

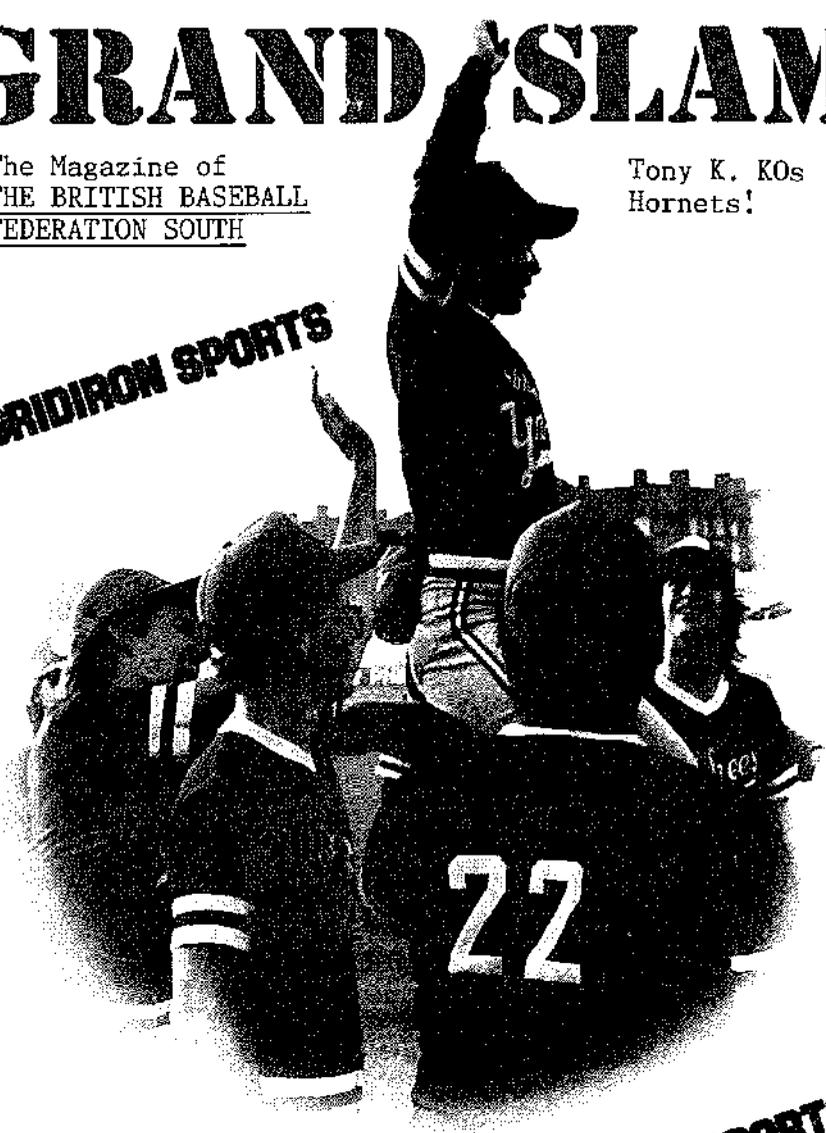
* * * NUMBER 9 - Oct. 15 1987 * * *

GRAND SLAM

The Magazine of
THE BRITISH BASEBALL
FEDERATION SOUTH

Tony K. KOs
Hornets!

GRIDIRON SPORTS



INSIDE:

National Final Report
Geoff Mann's Little Red Umpiring Book!
Scot. Am. Nat. Lg. Final Stats

GRIDIRON SPORTS

30p

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GRAND SLAM

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01 221 6013.

