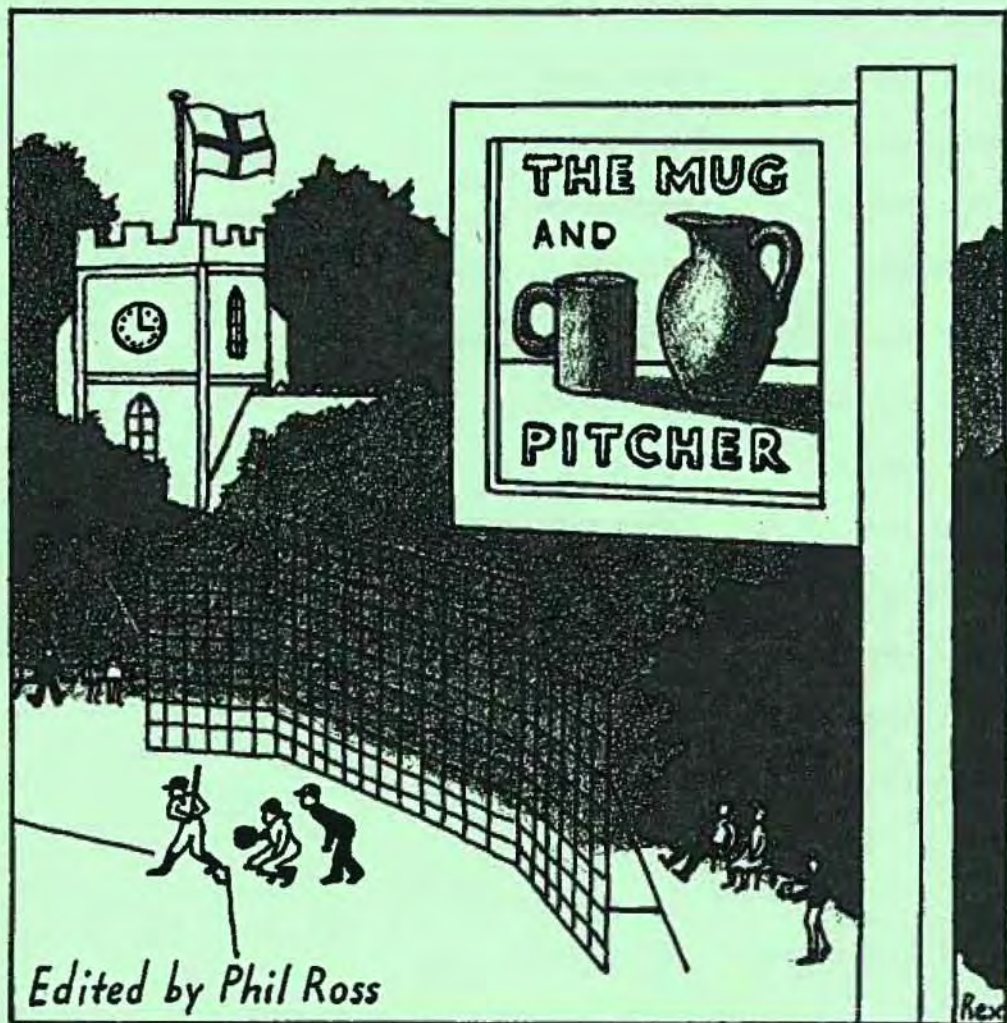


# LINEDRIVE!

Fanzine

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN



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	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

## A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

THE FRIENDLY GAMES

A much vaunted motto for prospective major events, the phrase 'the friendly games' often sounds more like a hopeful plea than a sincere belief, but at least, in British Baseball it regains its credibility.

Your editor was honoured and privileged to be given an invitation to the farewell bash for David Slater, 1st baseman for Croydon Blue Jays, now returned to his native Rhode Island. It was a fun evening, discussing baseball, drinking beer, and chucking a frisbee back and forth, and despite my allegiance to another side, and having the temerity to lose the frisbee, I was treated with great warmth and friendship.

