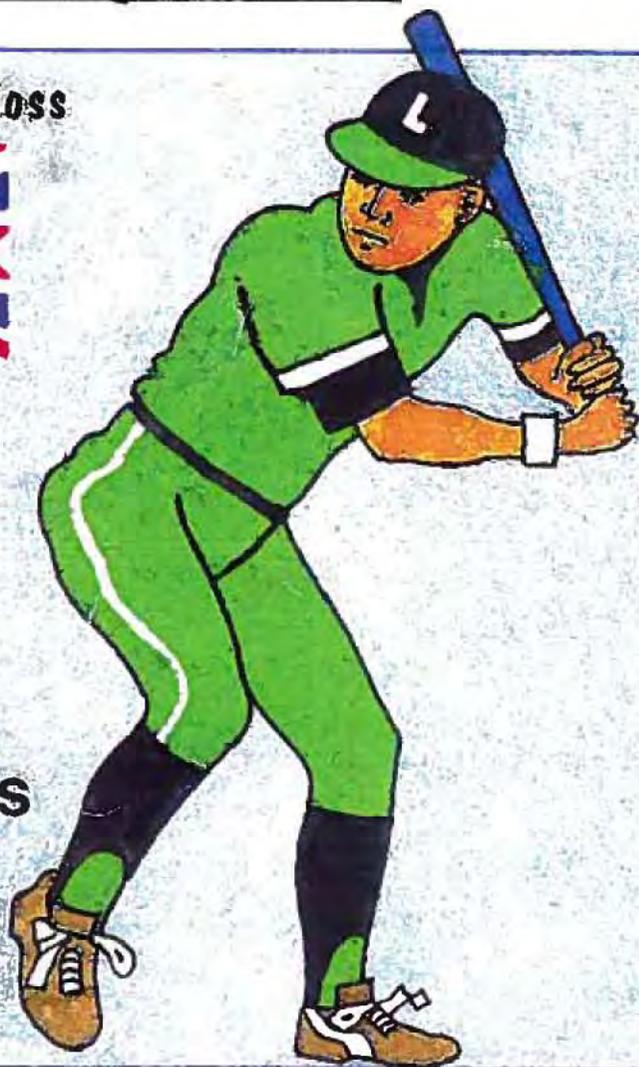


LINEDRIVE!

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 BIG ONE !

Welcome to issue 3 of *LINEDRIVE !*, the British Baseball Fanzine.

Issue Three continues to bring you reports and scores, as well as letters and a Major League quiz, all packed into an eight page format, rather than the usual four. The initial response to *LINEDRIVE !* has been very encouraging, and it is hoped eventually, probably next season, to be able to produce a more professional publication, perhaps aided by advertising revenue.

But enough of the future, what about the present ? Read on MacDuff....

FAN FARE

by Rex Phillips

Baseball in Britain is a fact of life. Watching it on Sunday and thinking about it all week, we fans enjoy an experience that is real and rewarding. To many of us it is a relatively new experience, but the game has been played in this country for many years, a century in fact.

Our preoccupation with our prime exports, cricket and football, has allowed very little concern hitherto for imported games, and the chance of becoming a baseball fan in Britain, except by accident, has been practically non-existent.

Perhaps it is the very proliferation of football and cricket, one might almost say the saturation of the world with these once dignified games, to the extent of satisfying mass appeal by means of limited overs and penalty kick-outs, that has led some of us to see the merit and reward of alternative games.

It is surely a coincidence that television, for whose sake the gimmickry of cricket and football has, in the main, been introduced, has at the same time made us aware of a new world of ball games. Of these, baseball is unfortunately the poor relation, and it is still a matter of chance whether one becomes a baseball fan. But the odds are improving. One is now more likely than ever

before to hear someone talking about it. Local papers feature schedules and game reports, and you are at this very moment reading a Fanzine, the editor of which was pestered, at local soccer matches, with talk of baseball until he succumbed. He is now on the way to becoming the British Roger Angell.

The spell of baseball, however, cannot be made tangible in just a few words. It is, it really is, spell-binding. Much of the aura comes from America, of course, where the game has given rise to literature of outstanding range and sensitivity, and we British fans use the American idiom, unashamedly, when occasion demands. But I can see Anglo-American expression developing, similar perhaps to the Anglo-French of Heraldry. Not that I expect ever to hear a curve ball referred to as a bend sinister, or a British slugger as a lion rampant.

Baseball in Britain may not be seen at present as a force in Europe, but the reason for this does not rest with the players. That is obvious from anyone who knows them. British baseball needs a boost, not least from us fans. The game is worth it, the players deserve it, and although it may not seem overwhelmingly apparent, we are a steadily growing band of enthusiasts, who live over and over again the brilliant plays, who admire the inspired decisions, and do not hesitate to second guess the rest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for including us in your fanzine. If you would like to contact me and send some copies, I will distribute them at our home and away games to try and raise some more interest in your magazine. I hope to hear from you, and wish you luck with LINEDRIVE !

Dave Flynn - manager - Caterham A's.