Congratulations to the Cobham Yankees and the Nottingham Kestrels on winning the National Championship and Youth Club Championship respectively...Cobham's 2 hit, 1 walk, 0 errors, 0 runs performance must rank as one of the tightest defensive performances for a long time...At the other end of the scale the Hemel Red Sox Colts threw the World's Dodgiest No-Hitter past the Weybridge White Sox on August 29th - the White Sox managed to score 17 runs despite not getting a single hit - Red Sox pitchers Deter and Curson gave up 21 walks, 18 wild pitches, countless passed balls, and hit four batters including three in a row by Deter, and the defense chipped in with 9 errors, all in seven innings - but they managed to win 22-17...It must be a sign of the times when GS receives an anonymous letter in praise of umpires - the guy must be a psycho. Incidentally, GS won't print anonymous letters unless they are in praise of the Editor...It has reached my ears that in certain circles GS is sarcastically known as 'The Waltham Abbey Tribune' - all Arrows news in future will be in an easily disposed Pull-Out Section with perforations...Paul and I are just good friends...The New York Mets lost the National League East on Friday, Sept. 18th when, with two outs and two strikes on him in the top of the ninth, the Cardinals' Terry Pendleton hit a Roger McDowell sinker over the centrefield fence for a two run homer that tied the game - the Cards went on to win in ten - Nobody (except Darryl Strawberry) hits home runs to dead centre in Shea, especially off a McDowell sinker - if Pendleton had made an out instead, the Mets would have gone into the second game of a three game series only 1/2 game behind with Gooden starting - as it was Gooden got shelled and the Mets were back at 2 1/2 games out on the Saturday evening...please excuse this Mets fan's lament... Direct all Cards hate mail to Nigel Summers, who runs the British St Louis Cardinals Fan Club - both members are believed to be very happy with the job he's doing...The West End was deserted the evening of Saturday Oct. 3 as people stayed at home in their millions to watch George Steinbrenner on C4...My apologies to anybody who wrote a game report that didn't get into the magazine during the season - it was partly lack of space, but mostly because I just didn't have the time to do the job properly. As I keep saying, if only 2 or three people would come forward to help, we could produce an infinitely better magazine and have fun doing it. So keep on writing the reports next year...Steinbrenner Pt.2; George must have been paying close attention to GS' occasional Major League Poets series - in Saturday's interview, he responded to the accusation that he had 'taken the poetry out of the Yankees' by saying; 'I probably know as much poetry as any guy in the sport of baseball - I was an English Lit. Major. I can quote you Kelly and Sheets...' Mr.Steinbrenner was believed to be referring to Yanks outfielder Roberto Kelly (author of Prometheus Unbound, the youngster replaced Ricky Henderson in the line-up during his injury) and Baltimore's Larry Sheets (.318, 26 HR, 79 RBI, 'Ode to a Nightingale'.) Expect the Yanks to trade soon for Detroit's Dan Petry...The BRFS AGM (see p.14) will be held at Imperial College, London, as usual...This is the last 'regular season' issue of GS; there will be another issue just before the AGM. I know that the season is virtually over and that many teams will have stopped meeting at practices etc., but could Club Secretaries try their utmost to get the magazines distributed to players - otherwise the whole reason for having GS breaks down and we are back in the Dark Ages (grunting and waving Louisville Sluggers like Dave Kingman)...The Hemel Red Sox picked up their second trophy of the year on Oct.4th by winning the Knockout Shield by 23-8 over the Red Hats Organisation (as Nigel likes to call them)...

Muir MacKean.

Benchwarmer

by Alan Kings





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The Dropped Third Strike - A Philosophical Discussion Geoff Mann continues his Umpiring Essays

Last time I left you with this knotty problem; runners on first and second with two out, the count 3 balls and 2 strikes. The next pitch is not swung at and rolls to the backstop. The catcher runs back and picks up the ball whilst the runners on first and second advance and the batter starts walking to first base. The catcher runs back to the plate with the ball.

At this point the Umpire realises that the pitch had been a strike, and calls "Strike three". The catcher throws the ball to the first baseman who touches the bag just ahead of the batter/runner. The batter politely informs the Umpire that if the Umpire had called the strike as soon as the ball had passed the plate he would have easily made it to first base, and that by calling the strike so late the Umpire had trapped the batter into making an out. What do you do as Umpire ?

The question that has to be considered is whether the situation in question is covered by the Rules of Baseball and, if not, what we should then do. There are two diametrically opposed ways of looking at this and they give conflicting recommendations to the Umpire.

Answer One suggests that the Umpire is at fault in not calling strike three instantly and that as this situation is not explicitly referred to in the Rules then the Umpire has discretion under rule 9.01 (c); "Each Umpire has authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules", to make his own ruling. The argument would continue that the fairest thing to do would be to continue as if the pitch had not happened, ie. call it a 'no pitch' and start again at 3 and 2.

