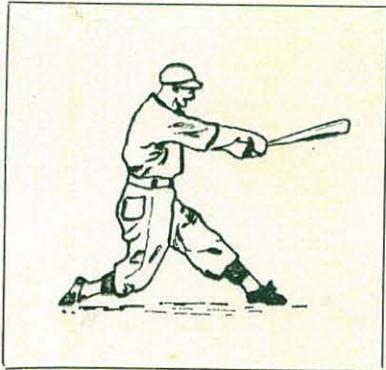


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## MONTHLY



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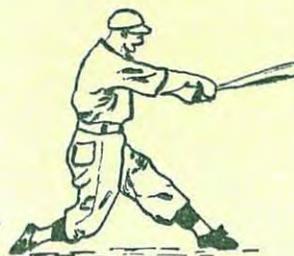
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# BASEBALL MONTHLY

Annual Subscription 10/6d. (INCLUDING POSTAGE)

All correspondence should be addressed to Baseball Monthly  
193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex.

## EDITORIAL

### BRITAIN TAKES TO THE BALL GAME

With the rapid growth of interest in Baseball in Britain the scene has been set for the appearance of **BASEBALL MONTHLY**, which, it is hoped, will prove to be a useful companion to all those warriors, who, since 1933 (and perhaps even earlier) have been fighting for the establishment of the Ball game as a "No. 1" Summer sport for these islands.

The policy of **BASEBALL MONTHLY** will be two-fold. Firstly, we are aware of the need of such a journal to keep the Leagues, Clubs, players and supporters fully informed. Secondly, and perhaps more important, **BASEBALL MONTHLY** will strive to appeal to the millions of people, who are not yet even aware of the great strides that Baseball is making over here.

Baseball is here to stay!

There can be no mistaking that fact. Starting in earnest in 1933 or thereabouts, the game had spread throughout the country by 1939 to the extent of some 750 teams. Then came the war. Six years of hostilities could not kill the spirit of Baseball! Left with little and inadequate playing gear, the stalwarts set out to beat the seemingly hopeless position set by the restrictions on Dollar imports—the only known source of equipment—by improvising and finally by getting English manufacturers interested in making the items required, and it now appears to offer the prospects of a new industry for the country.

It is with that spirit that Baseball confidently faces the future, and **BASEBALL MONTHLY** will stand ready and willing to take its part in the next phases of the development of Baseball for Britain!

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.

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.

## FOREWORD TO 1950 BASEBALL SEASON

By Lt.-Col. MAX JOUBERT

(Chairman of Southern Counties Baseball Association)

Congratulations to the Editors of **BASEBALL MONTHLY** for their enterprise and initiative in starting up a periodical devoting itself solely to baseball. We shall now have our own magazine and I wish it every success. But the Clubs must realize that the editors will be more or less dependent on them for results and other information. So repay the work of these pioneers by buying the magazine and by letting the editors have any required information promptly.

This seems a golden opportunity for me to express, on behalf of the Executive Council, its deep appreciation for all the work done by the League and Club officials during the 1949 season which, together with the keenness and enthusiasm of the players themselves, made that season a memorable one for the London and Home Counties area. For myself, possibly the oldest fan in years of service, I wish to add my thanks for their efforts in getting baseball in London up another rung in the ladder of permanency.

Congratulations to the winners of the League and Cup Competitions, especially to Hornsey Red Sox for bringing the Baseball Association Challenge Cup back where it belongs, to London. In their play, turnout and behaviour they were worthy representatives of our area. Having congratulated the winners, I would like to offer even deeper congratulations to those teams who finished up in lowly positions and with few victories, but many defeats. The players on those teams were the real heroes. It is easy to keep one's enthusiasm while playing on a successful ball club, but it takes guts and real devotion to the game to turn out week after week and get beaten. So, to the players on the weaker clubs, I wish to state that they are equal partners in the brotherhood of our baseball organisation in the Southern Counties. Don't forget that by steady practice, and the improvement derived therefrom, you

may, and I hope will, rise in the League standings and eventually reach the dizzy heights of pennant winners.

Finally, my thanks to the Umpires and the Umpires' Association. Without their enthusiasm and real devotion to the game, the past season would have been nowhere near as enjoyable. It is fun to play, but, personally, I am darned if I see any fun in umpiring. Those who umpired for us last year must have a real devotion to baseball to go out regularly every week and take the knocks which are usually an Umpire's lot. Everyone, from myself, the Chairman, to the newest rookie on the newest team, owes the Umpires and their Association a great debt.

So much for the past season. Now for 1950.

I am pleased to see all last year's teams still continuing, and wish them all a most enjoyable and satisfactory season. I would like to congratulate Hornsey and Briggs for getting together further teams.

We have some newcomers. Welcome to Kodak and the "Collegians" on coming back to the fold. If your brand of baseball is the same as pre-war, our present top line Clubs will have to look to their laurels. And welcome to Dulwich, a particular welcome from me. I went to school there. Last, but by no means least, welcome to Marley Youth Centre. The entry of Marley may turn out to be one of the most important steps in the development of baseball in this area. It is from boys such as these that we must look for our future ball players. I hope that other Youth Clubs will take note and follow Marley's lead.

Finally, my thanks to the Editors of **BASEBALL MONTHLY** for giving me the opportunity of sending this message to all the devotees of what I think the best summer game in the world.

## SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By JACK HELLIAR

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

The London East League has decided to change its name to one more in keeping with the area in which it operates, and is now known as the South Eastern League, as among its members are clubs from Essex, Kent and Middlesex.

In addition, a 50% increase in membership since 1949 has brought the League nearly back to its pre-war strength, and the likely leaders of the two divisions is most problematical.

In the First Division, Hornsey Red Sox are natural favourites to repeat last season's success, but they will meet stronger opposition in 1950. Dodgers, who were in the Western Amateur League in 1949, have a nearly all-Canadian team who will be strong challengers. Essex Nationals, third last year, may improve on that performance providing that they steer clear of the injuries and other commitments which left them with selection difficulties in 1949. Thames Board Mills were runners-up last season, but the departure of some players to Briggs Brigands will make their task more difficult on this occasion. As a result of this increase in strength, Brigands will be a "dark-horse" and confidently expect to be in the running. Enfield Cardinals should again hold a mid-way position, but may well spring a surprise under their new team-manager, Geoff Richardson, who ran the Leyton Civics team in 1939. Ford Sports (re-elected) and Paragon (Division II winners last season) complete this division, and while neither expects to "burn up" the League the new players in both teams may help in producing some surprises in the games in which they are involved.

Division II is a very open race. Avey Cubes, Essex Cubs and Fondu all have a season's experience behind them, and all will be hard to beat. The new teams—Briggs Tigers, Hornsey Athletics, Hornsey Bruins, and South East Essex Technical College are "unknown quantities", and until the first month of the season is past, it will be difficult to size up their prospects.

