

LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No. 10

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 Ward	Third Base	5

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LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 10

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

WEE SLEEKIT TIMQUROUS BEASTIE !

A tiny wee swatch ah Rabbie Burns, do ya no ken ? Honestly, the graphics department make reference to the Edinburgh Festival, and depict the wearing of the tartan upon the cover and expect a calm, reasoned and considered response in the editorial ! And me with a fine Scots name like Ross ! Its enough to make your sporrans wilt !

As we approach the final month of the British baseball season, National League looks not fair for a close race for the regular season title. The holiday season is on the wane, seeing the return of many key personnel to the team line-ups, such as Warrior's Kevin Goldiron returning from a visit to the Edinburgh festival. So, with four weeks to go, and the top four teams seperated by as little as one game, nobody can afford to make the slightest slip.

There is the distinct possibility that the regular season crown will only be decided by the records of individual teams against each other, as there could possibly be a tie in the won/lost records of the top two, or even three teams.

Following on from the regular season, there is still a little uncertainty as to the exact format of the play-offs, as the Essex Eagles take part in an annual tournament in Holland, which may prevent them from being in the play-offs. Whether the Eagles place will be awarded to Tonbridge, or given as a forfeit to their opponents, or whether an opportunity will be found to include Eagles in the play-offs, is not known at this stage. We hope to be able to update you in Issue 11 (11/9), which will be distributed at Saffeld's King George V Playing Fields for the final regular season game for 1994, Spartans vs Waltham Forest Angels.

Well, with a skirl of the pipes, a dirk tucked in me sock, and a wee dram in me hip flask, its off through the heather in search of my noble ancestors, who, by the way, were such notorious cattle thieves, that the other neighbouring clans had large numbers of Ross's evicted to Ireland, which is why the McDonald's got the hamburgers, and the Ross's got frozen fish and vegetables !

(Apologies to all genuine Scots, this was written by a sassanach)

REPORTS & SCORES

14/8/94

	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	R	H	E			
London Warriors	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	WP C Cain	
Enfield Spartans	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	9	LP J Anderson

A glance at the above will show that there was no let-up in the tension that is invariably generated when these teams meet. The uncertainties that bedevil National League baseball, and British baseball in general, did nothing to diminish the anticipation of another nail-biter, and the loyal fans, though few in number, contributed to and enjoyed a magnificent struggle between teams whose skill and application and competitive fervour will surely make an impression on this country before long. That is, if there is any interest at all in sport for the sake of sport. If only people would come and watch a game that has not yet become a medium of the media, or a testing ground for gimmickry ! If the number of people who watched this game at Enfield is the sum total of those interested, it is a sad and distressing reflection, not on the game, but on the millions who call themselves, and are called, sports fans.

The good news that awaited us on arrival at King George V field was that Simon Lanario and Steve Simmons were in the Enfield line-up, having recovered from serious injuries. So both sides were well represented. we had doubts, we must admit, about the Enfield pitching, with neither Rob Nelson nor Julian Fountain available, but there was a surprise in store when a newcomer, Jamie Anderson took over in mid-game with the bases loaded and none out, and retired the Warriors scoreless in convincing style. He then went on to engage in the closing innings in a pitching duel with Cody Cain that was fraught with drama and tension.

The absence, indisposed, of Harry Atwood, could not but raise misgivings in Warriors' fans, but these games inspire such a sense of purpose and teamwork that players are, obviously, willing and able to play anywhere. It was, we think, Kevin Goldiron's first game at shortstop for the Warriors, and we are not likely to forget the

late double play he turned, probable turning the whole game in the process.

After a ball game, recollections stir almost the same degree of excitement and tension in retrospect, as was felt at the time of the action. One picture is, however, to at least one fan, exceptionally vivid - that of Alan Bloomfield, with the ball raising the dust at third base, racing in to score the go-ahead run in the eleventh with a grin as wide as the Mississippi.

(our thanks to reporter Rex Phillips)

Meanwhile we regret to report that the Tonbridge Bobcats failed to raise a team for the journey to the Essex Eagles, Eagles claiming the 9-0 forfeit.

