

# BASEBALL NEWS

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Baseball League

3<sup>d</sup>.

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## BASEBALL NEWS

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## EDITORIAL

In presenting the second issue of *Baseball News* we must first thank those followers of the "ball game" who have supported our initial venture. The response has been most encouraging, and its continuation will ensure publication at monthly intervals. The incidence of holidays during the season is a problem in many ways, and we must space our issues to ensure that sales are maintained during that period when many of our clubs temporarily "close down" owing to annual vacations. However, we shall, in our next issue announce the date of subsequent numbers for your guidance.

At present our items are mainly contributed by the clubs, but we hope from time to time to give other viewpoints. We have made a start with news from the Netherlands and Hull in the present number, and intend to follow this with similar items from other parts. At the same time we would like to hear from the "fans"—those of you who regularly follow your own local team—as we are sure that many can provide some interesting sidelights worthy of publication.

May we in conclusion ask your support for our advertisers? It is through them that we are able to meet part of our costs of publication, and you can help us by giving them the benefit of your patronage.

## BRIGANDS AND FONDU KEEP UNBEATEN RECORDS

WITH BUT SIX WEEKS OF THE 1953 SEASON GONE, only two teams remain undefeated in the South-East — Briggs Brigands and Fondu.

Brigands' eight successes include two cup-ties, but Fondu's four wins have all been gained in league tussles. Naturally both head their respective Divisions of the League.

Several Division One teams have met senior opponents in cup games, but only one has recorded a win—Dagenham Royals who defeated Aveley Cubs in the Senior Cup. The other clashes have proved that experience of top-class ball is usually the deciding factor, and there does not seem much likelihood of "giant killing" in prospect at present.

Although League tables usually provide a guide to the performances of most sides, a summary of the whole of the league and cup games played shows some interesting changes in position:

	played	won	lost	pct.
Brigands	8	8	0	1000
Fondu	4	4	0	1000
Thames B.M.	6	5	1	833
Dagenham	8	5	3	625
Dodgers	5	3	2	600
Fords Sports	5	3	2	600
Briggs Tigers	6	3	3	500
Nationals	6	3	3	500
Essex Nomads	5	2	3	400
Benfleet	6	2	4	333
Snowdown	5	1	4	200
Hedleys	2	0	2	---
Aveley Cubs	5	0	5	---
Southend	6	0	6	---

The above does not include forfeited games.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

Including matches played May 10th

### SENIOR DIVISION

	Pld	Won	Pct.
Briggs Brigands	6	6	1000
Thames Bd. Mills	5	4	800
Dodgers	4	2	500
Essex Nationals	4	2	500
Ford Sports	3	1	333
Aveley Cubs	3	0	---
Snowdown M.	4	0	---

\* includes two awarded games

### DIVISION ONE

	Pld	Won	Pct.
Fondu	6	*6	1000
Briggs Tigers	5	†4	800
Benfleet Greys	3	2	666
Dagenham Royals	4	2	500
Essex Nomads	5	2	400
Southend Buffs	4	0	---
Hedleys	5	0	---

† includes one awarded game

## RESULTS

Matches played  
May 16th to May 31st

### S.E. Counties Cup

Dagenham	1	Dodgers	15
Ford Sports	23	Benfleet	1

### Essex Cup

Aveley Cubs	4	Ford Sports	10
Tigers	2	Dagenham	10
Southend	2	Brigands	24

### Senior Cup

Thames B.M.	22	Southend	6
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### Intermediate Cup

Dagenham	13	Benfleet	12
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### Senior Division

Aveley Cubs	1	Thames B.M.	4
Aveley Cubs	2	Brigands	10
Brigands	12	Snowdown	11
(11 innings)			
Brigands	28	Aveley Cubs	2
Dodgers	11	Nationals	10
Dodgers	3	Brigands	10
Nationals	16	Aveley Cubs	2
Snowdown	11	Thames B.M.	14
(11 innings)			

### Division One

Benfleet	5	Tigers	10
Nomads	27	Hedleys	5
Nomads	6	Dagenham	23
Southend	9	Fondu	19
Tigers	24	Nomads	12
Tigers	16	Fondu	21

### Friendlies

T.B.M. II	16	Edgware	6
Nationals	11	Hornsey Aths	10

## RESULTS

are published in the 'Daily Express'  
on Mondays

## S.E. COUNTIES PICK INTERNATIONAL LINE-UP FOR ALL-STAR GAME

The South Eastern Counties Association team to meet Western All-Stars at Dagenham today, is: S. Brown, L. Banks, A. Howard (Fords), J. Ferrier, P. Donohue, L. Tunison, R. Oelofse, J. Hewie (Briggs), I. Gaffron (Snowdown), H. Hill (Dagenham), W. Beckwith, W. Dawber (Thames B. Mills), F. Ball, L. Laurie, L. House (Dodgers). Team Manager: A. Maddison (Essex).

