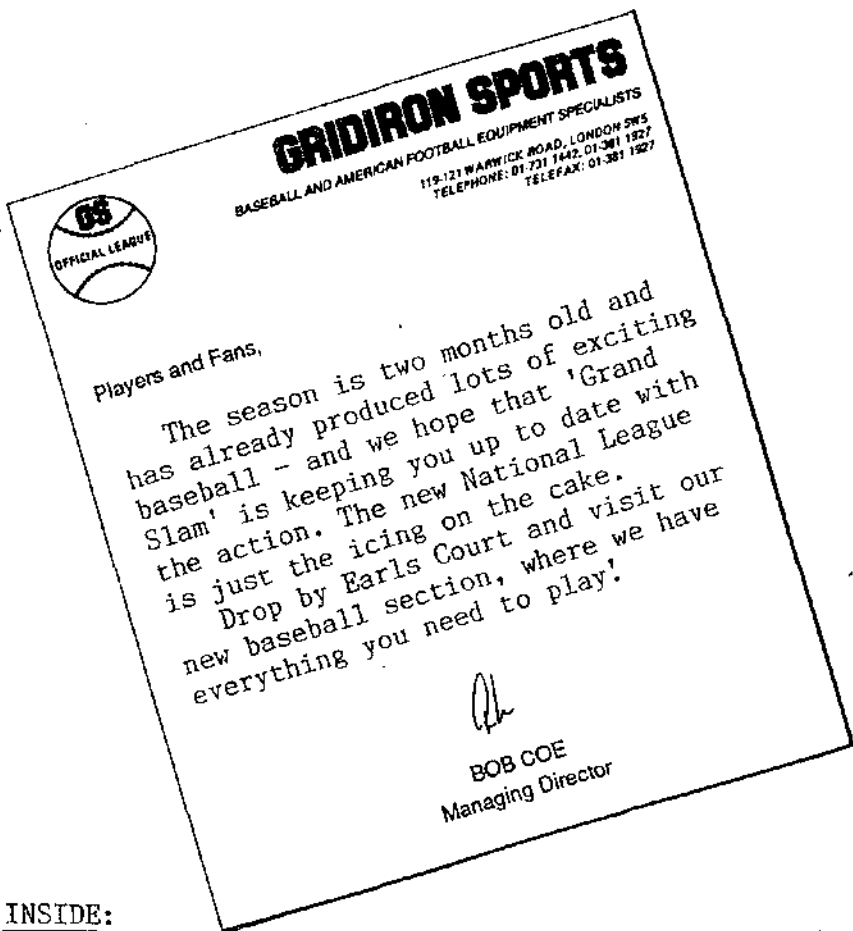



* * * NUMBER 4 - June 26, 1987 * * *

GRAND SLAM

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION - SOUTH




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OFFICIAL LEAGUE

Players and Fans,

The season is two months old and has already produced lots of exciting baseball - and we hope that 'Grand Slam' is keeping you up to date with the action. The new National League is just the icing on the cake. Drop by Earls Court and visit our new baseball section, where we have everything you need to play!


BOB COE
Managing Director

INSIDE:

Results, BBFS Standings up to date.

Game Reports, Team Spotlight.

Book Reviews & Two wacky Major League Poets!

30p

USA



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01 221 6013.

Paul Raybould of the Waltham Abbey Arrows has joined the 'team' as game report editor - please send all reports to him from now on. Paul suggests;

(1) That players names be written in full when batting orders are exchanged, so that writers know everybody's christian name;

(2) That team scorers record all details of the game (esp. runs, hits and errors) for both sides;

(3) That reports be written on Sunday evening and posted to him on Monday - even if you can't do that, the important thing is to get it off to Paul a.s.a.p.

(4) Make sure you include the other team in the report, even if the game was one-sided, and don't slag them off.

