GRIDIAGN SPORTS

ND

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBAYL & SOFTBALL FEDERATION

BASEBALL FRALS
THE NATIONAL CLAB CHAMPIONSHIP

PROGRAMME



SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 1986 SUTTON UNITED FC

JUNIOR GAME 12.00

SENIOR GAME 15.00





British Armateur Baseball & Softball Federation 18A, CEBA, ISF & ESF Affiliated. President: Don Smalwoor Office: 197, Newbridge Road, Hull, HUS 2LR, Tel: (0482) 76168

May I, on behalf of the Federation extend a very sincere welcome to everyone for the British Club Championship Final. Over the years, the Final has produced some fine Baseball and today's game should continue that tradition. I would like to thank everyone connected with the staging of today's match and in barticular Guiditon Sports, for their Spousorship. Gridiron Sports' now stock a full range of Baseball equipment and for many new players taking up the sport, this is a big advantage.

To both teams I hope that win or lose, the game today is enjoyed.

DON SMALLWOOD (President).

BOWIE K. KUHN

TO: BRITISH BASEBALL FANS

As a long-time friend of British Baseball and as a former Commissioner of North American Baseball. I write to wish you great enjoyment as you attend the Gridiron Sports BABSF National Baseball Final. I am confident that you will find that all involved give an excellent account of themselves. I am particularly pleased to see Gridiron Sports as sponsor of this event. This sponsorship taken together with the upcoming telecast of the American World Series on Channel 4 are excellent signs of the growth and vitality of baseball in Britain. Indeed, the growth of the game internationally has been quite dramatic. I am optimistic that by 1992 baseball will be a gold medal Olympic Sport. Enjoy the great game of baseball.

frimbula ?

WFICOMFI

to the first Gridiron Sports National Baseball Finals. The game being played today represents the first time in recent years that baseball has attracted major sponsorship in Britain. Gridiron Sports, the country's leading supplier of American football equipment, is moving into the baseball diamond and is giving generous support to this event.

Welcome in particular to today's quest of honour, Mr William Morgan, ex-Treasurer of BABSF and unofficial historian of British baseball, and to the Mayor of Sutton, Cllr. John Mullin, who will throw out the first pitch

The National Championship was won in its early years (see p.10) by teams like Preston North End. Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur, so the game today at Sutton United is something of a return to the roots. Baseball in the 1930s attracted crowds of many thousands. and we are hoping that interest will grow to these proportions following the Final today and Channel 4's series of programmes on the World Series in October (see p.10).

The two senior finalists today offer a contrast in many ways. The Hull Mets are all Yorkshiremen (remind you of another team?) and the Yankees are almost all, well, Yanks. Hull has long been a centre of baseball activity in Britain, with teams from that area regularly involved in the final. Cobham's senior team was only started in 1982 and has since enjoyed much success.

We hope you will enjoy the game today — if you would like further information on baseball in Britain please write to 30A Belitha Villas, London N1 1PD, enclosing a SAE.

Finally, in the words of the Great Umpire, "Play Ball".



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Welcome everyone to the first Gridiron Sports National Baseball

Finals.

We at Gridiron Sports are convinced that baseball will soon be Britain's second summer sport and we intend to give it our fullest

support.

Good luck to both teams, we are sure everyone will have a great

day.

BOB COE Managing Director

P.S. Hang around after the game for the presentation of the trophy and the Gridiron Sports MVP Award.

PATH TO THE FINAL

The final standings of the competitions through which teams qualified for the playoffs which led to the final today were as follows:

