

BASEBALL

(IN BRITAIN)
MONTHLY



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**SOUTHERN AREA BASEBALL
RESULTS** are published in the
following newspapers from time
to time—

"Daily Express"
"Ilford Guardian"
"Stratford Express"
"Essex & Thurrock Gazette"
"Grays & Tilbury Gazette"
"Hornsey Journal"
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BASEBALL MONTHLY

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193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

EDITORIAL

AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON POLICY

When **BASEBALL MONTHLY** was first brought into being, we were constantly aware how difficult it would be to keep a Baseball Magazine running in the Winter months, when Baseball is at a standstill.

The main difficulty is not that there would be little to write about, for one could write on such an extensive game until doomsday, but it would lie in the question of distribution, because many of the copies of this journal are sold to spectators at the various grounds. It would also mean a lot more handling when players are not meeting as regularly as in the closed season.

We therefore hit upon the idea of inviting our friends of the Amateur Basketball Association of England and Wales to join us in a twin effort. As a result we have now made arrangements with certain areas of that body to join forces with us, and as from August 1st, the title of this paper will be changed to "**BASEBALL & BASKETBALL**". For six months of the year, from April to September, we will publish material in the proportions of two-thirds on Baseball

and one-third on Basketball. In the winter months from October to March we will publish two-thirds basketball reading and one-third Baseball matter. Baseball being a Summer game and Basketball being a winter game the advantages of the arrangement will be many. The followers of both games will, therefore, be assured of their monthly reading during their own particular closed season. It is hoped that all areas of the Basketball Association will join in.

Furthermore, the games of Basketball and Baseball are linked together in America, Canada and many other countries and it is hoped that an interchange of players will result.

We wish to welcome our friends of the Basketball fraternity and we assure them that this Magazine will be as much theirs as it is ours. We shall likewise be making many more readers for both games—another big advantage.

Elsewhere in this month's issue you will find an introduction to Basketball.

EDITOR.

THE EDITOR would like to hear from correspondents in the Midlands, North West and Yorkshire areas those conversant with all Baseball activities in their own area.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

BOB SHEARER, of the Dodgers, signs to oblige some youthful admirers. Don't let Bob's bespectacled benevolent look fool you. He can still burn 'em in on the mound.
(Photo by John W. Craddock)

THE EDITOR invites original contributions from readers and will consider publication of same. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed. PLEASE NOTE that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor.

THE WESTERN AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

by K. S. BROWN (Hon. Secretary & Treasurer)

In the Senior Division, with about a third of the season gone, the teams are settling down in much the same order as they finished in 1949. West London Pioneers are playing a very consistent brand of "ball", and on the whole, are a nicely balanced team. Tigers and Pirates on the other hand, are both rather erratic, and are capable of much better baseball than they have shown to date. However, they are both strong at finishing and the fight for second place should be very interesting. Royals have yet to win their first League game, but I am inclined to think this is due to their long term policy of building up a new team for 1951.

The race in the Second Division is more open. Kodak are on top at the moment, due, in no small measure, to the experience of a couple of veterans and a very capable manager, but Standard Phones are rapidly improving, and the issue may not be decided until the last game of the season. Monarchs have broke even so far, but I am inclined to think their very heavy schedule is taking a lot out of the boys. Dulwich, although losing every League game to date, are far from out of the race, and as soon as their pitching and fielding are equal to their standard of hitting, should prove to be a severe headache to the rest of the Division.

WESTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

SENIOR DIVISION

	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
West London Pioneers	4	4	0	8	(1.000)
Pirates	4	2	2	4	(.500)
Tigers	4	2	2	4	(.500)
Royals	4	0	4	0	(.000)

SECOND DIVISION

	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Kodak	4	4	0	8	(1.000)
Standard Telephones	4	2	2	4	(.500)
Monarchs	4	2	2	4	(.500)
Dulwich Blue-Jays	4	0	4	0	(.000)

Note to Western League Clubs and followers: It is hoped to appoint a new Publicity manager for the League, with a view to publishing more fully the League activities. Meanwhile will clubs please send in their reports. Reports for the August issue to be sent not later than July 17th.

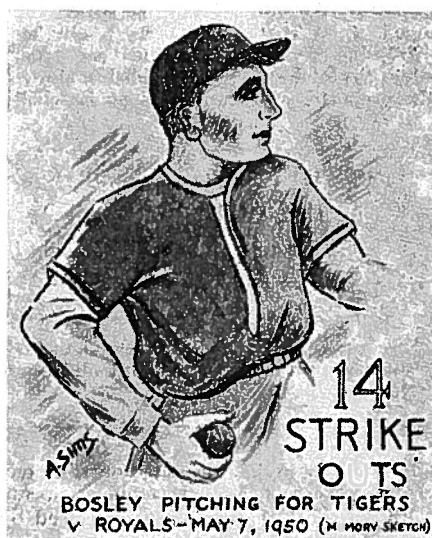
RESULTS FOR JUNE

Western League:

Tigers	7	Royals	1
Pirates	7	W.L Pioneers ...	13
Blue Jays	8	Monarchs	13
W.L. Pioneers ...	15	Tigers	1
Kodak	27	Monarchs	7
Blue Jays	16	Stand. 'Phones ...	18

Friendly.

Tigers	12	Kodak	4
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SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By JACK HELLIAR

(Hon. Secretary of the League and Southern Counties Representative)

At the conclusion of last month's article I asked "I wonder what the League tables will look like in the next issue". Well, here we are at the beginning of July, and they are still in a "wide open" state, with several teams battling for honours in each Division. It would be pointless to comment upon them a great deal, except to say that interest is certain to be maintained right till the end of the season, and there is quite a likelihood of a play-off being necessary.

This season has definitely proved to be the best since the war, and it is pleasing for us to record that in the face of strong competition two teams from this League will fight for the honour of being the Southern Area representatives in the National Cup Semi-Finals. Hornsey Red Sox (the holders) and Briggs Brigands meet on July 9th for the honour, and it is certain that the South's biggest attendance will be seen at that "battle of the giants". Whichever club proves the winner, we know that they will carry the best wishes of the South against the strong Midland challenge in the next round.

A most pleasing feature this year has been the number of matches played by our clubs against those outside their own League. These encounters have proved most enjoy-

able, and though there is sometimes long journeys involved the time has been well spent. We shall be pleased to arrange such fixtures whenever possible, and would like to hear from those interested.

It has also been good to see the number of the players being registered with the League. The great influx caught us "on one leg" to some extent, as we had to have a reprint of registration forms, the estimated number being exhausted by mid-June! There are a number of clubs already talking of forming second teams as the increase in membership means several players without a game unless alternative fixtures can be arranged.

Consequently, the League Officers have already started to lay their plans for 1951, as with another likely "boom" facing us for next season it is better to get started now than wait until the season's end before "getting down to it".

From the attendance point of view, our games are attracting increasing interest, and we consider that this reflects admirably upon all concerned — clubs, players and officials alike — for the British public will only be content with the best in sport, and we don't hear many adverse comments these days!

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE.

(Up to and including June 25th)

DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Thames Board Mills	8	6	2	12	(.750)
Dodgers	6	5	1	10	(.833)
Essex Nationals	7	5	2	10	(.714)
Hornsey Red Sox	5	4	1	8	(.800)
Enfield Cardinals	8	4	4	8	(.500)
Briggs Brigands	6	3	3	6	(.500)
Ford Sports	7	0	7	0	(.000)
Paragon	7	0	7	0	(.000)

DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Aveley Cubs	8	6	2	12	(.750)
Essex Cubs	5	5	0	10	(1.000)
Briggs Tigers	6	5	1	10	(.833)
Fondu	6	3	3	6	(.500)
Hornsey Athletics	5	1	4	2	(.200)
Collegians	5	0	5	0	(.000)
Hornsey Bruins	5	0	5	0	(.000)

BRITISH BASEBALL CLUBS

No. 4. THE CHIPPING NORTON STORY

BASEBALL MONTHLY is proud to present, at last, the story of the most unique of British Baseball Clubs, for they were founded as an organised club as long ago as 1920. Yet even back in the last century there is concrete evidence that Baseball of a kind

was played in the villages around Chipping Norton way. We are even more proud to present this article because it is written by the man who was responsible for much—Mr. Fred Lewis, the ex-Scoutmaster who started Chipping Norton.

CHIPPING NORTON BASEBALL

By FRED LEWIS, M.Inst. B.E.

Now about this Base Ball (two Capitals Mr. Printer, please), these points arise.

Do not expect to have a readable description of a game in an English newspaper. A reporter once got one in about the junior Silver Mitt, but as he said nothing about Babe Ruth and did not refer to the pitcher as "the bowler", they sacked him and he had to go to work.

As it is possible for one man in a cricket match to make more runs than the other twenty-one, it is not, and can never be, a team game.

