



**NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE & TRIPLE-A**

**30-31 AUGUST 2014**

**DOUBLE-A & SINGLE-A**

**06-07 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**FARNHAM PARK**



# SCHEDULE OF PLAY

## NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

 **ESSEX ARROWS v LONDON METS** 

BEST-OF-THREE SERIES

**SATURDAY, 30 AUGUST 2014**

GAME 1 13:00 LONDON METS @ ESSEX ARROWS

**SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST 2014**

GAME 2 13:00 ESSEX ARROWS @ LONDON METS

GAME 3 16:00 LONDON METS @ ESSEX ARROWS\*

\*IF REQUIRED



# SCHEDULE OF PLAY

## TRIPLE-A

**SATURDAY, 30 AUGUST 2014**

SEMI FINAL 1 10:00  **RICHMOND KNIGHTS** @ LONDON METROS 

SEMI FINAL 2 16:00  **HULL SCORPIONS** @ CAMBRIDGE ROYALS 

**SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST 2014**

FINAL 10:00 LOWER SEED @ HIGHER SEED





# SCHEDULE OF PLAY

## DOUBLE-A

**SUNDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2014**

SEMI FINAL 1 10:00  **DAWS HILL SPITFIRES** @ LONDON MAMMOTHS   
SEMI FINAL 2 13:00  **BOLTON ROBOTS OF DOOM** @ SHEFFIELD BLADERUNNERS 

FINAL 16:00 LOWER SEED @ HIGHER SEED



# SCHEDULE OF PLAY

## SINGLE-A

**SATURDAY, 06 SEPTEMBER 2014**

SEMI FINAL 1 10:00  **MILTON KEYNES COYOTES** @ LONDON MARAUDERS   
SEMI FINAL 2 13:00  **STOURBRIDGE TITANS** @ HAVERHILL BLACKJACKS 

FINAL 16:00 LOWER SEED @ HIGHER SEED





# GET BASEBALL/SOFTBALL IN THE OLYMPICS

 **PLAYBALL2020**  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In his book ‘How Life Imitates the World Series’, Thomas Boswell says that “Sports’ moments of epiphany are written on water”. He was lamenting how some moments in baseball can’t be frozen in time so that we can savour them forever. But the game continues, rapidly moving through that fleeting moment and we “must settle for a final score.”

I can’t believe that we’re here again in post season watching a series of championship games from Single A to NBL to be played out for the second time at British baseball’s superb facility at Farnham Park. The season has gone so quickly. My memories this year is of a hot summer of baseball. That includes the GB Juniors reaching the final at the European Qualifiers in Croatia in successive days of nearly thirty degrees

Celsius. It was a brilliant week of baseball and getting to the finals means that they are now in the European Championship group next year. Our senior GB team will be in Regensburg fighting for the European Championship in September having qualified for the top group last year. It would be a testament to the maturing nature of our sport in the UK to hold one of those tournaments here.

I was also delighted to see the first UK Little League championships being held this past summer. The development of the youth programme is looking very healthy and many clubs are working hard to start their own leagues.

So I’d like to once again welcome all of you to the climax of the British baseball season. Well done to all the coaches and players who find themselves in the Farnham Park dugouts and I wish you the best. Thank you to all the volunteers who have made these finals possible; without you our sport would not be developing in the way that it is. In particular I would like to thank the BBF board members who have stepped up to make this a successful year for both youth and seniors.

I hope you enjoy supporting your team this post season and that whatever the final score you take baseball memories that can be savoured; however fleeting they are.

**Earl Dix**

**President**  
**British Baseball Federation**





# MEET THE COMPETITION

## National Baseball League (NBL)

### ESSEX ARROWS

By virtue of winning the NBL pennant, the Arrows qualified for the finals directly. This means they avoided the perils of the playoffs and have had a weekend to prepare without having to play a competitive game. This may play to their advantage as they can come in well-rested and relaxed, but it could also backfire if they are unable to maintain the momentum they built up at the end of the season.

The Arrows have the regular-season home run leader in Maikel Azcuy Perez with three, but home runs are hard to come by at Farnham Park, which has the same dimensions as Dodger Stadium in the Major Leagues.

### LONDON METS

The Mets, had to make it through the playoffs on 24 August to reach the finals. Having finished second in the standings, they only needed to win one game to make it through, but the one-game playoff format has proved to be the undoing of many a team in years past.