Answer two states that there are relevant rules that cover the point and that these are Rule 6.05; "A batter is out when - (j) After a third strike or after he hits a fair ball, he or first base is tagged before he touches the base.", and Rule 2, where the definition of a strike states; "A strike is a legal pitch WHEN SO CALLED BY THE UMPIRE which (b) is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone." There is nothing in this definition that states WHEN the Umpire should call the strike, only that the Umpire must call strike. Therefore even though custom and practice dictate that an Umpire call strikes quickly the fact that the Umpire has not makes no odds; the batter is out.

And the correct answer is; that I don't think there is one. Though Answer Two covers many of the points of our predicament it doesn't actually cover the particular instance that the action of the Umpire have made a major contribution to the 'Out'. Answer One is unsatisfactory because the majority of points in our problem are covered in specific Rules and the suggested outcome, ie calling a 'no pitch' or 'no play' appears nowhere in the Rulebook.

The fact that the Rulebook does not contain everything that we would like it to should not surprise us. The concept of the well known baseball commentator Chairman Mao Tse Tung (General Manager of the '49 Reds - Ed.) that 'When you have investigated a problem, you will know how to solve it' ('Oppose Book Worship', 1930) does not really hold true for life in general or for the far more important matter of the Rules of baseball. Given that baseball is a part of life, why should it be perfect ? How can we expect every single point to be explained in our Rulebook for a game as complex as baseball ?

What I think we have to do is to take a 'critically informed' judgement of any unusual situation and accept that there are limitations to the Rulebook. Although it is not perfect, with many areas open to misinterpretation, it is the only document we have to refer to. We should always wherever possible go back to the laid down rules rather than make up our own.

Therefore even though the Rulebook is not completely explicit on this particular variation of the dropped third strike, I would use Rules 2 and 6.05 as the key elements of my ruling and call the batter out. It is not the perfect decision, however it is the best one I could arrive at by referring to the Rules. However there is no 'right' or 'wrong' in this situation and if another Umpire called a 'no pitch' it should not result in the game being protested, because it is a question of interpretation rather than of ruling.

Baseball is a game of endless fascination precisely because the game cannot be reduced to the Rulebook. We are as much governed by the history of the sport and those elements of custom and practise which have become ingrained in what I would call the spirit of the game as we are by Rules 1 to 10. By accepting this we can, to quote Socrates, '...always hold on to the upward journey...and that we may receive the rewards of justice like the victors at the games.'

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

GAME REPORT

COBHAM YANKEES 6 SOUTHGLADE HORNETS 0

The Oval, September 20th.

On an unexpectedly glorious day at the Oval, fourteen year-old Tony Kuramitsu pitched and hit the Cobham Yankees to their second successive National Championship win. Kuramitsu, in a remarkable one man show, threw a two hit shutout and went three for three with three runs scored. Hornets' outfielder Tony Penwarden bagged the only two hits, a first inning triple and a single in the seventh. The Yankees, relishing the Oval's snooker table-perfect turf, played errorless ball, smoothly turning all twelve ground balls that Kuramitsu induced into outs. His only walk came with two outs in the ninth.

By contrast, infield slackness and Hornets' starter Steve Frost's wildness helped the Yankees to score four in the third. With Kuramitsu on first, having been hit by a pitch, Hammer's grounder to third should have produced a forceout at second, but Ellis dropped the ball. Alan Smith walked to load the bases, Brad Thompson struck out for what should have been the second out, and Mike Saur grounded to third. Ian Ashford fielded the ball but threw wildly over catcher Chris Needham's head, allowing Kuramitsu to score what turned out to be the only run he needed. Frost, who could have been out of the inning by now, hit Pierce to force in another, and Dan Santos rubbed salt in the wound with a two run, ground rule double to centre. All four runs in the inning were unearned.

With a lead under their belts, the Yankees, some of whose hitters had looked a little anxious in the early stages, were able to relax and their defensive machine started to chew up and spit out Hornets hitters one after another. Lee Pierce at shortstop had a fine day, recording three assists in the third. Between Penwarden's line triple in the first, which Alan Smith in centre might have had, and his single to right in the seventh. Kuramitsu retired seventeen in a row, including five strikeouts; he had at least one 'K' in seven out of the nine innings. He seemed if anything to throw harder as the game wore on, mixing in that good curve to keep the hitters off balance. A little more discipline at the plate would have helped the Hornets and made Kuramitsu's job a little harder - far too often they swung at bad pitches.