Humberside League	W	L	Pct	GB	Merseyside League W L Pct GB
*Hull Mets	14	0	1.000		*Burtonwood Braves 11 3 .786 —
Southglade Hornets	7	3	.700	5	Menwith Hill Colonials 10 4 .714 1
*Hull Warriors	9	5	.643	5	Jawbone Tornados 9 5 .643 2
Hull Royals	8	5	.615	51/2	Liverpool Trojans 6 6 .500 4
Hull Giants	7	7	.500	7	Skelmersdale Giants 5 7 .417 5
Hull Mariners	4	8	.333	9	Crawfords Tigers 4 8 .333 6
Barnsley Strikers	3	10	.231	101/2	Southport Mets 0 12 .000 10
Hull Pumas	0	14	.000	14	0 12 .000 10
					Nottingham Cup
Southern League (1st Div.)	W	L	Pct	GB	Semi Finals:
*Cobham Yankees	11	3	.786	_	
*Sutton Braves	11	3	.786	_	Nottingham Pirates 9 v 0 Horncastle Panthers
*Crawley Giants	10	5	.667	11/2	Southglade Hornets 26 v 1 Arnold Astros
Croydon Bluejays	9	6	.600	21/2	Final:
Enfield Spartans	6	8	.429	5	*Southglade Hornets 23 v 13 Nottingham Pirates
Barnes Stormers	5	9	.357	6	transfer viewels 25 v vo Nottingham v nates
Golders Green Sox	3	11	.214	8	Tyneside League
Basildon Raiders	2	12	.143	9	· •
					*Won by Black Adders —full details not available
					—iuii uetalis tiot avallable

The teams marked with an asterisk (*) qualified for the playoff in August. The results of the quarter- and semi-finals were as follows:

QUARTER-FINALS (24/25 August):

Black Adders	1 v 41	Hull Mets
Cobham Yankees	9 v 2	Southglade Hornets
Burtonwood Braves	7 v 2	Hull Warriors
Crawley Giants	14 v 7	Sutton Braves

SEMI-FINALS (31 August):

Cobham Yankees	12 v· 0	Burtonwood Braves
Hull Mets	8 v 4	Crawley Giants

The Gridiron Sports / BABSF 1986 Junior Finals Hull Wildcats v Southglade Kestrels will start at 12 noon

Umpire: Mr B Benson



Sandwiches, Coffee and good Baseball talk



UNDERSTANDING BASEBALL

The game of baseball is played between two teams of nine players.

Before the game, each team announces the order in which its starting players will bat and their fielding positions.

The objective of the game is to score more runs than the opposing team. A run can only be scored when a player finally croses **home plate**, having completed the circuit of the diamond touching, and often stopping at, every base.

The visiting team bats first (**top half** of the inning) and is retired when three of its batters, or runners, are put out. The home team then bats in the **bottom half** of the inning until three of its players are put out. There are nine innings in a game.In the event of a tie at the end of the ninth inning, extra whole innings are played until the tie is broken.

RATTING

If the batter hits the ball between the foul lines (a **fair ball**) he MUST try to reach at least first base. If he hits the ball outside the foul lines (a **foul ball**) the batter is not entitled to run to first base.

A batter is out when:

- i) He hits the ball in the air (a fly ball or line drive) and it is caught before bouncing by a fielder (flies out)
- ii) He hits the ball on the ground and a fielder throws it or carries it to first base before he arrives (grounds out)
- iii) While he is not touching a base he is **tagged** by a fielder with the ball, or with the fielder's glove containing the ball
- iv) He is struck out i.e. he has three strikes against him .

A **strike** is a pitch which passes over home plate, without bouncing, between the batter's knees and shoulders (the **strike zone**), or at which the batter swings and misses completely, or which the batter hits into foul territory when he has less than 2 strikes against him. A foul ball when the batter has two strikes against him counts only as a dead ball.

A pitch which passes outside the strike zone and is not swung at is called a **ball**. The home plate umpire judges balls and strikes.

The batter is safe on base when:

- i) He receives four balls a walk
- ii) He hits the ball in fair territory and reaches first base before the fielding team can get the ball there a base hit or single
- iii) He reaches bases beyond first without being tagged with the ball by the fielding team extra base hit (double, triple or home run)

RUNNER(S) ON BASE

With a runner or runners on base, if the batter hits a ball in the air, in fair or foul territory, no runner may advance unless he re-touches his base after the ball is caught (tagging up)

Since the batter must run towards first base if he hits a fair ball on the ground, a runner already in occupation of first base is **forced** to run towards second. If there are runners on first and second bases, or if the bases are **loaded** (runners occupying all three bases) all runners are forced to try to reach the next base.