All players are reminded of section 5.17 of our constitution; "Batting helmets must be worn by batters at home plate."....If you need an excuse for a holiday in Barcelona, the European Championships for Seniors (A Pool) takes place there between July 17 & 26th, featuring HOLLAND, ITALY and FRANCE, amongst others... ..If you live in the Woolwich/Bexley/Greenwich area, you can hear reports on the National League on Radio Thamesmead (Rediffusion Channel L on cable, or 199 metres Medium Wave) on their Saturday afternoon sports programme, 2-6pm....The INNERVISIONS Hemel Red Sox are the only unbeaten team in the league, with a 7-0 record - they may have a flaw, though; in their top-of-the-table clash with Basildon on 14th June, they kept their pitcher in even after he walked away 4 of a 6 run lead in the sixth inning....The Accent on Sport instructional camp at Rosehill Park (see enclosed flier) will be a useful way to improve your skills - and if there is a good response we may get more camps like this with American coaches, so take advantage and enrol.. ..The recent outbreak of good defense in Div.1 has led to a fall from 21.5 runs per game over the first 4 weekends of the year to 14 over the last four....

Muir MacKean.

book review

'THE COMPLETE BASEBALL HANDBOOK' by Walter Alston. 530pp. £39.95

'THE ELIAS BASEBALL ANALYST' £11.95

'BILL JAMES BASEBALL ABSTRACT' £8.95

'THE BASEBALL ENCYCLOPAEDIA' (Ed. Joseph Reichler) 2733pp. £34.95

There are, of course, hundreds of coaching manuals on baseball, but none so detailed or meticulous, so deeply knowledgeable, as Walter Alston's 'The Complete Baseball Handbook'. There are probably none so expensive either, but an investment in this book will mean that you won't ever need another. Twenty three years a manager of the Brooklyn and LA Dodgers, Alston's pedigree is sound and his style clear and easy to read. He may be a little out of date with current baseball fashions, but the very fact that the book is still in print after so many years says something in itself.

Under the heading 'non-fiction' comes the welter of books on the politics, sociology and aesthetics of baseball, those deploring the perceived changes in the game, those praising them, and those seeking merely to explain them. Then there are statistics. Baseball, more than any other sport, revels in statistics. There are thousands of different categories and combinations - new ones are invented every year. A minor industry makes a full time living out of collecting, analysing and publishing baseball statistics. The most notable annuals are the Elias Baseball Analyst, which delves a little deeper than usual into the standard stats and devotes a page to each regular major leaguer, and the highly alternative Bill James Baseball Abstract, in which James invents complex formulae in an often controversial attempt to get at what really reflects a player's utility in a given situation. Both books are good reference material and, with James at least, very wittily written. But the bible, the Wisden of baseball, is Macmillan's 'Baseball Encyclopaedia'. This is nearly three thousand pages of basic data, year-by-year and career stats for every player who ever played in the majors, plus record holders and details of every World Series. Again not cheap, but, like Wisden, it can be browsed endlessly.

Don Ferguson.

3.

- GAME REPORTS -

CROYDON BLUEJAYS 5 COBHAM YANKEES 13 Rose Hill Park, June 7.

Having trailed 4-2 after three innings, the Cobham Yankees fought back with courage and tenacity to beat the Bluejays and stay in the First Division race. The Yankees gave up two runs in the first inning, but had pulled it back to 4-4 after fourinnings. Cobham then broke the match open in the fifth inning, with the big blow being catcher Brad Thompson's bases loaded double. Thompson also hit a triple later in the game, as did second baseman Gene Hickman. Alan Smith and David Jensen also got two hits each. Newcomer Wes Jones was Cobham's starting pitcher, and he went the distance, scattering eight hits and striking out three, while walking two. The Cobham defence made a total of six errors, an unusually high number.

	R	H	E
YANKEES	101	241	400
BLUEJAYS	211	000	001

ENFIELD SPARTANS 17 GILLINGHAM DODGERS 1 Enfield Playing Fields, June 7.

The Spartans maintained their position at the top of the First Division with an easy victory over Gillingham in seven innings. Iain Lanario started the game for Enfield, and was relieved by Oscar Marcellino after 5 innings. Both hurlers were also in good form at the plate, collecting 3 and 4 hits respectively. Marcellino also increased his streak of innings pitched without allowing an earned run to 22. Shortstop Rob Lanario also had a fine day at the plate, going four for four. The Spartans played some strong defense which included a difficult 1-2-3 twin killing, and catcher Gary Bedingfield threw out two basestealers. The Gillingham defense was highlighted by an excellent catch by right fielder P.Kennedy, who managed to hold on to a tremendous drive by Spartan first baseman Si Lanario.

	R	H	E
DODGERS	010	000	0
SPARTANS	421	325	x

GOLDERS GREEN SOX 8 SUTTON BRAVES 13 Rosehill Park, June 7.