In London and Birmingham the Baseball backstop net is placed within a few feet of the catcher. Quite wrong, and will surely kill the game as it did in 1922, for you cannot fool all the people all the time. This stupid error results in the worse the catcher the better he gets on. At Birmingham in 1947, Chipping Norton won a game that they had lost through the short net, and later on they lost a game that they had won. If the net is part of the game, put it in uniform and call it ten men a-side! Now, as to Chipping Norton.

As District Scoutmaster, many years ago, I felt the need for a quick team game: (here we go again) Football is too hot for summer and boys of twelve cannot play with boys of seventeen, Cricket ground too rough, two big boys get the bats while little boys "fag" the ball and soon tire and give up, Rounders much better, but Tennis ball not hard enough. In 1909 I got a Spalding guide for 1908, read it at Easter, made a bat, made a ball, gave a test under the rules — great success from the start. Made a mask and some mitts, game had everything a Scout game should have; took equipment to every scout camp up to the outbreak of 1914 war. Saw the game properly played in London, 1913, my opinion confirmed it is a real game!

I am an old man now, seventy one, but I am just as keen as ever.

In 1915-16-17 the Scouts had a full day's Baseball Tourney. Eight teams competing in three-innings games for a cup given by

Messrs. Spaldings. The Cup is still on the rounds and is played for year by year in Chipping Norton. On the return of the old boys from the war in 1919, the club of Chipping Norton was formed and has gone on ever since without break. Even in the second war the game was kept going by the A.T.C. and Juniors, etc. During all these years, many efforts have been made locally to squeeze the Baseball Club out, but with little result for we are now stronger than ever. Not an easy thing to do in a town of only 3,000 population.

The formation of the N.B.A. gave some help, but on the whole it did more harm than good; free uniforms and poor equipment, easy come—easy go. When a player has to pay for his kit he takes pretty good care of it.

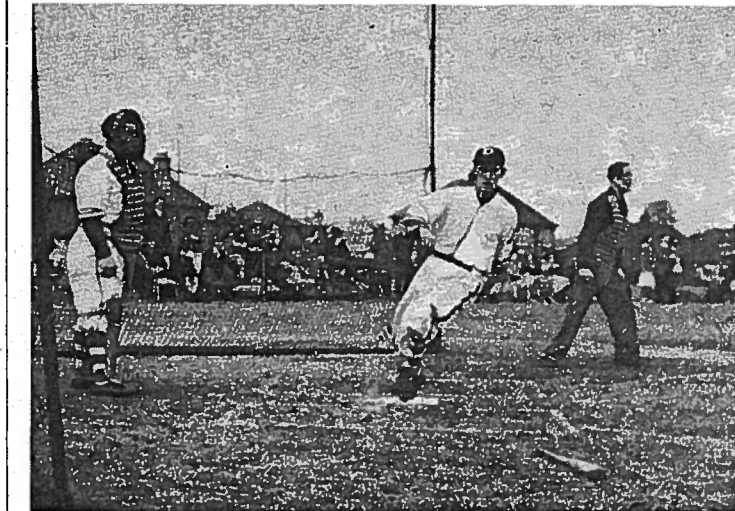
During this last thirty years, we have played and lost and won with some of the best and worst teams in England. At one time quite a number of neighbouring villages had teams, but they were pretty weak. Also there were teams in Banbury who could put up a fair game. In 1928 a fund for injured players was started, and teams began playing for a Shield, which has a design of a "play" round first base, taken from a photo of a game played at Stamford Bridge in 1923. The small shields round the side with the winners names engraved thereon from year to year, will have to be extended shortly, as the margin is nearly full. Great fun this!

Still the good old game goes on. Sons of our first players are now back from the Services and have taken on where father left off. Maybe I shall live to see the third lot knocking one or two out, for quite a number of small "pitchers" follow around with their smart young mothers on Sunday afternoons, saying: "Go on Dad, it's the seventh. Give 'em all you've got!"

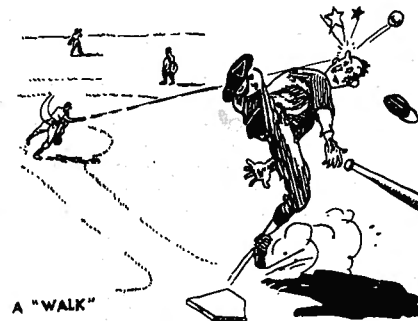
(Yes—and we will all give a cheer for Chipping Norton Baseball Club and Fred Lewis for their courage throughout the years. Well done Chippy!—Ed.)

BASEBALL MONTHLY

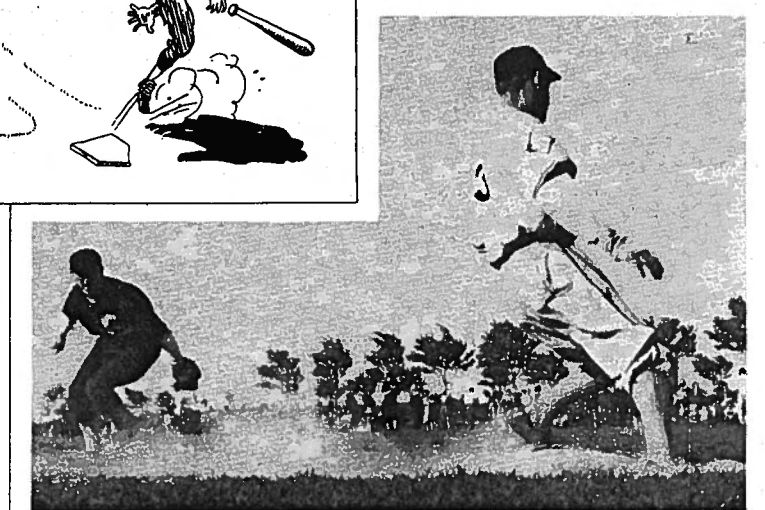
BASEBALL PICTORIAL



ABOVE.
A Dodger crosses the plate to score against Thames Board Mills. The teams cracked a double-header winning one game each. (Photo by John W. Craddock)



BELOW.
Lee Ridenhour of West London Pioneers holds up at third in a cloud of dust, as Bob Sendal of Essex Nationals takes a hot return. (An incident from the National Cup match. (Photo by Beckwith & Martin)



MIDLAND AREA NEWS

National Cup Semi-Final.

The Semi-final of the National Cup between Cardinals and the winners of the Southern Area will be played in Birmingham on July 16th, at the Wolsley Motors' Ground, Ward End, Birmingham.

* * *

Jim Bailey of Birmingham Pirates, who for so many seasons has borne the brunt of the pitching for his club, can now look with pride on the effects of his coaching of his son, Trevor, who although not yet 16, is short stop for the Pirates. Trevor promises to be as good a ball player as Jim, which is saying a lot—for Jim must rank as one of the best English ball players ever.

* * *

Midland Umpires' Association. After a lean time in recent years, the Umpires' Association now has a number of new recruits to add to its staff. In view of the fact that the man behind the plate is the foundation of any good ball game, this is most pleasing news.

Mohawks discover local Pitcher. Although being recognised as the classiest team in the Midlands, the Mohawks have always lacked a good pitcher. They now appear to have found one among their own ranks in Paul, who has now developed control which was lacking from his earlier efforts on the mound.

Wolsley Motors. Interest in the game at Wolsley Motors continues to grow; over 1,000 people saw them beaten on their own ground by Notts Flyers in the Area Semi-final Cup tie. Loudspeaker Equipment and flags installed around the ground gave it a

carnival appearance. It was hard luck for Fred Biggs (their hard-working secretary) that his team were so badly off colour, but Freddie who has had so many years in the game, can take it smiling.

Allens Cross and Cardinals share lead. One of the most pleasing features of this season is the improved play of Allens Cross who after several lean seasons, are at present sharing the leadership of the Major League with Cardinals.

MIDLAND AREA CUP FINAL,
Played at Aldridge, Nr. Walsall, on
June 17th, 1950.

CARDINALS (B'ham) 9 — NOTTINGHAM FLYERS 0. The game was hardly as one sided as the score suggests. Although Vic. Lamprecht, Cardinals star pitcher (who was once on the books of Cleveland Indians) got his shut-out, the Flyers' batting was far from weak. Bases were loaded on several occasions, but strong infield work by the Cardinals when under pressure shattered the Flyers' hopes. For the Flyers, Zamick and Al Brown, both Nottingham Panthers Ice-hockey players) were outstanding. Zamick gave a great display of batting, and Brown brought on late in the game pitched really well.

On this form the Cardinals are a very strong side and have every chance of bringing the National Cup to the Midlands this year.

The Cup was presented to the winners by Sir Cliff Tibbets, who, in a short speech, remarked that although it was the first time Baseball had been played in the Walsall area, he sincerely hoped that it was not the last.

MIDLAND LEAGUE STANDINGS.

