



# BASEBALL

## *Courier*

No. 11, NOVEMBER 1964.

NATIONAL LEAGUE REPORT by George Livsley.

### Final Standings

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Stretford Saints	12	10	2	20
Hull Aces	12	9	3	18
Garringtons (Bromsgrove)	12	7	5	14
U.S. Navy (London)	12	6	6	12
Austin B.L. (Birmingham)	12	4	8	8
Nottingham Athletics	12	3	9	6
Nottingham Saints	12	3	9	6

1964 Batting Award. Duane Patfield (Stretford) shortstop.

1964 Pitching Award. Walter K. O'Neil (Stretford).

The Orford Presentation Trophy was contested on a knock-out basis at Garringtons' ground (Bromsgrove) on 20th September. The U.S. Navy failed to attend. Stretford Saints won the trophy. Game results follow.

Stretford 11 - Garringtons 0. A. Williams was the Stretford pitcher, the pitchers for the losers being J. Barrass and R. Kendrick.

Stretford 5 - Hull Aces 0. Winning pitcher W. O'Neil, losing pitcher R. Seddon. Both games were of five innings duration.

A tournament for the three clubs finishing in the lower positions of the National League was staged at the Austin British Legion ground, Birmingham, on 13th September.



Austin B.L., Nottingham Saints, and Nottingham Athletics each won one game and lost one game. The League decided to hold the trophy over until next season rather than to award it on the total of runs scored.

Austin B.L. and Garringtons, the host clubs for these tournaments, together with Stretford, host for the All-Star Game are to be congratulated on helping the League in presenting these games.

All member clubs with the exception of U.S. Navy co-operated in helping promote National League baseball, and are already working for the success of our 1965 season. The League executive is attempting to expand the league for next season.

A National League exhibition game was played at Radcliffe, the Central Lancashire cricket club, on 23rd August; Stretford Saints beating Garringtons, 12 - 4. There was a good paid attendance, and the game impressed the staunch cricket followers, quite a lot of local interest was aroused, with a follow-up invitation likely.

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#### MERSEYSIDE NEWS by Hal Cohen

The Merseyside League held their Annual Presentation Dance on Friday, 9th October, at the Alder Road club house of the Liverpool Cubs.

The League finished in the following Order: 1, Stretford Saints; 2, Mormon Yankees; 3, Aces; 4, Tigers; 5, Cubs.

Stretford Saints won the League Cup, and the Mormon Yankees took the Lancashire Cup.

The Player of the Year Award went to Elder Johns of the Mormon Yankees, who despite only having one arm amazed everyone by not only pitching very effectively, but also occasionally playing first base.

The speed with which he could trap the ball in his mitt and somehow get hold of it for "immediate despatch" induced everyone into thinking that he could certainly have made a successful living as a professional conjuror. He was also no slouch with the bat as many a right-fighter knows to his cost.

The Batter of the Year Award also went to one of the Mormon Yankees - Elder K. Sandford who had proved himself regularly throughout the season but managed to have his finest hour during the Lancashire Cup Final versus Stretford Saints, when he

practically beat them single-handed by hitting some of the longest home runs ever seen on Merseyside.

The All-Star Awards went to the team which played against the representative Yorkshire side at Hull and were as follows:- pitchers, W. O'Neil (Saints) and A. Williams (Aces); catcher, J. Collins (Saints); 1b., B. Stredder (Aces); 2b., R. Dawson (Saints); SS., D. Hatfield (Saints); 3b., H. King (Tigers); LF., S. Windross (Saints); CF., J. Tomlinson (Aces); RF., R. Patience (Aces); Bench, P. Dawson (Saints), J. Thomas (Tigers), J. Rolle (Saints), E. Lambe (Cubs).

Following the October 4th meeting at Nottingham, we learned with interest from our Chairman, Mr. Dave Price, that there is a strong likelihood of a Dutch team visiting the U.K. in 1965, and here on Merseyside we look forward to renewing our acquaintanceship with these "Honkbalspelers" who visited Merseyside just after the war, following which there were several interchanges of visits between Liverpool and Amsterdam.

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#### THE HULL SCENE by Don Smallwood.

Well, that's it then - another season completed and now six months to reflect upon the results of our efforts to further the game during 1964. I'm afraid the picture in the Hull League is very much the same as in 1963. No new teams, no great improvement in the presentation of fixtures, and I regret to have to say this, no great interest displayed by the majority of officials and players in tackling these problems. One encouraging factor in this generally pathetic picture is that 1964 did produce evidence that there is still considerable interest in the ball-game in this city, the games that were staged at Craven Park provided proof.