The Braves took an early 5-2 lead into the bottom of the fourth inning, when the Green Sox's Kevin Murphy got the hit of the day, a home run over the centre-field fence which sparked the Sox comeback. Sox starter Ralph Puspendorf left reliever Smith with a 6-5 lead after five, but the Braves' bats started working, and three runs in each of the sixth and seventh put them out of reach. Alan Bloomfield and Rick D'Alesandro both went three for five, with four doubles between them, D'Alesandro driving in 5 runs. Reliever Andy 'Goose' Evans then shut the Green Sox down effectively over the final three innings to preserve the win.

	R	H	E
BRAVES	014	003	302
GREEN SOX	101	311	001

WALTHAM ABBEY ARROWS 11 CROYDON BOROUGH PIRATES 4 Town Mead, June 7.

The Arrows came back after their one run defeat at Oxshott to sink the Pirates in a tough, almost error-free match. Arrows starter Paul Raybould held the Pirates scoreless through five, giving up only two hits, but tired in the sixth when the Pirates rallied with three runs, and was relieved by Jay Hindle. The Arrows scored seven off Pirates starter Nick Black, who pitched stubbornly and well. Dave Ward took over after five innings. Dave Shaer of the Arrows went 4 for 4 with 4 RBI's, and the pirates' Simon Price was 3 for 4 with 2 RBI's. In the field, Mike Addley hauled in 8 catches in centrefield for Croydon, and Arrows rightfielder Dave Shaer combined with first baseman Phil Chesterton for a double play in the second.

	R	H	E
PIRATES	000	003	010
ARROWS	210	130	22x

STANDINGS

FIRST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Enfield	7	1	.875	-
Sutton	6	2	.750	1
Cobham	5	3	.625	2
Croydon	4	3	.571	2½
Barnes	3	4	.429	3½
Crawley	2	5	.286	4½
Golders Gn	2	5	.286	4½
Gillingham	1	7	.125	6

SECOND DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oxshott	6	1	.857	-
Waltham Arrows	5	1	.835	½
Southampton	4	2	.666	1½
Hounslow Hlrs	4	3	.571	2
Tonbridge	2	4	.333	3½
Croydon BP	2	5	.286	4
Hounslow Hcns	0	7	.000	6

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Innervisions				
Hemel RS	7	0	1.000	-
Basildon	6	1	.857	1
City Slick	2	3	.400	3½
Totteridge	2	3	.400	3½
Waltham Saxons	2	3	.400	3½
Waltham FRP	2	5	.286	5
Hemel Rebels	0	7	.000	7

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Crawley Comets	6	1	.857	-
Reading	6	1	.857	-
Ashford	4	2	.666	1½
Arun Panthers	4	3	.571	2
Brighton	4	3	.571	2
Bournemouth	2	6	.250	4½
Burgess Hill	1	6	.142	5
Croydon BJs II	1	6	.142	5

YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chelmsford	1	0	1.000	-
Red Hat Colts	1	0	1.000	-
Hemel Red Sox	1	1	.500	½
Hoddesdon	1	1	.500	½
Hounslow	1	1	.500	½
Sutton	0	1	.000	1
Weybridge	0	1	.000	1

RESULTS

14 June

Crawley Giants	0	Enfield	9
Gillingham	0	Croydon	12
Golders Green	2	Cobham	7
Sutton Braves	9	Barestormers	8

21 June

Cobham	7	Crawley Giants	8
Barnestormers	4	Croydon	3
Enfield	2	Golders Green	1
Gillingham	5	Sutton Braves	9

14 June

Hounslow Hlrs	6	Waltham Arrows	8
Oxshott	13	Southampton	8
Tonbridge	13	Croydon BP	10

21 June

Croydon BP	6	Oxshott	14
Hounslow Hcns	0	Hounslow Hlrs	34
Southampton v Tonbridge, did not play.			