The Mets will no doubt look to ride the momentum from this victory into the finals, and while they must assume they will face a sterner test against the Arrows, they can still take confidence from their playoff performance and some good results during the back end of the regular season.

The Mets can counter with some league leaders of their own. Martin Tucker led the league in batting at .525, Pietro Sollecito was the ERA leader at 2.29 and Sollecito and Matt Tarrant were joint pitching win leaders with five each.



## HEAD-TO-HEAD

### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

Essex Arrows 15-7  
London Mets 15-9

### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

Essex Arrows 197 / 119 (+78)  
London Mets 191 / 148 (+43)

### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

Regular Season series tied 2-2

13/04/2014 - Finsbury Park  
Essex Arrows 4-5 London Mets  
Essex Arrows 13-2 London Mets

22/06/2014 - Town Mead Ballpark  
London Mets 8-12 Essex Arrows  
London Mets 15-5 Essex Arrows





## TRIPLE-A

### CAMBRIDGE ROYALS (Central Division)

Cambridge lined up behind starting pitcher Jonathan Hollis and reliever Doug Grabowski in their quarter-final, with both pitchers shutting down the majority of Liverpool's offense, and they look to be on form coming into the finals weekend.

Jonathan Hollis finished the season with a league-leading ERA of 1.11, closely followed by Doug Grabowski with an ERA of 1.59.

Both pitchers are strong contenders to start the game for Cambridge, although it would not be a surprise if the Royals deployed the same tactic as they did in their quarter-final victory: Hollis to start, Grabowski to come on in relief.

### HULL SCORPIONS (North Division)

Gavin Marshall will almost certainly be on the mound for Hull and will make either Hollis or Grabowski work for the win. Marshall was dominant in Hull's quarter-final against Milton Keynes, allowing only one unearned run through nine innings of work. If Marshall keeps this form going, he will give Hull a fighting chance against a very strong Cambridge side.

So neither side will lack pitching, and the game should come down to how they utilise baserunners and scoring opportunities. Both teams will have to hold their nerve and take their chances when they arise. It promises to be a close and absorbing encounter.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

Cambridge Royals 20-4 / Hull Scorpions 16-4

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

Cambridge Royals 173/76 (+97) / Hull Scorpions 152 /67 (+85)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

N/A

Image: cambridgebaseballuk.org



### LONDON METROS (South Division)

With only one loss all season, the London Metros will be clear favourites in their all-AAA South semi-final contest with the Richmond Knights.

The Metros, who have not lost since an Opening Day defeat to the Essex Redbacks, demolished the Nottingham Rebels 16-2 in their quarter-final encounter. And while playoff baseball can be unpredictable, the Metros will be expected to win if they maintain their all-round solid approach, with the propensity to score runs from one to nine in the batting order.

### RICHMOND KNIGHTS (South Division)

While London came through the last round with ease, the Richmond Knights won a tough extra inning thriller against the Essex Redbacks. The battle-hardened Knights will be hoping this works to their advantage, and they will certainly be full of confidence after playing some high-quality baseball in the last round.

When the Metros score big, teams struggle to keep up, so it is important for Richmond to pitch and defend well. Starter Michael Daykin was excellent against the Redbacks, and a repeat performance on Saturday would certainly put the underdogs in with a chance.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

London Metros 21-1 / Richmond Knights 12-10

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

London Metros 228/53 (+175) / Richmond Knights 154/146 (+8)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

17/05/2014 - Finsbury Park

Richmond Knights 3-8 London Metros

Richmond Knights 0-8 London Metros

27/06/2014 - Connare Field

London Metros 13-0 Richmond Knights

London Metros 6-5 Richmond Knights

Image: Richmond Baseball Club





## DOUBLE-A

### LONDON MAMMOTHS (South Division)

The Mammoths have literally been perfect in 2014 and they hold the mental advantage in having won the only game the two sides played out this year. Comfortably, too, although that game was part two of a long doubleheader that day.

With depth throughout the London club, as well as an energetic, youthful but experienced side in this Mammoths team, it's likely that last week's disappointments for the Mets in the NBL championship and the Metros falling short of defending their AAA crown will be alleviated by this Mammoths outfit.

### DAWS HILL SPITFIRES (South Division)

Daws Hill started brightly and finished as one of the best teams in British baseball in the last month of the summer, stringing together timely wins when it's mattered, and having had to come through the wildcard playoffs before last weekend's quarter final has given them an edge in the big games that has been absent in previous seasons.