In such a force play, any runner so forced can be put out either by being tagged or more usually by the fielding side throwing or carrying the ball to the base to which he is running before he arrives there. Occasionally, two outs are made on one hit ball. These **double plays** most usually occur when two players are forced out at successive bases. Another common double play occurs when a batter fails to return to his base before the ball is caught and thrown to that base (a force play).

OTHER PLAYS YOU MAY SEE

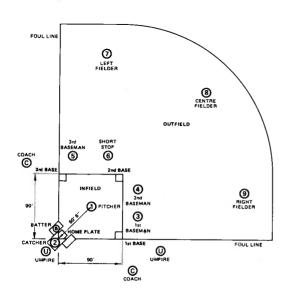
Stolen base — a runner advances from one base to another without the ball being hit **Home run** — a ball hit fair over the outfield fence entitles the batter to an automatic run, though he and any other runners still have to trot around the bases

Bunt — the batter may square around and try to nudge the ball into the infield, usually to advance a runner or to try to catch the defence unaware

Error — a misfielded or badly thrown ball by a fielder which allows a runner to advance or a batter to reach base

Substitution — any player can be substituted at any time, but once he leaves the game he may not return

Balk — an illegal pitching motion, entitling all baserunners, but not the batter, to advance one base.



BASEBALL FIELD SHOWING FIELDER'S POSITIONS AND NUMBER CODES

BRITISH BASEBALL FINAL, 1986

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THE COBHAM YANKEES SURREY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

The Cobham Yankees, premier team of the Surrey Baseball Association, were first organised in 1982 and entered in the second division of the Southern England Baseball Association. The Yankees were an outgrowth of the Surrey Baseball Association's successful junior programme, which organises baseball for children aged 6-14. The Yankees originally were expected to provide a baseball outlet for players 15 and up who had become too old for the Association's junior programme. The team rapidly attracted a number of older players and immediately became a winning side. The team won the league's second division championship in 1982 and gained promotion to the first division. In their second year of existence, Cobham won the Southern England League's first division championship and defeated the Liverpool Trojans and the Hull Mets in the National Championship Playoffs to become national champions. The team failed to repeat as league champions, finishing second in 1984 and third in 1985.

The 1986 Cobham Yankees finished in a tie with the Sutton Braves for the Southern England League's first division championship, and defeated the Southglade Hornets and the Burtonwood Braves to reach the national finals this year.

Three of the starting nine for Cobham are products of the Surrey Baseball Association's junior division and have learned their baseball in Britain — Mike Hammer, pitcher; Pete Hammer, infielder and Dave Jensen, outfielder.

THE 1986 COBHAM YANKEES

Bistline, Mark (Manny) (16) — Now in his second year with the Yankees, Bistline hit .400 even though missing the middle of the season due to work. A fine infielder and base runner, his return to the squad has added to the team's offensive and defensive capabilities.

Clark, Jim (21) — Former manager of the Barnes Stormers, Clark provided a much needed portion of stability to the Yankee's infield during the drive for the championship.

Christensen, Rick (23) - A fine utility player, Christensen filled a number of spots during the year.

Hammer, Mike (4) — A talented left-handed pitcher, Mike Hammer is completing his fifth year with the team, having pitched the team's very first game in 1982. Mike was starting and winning pitcher in the 1983 National Championship game against the Hull Mets.

Hammer, Pete (8) — Younger brother of Mike, Pete Hammer is the most versatile player on the Yankees' squad. He can pitch, or play infield or outfield and has hit .346 this year.

Jensen, Dave (13) — Another youngster who has been with the Yankees since their inception. Jensen was the starting and winning pitcher in the team's first league game in 1982 and also pitched in relief in the 1983 championship game. He can hit the long ball.

Kocher, Ken (12) — A graduate of the second-division Oxshott Orioles, Kocher has been a surprise for the Yankees this year, hitting .333 and providing a spark for the team's spirit.

Morgan, Kevin (16) — Morgan, in his second year with Cobham, pitches and plays outfield.

Pierce, Lee (11) — An old-timer, although in his first season with Cobham, Pierce has played on national championship teams with the Golders Green Sox and the London Warriors. He hit .500 this year to prove his batting skill has not diminished.

