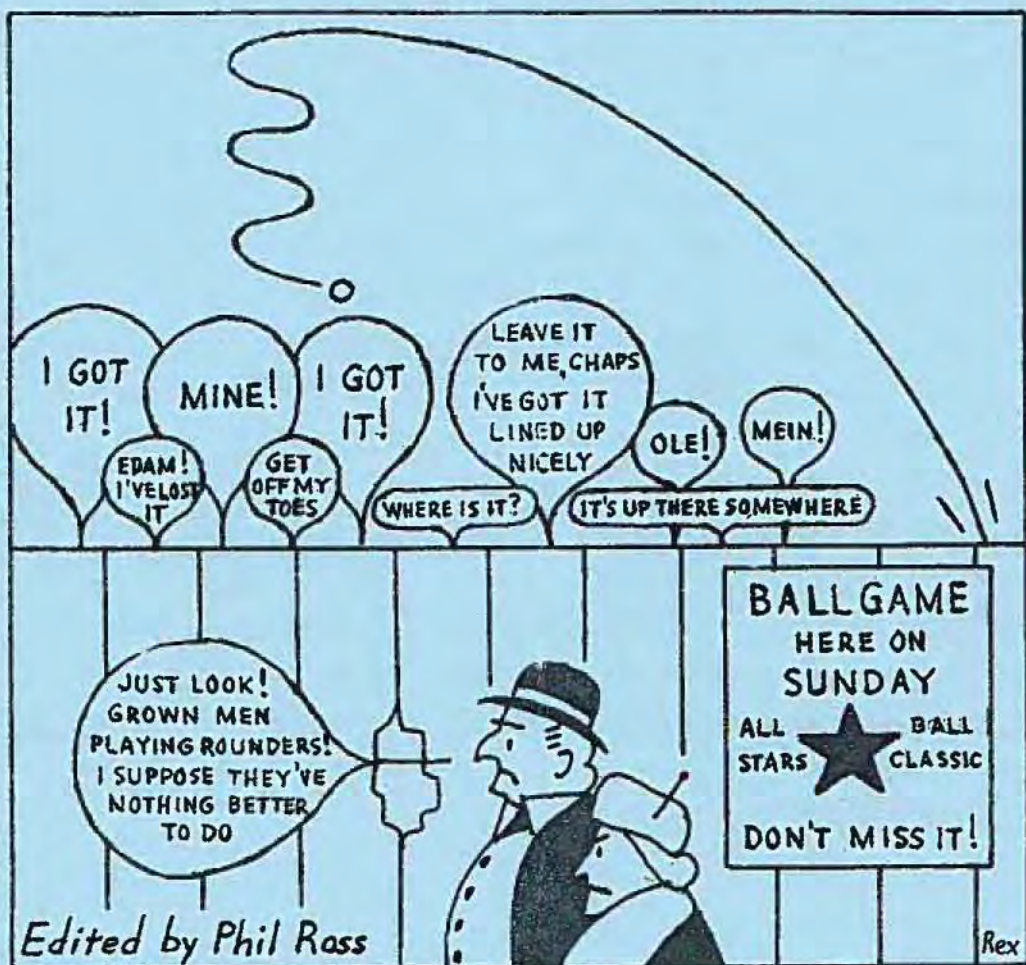


OLINEDRIVE!

Fanzine

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN



Edited by Phil Ross

Rex

LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1992

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Harry Atwood	Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Second Base	4
Justin Brown	Third Base	20
Julian Dodwell	Centrefield	19
Ben Geddes	Leftfield	17
Oliver Heidecker	Designated Hitter	14
Vincente Martinez	Relief Pitcher	16
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield	18
David Omholt	Coach	13
Alan Smith	Starting Pitcher	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

SORRY !

The usual fortnightly production of *LINEDRIVE !* was temporarily suspended as your editor was stricken with an upset stomach. A suspiciously warm pint of beer is the suspected culprit, and whilst your green-faced and groggy ed contemplated drafting his last will and testament, the prospect of conjuring up anything remotely readable was deemed out of the question. Sorry about that !

BASEBALL - IS IT HEREDITARY ?

Although a mere baseball sophomore, a number of relatives and acquaintances have commented upon my enthusiasm for the game, including a surprise revelation from my mother that in 1936/37 she used to watch baseball being played in Catford.