The team includes four Americans (Ferrier, Donohue, Tunison, Gaffron), three Canadians (Ball, Laurie, House), two South Africans (Hewie, Oelofse) and six English-born players—certainly an "international" outlook!

News from the Western Association is that their team also contains a wealth of experience, including Frank Adey, Johnny Dixon and Ted Brown—all of whom played for the Baseball Association team in the Lakenheath tournament last autumn.

Yes, it certainly promises to be an interesting game!

### Floodlit Games in News

The recent U.S. Services' match at the White City attracted a good attendance for this initial venture in floodlit baseball in England. Playing conditions were very good and the match provided an exciting climax. In the bottom of the ninth innings the scores were level at 4-4, bases loaded, two out and a 3-2 count on the batter. A safe hit and the Sabres had beaten the Sky Kings by the odd run in an exhibition of top-class ball that had Southern baseball fans on their toes from start to finish.

Another spot where "floodlit ball" is making headline news is Australia. The "Sports Trader"—a British trade publication—contained an article on this in its May issue, and spoke of regular 20,000 attendances for inter-state games that are making baseball a close rival to cricket as the major summer sport "down under."



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# Five Nations form New European Baseball Federation

## Paris Conference fixes International Tourney for 1954 in Spain or Italy

The big news in European baseball in 1953 has been the holding of a conference at Paris on April 27th, 28th and 29th, with the objective of forming a European Baseball Federation.

The guiding influence behind this move was the Belgian Baseball Federation, which has, since 1952, been trying to unite the various national bodies. The Belgian President, M. Roger Panaye, presided over the meeting, at which were present representatives of Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and Spain. We understand that England was not represented owing to the cost involved in sending delegates to the meeting (it should be remembered that some Continental countries do not meet this financial difficulty, as their sport is often state-subsidised). Likewise Holland did not send representatives, although there is apparently a strong movement among their clubs for their affiliation to the E.B.F.

### Italian Prince as Chairman

The Memorandum of Association was signed on the first day by the representatives and the following were elected to the Board:

Chairman: Prince Steno Borghese (Italy)  
Vice-Chairman: Luis Barrio (Spain)  
Secretary & Treasurer: Roger Panaye (Belgium)

The Technical Committee set up is composed of Don Luis Barrio (Spain) as Chairman, Jose R. Alvarez (Spain) as Secretary, and representatives of Germany, France, Belgium and Italy.

The Federal Council will hold an annual meeting and every affiliated Association is qualified to vote. Special meetings can be called on receipt of application from at least three-eighths of the members.

This Council is empowered to accept new affiliations and to organise the European championships and to arbitrate in disputes between different national associations.

Extracts from the Articles of Association are:

French is accepted as the official language, and the headquarters of the Federation are in the country of the Chairman (at present Rome, Italy).

The founders are: Belgium, France, Italy, Germany and Spain. Only one organisation from each affiliated country can be accepted, and the E.B.F. will decide which organisation to accept if more than one applies from any particular country.

The Subscription for 1953 shall be 100 Swiss Francs.

The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The official baseball rules for the National Baseball Congress (Wichita, U.S.A.) are accepted as the rules of E.B.F., but all technical difficulties can be dealt with by the Technical Committee.

Each affiliated country must appoint two registered umpires to the E.B.F. group; these will officiate in the European Championships.

### Olympic Recognition ?

The E.B.F. shall endeavour to get baseball accepted officially by the International Olympic Committee.

The first European championship will be organised in Italy or Spain in 1954, and present entrants are: Spain, Italy, Germany and Belgium. These will be on a league basis, and each country will enter only one team.

This great step forward in the organisation of international baseball will create keen interest to all clubs, players and officials, and opens up immense possibilities for the future. We shall endeavour to keep our readers up-to-date with the news of the Federation's progress and wish it every success.