Presentation was the keynote of this series, and all clubs should take heed of this lesson. If we can't introduce new teams, and I think that with present equipment prices it is impossible for new clubs to emerge, then we should strive to consolidate our present league make-up. Clubs should pay great attention to presentation. It does not cost anything to pitch-off at the advertised time. Every rule should be enforced, if it is a practical one. If it is not practical, then discard it and replace it by a rule which is workable.

I think an important factor in our present position is the frequency with which rules have been waived because of the weakness of the clubs involved. I am sure that over the years the



Hull League has been severely harmed by this attitude. I would rather see a league of two clubs, which adhered to the rules, than one of a dozen clubs, ten of which had the attitude of "Enforce that particular rule and we'll drop out". I am of the firm opinion that baseball is sufficiently attractive for a league to be able to say to any club or individual, "Toe the line, or we will suspend you". Baseball progress depends upon the governing bodies realising that the game is greater than any club or individual.

I must emphasise that these are my own views, and in presenting the picture of baseball in Hull, it is right that I should point out those factors which have been responsible for stunting our growth. I could go much further into these matters, but I remember once being reported in the local press under the heading, "Hull Baseball Airs Its Dirty Washing." I agree that this report did the game no good, but if you have dirty washing what can you do with it?

I am still receiving correspondence taking me to task concerning my opinion that umpire-baiting is an integral part of our game. Now, I wish it to be clearly understood that I was referring to supporters voicing their opinions about an umpire, and not, I repeat, and not players. Any player making a disparaging remark should be disciplined. This statement may cause some National League players to smile, but I would accept any punishment handed-out to me for such an offence.

Hull Royals are again champions of the Hull League, with newly formed Kingston Aces as runners-up. Hull Braves had a season of mixed fortunes, during the first half they appeared to have a good chance of winning the championship for the first time, but it was not to be. Blackburns, although having another poor season for league points, improved their playing standard and often held opposing teams to a narrow margin of runs. Although they finished bottom of the league, I would rate them tops for appearance and presentation. Kingston Aces swept the trophy board, winning both the Yorkshire Cup and the British Legion Trophy. The Yorkshire Cup, although won by a different team, still rests on the same sideboard.

Kingston Aces new pitching star Keith Marshall was the winning pitcher against Hull Royals, while the losing pitcher was his father, Ron Marshall.

If the Hull League has not made any progress in 1964, it

is some consolation that we have lost no ground.

My connection with the National League prompts many people to ask me how the league is faring. Well, our second season has been one of consolidation, of revising our rules, of learning from our mistakes, but above all of attempting to maintain the spirit in which the league was launched. We have our problems, and we have had disagreements, as must any organisation unless it is completely stagnant. I am happy to say that up to the present we have been able to cope with our problems, and to resolve our disagreements. In the next issue of the "Courier" I shall give a more complete review of the National League's second season.

HULL LEAGUE  
Final Positions

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
Hull Royals	9	8	1	16
Kingston Aces	9	5	4	10
Hull Braves	9	5	4	10
Blackburn Buccaneers	9	0	9	0

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The VIIIth European Championship Tournament opened in Milan on 29th August, and finished on 6th September.

The Kennedy Sports Centre, scene of the championships, was officially opened with a short ceremony prior to the first game of the tournament, that between Italy and Sweden. The Centre was opened by the U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Frederick Reinhardt, who unveiled a plaque of the late President John F. Kennedy, also present were the Mayor of Milan and most members of the Committee of the European Baseball Federation. Some 2,000 spectators attended the opening game.

Game results follow.

29th August. Italy 19 - Sweden 1. This, the opening game of the tournament was a pitiful exhibition of baseball, in which the weak Swedish team had to contend with a very strong Italian team. Sweden used four pitchers who gave up 20 bases on balls, the Swedish fielders meanwhile making 10 errors.

30th August. Spain 0 - The Netherlands 10. This was the first time that any country had played a perfect game in the history of the European Championships. The starting pitcher for The Netherlands was Rob Hoffmann who pitched the first four innings, striking-out 8 while conceding neither a hit nor a base on balls. Herman Beidschat pitched the next five innings of perfect ball, striking-out 4.

31st August. France 0 - Italy 18. This game was curtailed under the tournament rules to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  innings. In six innings two French pitchers gave up 12 hits, 10 bases on balls: the French fielders making 10 errors.

1st September. Spain 16 - France 6.