The League has divided its Cup competition into two sections—Division I and Division II—and in addition has taken over the organisation of the Essex Charity Cup (confined to teams in Essex).

Whatever the results of the various Competitions may prove to be, I hope that all clubs and everybody concerned will have an enjoyable season.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to those stalwarts of the League, who have been with us since the early days of the League way back in 1935. I refer to Bob Browning (Hon. Chairman), E. H. Mathews (Hon. Treasurer) and H. F. Scott (Ford Sports Club), the latter being one of the most loyal workers in the cause of Baseball we have had the pleasure of knowing. Also I must pay a special tribute to Jack Kosta (now on the Council of the Southern Counties Baseball Association) to whom the League owes so much for his pioneer work. May they all long continue their connection with the League!

J. F. HELLIAR.

## SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

### *Essex Baseball Supporters Club.*

Followers of the Essex Baseball Club decided at the close of last season to form a Supporters' Association, and held their inaugural meeting on October 18th, 1949.

Throughout the winter months it has held monthly dances, and weekly club nights for table tennis, darts and other games.

These social evenings have brought the players and supporters together, and have proved such a success that throughout the closed season membership has steadily in-

creased, and a substantial advance in this direction is expected during the coming season.

Those wishing to join should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, L. D. Henke, 10, Wilmington Gardens, Barking; and are assured of a very cordial welcome.

\* \* \*

These notes are intended for Supporters' Clubs, we would like to hear from all Supporters' Clubs!

Last Season set the Jonahs thinking again!  
Many exciting struggles.

What a wonderful season for the followers of the small white ball!

Yes, 1949 will be rated as the best post-war season yet by many fans, for even the supremacy of the Hornsey Red Sox did not dim the spirits of the lesser lights, and many were the games that were decided by a single circuit of the ninety-foot square. (Does one circle a square? Oh, well, perhaps not).

That being as it may be, it did not stop the Red Sox running circles round most clubs they met, and we congratulate them on their fine performance in bringing the National Cup back to London! Let us look at the results which culminated in the triumph of the Sox.

B. A. CUP — THE NATIONAL TROPHY.

First Round:—

|                            |     |                       |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------|----|
| Enfield Cardinals .....    | 27  | Fondu .....           | 11 |
| Mitcham Royals .....       | 3   | Pirates .....         | 16 |
| West London Pioneers ..... | 6   | Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 12 |
| Paragon .....              | 7   | Tigers .....          | 15 |
| Monarchs (Wokingham) ..... | 9   | Essex Nationals ..... | 11 |
| Thames Board Mills .....   | 20  | Briggs Brigands ..... | 2  |
| Ford Sports .....          | 3   | Aveley Cubs .....     | 1  |
| Eltham Dodgers .....       | Bye |                       |    |

Second Round:—

|                          |    |                       |    |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Essex Nationals .....    | 27 | Ford Sports .....     | 7  |
| Enfield Cardinals .....  | 5  | Eltham Dodgers .....  | 2  |
| Thames Board Mills ..... | 7  | Pirates .....         | 6  |
| Tigers .....             | 0  | Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 11 |

Third Round:—

|                       |   |                          |   |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 3 | Thames Board Mills ..... | 2 |
| Essex Nationals ..... | 6 | Enfield Cardinals .....  | 7 |

Area Final:—

|                       |    |                         |   |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|
| Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 24 | Enfield Cardinals ..... | 0 |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|

National Semi-finals:—

At Birmingham.

|                          |   |                       |    |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|----|
| Birmingham Beavers ..... | 6 | Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 10 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|----|

(winners Midlands Area). (winners Southern Area).

At Hull.

Liverpool Cubs defeated Cavendish Cardinals (Being winners of the North West and North East areas, respectively).

NATIONAL FINAL:—

At White City Stadium, London.

|                       |    |                      |   |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|---|
| HORNSEY RED SOX ..... | 10 | Liverpool Cubs ..... | 6 |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|---|

Thus ended the grim struggle for the National Trophy, and what Baseball!

The Monarchs of Wokingham, the Cinderellas of the Western Amateur League, played splendid Ball to shock the Nationals in the first round, and only a storming finish by the latter enabled them to take the round. Fords and Aveley Cubs staged a thriller and a good sporting game ended in the Senior Club winning the Day. As was expected, the Sox and the Pioneers' clash produced a dour struggle.

In the second round, Enfield Cardinals and the Dodgers fought out a 5-2 battle which will long be remembered, as will the tussle between Thames Board Mills and the Pirates which the Mills won by 7-6.

Yet it was the Semi-final round that produced the best matches in the Southern Competition. Thames Board Mills and the Red Sox gave a Super exhibition of Baseball with the Hornsey Club winning by a single valuable run at 3-2. The other half, between Essex Nationals and the Cardinals, also proved exciting, the Cards. taking a big early lead, which the Nationals gradually narrowed down to one run, but the Cardinals stood firm to win deservedly.

The way cleared to the National Competition the Red Sox fought their way grandly to hold off all challengers. Well done the Sox, well done all clubs from whatever area you may have come!

Other Competition results were as follows:—

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CUP, 1949, Final:—

|                       |    |                         |   |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|
| Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 19 | Enfield Cardinals ..... | 8 |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|

LONDON EAST LEAGUE CUP, 1949, Final:—

|                       |    |                          |   |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Hornsey Red Sox ..... | 14 | Thames Board Mills ..... | 2 |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------------|---|

(Played at Fondu Sports Ground).

ESSEX CHARITY CUP, 1949, Final:—

|               |   |                       |    |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|----|
| Paragon ..... | 5 | Essex Nationals ..... | 30 |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|----|

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS, 1949.

WESTERN AMATEUR LEAGUE:—

|                            | P. | W. | L. | Pts. | %    |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|------|------|
| West London Pioneers ..... | 10 | 9  | 1  | (18) | .900 |
| Pirates .....              | 10 | 6  | 4  | (12) | .600 |
| Eltham Dodgers .....       | 10 | 5  | 5  | (10) | .500 |
| Mitcham Royals .....       | 10 | 5  | 5  | (10) | .500 |
| Mitcham Tigers .....       | 10 | 5  | 5  | (10) | .500 |
| Monarchs (Wokingham) ..... | 10 | 0  | 10 | (0)  | .000 |

West London Pioneers won the Championship and the "President's Cup." (Eltham Dodgers have been transferred to the South Eastern League for 1950).

LONDON EAST LEAGUE:—

(Now known as the South Eastern Baseball League).