## S.E. Counties Cup reaches Semi-Final Stage

The Semi-Finals of the South Eastern Counties Cup take place on Sunday, 14th June.

At Victoria Road, Briggs Brigands oppose Snowdown Magpies. When the teams met there in a League match last week-end they went to 11 innings before Brigands won 12-11, after Magpies had an early five-run lead.

The other tie bring together Fords and Dodgers at Falconwood. There will be a pointer to this game when the sides clash in a League match on the same ground tomorrow—their first meeting this season.

The Final takes place on July 11th or 12th.

## S. Eastern League Official Handbook

● Containing all details of Clubs, Grounds, etc., Past Winners, Last Season's Records and Other Useful Information . . . .

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from: The Hon. Secretary, S.E.B.L.,  
36 Derby Avenue, Upminster, Essex

# Baseball Makes Big Progress in The Netherlands

## More than 200 Teams in Dutch Association

From our Special Correspondent

**GUUS V. D. HEIDJEN**

Editor, "Honkbalnieuws" (official publication of the Royal Dutch Baseball Association)

Baseball has been played in Holland since 1911, the late Mr. Gracé starting a club on his return from America.

Three clubs formed the Dutch Baseball Association in 1912, and as this has been in existence 40 years the addition of "Royal" to their title was granted last year. To celebrate this, England were invited to send a team to participate in games against Holland, the results being: Holland 5, England 3; Holland B 3, England 1.

There are about 240 teams in Holland, and the game is very well organised. Promotion and relegation operates in all leagues, and a new club can earn its way into the upper circles by right. The divisions are:

- First Class: 10 teams.
- Second Class: 16 teams.
- Third Class: 32 teams.

Other teams play in six areas: Amsterdam, Haarlem, The Hague, Brabant, Nijmegen and Utrecht.

O.V.V.O. (an Amsterdam team) have been champions since 1949, and much of their success is due to Hannie Urbanus, pitcher for the national team. Urbanus spent the early part of this season with New York Giants and has gained additional experience; Jole (short-stop of the national side) has been similarly occupied with Cincinnati Reds.

Most of the teams are allied to soccer-clubs, which consider baseball an excellent summer sport for their players, and there are few clubs formed to play baseball only.

### Soccer Grounds for Diamonds

All matches are played on soccer-fields, but costs are high and subscriptions are paid by all players. The only foreign player is Marsland, a Canadian who pitches for the first-class A.B.C. side.

International matches are a big feature of Dutch baseball, and annual "home-and-home" games are played against Belgium. Holland and Spain are probably the strongest sides in Europe, but it is expected that Belgium will run the Dutch side close in this year's games in Amsterdam (June 28) and Antwerp (July 12), as they have a very good pitcher in Vital Verbert.

#### Positions in First-Class Championship

	P	W	D	Pts.
1A				
O.V.V.O.	4	3	0	6
T.I.W.	4	2	1	5
R.C.H.	4	2	0	4
Ajax	4	1	1	3
Schoten	4	1	0	2
1B				
V.V.G.A.	4	3	1	7
H.H.C.	4	3	0	6
Blauw Wit	4	2	1	5
A.B.C.	4	1	0	2
Kennend	4	0	0	0

*Editor's Note:* It is our intention in the next issue to give some information about Holland's strongest clubs.

## Twelve Teams in Hull League this Season

The 1953 season opened with twelve teams in the Hull and District League, divided into two Divisions.

*Division A:* Eagles, East Hull Aces, Giants, Hull Royals, Pirates, Police.

*Division B:* Kingston Diamonds, Maybury Y.C., Priestmans Panthers, Saints, Reckitts Robins, Wold Road Social Services.

There are also a number of Cup Competitions.

Most matches are played on Saturdays but there are some on Mondays.

Friendly matches between Hull teams and those from Liverpool have been arranged and prospective visitors include Liverpool Cubs, Bootle Red Sox and Weeton (R.A.F.). One of these inter-club matches will take place at Craven Park (one of the city stadiums) on June 14th, and it is hoped that a team from London will visit Craven Park about the third week in August.

Baseball in Yorkshire is receiving good press support, the *Hull Daily Mail* running regular columns in the Saturday evening editions.

### New Clubs in Leeds

Teams have opened up in other areas, and Leeds has a couple already. One of these—the Leeds Oaks—expects to visit Hull to meet a Division B team, whilst the other—the Maple Leafs—have the assistance of one American, two Italians, a Japanese and a Greek.

