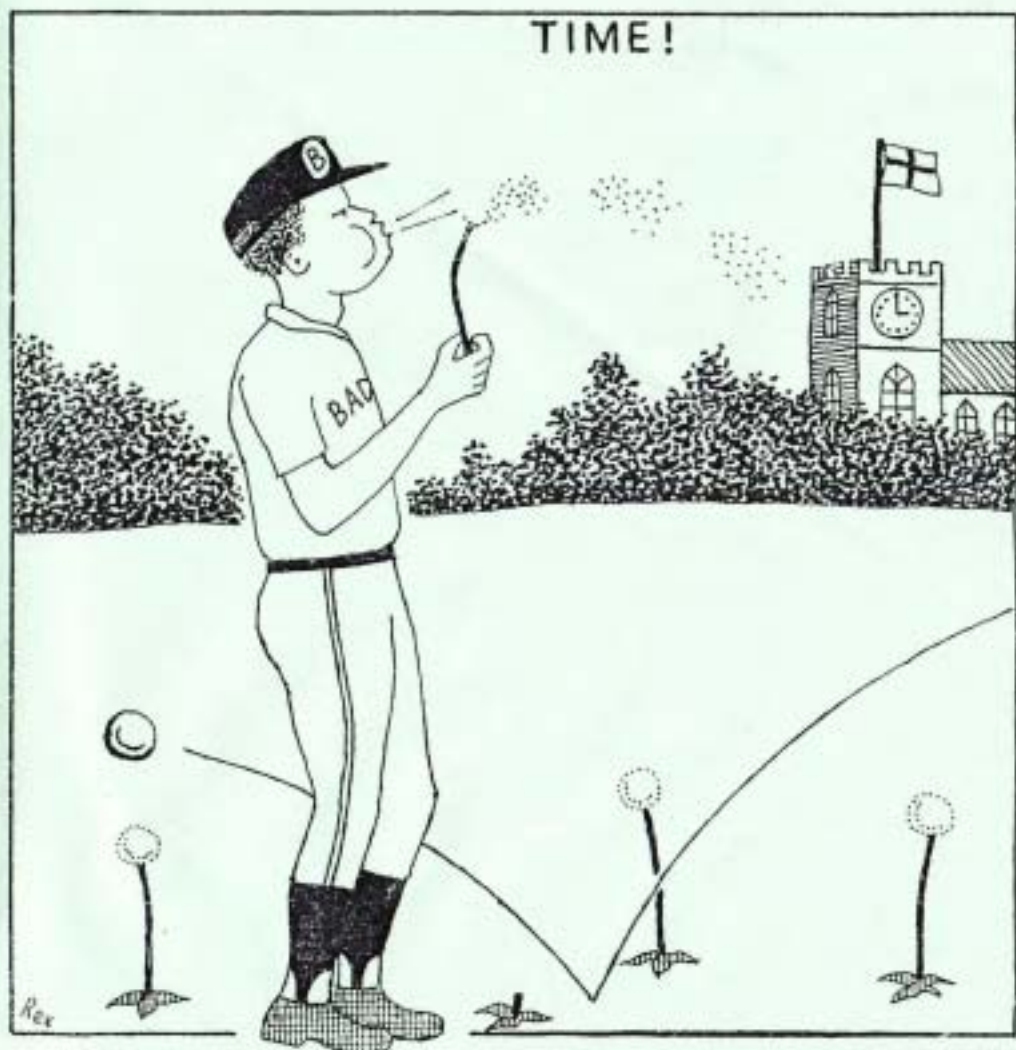


LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No. 9

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



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
Graham Haslam	First Base	20
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 Vard	Third Base	5

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LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 9

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

PAST GLORIES, PRESENT TROUBLES, FUTURE TENSE

Many of you will have seen the recent BBC Television documentary about Cuban baseball, and their important role in world amateur baseball. It will, perhaps, have come as a surprise to many that Britain were the first amateur World Champions of baseball back in 1939. Certainly what will surprise the Cuban baseball historian who divulged that fact to a surprised UK TV audience, is that his assertion that the British don't play baseball anymore is wrong.