DIVISION I.

|                          | P. | W. | L. | Pts. | %      |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|------|--------|
| Hornsey Red Sox .....    | 10 | 9  | 1  | 18   | (.900) |
| Thames Board Mills ..... | 10 | 8  | 2  | 16   | (.800) |
| Essex Nationals .....    | 10 | 5  | 5  | 10   | (.500) |
| Enfield Cardinals .....  | 10 | 4  | 6  | 8    | (.400) |
| Briggs Brigands .....    | 10 | 3  | 7  | 4*   | (.200) |
| Ford Sports .....        | 10 | 1  | 9  | 2    | (.100) |

(\* two points deducted).

DIVISION II.

|                   | P. | W. | L. | Pts. | %      |
|-------------------|----|----|----|------|--------|
| Paragon .....     | 12 | 11 | 1  | 22   | (.917) |
| Essex Cubs .....  | 12 | 6  | 6  | 12   | (.500) |
| Fondu .....       | 12 | 6  | 6  | 12   | (.500) |
| Aveley Cubs ..... | 12 | 1  | 11 | 2    | (.083) |

Note on League Tables.

The figures in parenthesis are included for the easy comparison of results between Leagues. The Western Amateur League favours the American system of percentages, which has the advantage that one can more easily judge the form of clubs in mid-season when clubs may have played an unequal number of games. The S.E. League on the other hand uses the English style awarding 2 points for a win, believing that it is more easily followed by the supporters in Britain. The two methods come to exactly the same thing so far as results go, so BASEBALL MONTHLY has included both percentages and points. This will ensure a standard method of printing League Tables.

It will be appreciated that the above records represent only a flash-back on the 1949 season, there were many exciting games which we could mention, so if any of you ball fans feel that we have not mentioned your own pet games, we can only say—sorry!

So good-bye to a wonderful season! We regret your passing, but, with larger leagues and more clubs in the competitions for the coming season, we have every right to expect an even greater acclamation when the time comes for "Retrospect, 1950!"

## No. 1. WEST LONDON PIONEERS

(Champions Western Amateur League, 1948-49)

Formed by Mr. J. Duff, in 1938, the Pioneers have every reason to be proud of their playing record in the four or five seasons that they have been playing. Twice winners of their League, and runners-up of the S.C.B.A. Cup in 1948, are their best known achievements, while in 1949 they defeated the Rest of the League at White City Stadium.

The Pioneers are proud to have the Mayor of Hammersmith as their President, and are fortunate in having Mr. C. Dixon in the position of General Manager, for his tireless work has not only benefitted the Club, but the Western League also owes much to his part in the work of forming the successful combination that exists to-day.

Mr. E. C. Brown the Western League President—another tireless worker for Baseball—donated the "President's" Cup which now

rests snugly on the Pioneers sideboard, and perhaps we can now reveal the players that helped to put it there (see picture below).

Lee Ridenhour, the Team Manager, is an American now resident in London, and is a good all-rounder, and the club still has the services of Lefty Ingals, a Canadian, resident in West London, who is still a grand pitcher and was the Home-run king of the Western League in 1949. J. Dixon at 17 years of age still holds his position in the team, and new additions to the club are T. Sylvester (a Short-stop) and French-Canadian Robicheau—a grand hitter and third base. Backed by the skill and enthusiasm of Peacock, Shearsby, O'Farrell and Ross the Pioneers go forward to 1950 with a view to even greater honours, and determined to do all they can to establish Baseball even more firmly in Britain.



WEST LONDON PIONEERS, 1949

Back Row—Zupan, Donoghue, Duff, Selkirk, Curtain, Ross, Hubeli;  
Middle Row—Dixon, Sleath, Shearsby, Ridenhour, Peacock, O'Farrell;  
Front—Spencer, Barber

## CLUB CHATTER

The Umpires have recently received a number of new recruits, and meetings have been held to strengthen the organisation. Messrs. Parnell and Clarke-Harpum have been elected Chairman and Secretary, respectively, and the future of Society is brighter now than ever before. Umpires are holding instructional classes shortly, and any prospective Baseball Umpire is welcome. Write to the Editor, *BASEBALL MONTHLY*, who will forward letters to the right quarter.

\* \* \*

*S.E. League hold Film Show.*

Marley Youth Centre was the venue for the showing of two full-length Baseball films, on Thursday, April 20th. The event was organised by the League and over 200 attended. The instructional value of the films was once again proved by the interest shown by the audience.

\* \* \*

## NEWS FROM THE DIAMONDS

## WELLINGBORO' BASEBALL CLUB.—

The formation of this club will come as good news. They expect to compete with clubs in Birmingham and surrounding district. West London Pioneers have made the trip to Northants to play them their first game and although the Pioneers with their greater experience won, they have remarked on the great promise shown by Wellingboro'. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. F. W. Cobb, 142, Henshaw Road, Wellingboro', Northants.

**BOURNEMOUTH CUBS.**—Now entering their second season, are finding the absence of a Baseball League in their area the big drawback. They are afraid of waning interest through lack of games, and therefore would like to contact any Southern Counties Club who like a day in Sunny Bournemouth. What about it some of you live-wire secretaries? Here is an excellent opportunity to organise an excursion that will strengthen the team spirit of *your* club. Oh, yes—we know there is expense involved, but why not start taking small payments weekly from your members for a future date? The Cubs offer return fixtures wherever possible. Secretary: Victor Beach, 25, Shaftesbury Road, Bournemouth, Hants.

**FONDU B.C.** report a few new players this year. In the past they have taken many beatings, but at no time did their spirit flag. Last season, however, they were joint runners-up to the second Division of the League, and it looks as though they will do even better this year.

**DULWICH BLUE-JAYS.**—Messrs Wilson and Warnoist have been responsible for organising this new club. They were impressed by watching the keen games in London, last season, so they started the ball rolling and by Christmas they had formed the nucleus of the Club. It is not easy collecting together the necessary playing kit, but they are determined to see it through. They lack Canadian and American experience—as they put it—but the "limeys" they claim, will make a worthwhile team within the next three or four seasons. We quite agree, and we advise them not to worry about the absence of our transatlantic friends, welcome as they always are, for there are many other teams in the same boat. As Max Joubert says elsewhere in this magazine, "the real heroes are the clubs who turn out week after week and get a beating." Having learned to take defeats, your club is then qualified to learn to win. Good Luck, Blue-Jays!

**ENFIELD CARDINALS.**—The Cards, had a very successful season last Summer, being area finalists in the National Cup and runners-up of the Southern Counties Cup. They were badly hit during mid-season through players going into the Forces. This year the team has had two matches with the Dodgers, as a try-out, losing the first by 18-7. On April 16th they once more visited Bromley and won a well-fought game 15-12 after being behind at the end of the second by 7-2. This again proves the Cards, are never beaten until the Umpire calls game. Geoff Richardson started the season as manager of the team, but he will be away for a couple of months through personal reasons. Meanwhile George Stopher will carry on as Team Manager. The return of Alan Alsford and Pee Wee Lay from the forces and later in the season, Johnny Fordham, will mean the Cardinals are going to be hard to beat. During the Winter the club got together with the Supporters' Club at Socials run by the latter. Mr. G. A. Weeks is the Secretary of the Supporters' Club, and this popular personality is also Vice-Chairman of the Enfield Baseball Club. Danny Mangham for the second year running was elected the Club "Player of the year," while other popular players include Snap Brown, the Stopher Brothers, Crasher Christie and Vic. Portch. We also happen to know that Mr. Larder, the Secretary, has done a terrific amount of work for the Club! The Cards, extend greetings to all Clubs in the League.

