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BASEBALL NATIONAL FINALS

Baseball's Best Action!

Brighton - Aug 25/26 Bank Holiday Weekend

Pavilion Field @ Brighton Rugby Club, Waterhall Valley

- Rawlings National League Final 4 Championship (both days)
- Major League Baseball Roadshow (both days)
- Youth All-Star Game (Sat)
- Youth Tournament (both days)
- Open Kids Baseball Fun Session
- BBQ, refreshments, baseball merchandise



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Schedule of Events

Saturday 25th August 2001

Time	Action	Location
9:30am	Cup Game Northern All-Stars v Croydon Pirates	Diamond 1
12:00pm	Semi-final game 1 London Warriors v Brighton Buccaneers	Diamond 1
3:30pm	Semi-final game 2 Windsor Bears v Preston Jazz	Diamond 1

Other Events on Saturday:

All Day	Roadshow	
All Day	Youth Games	Diamonds 2 + 3

Sunday 26th August 2001

Time	Action	Location
10:00am	Pony All-Star Game (7 innings) North v South	Diamond 1
12:00pm	3 rd / 4 th Playoff game 1	Diamond 1
3:30pm	Final	Diamond 1

Other Events on Sunday:

All Day	Roadshow	
All Day	Youth Games	Diamonds 2 + 3
3:00pm	Baseball/Softball/UK National Raffle Draw	Diamond 1

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2001 British Baseball National Championships – the Final 4.

This four-team format for determining the top team in British Baseball has grown in popularity since it was introduced in 1999. But this year, the Final 4 has acquired added significance in light of the new Rawlings National League that was introduced in 2001, and the subsequent reorganisation of other divisions throughout the British game.

The National League, which began this year with six teams based in the south of England, is very much a work in progress, and is likely to be expanded next year to take in teams from the north. In anticipation of that expansion, the playoffs leading up to the Final 4 this year were structured to make it possible for two teams from the Northern Premier Division to reach the Final 4 at the expense of National League teams -- and one of them (the Preston Jazz) did so.

The main reason for the introduction of the National League was to increase the standard of play at the top of the British game, by concentrating the best players on a smaller number of teams that would be more competitive with each other. In addition to raising the standard domestically, the National League should in time produce better players – especially home-based players – for the Great Britain team, enabling us to make that long-threatened breakthrough into the top echelons of the European game, with the ultimate rewards of World Championship and/or Olympic qualification.

If play in the National League this year is anything to go by, some of the objectives are already being achieved – particularly more competition at the top. Last year, London Warriors and Brighton Buccaneers, the two top teams in the Premier Division South, lost only one game each the whole season – to each other. This year, in the National League, London lost six games and Brighton seven, and even the fifth-place National League team, Bracknell & Richmond Wildfire, won nine games. This suggests more and better competition, and as the National League becomes genuinely national in scope, standards should increase throughout the game.

So sit back and enjoy what should be four great games and all the colour and excitement of British Baseball climactic weekend. It should be a great show.

Bob Fromer
Chief Executive Officer
BaseballSoftballUK

National League

FINAL STANDINGS 2001	W	L	%
London Warriors	19	6	.760
Windsor Bears*	18	7	.720
Brighton Buccaneers	18	7	.720
Cambridge Monarchs	10	15	.400
Bracknell and Richmond Wildfire	9	16	.360
Croydon Pirates	1	24	.040

* Windsor finished in second place, due to head-to-head record against Brighton (see below).