(Up to and including June 25th)

MAJOR LEAGUE.				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Allens Cross	5	5	0	10
Cardinals	5	5	0	10
Wolsley	5	2	3	4
Mohawks	5	2	3	4
Dunlop Tigers	5	1	4	2
Daytona	5	0	5	0
MINOR LEAGUE.				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Beavers	6	6	0	12
Giants	6	4	2	8
Pirates	6	3	3	6
Valor	5	3	2	6
Aston Monarchs	6	1	5	2
Dunlop Eagles	7	1	6	2

Cardinals opponents in the All-England Cup Semi-Final will be the winners of the Briggs Brigands versus Hornsey Red Sox game, which will decide the Southern Area

team to go forward. The match will not be played until after this issue of **BASEBALL MONTHLY** has gone to press.

BASEBALL IN MITCHAM

By A. SIMS

Down in South West London there are two Baseball Clubs called Mitcham Tigers and Mitcham Royals. They are not really new clubs, as the following story will show. This article once again demonstrates how Baseball lovers will work for the game. Mr. Sims is one of a number of pioneers who have done much for the sport.

* * *

Having watched a few ball games in 1933, I decided to start a Baseball Club myself.

I called a meeting of my fellow workers at the Electricity Department where I worked, and we formed the Eastfield Tigers Baseball Club, and having tackled the problems of finance, we managed to get a rather rough and uneven ground on Mitcham Common, but it was at least, a start.

Our nearest Club at that time was the Old Josephians, and Mr. Redman, their secretary, was very helpful and we enjoyed a few friendly games with them. In 1937, we were joined by some players from the Streatham Ice Rink, including J. Durling, and we had a very successful season. We were then playing on the Streatham Town Football Ground and competing in the Metropolitan League. We managed to win the Pennant that year which was presented to our team by Mr. L. D. Wood, who many baseball players and fans will remember.

Unfortunately, however, the Club did not survive the winter of that year for something went wrong on the administration side. Myself and some of the players (who

worked at the Electricity Depot with me) approached the C.L.E.S. Co., and obtained permission to run a team under that name. Although we took many hidings, the C.L.E.S. Co. was the happiest Club I have been with. We had a very good team spirit and we enjoyed games with such clubs as Kodak, Standard Telephones and W. H. Smith & Son. Unfortunately the war closed us down, as it did so many other clubs.

In 1946, I called together old friends of pre-war days, and with their help, I organised the Surrey Tigers Baseball Club. Mr. George Ginger (now unfortunately very ill) worked very hard with us as Treasurer of the Club. Lt-Col Max Joubert became our President. We had quite a number of players and in order to give them all a look in we decided to run another team and this we called the Surrey Lions. This arrangement worked well for a time, but it was shortly to break up, the Tigers dropping the prefix "Surrey" and a group of the Surrey Lions called a meeting and formed the Mitcham Royals Club.

At the start of 1949 season, I was invited to rejoin the Tigers, and I have since served on their advisory Committee.

However, it is my intention to form yet another Club, that will in no way do harm to any existing club, on the contrary it will stimulate Baseball for new players will be introduced into the game.

Let us hope that the day will come when Baseball will be as widely understood in England as is Cricket.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Essex Baseball Club Supporters' Association

During the warm summer months of July and August when so many of our members are enjoying the open air by the sea and in the country, the Wednesday club night will be suspended. It will re-commence on Wednesday, September 6th, and in the meantime arrangements are being made to accommodate the increasing number of members in order to ensure them of a full evenings amusement.

Members are invited to make suggestions, which will be carried out whenever practicable.

If you were not interested in baseball you would not be reading this, so why not join our association now and in so doing help the club and baseball in this country.

L. D. HENKE,

Hon. Secretary.

"BASEBALL MONTHLY" may be obtained through your newsagent or branches of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son, Ltd., if you place a definite order. In case of difficulty, however, write direct to "BASEBALL MONTHLY" 193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex, enclosing Postal order for 10½d.

BASKET BALL

By C. J. HEPBURN
(Amateur Basketball Association)

To all baseball and basket ball enthusiasts, may I take this opportunity to say how pleased I am, on behalf of the Basket Ball Association, to co-operate with Baseball in this area. Many of you may be well aware of the natural link between these two great games, namely being national winter and summer games in the United States of America and many other countries.

If the average Englishman was asked to name the most played game in the world he would, in all probability, without hesitation, say Football, but I am afraid he would be a long way out, for Basket Ball is a major sport in 61 countries. During the Olympic Games of 1948, more competitors took part in Basket Ball than in any other sport, including Athletics.

The game of Basket Ball was invented in 1883 at a training college at Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A., by Dr. James Naismith. It was the inventor's purpose to provide a game that would fill in during the winter months between Football and Baseball seasons—a game that could be played indoors with a minimum amount of equipment and that would not have the risk of injury which games with more body contact involved.

In the beginning, peach baskets on poles were used as goals; hence the name Basket Ball. Since then the number of players in a team and the major rules have varied considerably. Basket Ball is reputed to be the world's fastest game on foot. To ensure that the game is played at the fastest possible speed, the International Federation meet periodically, usually following the Olympic Games, to discuss and, if necessary, revise the rules. Many important changes have been made in recent years; for example: a team must now move the ball into its foreground within ten seconds. This has helped to eliminate stalling. The elimination of the centre jump after a basket (or goal) has been scored was perhaps the change that has done more than any other to speed up the game. The ball is now put into play immediately after the basket is scored. Constant experimenting by those interested in the game, along with improvements in facilities and the use of various media of publicity have caused the game to grow rapidly, particularly during the past fifteen years.

The Amateur Basket Ball Association of England and Wales was formed in 1936 and is a junior member of the International

Federation, which controls Basket Ball in 61 countries. Since 1936 the game has increased in popularity. In the 1938-39 season, Richmond, Harringay, Earls Court and Streatham Arenas each ran two teams in the Stadium League. This League was dissolved at the outbreak of war. In spite of this I think perhaps the war was greatly responsible for the tremendous strides Basket Ball has made in this country, for more than two-thousand American Service teams were then playing regularly over here. These players from the U.S.A. handed on to our youngsters valuable knowledge of the game. But it is not only Americans who have helped to popularise and improve the standard of our Basket Ball; there are many other teams such as the Latvians, Poles and Lithuanians now playing regularly over here, and who come from countries where Basket Ball is a major sport. Each year a European Championship is held, and the Olympic Games are regarded as the World Championship. The Junior and Senior Championships of England and Wales are held each year. The 1950 Finals were played before a capacity-filled Nottingham arena. Several major sports arenas in the country are now staging Basket Ball. In May of this year, the Empire Pool, Wembley, staged a series of games between the world famous "Harlem Globe Trotters" and "Stars of America". Supporting matches were staged by the A.B.B.A. The first match of the series was televised and thousands of people who saw Basket Ball for the first time on their television sets flocked to see the actual game played on the succeeding evenings. For the remaining games of the series, the stadium was filled to capacity. This tends to prove that Basket Ball must be seen to eliminate any doubt in one's mind as to connecting the game with Netball which, unfortunately, in this country is so often the case.

A First Division League football manager once told me after witnessing a Basket Ball match (which he saw with a view to using it as a training game for football), that the game was far too strenuous for footballers; however, since then many professional football clubs have taken up Basket Ball as a training game.

With the Navy, Army and Air Force, Universities and Colleges recognising Basket Ball as a major game, the indications are that Basket Ball may be the most popular game in the world in the next decade.

BASEBALL MONTHLY

BASEBALL RESULTS FOR JUNE

South Eastern League:

June 3rd and 4th.

Hornsey Athletics 26	Hornsey Bruins ... 16
Briggs Brigands ... 7	Essex Nationals ... 8
Fondu 14	Briggs Tigers ... 19
Hornsey Red Sox... 3	Enfield Cardinals ... 2
Thames B.M. ... 18	Ford Sports 2

June 11th.

Aveley Cubs 19	Collegians 7
Fondu 34	Hornsey Bruins ... 17

June 18th.

Aveley Cubs 13	Hornsey Athletics 10
Dodgers 8	Briggs Brigands ... 7
Essex Nationals ... 5	Hornsey Red Sox .. 8
Ford Sports 3	Enfield Cardinals 19
Hornsey Bruins ... 8	Fondu 18
Paragon 2	Thames B.M. 8

June 25th.

Aveley Cubs 18	Hornsey Bruins ... 2
Dodgers 13	Ford Sports 0
Enfield Cardinals... 7	Paragon 4

S.E.L. Intermediate Cup.

June 17th.

Collegians 3	Essex Cubs 24
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Essex Charity Cup.

Aveley Cubs 6	Paragon 19
Briggs Brigands ... 7	Essex Nationals ... 5
Thames B.M. 27	Ford Sports 3

National Cup (Southern Area).

Second Round.