A fifteen minute delay caused by a burning pub nearby found the Hornets huddled in the smoke like some World War 1 tableau, and when play resumed their hitters continued to march over the top only to be cut down by Kuramitsu's withering fire. Gary Sewell hit the ball hard to left twice, including a homer that was just foul, but nobody else stung the ball. Alan Smith singled home Kuramitsu in the fourth, and the Yankees hurler tripled and scored on Frost's wild pitch in the sixth to complete the scoring.

So the Yankees, despite a stuttering league season, are deservedly champions again. No other team in the South has their depth or mix of experience and youth - and even their young players are experienced! Their performance at the Oval, especially in the fundamentals of pitching, defense and baserunning, was a credit to British Baseball.

BOXSCORE:

HORNETS					YANKEES					Pitching						
ab	r	h	rbi		ab	r	h	rbi	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		
S.Sewell lf	4	0	0	0	P.Hammer 2b	4	1	0	0	S.Frost	6	6	6	2	5	6
J.Allsopp lb	3	0	0	0	J.Santos 2b	0	0	0	0	J.Ball	2	1	0	0	1	1
T.Penwarden rf	3	0	2	0	A.Smith cf	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C.Needham c	3	0	0	0	M.Hammer cf	0	0	0	0	T.Kuramitsu	9	2	0	0	1	9
G.Sewell cf	3	0	0	0	B.Thompson c	5	0	1	0							
I.Ashford 3b	3	0	0	0	M.Saur lf	5	1	1	0							
D.Ellis 2b	3	0	0	0	L.Pierce ss	3	0	0	0							
A.Timpson ss	3	0	0	0	E.Erskine lf	0	0	0	0							
S.Frost p	2	0	0	0	D.Santos lb	4	0	1	2							
J.Ball p	1	0	0	0	N.Saman rf	0	0	0	0							
	28	0	2	0	W.Jones 3b	3	0	0	0							
					G.Hickam 3b	0	0	0	0							
					K.Kocher rf	4	0	0	0							
					D.Newman rf	0	0	0	0							
					T.Kuramitsu p	3	3	3	0							
						32	6	7	3							

E: Ashford, D.Ellis. DP: None. LOB: Hornets 2, Yankees 9. 2B: Santos. 3B: Penwarden, Kuramitsu. CAUGHT STEALING: None. STOLEN BASE: Jones. STRUCK OUT: Hornets: S.Sewell, Allsopp, Needham (2), Ashford (3), Frost, Ball. Yankees: P.Hammer, Thompson (2), Saur, Pierce, Jones, Kocher (2). WP: Frost. PB: Needham. HBP: Kuramitsu, Pierce by Frost. UMPIRES: HP T.Thesingh, 1B A.Foster, 3B B.Benson.

THE 1987 SCOTTISH AMICABLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL AT THE OVAL - THE BBFS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING; -

- SURREY COUNTY CRICKET CLUB & ALL THE STAFF AT THE OVAL
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- ROGER BONNICI
 - For doing an excellent job on the catering, and as executive attendant.
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 - For distributing flyers and providing equipment for Ian Botham.
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 - Field Preparation, Publicity, Programme.
- PAUL RAYBOULD
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- PHIL CHESTERTON
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- ALAN KENNEY
 - Field preparation, Scoring.
- BRAD THOMPSON
 - Field Preparation.
- ALAN SMITH
 - For arranging the backstop netting and providing the bases.
- IAN BOTHAM
 - For his fine hitting, and general good humour.
- IAN PONT
 - For filling in at the last moment and doing a fine job.
- SPORTS BUREAU INTERNATIONAL
 - For all their hard work behind the scenes, and their well-stocked fridge.
- MARGARET BORLEY, NEIL BORLEY, TED THESINGH, ALAN FOSTER, BENNY BENSON
 - For their excellent umpiring.
- CHRIS RYAN
 - Printing, Programme, Publicity.
- LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK LEISURE & RECREATION DEPT.
 - For providing the red dirt for the mound.
- PASCAL BESMAN, TIM SMITH, MIKE AGHA, DAVE BROWN, GREG LIGHT, OSCAR & BRADLEY MARCELLINO, DON SMALLWOOD and anybody who has been omitted from this list. Thanks to the BBFS Clubs for selling tickets (and buying them), thanks to every one who handed out a flier or put up a poster, thanks to all the people from the North who got up at unearthly hours in order to be there, thanks to the COBHAM YANKEES and the SOUTHGLADE HORNETS and the RED HAT COLTS and the NOTTINGHAM KESTRELS for putting on a fine display of baseball. Thanks to THE PRESS for putting us on so many front pages. Thanks to AMBER SCAFFOLDING for making the backstop. Here's to next year!
- WEMBLEY TROPHIES for the Youth Final Trophy.

