

# LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No. 8

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



Rex

Absent-minded managers are not unknown, even in British baseball, but the most endearing character was the Major League manager who met a reliever at the mound, handed him the lineup card, and took the ball back to the dugout.

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

---

SUBSCRIBE TO LINEDRIVE !

If you would like to receive *Linedrive !* on a regular basis, then send a cheque payable to P Ross for £1.25 per issue, (inc P & P), or £10 for 10 issues, to *Linedrive !*, Flat 2 'Thanescroft', Selborne Road, Croydon CR0 5JQ. Tel 081 686 7727.

Alternatively, follow the LONDON WARRIORS through the season and get your *Linedrive !* FREE !!!

# *LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 3*

---

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

---

## FAITH, HOPE AND UK BASEBALL

In Issue 7, we had to report on the reduction in the National League from 8 teams to 6. Subsequently, we have suffered further disruption to the schedule, with the visit of the London Warriors to the Lakenheath Yankees being called off, as Lakenheath could not raise a squad.

Although we have heard no official reason for this, it seems reasonable to assume that the general reduction in US Service personnel based in the UK, plus the calls made on these service men by various United Nations duties in the troubled corners of the globe, have left so few regular players and organisers, that the future of the Lakenheath club may now be a little uncertain.

Attempts were made by the 'London Warriors Supporters Club', to take in the Enfield Spartans versus the Waltham Forest Angels as a suitable replacement, but wasted journeys to both Enfield and the Angels diamond in Leyton, proved that not a baseball player could be seen. However, the Enfield Spartans, having been rocked by injuries, called off the game.

This is very sad for National League, as it would now appear to have wholly surrendered it's status as a threat to the British Baseball Federation, and that threat, when initially posed in the secession from the BBF, proved to be the catalyst that changed the BBF from 'talk' to 'do'.

If this were to be the last season of National League, and the member clubs were to rejoin the BBF, then there would be one situation that this editor would view as both inevitable and ridiculous, and that would be for the BBF to try to construct a 'geographically correct' national league.

The facts are that this is a poorly supported amateur sport that is denied publicity, and whilst administrative egotism might view a 'national league' as a path to glory, the truth will be the sad old story of teams saying 'we're not driving all that way just to get beaten.' Long live our 'regional' National League !

---

## REPORTS &amp; SCORES

17/5/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
Enfield Spartans	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	11
London Warriors	1	5	0	2	1	1	6	0

LP Oscar Marcellino

WP Alan Smith

A game that almost ended without a single run or inning completed. Spartans Gary Bedingfield came to the plate as third batter of the day with team-mate Steve Simmons at first. Bedingfield hit a grounder to Warriors' pitcher Alan Smith, who initiated a double play attempt by throwing to Harry Atwood (ss), at second base. Harry's instinctive relay throw travelled just a few feet before striking Steve Simmons in the face.

The ball drove the sunglasses Steve was wearing into the skin around his eyes, and badly cut his face, the wound requiring some fourteen stitches, and all play was halted whilst an ambulance was summoned.

We have subsequently learnt that Steve spent a night at Queen Mary's hospital, and in addition to stitches, has suffered a fractured cheekbone. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to the baseball field. Also we feel it should be highlighted that despite his injuries, Steve had the grace and good sportsmanship to shake Harry Atwood by the hand and assure him that he understood that there was a play to be made, and that he knew there was no malice on Harry's part.

With Steve Simmons out of the game, being accompanied by Simon Lanario, still limping from his opening day injury, to the hospital, Spartans were reduced to eight players. Fortunately, amongst the spectators at Barnes were former Bromley Blue Jays' Bob Ratcliffe and Joe Rolis, and so Bob Ratcliffe became a Spartan for the day.

When play resumed, Warriors got off to an impressive start with home runs for Cody Cain, (2 runs) and Brad Thompson (3 runs) to close the first at 5-0 London. However they were halted in their tracks in the second inning, when Oliver Heidecker hit a ground



ball to Spartans shortstop, Rob Lanario, who worked a neat 6-3 double play to put out Alan Bloomfield and Oliver Heidecker.

The top of the third saw Alan Smith's shut out broken by opposing starting pitcher Oscar Marcellino, batting in surrogate Spartan Bob Ratcliffe.

Warriors regained their five run margin in the bottom of the third, when Enfield, concentrating on putting out Kevin Murphy at first following a dropped third strike, overlooked Cody Cain stealing in from third, and a groundout by Brad Thompson then batted in Kevin Coldiron for 7-1 Warriors.

