



EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION

NEWSFLASH

June 2012

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL WEEK PLANNED FOR ENGLAND IN JULY 2013

by Bob Fromer

New dedicated playing facilities for baseball and softball – the first of their kind in the UK – are expected to be ready for the 2013 season at Farnham Park near Slough and at two locations in Milton Keynes, funded by Sport England and the Baseball Tomorrow Fund.

To celebrate this achievement, BaseballSoftballUK, the Development Agency for the two sports, is planning to host a week of high-level international baseball and softball competitions at the new facilities from July 1-7, 2013, known as the London Baseball & Softball Week.

All three formats

New diamonds at Conniburrow and Woughton on the Green in Milton Keynes will host baseball tournaments at Pony and Senior levels, with the finals to be played at Farnham Park.

Meanwhile, a high-level adult women's fastpitch tournament, an Under-19 men's fastpitch tournament and a co-ed slowpitch tournament will be staged at Farnham Park.

The baseball tournaments are likely to run from Wednesday, July 3 through Saturday or Sunday, July 6 or 7.

The fastpitch softball tournaments will be held from July 1-4, since European competitions in these formats will begun on July 8. The slowpitch tournament will be held over the weekend of July 5-7.

Other events during the week may include tours of the new facilities, simulcast transmissions of final games and closing ceremonies and a party for all participants.

Teams from Europe and further afield will be invited to take part in all competitions, and the tournaments are expected to be attended by officials from the European Baseball and Softball Federations.

Aims and objectives

The main objectives of the London Baseball & Softball Week are to showcase the significant investment made in new, high-level facilities in the UK and to provide an international event that reinforces the UK as a significant hub for all three formats of our sports.

Contact information

Any teams from outside the UK interested in entering one of the Baseball & Softball Week events, or who want more information, should contact:

Bob Fromer
bob.fromer@bsuk.com
(+44) (0) 1886-884204



OLYMPIC DAY WITH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

In celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden, the Swedish Olympic Committee is running a project called "Olympic Day" where school kids can meet Olympians, try different sports and challenge themselves by being active in sports.

On May 8-11, the Olympic Days were held at the venue in Stockholm where the 1912 games were held, Stockholm Stadion. The clubs Stockholm Baseball and Söder Softball worked together in showing the games of baseball and softball to over 1.900 kids. Coaches from Stockholm and Söder worked tirelessly throughout the days to show the fundamentals of the game to the kids.

Before trying the different sports available, the kids got the complete Olympic experience by walking into the Stadion to the Olympic song, and a torch relay of the Olympic Day version of the official torch.

The coaches from Stockholm and Söder also got the opportunity to run the torch relay together with the kids during the Olympic Days.

Best Regards
Thomas Claesson
Stockholm Baseball and Softball Club

FOREVER FASTPITCH TOURNAMENT IN ZAGREB

by Petra Cizmic Pokrajac

The 5th "Forever Fastpitch" tournament was traditionally held at the beginning of May in Zagreb.

This year, for the first time in the tournament history players from Denmark came to play.

Along with them we hosted the Slovenian national team, Hungarian national team, Croatian junior national team, and of course there was our team - Princ Zagreb.

The Tournament started on Friday evening. The opening game was between Princ and the Croatian junior team.

The Second game was between Denmark and Princ. Due to heavy rain it was postponed to Saturday.

Throughout Saturday we played rest of the round robin games. After the last game of the round robin the preliminary standings was: 1. Princ, 2. Slovenia, 3. Hungary, 4. Denmark 5. Croatia.

In the final stage of the tournament Denmark showed what they are able to do and ended up in the finals with the host team of Princ, which won the game against Slovenia.

So after total of 15 played games, several tie-breaking games and one multi-tie-breaker game Princ won finally its own tournament

and the final standings are:

1. Princ
2. Denmark
3. Slovenia
4. Hungary
5. Croatia

Once again we were lucky to have a beautiful weather, not too hot and not too cold.