21/8/94

1112131415161718191 R1

Essex Eagles 1010141011101010121 71

London Warriors 11171012141010101X1141

LP Vince Warner

WP Alan Smith

A game which appeared to the spectator, to consist of two full teams of base coaches, with players slapping their faces, necks, chests, and vigorously scratching themselves in all kinds of peculiar places. The reason ? Ante ! Millions of flying wee beasties, causing no end of distraction, particularly to the pitchers.

Warriors started well, with Harry Atwood, back from holiday and a short illness, being batted in by second man up, Alan Bloomfield, with a sacrifice fly. However, Eagles' Vince Warner retired the side without further loss.

Then in the second, singles to left for Alan Smith and Carlos Rodriguez put men on, but with two out. However an RBI single for Dean Ward, a walk for Harry Atwood to load the bases, an RBI single for Alan Bloomfield, and a bases loaded walk for Brad Thompson, put the Warriors 4-0 up.

Then came a huge triple to left centrefield for Cody Cain that would surely have cleared the fence, had it not been burnt in an arson attack earlier in the season, but vigorous fielding by Eagles Matt Jennings in centrefield, limited Cain to a 3 RBI triple, rather than the grand slam that he craved. A small consolation followed for Cody Cain, being batted in by Oliver Heidecker for 8-0 Warriors.

Essex were not going to relinquish their winning streak easily, and with singles for Glenn Spooner (1f), Scott Wright (1f), and Clive Smith (3b), they loaded up the bases. Spooner then managed to steal home plate for 8-1, and a Matt Jennings grounder batted in Wright and Clive Smith for 8-3.

Jennings was then advanced to third by singles from Dave Read (os) and Vince Warner, when Ian Colvin hit a grounder to third. Dean Ward immediately relayed the ball to Alan Bloomfield at the plate, and Bloomfield, Jennings and the ball all came together with a thud at the plate; the umpires decision - safe.

Warriors attempts to extend their 8-4 lead in the third were curtailed by a neat Essex double-play, Harry Atwood's line drive plucked out of the air by Dave Read at shortstop, and relayed to Matt Jennings, now playing first, to beat the retreating Dean Ward to the bag.

The bottom of the fourth brought RBI's for Oliver Heidecker, his double down the leftfield line scoring Brad Thompson, and Alan Smith batting in Cody Cain. With the score at 10-4, Essex pulled back a run in the fifth courtesy of a Vince Warner single, scoring Dave Read from second. Then followed a fairly unique moment, Ian Colvin hit a grounder back at pitcher, Alan Smith, who then initiated the 1-6-3 double-play with Harry Atwood and Cody Cain. The play itself was not so unique, it was the way the Warriors left the diamond with only two down that raised some eyebrows!

Warriors replied in their half with an RBI double from Harry Atwood, a second sacrifice fly from Alan Bloomfield, and a 2 RBI single for Oliver Heidecker, bringing the score to 14-5.

Warriors then opted to bring on reliever Cody Cain for innings 6 through 9, and this inspired Eagles' Vince Warner to contest a scoreless pitching duel. This was only broken in the ninth by Vince Warner himself, hitting a line drive to centrefield to score Matt Jennings and Dave Rood.

Cody Cain gained swift revenge, a Todd Cockman grounder to second resulting in a 4-6-3 double play, Carl Blackburn the other Essex victim.

Meanwhile, at Deacons Field, the Tonbridge Bobcats gave a good account of themselves against the Waltham Forest Angels, and although they were to lose 13-1, the Angels lead only built up very slowly, whilst Bobcats frequently put men on base, but lacked the physical power to convert the numerous hits into runs.

