

### BRIGHTON'S HISTORY

Established in 1963, the Brighton Buccaneers have emerged as a consistent frontrunner in British baseball. The Bucs are the reigning national champions and, during the past three years, have captured two Final 4 National Championship titles, a regular season crown and a Final 4 runners-up trophy. Club development was enhanced by a facility development programme, which was completed in May 1996. The result: Pavilion Field, home to the national championship since 1998. This summer, Brighton became the first British team to send a former member to the Major Leagues in the USA: John Foster, who played for the Bucs in 1997, pitched for the Atlanta Braves this season.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Alex Malihoudis

Malihoudis has battled back from a debilitating knee injury in December 2000 to be one of the team's defensive anchors at shortstop and one of its top clutch hitters. A Tonbridge native, Malihoudis played collegiate baseball in the USA for Division III-level Menlo (California) College. He's also a key member of the Great Britain National Baseball Team.

#### Martyn Dutton

One of British baseball's hardest workers, Dutton has been among the country's best players for nearly a decade. A member of the national team since 1994, he is a very versatile performer. As a pitcher, he combined with John Carter early in the season to throw a no-hitter. He is also the team's top outfielder and has played first base for the GB National Team.

#### Nick Carter (Pictured)

Carter is one of British Baseball's best big-game pitchers. He got the starting call on the mound for both of Brighton's National Championship game victories. He is also a potent hitter for the Bucs. A GB international since 1996, Carter has experience playing in the USA, spending time at San Joaquin Delta (California) Junior College.

### BRIGHTON'S ROAD TO THE FINAL 4

Consistently this year, the Buccaneers won the games they had to. Brighton captured their season series against both the Bracknell Blazers and Windsor Bears and swept the Croydon Pirates in their five match ups. Boasting a deep and talented roster, the Bucs are no strangers to the big games having won the championship two of the last three seasons. Forget stage fright, as home field advantage should help their cause. Still, the team was unable to crack London so far this year, losing all five of their contests.

### CROYDON PIRATES

#### Exhibition Game

Beginning modestly in 1981 in the British Baseball Federation's third division (southern conference), the Pirates have sure come a long way. After struggling through their first season in the Rawlings National League last year, the team made huge strides this season. Thanks to the performances of such players as Steve Fullan and Rod Leibenberg, Croydon raised its win total from one to nine games this year. The clearest sign they've earned their keep in the Rawlings National League; they swept a doubleheader from the regular season champs, the London Warriors in July.

### LONDON'S HISTORY

Formed in 1980, the London Warriors are still managed by one of the team's founders Alan Smith. Over the past two decades, the Warriors have been very successful, winning five national titles and two consecutive Rawlings National League division titles. This year, the Warriors will be looking to regain the national title they earned in 2000. Last year's disappointing fourth place finish in the Final 4 Championship followed a loss to the eventual national champions, the Brighton Buccaneers, in the semi-finals. The Warriors completed a hard-fought effort to develop a permanent field, moving to the team's new home in Finsbury Park this season.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Matt Scales

London's ace pitcher has delivered dominating performances on the mound this year, including throwing a no-hitter against the Croydon Pirates. Scales has a solid baseball background, enjoying an excellent playing career at Rollins (Florida) College, a top Division II-level school in the USA. While at Rollins, he played against such future Major Leaguers as Charles Johnson and Alex Cora.

#### Simon Pole (Pictured)

Last year's Rawlings National League MVP, Pole has been London's top offensive threat for the past three years. This season has been no different as he's hit well over .400. On the mound, he can be equally effective. When the Warriors last won the Final 4 in 2000, he baffled Brighton hitters leading his team to victory. Before moving to Great Britain, Pole played for both the Newcastle Eagles and Adelaide Giants in the Australian Baseball League and Australia's Under-19s National Team.

#### Michael Osborn

Osborn, who is in his fifth season with the Warriors, came to the team primarily as a pitcher but has developed into one of the team's key hitters and defensive mainstays. This season, he took on the primary responsibility of catching - a move that hasn't affected his hitting. He has consistently hit over .300 for the season.

### LONDON'S ROAD TO THE FINAL 4

A well-rounded veteran team, London rolled through the regular season losing only one game all year to the other Final 4 participants. With a combination of two of the RNL's top pitchers - Pole and Scales - and solid hitting throughout the line-up, the Warriors are definitely the team to beat. Still, they have been known to falter as evidenced by losing both games of a doubleheader to the league's fifth-place team Croydon midway through the campaign. Also, the demons of last season's semi-final loss may still linger in some players' minds.

