

British Baseball Federation Board Members 2022/23

Tom Thornhill - President



Tom has been involved in British Baseball since 2015 having played University Baseball and Softball for the University of East Anglia and Nottingham University. He is still an avid player of both baseball and softball.

During that time, Tom helped establish the Norwich Icenis Baseball Club and East of England Baseball League before stepping into his role as President of the British Baseball Federation in November of 2021.

Alongside his involvement in sport, Tom has experience as a Marketing and Communications specialist working in the fintech industry since graduating from University in 2018.

"My goal as President in this term is to reform the Federation's governance and infrastructure in order to lay a strong and sustainable foundation for the sport in Great Britain. Baseball has tremendous potential in this country, and I am pleased to be leading our community both domestically and internationally."

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Chris Deacon – Officials Commissioner



Chris has been involved in baseball for 14 years since his son started playing aged 5, and has played, managed, umpired and volunteered across various levels of the sport. He has previously sat on the BBF and BSUK boards gaining invaluable experience and building relationships across various stakeholders.

After 5 years in the Royal Navy, Chris worked in various roles in investment services businesses before more recently joining a small management consultancy.

“My focus is to grow our base of umpires and scorers and provide them all with the necessary support to develop their knowledge and skills, as well as help educate our playing community in these areas.”

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Chris Carter - Senior Leagues Commissioner



Chris has been involved in British Baseball since 2014, where he began playing for Tonbridge Baseball Club before moving to the newly formed Kent Buccaneers Baseball Club in 2018.

He occasionally umpires, but primarily manages, coaches and plays for Kent Buccaneers' AA team, and also holds the position of Club President. Chris has both managed teams and umpired across A, AA and AAA leagues since 2018.

He has also been the Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner for the BBF since May 2021, overseeing the management and development of our Senior Leagues.

"My aim is to ensure that the BBF provide the best baseball experience possible to its member clubs through suitable management and development of our Senior Leagues, as well as improving standards and values within our game which help to achieve the aims and objectives of the Federation."

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Lee Manning - Development Official



Lee has been involved in baseball since 1997, first as a youth player including representing GB U15, U18s and U23s.

He's managed the Herts Falcons from SingleA to NBL and has played and coached in many countries across the world over the last 25 years.

In his professional life, Lee has run his own business and is now a project manager for a nationwide company.

“My aim is bring British baseball together and grow the sport we all love for a better future. I’m proud to serve the BBF and it’s members to best of my ability and look forward to seeing how far we can take it”

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Michael Hayward - Coaches Commissioner



Michael has been involved in baseball since 2012 and has been an active volunteer in the community by helping the BBF Central Division and the West Midlands Baseball League as a committee member.

He is one of the founding members of the Long Eaton Baseball Club and is the current Club Chair and part of the coaching team. Michael is also a qualified cricket coach and found baseball whilst researching for a qualification.

“I aim to work with our partners at the BSUK and international agencies to help develop and deliver a new coaching pathway that allows our members to achieve their coaching ambitions.”

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Gavin Marshall - National Teams Programme Official



Gavin Marshall was the first born and bred British baseball player to earn a professional contract in the United States. He was also a successful member of the British national team and a national champion.

Marshall, whose father Barry and grandfather Ron were stand-out players and coaches both in domestic baseball and for Great Britain making Gavin the 3rd generation of Marshalls to play and coach at the GB level.

“My aim is to inspire more domestic youth players to follow their dreams and become the first MLB player from the Great Britain domestic game. As the NTPO, I want to ensure that GB baseball keeps growing and continues to provide a platform for the best domestic players to grow, maximise their potential and do what no other player has ever done from Great Britain.”

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Paul Rance – Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner



Paul Rance has been playing baseball since 1995 when he joined Bracknell Blazers. He relocated to Northampton and started a club in 2013 called Northants Centurions.

Paul is the President of the club as well as the head coach of the youth section and going into 2023 as the coach of the Centurions where he will be playing in their 10th season.

Outside baseball, he has worked in many sectors over the years but has always be involved in a process driven role.

“My aim is to to increase the amount of baseball accessible to all kids across the country, I hope to drive development by delivering a well-designed project that sees our kids excelling at all ages across the country. I have no doubt this will be challenging but with the support of the baseball community and a clear plan we will complete this challenge together.”

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Richard Evans - Marketing & Communications Official



Richard has been playing baseball since 2015 and recently stood down as Chairman of Bristol Baseball Club after five years. He manages and coaches the Bristol Brunels, the club's development team, as well as playing.

He has worked in public relations, communications and stakeholder engagement in the public and private sectors for over 40 years.

“My aim is to ensure that the BBF has the marketing and communications capacity, skill and experience to support the Federation and its members with their aims and objectives and to be recognised as excellent in the way we communicate.”