Head-to-head Results of National League F4 Qualifiers

	Home		Visitors
13-May	Windsor Bears	1	13 Brighton Buccaneers
13-May	Windsor Bears	11	5 Brighton Buccaneers
03-Jun	Windsor Bears	2	18 London Warriors
03-Jun	Windsor Bears	7	5 London Warriors
11-Aug	Windsor Bears	0	5 Brighton Buccaneers
22-Apr	London Warriors	5	11 Windsor Bears
29-Apr	London Warriors	9	5 Brighton Buccaneers
24-Jun	London Warriors	9	3 Windsor Bears
24-Jun	London Warriors	14	11 Windsor Bears
27-May	Brighton Buccaneers	11	0 London Warriors
27-May	Brighton Buccaneers	5	7 London Warriors
17-Jun	Brighton Buccaneers	2	6 Windsor Bears
17-Jun	Brighton Buccaneers	3	9 Windsor Bears
01-Jul	Brighton Buccaneers	2	12 London Warriors
01-Jul	Brighton Buccaneers	8	1 London Warriors

London Warriors

The London Warriors Baseball Club was formed in 1980 and is still managed by its original founders. The club, which won the Rawlings National League this year, has been one of the dominant teams in British baseball for the past 22 years. The Warriors have been National Champions on numerous occasions, first in 1981 and most recently in 2000. In addition, the club has regularly provided players for the British National team. The club and the team look forward to successfully defending their National title at the Final 4 in Brighton this season.

KEY PLAYERS

Alan Bloomfield- Vastly experienced international player and probably the best second baseman England has ever produced. Alan has been involved in many National Championships in his career so will not be fazed by the occasion and can lead from the front both defensively and offensively.

Craig Perry- Experienced catcher who knows exactly how to call a game to make the most of his pitching staff. Over the years his power hitting has underpinned the Warriors offence, notably with his timely home run in last year's final.

Simon Pole- Simon has been a regular starting player for the Warriors since joining the team in 1999. He was the winning pitcher and MVP in last year's Final as well as being the Premier Division batting champion for the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

Alan Smith, London Warriors Player/Manager:

Against Brighton:

London and Brighton are very evenly matched. Overall, through the years, London has won more of the contests between the two but recently the two teams have been very close. The two teams are probably the most consistent teams around.'

Predictions for the Weekend:

All teams are very strong this year. Anyone can perform well on any given day; it will all depend on who performs the best this weekend. We have been there before and are a little more experienced than other teams so I think that will be an advantage for us. We are just hoping for decent weather and a chance to play some good ball.'

How they got here:

The London Warriors finished the Rawlings National League season in first place, a game ahead of the Windsor Bears and Brighton Buccaneers, to automatically qualify for a spot in the Final 4.

How it could all go wrong:

London overcame their big-game nerves last year to take the National title in a close game against Brighton. The second half of the 2001 season saw them regain their dominant form. However, will this continue through the games that count?

How they will win it:

London are one of the most experienced teams around. They are very hard to beat. Their line-up is stacked with great hitters and their pitching has only got stronger this year. Defensively, they're not flashy, just very good. They'll be a tough team to beat.

Roster of Players

PLAYERS	POSITION	#
Alan Bloomfield	2B/SS	4
Tim Kohls	1B/SS	18
Ian Lanario	P/OF	14
Maurizio Mosca	CF/P	22
Michael Osborn	3B/P	19
Rodolfo Perez	OF/1B	17
Craig Perry	C/1B	20
Simon Pole	SS/P	15
Ethan Roberts	OF/2B	7
Matt Scales	1B/P	13
Alan Smith	P/OF	8
Adam Swartz	OF/C	9
Brad Thompson	OF/C	6
Alan Smith	MANAGER	8

Brighton Buccaneers

The Brighton Buccaneers have a long history of success and were National Champions in 1999. Last year, they were Final 4 runners-up and are certainly hoping to go one step further this year. Facing Rawlings National League winners, London Warriors, they have a tough semi-final game. During the regular season there was little to separate the top three teams and Brighton will be fielding a team strengthened by a few last minute signings. You have to fancy Brighton's chances with a line-up which includes a number of international stars.

Club development was enhanced by a facility development programme which was completed in May 1996, leaving the Buccaneers with the best baseball facility in Britain.