The Spitfires struggled in the middle of the year because of availability issues, but now back to full strength, there's no reason to think they can't pull yet another upset out of the bag against the only unbeaten team in all of the BBF leagues this season.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

London Mammoths 21-0 / Daws Hill Spitfires 10-10

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

London Mammoths 314/95 (+219) / Daws Hill Spitfires 161/174 (-13)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

27/07/2014 - RAF Daws Hill

London Mammoths 23-3 Daws Hill Spitfires

### BOLTON ROBOTS OF DOOM @ SHEFFIELD BLADERUNNERS

The Robots weren't supposed to make it to Farnham Park, as the AA North Division winners, the Newton Aycliffe Spartans, stood in their way when the teams met on 31 August in the AA playoffs. But Bolton managed a six-run rally in the ninth inning to send the game to extra innings and won it in the tenth, and will take this momentum into the AA National Championships.

There, Robots will face the Sheffield Bladerunners on Saturday 6 September, a team that improved steadily throughout the season and finished in second place in the division. The Bladerunners outlasted the Manchester A's in a close game on 31 August to reach the finals.

Only a couple of games separated Sheffield and Bolton in the standings at the end of the season, so their match-up at Farnham Park should be another close encounter.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

Sheffield Bladerunners 13-5 / Bolton Robots of Doom 10-6

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

Sheffield Bladerunners 155/126 (+29) / Bolton Robots of Doom 204/140 (+64)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

04/05/2014 0 Thorncliffe Recreation Ground

Sheffield Bladerunners 8, Bolton Robots of Doom 6

Bolton Robots of Doom 15, Sheffield Bladerunners 3

27/06/2014 - Connare Field

London Metros 13-0 Richmond Knights

London Metros 6-5 Richmond Knights



## SINGLE-A

### LONDON MARAUDERS (South Division)

The Marauders are part of a London organisation that has had an excellent season, with the Mets making the NBL final and the Metros doing the same in AAA. Both, however, were beaten finalists and the Marauders will be hoping to go one better.

They are a team that regularly puts up big numbers, with 287 runs scored during the season, the second highest number across all BBF divisions. A major offensive threat is the explosive Carl Ward-Reid, who has an incredible 26 stolen bases this year and is batting .519. Che Porteous and Jose Cisneros are also players with excellent averages and strong RBI numbers.

### MILTON KEYNES COYOTES (Central Division)

The Coyotes may have finished second in the Single-A Central Division with a 13-7 record, but like their opponents, they have some powerful offense. Dave Spencer has a club-leading 20 RBIs to go with a .515 average, while Olly Calcutt isn't far behind, batting .485 with 17 RBIs.

Where London perhaps has the edge is in the pitching department. Even accounting for the free-scoring nature of Single-A baseball, MK's team ERA of 10.97 is still a high number. In contrast, London's pitchers put up a collective ERA of 5.14, and this could be a key to deciding this semi-final.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

London Marauders 11-2 / Milton Keynes Coyotes 13-7

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

London Marauders 269/134 (+135) / Milton Keynes Coyotes 268/194 (+74)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

N/A

### HAVERHILL BLACKJACKS (South Division)

For Haverhell, Dylan Shephard leads the way with 20 RBIs and 22 stolen bases, as well as several solid appearances on the mound. The Blackjacks are aggressive baserunners and have four players, including Shephard, with at least 20 stolen bases. Blake Broekhove is top of the pile in this category, with a total of 27 swipes.

### STOURBRIDGE TITANS (Central Division)

Stourbridge may not be as free-scoring as their Central Division rivals Milton Keynes, but they do have some strong pitching options, with Stuart Walton and Edward Jones both capable of providing a reliable arm on the mound. Offensively, they also have power potential in the form of Edward Jones and Shaun Healy, who are both capable of going deep.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORD

Haverhill Blackjacks 11-2 / Stourbridge Titans 15-5

#### RUNS FOR / AGAINST

Haverhill Blackjacks 236/135 (+101) / Stourbridge Titans 214/156 (+58)

#### REGULAR SEASON MEETINGS

N/A





# Raising standards one player at a time

## Academy Values

- Development of athleticism
- Hard work
- Dedication
- Skill development in multiple positions
- Improvement at every session

## Questions?

[academy-baseball@bsuk.com](mailto:academy-baseball@bsuk.com)

[academy-softball@bsuk.com](mailto:academy-softball@bsuk.com)

Tel. 020 7453 7055

The Academy is designed to help young male and female players turn the off-season into an opportunity to become **better, stronger and fitter athletes**. This is a great time to make improvements in your game, and our excellent Academy staff will be on hand to help you do it.