What was most pleasing was their good team spirit, which kept throughout, keeping the hit count high, and the error count low.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 10

21/8/94

	Wn	Lt	Pnt	GB
Waltham Forest A	10	3	.769	--
London Warriors	10	4	.714	W
Enfield Spartans	9	4	.692	1
Essex Eagles	10	5	.667	1
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	11	.267	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

26/8/94

Essex Eagles at Enfield Spartans
London Warriors at Waltham Forest Angels

NEXT WEEK

4/9/94

Enfield Spartans at Waltham Forest Angels
Tonbridge Bobcats at London Warriors

BASEBALL SOUTH WEST - WEEK 19

21/8/94

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Torbay Tigers	12	1	.917	--
Teignmouth Rebels	8	3	.727	3H
Plymouth Mariners	8	3	.727	3H
Norton Braves	7	5	.583	4H
Wessex Kings	7	7	.500	5H
Crewkerne Cutters	5	9	.357	7H
Bristol Buccaneers	2	10	.167	9H
Plymouth Pirates	1	11	.063	10H

RESULTS

6/8/94

Torbay Tigers 10 Teignmouth Rebels 9

7/8/94

Crewkerne Cutters 9 Norton Braves 0

Teignmouth Rebels 31 Plymouth Mariners 6

Wessex Kings 9 Plymouth Pirates 2

14/8/94

Crewkerne Cutters 35 Bristol Buccaneers 24

Teignmouth Rebels 9 Wessex Kings 6

Torbay Tigers 10 Plymouth Mariners 3

21/8/94

Bristol Buccaneers 9 Teignmouth Rebels 0

Crewkerne Cutters 62 Plymouth Pirates 13

BASEBALL SOUTH WEST TODAY

Plymouth Mariners at Bristol Buccaneers (double-header)

Teignmouth Rebels at Plymouth Pirates

THE MANNY RUBIN MEMORIAL TROPHY

On Sunday 4th September Baseball South west Teams will meet in the opening round of their cup competition. Semi-finals will be played on 11th September, and the Final and 3rd place consolation games will be played at Crewkerne on the 25th September

Manny Rubin is a name familiar to many in the Plymouth area, especially those with sporting interests. Manny, a veteran of the US Navy Signal Corps, participated in the D-Day landing preparations and the subsequent liberation of Europe. His service stay in England left him with such deep affection for the country that he returned to live and marry after the war.

As well as being a director of Plymouth Argyle Football Club, Manny was also active in re-importing and developing the popularity of his native national game of baseball in Plymouth and in the south west generally. Such was Manny's own popularity and the warmth of local baseball peoples' feelings for him, that when his death sadly occurred earlier this year, it was universally agreed that the region's own baseball league should remember him and his contribution to the game by naming their cup trophy in his memory and honour.

Baseball South West's Cup Final day will also mark the opening of Crewkerne's new, purpose built baseball diamond at Wadhan Community School Playing Fields.

For further information please contact Steve Core - 0752 606557, or Patrick Carroll - 0460 74183.

BBF STANDINGS - WEEK 20

21/8/94

National Premier League South 1

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	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	8M

Southern Division One North

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Henel Red Sox	15	1	.938	---
Cambridge Monarchs	14	2	.875	1
Gloster Meteors	7	6	.538	6M
Totteridge T'blazers	7	7	.500	7
City Slick	7	8	.467	7M
Droitwich Spa Tans	4	10	.286	10
Reading Royals	3	13	.188	12

1 Premier League South Standings are at 31st July. No later information available.

Southern Division One South

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Arun Panthers	11	1	.917	---
Croydon Pirates	9	4	.692	2½
Bournemouth Bees	8	8	.500	5
Tunbridge Wells R	6	6	.500	5
Gillingham Dodgers	5	11	.313	8
Hounslow Hawks	4	11	.267	9½
Stevenage Knights	0	12	.000	11

Southern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
London Wolves	15	2	.882	---
Lashing Sluggers	11	6	.647	4
Guildford Mavericks	9	8	.529	6
Caterham Athletics	8	9	.471	7
Chichester Flyers	7	10	.412	8
Tiptree Hotspots	6	12	.333	9½
Hounslow Falcons	6	10	.375	8½
Bracknell Blazers	4	11	.267	10

