Baseball Days

Created by Dean Whiting

for Project COBB
Early photos
Barry and Maurice Whiting
West London Pioneers, Scrubs (circa 1950)
Back row: G Campbell, B Raply, M Whiting, Paton, F Adey, T Ross, B Whiting
Front row: J Dixon, Robichfall, Laurie, Ridenhour, Ingalls
West London Pioneers versus Hornsey Red Sox,
Chiswick Polytechnic (circa 1951)
West London Pioneers (circa 1950)
Articles from the
West London Observer
(1949–1951)
Baseball

Pioneers fight back

West London Pioneers met Horsey Red Sox, on Sunday, in the London semi-final of the All-England Cup.

Horsey took the lead in the first innings by 5-0, and then started the finest ball game of the season.

Ridenhour, of the Pioneers, took the mound and the Pioneers began to fight back in the second innings. Ross, Prendergast, and Adey crossed the plate.

In the third, Ingalls' scored, making it 5-4; in the fourth, Adey again crossed and tied the game at 5-5.

Horsey went ahead again in the fifth, and in the sixth there were two more for the Pioneers, who took the lead 7-6.

And then the effort of the grand fight-back began to tell. All credit was due to the lion-hearted pitching of Ridenhour, but the 8th innings told, and Horsey scored three and ran out winners by 9-7.

PIONEERS ROUT ROYALS

At home on the ‘Scrubs’ last Sunday the batting strength of the Pioneers was seen at its best against Mitcham Royals.

Everyone, including substitutes, made hits with Bob Curtain topping them all with a 1000 per cent. average by batting 5 for 5, with Zupan running second with 4 for 6.

Lefty Ingalls' return to the Pioneers was commemorated by one of his mighty home run hits, and his example was followed by homers from Sleath and Ridenhour.

The Royals fought valiantly to the end, but were handicapped by injuries.

Curtain and Ingalls shared the pitching for the home team and did well to hold the Royals down to five hits from which they scored three runs.
versus GHENT

Americans beaten at own game

As entertainment for the Belgian visitors, a baseball match between the West London Pioneers Baseball Club and the London Resident Americans was held at the Polytechnic Stadium, on Whit-Saturday.

In the first innings the Pioneers failed to score. In the second, the Americans came to bat, but Ridenhour held them with two strike outs and a put out.

When the Pioneers started their hitting, and Ingalls, Ridenhour, Robertson and Poton crossed the plate for four runs. A run for each team, making the score 5-2, was scored in the third innings, and at the end of the fifth, the score stood at 7-2. In the 7th and 8th, the Americans went further ahead to make the score 7-9. Then the Pioneers came up for their final innings. E. Adey, as usual, reached first and stole second and third. T. Robertson made second and Ridenhour made first, bringing Adey across the plate to bring the score to 9-9.

J. Dixon, with a smash to right field, brought Robertson across the plate to tie the ball game at 9-9, and Ridenhour crossed the plate and put the score in the Pioneers favour at 10-9.

Baseball

Pioneers keep record

West London Pioneers were at home on Sunday to the Mitcham Tigers, in a Western League match and kept their undefeated record.

The game started with A. Ross, the home pitcher, striking the first three out. The Pioneers went to bat and F. Adey scored his usual run followed by a smashing hit by T. Ridenhour, only to be brilliantly caught in the outfield. Ingalls hit a perfect home run, but only gained second, owing to an unfortunate accident at second base.

Ross struck out 10 batters for one run in four innings, with Ridenhour finishing the remaining five innings (10 strike outs for no runs).

Final score was—Pioneers 15; Tigers 1.
BASEBALL

Ridenhour's grand pitching

On Sunday, the West London Pioneers had Thames Board Mill as their opponents in the semi-final of the Southern Counties Cup.

Ridenhour, the Pioneers' pitcher, had two strikeouts when Dawber, of the Mills hit a 3-bagger, scoring the first run.

Pioneers batted, and with two men left on, failed to score.

In the third innings, Campbell hit a 2-bagger and Ingalls with a grand hit, brought him home to make the score 1-1.

In the fourth innings, a misunderstanding between short-stop and left-field, gave the Mills another run.

In the fifth, Adey and Ridenhour both crossed the plate, again through Ingalls' hitting, and brought the score to 3-3.

As changes in the field, the Mills went away, although Ridenhour pitched a grand game, scoring 13 strikeouts, and the opposition only striking out six of the Pioneers.

The long season of 22 games, with only two defeats in cup matches, began to tell on the Pioneers, and the game ended with the Mills winning by 8-3.

The last match will be played on Sunday at home, with a double against the Royals.

BASEBALL

Pioneers still winning

The West London Pioneers continued their undefeated run in the League when they met Hornsey Red Sox at the Scrubs.

In the first innings Red Sox came to bat and were put out for nil. The Pioneers started with Dixon smashing a three-base hit and bringing Laurie across the plate. Next, Ingalls smashed a homer out to right field to bring Dixon across the plate. Score at end of first: Pioneers 2, Red Sox 0.

