



25-27 AUGUST 2012, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

SCHEDULE OF PLAY 25-27 AUGUST 2012, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

National Baseball League

Saturday, 25th August 2012

12:00	Diamond 1	Game 1	London Mets	@	Harlow Nationals
15:00	Diamond 1	Game 2	Southampton Mustangs	@	Herts Falcons

Sunday, 26th August 2012

10:00	Diamond 1	Game 3	Game 1 Winner	@	Game 2 Winner
13:30	Diamond 1	Game 4	Game 1 Loser	@	Game 2 Loser
17:00	Diamond 1	Game 5	Game 3 Loser	@	Game 4 Loser

Monday, 27th August 2012

11:00	Diamond 1	Game 6	Game 5 Winner	@	Game 3 Winner
#	Diamond 1	Game 7	Game 3 Winner	@	Game 5 Winner

= Game 7 only necessary if Game 3 Winner loses Game 6, game will start 30 mins after Game 6

AAA League

Sunday, 26th August 2012

10:00	Diamond 2	SF 1	Cambridge Royals	@	Liverpool Trojans
17:00	Diamond 2	SF 2	Essex Redbacks	@	Oxford Kings

Monday, 27th August 2012

14:00	Diamond 2	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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AA League

Saturday, 25th August 2012

12:00	Diamond 2	SF 1	Milton Keynes Bucks	@	Poole Piranhas
16:00	Diamond 2	SF 2	Herts Hawks	@	Nottingham Rebels

Sunday, 26th August 2012

13:30	Diamond 2	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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Single-A League

Monday, 27th August 2012

11:00	Diamond 2	Final	Leicester Blue Sox	@	Hove Tuesday
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The Harlow Nationals will be looking to repeat their 2011 success



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MEET THE COMPETITION

National Baseball League (NBL)

Harlow Nationals

After bursting onto the NBL scene last year, and winning the National Baseball Championship in their first season, the Harlow Nationals proved that it was no fluke by winning the 2012 NBL pennant. Harlow are the number one seed and the team to beat as they look to make BBF history by winning back to back Championships in their first two years in existence.

Herts Falcons

With one of the largest baseball programmes in the UK, the Herts Falcons, after a few years of somewhat disappointing NBL results, have re-tooled to create a veritable who's who of British Baseball. With new names like Robbie Unsell, Ryan Bird and Michael Osborne, the Falcons are in prime position to challenge for the NBL title on their home turf.

London Mets

With a new manager in Freddie Vibert and the largest roster in the NBL London were determined to return to their 2007 and 2008 Championship form. The Mets form suffered in the second half of the season but reached the NBC with a home play-off victory over the 2011 runners up, Lakenheath Diamondbacks. The Mets are always dangerous but have a tough opening tie against the reigning champions.

Southampton Mustangs

Led by Team GB's Gary Davidson, the Mustangs have reached the post-season for the third straight season. Southampton have gone from strength to strength and proven that hard work and consistency will win baseball games. Always dangerous on the bases and with the long ball, the Mustangs were the form side in the second half of the season and will be a strong contender for the title.





AAA

Liverpool Trojans

The 2011 AAA champions started the season an astonishing 16-0 before tasting defeat for the first time in two years, Cartmel Valley Lions winning 7-1 at the end of June. The Trojans would lose just once more, storming to the AAA North title 26-2, nine games ahead of their nearest rivals. Liverpool will enter the NBC's as the clear favourites to defend their title.

Cambridge Royals

The Royals may have reached the NBCs via a Bristol forfeit in the wildcard game but they're certainly not to be underestimated. In fact, the Royals have been one of the form teams in AAA for most of the season since a slightly sluggish 4-6 start. With a genuine ace in Brett Curran, their rivals will almost certainly be made to work for every run.

Essex Redbacks

Pool B winners Essex Redbacks looked likely play-off contenders from the start, and booked their place for the second year in a row thanks to a consistent and steady finish. With 238 runs scored, and home run leader Franklin Martinez in their ranks, Essex are capable of putting up big numbers. Combine this with excellent pitching depth, and the number three seeds are a match for anyone.

Oxford Kings

Oxford Kings came out on top of a thrilling pennant race with Bristol to win AAA South by the slimmest of margins. After a slow 1-4 start, the 2010 champions were virtually unstoppable for the rest of the season, losing just three further games on their way to a 19-7 record. Eight wins in the final nine games ultimately proved decisive for the Kings.

AA

Herts Hawks

In a year where the entire Herts Baseball Club returned to glory, the Hawks have produced their best ever season in reaching the National Baseball Championships. Behind pitchers Nic Goetz and Nick Russell, as well as sluggers Louis Hare and Andrew Fulford, the Hawks have overcome some incredibly tough opposition and are primed for battle. With home advantage at Grovehill, they'll have the neutral fans behind them as well.