Hornsey Red Sox 23	Enfield Cardinals 5
Essex Nationals ... 5	West London P. 22
Ford Sports 4	Briggs Brigands... 43
Wokingham Monarchs	(bye)

Third Round.

Hornsey Red Sox... 9	W.L. Pioneers ... 7
Briggs Brigands 22	Wokingham Mons. 3

Southern Counties Intermediate Cup.

First Round.

Briggs Tigers..... 15	Aveley Cubs 5
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Semi-Final.

Fondu 17	Essex Cubs 19
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Friendlies.

Dodgers 13	Tigers (Mitcham) 14
Essex Cubs 11	W.L. Pioneers II 11
Bournemouth ... 14	Paragon 23
Thames B.M..... 18	Kodak 8
Thames B.M..... 12	Pirates 5
W.L. Pioneers II... 9	Hornsey Athletics 6
Stand. 'Phones 18	Pirates 6
Pirates 10	Stand. 'Phones ... 2

Norsex Cup.

Essex Baseball Cl. 16	Chipping Norton ... 8
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BRISTOL NEWS

A WESTERN AREA TO BE FORMED?

There is Baseball activity in the West Country!

BASEBALL MONTHLY has reached out as far as Wales and the West Coast, and now comes the request from Baseball fans in Bristol to be included in the news. It seems there is a possibility of a Bristol League being formed very shortly, due to the efforts of Mr. E. W. Jones of 62, Berkeley Road, Bishopston, Bristol, 7.

Telling of his efforts to organise the game, Mr. Jones reveals that he has fifty players and potential players who are already in practice. The present sessions are confined

to Softball, as that happens to be the only gear they have available, but it is their intention to turn to Baseball in time for next season if possible. Coaching is being done by Mr. Albert Boehlke, an American ex-army player.

Mr. Jones learned his Baseball in the R.A.F., and his hope now is to get in contact with anyone in the Area who is interested in playing, learning to play, Umpires, and indeed anyone who can help in any way. Please contact Mr. Jones at the address given

BASEBALLERS RESCUE INJURED IN CAFE EXPLOSION

Hornsey Bruin Player Injured

Members of the three Hornsey Baseball Clubs had a remarkable escape, when the Cafe Milk Bar explosion occurred on Sunday, June 25th, near Harringay Stadium. The details of the mishap have been recorded in the Daily Press, but one of the 36 injured, Peter Galliford, is the Hornsey Bruins Baseman. Peter was unfortunate in receiving bad injuries, the full extent of which is not known at the time of going to press.

The Hornsey players assisted in the rescue of the injured which was quite perilous owing to the falling debris.

The story of Galliford's injury is a story of

a remarkable mischance. We understand that the Bruins Players had just returned from their game with Aveley Cubs, and had called at the Cafe where they met the Athletics players and Bernard Auburn of the Red Sox. Just after 10.25 or thereabouts the players all left the cafe, and had proceeded down the road a few yards, when Peter Galliford realised that he had forgotten his Baseball holdall. He returned to the Cafe and was inside when the terrific explosion occurred. The Hornsey players and other helpers made several trips into the wreckage until the injured were all removed.

DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN HAVE "BASEBALL MONTHLY" ON YOUR BREAKFAST TABLE ON THE DAY OF ISSUE, READY AND WAITING TO BE READ? Send P.O. or cheque for 10/6 for twelve months subscription to "Baseball Monthly," 193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

BEGINNERS' CORNER

THE FORCE-OUT RULE EXPLAINED

Many newcomers to the ball game find the Force-out rule rather confusing at the start. The reason for this is probably due to the fact that they get the impression that runners must be touched out on all bases other than first base, and when they see a runner given out on second, third or home plate and the ball just held by the baseman on the base, they are at a loss to understand the reason behind the decision.

It is due to the force play which we will try and set out more clearly.

The LAWS OF BASEBALL are very lengthy as a rule, as well they need be in such a lively game as Baseball. But Law 49 section 11, throws a fair amount of light on the Force play, so we will quote it here.

"If, when the batsman becomes a baserunner, the first base, or the first and second bases or the first, second and third bases be occupied, any baserunner so occupying a base shall cease to be entitled to hold it, and may be put out at the next base in the same manner as in running to first base, or by being touched with the ball in the hand of the fielder at any time before any baserunner following him in the batting order be put out, unless the umpire should decide the hit of the batsman to be an infield-fly according to Section 8 of Law 44."

Now this rule means that if a runner is occupying first base at the time an uncaught fair ball is hit, he is no longer entitled to occupy that base. He must vacate it for the baserunner who made the hit. If he fails to arrive at second base before the ball, he is out. He has in effect been forced to advance by the batter becoming a baserunner.

Likewise if there are runners on first and second bases and the hit is made, the runner from second base can be forced out at third base. If the three bases are occupied at the time of the hit, the runner from third base can be forced out at home plate. In the latter instance a fielder could have effected an out on any of the four bases. This is known as being out on a fielder's choice. The fielder receiving the ball will naturally try to put out the runner who is furthest advanced and therefore likely to score. A split second decision must be made by the fielder, however, and if he finds that the most advanced runner is practically safe anyway, he will elect to force out one (or more) of the less advanced runners. Note that all the rule requires is that the ball reach the base before the runner to effect the "out". The baseman may elect to touch the runner out, but it is not essential.

The Force-out Rule Explained—continued

A DOUBLE FORCE-OUT—

Two or even three outs may be effected by a forced play. If a runner is occupying first base at the time an uncaught fair ball is hit, he can be forced out at second base, as described above; if the second baseman can then throw the ball to first base to beat the runner who made the hit, there would be another out. In our illustration below, an example of a Double play is given. The batsman "X" is batting and there is only one out or there may be no outs. The Pitcher "P" delivers the ball and the batter hits a bounding ball to Short stop (S.S.). The short stop throws the ball to second base (2B), who steps on the base the ball beating the runner who has been forced to vacate first base, making one out at second base. The second baseman with all speed relays the ball to first baseman (1B), who steps on the bag, and if the ball arrives before the runner from home-plate, the runner is out, making out number two, and completing the double-play.

SPEED IS ESSENTIAL—

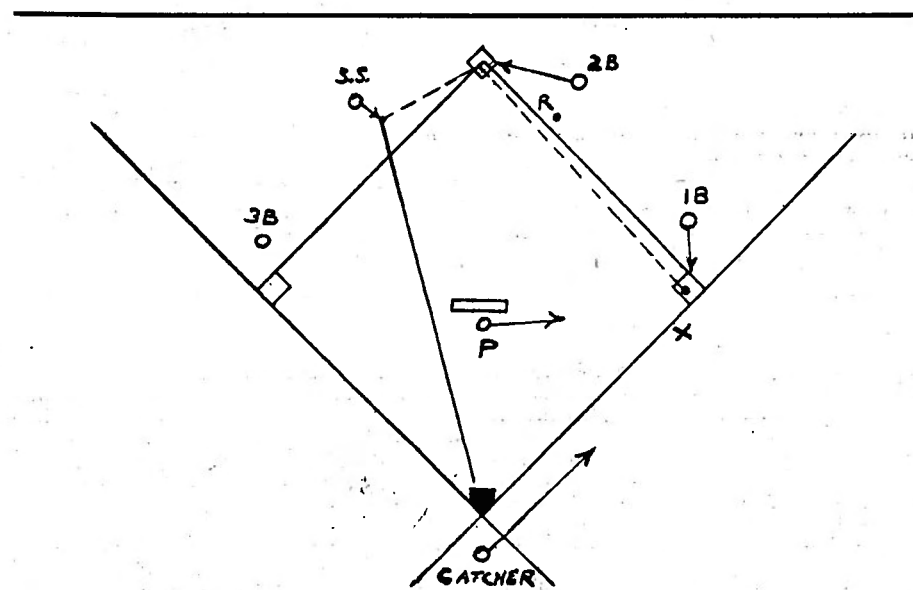
To execute a double-play, only the fastest and fittest of players can be successful generally speaking. It should be realised that

the ball in the case illustrated would have travelled from home plate—to Short stop—to second baseman—to first baseman, a distance of approximately 80 yards in less than five seconds. (Five seconds being an average time the batter takes to run the thirty yards to first base). This is why it is so important for the players to practice together for long periods. Remember that a double-play could take place on home and third bases or on third and second bases as well as those already mentioned. The important point to grasp here, is that there must be runners on all bases behind the foremost runner thereby putting the force on all of them when the batter makes a fair hit.

A TRIPLE PLAY—

It is likewise possible to put out three runners, if at the time the ball is hit there are no outs, and there are runners on first and second bases or on all bases, but as can be imagined this is an extremely difficult play, and is very rarely seen, except in cases where baserunners become confused and are slow as a result.

The fast triple-play is the ambition of all good fielding sides in baseball.