In the second innings Red Sox again came to bat for nil. Pioneers replied with Laurie crossing the plate.

In the third, Red Sox scored a homer, crossing the plate twice to bring the score to 4-2.

In the fourth Red Sox were beaten again by Ridenhour's pitching for nil. The Pioneers replied with Campbell, two batters, to bring Laurie across; Dixon sacrificed to bring Campbell across, and Ingalls stealing home. Score 8-2.

In the fifth, two were scored by Red Sox, and Adey and Paton crossed the plate for Pioneers.

In the sixth, nil was scored by both teams; 7th, Sox crossed once and, in the final innings with the score at Pioneers 10, Red Sox 7. Two out and bases loaded, Ridenhour pitching a grand game as usual, had two strikeouts on the batter, and the big hit came to left field. Dixon was under it and finished the ball game.

Student Health Visitors from Chiswick Polytechnic toured the Senior Fours by Vesta R.C.
Baseball

Pioneers Western League champions

The West London Pioneers played their eighth league game without defeat, on Sunday, meeting Wembley Pirates, who hold second position in the league, and trounced them by 14-0.

This being the second time Ridenhour, the Pioneers' pitcher has pitched a shut-out, 13 strike-outs being recorded, and 211 for the season.

Four runs were scored in the first innings, one in the second and six in the third.

Although the Pirates were twice within scoring, Adley, the catcher, calmly picked them out at home plate.

Ingalls was his usual self at first base and tops the scoring, recording four hits for five times at bat.

It appears the Pioneers have broken the London record at timing and all round the wicket hitting, were faultless and only a brilliant stumping proved his downfall. Scores: Carlton Nomads 79; Kings 104 for 4.

West London Table Tennis league

One of the features referred to by the Secretary of the West London Table Tennis League, at the annual general meeting, in his report on the past season's activities, was the success of 2 min. 2.6 sec.

B. Chard had a successful day in the Film Industries sports, held at Uxbridge, when he won both the half and one-mile events.

Baseball


As Wembley's ground proved unobtainable at the last minute, the Cup game was postponed and a challenge game was played on the Scrubs.

For the first two innings neither team looked like getting many runs and the game seemed evenly matched, when a hit from Fleming, in the third, started the run scoring. From this moment the Pioneers went ahead, scoring runs in every inning and fielding fast and accurate to stop the Pirates from scoring.

Wembley tried hard, but with Ingalls on the mound and Ridenhour behind the plate, their total hits only amounted to three, and they found it impossible to get further than second. The main interest of the game was if the Pioneers could prevent their opponents from getting a run and be the first London team to get a shut-out this season. They accomplished this feat and won by 16 to nil, and are proud that it could be obtained over a strong team like the Pirates.

Greyhound racing

August Bank Holiday arrangements
Baseball

W. LONDON PIONEERS v. MITCHEAM TIGERS

Last week the Pioneers gained another league victory, this time over the Tigers on Mitcham Common.

The Tigers, with Joe During pitching, played a grand game, and the final score of 40 runs to 2, belied their efforts. Although playing a good ball game, the Tigers found it impossible to stop the West London team from getting runs, as Manager Lee Ridenhour’s hit and run policy once again paid dividends.

Everyone went in swinging and line drives, place hits, and deep flys came off the end of their bats.

Peacock and Spencer headed the batting this week with six hits each for seven times at bat.

The Pioneers’ battery, consisting of Ingalls and Ridenhour, played a good game, and their example was followed by the fielders, who made some lightnings plays to hold the Tigers down to two runs.

Greyhound racing

Commencing tomorrow (Sat-
Baseball

W. LONDON PIONEERS v. TIGERS.

The Pioneers continued their string of unbeaten league victories with a dramatic 11 runs to 4 win over the Tigers. The Pioneers evidently expected another easy win, but were shocked from their complacency by Durling’s fast pitching and the vastly improved fielding of the opposition.

The Tigers used tear-away tactics from the pitch-off and in the sixth innings Pioneers found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-0 score. Things looked pretty grim for the Pioneers, but they still had another trump to play in Ingalls. The home team found a new lease of life when Ingalls took over on the mound from Ridenhour. In the seventh innings Dixon hit a single with bases loaded, and started the ball rolling, and 6 runs crossed the plate.

Ingalls dynamite pitching struck 10 tigers out in three innings, and the Pioneers batted 5 more runs home and won the best game played at home this season.

BASEBALL

On Sunday the Pioneers met Briggs (Bodies) in the quarter-finals of the English Cup, and started the game with four runs in the first innings. Briggs were totally outclassed with the pitching of Ridenhour and the fielding of the in-fielders.

Runs were scored by Ingalls, Adey, Laurie, Ridenhour and Campbell (3 each), Dixon and Roberhean (2 each), and Paton (1).