Santos, Daniel (22) — Santos took over as manager of the Yankees after the departure of Dene Ekholm and has guided them to the finals in 1986. An original member of the team in 1982, Dan was the catcher that year, but suffered a broken leg in the last game of the season. He has since been a utility player and designated hitter.

Santos, Jeremy (14) — Youngest member of the Yankees, Jeremy Santos hit a respectable .287 in his first year with the team.

Saur, Mike (24) — Saur's year included a no-hitter against Barnes in mid-season and a .521 batting average, highest on the team this year. One of the pillars of the Yankees in his first with the team.

Smith, Alan (7) — A capable pitcher and fine outfielder, Smith batted .333 this season.

Thompson, Brad (6) — Thompson, like Pierce, came from the old London Warroirs and took over as catcher in his first season with the Yankees. With a .412 batting average, he has provided a big part of the Yankees offence, as well as directing the defence.

Whitton, Steve (25) — In his first year with the Yankees, Whitton overcame the disappointment of a sore shoulder, which prevented him from pitching, to lead the team in power hitting with a .358 average. Against Burtonwood in the semi-finals, he hit two homers over the fence at the 400-ft. mark.

HULL METS BASEBALL CLUB

Formed in November 1982, Hull Mets have proved a major power in the game in Britain. Most members were ex players of the highly successful Hull Aces Baseball Team. In their first season, 1983, they won the Humberside League, and qualified for the British Club Championship Final, only to go down 10-3 to Cobham Yankees. In 1984 they again won their local league, and were the first winners of the British Knockout Cup (where teams are limited to two foreigners on the field). Once again they reached the final of the British Club Championship only to lose to the Croydon Bluejays 10-9 in what many people have said was the most exciting final in recent years. With two out in the bottom of the ninth, two successive Croydon batters squeezed base hits down the first base line to drive in the winning run, overcoming a two-run defecit

1985 proved to be the best season ever for the Mets, when they made a clean sweep of everything in British Baseball. They won the Humberside League, the British Knockout Cup (14-4 against Liverpool Trojans), and the British Club Championship (10-8) against the London Warriors.

All the Mets players and Officials are English, born and bred locally in Hull.

THE 1986 HULL METS

Darnell, **Peter** — Pete has been recognised as one of the best English pitchers for many years. A Great Britain international.

Thurston, Brian — Brian has been tipped by many to become a top class pitcher in the future.

Brown, Shaun — Shaun is another young pitcher of whom great things are expected in the future.

Storey, Mark — Mark is a top class catcher, a Great Britain international who serves in the R.A.F.

Read, Neil — Neil is a top class international baseballer who can play anywhere.

Read, John — John has played 1st base for many years and is the Mets' "Mr Dependable"

Parker, Wayne — Wayne is another top class international player, an especially good baserunner. He plays Rugby League for Hull Kingston Rovers.

Parker, Frank — Frank is Wayne's big brother, an international power hitter. He is also a Rugby League player for Hull Kingston Rovers.

Turtle, Darren — Darren is the quiet man of the Mets, a good hitter who can play infield or outfield.

Marshall, Barry — Barry has been an experienced international for many years and can play anywhere.

Collins, Duncan — Duncan is another rugby player, plays 1st base or outfield.

Read, Brian — Brian usually plays centre field and misses very little.

Mortimer, Gary — Gary is one of the good crop of youngsters coming through the ranks of the Mets.

Hill. John — John has only played for two seasons and has shown great potential.

Marshall. Keith — Keith is an ex-international, now mainly involved on the coaching side.

Wilson, Alan — Alan is another ex-international, also involved on the coaching side.

Parker, Michael — Mike has played for many years, plays 3rd base and Club Chairman.

Megson, Clive — Clive has also been involved in baseball for many years. He is an ex-Great Britain Manager.

