

## BASU Training Report 2010

First, thanks to the Leagues and organisers who encouraged their members to complete one of our Courses. Without new recruits we can't grow the pool of qualified Umpires we need to properly officiate at all the thousands of Softball games played across GB every year.

We trained 80+ on two-day Courses, 30 of whom qualified to BASU standard, with 10 meeting Local standard (eg Bristol 'BLU'). 34 attended one-day Courses, and 24 came to 'top-up' evening events, where the basics were reinforced in short on-field sessions.

The players and re-qualifying umpires who came on the Courses were invited to evaluate their experience, commenting on venue, visual aids, drills, tutors etc. We consistently achieved scores between 75% and 100% on all criteria! Particular acknowledgement is due to Rob Dickie for the time and effort he spent pre-season updating the graphics in our flagship .ppt presentation package.

Thanks are due to our Tutors, who gave their weekends and evenings to contribute to the development of our sport: Chris, Duncan, Rob, Spencer, Tony, Mike and Andy. Robyn maintained post-qualifying membership records and administered all our new kit distribution and several of our more experienced officials helped to evaluate prospective members at early-season tournaments: our thanks to them all.

We will send trainers to any GB League which requests our help: this year we were also active beyond our shores! Duncan and Mike ran courses in Malta, Slovenia and Jersey, sometimes alongside GB Slow-pitch Squad coaches who concentrated on developing playing skills. We were helping to spread knowledge and enthusiasm for Slowpitch in countries where previously Baseball and / or Fast-pitch Softball have been the main disciplines played.

In preparation for the 2011 Season we are already taking enquiries from Leagues making bookings for Courses. All BASU members are asked to ensure that their local Leagues' needs for training and re-training of Blues are assessed as soon as possible, so we can assign Tutors before the playing season starts.

Leagues are expected to cover Tutors' fees, plus travelling and any accommodation costs. Organisers must also provide the facilities for their Course, including room, computer projector and field space with an infield layout with bases, for drills. BSF will consider grant applications to cover these expenses, perhaps conditional on the number of participants the organisers commit to provide.

We look forward to another season of growing BASU membership.

*Mike Jennings*

Training Officer 2010