The team was drawn exclusively from the Mormon faith, and were appropriately called the Catford Saints, and amongst the playing staff was Brigham Young III. Initially they played in the Catford area, but in late 1937 took to playing in Nunhead, and amongst my mothers old photograph albums is a scrap of paper signed by the Saints pitcher, Christian Dreyer. So, perhaps I was born to enjoy baseball.

A VERY BRITISH ATTITUDE

That man Rex Phillips has been at it again, designing a new cover, and featuring that most essential ingredient in any sport, a sense of humour. Whilst much of the cover is dedicated to the cosmopolitan flavour of the London Warriors team, the comment made by Mr & Mrs Grouch shows a typically British way of regarding baseball. It can also lead to amusing reading when very British phraseology is used to describe a game that requires the American idiom.

A beautiful example was reproduced in a recent copy of the Croydon Advertiser under their 'Fifty Years Ago' feature. Some 6000 people turned up at Selhurst Park to watch an Independance Day celebration match between representatives of the American and

Canadian forces. The players were greeted by the mayor, and the pre-game entertainment came from the band of the Irish Guards. Here is how the report appeared in the local press...

'There was plenty of excitement in the game, plenty of wonderful catching from truly wonderful high hits... but what pleased the spectators the most was perhaps the clever way in which players made spirited dashes from one base to another behind the pitcher's back.'

The American team won 19-17, and no doubt the game statistics included a column headed SD for spirited dashes !

BIG KID SYNDROME

Its not often that a man in his thirties gets the chance to get soaking wet and covered in mud, but when the Oldtimers played their friendly at the Caterham Athletics, the Oldtimers roped in a very unlikely looking rightfielder called Phil Ross. (Who ?!). It absolutely poured all day, and yours truly had damn all to do in the field, but it was baseball, and it was fun. A big vote of thanks to both the fun loving Caterham A's, and the Oldtimers for having some fool penpusher on the diamond.

REPORTS & SCORES

Sunday 12th July

CROYDON BLUE JAYS AT LONDON WARRIORS

Croydon Blue Js	ab	r	h	rb	London Warriors	ab	r	h	rb
Collins, 3b	4	1	0	0	Bloomfield, 2b	3	2	1	1
Sahker, rf	3	2	1	0	Da. Ward, 1b	5	2	1	0
Wilesmith, p	4	1	2	1	Thompson, c	4	2	1	0
Harrington, lf	3	3	1	2	Dodwell, cf	5	1	2	3
Heather, 1b	4	2	3	2	Brown, 3b	4	2	2	5
Stankovits, 2b	3	0	0	0	Heidecker, lf	4	0	1	0
Rolls, ss	2	0	1	1	Smith, p-rf	4	1	1	1
Lawson, cf	3	0	0	0	Smulders, rf	4	0	2	0
Walker, c	4	0	0	0	Atwood, ss	4	0	0	0
Shamwanna, ss	3	0	0	0	Martinez, p	1	0	1	0
Laing, lf	1	0	0	0					
Totals	34	9	8	6	Totals	38	10	12	10

Croydon Blue Jays	0	0	0	4	0	2	3	0	0	-	9
London Warriors	4	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	x	-	10
Croydon	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO					
Wilesmith	8	12	10	6	7	5					
London	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO					
Smith	6	6	6	6	1	3					
Martinez	3	2	3	2	7	4					

E - Stankovits, Shamwanna, Collins 2, Da Ward, Thompson, Brown, Smulders. LOB- Croydon 9, London 11. 2B - Wilesmith, Dodwell, Heidecker, Martinez. 3B - Dodwell. HR - Heather, Brown. SB - Shamwanna, Lawson, Collins, Wilesmith 2, Harrington, Bloomfield 2, Da Ward, Brown 3, Heidecker. WP - Martinez 2. PB - Croydon 1.
(Statistics courtesy of Stephen Draper - Croydon Blue Jays).

If you can read the foregoing, then you won't need much in the way of an editorial. Blue Jays have a habit of getting themselves involved in tight cliff hangers, and this match was no exception. Twice they came back to equal Warriors, and actually lead the game at the seven innings stretch. The closeness of the game, and the strong desire to win nearly spilt over into acrimony in the latter stages of the game, but fortunately it was to amount to nothing more than noise and posturing from both teams, and the post match activities showed that much of what went before was now forgotten.

