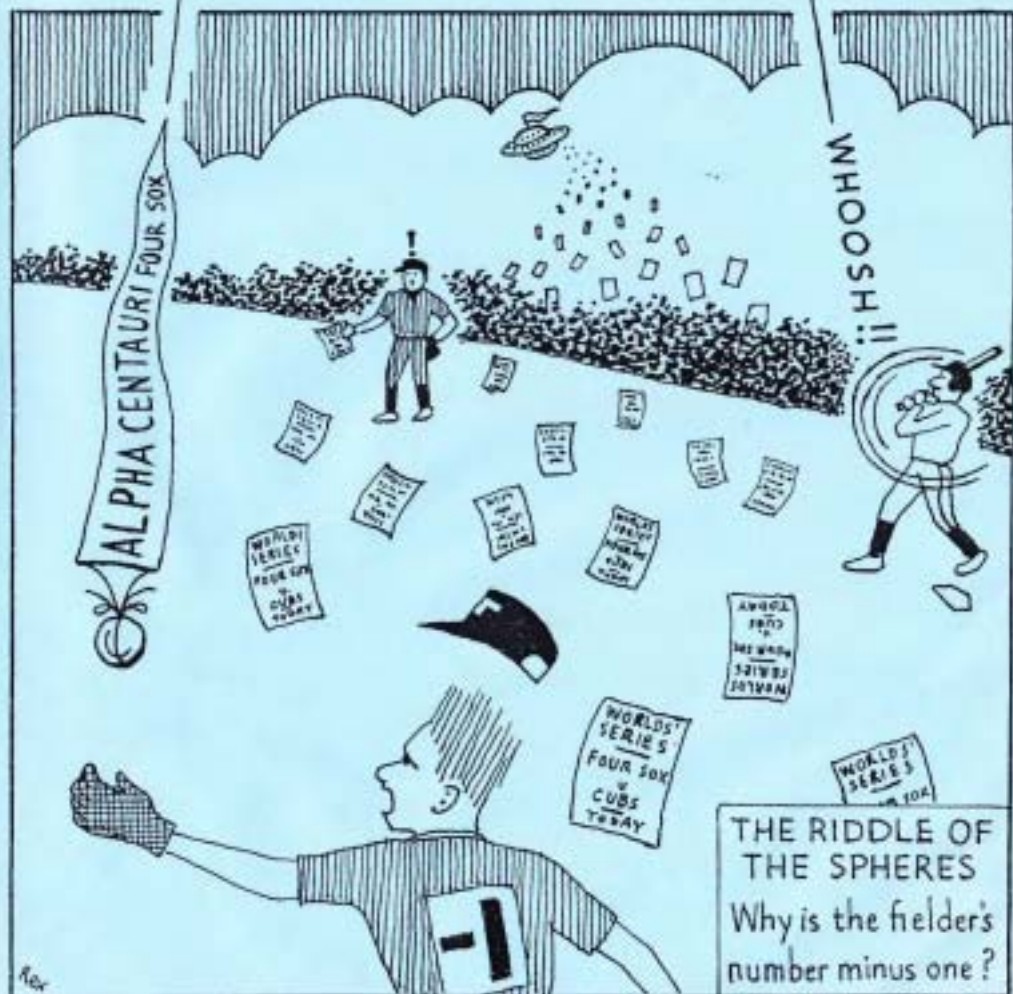


# LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No. 6

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



The long sought and eagerly awaited message from outer space

LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1994

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Rupert Armitage	Leftfield/Rightfield	20
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Cody Cain	Pitcher/First Base	19
Kevin Coldiron	Second Base/Pitcher	13
Steve Dumain	Rightfield	2
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Tom Juhase	Centrefield/Rightfield	16
Richard Kemp	Leftfield/Centrefield	17
Kevin Murphy	Leftfield/Centrefield	18
Carlos Rodriguez	Second Base	15
Alan Smith	Pitcher/First Base	8
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

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# *LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 6*

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A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

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## JOURNEY TO THE STARS

Ladies and gentleman, welcome aboard the starship *Linedrive* ! Would all passengers ensure that all hand luggage is safely stowed in the overhead storage lockers, and take their seats for the safety drill. When the signs are illuminated, all cigarettes should be extinguished and all seatbelts fastened....