14 June

Hemel Red Sox	19	Basildon	8
Waltham Saxons	v	Sidewinders	rainout.
Waltham RR	38	Totteridge	55

21 June

Basildon	22	Waltham Saxons	13
Hemel Red Sox	34	City Slick	6
Waltham RR	23	Hemel Rebels	21

14 June

Arun	39	Croydon BJs II	8
Brighton	15	Bournemouth	7
Reading	17	Ashford	11

21 June

Arun	6	Reading	21
Bournemouth	18	Burgess Hill	8
Croydon BJs II	3	Crawley C	22

13 June

Hoddesdon	16	Sutton	9
Hemel Red Sox	8	Red Hat Colts	16
Chelmsford	8	Hounslow	7

20 June

Sutton v Chelmsford, rainout.			
Hounslow	16	Weybridge	7

21 June

Hemel Red Sox	20	Hoddesdon	8
---------------	----	-----------	---

- GAME REPORTS -

GILLINGHAM DODGERS 0 CROYDON BLUEJAYS 12 Watling St. Playing Fields, June 14.

Twenty one year-old Darrin Ward threw a fine 2 hit shutout past the Dodgers, to give the Bluejays a 4-2 record on the year. Ward faced only two batters over the minimum, and struck out eleven. John Stevens put in a fine performance as catcher to make the Bluejay battery virtually unhittable. Phil Lang drove in two of the 'Jays four runs in the first with a single to left; in the second, following a walk to Stevens, a single by Kevin Sylvester, a double by Keith Wilesmith, and a triple by Ward in succession brought in three runs, and the Bluejays had a seven run lead. In the fourth, Keith Wilesmith slammed a massive two run homer to left. Ward's total dominance can be measured by the fact that no ball reached the outfield, either in the air or on the ground.

BLUEJAYS 430 200 021
DODGERS 000 000 000

Kevin Sylvester.

GOLDERS GREEN SOX 2 COBHAM YANKEES 7 Hampstead Heath, June 14.

The eventual five run margin notwithstanding, this game was a tight pitcher's battle between Ralph Papendorf of the Green Sox and Dave Jensen of Cobham. Except for some costly fielding errors by the Sox, the score would have been much closer. Golders Green struck early, bunching their only three hits of the game in the first inning, but thereafter only two Sox batters managed to reach base. Cobham tied the game in the third inning with a two out, bases loaded single by Kyle Koloja, and then moved in front for good with two more in the seventh. The victory was sealed in the last two innings by relief pitcher Tony Kuramitsu, a young fastballer with a great future, promoted from the Oxshott club, who struck out the first four batters he faced.

	R	H	E	
YANKEES	002	000	203	- 7 8 0
GREEN SOX	200	000	000	- 2 3 5

Steve Burnett.

CRAWLEY GIANTS 0 ENFIELD SPARTANS 9 Crawley, June 14.

The Spartans cruised to their sixth win of the season, and second shutout in three Sundays, while failing to score in only one inning. The game had an unusual beginning, with Spartan leadoff hitter Rob Lanario striking out but reaching third base on a dropped third strike and overthrow. In the third inning with two men on, Spartan catcher Gary Bedingfield single to right to score both runners, the only time the Enfield team scored more than one run in an inning. Ian Pont made his second start for the Spartans, despite an injured finger. He allowed just two hits and struck out 13, to earn his second win of the season against no losses. In the eighth inning the Giants' second baseman made the play of the game with a tremendous diving catch to his left to hold on to a line drive by Chris Manning.

	R	H	E	
SPARTANS	102	111	111	- 9 8 3
GIANTS	000	000	000	- 0 2 5

Gary Bedingfield.

RESIDING ROYALS 17 ASHFORD CONDORS 11 Reading, June 14.

The Royals hosted the Condors at their new ground, into which a lot of work had obviously been put, on a fine dry day. The opening three innings were a disaster for the Condors, as the Royals battered their starting pitcher Barry Mayfield for thirteen runs; Royals hurler Peter Edwards giving up only two runs in return. After the initial shock, the Condors settled down and slowly chipped away at the Royals' lead, allowing only four runs during the remainder of the game, while scoring nine themselves. Highlights included a homer by Condors ss Lee Mayfield, an unassisted double play by Condors 2nd baseman Steve Kingham, and the first base play of Graeme Pitt. The Royals' Edwards pitched a fine complete game, striking out 17 while walking 6. It was a well deserved win for the Royals, who showed great hustle.

	R	H	E	
CONDORS	011	032	220	- 11 12 3
ROYALS	625	004	00x	- 17 19 4



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GAME REPORTS

SUTTON BRAVES 9 BARNESTORMERS 8

Rosehill Park, June 14.