Hope to have more teams next year, like always at the beginning of May in Zagreb.



XVII. DANUBE CUP SOFTBALL

by Michael Vallant, Austrian Federation

2012 the traditional Danube Cup Softball was played at the softball field Freudenua located in the Viennese Prater. The teams of Slovakia, Hungary and Austria met on 27th May to decide about this year's winner.

The first game saw Austria host Slovakia. Slovakia got off to a great start and quickly took a 5-0 lead.

But the young Austrian team fought back with 2 Runs of their own. But Slovakia continued to put pressure on the Austrian defensive and scored 3 more runs in the 4th Inning.



Austria had a chance to cut into the Lead of Slovakia in the 5th inning but the Slovakian team made some great plays to stop the Austrian offensive.

From this moment it was all offensive by the Slovaks and the game ended with a 15-5 win by Slovakia.

Slovakia hosted Hungary for the second game of the day. Like in their game against Austria the Slovakian players got off to a great start scoring 7 runs in the first two innings.

Hungary managed to close the gap in the 3rd inning with 4 runs of their own, but Slovakia continued to pour out hits and runs. But Hungary didn't quit and came through with 4 runs in the 5th inning to cut the lead of Slovakia to 4 runs.

Once again the players from Hungary weren't able to stop the Slovakian offense and the game ended after five innings with Slovakia beating Hungary by 15-8.

The last game of the tournament saw Hungary playing against Austria. It was a close game till the 3rd inning when Hungary scored 3 runs to take a 5-1 lead.

Austria couldn't find a way to score some runs against the Hungarian defense whereas Hungary continued to score. With two more runs in the 5th inning Hungary managed to win the game by a score of 9-2.

With two wins Slovakia was the winner of the Danube Cup 2012 with Hungary finishing in the 2nd and Austria in the 3rd place.

UMPIRE CLINIC IN CROATIA

by Bert Loggen & Carolien Stadhouders

In April the Croatian Softball Assosiation put in a request to the ESF to have an umpire clinic during the weekend of june 8-10 at the international Knock Out tournament in Zagreb.

The idea was to evaluate the umpires and help them to a higher level.

I was nominated by Andrea Marcon to be the instructor fort his clinic.

I discussed the request with Carolien and asked her to do this together. Her answer was an immediate Yes, let's do this.

We left for Zagreb on Friday June 8 and arrived around noon.

At the airport someone was ready to pick us up and bring us to the hotel. The first games started at 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

The games were played on 2 fields so one of us was always present during a game.

During the games we made notes on the umpires in the game. Also the organisation asked us to keep the score because there were no scorekeepers present.

After the games we spoke with the umpires and gave them some feedback and tips to improve. Most of them were very open to receive this evaluation.

On Saturday after the last games we had a clinic during which some beginners were present but also some umpires that had some experience, some only as base umpire. We handled signals, plate work and position on the bases in the 2Men system.

On Sunday during a break before the final game we sat outside in the shade and talked about rules and answered many questions of the participants.

We were happy to find many women participants because there is such shortage of female umpires.

In the course of the tournament we were glad to see how the participants picked what they had learned in the short time. A lot of our tips and advice was immediately put into practice.

We hope that we also made the participants enthusiastic to continue and develop as an umpire because we definitely saw some umpire talent!

The organisation of the tournament made us feel very welcome and took very good care of us. We felt very welcome and we want to thank them again for this.

Participating Umpires:

Robert Kovacevic
Alen Magdalenic
Marko Ivancic
Ivan Christijancket
Danijel Csar
Nikicia Pokrajac
Vladimir Hajak
Katarina Prskalo
Luka Cincek
Tihana Cupanic
Ina Cimicevic
Igor Gorkic
Nikolina Iljkic
Nadja Keranovic
Luka Rilovic
Ivana Conje

Teams:

Medvenica
Roma
Giants
Die Hards
SPAN
HF Team
CZ Juniors
CRO Juniors

