

LINEDRIVE!

Fanzine

BRITISH BASEBALL

Edited by Phil Ross



News
Statistics
Profiles
Reports
Letters

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
Alan Smith	Starting Pitcher	9
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

A message from Phil Ross, editor.

Welcome to the very first edition of **LINEDRIVE !**, and I hope you will find it an enjoyable read.

I will admit to taking a risk here, firstly with the fanzines title, which can so easily be changed to 'Linedrive!', and secondly with the fact that my enthusiasm for the game of baseball greatly exceeds both my knowledge and my playing ability.

The aims of the fanzine are very simple. It is to reflect and promote the friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere of British Baseball, and hopefully, with the contributing assistance of you, the readers, we can set the ball rolling and provide an informative, humorous and interesting read.

The 1991 season was my rookie season, and I must admit feeling a great sense of regret that I had to reach the ripe old age of 29 before finding a summer sport that really grabbed my attention. It really is a shame that baseball does not reach a good deal more people in this country than at present, and I feel sure that if it were more widely publicised, then many more people would spend their afternoons cheering on their team, munching their sandwiches, and discussing the myriad 'what ifs' that occur in every game of baseball.

My final apology must go to all those who did not follow the London Athletics, (now the London Warriors), last season. They were my team, and apart from a few weeks with the Newham Blue Jays, now returned to Roundshaw as the Croydon Blue Jays, they were the team I watched almost exclusively. So, if you want to get a fair mention of your team, drop me a line at the address below, or prepare to put up with a definite editorial bias !

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

PHIL ROSS, FLAT 2 'THANESCROFT', SELBORNE ROAD, CROYDON, CRO 5JQ.

1991 REVIEW

Last season started and ended with the London Athletics and the Enfield Spartans battling it out for overall supremacy in the British National League.

The opening day double-header at Barnes was shared, Alan Smith claiming the first for the A's with a resounding 13-6 victory, with Ian Pont taking the honours for Spartans in a 5-2 that suprisingly saw only one hit registered for the A's.

Elsewhere, Nottingham Hornets pulverised Humberside Mets 12-2 and 11-6, the first of six straight defeats for the Mets before a delighted Brian Thurston shut-out the Enfield Spartans at Enfield, 5-0, on June 2nd.

May 26th saw one of the biggest aggregate scorelines of the season, with the visit of Liverpool Tigers to the London Athletics. The Tigers ran out 27-16 winners in a game that saw 6 out of 16 half innings yield four runs or more.

Then, after splitting a double header with the Nottingham Hornets, London were to embark on a 13 game winning streak that took them from 3 and 3 to 16 and 3, and it was that man Brian Thurston who ended that run, organising a 6-5 victory for the Humberside Mets in the second half of a double-header at Barnes.

A 7-0 victory over the Essex Arrows secured the regular season title for the Athletics, and a three way tussle between Athletics, Spartans and Nottingham Hornets then ensued for the post-season play-offs.

What a contrast that play-off weekend was to be ! The cold, wet and frankly bad tempered contest of the saturday that saw the elimination of the Hornets, was followed by a joyous celebration of excellent baseball on the sunday, the Spartans taking the honours as a gloriously warm October sun set behind suburban rooftops.

The cycle was complete, now we can look forward to 1992 !

NATIONAL	C	R	E	S	E	A	H	M	L	T	L	A	N	H	N	P
BASEBALL	A	O	N	P	S	R	U	E	I	I	O	T	O	O	O	I
LEAGUE	M	Y	F	A	S	R	M	T	V	G	N	H	T	R	T	R
1991	B	A	I	R	E	O	B	S	E	E	D	L	T	N	T	A
	R	L	E	T	X	W	E		R	R	O	E	I	E	I	T
	I	S	L	A		S	R		P	S	N	T	N	T	N	E
	D		D	N			S		O		I	G	S	I	G	S
	G		S				I		O		C	H		H		
	E						D		L		S	A		A		
							E					M		M		

CAMBRIDGE		6-7	11-1	10-6	7-0	6-13	1-13	L-W
ROYALS					7-0	4-15	11-15	L-W
ENFIELD	7-0		14-4	0-5	W-L	L-W	5-3	17-1
SPARTANS	7-0		4-1		W-L			10-0
ESSEX	12-11	7-13		1-8	10-5	0-7	9-10	6-3
ARROWS	1-9			2-9				7-6
HUMBERSIDE	11-2	0-3	6-9		13-3	3-4	2-12	3-14
METS	4-3	5-0					6-11	
LIVERPOOL	L-W	10-13	6-14	14-3		4-12	7-16	14-5
TIGERS			8-7	24-4		0-11	8-16	
LONDON	12-5	13-6	15-11	5-0	16-27		12-2	W-L
ATHLETICS		2-5	25-3	5-6				
NOTTINGHAM	6-8	2-4	14-3	6-5	6-4	0-15		19-3
HORNETS		6-5	9-0			3-1		11-8
NOTTINGHAM	4-7	1-11	24-7	0-5	6-0	2-15	4-26	
PIRATES				0-8	2-12	9-13		

Where scores unknown letters W & L stand for Won & Lost.