Pritchett Construction National League

Sunday 19th July

	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
London Warriors	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	6
Enfield Spartans	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	X

A much stronger showing by the London Warriors meant that the second game in the Spartans/Warriors series was much more like a contest. Sadly for Warriors they had drawn the short straw, as Enfield had suffered their first defeat of the season the week before to the improved Cambridge Knights, and were not in the mood to lose again.

Warriors opened strongly with 2 RBI's from Darrin Ward, no doubt encouraged by the support of his enthusiastic pupils, the Caterham

Athletics, but Spartans reply was swift and efficient, with first inning runs from Lewis, Dawe and Iain Lanario. Robbie Dawe had an excellent game against Vince Martinez, collecting an RBI in each of his first three at bats.

The tactical pitching of Rob Nelson drove Warriors into a lean spell, with only a Justin Brown RBI, scoring Alan Bloomfield, to brighten up innings two to six. Innings seven and eight saw RBI's for Harry Atwood and Justin Brown, but also saw Justin in his pitching capacity concede his first runs, with Gary Bedingfield and Brad Cruickshank scoring for Spartans. A better performance from Warriors that makes the return double-header at Barnes a mouthwatering prospect.

Sunday 26th July

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Enfield Spartans	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
Croydon Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Relentlessly efficient is perhaps the only way to describe this Spartans performance. A steady stream of carefully placed singles off the pitching of Keith Wilesmith, leading to a victory that looked inevitable after inning four.

Blue Jays missed the batting of Paul Collins, currently in the United States, and the additional unavailability of Harvey Sakher and Jim Hogge seemed to dampen their spirits in a rather subdued display, and even the celebrations for their only RBI of the day, struck by Joe Rolls, seemed muted.

Sadly, a disappointing game, that never quite took off. No big hits, no great fielding plays, no spectacular catches, just an efficient machine grinding along inexorably to its goal.

All contributions to LINEDRIVE ! are most welcome and should be addressed to :-

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LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1992

Sun 26th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	W 11-3
Sun 10th May	HOME TO READING BULLDOGS (D)	W 16-4 & 17-0
Sun 17th May	away to Essex Eagles (D)	W 15-1 & 16-1
Sun 24th May	away to Birmingham Devils	W 16-6
Sun 31st May	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS	W 9-3
Sun 14th June	away to Cambridge Knights (D)	W 10-4 & 9-2
Sun 21st June	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 14-7
Sun 28th June	away to Enfield Spartans	L 0-10
Sun 5th July	away to Reading Bulldogs	W 17-4
Sun 12th July	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS	W 10-9
Sun 19th July	away to Enfield Spartans	L 6-7
Sun 26th July	away to Birmingham Devils	
Sun 2nd August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	
Sun 16th August	away to Croydon Blue Jays (D)	
Sun 23rd August	HOME TO BIRMINGHAM DEVILS (D)	
Sun 30th August	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS (D)	
Sun 6th September	away to Reading Bulldogs	
Sun 13th September	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sat 19th September	Semi Final Playoffs Game 1	
Sun 20th September	Semi Final Playoffs Games 2 & 3	
Sat 26th September	Final Playoff Game 1	
Sun 27th September	Final Playoff Games 2 & 3	
Sun 4th October	National League Champs v Buddies League Champs	

D=Double header-2 seven innings games. Game one starts 1:00 pm

All other nine inning games start 3:00 pm.

② A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF BASEBALL
Baseball terminology is a cause of confusion to a new fan, and many old ones. So let's try to clear the air. Take the very first action in a game. The pitcher has a ball in his hand. He throws it towards the batter. Suddenly the ball becomes a pitch, only to become a ball again as soon as it passes the batter, unless the pitcher is lucky, when the ball that became a pitch becomes a strike. Even if it becomes a strike it becomes a ball again if it is hit—a fly ball or a ground ball or a foul ball. Or perhaps it may become a line drive or a bunt, when it seems to be no longer a ball or a pitch or a strike, but something else again. So you see how important it is to know just what that object is, flying through the air or rolling on the ground. Whatever the ball may become during a play, when it returns to the pitcher it is a ball again. Then it becomes another strike, or another ball, in which case the pitcher and the batter each have two balls, or two strikes, or one of each. If they have two balls they are not unduly worried, but when the batter has one ball, or the pitcher has three, tension creeps in. When the batter has four balls he is allowed to walk to first base. He is not expected to run

Just as we are getting warmed up, we find we are running out of space. But it may be possible to squeeze another instalment into a back page when the editor is not looking. Watch this space.