Muir MacKean.

- GAME REPORTS -

ENFIELD SPARTANS 6 HULL METS 5 - BBF Club Championships Q'Final - Enfield, August 30.

On a dry, still, sunny late August afternoon, the Enfield Spartans played their first ever post season game against the Hull Mets, Champions of the Humberside League. Marcellino started for Enfield, and Thurston pitched for Hull. The Spartans opened the scoring in the first when Rob Lanario singled, stole second, was advanced to third by Steve Simmons' sacrifice bunt, and was driven in by Gary Bedingfield's single to left. The Mets tied it up in the fourth on consecutive hits by Parker, Turtte and B.Read, and then added another in the fifth. The Spartans were unable to reply in their half of the fifth despite having men on second and third with only one out.

In the sixth inning the Mets broke the game open mainly due to a clutch of uncharacteristic errors by the Spartans. Five runners reached base in the inning, only one on a base hit, and three runs scored to give the Hull side a commanding 5-1 lead going into the seventh. Horobin led off the seventh for Enfield with a single and Chris Manning doubled. Rookie Dave Russ' single scored Horobin, and then Jack Akers, making a timely contribution with his bat to complement his strategic subtlety, plated Manning and Russ with a single. A single by Rob Lanario advanced Akers to third and he then managed to score (Tact, Gary, Tact - Ed.) on an infield grounder by Iain Lanario to tie the game at 5-5 after seven.

Marcellino struck out two in the top of the eighth as the Mets went easily, and in the Enfield half Manning walked with one out, as did the next hitter, Russ, and the Spartans were threatening. Akers grounded out to first, and with two out Rob Lanario's grounder was thrown past first by Thurston allowing Manning to score what proved to be the winning run. With Hull down to their last three outs, B.Marshall led off with a walk and stole second. Thurston then hit a line drive straight back at pitcher Marcellino who caught the ball and doubled the runner off second, a play which effectively sealed the victory, as the next hitter flied out to left for the third out.

METS	000	113	000	-	5	8	2	
SPARTANS	100	000	41x	-	6	10	4	Gary Bedingfield.

COBHAM YANKEES 12 SUTTON BRAVES 7 - BBF Club Championships Q'Final - Cobham, Aug.30.

In a game marked by flashes of brilliant play interspersed with vociferous outbursts, Cobham powered its way to the National Semifinals, outlasting close rivals Sutton 12-7. The star of the game was young Cobham pitcher Tony Kuramitsu, who allowed the Braves only 2 earned runs in six innings. In addition, he had 2 RBI's to aid his cause.

In the top of the third, Cobham broke a 1-1 tie when Jones walked, went to third on Alan Smith's single, and scored on Mike Saur's single. Dan Santos, the only Yankee to have two hits on the day, then drove in Smith and Saur with a line drive single. Cobham scored three more in the fifth when Kuramitsu hit a two run single and then scored on P.Hammer's single.

Sutton fought back in the bottom of the sixth (although at Cobham, Sutton were the home team) in an inning that was filled with controversy. With one run already in, and runners on second and third with one out, Dave Wooten hit a towering fly to centre. Smith made the catch for the second out and Evans scored easily from third, with D'Alesandro advancing from second to third. Smith's throw to shortstop Jones was not in time to get D'Alesandro, but Wooten never stopped running and came down the line between second and third. Jones, surprised, made a dive in an attempt to tag Wooten, and D'Alesandro broke for the plate and scored. Plate Umpire Dick Coombes ruled that Wooten, who was already out, had interfered with play, and called D'Alesandro out to end the inning. Sutton protested strenuously, arguing that they should not be penalised for Jones' mistake, that Wooten had not forced anybody to tag him. They played the rest of the game under protest. Rule 7.09(f) is helpful if not conclusive on a problem that seems to fall into the category outlined by Geoff Mannelsewhere in this issue; 'If the batter continues to advance after he has been put out, he shall not by that act alone be considered as confusing, hindering or impeding the fielders.' The underlined phrase seems to imply that had Wooten done more than merely run, for instance had he tried to evade Jones' tag, then he might be considered as confusing etc.,