2nd September. The Netherlands 19 - Sweden 4.

3rd September. Sweden 5 - France 0. This was the first win ever recorded by Sweden in the European Championships, Sweden was competing in its second tournament, the previous entry being at Amsterdam in 1962. This was a well deserved win for Sweden as they were better in all aspects of play than France.

3rd September. Italy 13 - Spain 1.

4th September. France 0 - The Netherlands 30. This was yet another deplorable game. In the first inning a procession of 29 Dutch batters went to the plate, The Netherlands scoring 24 in this frame. France allowed 22 hits in six innings, and made 16 errors. The Netherlands permitted 1 hit, and committed 1 error.

6th September. The Netherlands 3 - Italy 1.

6th September. Sweden 6 - Spain 9.

The Netherlands won the European Championship for the sixth consecutive time.

The Italian organisation awarded six individual prizes. Boudewijn Maat won two awards, namely Best Hitter (.727), and also MVP. Best Pitcher, Rob Hoffmann. Best Manager, Archie Allen. Best Catcher, Wim Crowel. Thus these five awards went to The Netherlands. The sixth award, that for Best Umpire went to Frank Fernandez, of the U.S.A.F.

Concern has been expressed at the method of organising

the European Championship Tournaments, the problem is created by the wish to include any European country which is prepared to pay its way in competing in these tournaments, combined with the tremendous disparity in the playing standards of the various countries. At present The Netherlands and Italy are much too powerful for any of the other competitors.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Final Standings

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
SENIOR DIVISION				
Ford Sports	8	6	2	12
Thames Board Mills	8	5	3	10
Middlesex Athletics	8	3	5	6
Richmond Knights	8	3	5	6
U.S. Navy	8	3	5	6
DIVISION ONE				
Northern Section				
Enfield Dodgers	10	10	0	20
Essex Tigers	10	8	2	16
Southend Aces	10	5	5	10
Venturers Boys Club	10	5	5	10
Harlow Hustlers	10	1	9	2
Middlesex Athletics II	10	1	9	2
Southern Section				
Beckenham Bluejays	8	8	0	16
Crawley Giants	8	6	2	12
Sutton Pearly Kings	8	4	4	8
Crawley Beavers	8	2	6	4
Brighton Jets	8	0	8	0

Enfield Dodgers and Beckenham Bluejays met in a best of three play-off series to decide which team was to gain promotion to the Senior Division. Bluejays took this series 2 games to nil.

Bluejays also won the Intermediate Cup, meeting Crawley Giants in the final which was played at Crawley, score Bluejays 14 - Crawley Giants 6.

Thames Board Mills won the Southern Cup defeating Ford

Sports in the final 6 - 3. These clubs also clashed in the final of the Essex Cup which was won by Ford Sports 20-5.

The Southern League opened its season with three new teams in membership, Sutton Pearly Kings, Venturers Boys Club, and Middlesex Athletics II. Sutton and Venturers had satisfactory initial seasons in the league, each finishing in third place in its respective section. Venturers proceeded as far as the semi-final in the Southern Cup competition.

Unfortunately the league was weakened by the folding-up in mid-July of Richmond Red Sox. Red Sox were considered prior to the commencement of the season to have had a fair chance of winning the championship of the Senior Division. Under a special ruling made by the league executive two former Red Sox players joined other clubs late in the season, and it is to be hoped that some of the excellent players who were with Red Sox will join other clubs for the 1965 season.

Enquiries have been made regarding the possibility of a Mormon team competing against members of the Southern League next season, the team in question has about eight players with AA or AAA experience. An overseas team consisting in the main of Australians may also be playing in the Southern area in 1965.

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#### THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION.

The steering committee charged with the organisation of a national association for British baseball met at Nottingham on Sunday, 4th October. Those present were Messrs. D. Price and P. Hemmings (Merseyside League), H. McAvan and K. Clappison (Hull and Yorkshire Association), P.S. Ash (S.B.A.), D. Akers (National League), and W.T. Morgan (Independent).

With D. Akers in the chair, the meeting was mainly concerned with discussion of the proposed constitution and rules of the proposed association. A draft constitution and set of rules had been circulated by P.S. Ash.

Fairly extensive amendments to the draft were made as a result of the discussion. Another amendment which resulted from the meeting was the substitution of the title British Baseball Association for the title proposed at our earlier meeting which was Baseball Association of Great Britain.

It was agreed that the inaugural meeting of the B.B.A. should be held at Nottingham on Sunday, 15th November.