



EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION

NEWSFLASH

November 2011

MALTA NATIONAL TEAM TO TAKE PART IN ECHW2013

by Romina Tolu, Malta

Following a successful Women's Fastpitch Softball Championship Series last season, MABS have decided to reinstate the Women's National Team and is putting together a program for the upcoming years.

This will lead to Malta being represented at the European Championships in 2013, a first for Malta.

The first step made towards this goal was to organise the first official National team tryouts. These were held in Mellieha on the 5th November and the following squad was chosen;

Renette Magro (Devils), Joanne Mifsud (Devils), Romina Tolu (Devils), Melivia Axisa (Curves), Christine Bezzina (Curves), Claire Mi-

callef (Curves), Joanne Mifsud (Devils), Luisa Tolu (Devils), Denise Borg (Curves), Francesca Mamo (Devils), Monique Saliba (Curves), Sarah Vella (Curves), Rena Vella (Curves) and Alison Gauci (Devils).

The team will be followed by head coach Robert Mifsud, who will be assisted by Keith Bartolo and Giancarlo Tolu.

The Maltese girls' first challenge will be in a match against Trieste Junior Alpina, an Italian Serie-B side who will be in Malta for a friendly tournament in mid-December.

The girls will then be facing more challenges in 2012 as other Italian clubs have shown interest in holding training camps in Malta in March. Plans are also underway for the National Team to participate in a Fastpitch tournament in the UK in May.



LONDON CUP FASTPITCH TOURNAMENT SET FOR LONDON IN MAY 2012

by Bob Fromer

The London Cup, an international tournament for senior and junior women's fastpitch national and club teams, will be held next year near London's Heathrow Airport on the weekend of May 26-27, 2012.

The London Cup was held each year in England from 2002-2006, and attracted teams from all over Europe and the United States.

It was revived in 2011, when teams from Croatia and Denmark competed against the Great Britain Junior National Team and British club teams.

In 2012, the tournament hopes to attract more teams from Europe. The entry fee for the tournament will be 200 euros. Airport pick-ups and transport from accommodation to the field will be provided free of charge.

Camping is available at the tournament venue, and there are low-cost hotels nearby.

The tournament will feature a BBQ and party for all the teams on Saturday night.

For more information or to reserve a place, contact Bob Fromer (bob.fromer@bsukmail.com).

SUCCESSFUL COACH CONVENTION IN SWEDEN

by Kristian Palvia, Swedish Baseball/Softball Federation

The Swedish Baseball and Softball Federation held its first Coach Convention ever at the Olympic training facility Bosön just outside of Stockholm on the weekend of October 22-23.

A total of over 60 participants from Sweden and Norway listened and participated in the drills, clinics and seminars held by the clinicians from ESF/FIBS, KNBSB and MLB International.

The softball clinic was done thanks to the help and assistance from successful and experienced coach Paola Marfoglia from Italy with over 20 years of experience as a manager and coach.

Thanks to the assistance from the European Softball Federation the organizers in Sweden were able to put together a much needed softball-only block during the weekends program which focused on two main areas, pitching and offensive drills, as well as segments with throwing and bunting drills.

The other clinicians were Michel Aussems from Netherlands who



demonstrated BeeBall as a recruitment into softball and baseball, as well as Tom Gillespie and Pat Doyle from MLB International who had different sessions in regard to throwing, positive coaching and other topics.

The Baseball Softball Coach Convention used both lecture halls as well as the indoor venue „Winnerhall“ with a full scale artificial turf soccer field for drills.

The complete program is attached as well as some pictures from the clinic.

Some words from some of the participants:

„She was very professional and was very well prepared for the clinic.“

„It was very good to have both the theoretical and practical parts of the same sessions.“

„Very easy to understand and gave a lot of time to the participants.“

Many thanks to our friends and colleagues in the ESF who made this possible!



ECHWA 2011 PHOTO BOOK

Dear all,

some months have passed since the end of the XVII European Softball Championships and we hope that the memory of that great week is still very much alive within all the participants of this competition.

Together with Franco Bagattini and his staff, we have put together a work which allows us all to have a permanent memory of this event. This is how ‚Echw2011 – Softball shots‘, a 188-page photo book which tells the story of the whole week, was born.

Manufacturing and seeing the realization of this volume allowed us to relive many of the emotions felt during the games. These emotions are recurring even now, and whenever we look through the pictures.

The book will be sold in Italian bookshops, as well as on the internet for the price of € 25.00 plus the shipping costs.

For orders of 50 or more copies the books will be sold at € 12.00 each plus the shipping costs.

If you are interested, all you need to do is send me back an e-mail and we will let you know how to proceed with your order.

On behalf of the Echw2011 Organizing Committee

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SOFTBALL IRELAND AGM



by Softball Ireland

The Softball Ireland AGM was held last Saturday (26th November) in Dublin.

The membership elected as its executive for a two year term, John Austin as President, along with Adrian Crowe as Secretary and Conor Lennon as Treasurer.

Asked to comment, John said "I am looking forward to the year ahead as we finalise the restructuring of how softball is organised and managed in Ireland.

I am also looking forward to continuing the development of our relationship with the ESF and its member federations along with the ISF and ASA in developing slow pitch softball in Europe and further afield."

Also elected as ordinary Council members for a one year term were James O'Farrell, Jonathan Spielberg and Declan Burke.

The six elected officers will be joined on Council by a representative from each of the three regional authorities.

SURPRISE OUTCOME ON DAY ONE OF SLOW-PITCH TOURNAMENT

by Charles Attard, Malta Baseball & Softball Association

The first day of the tournament, hosted by the Gozo Tornadoes Baseball & Softball Club provided great fun and some exciting softball for the day.

A total of four teams are participating in the tournament, which attracted over fifty players and an equivalent number of spectators to the Kercem Football Ground on Sunday.

Gozo took advantage of their home ground and won all three scheduled games, whilst the Mustangs provided a surprise 2 wins and 1 loss for the day.

Mellieha provided solid hitting and were the only team to produ-



ce 2 home runs, one of which was a Grand Slam during the six games played yesterday.

At the bottom of the standing are the Devils, which came to the tournament without three of their first players.

Despite this the Devils put up a good fight and showed the most consistent defensive plays.

The Devils simply lacked power hitters in their line-up which was predominately female.

The Final Round of the tournament will be held on the 18th December at the Mellieha Field.

Final Scores for the 1st Leg of the Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament, 13th November 2011

Mellieha Northenders vs Gozo Tornadoes	5 – 8
Mustangs vs Devils	4 – 0
Gozo Tornadoes vs Devils	6 – 0
Mellieha Northenders vs Mustangs	8 – 16
Devils vs Mellieha Northenders	5 – 6
Gozo Tornadoes vs Mustangs	11 – 7

Standings of the Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament

1)	Gozo Tornadoes	3 W	0 L
2)	Mustangs	2 W	1 L
3)	Mellieha Northenders	1 W	2 L
4)	Devils	0 W	3 L