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

2/8/84

American League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
New York Yankees	70	40	.636	---	8-2
Baltimore Orioles	61	49	.555	9	6-4
Boston Red Sox	54	59	.478	17½	4-6
Toronto Blue Jays	53	59	.473	18	5-5
Detroit Tigers	51	61	.455	20	5-5

National League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Montreal Expos	72	39	.649	---	9-1
Atlanta Braves	66	45	.595	6	6-4
New York Mets	54	56	.491	17½	6-4
Philadelphia Phil's	52	60	.464	20½	2-8
Florida Marlins	50	62	.446	22½	6-5

American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Chicago White Sox	66	45	.595	---	7-3
Cleveland Indians	65	46	.586	1	6-4
Kansas City Royals	63	50	.558	4	7-3
Milwaukee Brewers	52	60	.464	14½	4-6
Minnesota Twins	51	60	.459	15	4-6

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	65	46	.586	---	7-3
Houston Astros	65	47	.580	½	6-4
Pittsburgh Pirates	52	59	.468	13	4-6
St Louis Cardinals	51	60	.459	14	5-5
Chicago Cubs	49	62	.441	16	2-7

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	52	60	.464	---	3-7
Oakland Athletics	50	61	.450	1½	3-7
Seattle Mariners	46	63	.422	4½	6-4
California Angels	46	67	.407	6½	4-6

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	56	55	.505	---	7-3
San Francisco Giants	53	60	.469	4	4-6
Colorado Rockies	52	62	.456	5½	2-8
San Diego Padres	45	69	.395	12½	4-6

Issue 11 will see the publication of the final Major League standings for season '84, a season sadly curtailed by strike action. There will also be the final tipsters ratings shown too.

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	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 Lakenheath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 31st July	away to Essex Eagles	L 7-16
Sun 14th August	away to Enfield Spartans	W 6-4
Sun 21st August	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 14-7
Sun 28th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	
Sun 4th September	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	
Sun 11th September	rain date	

PLAY-OFFS

Sun 13th 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

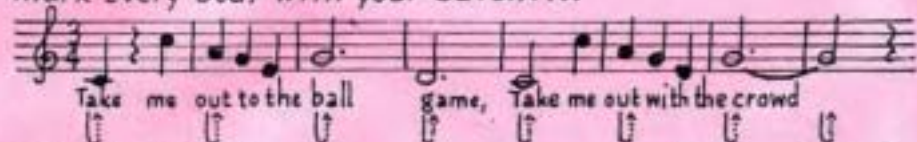
BOOK REVIEW

THE ARMCHAIR CONDUCTOR, by Dan Carlinsky and Ed Goodgold. Published by Titan Books, London. £5.99.

THE sub-title of this book is *How to Lead a Symphony Orchestra in the Privacy of Your Own Home*. So what is this review doing in a baseball magazine? This back page is known to be free from editorial restraint, but there must be a limit. The book under review originated in the U.S.A., but even so readers will be inclined to doubt any connection between Bach and Ball, even in America. Therefore perhaps a few extracts may be surprising and revealing.

The strike zone for the tip of the baton is a rough square on a vertical plane about eighteen inches in front of you, covering an area a foot and a half or so to either side of your shirt buttons, from your waist to the top of your head....

What do you do when a piece of music is just too fast to mark every beat with your baton...?



Pretend it's in 1-beat....

Can you beat that?

If you Armchair-Conduct a piece with a soloist, remember that the conductor always works with the orchestra but keeps an eye on the soloist. So give an occasional glance over your left shoulder, like a left-handed pitcher in a stretch position trying to pick a runner off second base....

Leonard Slatkin not only attends St. Louis Cardinal baseball games with a passion he otherwise reserves for Rachmaninoff, but he's been known to throw out the first ball at Busch Stadium wearing a tux and a Cards cap, and he sometimes announces scores from the podium midconcert....

He keeps the scores in front of him on the podium.

You may remember that a recent *Linedrive* cover inspired the Editor to heights of cosmological speculation. We do not expect a comparably lyrical reaction to the above, for, glad to say, he has now recovered fully from his knock on the head.