More London pressure was applied in the fourth, but, with the bases loaded, Enfield pitcher Oscar Marcellino kept his composure, yielding only the one RBI to Kevin Coldiron. Enfield, restricting their RBI's to their battery, then closed in to 8-4, with an RBI for catcher Gary Bedingfield, and a two run homer for pitcher, Oscar Marcellino.

In the bottom of the fifth, Marcellino again found himself pitching with the bases loaded, but this time he did not escape so lightly, yielding a 2 RBI double to Alan Bloomfield, and a 2 RBI single each to Oliver Heidecker and Brad Thompson. That six run surge brought the score to 14-4, and not only saw off Oscar Marcellino, but also brought about the distinct possibility of the slaughter rule.

However, in the bottom of the sixth, messrs Heidecker and Bloomfield again fell foul of an Enfield double play, the variation being that this grounder went to third for Justin Horner to initiate the 5-4-3 play.

Sticking to the battery theme, Enfield clawed back one run in the seventh, Gary Bedingfield (catcher), hitting a squeeze bunt to score Rob Lanario, the relief pitcher !

Sadly it was not enough, as Carlos Rodriguez hit an RBI in the bottom of the seventh to enforce Enfield's second consecutive slaughter rule defeat.

17/7/94

1112131415161718191 R1 H1

Waltham Forest Angels 11011110101310101 61111 LP Matthew Poggi

Essex Eagles 1310131310121111X1121171 WP Vince Warner

The Eagles certainly have landed ! On the 10th July they beat the second placed Enfield Spartans 22-7, and followed that victory with this win over the first placed Waltham Forest Angels. These victories have enabled London Warriors to make ground on the top teams, and should make the visit of Warriors (currently second) to the Eagles on the 31st July, quite a contest.

Eagles lead the Spartans by 5-2 after three innings thanks to doubles from Dave Read and Matt Jennings, and a well struck triple from Clive Smith.

In the fourth, Lee Read hit a lead off double, his first in his rookie season, and the following three runs were enough to see Angels starter, Matthew Poggi, retire from the mound.

Tony Dyett began his spell in relief in the sixth, but saw his first pitch hit out of the ground for Matt Jennings and the Eagles first home run of the season, and the ensuing double for Dave Read and RBI for Ian Colvin took the Eagles into a 10-3 lead.

Angels staged a rally in the seventh, driving in three runs on three consecutive hits, but Vince Warner weathered the storm to take his fourth consecutive victory.

In National League's remaining game, the Tonbridge Bobcats lost 19-7 to the Lakenheath Yankees. Again the non-availability of main pitchers Nick Carter and Alex Malihoudis did not aid the Bobcat cause.

24/7/94

111213141516171 R1

Essex Eagles 111915131312111271 WP Vince Warner

Tonbridge Bobcats 101010121010101 21

Essex surged into a rapid 18-0 lead, including a grand slam homer for Carl Blackburn. The Bobcats, as gritty and determined as ever refused to give in, and only a remarkably cool headed performance from Clive Smith at third base held the Bobcats scoreless in the third. Smith received three very well struck grounders, and came up with all three to throw out the runner each time.

Vince Warner then added a two run homer in the fourth, but was to yield his only hit of the day in the bottom of that inning, and boy what a hit ! Nick Carter struck a two run homer to put the Bobcats on the scoreboard. Batting honours for the Eagles went to Vince Warner and Ian Colvin, both going 4 for 5, 1 home run and four RBI's and Carl Blackburn, 2 home runs and seven RBI's

Due to Enfield Spartans present injury problems, the Waltham Forest Angels graciously agreed to reschedule, and the Spartans v Angels game will now take place on the 11th September.

For the second time this season the Lakenheath Yankees yielded a 9-0 forfeit to the London Warriors. These games have been denoted as victories to the Warriors in the standings, but there is still the opportunity to make them up, as a double header on August 7th and a single game on September 11th. Should either of these games be played, the appropriate forfeit will be removed.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 14

24/7/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Waltham Forest A	8	2	.800	--
London Warriors	8	3	.727	8
Enfield Spartans	7	3	.700	1
Essex Eagles	7	4	.636	18
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	7	.364	48
Lakenheath Yankees	3	8	.273	58

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

31/7/94

Lakenheath Yankees at Enfield Spartans  
 London Warriors at Essex Eagles  
 Tonbridge Bobcats at Waltham Forest Angels

## NEXT WEEK

7/8/94

Enfield Spartans at Tonbridge Bobcats

Essex Eagles at Waltham Forest Angels

Lakenheath Yankees at London Warriors (possible double header)