Certainly a fascinating concept to toy with. Not merely that their could be life on other planets, but also that these life forms may indulge in recreational sport.

We are all agreed that whilst we might not understand what other people on our own planet saying, in the arena of sport, it is quite possible to play effectively, even when ones own team members have no common language denominator.

Perhaps then, we should look for a sports language in the 'communications' we have received from 'aliens'. For example, the phenomenon of crop circles. Whilst many of these creations are discredited as the work of student pranksters, it is interesting to note that the dominant theme is the circle, although in this context, it is of course, the two dimensional representation of the three dimensional sphere or ball. Are these elaborate designs diagrammatic descriptions of a sport or game ? Could it be that the first extra terrestrial utterances we clearly understand won't be 'take me to your leader, but 'come on, give us the ball ?'

So, why are UFO's only ever sighted in remote areas, and not overflying packed sporting arenas ? Why do these lone individuals often tell stories of being taken aboard these craft and subjected to studies ? Perhaps our visitors are wondering why any rational creature is out on it's own in the middle of nowhere, when it could be at a game ! The creature must be ill ! Medicine is required !

Whilst much of this editorial is intended as a lighthearted discourse, there are some serious points to consider. Firstly that other life forms may exist, and secondly that perhaps recreational activity, rather than words, may be the key to true communication.

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REPORTS & SCORES

12/6/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Essex Eagles	1	0	0	1	0	5	6	12	13	0
Bromley Blue Jays	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	7	4

WP Vince Warner  
LP Bob Ratcliffe

A game that perhaps highlights the perennial pitching problem for British baseball, with both Ratcliffe and Warner starting strongly, the scores standing at one each by the close of the fifth, but then declining, to bring in the slaughter rule by the seventh.

Eagles opened the score with the squeeze play. Colvin's sac bunt giving Dave Read the free run to home plate. Brett Marty equalised for the Blue Jays, Wilesmith hitting a sac fly to level the game.

Then, in the sixth, Eagles got the better of the Ratcliffe repertoire, scoring five runs from five hits, including a Dave Read double. Ratcliffe then reduced the arrears with a solo homer in the sixth, but despite changing pitchers, Blue Jays couldn't restrain the Eagles onslaught, with Wilesmith conceding six runs from five hits in the seventh, including a second Dave Read double.

19/6/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
Tonbridge Bobcats	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
London Warriors	1	1	3	6	3	1	0	X 14

LP Alex Malihoudis  
WP Alan Smith

The Bobcats are a young baseball side that have progressed from an initial youth team set up. Although still largely a teenage playing staff, they have a good team spirit, and possess one or two very talented individuals. If the nucleus of this team can stay together for another five or so years, they will provide very stiff competition to any side in the UK.

Certainly their start against the London Warriors was bright, bold and enthusiastic, lead off batter Alex Malihoudis hitting a triple to left. Next man, Mark Borley, hit a grounder to shortstop, with

Borley safe on the fielders choice, and Malihoudis beating the throw to the plate for 1-0 Bobcats.

A fly to right for Martin Barker put the third Bobcat batter on base, and Nick Carter scored two runs with a fine double to left. However, his over-optimistic advance to third brought the first out of the day, and the opening half inning closed without further incident.

Warriors, having lost their boundary fencing in an arson attack, faced the prospect of running out all leftside home run hits, and their second batter, Alan Bloomfield, tried out this scenario clipping a solo round-tripper.

The bottom of the second saw the Warriors take the lead, with RBI's from Armitage, Rodriguez and Smith, which was enough to see off Alex Malihoudis, who having only started pitching in earnest this season, and having played the day before, decided to step down from the hill.

Warriors then pounced on reliever, Pen Lansbury, who's torrid two thirds of an inning saw 9 batters coming to the plate, and five runs scoring to put London 9-3. Lansbury, obviously troubled, was then replaced by captain, Nick Carter, who conceded one further bases loaded walk before obtaining the third out.

Lansbury received some consolation with an RBI in the top of the fourth, but Warriors replied with RBI's from Alan Smith and Rich Kemp, and Brad Thompson reaching home on passed ball, making the score 13-4 Warriors

With Bobcats pitcher Nick Carter improving on the hill, the run rate lessened slightly, with Alan Smith scoring the one run needed for the slaughter in the bottom of the fifth, batting in Harry Atwood.