Catcher Rick D'Alesandro's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth tied the game, and his suicide squeeze bunt in the 11th plated the winning run as the Braves fought back to a hard-earned victory over Barnes. D'Alesandro was the star of the game, going 6 for 6 with 6 RBI's. Pitcher Andy Evans, who worked all 11 innings, had 5 hits. Barnes spotted Sutton 3 early unearned runs, two on D'Alesandro's first inning two out single, the other on 2b Alan Bloomfield's two out double in the second. But the 'Stormers fought back and finally took the lead in the sixth when, again with two out, Muir Mackean raced home on a short passed ball. It was 6-4 Barnes in the 7th when D'Alesandro tripled in two more runs and then scored himself on an infield out for a 7-6 Braves advantage. Barnes came right back in their half of the 8th to take the lead on three hits, the last a clutch two out, two run double to left by 2b Tony Raffaelli. Raffaelli had 4 hits and 4 RBI's in his BBFS debut. D'Alesandro banged a roller that snuck through the hole to right to tie the game in the Braves' ninth. Raffaelli tripled in the tenth, but was thrown out at home on an infield grounder. Barnes stranded another man at third in the eleventh. Sutton finally pushed across the winning tally in their 11th when Evans singled, stole second, went to third on an infield error & scored on a perfectly executed squeeze bunt by that man again, Rick D'Alesandro. Jason Godfrey was outstanding in 10½ innings of pitching for Barnes, limiting the hard-hitting Braves to five earned runs, and, more remarkably, walking none. Of his 147 pitches, 108 were strikes (76%). Major league pitchers only rarely exceed this percentage.

	R H E	
BARNES	002 012 120 - 8 11 5	
BRAVES	211 000 301 - 9 16 5	Glenn Libby.

INNERVISIONS HEMEL RED SOX 19 BASILDON MARINERS 8 Jarman Fields, June 14

Despite Basildon's hard-throwing ex-under 18 England pitcher Russell Thompson whiffing 17 Hemel batters, it was the Red Sox 13 hits and continuous base stealing that enabled them to stay unbeaten and sole leaders of the 3rd Division North. Lalnky Sox pitcher Kevin Slater went the distance, throwing a 3-hitter and striking out ten. First baseman Chris Cullen's three timely run scoring singles led the team, with 16 year-old Stuart Boast playing a fine third base and stroking two hits. The Sox were 8-1 up after five, but the Mariners came up with 6 in the top of the sixth when Slater lost the strike zone and walked in four runs, the others scoring on fielder's choices. But Hemel rallied for 10 in the 7th and 8th innings, highlighted by catcher Ken Carpenter's bases loaded triple that put the game out of Basildon's reach.

	R H	
MARINERS	000 106 010 - 8 3	
RED SOX	401 031 37x -19 13	Chris Cullen.

HOUNSLOW HOWLERS 6 WALTHAM ABBEY ARROWS 8 Feltham Arena, June 14.

An amazing five run rally in the top of the ninth snatched victory for the Arrows from the jaws of the Howlers. Most of the match was dominated by the curveballs being thrown by Mark Winfield (Howlers) and fastballs coming from the towering Simon Bowden (Arrows). Simon took the mound with one out in the 2nd, and finished the game with 8 strikeouts, including striking out the side in the fifth. Mark pitched brilliantly for 8½ innings before tiring - Paul Bullock relieved. Best hits of the day came from Jay Hindle (Arrows) with a ground-rule double that was immediately followed by a triple from Bowden in the fifth. The uncharacteristic jubilation and celebration by the Arrows following Paul Raybould's catch in deep centre for the final out of the game was not too dissimilar from that of a team winning the seventh game of the World Series!

	R H E	
ARROWS	010 020 005 - 8 10 6	
HOWLERS	211 000 011 - 6 5 4	Paul Raybould.

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WALTHAM FOREST ROADRUNNERS 38 TOTTERIDGE TRAILBLAZERS 55 Marsh Lane, June 14.

The Trailblazers travelled to Waltham Forest for what was to be a crucial game for both teams. With the 'Blazers bats blazing and helped by some tight pitching from Michael Dundas, the away side took an early lead which they were to hold for the entire game despite a 14 run hitting spree from the Roadrunners in their third inning. A pitching change in the fourth brought some fast outs from the Blazers' reliever Ian Martin. The fourth, fifth and sixth innings were relatively quiet due to some excellent fielding from the Roadrunners, including a very slick double play and an incredible diving catch from the Roadrunners shortstop. In the top of the seventh with one out and two on, Matt Cook came to the plate for the Trailblazers and drilled a 3 run homer to left field, at which point Totteridge took control of the game and ran out winners by 17 runs.