**ESSEX NATIONALS & ESSEX CUBS.**—The club has been very active during the closed season, continuing their policy of encouraging new players and Clubs to the game. They found time to play several pre-season friendly games and form seems pretty good. The Cubs have shown promise while the Nationals staged a thriller with the Dodgers at Bromley, winning a sporting game 1-0 over seven innings. There were no errors.

**HORNSEY BASEBALL CLUB** have been extending throughout the Winter and a full report of the Club is featured elsewhere.

**MITCHAM ROYALS.**—Mitcham Royals blossomed forth at the start of 1949 with a club re-formed from the old Surrey Lions, many new players, and some from South London Giants. Plans are flowering for 1950 season, the spate of new players has put every original player on his mettle, for the new players are serious contenders for places. The Playing strength is almost thirty. The Royals had a League record of .500 last year and they hope to make an improvement on this. One achievement which the club is proud of, is being able to lower the yearly subscription to 12/6d. for this year. Nice going Royals! The availability of the ground caused a little concern earlier on, but happily this has now been straightened out. The Royals' hope is for a victorious 1950.

(The Editor thanks the above clubs for their reports. We would like to hear from all clubs).

### THE WESTERN AMATEUR LEAGUE

The League has shown an increase in the number of clubs for the season 1950, newcomers being Kodak, Standard Telephones, and the Blue-Jays. The post-war return of Kodak and Standard Telephones is a welcome sign. The League is being run in two

Divisions this year. The President is Mr. E. C. Brown, and Vice-President, Mr. C. Dixon. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. K. S. Brown, 103, Carlton Avenue West, North Wembley, Middlesex.

Here are the Clubs competing:—

#### SEASON 1950.

##### *Western Amateur League.*

###### DIV. I.

MITCHAM ROYALS.  
MITCHAM TIGERS.  
PIRATES.  
WEST LONDON PIONEERS.

###### DIV. II.

DULWICH BLUE-JAYS.  
KODAK.  
MONARCHS (Wokingham).  
STANDARD TELEPHONES.

##### *South Eastern League.*

###### DIV. I.

BRIGGS BRIGANDS.  
DODGERS.  
ENFIELD CARDINALS.  
ESSEX NATIONALS.  
FORD SPORTS.  
HORNSEY RED SOX.  
PARAGON.  
THAMES BOARD MILLS.

###### DIV. II.

AVELEY CUBS.  
BRIGGS TIGERS.  
COLLEGIANS.  
ESSEX CUBS.  
FONDU.  
HORNSEY ATHLETICS.  
HORNSEY BRUINS.

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## 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 by a well-known Baseball Personality.

### No. 1. SECRETS OF GOOD PITCHING

(This instructional gem was featured some time ago in a Baseball magazine and aroused much interest. We make no apology for reprinting it once more, for it has many lessons to offer. It was originally taken from an American magazine, and the author is a world-famous Pitcher).

The art of pitching has been transformed. The straight fast ball, the change of pace, and a curve or two when the condition of the ball permits, make up a pitcher's repertoire in that order of importance. In the world series game that I pitched last fall I don't think I threw more than half a dozen curves. But curves are important, and whenever you have a ball that's rough enough to grip you can throw good ones.

First let's take up the straight pitch. Hold the ball at three points, the parallel forefinger and middle finger gripping it above, the thumb below to the left, and the knuckle of the ring finger below to the right. Don't smother the ball close to the palm. Hold it more by the fingertips so that it is as much as an inch away from the palm. Grip it tightly letting it fly out from under the forefinger and middle finger at the end of the throw. Those two fingers, being above it, impart reverse English to the ball in flight, making it rotate upward.

As far as I can make out, a really fast ball is something some people can throw and others can't. Nearly any green pitcher can learn to throw a curve, but there isn't much to learn to help you throw faster than your normal speed. A fast pitcher has a ball that acts lively. It tends to rise as it nears the plate.

The more you spin it the more it tends to rise. It's really an upward curve with gravity fighting to keep it from breaking too much. A baseball will curve in the direction of its own rotation. Throw it with reverse English and it tends to go up. Spin it like a wheel and it will drop. The reason for this is the difference in pressure on opposite sides of the ball.

Your extended parallel forefinger and middle finger plus wrist action are the things that make the ball spin, so you will get the direction of the curve you want simply by the way you hold your hand at the end of the pitch. The ball will tend to break in the direction of your two fingers.

To throw a drop curve start out just as if throwing a fast, straight ball, but at the end of the pitch twist the wrist out and down, releasing the ball so that it travels over the forefinger. That makes it spin as if it were rolling along the ground and assures a drop.

For a right curve, hold your wrist so that the forefinger is to the right of the ball when it is released. Thus you get rotation in that direction.

The knuckle ball is another deceiver and it's not used much because it's hard on the thrower. You grip the ball by the seams with the fingernails of your forefinger and middle finger, imparting a push at the end of the throw by straightening your fingers out. Thrown that way, the ball doesn't spin. It's hard to hit, though the pitcher himself can't be certain just which way it will break. You can conceal the way you are holding the ball until the last second by holding your glove over the throwing hand almost until the ball is released.

Concealment, incidentally, is one reason for following through after the pitch. Keep the arm swinging until the elbow almost hits the opposite knee. The follow-through is a lot easier on yourself.

With the emphasis to-day on the fast ball, an occasional slow ball is often good strategy. This is the change of pace. Here you have a batter at the plate, tense, waiting to take a crack at a ball that he expects will come like an express train. You've fed him one or two fast ones already and he's set for another. Then you drift a slow ball toward him. You've used the same wind-up with not so much steam at the end. Instead of holding the ball tightly you've held it loosely in your hand. It's a slow ball and easy to hit, the only trouble being that the batter recognises it, too.

That's another thing you should remember about the ball. Hold it hard and it's a hard ball. Hold it loosely and it's an easy one. If you grip it tightly for a curve it breaks fast. If you hold it loosely it breaks into a slower curved pitch.

If you throw many curves you are going to learn something else, and that is that the direction of the wind is important. If you are pitching into the wind your curved balls will really explode, flying straight at the batter, then changing direction abruptly. If the wind is at your back the curve will be slower and not so sharp.

Of all the things that go to make good pitching, nothing is more important than control.

Always warm up that arm before trying fast balls or curves.