Special mention should be made of two of the Bobcats outfield, making their National League debut's, Malcolm Smith and Liam Walters. Walters was denied a trio of good catches only by a

passing spectator straying dangerously close to the field of play, and had to settle for two out of three.

19/6/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Enfield Spartans	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	3	0	9
Essex Eagles	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	9

WP Julien Fountain

LP Vince Warner

A weakened Essex line up gave a good account of themselves against a confident Enfield side. Early honours were even, Rob Lanario scoring from a Steve Simmons hit, and Essex levelling with a Matt Jennings run from a Vince Warner single.

The game remained tight for two innings, with both Fountain and Warner pitching well, but after Enfield put two runs on the board in the fourth, Essex needed to reply quickly. Despite Fountain loading up the bases with three walked batters, Essex failed to capitalise, and remained behind for the rest of the game, and only a brief flurry in the ninth gave an respectability to the Eagles scoreline.

Julien Fountain finished the day with 15K's but gave up 6 walks, whilst Vince Warner took 11K's, and yielded only 4 walked batters.

National League's other scheduled match for June 19th, Lakenheath Yankees at Bromley Blue Jays, has been re-arranged as a double-header at Lakenheath on July 3rd.

The weekend of June 26th, which was to have been used to play two previously cancelled games resulted in no play taking place at all. Bury Saints yielded a 9-0 home forfeit to the Lakenheath Yankees, and with Saints having only played one early season game against the Warriors, it seems likely that Saints have folded.

Tonbridge Bobcats eagerly awaited the arrival of the Bromley Blue Jays at Deacon's Field, along with the Linedrive ! team, and umpire Margaret Borley. Sadly, for the second time, it was a Blue Jay no show, so players, fans and umpire settled for an interesting

discussion upon all matters baseball, including a few insights into the art of umpiring.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 10

26/6/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Enfield Spartans	6	1	.857	--
Waltham Forest A	6	1	.857	--
London Warriors	5	2	.714	1
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	3	.571	2
Essex Eagles	3	4	.429	3
Bury Saints	2	5	.286	4
Lakenheath Yankees	1	5	.167	4½
Bromley Blue Jays	0	6	.000	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

3/7/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ Lakenheath Yankees (double-header)  
 Essex Eagles @ Bury Saints  
 Tonbridge Bobcats @ Enfield Spartans  
 Waltham Forest Angels @ London Warriors

NEXT WEEK

10/7/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ Waltham Forest Angels  
 Enfield Spartans @ Bury Saints  
 Lakenheath Yankees @ Essex Eagles  
 London Warriors @ Tonbridge Bobcats

BBF STANDINGS - WEEK 10

12/6/94

National Premier League South

	W	L	Pct	GB
Hounslow Rangers	7	3	.700	--
Bedford Chicksands	6	3	.667	½
Essex Arrows	6	3	.667	½
Crawley Comets	4	5	.444	2½
Brighton Buccaneers	4	7	.364	3½
Bristol Black Sox	1	7	.125	5

Southern Division One North

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cambridge Monarchs	4	1	.800	--
Hemel Red Sox	4	1	.800	--
Totteridge T'blazers	4	2	.667	½
Gloster Meteors	2	1	.667	1
City Slick	4	3	.571	1
Droitwich Spa Tans	1	4	.200	3
Reading Royals	0	6	.000	5



Southern Division One South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Arun Panthers	4	0	1,000	--
Croydon Pirates	4	1	,800	#
Bournemouth Bees	4	3	,571	1#
Gillingham Dodgers	3	3	,500	2
Hounslow Hawks	3	4	,429	2#
Tunbridge Wells R	2	3	,400	2#
Stevenage Knights	0	7	,000	5#

Southern Division Two

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Lashing Sluggers	6	1	,857	--
London Wolves	6	1	,857	--
Tiptree Hotspots	6	2	,750	#
Caterham Athletics	4	4	,500	2#
Guildford Mavericks	3	4	,429	3
Hounslow Falcons	2	6	,250	4#
Chichester Kyotes	2	7	,222	5
Bracknell Blazers	1	5	,167	4#

