums) by 80% for the Old Timers Baseball Club (based in Enfield, North London).

## F10 – 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 2011 to 31 March 2011, and claimed before 30 June 2011 in writing to the BBF Treasurer. The club must be affiliating with BBF for the first time in 2012 to qualify.



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The following constitutional amendments have been proposed.

## C1 – BBF Board

### To add to section 6.34:

6.34 During all votes for Officials, the applicable Voting Members shall be entitled to vote in favour of appointing none of the candidates. In the event that such votes exceed the number of votes cast for any one of the candidates, the position shall remain vacant. In the event of a tie, paragraph 6.31 shall apply.

### Supporting statement:

Most elections for positions on the BBF Board are contested by a small number of candidates, often only one. With this amendment the Membership should have the choice as to whether they would prefer the position remain unfilled rather than elect a candidate by default.

## C2 – BBF Board

### To make the following amendments to the terms of Board Officials:

5.11 Each Officer will serve a term commencing immediately after the AGM at which they were elected and finishing during the fourth subsequent AGM immediately before the elections.

5.12 Each Commissioner and each League Commissioner will serve a term commencing immediately after the AGM at which they were elected and finishing during the second subsequent AGM immediately before the elections.

5.13 Assistant League Commissioners will serve a term commencing at appointment and finishing at the next AGM immediately before the elections.

~~5.14 The election of Officers (and Representatives, if necessary) shall ordinarily take place at the first AGM following alternate IBAF World Cup tournaments commencing with the 2008 AGM. Additionally, League Commissioners shall ordinarily take place at the first AGM following each IBAF World Cup tournament commencing with the 2008 AGM. The provisions of this section apply so long as the IBAF World Cup takes place in alternate years, otherwise the four and two-year terms shall be adhered to.~~

5.14 Roles filled by a co-optee will be vacated immediately before the elections at the next AGM. The former co-optee is free to seek nomination and election to the Board in their former Officials role (subject to the eight year limitation) or any other Officials role.

5.15 Any Officials roles that are vacant at the time of an AGM or which will fall vacant during an AGM shall be subject to an election at that AGM.



5.16 No person may stand for an election to an Officials role (or be co-opted to the same role) if they have already served on the Board for more than eight (8) consecutive years in that specific Officials role, although they are free to stand for election (or be co-opted) to another Officials role. The eight (8) years covers time spent both as an elected and co-opted Official. A person may stand again for election (or be co-opted) to an Officials role previously held for eight (8) or more years after a minimum four (4) year break from the role.



# MOTIONS TO THE AGM

## M1 – Richmond Baseball Club

The motion is to remove the italicised part of the following paragraph from the BBF Handbook (page 37-38 of the 2010 rev.):

### Wooden Bats

All adult teams will use wood bats in accordance with Rule 1.10 of the Official Rules of Major League Baseball. There is NO age exception to this rule. *The only exception to this rule is that the Old Timers Baseball Club are granted special dispensation to use aluminium bats with a specification of not less than -3 (drop 3). Teams playing against the Old Timers will also have the right to use aluminium bats with such specification if they so wish.*

### Supporting statement

Whilst recreational teams playing independent games should be free to use whichever bats they want, once a team is participating in BBF organised season games, the same rule should apply to all teams. Considering the number of years almost all teams have been using wood bats and might not even have aluminium bats, this gives an unfair advantage if one team can use metal bats and the other not.

The BBF should also consider the world-wide trend of removing metal bats from amateur play due to the increased risks posed by the increased bat speed and exit-speed from metal bats.

## M2 – Richmond Baseball Club

### Removal of motion F9 from the current and future AGMs

*"To discount the club fee (not insurance premiums) by 80% for the Old Timers Baseball Club (based in Enfield, North London)"*

### Supporting statement

The Old Timers are a successful club competing in the Southern single-A division. Currently they receive an 80% discount on BBF affiliation fees. The BBF should be encouraging sound financial management amongst all of its constituent clubs, and no club should be provided with alternative affiliation rates - regardless of precedence or history.

The BBF should consider whether the Old Timers genuinely qualify as having 'special circumstances', and if their situation is markedly different from that of any of their competitive league peers.

## M3 – Leicester Blue Sox Baseball Club

The motion proposes the following amendments to pre-game rules (pages 34-35 of BBF handbook):



Pre-game Practice Schedule:

Practice Start Time: 10:00

Home Team Batting Practice Time: 10:00 – 10:45

Visitors Batting Practice Time: 10:45 – 11:30

Home Team Pre-Game: 11:30 – 11:40

Visitors' Pre-Game: 11:40 – 11:50

is changed to:

Pre-game Practice Schedule:

Practice Start Time: 10:00

Batting practice is purely at the discretion of team managers on the day and is optional

Home Team Pre-Game: 11:30 – 11:40

Visitors' Pre-Game: 11:40 – 11:50

**Supporting statement**

In the lower leagues (where there are much longer travelling times), it has been evidenced that BP has no real material benefit on preparation for the actual game, it lengthens game day unnecessarily and the time could be used more effectively for other purposes.



# LIFE MEMBER NOMINATIONS

There have been no life member nominations



# BOARD ELECTIONS 2012

## E1. Treasurer

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Nominated by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
Daniel LALLY	Richmond	Richmond	Southern Nationals

## E2. Northern Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Nominated by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
Ian MARCHMENT	Manchester	Manchester	Halton