\* \* \*

So there you have it you British lads. NOW GO TO IT! Practice, practice and yet more practice. (It must be sensible and controlled practice, to preserve that arm from irreparable damage). And don't give up until you have proved that Jack is BETTER than his master!

## BEGINNERS' CORNER

AND NOW BASEBALL IS HERE AGAIN!

*If you like Soccer in Winter—you'll find Baseball Best in Summer.*

Although the American National game of Baseball is fast spreading throughout the British Isles, there are some parts of England that are veritable hotbeds of the Ball game.

There are four main area Associations controlling the game, these are: (1) The North West Area, (2) The North Eastern Area (known as the Yorkshire Association), (3) The Midlands Area, and (4) The Southern Counties Area. The hotbeds are to be found in these areas; for instance the North West area has Liverpool which boasts some good Leagues and Teams. Manchester also is a growing centre. In the Yorkshire area there is much activity in Hull, while the Midlands is represented by Birmingham with two very fine Leagues and some famous Clubs, including the Chipping Norton Baseball Club, reputed to be the oldest club in Britain. As might be expected, London is the stronghold of the Southern Counties, with two very fine Leagues, and over 24 Senior Clubs.

For Football fans, Baseball is the only summer sport worth watching. Cricket lacks excitement, although to the initiated, a hot summer's day at Lords or the Oval is an ideal way of spending a summer's day. But to those who cannot bear to sit all day in a state of patient expectation, I heartily commend you to a ball match. Don't, however,

expect to like it all at the first pop. The "big" ball game (played with quite a small ball as it happens) takes time to learn and appreciate, but once the secrets of first and third base are known to you, you will be able to enjoy baseball as much as you enjoy soccer, and you will get just as much kick out of the ball game as from "derby" soccer games.

Don't get me wrong. I am not just boosting up baseball because I think it is my duty to. Far from it, if I didn't like the game I would say so openly without beating about the bush. Baseball, however, grows on one and you will find that liking will grow to a passion within a short time. There is much to appreciate in the baseball game. Slicker fielding than you will ever see in cricket, far better team-work than our national game can show, greater variety all round, and interest in all phases of the game. Pitching is an art that contains infinitely greater science than bowling, there are dozens of ways of delivering a ball and many methods of beating the batter; but this phase of the game calls for many articles, the **BASEBALL MONTHLY**. Follow the College of Baseball Knowledge curriculum, and soon you will learn the art of baseball and the varied attractions of the ball game.

And if you are inclined to doubt, remember, **FIFTY MILLION YANKEES CAN'T ALL BE WRONG!**

CONTINUING BEGINNERS' CORNER  
ON PAGE 12,  
WE GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION  
OF HOW BASEBALL IS PLAYED

## 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.

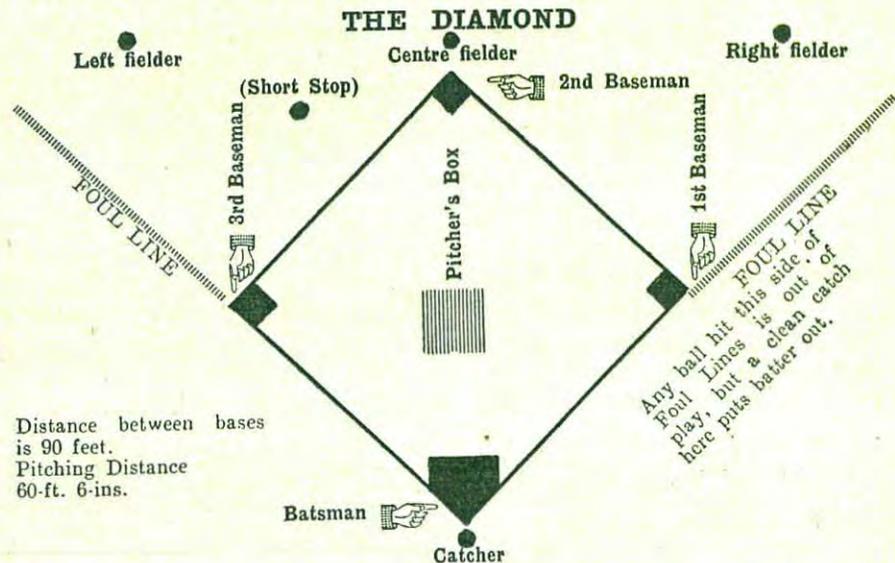
The *Batsman* is allowed three *Strikes*, or four *Balls*. A strike is a ball which passes over the home plate between the knee and shoulder of batter, or any ball struck at by batsman without touching the bat. A ball is called when the pitched ball is below the knee or above the shoulder, or which passes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



## FOUL TIPS

Did you know that you can listen to Commentaries on American Major League Baseball games, almost every night of the week (including Sunday)? Tune to the Armed Forces Radio programme on 16 or 19 metres on the short waves. Matches are usually described from 7.30 p.m. G.M.T. Under average conditions these Stations come through very clearly.

If your club's Diamond is near an electric point, why not try hiring some Public Address equipment, and arrange a commentary on your big games? A well given explanation of the play can be a boon to those new spectators who are trying to learn the finer points of the game. The Commentary, if sensibly given, can add to the attraction of the event, and there is always the possibility of playing some musical items at odd intervals.

Talking of music, there is a very excellent recording of the Baseball song, available in Britain at present. “Take me out to the Ball game” sung by the Andrews Sisters with Dan Dailey. The record is Brunswick No. A 04085. This record is well worth owning, and it is advisable not to leave it too long before you obtain your copy, as we cannot see it staying on the catalogue indefinitely!

Baseball film shows are periodically shown in Britain. Going the rounds at the moment are two excellent films of feature length, with hints on playing the ball game by world-famous American players. Watch our columns for details of these shows, which are usually organised by individual clubs.

In the last two years the number of Baseball clubs in the London Area has been more than doubled. Other areas in the country report similar progress. It is encouraging to see that Youth Clubs are beginning to get interested in the Ball game, and any Youth Club interested can get full details from the Secretary of the Southern Counties Baseball Association, or their nearest area Association, or from the Secretary of the nearest League. The addresses of these officials are given from time to time in our columns.

The number of Supporters' Clubs being formed is also noted with pleasure. There are numerous ways in which the Supporters can be of help to the Baseball Club, and some of these will be dealt with in the pages devoted to the Supporters clubs.

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

*says the Popular Song*

Why Not? Here are the **FIXTURES** for May

Saturday, May 6th—

South Eastern League, Div. II.  
Collegians v. Aveley Cubs.  
Hornsey Bruins v. Briggs Tigers.

Sunday, May 7th—

Western Amateur League, Div. I.  
West London Pioneers v. Pirates.  
Mitcham Royals v. Mitcham Tigers.

Western Amateur League, Div. II.  
Monarchs v. Kodak.  
Standard Telephones v. Blue-Jays.