AN EXAMPLE OF A DOUBLE-PLAY (see Text)

BEGINNERS' CORNER—continued

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME

(Baseball under American Rules)

A Game consists of nine innings for each team, but a game can count if terminated by the Umpire after five innings. An innings terminates when three men of the batting side are out.

The distribution of the fielding side is as follows:—

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pitcher. | 6. Short Stop. |
| 2. Catcher. | 7. Left Fielder. |
| 3. 1st Base. | 8. Centre Fielder. |
| 4. 2nd Base. | 9. Right Fielder. |
| 5. 3rd Base. | |

It pitcher sends down four *Balls* before three *Strikes* batsman is allowed first base. Batsman becomes a baserunner when a *Fair Hit* is made or when he gets first base on balls.

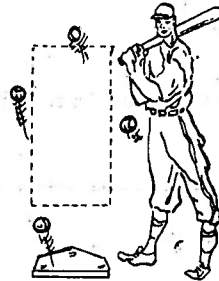
A *Fair Hit* is one which settles or flies over fair ground, that is inside the foul lines (see diagram).

A baserunner is out at first base if ball is held on bag before he reaches it. At second, third and home plate, baserunner must be touched by ball which is held by fielder before he reaches the bases, except when play is *Forced*, that is when baserunners are com-



"STRIKES"—Ball goes through the strike area, but batsman does not strike at it.

(If the batsman swings at a ball it counts a strike even if it misses the strike area).



"BALLS"—Various pitched balls are shown going outside the strike area. Four of these entitles batsman to a "walk".

Note: When pitcher is delivering the ball to bat he must keep one foot in contact with the Pitcher's Plate. Pitching distance is 60 feet 6 inches.

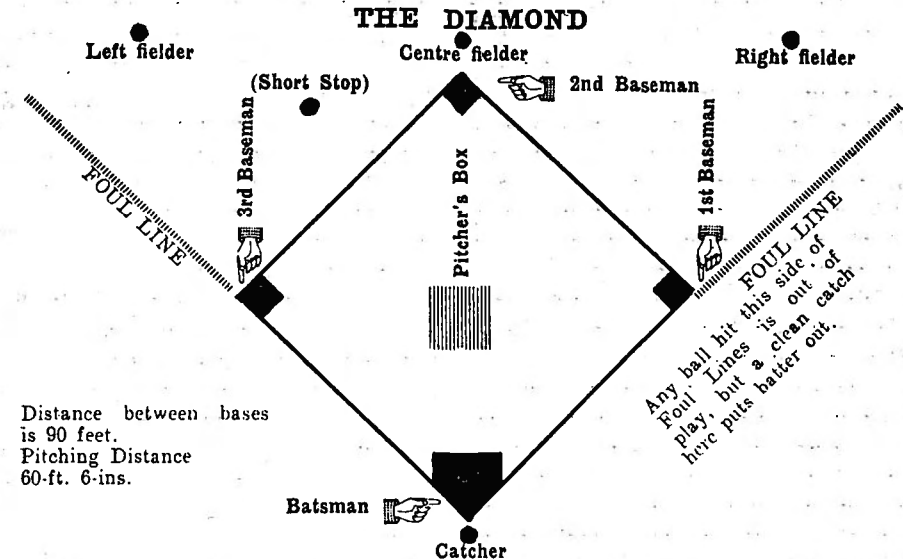
The *Batsman* is allowed three *Strikes*, or four *Balls*. A strike is a ball which passes over the home plate between the knee and shoulder of batter, or any ball struck at by batsman without touching the bat. A ball is called when the pitched ball is below the knee or above the shoulder, or which passes wide of the home plate.

elled to advance through batsman making a fair hit and becoming a runner, when all that is necessary is for a fielder to hold the ball and touch the base.

The Ball is dead and not in play if it goes foul, that is, outside the foul lines (see diagram), unless it is caught, batsman is then declared out.

A *Run* is scored, only when each individual batsman has made a complete circuit of the course touching each base in regular order before three men are out.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME—continued from page 12.



TAKE YOUR TIME PITCHER

An American Visitor to England recently saw his first few games of Baseball in Britain.

Asked what were his impressions of the type of ball we are playing, he thoughtfully rubbed his chin and then replied, "Not bad, Not bad."

He then gave me a look as if to excuse himself for what he was about to say, and then continued:

"But oh, your pitchers! Why are they always in such a hurry?"

It seems to me that he has a point there that we might do well to consider for a moment. We have a number of promising pitchers who seem to think that Baseball, as a fast action game, depends upon their ability to pitch strikes and balls in the shortest possible time.

Don't do it pitchers! You will more often than not pitch your arm out long before the ninth innings.

Anyone who has seen a first class pitcher in action will know that he spends more time thinking than pitching. Prior to stepping on the rubber, he will stand and study the batter, giving him a good look over, making good use of any knowledge such as where that particular batter is known to hit, how hard he can hit, etc. At the same time he will be taking his signal from the catcher or whoever may be calling the plays.

The pitcher has twenty seconds to make his study, and it is not suggested that this time should be taken for every pitch. But most times the experienced pitcher knows that he has twenty seconds, and he means to utilise every one of those seconds, if only to get his batter in an uncertain mind.

After all, the batter has the privilege of stepping out of the box if the pitcher takes too long, and also the Umpire can call a "ball" for each twenty seconds' delay. Yet providing the pitcher is not overdoing it the penalty is seldom called.

HULL DISTRICT AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

Many Keen Games—and a reference to Lefty Wilson

Over in Hull, here, we have reached roughly the halfway mark in our season. The race for Pennants is on, each game brings a fresh battle, and all the teams here are striving for honours in their various Leagues.

The *Major League Division I.* sees the Hull Royals in the lead by a four clear points over other contenders. Their hottest rivals are the Pirates, and although the Royals took valuable League Points from them recently by virtue of a narrow 5-3 runs victory, they suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of the Pirates. They were swept to a crushing 10-6 runs defeat in the Hull Area Baseball Association Cup Semi-Finals. This has certainly given the Royals a few headaches, and news reaches me that they are strengthening their efforts to capture the Hull League Championship. Although the Semi-Final was played under bad conditions the Royals showed far from their usual form so we can expect more Fireworks from them soon. The Pirates, who are also hot contenders, are eagerly awaiting the next vital clash with the Royals. Both these teams play grand Baseball, and given ideal weather conditions the next meeting should certainly be worth seeing. The Giants, who are third in the League, and have won and also suffered defeat at the hands of the Pirates and the Royals are another keen bunch of boys, and any game with them is certainly far from any walkover. "Down in the cellar", the Maybury Royals, Cardinals and Alexandra are fighting it out. It is rather surprising to see the Cardinals so low, as last Season they were League Champions, they lost several of their stars however to the Giants and the newly formed Saints teams. I expect to see the Cardinals make an extra strong finish, and it will not be surprising to see them in the top three teams.

Division II. Top team at press is the Electricity team, due to the fine Pitching of Benny Day and Catcher Bob Cawthorne, one

of the finest Catchers in either League. When Bob comes to bat, it's certainly a danger signal for their opponents. Close to the Electricity boys are Fenners Vs., a newly formed team, and their teamwork and enthusiasm has brought them to second place. They have keen competition from the Eastfield Eagles and the Saints (also newly formed) and a close finish is expected for the second place in this League.

The Minor League (Youths) are all progressing nicely, and from these boys we are looking forward to, for the "players of tomorrow". The girls, too, play, and its worth noting they use a hard ball—the same as the men—these girls are certainly not all "gorgeous Gussies", and quite a few can throw a ball and have an eye for one as good as any man.

In the background the Committee and Club Secretaries are all doing a swell job, amidst the usual heartbreaking shortage of such gear as Bats, Balls, and our greatest difficulty each season—looking for more suitable grounds. Due to the heavy war-damage and rebuilding, the majority of grounds and fields are now mainly for building, and this is one of our greatest handicaps. However, everyone here is all for BASEBALL and the flag will still be flying come what difficulties may. Pre-war Hull was a real hot-bed of Baseball, ask fans if they ever heard of Lefty Wilson—and all of us here, Players, Officials, Spectators, down to the humble Bat-Boy are all striving to make the game even more popular. Our motto—BASEBALL FOR BRITAIN.