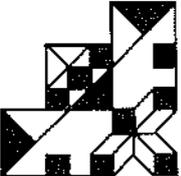
When the game continued, Sutton came back with two in the seventh, but Cobham immediately responded with four on three successive walks and singles by Jones and Thompson. Evans went four innings for the Braves with Wooten finishing up, and Saur relieved Kuramitsu for Cobham after six.

		R	H	E	(Compiled from despatches
YANKEES	103	030	041	-	12 7 3
BRAVES	100	002	220	-	7 8 2
					by Jim Lukas (Sutton) & Dave Brown (Cobham)) 8



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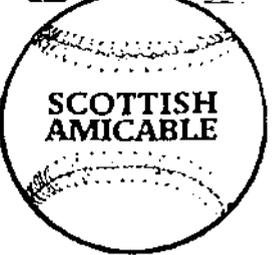
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SCOTTISH AMICABLE NATIONAL LEAGUE - FINAL STANDINGS & STATS

FINAL STANDINGS:

	W	L	Pct.	GB
1 Lancashire Red Sox	7	3	.700	-
2 London Warriors	6	4	.600	1
3 Nottingham Knights	5	5	.500	2
4 Southern Tigers	5	5	.500	2
5 Humberside County Bears	4	6	.400	3
6 Mersey Mariners	3	7	.300	4

CLUB BATTING:

	Pct.	AB	R	H	2b	3b	HR	TB	SB	SLUG.
1 Southern	.351	390	122	137	19	5	16	214	76	.556
2 Nottingham	.315	394	118	124	15	9	8	181	68	.452
3 Lancashire	.285	344	105	98	26	8	9	167	75	.484
4 Mersey	.272	338	63	92	14	2	1	118	34	.339
5 London	.268	373	123	100	17	1	17	170	17	.459
6 Humberside	.210	410	65	86	10	4	2	110	43	.264

CLUB PITCHING:

	ERA	CG	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	R	ShO
1 Lancashire	4.18	7	84	93	39	44	59	73	0
2 Nottingham	4.45	3	87	103	43	66	80	85	0
3 London	5.55	3	86	98	53	54	79	80	1
4 Southern	5.68	5	84	70	53	72	75	73	2
5 Humberside	6.59	3	86	132	63	72	47	133	0
6 Mersey	8.89	2	83	128	82	80	85	131	0

PITCHING LEADERS:

SHUTOUTS:	VICTORIES:	INNINGS:	STRIKEOUTS:
Dodwell(ST) 2	Fischer(RS) 6-1	Fischer(RS) 62	Nero(MM) 62
	Saur(LW) 3-1	Dodwell(ST) 55½	

BATTING LEADERS:

AVG.	Bloomfield(ST)	.579
Nero(MM)	.524	
SLUGGING	Dunn(ST)	1.080
Bloomfield(ST)	1.000	
ON BASE PCT.	Bloomfield(ST)	.630
Nero(MM)	.630	
RUNS	Bloomfield(ST)	19
Benson(LW)	18	
RUNS BATTED IN	D.Godfrey(ST)	17
HITS	Bloomfield(ST)	22
D.Godfrey(ST)	17	
HOME RUNS	Pierce(LW)	6
RUNS BATTED IN	Pierce(LW)	20
WALKS	Pierce(LW)	19

Looking at these statistics from a southern point of view, the mystery is how the Tigers managed to finish at only 5-5 and joint third, when they;

- Were second in runs scored, losing out to the Warriors by just one run;
- Led the league in fewest runs conceded, tied with the Red Sox;
- Led the league in Run Difference (Runs scored minus runs conceded);
- Led the league in Batting Average, hitting .351; only one other club (Nottingham) hit over .300.
- Led the league in slugging by a considerable margin;
- Led the league in total bases by a considerable margin;
- Led the league in stolen bases;
- Led the league in hits - they had 39 more hits than the champion Red Sox, an average four extra hits per game;
- Led the league in fewest hits given up - Tigers; 137 Hits For, 73 Against; Net +64. Red Sox; 98 Hits For, 93 Against; Net +5.
- Led the league in fewest Unearned Runs conceded - which presumably means that they did not make a whole lot of errors, the only thing I do not have stats for.