BBF STANDINGS - WEEK 16

24/7/94

National Premier League South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Hounslow Rangers	10	4	.714	--
Bedford Chicksands	8	5	.615	1M
Crawley Comets	8	6	.571	2
Essex Arrows	8	6	.571	2
Brighton Buccaneers	7	9	.438	4
Bristol Black Sox	1	12	.077	9M

Southern Division One North

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Hemel Red Sox	11	1	.917	--
Cambridge Monarchs	10	1	.909	M
Totteridge T'blazers	7	4	.636	3M
City Slick	7	6	.538	4M
Gloster Meteors	4	5	.444	5M
Droitwich Spa Tans	4	9	.308	7M
Reading Royals	3	11	.214	9

Southern Division One South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Arun Panthers	9	1	.900	--
Croydon Pirates	6	4	.600	3
Bournemouth Bees	7	5	.583	3
Gillingham Dodgers	5	7	.417	5
Tunbridge Wells R	3	5	.375	5
Hounslow Hawks	4	10	.286	7
Stevenage Knights	0	11	.000	9M

Southern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
London Wolves	11	1	.917	--
Lashing Sluggers	8	5	.615	3M
Tiptree Hotspots	7	6	.538	4M
Chichester Kyotes	7	8	.467	5M
Caterham Athletics	6	7	.462	5M
Guildford Mavericks	5	7	.417	6
Hounslow Falcons	5	8	.385	6M
Bracknell Blazers	3	10	.231	8M

Southern Division Three North

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Norwich Wanderers	10	2	.833	--
Milton Keynes T	6	2	.750	2
Waltham Abbey Cards	5	6	.455	4M
Fulham Flanes	4	5	.444	4M
Cambridge Fellows	0	10	.000	9

Southern Division Three South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	11	1	.917	--
Brighton Buccaneers	9	2	.818	1M
Gloster Meteors	4	6	.400	6
Guildford Mudcats	3	8	.273	7M
Eastbourne Aces	0	10	.000	10

Okay, who's had it ? Well for a start, even if the Bristol Black Sox win their seven remaining games, they will not finish in the



National Premier League play-offs for the championships ! Similarly, Droitwich, Reading, Hounslow Hawks and Stevenage Knights will not be contesting promotion to the Premier Division.

Division Three South has just two promotion candidates in Burgess Hill and Brighton Buccaneers 'B'. Burgess Hill actually opted to drop from Division Two whilst re-building their squad, but have obviously still proved too strong for their opponents. Division Two, with up to two promotion places on offer has more than enough scope for any of it's eight entrants to make a late surge and scoop a Division One place.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

18/7/94

American League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
New York Yankees	55	35	,611	-	7-3
Baltimore Orioles	53	38	,582	2 1/2	6-4
Boston Red Sox	45	46	,498	10 1/2	5-5
Detroit Tigers	42	51	,452	14 1/2	4-6
Toronto Blue Jays	41	50	,451	14 1/2	6-4

National League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Atlanta Braves	56	34	,622	---	6-4
Montreal Expos	55	37	,598	2	6-4
Philadelphia Phil's	44	49	,473	13 1/2	3-7
New York Mets	42	50	,457	15	5-5
Florida Marlins	42	51	,452	15 1/2	5-5

American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Chicago White Sox	55	36	,604	---	8-2
Cleveland Indians	53	36	,596	1	5-5
Kansas City Royals	49	44	,527	7	6-4
Minnesota Twins	43	48	,473	12	3-7
Milwaukee Brewers	42	50	,457	13 1/2	4-6

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	55	37	,598	---	6-4
Houston Astros	53	40	,570	2 1/2	6-4
Pittsburgh Pirates	43	48	,473	11 1/2	3-7
St Louis Cardinals	42	47	,472	11 1/2	2-8
Chicago Cubs	39	52	,429	15 1/2	5-5

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	45	47	,489	---	5-5
Oakland Athletics	40	52	,435	5	4-6
California Angels	40	54	,426	6	5-5
Seattle Mariners	38	54	,413	7	3-7

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	48	45	,516	---	4-6
Colorado Rockies	46	49	,484	3	6-4
San Francisco Giants	44	50	,468	4 1/2	9-1
San Diego Padres	37	57	,394	11 1/2	3-7

Having dropped from second to third in NL West a few weeks ago, the Giants are now the movers and shakers, going 9-1 in the games

coming up to July 18th. As the battle for leadership of the AL Central intensifies, the White Sox have put on an 8-2 burst to pull a game clear of the Indians, who are experiencing great difficulty in taking games off the Texas Rangers. Meanwhile in NL Central, the St Louis Cardinals appear to have lost any claim to a wild card place, with a last ten of 2-8.