Mention of Lefty Wilson will bring memories back to many Baseball followers of the pre-war era. It is doubtful whether a faster pitcher has ever played Baseball in Britain. A great sportsman and athlete, Lefty put up some remarkable performances.—EDITOR.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Up to and including June 24th)

MAJOR LEAGUE, DIV. I.	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Hull Royals	5	5	0	0	10
Pirates	5	3	0	2	6
Giants	5	3	0	2	6
Maybury Royals	5	1	0	4	2
Cavendish Cardinals	4	1	0	3	2
Alexandra	4	1	0	3	2
MAJOR LEAGUE, DIV. II.					
Electricity	7	7	0	0	14
Fenners V's	7	4	0	3	8
Eastfield Eagles	5	3	0	2	6
Saints	5	2	0	3	4
Blackburn Bombers	4	2	0	2	4
Kingston Diamonds	4	0	0	4	0
Priestman Panthers	5	0	0	5	0
MINOR LEAGUE (Youths)					
Maybury Rd. Y.C.	7	6	0	1	12
Hopewell Y.C. Aces	7	4	1	2	9
Cavendish Comets	6	3	1	2	7
Trinity House Bulldogs	6	0	0	6	0
Craven St. Y.C.	2	0	0	2	0
LADIES LEAGUE					
Maybury Ladies	4	3	1	0	7
Kingston Bluebirds	3	1	0	2	2
Fenners Ladies	3	0	1	2	1

Hull District Cup Winners, 1949.

Hull Amateur Cup. Winners—Pirates.

British Legion Cup. Winners—Hull Royals

Sailors Orphanage Cup—Maybury Ladies.
(The League winners were published last month).

SOUTHERN AREA UMPIRES' NEWS

The Southern Umpires' Association is proving itself most active under the Chairmanship of Mr. George Parnell, and clubs are reporting favourably upon the improved standard of umpiring this season—to a great extent materially assisted by better baseball and a better knowledge of the Rules by the players!

The Association has had a material increase in membership, and among the new members are several who are showing that they will maintain the high standard of their predecessors. Most of these newcomers are operating in the South Eastern Area, where Messrs. Marshall, Bill Taylor, Harold Evans, Robins, Rawlins and Co., have been successful students under the tutelage of Messrs. Hugh Beattie, Slim Beckwith and "Rubber" Sargent, at the fortnightly classes arranged by the League

There are a number of former players among those now umpiring, and Dick Pender (formerly Fondu) and Frank Morgan (Fords) have showed that they have learned much by experience from the other side of the plate!

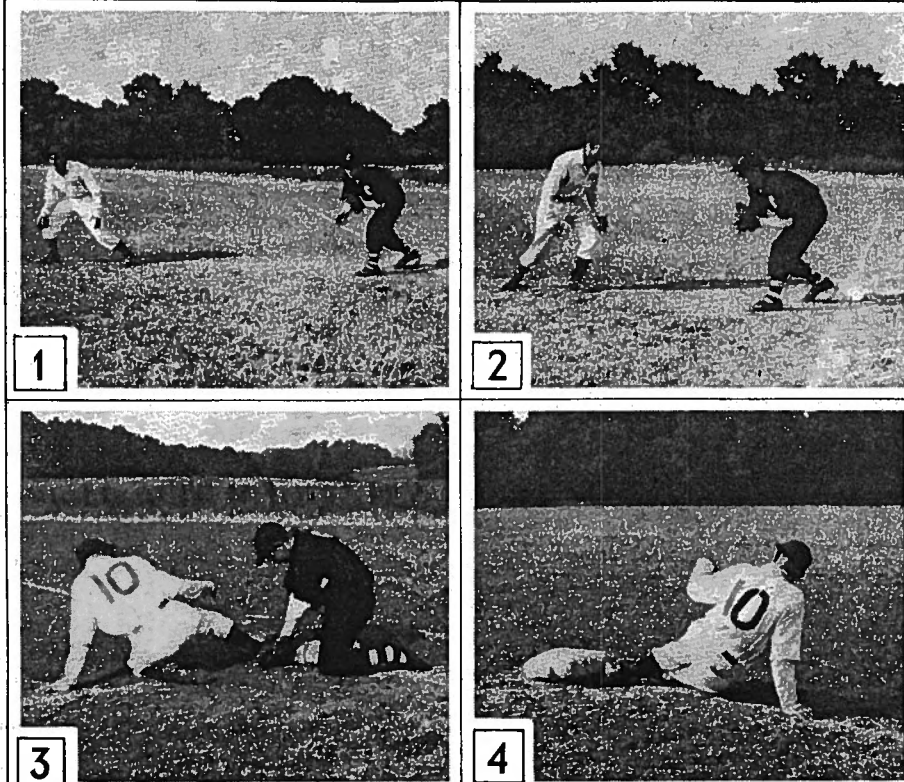
We were pleased to hear that Frank Morgan has now left hospital, after an illness, and hope that he will soon be "calling 'em" again.

The Western League panel is comprised mostly of "old stagers" with several seasons of experience behind them, and the League are well-served by Messrs. Parnell, Faulkner, Dines, and "Butch" McKeever.

The Umpires' Executive is working in close contact with the two Southern Area Leagues, and the clubs can be assured that no effort is being spared in providing competent officials, and new recruits are assured of a hearty welcome.

NOTICE REGARDING FIXTURES

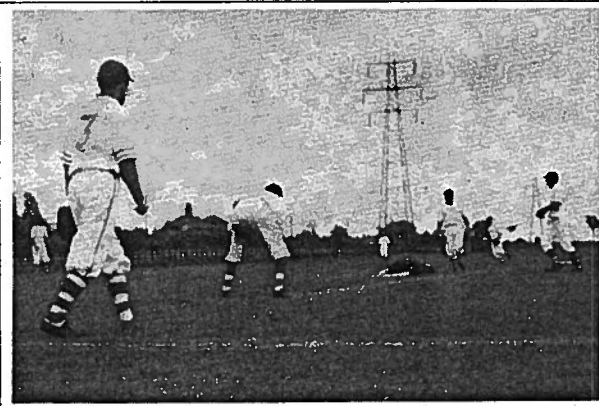
As fixtures are liable to late re-arrangement through Cup matches and other reasons, we have discontinued printing them for the time being. Fixtures are, however, published in the Saturday edition of the "DAILY EXPRESS." They are also published in the "EVENING STANDARD" and "WHAT'S ON." Many local papers likewise carry the fixtures for the current week-end.



STEALING BASES

1. The Lead-off and position for the cross-over step.
2. The right foot pushes hard for the return.
3. Two steps, a slide - and a safe return!
4. The slide to the outside corner of the Diamond.

(Photos by Beckwith & Martin)



LEFT.
Thames Board Mills run down
Eric Ottley of Paragon between
bases. (Note the perfect covering
by the Thames Board Mills team).
(Photo by Beckwith & Martin)

THE COLLEGE OF BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE

One of the aims of "BASEBALL MONTHLY" will be to improve the Standard of play in British Baseball, and each month we will feature an article to coach players in the finer points of the game.

No. 3. IMPROVE YOUR BASERUNNING

In our previous lessons we have dealt with the Pitcher and the Catcher—two of the most important members of the defensive game. By contrast we now turn to the offensive game, before returning to the other defensive positions in future articles.

One of the most bitter disappointments that can happen to a ball team, is when, in a tight game, one of the baserunners forfeits a scoring position through bad or indifferent baserunning. It is surprising to discover that a large number of baseball players concentrate on their batting and fielding and leave the running between bases as something that just follows naturally.

Every player has a moral obligation to his team to study and master the art of running the Diamond.

STARTING THE RUN—

The moment the batter hits the ball he becomes a baserunner and on no account must he ease up in his running. He should run out every hit, regardless of where the ball is hit in fair ground, for no matter how sure a fielder may be, he is human and errors and fumbles do occur. So the first essential is to get a fast take-off after the hit, with a determination to run out the hit to the most advanced base that can be safely reached. The runner must also be conscious of the possibility of an extra base should the fielders fumble.

RUNNING TO FIRST BASE—

First base must always be over-run. Never slide into first base unless it be to avoid being touched out by the baseman in case the latter has been forced to leave the bag, and gather the ball in the path of the on-coming runner. Therefore maintain speed until the foot has hit the bag in a full out run. (Sliding at the best of times means a loss of speed, but of course on bases other than first it has to be used to avoid over-running the bag).

STEALING TO SECOND—

A big lead-off is very useful, but more important is the ability to make a quick get-away. Having reached first the runner waits until he is sure that the pitcher has the ball and has come into his pitching position, before taking his lead off. Many experienced players consider a good safe lead to be

one that ensures that the runner could get back to base with two steps and a slide (see fig. 1). This distance can later be increased when the runner is sure that the pitcher has commenced his delivery to the batter. It is a good tip to make a point of studying the opposing pitcher before coming up to bat. Left-handed pitchers are particularly dangerous as they are able to watch a runner on first and often make motions while pitching to a batter that are very similar to their motions in throwing to base. Fig. 2 shows the position of the runner just prior to the steal. At the right moment the runner starts the steal with a cross-over step, the right foot pushing off the ground with much force, very much like a track runner taking off. Note that the position is also convenient for the sharp return to base if necessary. Two steps and a slide—and the runner is back on the base (see fig. 3).