L. Ridenhour achieved another record of 18 strike outs, no hits, no runs, and the game finished with the Pioneers victorious by 20-0.

They now enter the semi-final against Briggs Brigands.

DARTS

Paddington, represented by a team from British Railways Western Region (Mssrs. J. E. Gildens, J. Rivett, J. Conner and R. McNeish) were the run-
More photos
West London Pioneers versus Dulwich, Dulwich (circa 1951)
Barry Whiting (pitching) and Tom Ross (first base)
Mitcham Tigers (circa 1952)
All-Stars versus US Navy, Mitcham (circa 1953)
All-Star game, SECBA versus WCBA
M Whiting (catcher), G Campbell (manager), and R Gibson (outfield)
Left: Johnny Schawb, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (1957)
Right: Leatherhead Maple Leafs membership card (1958)
Maurice Whiting at bat for the Leatherhead Maple Leafs against the US Navy, Brompton Regis, Dulverton, Somerset (5 August 1956)
Barry Whiting, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (1956)
Bushy Park Cardinals, just before the base was closed and the team disbanded, Harrow (1962)


Front row: J Gibb, L Toupes, G Curran, J Clark
Bushy Park Cardinals, Bushy Park (circa 1963)
Assorted clippings
BUSHY Park Cardinals were in great form when they defeated the Navy 8-4 at Bushy Park last Sunday at 3 p.m., and won by 3 runs.

With the game continuing from last year’s bitter battle against T.B.M., bunting them they might have been expected to approach their rivals with caution and careful hitting. However, the opposite was the case. Going in to bat and seeing the first time they three caution to the wind, the Cardinals opened the first 2 runs and scored a run. Next batter up did it like this, it was three men out and T.B.M. at bat.

With R. MacNeill, nothing happened T.B.M. were retired without reaching 1st base, score 0-0. Again Cardinals went to bat and scored three runs, while T.B.M. scored three runs. This inning was a duplication of the second. In the fourth, two runs were scored by their opponents. Finally, the game ended with the Cardinals leading 8-4. The home team got on bases and scored five runs in the final inning. The Cardinals added six more runs to their lead, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

Dickie MacNeill had thrown the first five innings, walking only three men. He also led for his brother and pitched all the way. In the sixth inning, he was hit by a fly ball. The Cardinal's catcher, George Waddington, hit a home run on the fly ball. The Cardinals scored on their own, and added two more runs, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

FIRST GAME

Thomas E. Treadwell, playing his first game for the Cardinals this year, got a Home Run and another single. He hit two singles and walked twice. He must have been hit, but he did not score any runs. However, he was not out, and the Cardinal’s catcher, George Waddington, hit a home run on the fly ball. The Cardinals scored on their own, and added two more runs, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

A Spirited Reply by Bushy Park

In the close contest Bushy Park Cardinals defeated Mitchell by seven runs to six. The Blue Jacks, with their well-known catcher, played an excellent game in the first half of the match.

The Cardinals batted their way from home to home in one of the most exciting games of the season, and their rivals were prevented from getting a single run. They had no runs to show.

The home side, Senior League leaders, gained revenge for previous defeat by Cardinals' pitchers, McNeele, who reduced the opposition to frustrated throughours.

Backed by the best fielders in the country, McNeele had no worries on the field for the first three batsmen. Washington, Bob George, and Ken Moses all hit the balls wide of the batsmen's ears.

The home team, with Dickie MacNeill leading, were able to score three runs in the final inning. The Cardinals scored on their own, and added two more runs, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

FAULTERS

At bat Cardinals were successful with their first challenge. They batted the ball well, but were unable to get through the first three batsmen. However, they did manage to score two runs against the third baseman, Jack George. The Cardinals’ catcher, Bob George, hit a home run on the fly ball. The Cardinals scored on their own, and added two more runs, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

CARDINALS AVENGED

In a thrilling baseball game, with a quarter ended of giving Bushy Park Cardinals an eventual victory, every department worked together, and they even managed to score a run in the third inning. There were no home runs.

The Cardinal’s strategy was to send their man, Tom Ranny and his teammate, to the plate, and they did it. Tom worked the bases and hit a double against the third baseman's efforts. The Cardinal’s catcher, Bob George, hit a home run on the fly ball. The Cardinals scored on their own, and added two more runs, giving the game a score of 13-4 in five innings.

Special thanks to Dickie MacNeill and his team for their hard work and dedication. They were able to put up a great display of baseball and bring home the victory. The Cardinals are leading the Senior League with a score of 13-4.

Baseball

An exciting moment during a baseball match at Bushy Park.
Final photos
Waiting for the bus to go and play baseball, opposite Richmond station (circa 1957)
Left to right: Barry and Joan Whiting, Maureen Rapley, Arthur and Pam Bloomfield, and Maurice Whiting
Barry and Maurice Whiting, Leatherhead Maple Leafs (circa 1956)