Thanks for the encouraging words Dave, and I will be more than happy to supply you copies of LINEDRIVE !, and any other team that requires them. Also, any private individuals can reserve their own copies by sending me an S.A.E. to the contact address. Ed.

NAME THAT YEAR

All the following clues relate to Major League Baseball events in a specific year. Can you name it and the two World Series finalists ? Answers on page 8.

- 1) Nellie Fox named American League MVP
- 2) Hank Aaron's second batting championship
- 3) Willie McCovey named National League Rookie of the Year
- 4) The first World Series in 11 years without a New York entrant.

REPORTS & SCORES - PART ONENational League

Sunday May 10th

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	RI
<u>Reading Bulldogs</u>	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>London Warriors</u>	2	2	4	3	1	4	X	16	4	5	1	3	0	4	X	17

The Bulldogs received a tough baseball lesson from the London Warriors in a double header that finished as a virtual demonstration match.

Right from the moment London's Brad Thompson drove in two RBI's in the very first inning things were looking tough for the Bulldogs.

The first game saw Julian Dodwell bat in four runs, and run in another two, and Alan Bloomfield bat two and run two.

Alan Smith, pitching for the Warriors, was reported to have been unhappy with three of his deliveries in the first game, one of which resulted in a sweetly hit two run homer for the Bulldogs in the bottom of the sixth, and brought a brief glow of warmth from an otherwise gloomy visitors bench.

The surprise story of game two was the pitching of Justin Brown, brought in as a last minute replacement for the absent Vincente Martinez.

Justin pitched Warriors first no hitter of the season, and clocked

a remarkable 13 K's. Not content with that, he collected five RBI's in game two, including a three run homer in the sixth.

Bulldogs have conceded 65 runs in their first four matches, and will need to tighten up their defence to compete at this level.

Croydon Blue Jays at Essex Eagles

Game 1 9-4

Game 2 15-2

Game 1 belonged to Blue Jays' Paul Collins, hitting a two run homer off Eagles pitcher Vince Warner, (himself an ex-Blue Jay), and then pitching the final two innings for the save.

Paul then pitched throughout game two, and he, Keith Wilesmith and Mike Stankovits collected three hits apeice, seeing off three different Eagles pitchers in the process.

Home run hitters included Wilesmith with two for the Blue Jays (making a season total of four), and Vince Warner with two for the Eagles.

BBF Cup

Sunday 10th May

Crawley Giants 20 Croydon Pirates 18

A tough opening tie for the Pirates, as Southern League Second Division took on Southern League First Division.

At first it was believed that Giants had failed to register with the BBF, and Pirates were awarded the game on default. However, an administrative oversight was corrected at the last minute, and the match was re-instated.

Pirates fought hard against the Giants, with fine fielding and batting displays from Iain Nicholls, John Racketts, Eric Petrie and debutant Matt Shepherd, but despite an Eric Petrie inspired double play claiming play of the day, Pirates lost by just two runs.

Caterham A's 26 Hounslow Rangers 0

A's handed out a very sound thrashing to Hounslow Rangers in their first ever BBF Cup game, with several key players scoring highly. Pitcher Kevin Mac was outstanding on the mound, and was no slouch in the batters box, claiming three RBI's from one well struck triple.

Anthony Weakner also scored three RBI's, from two hits, whilst Mark Dalton and Rick Clayton took four RBI's apiece.

If the batting and pitching wasn't enough, Hounslow also had to contend with some aggressive base running, with Caterham's Brian Robinson ending up as top dog with seven steals.

Essex Arrows 19 Reading Raiders 2

This game didn't last the full nine innings, the slaughter rule brought in after inning seven as Arrows unceremoniously dumped the Raiders out of the BBF Cup.

Kevin Pickston produced the highlight of the match for the Arrows with a bases loaded triple adding to an already large Arrows lead.

MAJOR LEAGUE QUICK QUIZ

Tony La Russa, manager of the Oakland Athletics, played in the Major Leagues for four different clubs. Can you name them ?

Hall of Famer, Rod Carew, played in the American League championship series on four different occasions, losing out every time. On three occasions it was to the same club - which one ?

Only two clubs have played in and lost three consecutive World Series. Can you name these two unfortunate sides ?

Answers on page 8.

 REPORTS & SCORES - PART TWO

National League

Sunday May 17th

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	
London Warriors	1	0	0	2	0	2	5	6	15	1	2	1	4	0	0	0	16
Essex Eagles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Warriors celebrated their first road trip of the season with a sound thrashing of the Essex Eagles.

Eagles pitcher Vince Warner made a promising start, initially making life difficult for the Warriors batters, but after careful scrutiny from the bench, London soon got the better of him.

Brad Thompson had a good first game, batting in two runs, and running in two more, and Justin Brown proved he had a deal with some 'higher authority', when the wind dropped for the only time that day, to allow his two-run homer to leave the park.

Game Two saw Vincente Martinez take up the Warriors hurling spot, making a distinctly fiery impression on his Essex counterpart, struck whilst trying to avoid a Martinez rocket.