SLIDING—

We have mentioned earlier that one object of sliding is to avoid over-running the base. The other reason for the slide is to make the body as low and as awkward as possible for the opposing fielder to touch the runner out with the ball. There are two types of slide. The first is the head foremost slide which is not recommended except for experienced players as it is very dangerous unless properly executed. Most players would be well advised to use the more popular slide which is feet foremost. Approaching the bag at top speed, the runner throws the body sideways through the air so that one side of it lands on the ground the weight of the body being on the lower part, from the hips to the feet. The lower leg is slightly bent at the knee, and the upper foot then hooks the bag, as shown in fig. 4.

SLIDING PRACTICE—

It is a very good scheme to make a sliding pit in some odd corner of the ground, for giving practice to players during training periods. This has obvious advantages the chief of these being the confidence that new players will gain by constant sliding practice into soft earth, which will stand them in good stead and help to avoid injury when the time comes to slide on the harder surface of the match diamond.

CLUB CHATTER

AVELEY CUBS continue to attract increasing attendances at their West Thurrock ground and the hard work of Messrs. Percy Bourn and Jimmy Pike is receiving gratifying reward in the club's present position in the League. Although National Service calls cast a shadow over the future there is a compensation in the fact that new players continue to come along. Already there is a nucleus of a second team for the Club and it is likely that friendly matches will be arranged for this side before the season ends. The club has been asked to play an exhibition game at nearby Pitsea on August Bank Holiday Monday, and they have invited old rivals, Essex Cubs, to oppose them.

BOURNEMOUTH CUBS are still seeking opponents, and were very pleased to receive a visit from Paragon of the South Eastern League on July 11th. Though being defeated, the homesters made a good showing, and hope that they will improve as the season progresses. London area clubs will be most welcome, and it is hoped that as opportunity arises other teams will visit the "outpost of Southern baseball".

BRIGGS BRIGANDS.—By reaching the Area Final of the National Cup, Briggs Brigands have reached another stage in their quick strides to the top this season. The only three defeats sustained by the Brigands this season have been by scores of 9-7, 8-7 and (again) 8-7, and it is apparent that the Dagenham works club are out to emulate the feats of their senior amateur soccer side. A strong second team—the Tigers—assures them of adequate replacements when required, and this team is also making a big effort to bring other trophies to the club show-case this season.

CHIPPING NORTON recently visited Mayesbrook Park, Barking, Essex, to meet Essex Nationals in the first "leg" of the Norsex Cup competition for 1950. This Cup is competed for annually by the two clubs, being decided on "home and away" aggregate. Though "Chippy" face an eight runs deficit on August 20th, they are confident that the Cup will remain at the Oxfordshire town when the Essex club go there for the return.

The Midlanders had several new faces among their team in this game, and it is apparent that baseball is still the major summer sport in this pioneer area, for they have a strong junior side as well as the senior team, with evergreen Fred Lewis as their strongest "fan".

THE COLLEGIANS.—Another club with a rapidly increasing membership is the Collegians (South-East Essex Technical College). There have been well over 20 players at most practice sessions, coaching being assisted by Slim Beckwith (now Hon. Secre-

tary of the Southern Counties Umpires' Association). Despite being without a win so far this season there is no lack of enthusiasm and Don Fox is very pleased with his efforts to bring back the club to its pre-war high standing in this area.

THE DODGERS.—The Bromley County Club has an air of confidence these days, for the Dodgers continue to maintain a high standard of "ball," and eyes are very much on the League championship trophy, although the club is still interested in the Southern Counties Senior Cup. A recent knee injury to Lyn Shafer necessitated him having seven stitches inserted in the wound, but he expects to be in there playing ball just as keenly as ever. The advent of Jack Forbes as a pitcher has given "old timer" Bob Shearer a deserved rest, though Bob is still in the regular line-up as a baseman. A newcomer behind the plate is Art House, who has proved an effective stand in for Schafer.

ENFIELD CARDINALS had a stroke of bad luck when their two regular catchers sustained injuries in a recent game. George Stopher twisting an ankle whilst sliding into second and Babe Merritt sustaining a torn instep on a close play at the plate. At the time of writing it is not known how these mishaps will affect the Cardinals line-up, but the loss of two such experienced players naturally hits any side. Cardinals have a fifty-fifty record this season, but there is no decrease in the big following at Durants Park and attendances are more than the average of last season.

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB.—With Sonny Campbell breaking a finger in a National Cup game v. West London Pioneers and Ray Butcher sustaining a hand injury at work, Essex Nationals have lost two experienced players for the time being. Against Hornsey Red Sox in the League Bob Pullen was drafted from the Essex Cubs' side and held the Red Sox to eight runs in a hard-hitting game, and it appears likely that several others of the Cubs' side will provide a large part of the National' line-up in 1951. The Cubs are having a very successful season so far and have reached the Southern Counties Intermediate Cup Final (where they will meet Briggs Tigers or Wokingham Monarchs), but it was only an eighth-innings rally against Fondu that put them there, for they were lagging by 13-6 until they scored an "unlucky thirteen" (for Fondu) in the last-but-one frame.

FONDU continue to play keen and enthusiastic baseball, and the club has had an interesting month. The keenest games this season have been against Wokingham Monarchs and Essex Cubs. The former was a friendly on Whit-Monday at the Berkshire club's ground, won 14-13 by the visitors.

The latter game was the S.C.B.A. Intermediate Cup Semi-Final which produced a thrilling finish, though Fondu were somewhat unfortunate to have victory snatched from their grasp.

The near-at-home postings of Servicemen Tommy O'Neill and Ivor Dann will help to strengthen the Purfleet team, and they confidently anticipate more successes, as O'Neill is one of their best pitchers and Dann was last season's promising catching prospect.

FORDS are still dogged by ill-fortune, and have yet to record a League victory. However, the undaunted "Scotty" and assistant Harry Knapp are still building-up with younger talent to produce a winning side in the future, and we are sure that the expected success will not be long delayed.

HORNSEY BASEBALL CLUB.—The Red Sox are still enjoying their winning streak and once again they have reached the area-final of the National Cup. The victory over the West London Pioneers workmanlike team, was well earned, and took the Red Sox over what may prove to be the most difficult hurdle in the Southern Competition. They still have to beat the Brigands, however, and this is no foregone conclusion, but the Red Sox are confident. The Athletics and the Bruins continue their friendly rivalry, and their League fixture with each other brought forth a real struggle which the Athletics won. Attendances are still on the increase at Muswell Hill, and this is no accident, much credit is due to the hardworking club officials, Ken. Grant, Pete Cranwell, Manager Joe Valin and others. Red Sox new pitchers Ray Carns and Don Brody are performing well on the mound, as is Ray Marsh. How comfortable it must be to have a relief pitcher of Glen Allans' ability always on hand. Glen seldom fails to "bring home the bacon" when called up to help out in a tight spot.

MITCHAM ROYALS.—The Crown of leadership may not rest upon the Royals' head, but the Crown of efficient, smart appearance does. Bill Phillips a newcomer has brought some relief to the regular pitchers Hank Edwards and Harry Jacobs. The club is proud of having players of the calibre of Wally Kehoe, who in spite of an injury reported elsewhere, carried on playing and in much pain, still had courage enough to hit a homer. This is typical of the Royals who are still smiling and waiting for the breaks that they know must surely come.

MITCHAM TIGERS are still proving themselves a team capable of beating the strongest. Their victory over the Dodgers on June 11th was the result of good teamwork which triumphed in an exciting game which could have gone either way. After a very good sporting game the Tigers expressed their appreciation to BASEBALL MONTHLY, of having played such an enjoyable game with such a good Sporting team as the Dodgers.

PARAGON.—Although still without a League success, Paragon have negotiated the first two rounds of the Essex Charity Cup and are due to meet Briggs Tigers in the Semi-Final. They hope to repeat last season's performance when they reached the final stage.

Paragon have had a very large proportion of close games in the League, and the narrow margins of defeat indicate that they are settling down in the top sphere after promotion from Division II. This augurs well for the future, and we can expect to see more success coming their way.

Arthur Pinder has developed well in his first season of pitching and this has given the regular "moundsman" Eric Ottley a welcome break.

The club had a most enjoyable day at Bournemouth, when they visited Bournemouth Cubs for a friendly fixture, and hope that they will have the opportunity of meeting this new club again.

STANDARD TELEPHONES started up again this season and with the exception of three, all members that play are newcomers to baseball. Counting friendlies and League games together the score up to now is four wins, three losses and great hopes of finishing in the top half of the league table.

THAMES BOARD MILLS are still interested in the Essex Charity Cup and the Southern Counties Senior Cup, in both of which they have to meet Briggs Brigands. They play both these fixtures in a "double header" on July 16th, and there should be some exciting play between these two sides.

It was pleasing to see the return of Frank Petrucci to the pitching staff of T.B.M., as it was feared at an earlier stage of the season that "sore arm" would prevent Frank from repeating his previous fine performances for the Mills, but after a spell on the bases he came back recently to show he has retained his old skill.

