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**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

The British Baseball Federation and Herts Baseball Club are pleased to announce that the Herts Falcons have earned a place in the 2009 National Baseball League, the top level of play in the United Kingdom. After receiving the official BBF invitation, the Herts Executive Board has voted unanimously to accept and will begin an intense winter-season training scheme and recruitment drive in preparation for the competitive play to come.

The BBF's top division is by invite only, and the Falcons are the only squad moving up this year. They will be one of just five squads in the 2009 Southern National League and will meet their London, Richmond, Bracknell and Croydon rivals at home and away, with all games officiated by the top UK umpires from the ABUA-GB.

As the Falcons promote to the NBL, a gap is left in the Herts franchise at the AAA tier. A new, fourth team has been formed to compete at that level: the Herts Eagles. The Herts Hawks (AA) and Raptors (A) will remain in their respective leagues.

Herts Baseball Club now sports four teams in the four levels of adult play in the UK and, with its Little League programme in the mix, boasts one of the most complete baseball franchises nationwide. A player can join Tee Ball at age 5 and, over time, progress all the way through the Herts ranks to the National Baseball League.

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