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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Every fortnight, BBFS President Don Ferguson will write on issues of importance to the League.

Ever since I've been involved in British baseball, I have been aware of something going on during most of our games which is nothing to do with the game. Any sport can lead to tension and confrontation - that is the nature of competition. But the level of tension in many of our games, which detracts from everyone's enjoyment, is caused by the need many players feel to taunt, mock and distract the opposition. A little bit of jockeying is normally tolerated in baseball leagues around the world, but the constant bickering that goes on over here needs to stop.

There is in fact a rule of baseball that is consistently waived in the hope that players will stick to its spirit, if not quite always its letter. That rule is 4.06(a):

"No manager, player, substitute shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere -

- (1) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, an umpire, or any spectator;
- (2) Call 'Time' or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is alive and in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk..."

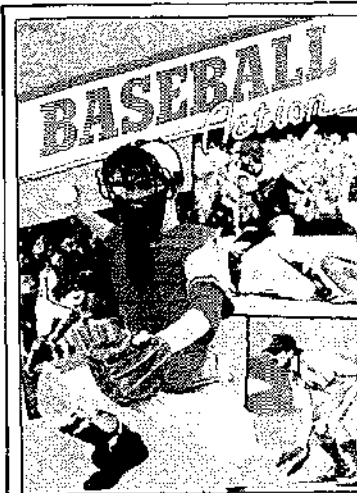
It is my view, and the view of the executive, that more bad feeling has been caused between competing teams through players ignoring this rule than for any other single reason. Widespread abuse of the spirit of the rule has led us to enforce its letter rigidly and throughout the league.

This means that no player may talk to, or, within earshot, about an opposing player, directly or indirectly, for the duration of the game. The rule also prohibits base runners clapping hands or doing anything at all to put off the pitcher. Offenders will first be warned and, if persistent, will be ejected.

Umpires will be instructed to remind teams of the rule before games start. Some leniency may be exercised until players get out of old habits but essentially the rule is firm.

I hope you will appreciate the thinking behind this ruling - I have experimented with it in games I have umpired and generally found it very effective. Please help us to concentrate on playing baseball.

10.



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LETTER

Dear Muir,

Well done on taking the initiative and producing a long needed Southern magazine in order to keep all the members informed of the state of the teams etc.

As an ex 2nd Division player, I should like to say through Grand Slam how impressed I have been with the standard of presentation shown by all the 3rd Division teams I have so far met. The most noticeable general feature is the fact that all these teams have been fully uniformed and have made a really big effort on their fields. Individual niceties were the programmes produced by Bournemouth, which even listed the names of visiting players; the bunting around the entrance and chairs for the visitors, and the cheerleaders, at Burgess Hill; the never-say-die spirit of Croydon Bluejays II even when they were 21 runs behind. What a pleasure it is to play baseball under these conditions. Perhaps some teams in the higher divisions might take a leaf from the book of these teams?

Finally, as a suggestion for the closing of the season and as an annual event, perhaps the BBFS could stage an Old Timers game. A team of retired Old Timers versus a Team comprising the nine oldest current players. As far as the former team is concerned I have seen during this season alone four venerable gentlemen who fall into the category.

Yours in baseball,

Barry Mayfield. (Ashford Condors)

Thanks for your letter, Barry. I knew the 3rd Div. was into strategy, but even I have never heard of 'bunting around the entrance'....I suppose old ballplayers never die, they simply fall into the category....nice idea, though.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

TEAM: WALTHAM ABBEY ARROWS

GROUND: TOWNMEAD, CARTERSFIELD RD, WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX

HONOURS: 1985 3RD DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1986 2ND DIVISION RUNNERS-UP

1986 SHIELD SEMI-FINALISTS

1987 Management Committee: PHIL CHESTERTON (Manager)

JERRY BOWDEN (Secretary)

DAVE SONTAC (Treasurer)

PAUL RAYBOULD (Captain)

MARTIN WILLIAMS (Council Liason)

King Harold is reputedly buried in the Abbey grounds and the team took its name from the weapon that slayed the monarch in 1066. An American game played in such an Anglo-Saxon town may seem a strange combination, but this is mainly due to Waltham resident and club founder, Lewis Courtney. Louis is primarily responsible for all of the initial achievements of the club including obtaining tremendous assistance from the local council in establishing the diamond in Townmead. Over the years, Townmead has become one of the finest baseball fields in Southern England with its permanent backstop, dirt basepaths, and fully standard pitcher's mound. The ground also boasts attractive changing rooms, conveniences and hot showers!