How they got here:

Brighton Buccaneers finished National Champions in 1999 and were runners up in last year's Final Four. This year, they finished in third place in regular season play, just one game behind the first place London Warriors and with the same record as second place Windsor Bears. They then beat Menwith Hill in the quarter finals, easily taking the first two games of a three game set.

How it could all go wrong:

Brighton, although very formidable, are playing a very tough London Warriors team in the Semi-Finals. If they take a couple of innings for their hitting machine to get into gear, then it could be too late. Brighton have been prone to making defensive errors in the early stages of important games.

How they will win it:

If the regular season is anything to go by, Brighton will be a formidable force in the Final 4 this year. For the first time this year, they will be fielding their complete team, including a number of late signings. They are a very strong team, with excellent offence and good pitching. With all the elements working together, they will be very tough to beat.

Craig Savage, Brighton Buccaneers Head Coach:

Against London:

We have to look at one game at a time. Anything can happen between any of the teams in the tournament. It's a case of who performs better. It should be good competition either way. Each team reached this point on its own merits and deserves to be here for a number of reasons.'

Predictions for the Weekend:

Brighton played Preston last year in the semi-finals and it should be a competitive game against them. We would rather play Windsor because of the history and competitive nature that has developed between the two teams. Either way it will be a good weekend.'

Key Players:

- ♦ Oscar Lopez, Shortstop, San Diego St. University
- ♦ Nick Carter, Pitcher, Great Britain
- ♦ Martyn Dunton, Centre Fielder, Great Britain

Roster of Players

John Carter	JJ Vannier
Mike Heintz	Clayton Fredericks
George Lintern	Rene Herlitzus
Kevin August	Harvey Taylor
Gary Bruce	Bob Radcliffe
Joe Yarnold	Oscar Lopez
Dave Budd	Jim Clarke
Chris Stuart-Brown	Ben Gogan
Geyv Kathoke	Ben Moore
Takashi Matsumoto	Steve Watts
David Farr	Steve Cull
Dan Gomme	Dave Thompson
Louis Chestney	William Lintern
Dave Donaldson	Sato Wakashima
Adam Harbinson	Martyn Dutton
Martin Stabe	Ed Jeffrey
Nick Carter	Marco Vettese
Alex Malihoudis	Tony Bonding
Jeremy Brown	Ryan Stewart
Craig Savage	Chad Main
Alistair Clemett	Maurice Mirosolin
Kevin Gogan	Darren Heather
Mark Mills	Stuart Cull
	Ben Godfrey

Pony All-Star Team North

Tony Child - Team Manager, Bradford Crusaders/
Hessle
John Mills - Head Coach, Halton Polecats
Tony Warwick - Coach, Preston Mariners
Wade McKinney - Coach, Menwith Hill
Russell Plummer - Coach/Scorer, Leeds Lugnuts

Players

- 1 Steven Child - Bradford Crusaders/Hessle
- 2 Kyl Englestone - Hessle
- 3 Dan Copeland - Hessle
- 4 Nicky Plummer - Leeds Lugnuts/Hessle
- 5 Mark Brick - Halton Polecats
- 6 Matt Thompson - Halton Polecats
- 7 Chris McKinney - Menwith Hill
- 8 Bobby Benitez - Menwith Hill
- 9 Luke Albro - Menwith Hill
- 10 David Carson - Menwith Hill
- 11 Thomas Warwick - Preston Mariners
- 12 Liam Dickinson - Preston Mariners
- 13 Seb O'Dell - Birmingham Razorbacks
- 14 Peter Burgess - Birmingham Razorbacks
- 15 Ben Parker - Hull Cobras
- 16 Chelsea Hermes - Hull Cobras
- 17 William Fusi Rubiano - Manchester
- 18 Karim Ariane - Manchester

Reserves

Garner Cottle - Menwith Hill
Nick McCain - Menwith Hill
Nathan Weale - Birmingham Razorbacks