The Academy consists of monthly National and Regional **weekend training sessions** from October through April each year. Academy tutorials and practice plans will allow young baseball and softball players to improve their **hitting, pitching, catching, fielding** and **baserunning**.

Registration:  
£100/£75  
National/Regional



Register at : [www.BaseballSoftballUK.com/academy](http://www.BaseballSoftballUK.com/academy)

1891 Preston North End  
1892 Middlesbrough  
1893 Thespians (London)  
1894 Thespians (London)  
1895 Derby  
1896 Wallsend-On-Tyne  
1897 Derby  
1899 Derby  
1900 Nottingham Forest  
1906 Tottenham Hotspur  
1907 Clapton Orient  
1908 Tottenham Hotspur  
1909 Clapton Orient  
1910 Brentford  
1911 Leyton  
1934 Hatfield (Liverpool)  
1935 New London  
1936 White City (London)  
1937 Hull  
1938 Rochdale Greys  
1939 Halifax  
1948 Liverpool Robins  
1949 Hornsey Red Sox  
1950 Burtonwood Bees  
1951 Burtonwood Bees  
1959 Thames Board Mills  
1960 Thames Board Mills  
1961 Liverpool Tigers  
1962 Liverpool Tigers

1963 East Hull Aces  
1964 Hull Aces  
1965 Hull Aces  
1966 Stretford Saints  
1967 Liverpool Yankees  
1968 Hull Aces  
1969 Watford Sun-Rockets  
1970 Hull Royals  
1971 Liverpool Tigers  
1972 Hull Aces  
1973 Burtonwood Yanks  
1974 Nottingham Lions  
1975 Liverpool Tigers  
1976 Liverpool Trojans  
1977 Golders Green Sox  
1978 Liverpool Trojans  
1979 Golders Green Sox  
1980 Liverpool Trojans  
1981 London Warriors  
1982 London Warriors  
1983 Cobham Yankees  
1984 Croydon Blue Jays  
1985 Hull Mets  
1986 Cobham Yankees  
1987 Cobham Yankees  
1988 Cobham Yankees  
1989 Enfield Spartans  
1990 Enfield Spartans  
1991 Enfield Spartans

1992 Leeds City Royals  
1993 Humberside Mets  
1994 Humberside Mets  
1995 Menwith Hill Pirates  
1996 Menwith Hill Pirates  
1997 London Warriors  
1998 Menwith Hill Patriots  
1999 Brighton Buccaneers  
2000 London Warriors  
2001 Brighton Buccaneers  
2002 Brighton Buccaneers  
2003 Windsor Bears  
2004 Croydon Pirates  
2005 Croydon Pirates  
2006 Richmond Flames  
2007 London Mets  
2008 London Mets  
2009 Bracknell Blazers  
2010 Richmond Flames  
2011 Southern Nationals  
2012 Harlow Nationals  
2013 Harlow Nationals

**MOST NATIONAL TITLES**  
5 – Hull Aces (1972, 1968, 1965, 1964, 1963)  
4 – London Warriors (2000, 1997, 1982, 1981)  
4 – Cobham Yankees (1988, 1987, 1986, 1983)  
4 – Liverpool Tigers (1975, 1971, 1962, 1961)

3 – Brighton Buccaneers (2002, 2001, 1999)  
3 – Menwith Hill Pirates/Patriots (1998, 1996, 1995)  
3 – Enfield Spartans (1991, 1990, 1989)  
3 – Liverpool Trojans (1980, 1978, 1976)  
3 – Derby (1898, 1897, 1895)  
3 – Southern/Harlow Nationals (2011, 2012, 2013)

THE FIRST BASEBALL CLUB ESTABLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
Image courtesy of [www.projectcobb.org.uk](http://www.projectcobb.org.uk)





12-21 SEPTEMBER  
Czech Republic & Germany  
[www.me2014.cz](http://www.me2014.cz)




Disney  
**MILLION DOLLAR ARM**  
IN CINEMAS 29 AUGUST





[WWW.BRITISHBASEBALL.ORG](http://WWW.BRITISHBASEBALL.ORG)

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