

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BEEBALL

BEEBALL CLINICS LITHUANIA - DECEMBER 2012

By Anthon Kops

The first regular BeeBall Clinic was held in Lithuania. Due to cancelled flights from Eindhoven to Vilnius we had to go earlier than expected. On December 13th both Hans Snel and myself arrived at Vilnius Airport and discovered the big difference in climate between Holland and Lithuania. During our stay we were guests at the family of Mrs. Diana Pupininkiene, developing official for softball and beeball in Lithuania. Just one week before our arrival an agreement between the Lithuanian Baseball and the Softball Federation became a fact. See the article in the last ESF Newsletter.



The Lithuanian Federation, knowing that we had to stay three days longer than planned organized a surplus in visits to schools and clubs in the country. This was an unexpected situation for Hans Snel and me, as we did not have so many Starterskits (gloves, bats and balls for BeeBall) In Vilnius we realized. Fortunately the 5 Starterskits arrived on the last moment, thanks to Totoni Sanna and the Italian Federation.



The first day we were in a local Gymnasium In the capitol of Vilnius with the first 2 clinics for several groups. It was amazing to see how enthusiast the kids and the schoolstaff reacted on the BeeBall information. After 20 minutes instructions of the fundamentals the teams were divided in teams (Panthers, Tigers, Lions, etc.) and we were amazed to see how quick the boys and girls picked up the BeeBall rules.

After the clinics we were invited for a quick lunch with the coach of the Lithuanian Softballteam and officials from the government Vlnius.



Impressive was our visit to the mega sportshall in Vilnius, where the baseball and softball players have their practicings. A hall which allows our sports to play all season. In this hall the federationcoach created an impressive place where the Vilnius players were instructed.

For us Dutchmen an eyeopener to see how creative one can be with less equipment and facilities. The next day we travelled to Kaunas, a town about 200 kilometers north from Vilnius, where again the



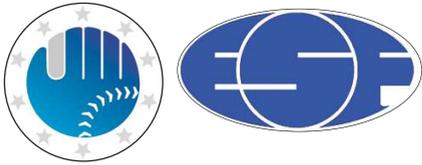
clinics were given in a school gymnasium. These kids were younger than the Vilniusgroup and after two completed sessions the staff and children showed us their enthusiasm and thanks.

In spite of the extreme weather conditions (minus 15 degrees and mountains of snow) we travelled to Radviliškis, a small city where under the supervision of Federation a superb tournament was organized between 3 T-Ball Teams. I have never seen such a large group of enthusiast kids,



boys and girls. The same day we were invited for the first indoor Championship between the softball-girls of Vilnius and Radviliškis. Both teams have some national players who visited the Rosmalen European Championship in 2012.ball, softbal land baseball.

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The next day the official BeeBall-introduction took place in a sportshall from one of the school in Radviliškis. It was great to see that parents and schoolteachers were present during the clinics. As introduction I showed a 20 minutes movie in which the development of BeeBall in Holland was shown. After that we started the clinics and played after teaching the fundamentals a fanatic small tournamentgame. Amazing to see how quick the kids learned and I must say that these youngsters speak very good English. After a hectic returntrip to Vilnius through the Lithuanian "Siberia" we evaluated the whole session and made agreements for followups for bee-ball, softball land baseball.



It was great to hear that, after we returned to Holland, a new softballteam was born in Lithuania. The trip was the first in BeeBall for ESF/CEB in which we learned a lot about the possibilities, the do's and dont's. A special thanks to Mrs. Diana Pupininkiene and family fort their hospitality and time. Also thanks to Mr. Hans Snel who assisted perfectly during the clinics.

A short impression of the Lithuanian BeeBall Clinic will soon be available on Youtube

REWARD YOUR YOUNG, NEW PLAYERS WITH THE OFFICIAL BEEBALL CERTIFICATE A, B or C

Each child is proud to receive a reward for his or her performance. A Diploma or Certificate is always highly appreciated and carefully preserved. The ESF / CEB Development Committee developed a successful project for the remuneration of novice players. **Available in all languages and for all federations and clubs. Information by Anthon Kops during the Congress.**