Pony All-Star Team South

John Still - Coach, Burgess Hill
Paul Matthews - Coach, Bracknell

Players

- 1 Ben Locoqu - Tonbridge
- 2 Ewan Martin - Tonbridge
- 3 George Lintern - Tonbridge
- 4 Michael Johnson - Burgess Hill
- 5 Chris Fenwick - Burgess Hill
- 6 J.J Vaneir - Burgess Hill
- 7 Richard Chesterton - Essex
- 8 Simon Didcock - Essex
- 9 Andrew Clark - Essex
- 10 Ryan Trask - Bracknell
- 11 Phillip Matthews - Bracknell
- 12 Matt Hooker - Windsor
- 13 Stephen Brown - Windsor
- 14 David House - Windsor
- 15 Martin Albazi - Windsor
- 16 Chris Suarez - Bournemouth
- 17 Barry Edmondson - Bournemouth
- 18 Wayne Dewey - Bournemouth

Preston Jazz

Preston Baseball Club was formed in the 1980's by Frank Caunce, who ran the youth and senior teams for over 10 years. Until he passed away a few years ago. His two loves were baseball and jazz music and as a sign of respect, the name of the senior team was changed to the Preston Jazz with the letters 'FC' appearing on the arm of each jersey.

When Frank died, the club was taken over by Damian Mullen, who led the team to a Division One championship and promotion into the Premier Division North. It was under his leadership that the team first qualified for the Final 4 in the 2000 season.

The 2001 season saw a slight change in roles. The team was run by a collection of players, with Phil Cocks taking on the role of Coach. The collective system of running the team has worked, with Preston winning the Northern Premier Division for the first time, putting an end to the Menwith Hill era.

For the last three years, Preston's roster has been enhanced by US college players who are employed by the club to work in local schools. This year, three players joined the roster. Having the presence of these Player-Coaches has really brought on the other younger players in the team - it has proven a great success and one that we intend to repeat' - John Lee, Preston's acting manager.

Preston is a young team and have played some great baseball, improving week by week. They will be an unknown quantity to their opponents; opponents who have played each other five times this season, but have yet to face the Northern Champions.

We go into the Final 4 under no illusions that this will be a totally different standard of baseball than we have been used to all year and we just want to enjoy ourselves in the hope that we do ourselves justice. We felt that in 2000, the occasion got the better of us and would like to think that we arrive this year a little wiser and stronger as a team.' - John Lee.

Preston are, however, a different team from last year. They have made the adjustment to wood bats very quickly without hurting their offense and have excellent pitching and a good defense behind them. The Northern Champions will not simply roll over. They are the dark horse of the tournament, unknown by the other teams.

Top 3 Pitchers:

Jim Joly
Jason Skaug
Martin Godsall

Top 3 hitters:

Jim Jolly
Jason Skaug
Dennis Grogan

Top 3 fielders:

Phil Cocks
Jim Joly
Jason Skaug

John Lee:

Against Windsor:

It's hoping it'll be a close game. We are an unknown quantity and look forward to playing against the team that finished second in the Rawlings National League. We're a better team than last year. Having lost our first game of the season, we've since improved each game. We played Windsor in the playoffs last year, but we're two different teams this year. We travel down to Brighton with no pressure, because we can only do better than we did last year.'

Predictions for the Weekend:

Most people will see the Brighton v London game as a final in itself. So it's pretty hopeful if we can play as we have most of the season that we've got a really good chance against Windsor and over nine innings of baseball anything can happen.'

How they got here:

Preston finished the regular season in first place of the Premier Division North, with a record of 18-1. They eased through the quarter finals against the Bracknell & Richmond Wildfire.

How it could all go wrong:

Pitching, hitting and defence. Preston is a team with a lot of depth, but if their heads go down, they may not be able to claw the game back. Their offence was on fire through the quarter finals, but they need to continue to hit to win games. They've got nothing to lose, but they still feel the big game

How they could win it all:

Pitching, hitting and defence. If all are working together, then Preston will be a tough team to beat. Unknown by Windsor, London and Brighton, they have an advantage. With a line-up full of good hitters, they could outscore the other teams.