## TOP TIPSTERS

18/7/94

1) Steve Eischen	Yankees 0, Indians 1, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 20, Dodgers 0	46
2) Emma Wallace	Orioles 20, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Expos 2, Reds 0, Dodgers 0	45
3) Harry Atwood	Orioles 20, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 40	43
4) Alan Bloomfield	Yankees 0, Indians 1, Rangers 0, Pirates 11, Dodgers 0	37
5) Kenny Collins	Orioles 20, White Sox 0, Mariners 7, Astros 20, Giants 40	36
6) Kevin Murphy	Yankees 0, Brewers 10, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 40	32
7) Carlos Rodriguez	Jays 10, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 20, Giants 40	28
8) Oliver Heidecker	Yankees 0, Indians 1, Mariners 7, Braves 0, Cardinals 11, Giants 40	26
9) Bob Lenhardt	Jays 10, White Sox 0, Mariners 7, Expos 2, Astros 20, Dodgers 0	24
10) David Miller	Jays 10, Indians 1, Mariners 7, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 40	23

It's after the All-Star break, and things are hotting up in the tipsters stakes. Two transatlantic Linedrivers ! lead the way, our man from L.A. more than delighted with his beloved Dodgers. During the brief reign of the Montreal Expos at the head of NL East, he was passed by Ms Wallace, who only had the 0 game out of the Baltimore Orioles to spoil her perfect record.

Harry Atwood in third leads a pursuing group of London Warriors, that particular team supplying five of the next six entrants. If the San Francisco Giants continue to improve, Harry could well take over pole position.

The Linedrive ! of Phil Ross and Rex Phillips continue to struggle, with the editor on 20% points, deeply concerned about his early season choice of the Blue Jays, whilst Mr Phillips, from the graphics department, is encumbered with 72 games behind for a score of -22 ! Surprisingly enough, Rex is only 1 point behind his nearest rival.

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	W TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	W 14-4
Sun 3rd July	WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	L 5-7
Sun 10th July	Tonbridge Bobcats	W 28-1
Sun 17th July	away to ENFIELD SPARTANS	W 15-5
Sun 24th July	away to Lakenheath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 31st July	away to Essex Eagles	
Sun 7th August	HOME TO LAKENHEATH YANKEES	
Sun 14th August	away to Enfield Spartans	
Sun 21st August	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 28th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	
Sun 4th September	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	
Sun 11th September	rain date	

PLAY-OFFS

Sun 18th September	1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd
Sun 25th September	FINAL - venue to be decided

*All games commence 3 p.m. unless shown otherwise*



## THE MORTAL SWIPE

SWIPE FOWLER arrived at the main entrance of Pearly Gates PLC, and was referred to Customer Services, where St. Peter sat at his desk.

"What can I do for you, sir?" asked that worthy gentleman.

Swipe introduced himself, and asked for the usual service.

"We now offer a choice of services, sir," said St. Peter. "A customer may retain his identity or become an anonymous soul, as he wishes. In your case, sir, at first sight, I should recommend the latter. The former is also, as I'm sure you will understand, considerably more expensive."

St. Peter touched some buttons of the computerised All-seeing System, and studied the screen. Beer scratched his halo.

"Now that's very strange," he said, "you're not dead yet."

"Not dead yet?" echoed St. Peter. "What are you here then?"

"The computer says you are at this time playing baseball in Boston," said St. Peter.

"But that was days ago!" exclaimed Swipe. "I hit a linedrive right back into the pitcher's ..... and I ..... myself laughing."

"I'm afraid, sir, that there's no question of using the All-seeing System. The computer is infallible. It says that—"

"To hell with the computer!" cried Swipe.

"But they have one of their own down there," St. Peter objected.

"I bet I wouldn't be refused entry down there," said Swipe.

"I bet you wouldn't," responded St. Peter.

"Where do baseball players usually go?" Swipe asked.

"That depends on their requirements, sir," St. Peter replied. "Here at Pearly Gates PLC we pride ourselves that no customer requiring our services is turned away, provided the necessary means are at his disposal."

Swipe wished he had saved some of his necessary means. Sadly he turned away. St. Peter said, "You will find there will be no objection down there to your being still alive."

A vision of the Pit rose before Swipe's eyes.

"Back to the miners," he sighed.

If readers are unable to answer the question on the back page of *Linedrive* No. 6, memories must be short. The remarkable defensive/offensive double was performed on 15th May 1994, against the Essex Eagles, by Cody Cain of the London Warriors.