In our No. 1 issue we inadvertently mentioned that "Hull Pirates had been "all-England champions." This was not correct, although Priates did share the honours of Hull baseball with Giants and Royals last year.

## Lakenheath well beaten in Belgian Tournament

The Belgian Baseball Federation organised an International Tournament in Antwerp on May 24th and 25th. Competing teams were: Lakenheath Pirates (U.S.A.F., England), Munich Blue-Jays (U.S.A.F., Germany), Antwerp and the Belgian "B" Team. The Lakenheath side shows several changes from that which played some games in the South Eastern area a couple of seasons ago, and those of our readers who were much impressed by their strength then would be disappointed to see them now, as they were heavily beaten in the Final.

On the opening day Lakenheath beat Antwerp 25—5 and Belgium "B" lost to Blue-Jays 9—2.

On the following day winners and losers met; Belgium "B" beat Antwerp 11—1 for third place and Blue-Jays were too much for Lakenheath by a 16—6 margin. After three scoreless frames the Munich side hammered 14 runs in the next three innings, and it was not until the ninth frame that Lakenheath notched four runs as consolation. Blue-Jays hit three "homers."

## S.E.C.B.A. Gains Two New Clubs

### Comets on the Diamond

Two new additions to the membership of the South Eastern Counties are De Havilland Comets and Edgware Wildcats.

The return of the Comets to Southern baseball is a welcome one. Many fans will remember them as members of the London Senior League in pre-war years when they were among the top-flight of the London clubs, reaching the all-London championship final in 1939. They have as headquarters a very fine ground at Leavesden, Herts; it was from this ground that the B.B.C. televised the London All Stars v. Ruislip Rockets game in September, 1951.

The progress of the Wildcats remains steady. When they visited Benfleet to play the Greys in a friendly recently they apparently ruffled the calm of the quiet Essex town by arriving in a coach emblazoned with a large streamer bearing their name, and they nearly upset the local team by making a late rally that nearly won them the game! Three friendlies have been played so far—against Benfleet, Kodak and Thames Board Mills, and the coaching of ex-pro. Harry Simpson is putting them on the right path.

Largely responsible for the progress of these two clubs is Harry Fisher—well-known as a dance-band leader to several clubs in the south, and former Hon. Secretary of the Western League.

## "Local Derbies" in Essex Cup Semi-Finals

For the third time this season Essex Nationals and Briggs Brigands meet in a cup-tie when their Essex Cup Semi-Final is played on June 20th. The "local derby" atmosphere will be duplicated in the other Semi-Final when Dagenham Royals visit Fords on the following Saturday.

## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

### Magpies to play at Kent Cricket Ground?

Snowdown Magpies provisionally booked two more exhibition games against Manston Wildcats this season.

The first of these is as part of the Margate Carnival Celebrations on Friday, 26th June. This is a "repeat performance" of the 1952 match which attracted an attendance of over 4,000, and it is expected that there will be even more present this year.

The other match is to take place on the Kent County Cricket ground at Canterbury, and has been organised by Col. Creamer, Treasurer of the Kent C.C.C. The date is Friday, 7th August and the pitch-off will follow the end of the county cricket match at 4 p.m.

After a rather slow start to their first season in Senior Division ball, Snowdown have shown better form in later games; unfortunately two were lost in the eleventh innings and another against Fords was called-off when Magpies were in a strong position, but Briggs Tigers were easily overcome in the S.E. Counties Cup, team-manager Ralph Daly making a huge hit for a "homer." Ralph has three home runs to his credit already this season.

Ike Gaffron has occasionally forsaken his usual position behind the plate to take over the pitching assignments, but latest news is that the Kent colliery club have signed Ed Miller of the U.S.A.F.

Although virtually out of the running for league honours Magpies will most likely make their presence felt in the cup-ties, and will possibly damage other clubs' chances by picking up some of their remaining Senior Division matches.

### Royals Hit Hard by Injuries

An almost overwhelming number of mishaps gave the playing-staff of Dagenham Royals a depleted look during early May. The worst of these was a broken ankle sustained by pitcher Peter Field that will keep him in plaster for a lengthy period; during the same week-end Jack Little cracked an ankle and George Campbell met with an industrial accident that kept both out of the line-up for three weeks; and in conclusion there were calls of Sunday work that robbed the Dagenham side of key players at vital times.