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1890 Preston North End 42 v 15 B'ham Amateurs (& 42-7)

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

1892 Middlesborough26 v 16 St Thomas's (Derby)1893 Thespians (London)33 v 6 Darlington St Augustines1894 Thespians (London)38 v 14 Stockton-on-Tees1895 Derby20 v 16 Fullers (London)

1896 Wallsend-on-Tyne 16 v 10 Remingtons (London) 1897 Derby 30 v 7 Middlesborough

14 v 3 Nottingham Forest

1900 Nottingham Forest 17 v 16 Derby

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

1899 Derby

1906 Tottenham Hotspur 16 v 5 Nondescripts 1907 Clapton Orient 8 v 7 Fulham 1908 Tottenham Hotspur 6 v 5 Leyton 1909 Clapton Orient 6 v 4 Leyton

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (III)

1934 Hatfield (Liverpool)
1935 New London
194 V
195 New London
195 V
196 White City (London)
197 Hull
197 Hull
198 Rochdale Greys
198 Rochdale Greys
199 Halifax
190 V
190 V
190 Oldham Greyhounds
190 V
190 Fochdale Greys

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION Ltd.

1948 Liverpool Robins13 v0 Thames Board Mills1949 Hornsey Red Sox10 v5 Liverpool Cubs1950 Burtonwood Bees23 v2 Hornsey Red Sox1951 Burtonwood Bees9 v2 Ruislip Rockets

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

1959 Thames Board Mills 12 v 4 East Hull Aces
1960 Thames Board Mills 6 v 1 Liverpool Tigers
1962 Liverpool Tigers 8 v 3 East Hull Aces
1963 East Hull Aces 8 v 6 Garringtons (Bromsgrove)

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (II)

1965 Kingston Aces (Hull) 4 v 2 Stretford Saints (M'chester)

NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (UK)

1966 Stretford Saints31Liverpool Aces1967 Liverpool Yankees4v2Beckenham Bluejays1968 Hull Aces4v1Hull Royals1969 Watford Sun-Rockets8v7Liverpool Trojans (11 inns)

 1970 Hull Royals
 3 v 1 Hull Aces

 1971 Liverpool Tigers
 8 v 3 Hull Aces

 1972 Hull Aces
 6 v 4 Hull Royals

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION

1973 Burtonwood Yanks23 v2 Hull Aces1974 Nottingham Lions5 v3 Hull Royals1975 Liverpool Tigers5 v3 Nottingham Lions1976 Liverpool Trojans5 v4 Spirit of '76 (London)1977 Golders Green Sox9 v5 Hull Aces

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FEDERATION 1978 Liverpool Trojans 14 v 12 Crawley Giants 1979 Golders Green Sox 9 v 7 Hull Aces (11 inns) 1980 Liverpool Trojans 12 v 1 Hull Aces 1981 London Warriors 23 v 3 Hull Aces 1982 London Warriors 16 v 7 Liverpool Trojans 1983 Cobham Yankees 10 v 3 Hull Mets 1984 Croydon Blueiays 9 v 8 Hull Mets 1985 Hull Mets 10 v 8 London Warriors

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Dear Baseball Fans.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to wish you all -- players, coaches, officials and supporters — a splendid afternoon to climax the

Baseball season in England.

The Baseball watching season, though, is certainly not drawing to a close. Cheerleader Productions are producing a series of programmes in October, to be screened on Channel 4, featuring the Major League Season in the United States, the play-offs and, of course, the World

Series. I hope you will join us.

Meanwhile I've been trying to add another dimension to my knowledge of this wonderful game by working out with the Sutton Braves. This has given me first-hand experience of the level of Baseball skill in this country and the tremendous fellowship among the players.

Those qualities, I'm sure, will contribute to a memorable occasion today.

With best wishes.

presenter Channel 4 Baseball



Cheerleader are producing seven programmes for Channel 4 for the Autumn covering the World Series in the U.S. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday 5 October Explanation of the game. season's highlights, features, League Championship Pennant playoffs. Sunday 12 October Sunday 19 October 12.30-2.00 World Series Game 1 Tuesday 21 October 6.00 - 7.00World Series Game 2 Friday 24 October World Series Games 3, 4 &/or 5 6.00 - 7.00*Sunday 26 October 12.30—2.00 World Series Games 5 &/or 6 *Tuesday 28 October 6.00 - 7.00World Series Games 6 &/or 7

^{*}Depending on length of best-of-seven series

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