Certainly it is not played to a standard where hopes of retaining any form of World 'Amateur' Championship is concerned, but it is still played here. However, the declining numbers of permanent UK based players, and the absolute disarray that youth baseball would appear to be in, bodes ill for the future.

A lot of problems are caused by prejudices held by those outside the sport. It is regarded, erroneously, as a recent US import designed to compete with, or even usurp, cricket. Nothing could be further from the truth. With it's long playing heritage within the UK, it has developed it's own ethos, played within the framework of the American game, but somehow with a different feel to it's more famous, and more professional transatlantic cousin. In many ways, it compliments, and encourages greater appreciation of cricket. Speaking personally, I have learnt more about cricketing skills through watching baseball for four years, than I ever did in the preceeding twenty-eight years, spent trying to get to grips with a game I didn't really understand.

The future now looks very uncertain. National League's reduction to five teams makes it's credibility to outsiders look frail. Those who are familiar with those five National League sides that remain, will know what damn good baseball those teams can play, but it isn't the already converted that need to be reached. National League could continue as a fivesome, but it would need to actively encourage new membership quickly, and perhaps the best way would be to challenge the BBF Champions to a play-off. Perhaps when they see the standard involved, they will want to play National League. At worst, they will want to improve the quality of BBF play !

REPORTS & SCORES

31st July 1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
London Warriors	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	0
Essex Eagles	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	0	4

LP Alan Sm
WP Vince War

'Essex Eagles can really hit. They're on a roll, with a good winning streak. We'll really have to take them seriously.' Wise words indeed from Warriors manager Alan Bloomfield, but it still didn't stop Essex Eagles hitting anything that moved. Each of their first three batters reached second base from hits, claiming RBI's for Matt Jennings (cf) and Dave Read (ss).

Warriors pulled level in the second thanks to an RBI double Graham Haslam (1b) in his first ever National League at bat, Haslam was then batted in by Tom Juhase (rf), to make it apiece.

Some audacious base running in the third put Warriors ahead. Oliver Heidecker (ss) and Kevin Coldiron (cf), were on the corners. Coldiron drew the play with a steal of second. Heidecker then took off for home, to score in a cloud of dirt and dust as he slid under the plate. With all eyes on home plate, Kevin Coldiron then stole 3rd to keep the pressure on the Eagles. Graham Haslam made 1 RBI's from 2 at bats, batting in Kevin Coldiron for 4-2 Warriors.

Essex got themselves out of trouble with a neat 6-4-3 double play collecting a Carlos Rodriguez (2b), grounder, to put out Rodriguez and Haslam.

Not to be outdone, Matt Jennings equalled Haslam's two RBI's from two at bats with a solo homer. The first home run the Eagles managed had been just a fortnight before, and Matt Jennings was also the batter then. There then followed an RBI single for Colvin (2b), and a 2 RBI double for Glenn Spooner (lf), and an RBI for Scott Wright (rf), to put Essex 7-4 ahead.

Oliver Heidecker reduced the Warriors deficit with an RBI double to the top of the fourth, but the Eagles pulled further ahead in the

half with a Vince Warner bunt to score Dave Read, and an Ian Colvin bunt scoring Vince Warner. Colvin was then batted in thanks to a Jeff Holdsworth (1b) single, and with the score at 10-5 Essex, and only one out, Warriors starter, Alan Smith, stepped down to make way for relief pitcher, Alan Bloomfield.

The fifth brought hope to the Warrior camp with Eagles pitcher, Vince Warner, apparently beginning to struggle. Warner walked four out of six batters, hitting one of the other two, to walk in two bases loaded runs. Dean Ward (3b) and Tom Juhase earned the walks that scored Brad Thompson (c) and Richard Kemp (1f).

To underline Warner's apparent problems, Alan Bloomfield shut out the Eagles in the bottom of the fifth, the inning concluding with a superb pick-off at second base, Bloomfield and Rodriguez combining well to leave Eagles' Clive Smith (3b), stranded.

Essex returned to scoring form in the sixth, with RBI's for Scott Wright (ground rule double) and Clive Smith (single), and with the scores at 12-7, there then followed the first scoreless inning of the game.