Nevertheless the Royals have managed to complete their fixtures, and at the time of writing have won 5 and lost 3, including a 20-12 defeat of Senior Division opponents Aveley Cubs in the League Senior Cup, when Field had 16 strike-out in 7 innings.

Jack Little celebrated his return with two successive home runs against Essex Nomads in a League game, and in the same fixture Jimmy Kiff and Ron Cooper each hit one. Others to hit homers this season are Paddy Driscoll, Billy Willson and Harry Hill.

### Fondu make bid for first Championship

After several near-successes Fondu Baseball Club are enjoying a good spell this season and are well in the running for their first championship. Their "key" league match against Briggs Tigers last Sunday brought them a 21-16 win and the Tigers' first league defeat and kept Fondu at the head of the table.

Most pitching for the Cement-works side has been shared by Tommy O'Neill and Southpaw Harry Moreton this season, Derek Dann being on National Service. Derek's brother, Ivor, has been able to play in most games behind the plate and Alan Aley has deputised in his absence.

Several newcomers have been making regular appearances and the all-English team is playing steadily, although all their games have brought heavy scoring by both themselves and their opponents.

### Dodgers lose Schafer and Tutton

It is strange to see the Dodgers' line-up without the familiar name of Lyn Schafer in it, but the recent departure of Lyn to his home-country of Canada has robbed English baseball of one of its pioneers, for Lyn was with the club in its earliest days.

Also accompanying Lyn to Canada is English-born Harry Tutton, one of last season's discoveries by the Kent side; Harry developed into a promising outfielder, and hit very well for his club when they gained triple runners-up honours in 1952.

However, despite these losses, and a pulled knee-muscle that has put Joe Bist out of action for a time, Dodgers are still the ever-present threat that they have always been, and they have filled the gaps with other talent from their London contacts, signing two Americans—Mark Angleberger and Yeary—in the last couple of weeks.

### Young Nomads make grade in Senior Div.

Essex Nationals have won two of their four League games so far, but had their batting been better would probably have improved on this, as Red Holmes and Bob Pullen have been pitching well.

The promotion of three Nomads has brought new talent into the side, and George Pearmain, Dave Stone and Don Tinton have acquitted themselves well; Tinton has been especially good, and has been featuring as catcher.

Despite this loss of experienced players, Nomads have maintained a steady standard. Manager Bob Johnston has great hopes for most of them, and the pitching of Marvie Mills is one of the best prospects for the young side.

### Board Mills challenge for Senior honours

Although they entered for only one Cup this season—the League Senior—Thames Board Mills have had a full programme so far. Their only League defeat has been at the hands of Briggs Brigands, and much will depend on the result of the return game between the sides.

The season started with several familiar faces missing from the line-up, but the transfer of Dicky Hawkes from Brigands and the return of Jack Dawber and Ron Aldridge gives Jimmy McQuade's side a solid look.

### Benfleet figure in close games

Since the return of Vern Campbell to Canada, Benfleet Greys have an all-British line-up; but although Vern's all-round ability has been missed, the team has settled down very well and are in the running for the Division I championship.

If the Greys have many more games this season ending with a one-run margin their President (a local doctor) will have a very full surgery with supporters suffering from palpitations of the heart!

Benfleet have both won and lost against Dagenham Royals by 13-12, beat Essex Nomads by the same score, but altered things slightly with a 14-13 win over Edgeware Wildcats in a friendly.

### Cubs improve after early reverses

The loss of Bruce Rummery some weeks ago due to a leg injury and the fact that Tommy Hooper has pitched only one game for them this season have made Aveley Cubs' task in the Senior Division a hard one, and their lack of success is in complete contrast to their 1952 run of victories. However, with the return of Rummery and "Feathers" Partridge to the team the outlook at West Thurrock Rec. is much better. The Cubs' recent meeting with Thames Board Mills brought the lowest scoring game of the season—a 4-1 success for the Board Mills.

### WILLSON EQUALS STRIKE-OUT RECORD IN LEAGUE GAME

Playing in a Division I match against Briggs Tigers on May 16th, Bill Willson of Dagenham Royals gained 21 strike-outs. This equalled the S.E. League record set up by Peter Field playing for Essex Cubs against Hornsey Athletics in 1950.