### BRACKNELL'S HISTORY

Established in 1992, the Bracknell Baseball Club was formed to give athletes of all ages the opportunity to enjoy the great game of baseball. The organisation has earned a reputation of developing emerging talent. Bracknell boasts many members who have represented Great Britain internationally including Luke Russell (GB Senior Team) and junior national players Phil Matthews and Ryan Trask. A recent focus for the organisation has been improving the club's facilities. This summer, Bracknell built a new backstop at their home field. The Blazers will be making the team's first appearance in the Final 4 National Championship this year.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Tom Gillespie

Gillespie, a left-handed pitcher, has emerged as one of the Rawlings National League's top hurlers. A veteran player, who had a successful career at Macalester (Minnesota) College in the USA, he is also the pitching coach for the Junior National Team. On the mound, Gillespie is one of the league leaders in strikeouts.

#### Josh Chetwynd (Pictured)

A Great Britain International catcher, Chetwynd is among Bracknell's most experienced members, previously playing for Northwestern (Illinois) University, a Division I school in the USA and the Zanesville Greys, a minor league team in the Frontier League. In his first Rawlings National League season, he's been among the top hitters in the league.

#### Ryan Trask

Trask, a member of the Great Britain Junior National Team, may only be 17-years-old, but he has shown maturity beyond his years during his second season in the Rawlings National League. Offensively, he's been a key component at the top of the lineup and has played solid defence at a number of positions including outfield, second base and catcher.