Warner blanked the Warriors for the third consecutive innings in the eighth, and Essex, looking to perhaps inflict a slaughter, added four runs in the bottom of the frame with RBI's from Carl Blackburn (c), Clive Smith, and Ian Colvin (2 runs scored), making it 16-7.

Warner then added his fourth shut out inning, after having apparently lost it in the fifth, to give the Eagles their seventh consecutive National League victory.

The Waltham Forest Angels mauled the Tonbridge Bobcats 21-2, and the Enfield Spartans gained a 9-0 forfeit win over the Lakenheath Yankees. This will be the last 9-0 forfeit with regards to the Yankees, as they were scheduled to play each of the remaining five teams once more each.

7th August 199

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	E
Essex Eagles	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	3	2	8	1
Waltham Forest Angels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3

WP Vince Warner
LF Matthew Poggi

The visit of the form team to the team that has lead the league for almost the entire season, promised to produce an exciting game. Sadly, Waltham Forest were at a greatly reduced strength, with lead off batter and regular shortstop, Mick Moseley out with an injury, centrefielder Mark McCrory unavailable and catcher Takao Inamura having to return to Japan.

In addition to this the starting pitcher, Matthew Poggi, was playing with an ankle injury, and lacking proper support, was wobbling quite precariously after each pitch. On one occasion Poggi tumbled over after his delivery to the obvious concern of his team-mates.

However, he limited the Eagles to just one run in three innings, Vince Warner's RBI single being the only score on the board in the first third of the game.

Essex opened up their lead with a 2 RBI single for Clive Smith (3b), and were then given a lifeline by the Angels when Matt Jennings (cf), grounder to second, had looked like the third out of the inning. Oliver Millett (2b) fielded the ball, and threw an easy play to Tony Dyett at first, but the ball was dropped, leaving both Smith and Jennings on base. Dyett's error was then brutally punished by a Dave Read (ss), triple to rightfield for 5-0 Eagles.

Poggi was obviously troubled by his injury, taking frequent time outs to walk around the mound, and rather bizarrely, appearing to dig in ! He was to yield one more run in his five inning spell, sacrifice bunt from Ian Colvin (2b) made it 6-0 Eagles.

Angels relief pitcher Tony Dyett fared less well. A Vince Warner bunt scored Clive Smith for 7-0 Eagles, Ian Colvin hit a ground out to bring home Dave Read, and Vince Warner then stole home on a passed ball for 9-0.

By the top of the seventh, it had sunk in that Vince Warner was pitching a one hit shut-out for the Eagles, and the Angels fielding suddenly disintegrated. Eagles' Carl Blackburn hit a fly to rightfield which was dropped. He then stole two bases, and was advanced to home plate by a fielding overthrow for a very unearned run ! Warner then added to the tally with a sacrifice fly, Todd Cockman scoring the Eagle's 11th run.

Angels manager, Mike Agha, muttering under his breath because he had delayed departing for his holiday to manage this particular game, gave his team a serious talking to, determined that the Angels would not be shut out.

In the bottom of the seventh, Medeo Kamiyama (ss), the only player up to this point to register a hit against Vince Warner, reached first base for the third time. Apart from Kamiyama, the only Angel to so far reach first had been Pavel Masek (lf), also thanks to an error.

There then followed a Noel Omechi (3b) ground rule double and an Oliver Millett sacrifice bunt, to notch the Angels first run, and Bucky O'Hare (rf) then hit an RBI single for 11-2 Eagles, and prevented the slaughter.

Tony Dyett really began to struggle in the eighth with both Glenn Spooner and Carl Blackburn scoring runs from the combination of one walk, two steals and a passed ball each. The next batter, Todd Cockman, also got the walk, steal, steal part of the combination, but was batted in together with Clive Smith by a Matt Jennings bunt. Jennings was in turn batted in by Dave Reed for 16-2, avoiding the run-down between third and home to score.

Reed then stole second and third, and scored the Eagles 17th run on another passed ball, and the Angels responded by changing the battery, bringing in Oliver Millett to pitch and Noel Omechi to catch. Millett yielded the eighth and final run of the inning thanks to a Glenn Spooner sacrifice fly.