Roster of Players

Barry Agnew
Ian Blease
Joseph Cerosimo
Phil Cocks
Dave Cocks
Don Cunningham
Robert Denham
Dennis Grogan
Jim Jolly
John Lee
Alex McDonald
Damian Mullen
Robert Pimlott

Andrew Richards
Adam Schakel
Jason Skaug
John Spodofora
Tony Warwick
Roger Newman
John Baron
Brandon Florence
Sam Spodofora
Dimtcho Dimov
Martin Godsall
Chris Matthews

Windsor Bears

Formed in 1990 as a youth team, the Windsor Bears soon became a youth league, with three different age groups – Rookie, Bronco and Pony. In 1996, the All-Star Pony team from Windsor made it through to the National Semi-Finals. The following year, most of the players on the All-Star team were too old for Pony play and the idea of running an adult team came about. John Boyd, the President of Windsor Baseball at the time, decided to stop playing in the Premier Division for Hou-nslow to run the new team, which entered Division Two in 1997. Following two winning seasons, the Windsor Bears found themselves in the Premier Division for the start of the 1999 season. After a dismal first half, the Bears suddenly got hot and found themselves in the Final 4, playing the National Champions, the Menwith Hill Patriots, who they managed to beat 17-2 to make it to the National Final.

Last year, Windsor had a promising season, but fell just short of the Final 4, losing to Preston in the quarter finals in two thrilling extra-inning games.

Windsor took a huge step forward in 2001. Not only were they competing with the big guns of the south, the London Warriors and Brighton Buccaneers, but they were actually doing rather well. They held first place as late as August 5 and spent the first half of the season firmly in the lead. Windsor finished the season in second place, one game behind London and automatically qualified for the Final Four.

Windsor are under no illusions. We had a very good season – which is very encouraging. There's still a lot of baseball to be played and the veterans of this tournament – London and Brighton – are going to be tough to beat. We had a great series against Preston last year and really enjoy playing them. We are all looking forward to playing them again.' - John Boyd, General Manager, Windsor Bears.

Top 3 Pitchers:

Larry House
Rhian Truscott
Stuart Adam

Top 3 hitters:

Rhian Truscott
Stuart Adam
Chris Lange

Top 3 fielders:

Clint Waldorf
Ray Aponte
Chris Lange

John Boyd, General Manager, Windsor Bears

Against Preston:

If last year's playoff series is anything to go by, this will be a very close game. I'm impressed by their pitching and hitting in particular. They came through the playoffs with incredible ease. If they had played in the Rawlings National League this year, I'm sure they would have done very well. They're Northern Champions and have earned a lot of respect in the last couple of years.'

Predictions for the Weekend:

Predicting the outcome of the weekend will be really difficult. Brighton and London are very strong and Windsor and Preston will have the depth and determination to do some damage over two nine inning games. Whoever wins this year will have earned the National Champions title.'

How they got here:

Windsor finished the regular season in second place in the Rawlings National League, one game behind London. They automatically qualified for the Final 4, by means of a head-to-head record against Brighton, who finished with the same overall won-lost record.

How it could all go wrong:

Windsor are hurting. Missing five of their regular-season starters, the depth of the club will be put to the test. If their heads go down, it could all be over before they look up.

How they could win it all:

Windsor are a very strong ball club, with a considerable amount of depth. They can hit with power and consistency. Their pitching staff is deep and has shut down the best regularly this season. They know how to play the game and can execute plays with the best of them.