National League Final Standings 1991

	Wn	Lt	GB
London Athletics	17	4	-
Enfield Spartans	16	5	1
Nottingham Hornets	16	5	1
Humberside Mets	10	11	7
Cambridge Royals	8	13	9
Essex Arrows	6	15	11
Liverpool Tigers	6	15	11
Nottingham Pirates	5	16	12

SCHISM ? SHMISM !

Yes, it is true to say that I am not privy to the political machinations that have brought about two National Leagues for British Baseball, but I am actually rather pleased with the development. Why ?

Well, there is an element of the optimist in me that hopes that both sides will come to recognise their differences, and believes that the two division winning teams, from both leagues, will eventually take to playing off against each other to decide who are the true British champions.

Secondly, this 'great divide', has very nearly provided a neat north/south division, and bearing in mind the amateur status, and currently low level of support for the game in the United Kingdom, it is probably sensible to organise the game in this way.

I have very high hopes for the future of baseball in the United Kingdom, and believe that we will eventually see a growth in the number of teams participating, and a consequent raising of standards. Roll on season '92.

COMING UP...

In Issue 2 of *LINEDRIVE* ! I hope to be able to include some statistics, baseball game reports and pictures, and possibly some player profiles (if I can find a willing victim !). Certainly, when last season closed, it was not my intention to be producing a fanzine, so I'm afraid this introductory issue is a little thin on real baseball matters.

For any of you who would like to contribute, please don't hesitate to send in any articles you think may be of interest to British Baseball fans.

All that remains is to wish you all an enjoyable 1992 season.

Batter up ! Play ball !

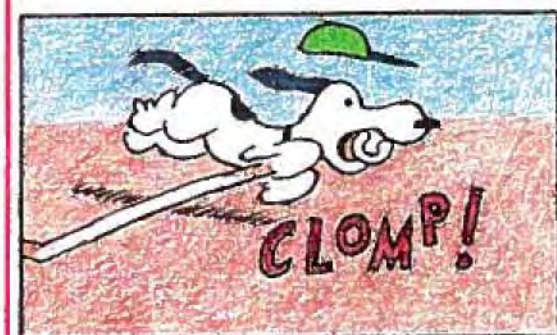
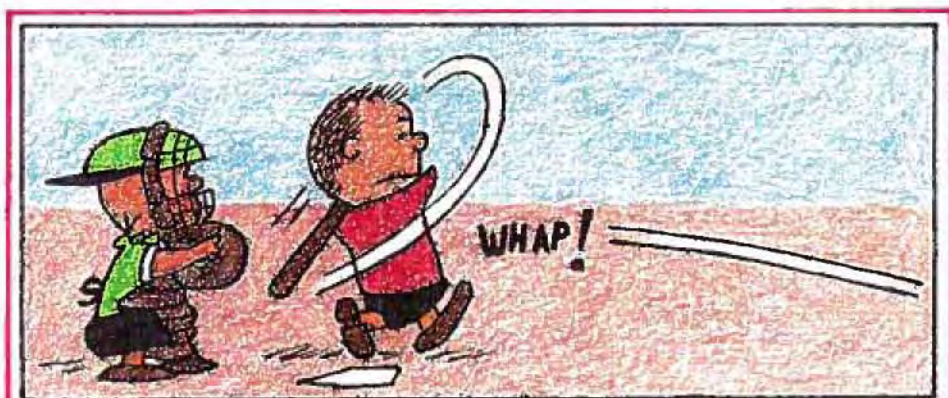
DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES THE EDITOR UNRESERVEDLY APOLOGISES FOR ANY INACCURACIES

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	
Sun 31st May	HOME TO CROYDON JAYS	
Sun 14th June	away to Cambridge Knights (D)	
Sun 21st June	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 28th June	away to Enfield Spartans	
Sun 5th July	away to Reading Bulldogs	
Sun 12th July	HOME TO CROYDON JAYS	
Sun 19th July	away to Enfield Spartans	
Sun 26th July	away to Birmingham Devils	
Sun 2nd August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	
Sun 16th August	away to Croydon 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	

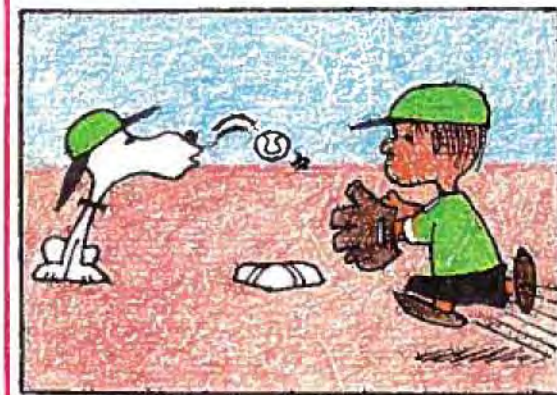
D=Double header-2 seven innings games. Game one starts 1:00 pm

All other nine inning games start 3:00 pm.



DOUBLE PLAY

after
Charles M. Schulz



Adapted from "Who do you think you are, Charlie Brown?" Coronet Books 1972