South Eastern League, Div. I.  
Briggs Brigands v. Ford Sports.  
Hornsey Red Sox v. Essex Nationals.  
Paragon v. Dodgers.  
Thames Board Mills v. Enfield Cardinals.

South Eastern League, Div. II.  
Essex Cubs v. Hornsey Athletics.

Essex Charity Cup (2nd Round).

2. Fondu v. Briggs Tigers.

Saturday, May 13th—

South Eastern League, Div. II.  
Collegians v. Essex Cubs.

Sunday, May 14th—

South Eastern League, Div. I.  
Enfield Cardinals v. Ford Sports.  
Essex Nationals v. Thames Board Mills.

South Eastern League, Div. II.  
Briggs Tigers v. Collegians.  
Hornsey Athletics v. Aveley Cubs.

S.E. League Senior Cup (1st Round).  
Dodgers v. Briggs Brigands.

S.E. League Intermediate Cup (1st Rnd.).  
Fondu v. Hornsey Bruins.

Essex Charity Cup (1st Round).

3. Paragon v. Essex Cubs.

Friendly Matches.

W. London Pioneers v. Mitcham Tigers.  
Mitcham Royals v. Stand. Telephones.  
Monarchs v. Pirates.  
Blue-Jays v. Kodak.

Saturday, May 20th—

South Eastern League, Div. II.  
Briggs Brigands v. Enfield Cardinals.

Sunday, May 21st—

Western Amateur League, Div. I.  
Pirates v. Mitcham Royals.  
Tigers v. West London Pioneers.

Western Amateur League, Div. II.  
Monarchs v. Standard Telephones.  
Blue-Jays v. Kodak.

South Eastern League, Div. I.

Enfield Cardinals v. Briggs Brigands.  
Essex Nationals v. Paragon (2 games).  
Ford Sports v. Hornsey Red Sox.  
Thames Board Mills v. Dodgers (2 gms).

South Eastern League, Div. II.

Aveley Cubs v. Essex Cubs.  
Fondu v. Briggs Tigers (2 games).  
Hornsey Bruins v. H'sey Ath's. (2 gms).

Sunday, May 28th—

National Cup (1st Round) Ties.  
(draw not yet made; see Press for details.)

South Eastern League, Div. II.

Essex Cubs v. Hornsey Bruins.  
Fondu v. Collegians.  
Hornsey Ath's. v. Briggs Tigers.

Note.—The above fixtures are correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to alteration through Cup ties and other unforeseen events.

## DIRECTORY OF BASEBALL GROUNDS

(Matches start normally in the region of 3—3.30)

|                        |         |   |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| AVELEY CUBS            | Ground: | West Thurrock Memorial Ground, West Thurrock.                     |
| BRIGGS BRIGANDS        | Ground: | Victoria Road, Dagenham Essex.                                    |
| BRIGGS TIGERS          |         |   |
| COLLEGIANS             | Ground: | At South East Essex Technical College, Longbridge Road, Barking.  |
| DODGERS B.C.           | Ground: | Bromley Country Club, Crown Lane, Bromley, Kent.                  |
| DULWICH BLUE-JAYS      | Ground: | Beckenham Place Park, Southend Road, Catford.                     |
| ENFIELD CARDINALS      | Ground: | Durants Park, Enfield.  |
| ESSEX NATIONALS        | Ground: | Mayesbrook Park, Barking, Essex.                                  |
| ESSEX CUBS             |         |   |
| FONDU                  | Ground: | North Road, Uplands, Purfleet, Essex. (Near Stork Sports Ground). |
| FORD SPORTS            | Ground: | Kent Avenue, Dagenham, Essex.                                     |
| HORNSEY RED SOX        | Ground: | Coppetts Field, Muswell Hill, N.10.                               |
| HORNSEY BRUINS         |         |   |
| HORNSEY ATHLETICS      |         |   |
| KODAK                  | Ground: | Wormwood Scrubs (100 yds. past White City Stadium).               |
| MARLEY YOUTH CLUB B.C. | Ground: | Marley School, School Road, Dagenham.                             |
| MITCHAM ROYALS         | Ground: | Mitcham Common, Mitcham. (Near the "Jolly Gardeners").            |
| MITCHAM TIGERS         |         |   |
| MONARCHS (Wokingham)   | Ground: | Barkham Road Recreation Ground, Wokingham, Berks.                 |
| PARAGON                | Ground: | Paragon Sports Ground, Rainham, Essex. (Rear of Rainham Station). |
| PIRATES                | Ground: | Tithe Farm, Rayners Lane (Central London Railway Station).        |
| STANDARD TELEPHONES    | Ground: | Oakley Road, New Southgate, N.                                    |
| THAMES BOARD MILLS     | Ground: | Thames Board Mills Sports Ground, London Road, Purfleet.          |
| WEST LONDON PIONEERS   | Ground: | Wormwood Scrubs (100 yds. past White City Stadium).               |

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**See Fixtures on Page 14  
opposite**

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## GENERAL DOUBLEDAY'S BASEBALL

From the "New York World."

The origin of baseball is as much a matter of dispute as the Darwinian theory of evolution. Men have died in the conviction that the game grew out of the American "old cat." Other have clung to the notion that it came of the English "rounders." Cooperstown, N.Y., celebrated the belief that baseball was born within its limits seventy-nine years ago, its father having been Abner Doubleday, then a schoolboy, later a general at Gettysburg. And Cooperstown is justified by an official verdict rendered in 1907 by a commission including Nick Young of eternal National League fame among its members.

Credit goes to Doubleday because he brought order out of confusion and started the national pastime in the way which makes it to-day the most highly scientific of field games. He made the first diagram of players' positions. He substituted for throwing the ball at a runner the present method of putting a batsman out. His eleven men to a team is nothing against his claim as a founder.

## ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB

Since it was formed in 1937, the Essex Baseball Club has grown steadily to its present membership of 40. During the 1949 season the club fielded two teams, one in each division of the London East League. The Essex Nationals finished third in the first division and also won the Essex Charity Cup. In their first season of competitive baseball the Essex Cubs, a team of youngsters averaging 17 or 18 years, did extremely well to finish as runners up in the second division.

With the addition of several experienced players and growing enthusiasm of their younger members and many supporters, the Club are looking forward to a very successful season in 1950.

## PARAGON PATTERN

by LEN O'HANRAHAN

Baseball is not new to Paragon although last season was our first post-war team. It all started in 1937, when our team "100% green", under the guidance of several of the West Ham professional players entered and won Division II of the East London Baseball League.