Southern Division Three North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Milton Keynes T	4	2	,667	--
Norwich Wanderers	4	2	,667	--
Fulham Flames	3	2	,600	#
Waltham Abbey Cards	3	4	,429	1#
Cambridge Fellows	0	3	,000	3#

Southern Division Three South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	6	0	1,000	--
Brighton Buccaneers	5	2	,714	1#
Gloster Meteors	2	4	,333	4
Guildford Mudcats	2	5	,286	4#
Eastbourne Aces	0	5	,000	5#

Apologies to all *Linedrive !* regulars, but the BBF have decided that as the Premier Division had no league games scheduled for the 19th and 26th of June, that it was not worth publishing any up to date standings for the rest of their teams either. This is very annoying as some of these teams have played as many as four additional games since these last standings ! As there are games scheduled for the Premier Division for the 3rd and 10th July, hopefully *Linedrive !* will be able to publish updated standings in the next issue.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

20/6/94

American League - East

	W	L	Pcent	GB	L10
New York Yankees	40	27	,597	---	6-4
Baltimore Orioles	37	30	,552	3	5-5
Detroit Tigers	34	33	,507	6	5-5
Boston Red Sox	33	34	,493	7	1-9
Toronto Blue Jays	31	36	,463	9	3-7

National League - East

	W	L	Pcent	GB	L10
Atlanta Braves	41	23	,657	---	6-4
Montreal Expos	41	27	,603	3#	6-4
Philadelphia Phil's	35	34	,507	10	6-4
Florida Marlins	34	35	,493	11	4-6
New York Mets	32	37	,464	12	5-5



American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cleveland Indians	41	25	,621	---	10-0
Minnesota Twins	37	30	,552	4½	7-3
Chicago White Sox	35	31	,530	6	2-8
Kansas City Royals	35	32	,522	6½	6-4
Milwaukee Brewers	32	36	,471	10	6-4

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	38	29	,567	---	6-4
Houston Astros	39	30	,565	---	6-4
St Louis Cardinals	33	34	,493	5	3-7
Pittsburgh Pirates	31	36	,463	7	6-4
Chicago Cubs	27	39	,409	10½	5-5

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	32	36	,471	---	2-8
Seattle Mariners	30	38	,441	2	6-4
California Angels	30	41	,423	3½	5-5
Oakland Athletics	25	43	,368	7	8-2

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	35	33	,522	---	6-4
Colorado Rockies	31	38	,449	5	4-6
San Francisco Giants	30	39	,435	6	2-8
San Diego Padres	26	43	,377	10	6-4

Wow ! Ten straight wins for the Indians, starting with two wins at the Brewers, followed by a three game home sweep of the Blue Jays, and a four game home sweep of the Red Sox, topped off with a 7-1 win at the Tigers.

The other in form team at the moment are the otherwise struggling Oakland A's including a four game sweep of the division leading Texas Rangers, at Arlington Stadium, the final game being a four hit shutout victory (5-0). Add to this two previous wins at the Chicago White Sox when the Sox were leading American League Central, and you can see that things are looking up for the A's.

The National League, everything appears to be fairly equal. The best last ten figures are 6-4, shared by eight of the fourteen teams, with two more teams 5-5, and two more 4-6, leaving just the St Louis Cardinals (3-7), and the San Francisco Giants (2-8) as the only teams really losing ground.

TOP TIPSTERS

20/6/94

1) Steve Eischen	Yankees 0, Indians 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 0, Dodgers 0	50
2) Alan Bloomfield	Yankees 0, Indians 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Pirates 7, Dodgers 0	43
3) Emma Wallace	Orioles 3, White Sox 6, Rangers 0, Expos 3½, Reds 0, Dodgers 0	37½
4) Oliver Hetdecker	Yankees 0, Indians 0, Mariners 2, Braves 0, Cardinals 5, Giants 6	37

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5)Harry Atwood	Orioles 3, White Sox 6, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 6	35
6)Kevin Murphy	Yankees 0, Brewers 10, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 6	34
=7)Kenny Collins	Orioles 3, White Sox 6, Mariners 2, Braves 0, Astros 0, Giants 6	33
=7)David Miller	Blue Jays 9, Indians 0, Mariners 2, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 6	33
=7)Phil Ross	Blue Jays 9, Indians 0, Mariners 2, Braves 0, Astros 0, Giants 6	33
10)Alex Malihoudis	Red Sox 7, Indians 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Cardinals 5, Giants 6	32

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### BASEBALL GREATS - WARREN SPAHN

Warren Edward Spahn. Born 23rd April 1921, Buffalo, New York. Batted Left. Threw Left. Height 6' Weight 172lbs. Major League Debut 19th April 1942. Inducted into the Hall of Fame 1973.