The answer seems to lie at least partly in the fact that the Tigers managed to score only 48 runs against the top three clubs, while piling up 74 against the bottom two teams, the Mariners and the Bears. In other words, they beat up on the poor teams while doing less well against the good ones. Southern players dominated in the individual categories, leading in Runs, Hits, Homers, RBI, Walks, Stolen Bases, Average, Slugging, Total Bases, Shutouts, and tying for the lead in most other categories.

Muir Mackean.

WAY 'DA GO DIVISION 2'

Now that the league season is over, I can proudly announce as BBFS 2nd Division Representative that absolutely no unsavoury incidents were reported from any of the matches played in the division. This is an admirable achievement and I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Executive, to thank the managers, players and spectators of all the 2nd Division teams involved.

"SPECIAL OFFERS!"

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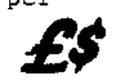
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11 Field Close,
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Sussex RH15 8PH. wk.0273 209422

or; Don Ferguson (BBFS President)
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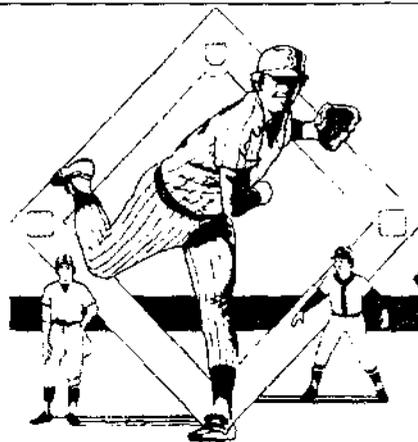
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BBFS CUP and SHIELD LATEST

BBFS KNOCKOUT CUP (for 1st & 2nd Division Clubs)

FIRST ROUND	QUARTERFINALS	SEMIFINALS	FINAL
Croydon B Pirates	Croydon B Pirates		
Basildon Raiders F	Barnestormers	Barnestormers	7
Barnestormers 15		Sutton Braves	15
Crawley Giants 7	Croydon Bluejays		
Tonbridge Bobcats 0	Sutton Braves		
Croydon Bluejays 15			
Gillingham Dodgers 9	Enfield Spartans		
Sutton Braves 15	Cobham Yankees		
Golders Green Sox 0			
Enfield Spartans 16			
Cobham Yankees 23			
Hounslow Howlers 5			
Oxshott Orioles 7			
Waltham Arrows 20	Waltham Arrows	Cobham Yankees	12
Southampton 37	Southampton	Waltham Arrows	0
Hounslow Hens. 4			

Sutton Braves
Cobham Yankees
(Rosehill, Oct.11)

BBFS KNOCKOUT SHIELD (For 3rd Division Clubs) (F=Forfeit; Home team on top)

Basildon Mariners 6	ANC Reading Royals 16		
ANC Reading Royals 12	Bournemouth Bees 1		
Waltham Saxons F		ANC Reading Royals	7
Bournemouth Bees		Hemel Red Sox	8
Hemel Red Sox 45	Hemel Red Sox		
Ashford Condors 2	Croydon Bluejays 2		
Croydon Bluejays 2			
Waltham Forest 4			
Colchester cougars F			
Arun Panthers	Arun Panthers		
Crawley Comets 9	Crawley Comets		
Hemel Rebels 0			
Brighton Jets 25			
Totteridge 3	Brighton Jets		
Burgess Hill	Burgess Hill		
City Sidewinders F			

Hemel Red Sox 23
Burgess Hill 8
(Rosehill, Oct.4)

Crawley Comets 8
Burgess Hill 13

**Boardwalk and
Baseball**



Baseball City, Florida

We've all heard of safari parks, sea worlds, magic kingdoms; now how about the first baseball Theme Park! During a recent holiday in Florida, I had the good fortune to visit the newly opened 'Boardwalk and Baseball'. B & B is an amusement park near Orlando, Florida with more than 30 rides and a genuine Boardwalk reminiscent of Coney Island, but its central theme is America's favourite pastime. While my kids focussed on the rides, I was into the sport, which included batting and fielding cages, pitching timers (watch out, everyone, I've been clocked at 65mph!), baseball films and a museum borrowed from Coopers-town. A quality game takes place every day on one of the 6 diamonds, and from 1988 the KC Royals will base themselves here for spring training. Baseball souvenirs are pricey, but I can recommend a visit!