With the outbreak of war, September, '39, baseball came to a halt and appeared to be finished permanently until in the winter of 1948, when upon invitation from our present League Secretary, we decided to reform and commence playing in the 1949 season. Once again we entered and won the championship of Division II of the L.E.L. Our team with the exception of three pre-war players are new to baseball, so we are quite pleased with our present position. I feel,

Perhaps nobody would be more surprised than General Doubleday at the developments which have followed his first steps towards baseball. The tricks and manners of the game, no less than the infinite variety of the pitchers' curves and the treasure poured daily into the box offices, should excite his amazement should he be called back. The establishment on the diamond has grown truly worthy of its strategic founder, and it might well insure Cooperstown a still living place on the map of popularity even though the "Leatherstocking" tale and author were to pass into oblivion.

*Abner Doubleday's father was a native of Wootton, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England. This extract was first printed at the request of his great nephew, for many years Inspector of Weights and Measures for Oxfordshire County, and again printed on the instruction of Fred Lewis, M.Inst.B.E., Chipping Norton, Chairman Oxfordshire Division, Baseball Association.*

The Nationals played their first friendly game on April 2nd against The Dodgers, at Bromley. After a very tight game interrupted by rain Nationals ran out winners by one run to nil. The only run of the game was scored by Bob Sendall, Nationals' third baseman and an outstanding feature was the remarkably accurate pitching of Arthur French. The Cubs opened the season with a friendly game against Fondey, at Purfleet. Once again the weather was very unkind and both teams are to be complimented on their performance in view of the conditions. The Cubs gained confidence from their victory by thirteen runs to seven. On present form they should finish well up in the league again this year.

however, that the standard between Divisions I and II is rather great, so we are expecting some really tough games this season. New players are hard to get, but we are fortunate in obtaining two boys, Les. Lewis and Joe Pereira, who are showing great promise. Stan Dodd, our regular 3rd baseman last year, has donned the iron mask and is proving to be a worthy "guardian of the plate". Last Easter Sunday we played our friends from the Western Amateur League, the Wokingham Monarchs. Despite a strong wind which was continually blowing across the diamond, it was a very enjoyable game and has wetted our appetite for more games, so we look forward very keenly to a good season of "ball" 1950.

## IT ISN'T CRICKET OLD MAN!

Illustrating the changing Summer scene on England's greens.

by ERIC WILLIAMS.

It happened to me in the Summer of 1936!

Sunday mid-day meal was over and I was just contemplating forty of the best winks in the deck-chair on the lawn, when Elsie, my wife, seeming to penetrate my thoughts in that curiously unpredictable way that wives have when one is planning a "loaf", suggested that I might like to take Peter, our terrier, for a stroll in the park. Now knowing from past experience that it is more discreet to accept than to argue, I found myself some ten minutes later entering the local park.

Here in the park the tennis courts were filled with the usual devotees, the two or three cricket pitches were being used and a sprinkling of spectators were watching the matches. In the far corner of the grounds, however, a goodly sized crowd were watching what turned out to be a Baseball match, as I soon discovered. Occasional yells of excitement were to be heard.

"Fancy them playing that Yankee game here," I muttered to myself, as I pushed my way into the crowd to get a curious glimpse of the game that I had only seen in an occasional film, and then not having seen enough to know the first thing about the game.

Now all my life I had been taught the virtues of the good straight cricket bat, the politeness due to opponents and the "hard luck, old man" attitude, so imagine my surprise when one of the fielders suddenly yelled out to his colleague—who was performing the Catherine wheel antics that

pitchers do just before delivery to the batter —to "Wrap it round his neck, Charlie!"

Mr. Pitcher, however, did not succeed in carrying out this crude advice, for the man with the bat took a huge swipe at the white ball, which skidded upwards off his bat to quite a useful height. Watching the ball which by this time was right above my head, I did not take note of the Catcher, who complete in his regalia, was bearing down on that Fly-ball like a charging buffalo. All I knew was that suddenly I was violently pushed on one side, and a big padded mit brushed across my nose just as the ball descended! Well, how was I to know that they could catch the ball outside the boundaries in this crazy game?

The catcher was triumphant, holding the precious white ball in his hand, while all the players and spectators were yelling the most unsporting things to each other.

Curiosity at these odd goings-on made me stop to watch further although Peter, who had narrowly escaped injury, too, was pulling at his collar, in a manner which almost said, "Let them take their old game back to Brooklyn, for all I care."

I think that I made a wise decision to stay on and watch that ball game, for as the game wore on I soon began to realise that all the seemingly harsh things were only said in fun, and that the players were the best of friends after the game was all over, and soon my curiosity turned into a great interest in the game which has never left me.

Baseball has taught me new values in sportsmanship, and it has taught me another way of saying "It isn't Cricket, old man!"

We are invited to contribute to **BASEBALL MONTHLY**, covering our prospects, activities and personnel, O.K.—here goes!

We haven't a ground, a cup, a scorer, a motto or a mascot, and we hardly played last season. You may think that our club is mythical. Most of our players are unknown to you and their strength is still a mystery. You think our team is hypothetical?

The summary of our two games is simple: lost 1—won 1. Therefore our prospects for this season are extremely bright . . . each of your teams is a prospective conquest for us!

Our team members range from fellas twenty years' young to grandads sixty years'

old—or so we suspect. We have players of all types: short, tall, thin, fat, married, single, bald (or almost) and moustached. Our supporters' club consists almost entirely of grubby-faced, torn-trousered urchins who have skipped Sunday School to watch this odd ball game, and to steal a bat or ball if they get the chance. This loyal crew also retrieve our balls from gutters, chimneys, and the wrong side of glass windows.

Now, here's what we have got: faith. fixtures, keen players, and a good coach! So who's going to make the league sit up this season??? Why, this same mythical, mysterious, meteor of a team—Kodak!

WIMPI.

## No. 2. HORNSEY RED SOX

The Hornsey Baseball Club was founded in 1937, as the Hornsey Red Sox—the present title of their Senior team — and was the direct offshoot of the London Major Baseball League, the founder members all being followers of the Harringay team managed by the ever perennial and ever popular, Maxie Joubert (the present chairman of Southern Counties Baseball Association).

Originally the club was a junior team and its first competitive games were in the *Daily Mirror* National Junior Trophy. It was not until 1939, however, that the club actually entered an organised league, when they entered the third Division of the Metropolitan League in competition with such clubs as Standard Telephones, Wandle Cubs, St. Patrick's Nomads, and Regal Aces.

The war interfered and for some time the club was dormant, until 1941, John Clarke, one of the early members took over management, and, with the able assistance of Doug. Cowling promoted a series of exhibition games at Harringay Stadium against American and Canadian Army teams in aid of the Red Cross. These games were so successful that under the direction of the Red Sox Committee, a London International League was formed. Unfortunately, lack of a ground and finance prevented Red Sox competing, but they continued to play friendly matches when circumstances permitted.

With the cessation of hostilities, Fred Merritt the first club member to be demobbed, set about the task of re-forming the club. After much hard work the team was again playing friendly games by 1946. In the unofficial averages compiled that year the Red Sox finished second from bottom with a figure of .250.