Among news of new teams are three in the "nucleus" stage in the South Eastern League area.

The first of these is HEADLEY'S, a works team from Purfleet, where the initiative of overseas employees has brought definite results. Assistance is being offered by Fondu and Aveley Cubs, and the club hopes to play friendlies shortly with a view to entering a League next season.

A young team under the name of RYLAND CARDINALS is taking shape in the Dagenham area, the players being of average age of about 15. It is likely that the interest of youngsters in this area will result in the formation of a junior league if plans progress as hoped.

Under the leadership of Ross Ricardo, an American resident in this country, another new club has been formed in the MALDON-BRAINTREE area (Essex). Activity is at present confined to practice sessions, but there is a distinct possibility that friendly games will be taking place there shortly.

THE AMERICAN REVIEW

by "Guestplayer"

During the last few weeks the scenes in the Major Leagues have been changing with almost every day that passes. Well-known and high paid stars have been changing clubs with almost monotonous regularity. Stars who have become almost legendary with certain famous clubs have changed their home diamonds, in a way that their most ardent fans have not yet got over the shock. The trading of players in the big leagues is a skilled and involved business, and quite apart from the big finance of such deals, the managers of the clubs are always turning their playing staffs inside-out with the object of winning a few more valuable games in the pennant race. Sometimes players find themselves back in their former clubs as for instance first-baseman Mickey Vernon whom the Cleveland Indians have traded back to the Washington Senators for Pitcher Dick Weik. It is not so very long since the Indians acquired Mickey's services from the Senators. So the Managerial strategy continues! Meanwhile the Pennant race gathers momentum. In the American League, the Detroit Tigers had nosed out the New York Yankees from first place by the middle of June, and at the time of writing are still leading by one game over the Yanks with six games less played. Casey Stengel and his Yankees will certainly have to hustle some if they are to figure in this year's World Series.

HOW THEY STAND IN THE CUPS

To enable readers to follow the cup-ties, we give below the present position of the draws for the various cup competitions—*National Cup* (Southern Area Final).

Hornsey Red Sox (holders) v.

Briggs Brigands.

(Winners meet Birmingham Cardinals in the Semi-Final in the Midlands).

Southern Counties Intermediate Cup (Final).

Essex Cubs v. Briggs Tigers or

Wokingham Monarchs.

In the National League the Brooklyn Dodgers are also very worried, for after a flying start they have recently slumped and Manager, Bert Shotton, has been changing the batting order around in the hope of increasing the R.B.I.'s column. The Brooks are still leading the race, however, but are being pressed hard by the Phillies, a young team who are making a remarkable bid for League honours.

Leo Durocher's New York Giants who at the end of May were at the bottom of the table, seem to have found the cures for their ailments, for with some big hitting games, they have crept away from the foot of the table, and in a remarkable game with Cincinnati, on June 25th, they blasted seven homers—only one short of the all time record for Major League ball. The unfortunate Reds were beaten 12-2.

Here are the positions of the Clubs as at 25th June.—

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Brooklyn Dodgers (.614), Philadelphia Phillies (.589), St. Louis Cardinals (.586), Boston Braves (.534), Chicago Cubs (.519), New York Giants (.518), Pittsburgh Pirates (.350), Cincinnati Reds (.298).

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit Tigers (.684), New York Yankees (.623), Cleveland Indians (.583), Boston Red Sox (.531), Washington Senators (.441), Chicago White Sox (.441), St. Louis Browns (.345), Philadelphia Athletics (.344).

South Eastern League Senior Cup

(Semi-Finals).

Briggs Brigands v. Essex Nationals.

Hornsey Red Sox v. Enfield Cardinals.

South Eastern League Intermediate Cup

(Semi-Finals).

Essex Cubs v. Fondu.

Aveley Cubs v. Briggs Tigers.

Essex Charity Cup (Semi-Finals).

Briggs Tigers v. Paragon.

Thames Board Mills v. Briggs Brigands.

Southern Counties Senior Cup has not yet started.

A WORD OF CAUTION TO CATCHERS

Remember catchers, be careful when bluffing a throw to third base! An accident can so easily be caused to the batter, as happened in a recent match played, in which Mitcham Royals were taking part. Wally Kehoe of the Royals sustained a nasty injury, when the catcher in his eagerness to bluff a runner at third, accidentally caught the man

at bat with the ball held in the hand. Wally was struck in the face just below the temple and this resulted in a fractured jawbone. No blame can, of course, be attached to the Catcher in this instance, but Catchers can avoid this kind of thing with a little forethought. PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

BASEBALL MONTHLY

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ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB require a few additional players (or learners). Ground at Barking. Moderate subs.—Write, B. Blerkom, 624, Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

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Western Amateur Baseball League invites applications for membership from new clubs for next season (1951). Help gladly given on getting started.—Write, K. Brown, 103, Carlton Avenue West, North Wembley, Middlesex.

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THE EDITOR, "Baseball Monthly"
who will forward enquiries to
the nearest Area Association.

(S. & A.E. all enquiries)

THE SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE is now complete for 1950, but will accept applications for Season 1951. New clubs helped to form up if required.—Write or 'phone, J. F. Helliard, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6. Grangewood 2174.

CHIPPING NORTON (oldest club in England, 1920) **JUNIORS**. 14 to 18 yrs. or just out of services, will play home and away with any team same age. Sundays 2.30 p.m. Youth clubs write in.—Fred Lewis (Hon. Treasurer), Chipping Norton, Oxon. ('Phone: 73.)

BASKET BALL. New teams being formed in the Ilford, Barking, Dagenham, East and West Ham Areas. Players and learners invited to apply for membership.—Write, Box No. 102, **BASEBALL MONTHLY**.

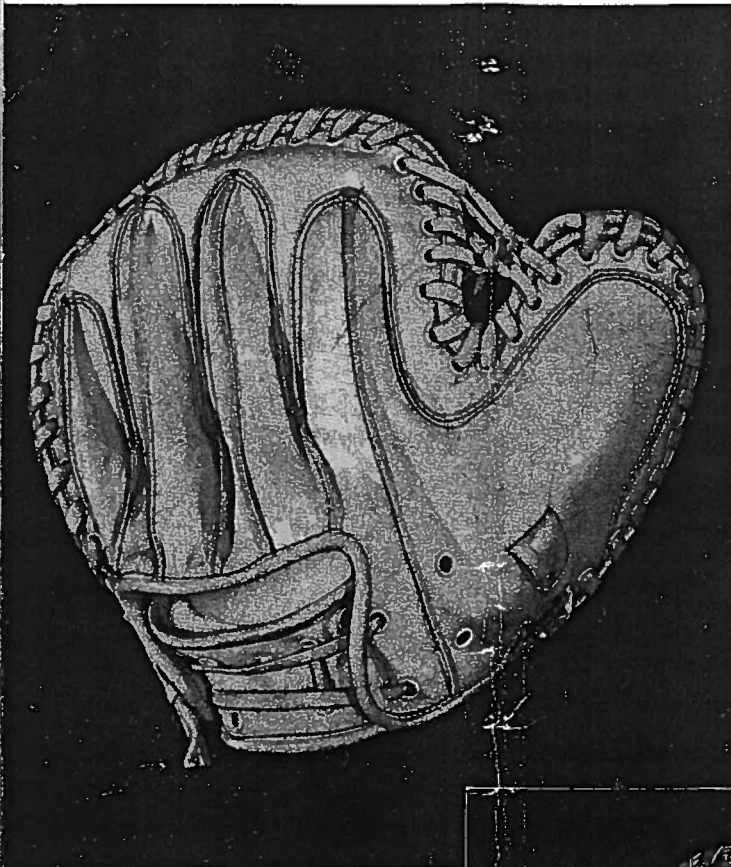
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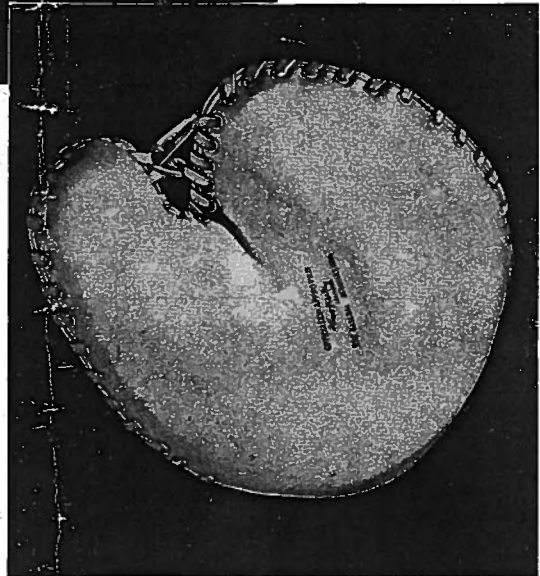
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