Then, to underline Waltham Forests problems, the Eagles last score of the game came from Clive Smith in the ninth. Yes, you've guessed it, it was another walk, steal, steal, passed ball combination ! However, they can take consolation in that the Angels took fielding play of the game. Dave Read, currently batting .520 for the Eagles, hit a low bouncing shot almost directly over second base. Medeo Kamiyama, playing shortstop, made a spectacular dive to scoop the ball on the bounce, and managed to collect and throw the ball to first before his own body hit the floor. Dave Read, acknowledging he was out, trudged back to the bench, shaking his head in disbelief. 'He shouldn't have made it !' he told the fans. 'What a play !' he added.

Angels added a run of their own for a final score of 20-3, a Pavel Masek single batting in Oliver Millett.

Enfield Spartans visit to the Tonbridge Bobcats resulted in a 42-2 win for the Spartans. Aside from high praise for the Bobcats from the Spartans, baseball fans will be delighted to know that Steve Simmons is already back in action, following his recent injury, and celebrated his return with a grand slam homer.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 16

7/8/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Enfield Spartans	9	3	.750	--
Waltham Forest A	9	3	.750	--
Essex Eagles	9	4	.692	6
London Warriors	8	4	.667	1
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	9	.308	56

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

14/8/94

London Warriors at Enfield Spartans
Tonbridge Bobcats at Essex Eagles

NEXT WEEK

21/8/94

Essex Eagles at London Warriors
Waltham Forest Angels at Tonbridge Bobcats

BBF STANDINGS - WEEK 17

31/7/94

National Premier League South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Hounslow Rangers	10	4	,714	--
Bedford Chicksands	8	5	,615	10
Crawley Comets	8	6	,571	2
Essex Arrows	8	6	,571	2
Brighton Buccaneers	7	9	,438	4
Bristol Black Sox	1	12	,077	80

Southern Division One North

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Hexel Red Sox	12	1	,923	--
Cambridge Monarchs	10	1	,909	1
Totteridge T'blazers	7	5	,583	40
City Slick	7	6	,538	5
Gloster Meteors	5	5	,500	50
Droitwich Spa Tans	4	10	,285	80
Reading Royals	3	11	,214	90

Southern Division One South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Arun Panthers	9	1	,900	--
Croydon Pirates	7	4	,636	20
Bournemouth Bees	7	6	,538	30
Tunbridge Wells R	4	5	,444	40
Gillingham Dodgers	5	7	,417	5
Hounslow Hawks	4	11	,267	70
Stevenage Knights	0	11	,000	90

Southern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
London Wolves	11	2	,846	--
Lashing Sluggers	9	5	,643	20
Tipitree Hotspots	8	6	,571	30
Chichester Kyotes	7	8	,467	5
Guildford Mavericks	6	7	,462	5
Caterham Athletics	6	8	,429	50
Hounslow Falcons	5	9	,357	60
Bracknell Blazers	3	10	,231	8

Division Three North

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Milton Keynes T	9	2	,818	--
Norwich Wanderers	10	3	,769	--
Waltham Abbey Cards	5	5	,500	30
Fulham Flames	5	7	,417	40
Cambridge Fellows	0	10	,000	80

Division Three South

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	11	1	,917	--
Brighton Buccaneers	10	2	,833	1
Gloster Meteors	6	6	,500	5
Guildford Mudrats	3	9	,250	8
Eastbourne Aces	0	12	,000	11

Once again the BBF fall behind the times, with not a single result for the 7th August to be had. There were caustic mutterings from the BBF about only the Division Two sides were regularly phoning in their results. If the teams won't help publicise their own games where will baseball in Britain end up? Enough moaning. Birmingham Braves beat Cambridge Monarchs to go into the final of the BBF Knockout Cup. They will meet Hounslow Rangers, who defeated the Nottingham Pirates.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

25/7/94

American League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
New York Yankees	60	36	,625	---	9-1
Baltimore Orioles	54	41	,568	5H	4-6
Boston Red Sox	47	50	,485	13H	4-6
Toronto Blue Jays	47	50	,485	13H	9-1
Detroit Tigers	43	55	,439	18	3-7