Hugh Neffendorf.

A WHOLE PAGE OF BORING STUFF ABOUT MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, ETC.

The AGM of the BBFS will take place on Sunday 15th November, two weeks before the BBF AGM on the 29th. It is vital that each club be represented; not only is there a lot of important business to get through, but the AGM is one of only two occasions in the year when all the clubs get together (the other being the Fixtures meeting) and the clubs can get an idea of what the other clubs are thinking, and the Executive can get an impression of opinion throughout the League. Also, posts on the Executive will become vacant with people resigning, and will need to be filled. With this in mind, here is a list of brief Job Descriptions of the various Executive posts.

President; League Figurehead - Represents the League to the world. Chairs all Executive meetings, AGM, Fixtures meeting etc. Heavily involved with all decision-making and disciplinary matters. Along with the Secretary, the busiest member of the Exec.

Secretary; Looks after the day to day running of the League, handles all correspondence, schedules Exec. meetings and finds suitable location, is responsible for minutes. Handles approaches by new clubs and players. Access to photocopying useful.

Treasurer/Registrar; Looks after all BBFS finances, oversees all income and expenditure, keeps cheque books and signs cheques, keeps accounts. Will be heavily involved in big events such as the Oval Final. Some experience of book-keeping useful. As registrar, looks after the registration of clubs and players and collects registration fees.

Youth Officer; Will organise and run Youth Instructional League, draw up fixtures and rules etc. Help and oversee setting up of new youth teams, generally promote youth baseball in the region.

Chief Umpire; Represents interests of all Umpires. Organises crews and allocates them to games. Organises Rules Seminars, Umpiring Clinics etc.

Division Reps; (1,2,3M & S) Represents all clubs in Div. on Exec, and handles communications between Exec. and clubs. Handles disciplinary matters, fixture tangles etc. Generally an easy job with a low workload.

Press Officer/'Grand Slam'; PO handles publicity at all levels - getting w'end fixtures into Time Out, promoting the Oval Final. Receives results and phones them to Press Wires. I am prepared to continue as editor of GS (if the league wants me to) but only on the condition that a minimum of two people fully commit themselves to working on the magazine with me. Its crazy to have a magazine for 800-odd people being produced effectively by one person. We would need someone to handle Distribution - once a fortnight he/she would get the mags. from the printers, put 'em in the envelopes, label the envelopes, buy the stamps, stick 'em on, and post the lot, also handle the mailing list which needs updating all the time. A Business Manager would handle the accounts, sell advertising space, look after retail sales in sports shops, bookshops, etc., post invoices. Help in these areas would leave me much more time to produce a better magazine, and a more punctual one.

The AGM of the BBF will take place on Sunday 29th November at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre in Birmingham, starting at 1pm. This year's meeting is particularly important because the posts of President, Treasurer and six Directors are up for election owing to the BBF recently becoming a limited company. If we want to exercise our democratic voting rights to the full, it is vital that one person at least from each club attend the meeting. Each BBF affiliated club has one vote, and there are no proxy votes. The BBFS is planning to hire a coach to go to the meeting (Free to team reps, £5 otherwise) which will probably start in, say, Brighton, and make 3 or 4 stops at meeting points on the way to Birmingham. Contact Nigel Summers for details. Each team will get an information pack from the BBF with all the details - send back the enclosed pro forma immediately to indicate that you have received the pack. If you want to stand for a post, send back the application form in the pack - you will have to be proposed and seconded by representatives of different teams. Deadline for applications is an Oct.31st postmark. If you decide to stand, tell Don Ferguson or Nigel Summers so that we know what's going on and don't go up there in the dark. You will be a Company Director running Baseball nationwide, going to 4-6 meetings per year. Your expenses will be met but there is no salary.

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