The team's playing ability improved dramatically in the spring of 1985 with the introduction of a couple of Americans, whose playing and coaching experience has proved to be invaluable. The club's current membership of 19 fully registered players contains one American.

Financially, the club is self-sufficient, with most of the income coming from Christmas raffles. Club membership this year is £25. Over £500 has already been spent this year on equipment etc., The Arrows future looks good; the team spirit is excellent. The club's record in the last two years is 23-4, and it is hoped that a continuation of this success can steer the Arrows into the First Division

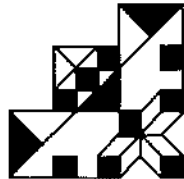
Paul Raybould.

13.



WEMBLEY TROPHIES

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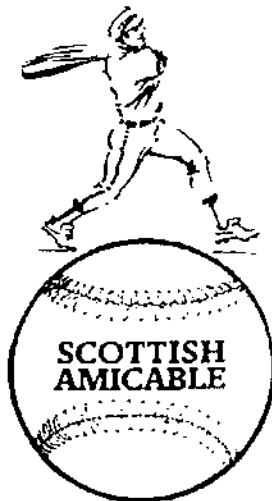
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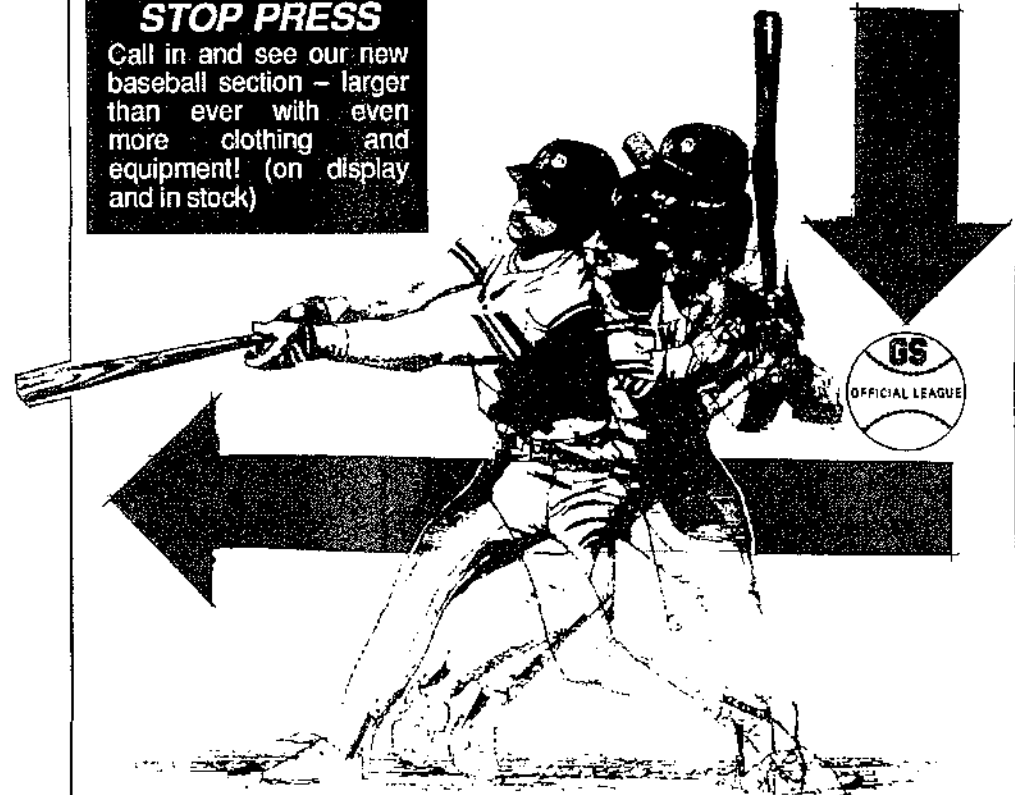


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