One of the best left-handed pitchers ever, Warren Spahn won games in every way imaginable: with fastballs, off-speed stuff, control, guile, and occasionally with his bat. Spahn won more games than any other lefty (363), yet missed three years in the army as a sergeant in the engineers, and was wounded whilst helping to repair the famous Remagen Bridge, the Allies first bridgehead across the Rhine.

In 1951, Spahn participated in a most unusual National League double header, when the St Louis Cardinals entertained the New York Giants, and their 20 game winner Sal Maglie, followed by a game against the Boston Red Sox and Warren Spahn, then on 19 victories.

In this first two opponent double-header since 1883, Cardinals beat the Giants 6-4 in the first game, but were no match for Spahn in the second, who fired a one hit 2-0 shut out, facing just 29 batters for his 20th win. The only Cardinal hit was a sixth-inning single by pitcher Al Brazle.

Spahn finally quit playing at the age of forty-four. Spahn's teammate, Gaylord Perry, thinks he should have gone on another year or two. He was losing games by scores of 2-1 and 3-2, Perry said; it was a shame they did not let him keep pitching.

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

Sun 1st May	away to Enfield Spartans	L 9-10
Sun 8th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	L 1-2
Sun 15th May	away to Essex Eagles	W 19-1
Sun 29th May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 9-6
Sun 5th June	HOME TO BROMLEY BLUE JAYS	W 16-2
Sun 12th June	away to Lakenheath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 19th June	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	W 14-4
Sun 3rd July	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	
Sun 10th July	away to Tonbridge Bobcats	
Sun 17th July	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	
Sun 24th July	away to Bury Saints	
Sun 31st July	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 7th August	away to Bromley Blue Jays	
Sun 14th August	HOME TO LAKENHEATH YANKEES	
Sun 21st August	Rain date	
Sun 28th August	8th v 1st, 6th v 7th, 4th v 5th, 2nd v 3rd	
Sun 4th September	1st v 2nd, 3rd v 4th, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th	

KNOCKOUT CUP

Sun 11th September	5th v 1st, 6th v 2nd, 7th v 3rd, 8th v 4th
Sun 18th September	5th/1st v 7th/3rd, 6th/2nd v 8th/4th
Sun 25th September	KNOCKOUT CUP FINAL - venue to be decided



## ALL-STARS

IF THERE are inhabited worlds elsewhere in the galaxy, it seems not unreasonable to suppose that there are many of them, given the number of stars. And it wouldn't be surprising to know that some of them had developed communication with one another. If so, just imagine the fun they might have in their all-star break. Moreover, what a Worlds' Series it would be if, for instance, the Alpha Centauri Four Sox took on the Beta Leonis Cubs.

This solar system of ours, however, would have to be content with minor league baseball, so to speak, until a sponsor could be found for inter-stellar travel, enabling us to become an expansion franchise. The whole universe is expanding, we are told, so baseball might well have a bright future in the galaxy, and even beyond, for inter-galactic games would be only a further logical step forward, once the Milky Way League were established.

*Linedrive* will keep readers informed of developments, but let us say at the outset that should they consider motoring to Alpha Centauri it would be advisable to give it serious thought, for it would be extremely tiring and somewhat hazardous.\*

### QUESTION TIME

Here are the answers to the Ty Cobb questions in *Linedrive* No. 4: First question — None. Second question — He didn't have one. And now, having got that trivia out of the way, here is something of real import to test you. Can you name one baseball player who pitched four strikeouts in one inning AND also hit a grand slam home run IN THE SAME GAME?

\* The nearest road trip in the Milky Way League would be to the Alpha Centauri solar system. If you joined the Astros, blasted off from Houston, and kept going at 25,000 m.p.h., you would be there in a hundred thousand years, give or take a year or two, depending on the traffic. Another thing to bear in mind is that when you arrived, Alpha Centauri may have moved elsewhere.