In 1947 the popular Ice Hockey Star, Bill Glennie took over as team manager and the team started a rise from which it has never looked back. In a tight finish the Sox were

beaten out of the West League Championship by the Wembley Pirates, then at their zenith. It was during this season that Ricard made his debut with the Red Sox and proved immediately to be one of the most valuable assets the team had ever acquired.

The 1948 season, under the leadership of Fred Merritt saw the club beaten out of the League Championship, but at the half-way mark in the season, however, the club acquired pitcher Johnny Wiggins from the U.S. Navy and obtained the transfer of Glen Allan, Jimmy Mackenzie and Curly Martley, from the Wembley Pirates, and the foundations of the National Championship Team of 1949 were truly laid.

Doug. Cowling taking over the management of the team in 1949, let it be known to all and sundry that his principle objective for that year was the National Championship; how well he succeeded is now history. In addition to the National Cup the Red Sox collected the Southern Counties Cup, The London East League K.O. Cup, and the Championship of the League. To assist in these victories Doug. Cowling had signed Al Kravitz from the U.S. Navy to complete the pitching strength, and between them, Wiggins and Kravitz were undefeated while with a solid hitting batting side the club bulldozed its way to the National Cup triumph at the White City.

Plans for the coming year are concentrated mainly on development of junior talent, and the Hornsey Club claim that they are second to none in this department. The junior and intermediate teams are entered in the South Eastern League second division and it is hoped that they will provide a plentiful reserve of players for the Red Sox teams of the future. The Hornsey Club will do all within its power to encourage the young players, who, after all are the future of the game.

## CLASSIFIED SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

## TRADE ADVERTISEMENTS.

3d. per word, minimum charge 4/-. All charges must be prepaid. Add 25% for BOLD FACE (heavy type).

## READERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

(Including Clubs' Advertisements). 1d. per word, min. charge 1/6d., payable with order.

We welcome all enquiries for club printing, L'heads, tickets, programmes, posters, etc., etc.—SERVICE PRINTERS, 31, Victoria Dock Road, London, E.16.

WANTED. Old programmes of London Major League Baseball pre-war. Especially those with rules and examples of "plays". Either to purchase outright or on loan.— Write, Box No. 101, BASEBALL MONTHLY.

INSTRUCTIONAL FILMS. Two feature films on Baseball are available for hire by arrangement. The films give approx. 2 hours' performance, and are full of interest. — Write for terms to Mr. C. Dixon, c/o West London Pioneers Baseball Club, 117, Bettridge Road, S.W.6.

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

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.

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. Helliar, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6. Grangewood 2174.

RULE BOOKS. Urgently required for a very important purpose. Pre-war or post-war editions equally wanted. In fact any sort of Rule Book. Please state price.— Write, J. F. Helliar, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6.

**To organisers of Fetes, Carnivals,  
Holiday Camps, etc.**

**Why not include a Baseball Exhibition Game in your Programme?**

"Baseball Monthly" will be glad to furnish full details

9d. must be added for postage of replies on Box No. adverts. The words "Box No. \_\_\_\_\_ Baseball Monthly" counts as three words. Answers to Box adverts. to be addressed c/o Baseball Monthly, 193, Tyrrell Road, Sch. Benfleet, Essex.

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## THE AMERICAN REVIEW

by "Guestplayer"

The American Baseball scene is really so vast, that to cover it completely one would need a magazine hundreds of times bigger than **BASEBALL MONTHLY**.

The fact having been taken for granted, I feel that a glimpse of the events in the kingdom of the Ball game, will be of interest to many readers, although, of course, the picture I paint must, of necessity, be elementary.

Organised Baseball has been played in America for 111 years, and one of the two big Leagues in the U.S.A.—the American League — commenced operations in 1875. There are Leagues all over the entire length and breadth of the country, but the two best known, and most important are the American League and the National League. From April 18th of this year until October 1st the eight clubs in each League, will each contest a schedule of some 154 games with the others in their League, the games being played not only at week-ends but on all and any day in the week according to the arranged schedule. At the end of the season, the team with the highest percentage of games won, will have earned the Championship pennant—and with it the right to compete against the winner of the other League in the World series which takes place after the 1st of October. The World series may consist of up to seven games, the first club to win four games outright, wins the World Title.

New York Yankees won the World series in 1949 when they beat their local rivals the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Speculation is rife amongst American Sports writers as to who will win the respective pennants this year, but the majority seem to be playing safe by predicting "the mixture as before"—Yankees and Dodgers for 1950. It seems we shall just have to wait and see.

Another well-known league is the Pacific Coast League while to mention just one more—the International League, which is comprised of American Clubs and yet takes in some Canadian Clubs; Montreal Royals for instance.

Since the early months of the year, most of these big and wealthy ball clubs have travelled south to Florida and California, where they have their training Camps. Here, too, they play exhibition matches with Clubs both in and outside their own Leagues, and these games are watched by huge crowds—which spells "finance" to me!

With the experience gained from these early season trial games, the clubs then go back home and start the serious business of the season—The Pennant Race.

Next month I will give a summary of the opening stages of the Campaign.

### FORMER WINNERS OF SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE TROPHIES

#### *Division I. The "John Moores" Cup.*

- 1935 Briggs Brigands.
- 1936 Briggs Brigands.
- 1937 Ilford No-Varys.
- 1938 S.E. Essex Technical College.
- 1939 Ford Sports.
- 1949 Hornsey Red Sox.

#### *Division II. The "P. H. Lendrim" Cup.*

- 1937 Paragon.
- 1938 Leyton Civics.
- 1939 West Ham Invicta.
- 1949 Paragon.

#### *Knock-out Cup. The "L. D. Wood" Cup.*

- 1937 Ilford No-Varys.
- 1938 S.E. Essex Technical College.
- 1939 Ford Sports.
- 1949 Hornsey Red Sox.

#### *Essex Charity Cup.*

- The "J. Arthur Rank" Cup.*
- 1949 Essex Nationals.

#### CUP DRAWS FOR 1950.

South Eastern League Cup (Senior):—

First Round. (On or before June 18th)—

Dodgers v. Briggs Brigands.

Ford Sports v. Enfield Cardinals.

Byes: Hornsey Red Sox and

Essex Nationals.

South Eastern League Cup (Intermediate)—

First Round. (On or before June 18th)—

Fondu v. Hornsey Bruins.

Collegians v. Essex Cubs.

Briggs Tigers v. Hornsey Athletics.

Bye: Aveley Cubs.

Essex Charity Cup:—

First Round. (On or before May 14th)—

Paragon v. Essex Cubs.

Second Round. (On or before June 4th)—

Briggs Brigands v. Essex Nationals.

Thames Board Mills v. Ford Sports.

Fondu v. Briggs Tigers.

Aveley Cubs v. Essex Cubs or Paragon.

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