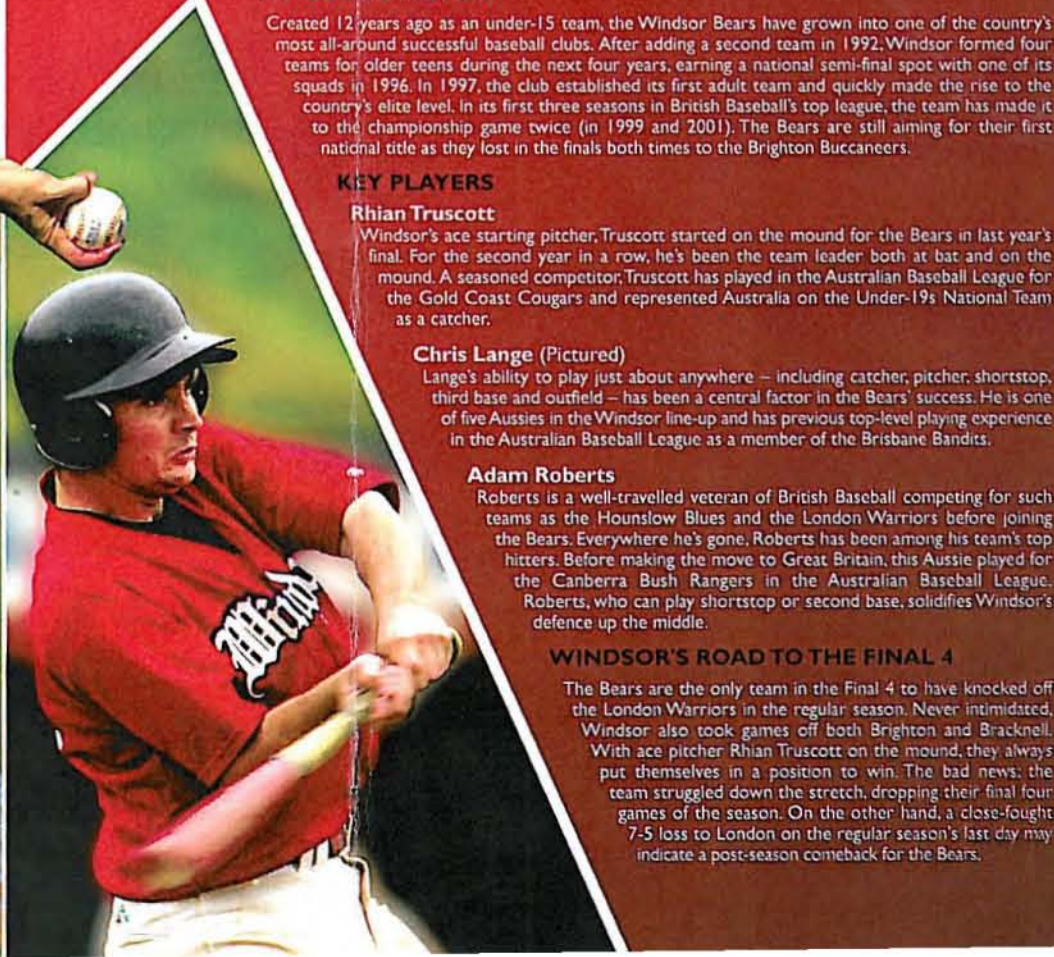
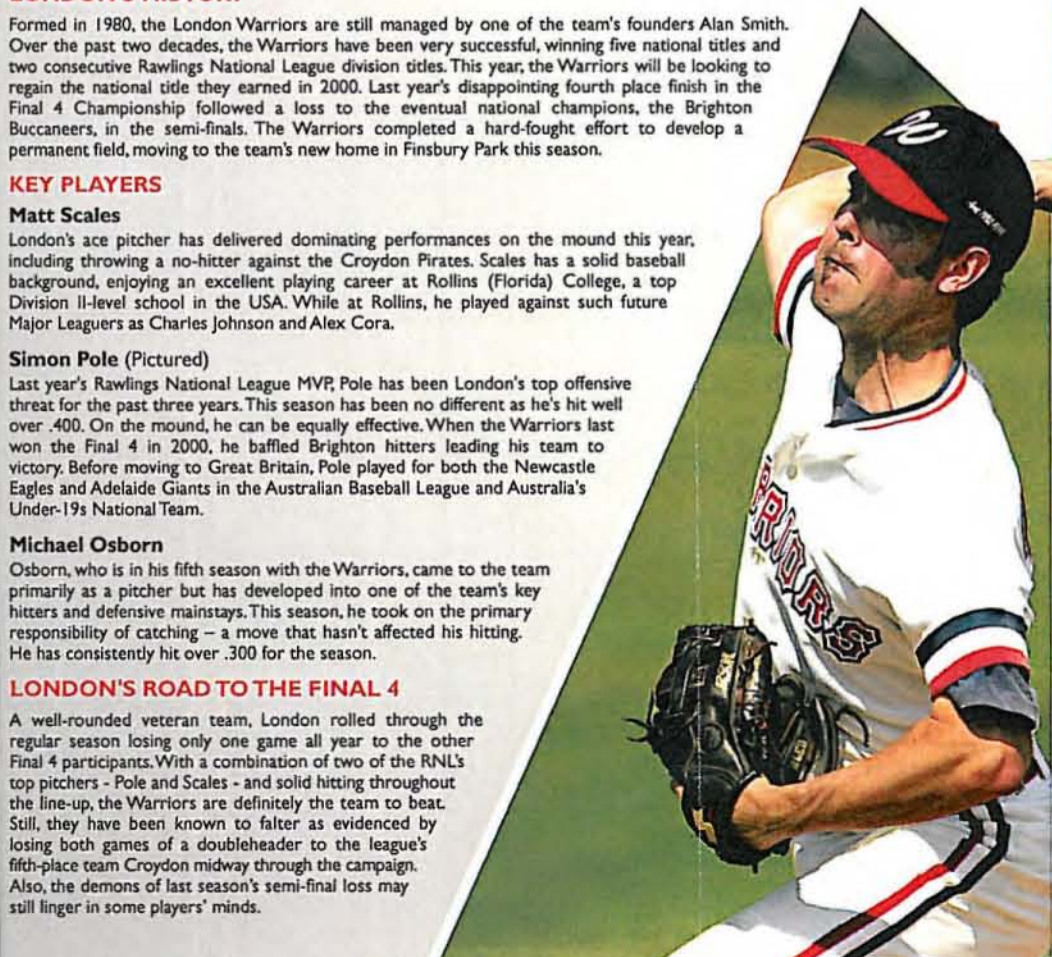
### BRACKNELL'S ROAD TO THE FINAL 4

Going into the Final 4, Bracknell probably couldn't be hotter. They won six of their final seven games, including taking two of three against the Buccaneers at Brighton on the final weekend of the regular season. The Blazers have the ability to put up big scores. Three times this year they tallied more than 20 runs in a game. But the squad is young, starting as many as five teenagers. It has showed at times, dropping a doubleheader to London early in the season seemingly due to youthful mistakes.

### GB JUNIOR SQUAD

#### Exhibition Game

The Great Britain Junior National Team (ages 16-18) had a busy summer. In preparing for the European B-pool Junior Championships in July, the squad played a packed schedule, taking on Rawlings National League teams like the London Warriors and Croydon Pirates. The team also competed in the London Tournament, defeating Ireland's National Team, among others, en route to an impressive 6-2 record. Unfortunately, the team didn't qualify for promotion to Europe's A-pool at the Euros, but they did beat Sweden - a team that did qualify. Many of the GB Juniors play in the Rawlings National League, including Will Lintern (Brighton) and Stephen Brown, Phil Matthews, Seb O'Dell and Ryan Trask (Bracknell).



BRIGHTON  
BUCCANEERS

BRACKNELL  
BLAZERS

LONDON  
WARRIORS

WINDSOR  
BEARS