Milton Keynes Bucks

On this season's form the MK Bucks are the least likely to win the title, but they have the most playoff history. The Bucks – who won the Single-A title in 2010 – will enter the weekend at Hemel Hempstead with nothing to lose. In beating the Sheffield Bladerunners to qualify, they knocked out the best side in AA North, and won't want to stop throwing their killer punches there.

Nottingham Rebels

After falling at the early stages of the playoffs in their debut season last year, the Rebels regrouped to go unbeaten for the early half of the summer and convincingly won the AA Midlands title. A resounding defeat of the Harrogate Tigers last weekend will fill Shannon Henry's side with confidence, and their opponents with fear, as they are hotly tipped by their divisional contemporaries to go all the way.

Poole Piranhas

Carlos Bertran's side has dominated all season, and their solitary loss was overturned with a nail biting win over the Sidewinders to confirm their NBC berth. Outrageously, they were only the second best team in AA South with their 14-1 record, but pitching hero Shannon Hall and slugging third baseman Carlos Velazco will be determined to pick up the Piranhas' first ever silverware this August.

Single-A

Leicester Blue Sox

The Blue Sox are back at the NBC finals for the third time in four seasons. They were Single-A winners in 2009 and narrow runners-up for the AA title the following season. Under the stewardship of new manager Giovanni Ciotti, Leicester performed strongly against all of their divisional rivals this season only to narrowly missed out on a AA playoff berth. The Sox expect to start with their 17 year old GB Junior prodigy Ben Powell on the mound.

Hove Tuesday

This is Hove Tuesday's first season in British Baseball and they have taken the Single-A South Division by storm, posting a perfect 9-0 record on their way to the Pool B title. Brighton has been devoid of baseball since the departure of the Buccaneers but Jon Sayers' side have brought success back to the south coast and will be keen to round off an astounding debut season with their first National Championship.



Teams with at least three appearances in sanctioned British amateur national championship finals (sorted by number; winning years in bold and darker colour)

Hull Aces †	13	1959	1962	1963	1965	1968	1970	1971	1972	1973	1977	1979	1980	1981
London Warriors ‡	9	1981	1982	1985	1991	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000				
Hull Mets §	8	1983	1984	1985	1986	1990	1992	1993	1994					
Brighton Buccaneers	6	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005							
Liverpool Trojans	5	1969	1976	1978	1980	1982								
Windsor Bears	5	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004								
Cobham Yankees	4	1983	1986	1987	1988									
Croydon Pirates	4	2004	2005	2006	2007									
Hull Royals	4	1968	1970	1972	1974									
Liverpool Tigers ✕	4	1960	1962	1971	1975									
Richmond Flames	4	2006	2008	2009	2010									
Derby	3	1895	1897	1899	1900									
Enfield Spartans	3	1989	1990	1991										
Leyton	3	1908	1909	1911										
Menwith Hill Pirates ¶	3	1995	1996	1998										
Rochdale Greys	3	1935	1938	1939										
Thames Board Mills (Purfleet)	3	1948	1959	1960										

† Also played as East Hull Aces and Kingston Aces (Hull); ‡ The team existed from 1980 to 1985 and then reformed in 1991 (as the London Athletics for the first year); § Also played as Humberdside Mets; in 1992, declined to play a championship decider; in 1993, tied championship series; ✕ Also played as Liverpool NALGO Tigers; ¶ Also played as Menwith Hill Patriots

Project COBB is an online collaboration that was founded by BBF Life Member Joe Gray in 2008. Project COBB works to research and publish historical details of British baseball, including statistical insights and photography of the game in the United Kingdom.

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1890 Preston North End	1960 Thames Board Mills	1986 Cobham Yankees
1892 Middlesborough	1961 Liverpool Tigers	1987 Cobham Yankees
1893 Thespians (London)	1962 Liverpool Tigers	1988 Cobham Yankees
1894 Thespians (London)	1963 East Hull Aces	1989 Enfield Spartans
1895 Derby	1964 Hull Aces	1990 Enfield Spartans
1896 Wallsend-On-Tyne	1965 Hull Aces	1991 Enfield Spartans
1897 Derby	1966 Stretford Saints	1992 Leeds City Royals
1899 Derby	1967 Liverpool Yankees	1993 Humberside Mets
1900 Nottingham Forest	1968 Hull Aces	1994 Humberside Mets
1906 Tottenham Hotspur	1969 Watford Sun-Rockets	1995 Menwith Hill Pirates
1907 Clapton Orient	1970 Hull Royals	1996 Menwith Hill Pirates
1908 Tottenham Hotspur	1971 Liverpool Tigers	1997 London Warriors
1909 Clapton Orient	1972 Hull Aces	1998 Menwith Hill Patriots
1910 Brentford	1973 Burtonwood Yanks	1999 Brighton Buccaneers
1911 Leyton	1974 Nottingham Lions	2000 London Warriors
1934 Hatfield (Liverpool)	1975 Liverpool Tigers	2001 Brighton Buccaneers
1935 New London	1976 Liverpool Trojans	2002 Brighton Buccaneers
1936 White City (London)	1977 Golders Green Sox	2003 Windsor Bears
1937 Hull	1978 Liverpool Trojans	2004 Croydon Pirates
1938 Rochdale Greys	1979 Golders Green Sox	2005 Croydon Pirates
1939 Halifax	1980 Liverpool Trojans	2006 Richmond Flames
1948 Liverpool Robins	1981 London Warriors	2007 London Mets
1949 Hornsey Red Sox	1982 London Warriors	2008 London Mets
1950 Burtonwood Bees	1983 Cobham Yankees	2009 Bracknell Blazers
1951 Burtonwood Bees	1984 Croydon Blue Jays	2010 Richmond Flames
1959 Thames Board Mills	1985 Hull Mets	2011 Southern Nationals