London felt sufficiently in command for Brad Thompson to exercise some adventurous base coaching, resulting in runner, Alan Smith's rhetorical quip 'What are you trying to do, kill me?'. However, the 'killing' took place in the top of the seventh, with a staggering nine runs batted in, Oliver Heidecker completing the scoring with his 5th RBI of the day.

Honorary mention though must go to the Eagles bench for a sporting and happy attitude throughout, despite the scoreline.

Croydon Blue Jays at Birmingham Devils

Game 1 9-12

Game 2 14-9

Blue Jays Canadian hurler, Jamie Heather, had a torrid time on the mound, losing the first game to the strong hitting Devils side, but

decided to adopt the maxim 'reap what you sow', by batting his counterpart all over the park in game two.

He clocked seven hits, including his first homer, and fellow Jays pitcher, Paul Collins, made his own second game task easier by scoring three times.

Southern League Division Two

Sunday May 17th

Caterham A's 8 Croydon Pirates 30

It was local derby time, as well as being the top of the table clash, when newly formed Caterham A's travelled to Croydon Pirates.

Pirates powered into an early lead, with a score of 12-1 at the end of the second inning, increased by a further nine in inning three.

However, the appearance of Caterham reliever Rick Clayton in the fifth inning, brought a marked change in the run rate, with the last nine runs spread over the final four innings.

Pirates pitcher Paul Newhouse claimed the win, with batting honours for the A's going to Shane Fletcher with four hits and a walk from five plate appearances.

National League

Sunday May 24th

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	E
Enfield Spartans	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	5	3	0	15
Croydon Blue Jays	3	4	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	14	1

A lack of discipline in the Blue Jays camp transformed an early 7-1 lead into a defeat when they entertained a less than sparkling Enfield.

Jays first two innings highlighted a ragged Spartans infield, with most of the Jays batters connecting with Rob Nelson's pitching. However, overstated protest concerning an umpiring decision in inning three resulted in the expulsion of the influential Keith

Wilesmith, and the more fractious Jays became, the more Spartans piled on the runs.

In many ways, a curious game from two sides that undoubtedly have talent, as both sides failed to field to the best of their ability, and save for one mighty home run hit in the bottom of the sixth, exclusively batted shallow flys between infield and outfield. For all that the scores were close, the game never settled, and with the exception of a tight last inning, never excited.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS - WEEK 3

16/5/92

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Enfield Spartans	4	0	1.000	-
London Warriors	3	0	1.000	½
Croydon Blue Jays	3	1	.750	1
Cambridge Knights	1	1	.500	2
Birmingham Devils	1	2	.333	2½
Essex Eagles	0	4	.000	4
Reading Bulldogs	0	4	.000	4

YERROUT !

Ever wanted to hoist that digit over your shoulder and send a bedraggled batter back to the dugout ? Do you stand in front of your mirror and practice the old 'Sti...rike !!!' ? You do ? Well Caterham A's need a home umpire, so please call Dave Flynn on 0883-347058

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

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

ANSWERS.

NAME THAT YEAR - 1959 Los Angeles Dodgers beat Chicago White Sox 4-2.

QUICK QUIZ - Tony La Russa played for Kansas City A's, Oakland A's, Atlanta Braves and made 1 appearance for the Chicago Cubs.

Rod Carew lost in the LCS to Baltimore Orioles three times, twice with Minnesota in 1969 and 1970, and once with California in 1979. In '82, California lost to Milwaukee,

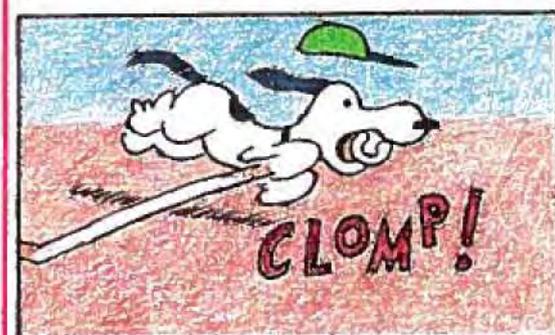
Detroit Tigers lost 1907 - 1909 World Series, New York Blants lost 1911-1913 World Series.

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	

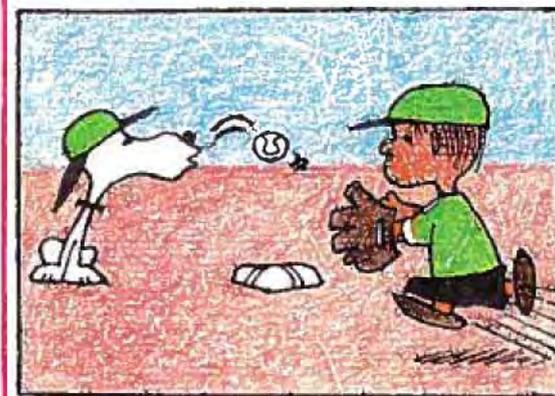
D=Double header-2 seven innings games. Game one starts 1:00 pm

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