Roster of Players

Stuart Adam	Kevin Hughes
Roberto Adamo	Chris Lange
Martin Albazi	John Lehmann
Ray Aponte	Scott Lieberman
Malcolm Barwick	James Lowe
Callum Barwick	Patrick Matias
Nathan Bashaw	John McIn
Jacob Bashaw	Baz Nissan
Andruw Berglund	Kent Okabe
Bo Berglund	Brent Owens
Grant Bergman	Tom Patton
Oliver Blower	Rob Pene
John Boyd	Rob Rogers
Rick Burke	Allan Seelinger
Tony Camacho	Larry Selleck
Mike Cattermole	Carl Sherwin
Brandon Deal	Andrew Sherwin
Guy Douglas	Jamie Slater
Oliver Everett	Dale Smerglia Jr
Kevin Fisher	Dale Smerglia Snr
Ted Gebauer	Rhian Truscott
Matt Hooker	Clinton Waldorf
Ray Hooker	Ryan White
Larry House	Pat Wickham
David House	Ian Young

Officials

Scorers

Brian Holland— Scoring Commissioner and London Warriors
Danielle Adam— Windsor Bears

Umpires

Sat 25 August 2001

Cup Game, Northern All-Stars v Croydon Pirates
HP=Cliff Booth, Bases=Ed Edsall (2-man crew)

London Warriors v Brighton Buccaneers
HP=Ed Edsall, 1B=Mike Morse, 2B=BJ DeLorenzo, 3B=Jacob Plieth

Windsor Bears v Preston Jazz
HP=Morse, 1B=DeLorenzo, 2B=Plieth, 3B=Booth

Sun 26 August 2001

Pony All Star Game
HP=Morse, Bases=Plieth (2-man crew)

3/4 Play-off
HP=DeLorenzo, 1B=Morse, 2B=Edsall, 3B=Booth

Final
HP=Plieth, 1B=Edsall, 2B=Booth, 3B=DeLorenzo

Thanks go to the following for making the Final 4 Tournament possible:

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Play Ball! World Series Shows the Future is Bright for British Baseball



This year's *MLB Play Ball! World Series* once again served to illustrate the great shape that youth baseball and softball finds itself in Britain today thanks to the support of *Major League Baseball* and *BaseballSoftballUK's* comprehensive development programmes. Over 500 girls and boys from all across the country descended upon West London on Saturday, July 14th to take part in this annual extravaganza of youth baseball. Fifteen "All-Star" teams competed in real *Major League Baseball* uniforms representing their local *Play Ball! Leagues*. The *Play Ball!* programme is aimed at providing a region with everything required to operate a 4 team youth league including equipment, apparel and the makings of a playing and administrative infrastructure. Over the past 3 years, *Play Ball!* has generated over 5,000 new 9-12 year old baseball and softball players. The *Play Ball! World Series* serves as an annual finale for the Leagues, which operate throughout the summer term. In this year's hotly contested tournament it was Hull, Windsor and Exeter who ultimately prevailed in their respective divisions, but each and every one of the participants competed with a wonderful attitude giving a clear indication of the shape of things to come for British baseball and softball.



AA Champions, Windsor, competing as The Cleveland Indians

Hessle Duo Crowned Pitch, Hit & Run Champions



Craig Butterworth collects his Trophy

As well as the *Play Ball! World Series*, the Finals of *Major League Baseball's* schools programme, *Pitch, Hit & Run*, also took place on 14 July. Fifty finalists from schools nationwide demonstrated their skills in pitching, hitting and baserunning with worthy winners, *Estelle Laskley* and *Craig Butterworth*, coming from Hessle - both took home brand new computers as a reward for their achievements.

MLB Roadshow a Fun Introduction to Baseball

Also on hand to provide some extra fun at the *Play Ball! World Series* was the *MLB Roadshow*. The *MLB Roadshow* provides kids with an opportunity to try out baseball in purpose built batting cage and pitching tunnels. Staffed by a team of first class *MLB* coaches, the *MLB Roadshow* has been busy touring British schools this year in an effort to give kids a quality introduction to the game.



MLB Roadshow Coaches get the kids the warmed up with the "Glove Dance"

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