MOST NATIONAL TITLES

- 5 – Hull Aces (1972, 1968, 1965, 1964, 1963)
- 4 – London Warriors (2000, 1997, 1982, 1981)
- 4 – Cobham Yankees (1988, 1987, 1986, 1983)
- 4 – Liverpool Tigers (1975, 1971, 1962, 1961)
- 3 – Brighton Buccaneers (2002, 2001, 1999)
- 3 – Menwith Hill Pirates/Patriots (1998, 1996, 1995)
- 3 – Enfield Spartans (1991, 1990, 1989)
- 3 – Liverpool Trojans (1980, 1978, 1976)
- 3 – Derby (1898, 1897, 1895)



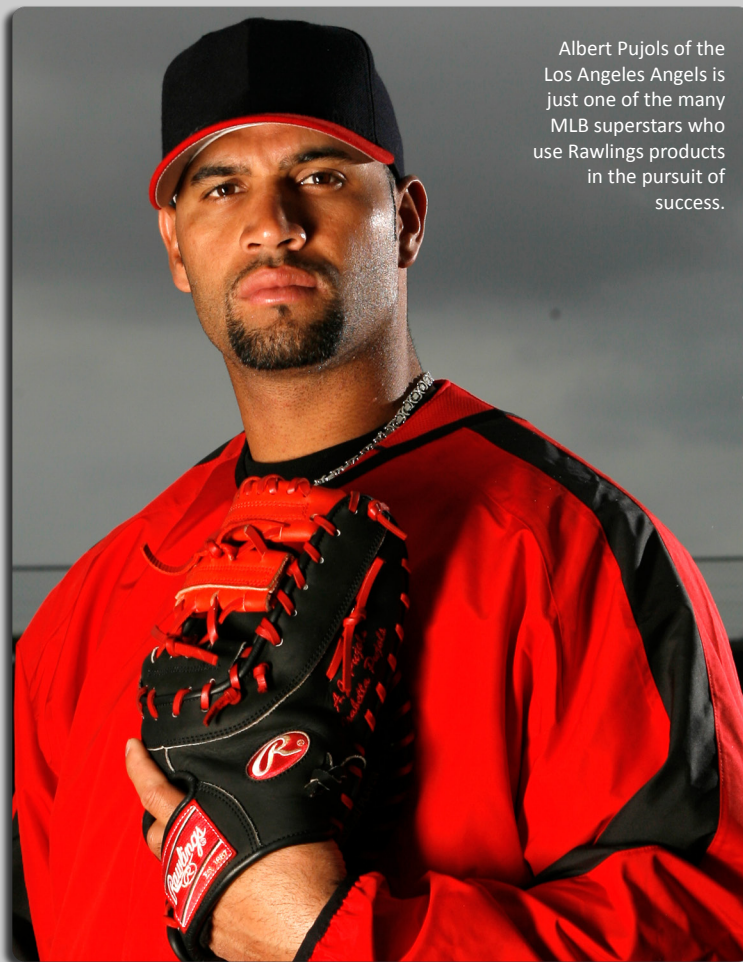
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TITLE CONTENDERS

National Baseball League

Harlow Nationals (20-6)

Herts Falcons (17-6)

Southampton Mustangs (17-9)

London Mets (13-11)

AAA League

Liverpool Trojans (26-2)

Oxford Kings (19-7)

Essex Redbacks (16-10)

Cambridge Royals (15-11)

AA League

Poole Piranhas (14-1)

Nottingham Rebels (14-2)

Herts Hawks (11-4)

Milton Keynes Bucks (9-5)

Single-A League

Hove Tuesday (9-0)

Leicester Blue Sox (9-7)



NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

25-27 AUGUST 2012, GROVEHILL PLAYING FIELDS, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD



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