National League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Montreal Expos	61	37	,622	---	7-3
Atlanta Braves	59	40	,596	2H	4-6
Philadelphia Phil's	48	52	,480	14	5-5
New York Mets	46	42	,469	15	5-5
Florida Marlins	45	54	,455	16H	3-7

American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Chicago White Sox	59	39	,602	---	6-4
Cleveland Indians	56	39	,589	1H	5-5
Kansas City Royals	52	47	,525	7H	6-4
Minnesota Twins	46	52	,469	13	4-6
Milwaukee Brewers	45	53	,459	14	5-5

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	58	40	,592	---	6-4
Houston Astros	57	43	,570	2	7-3
Pittsburgh Pirates	47	51	,480	11	4-6
St Louis Cardinals	46	52	,469	12	4-6
Chicago Cubs	43	54	,443	14H	6-4

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	47	52	,475	---	4-6
Oakland Athletics	44	54	,449	2H	5-5
California Angels	42	58	,420	5H	4-6
Seattle Mariners	40	56	,417	5H	4-6

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	49	50	,495	---	3-7
Colorado Rockies	48	53	,475	2	5-5
San Francisco Giants	47	53	,470	2H	7-3
San Diego Padres	39	62	,386	11	3-7

Once again we lag a little behind with the MLB standings, but unfortunately, your editor is trying to track down full time employ at the moment, and used large slices of editorial time this week either at interviews or on part-time work.

American League East immediately catches the eye with both Yankees and Blue Jays going 9-1. Poor old Red Sox were scheduled to play two at the Yankees, followed by 3 home to Milwaukee and then four home to Blue Jays, and with their overall records tied, the Blue Jay games really have some meaning.

The Dodgers continue to lead National League West despite a last ten of 3-7, but a 4 game home series to the Padres (Aug 1st to 4th) should help to lift the gloom.

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 Lakenbeath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 19th June	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	W 14-4
Sun 3rd July	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	L 5-7
Sun 10th July	away to Tonbridge Bobcats	W 28-1
Sun 17th July	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	W 15-5
Sun 24th July	away to Lakenbeath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 31st July	away to Essex Eagles	L 7-16
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

TIME WILL TELL

TIME is so useful that we wonder how we would manage without it. It is practically as useful as money. We save time, we spend it, we waste it. We have time or we haven't, we gain it or we lose it. We make it or are given it, or we take it. We do things with time, however, that we would never do with money—we pass it, we kill it, we beat it, and we serve it if we aren't careful.

In baseball, of course, we call it. It is said that baseball differs from most games in having no time limit, but there is no limit to the reasons we have for calling time. The most exhaustive list of these reasons would still be incomplete. New reasons are devised every day, surprising ones, amusing ones, bizarre ones.

Readers may recollect their own favourites. Perhaps they will remember the occasion here in Britain not long ago when the ball-park rang with persistent calls for time for no apparent reason, as far as the umpire could tell. He looked at everybody in turn, and his confusion grew and grew, until at last someone got through to him that he wasn't wearing his mask.

The British press is by no means a vehicle for the propagation of baseball knowledge, so it is surprising to find the following clues in the *Times* crossword:

Baseball swinger has to suffer a day of triumph (7)
Why junior baseball players make good eavesdroppers?
(6, 8, 4, 4, 4)

Any takers? MVP title for the first correct solutions.

THE CLUELESS CROSSWORD

By now, readers will have decided that the crossword in issue No. 4, besides having no clues, was also bereft of a solution. It is likely that there is more than one possible solution, given the number of Major League pitchers since 1945. Solvers may disregard the letters printed in the original—they were intended only to help.

N	E	W	C	O	M	B	E	T	
	I			O		R	Y	A	N
F	E	L	L	E	R		S		N
A		H			R		K	A	A
R	O	E			I		I		N
R		L	A	R	S	E	N		A
E		M		A		E			C
L				S		L		P	A
L	E	A		C	L	E	M	E	N
	R			H		E		N	E
M	A	G	L	I	E		L	A	R