One of the great revelations of the evening was the astonishing range and depth of Blue Jays stats and record keeping. I think if you asked them for Keith Wilesmith's pitching record against left handed batters in pinstripe pants they could come up with it !

It's nice to know that whilst winning the game is everyone's aim, there is still enough pleasure in the sport itself, and the understanding and enjoyment of that sport, to allow those aspects of the game to have equal, if not greater significance than the actual victory. Long may it continue.

REPORTS & SCORESPritchett Construction National League

Sunday 21st June

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
<u>Birmingham Devils</u>	1	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	6	14	16
<u>Croydon Blue Jays</u>	2	3	2	0	1	1	0	2	4	1	15	13

Once again, Blue Jays faced a decisive last inning when they entertained the Birmingham Devils.

Blue Jays pitcher, Keith Wilesmith, after surrendering two hits and a run to the first two batters, only gave up two more base hits in

the first four innings, and batted in two and scored one run of his own to give the Blue Jays a 7-1 lead.

Devils replied with a six run surge in inning six, tail end batter and pitcher, Dutton, getting two at bats in the inning. Wilesmith, perhaps determined to finish inning five as winning pitcher, replied with a solo homer, only to have his good work undone by Murphy repeating the feat in the top of the sixth.

Jamie Heather's triple in inning seven brought in two valuable RBI's, and with relief pitcher Paul Collins shutting Devils out in inning eight, he, Dave Slater, Joe Walker and John Harrington then added a further four RBI's for what they felt must have been a winning fourteen runs.

However, a replica of inning six, this time the number two batter, Rose, got the two at bats, brought another six run blast from the Devils, and it was left to pinch runner Joe Rolls to win the match off the bat of Joe Walker.

Pritchett Construction National League

Sunday 28th June

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
London Warriors	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Enfield Spartans	4	2	1	0	1	2	1	10

Both Warriors and Spartans entered this contest with records of 10 and 0, and with the Warriors averaging a formidable 1.847 runs per inning batted, Spartans knew they had to come out attacking.

Sadly, Warriors never got around to showing the gathered crowd their powerful attack, reeling as Rob Nelson opened the game for Enfield by pitching four perfect innings.

Both Rob and Ian Lanario scored in the opening inning for Spartans, the latter collecting a two run homer off the hapless Vincente Martinez.

Not even a bizarre incident in the bottom of the third, when Rob Youille left third base on two down to head for the dugout, leading to a run-down and out at home, could put a dent in what was becoming the Enfield Spartans show.

Although Martinez had worked his arm in by inning three, Warriors compounded their plight with some poor base running of their own, and a number of dreadful overthrows in the field, allowing Spartans to rack up a 10-0 lead, and bring in the slaughter rule.

The Spartans/Warriors series had been looked upon as being the games of the season. Sadly, in this opening match, only one side got to play.

Pritchett Construction National League

Sunday 5th July

Essex Eagles 4 Croydon Blue Jays 15

A tactical change by Blue Jays player manager Joe Walker saw this game transform from a 4-4 tie in the third into a decisive 15-4 victory. Walker's decision to employ the pitching talents of Keith Wilesmith, taking up the hurling duties in inning four, paid off as Wilesmith allowed just one hit for the remainder of the match.

On offence for Blue Jays, both Wilesmith and Mike Stankovitz hit three RBI's each, and Joe Walker broke out of a long batting slump with two valuable hits of his own.

Pritchett Construction National League

Sunday 5th July

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	
London Warriors	1	4	0	6	0	4	1	2	17
Reading Bulldogs	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	4

Despite obvious disappointment at their own performance the week before, London Warriors not only had the character to cheerfully lampoon themselves, but also decided that the best cure would be to play ball.

Warriors opened strongly with each of the three opening batters getting on base, and each of them reaching home for the first three runs. Bulldogs were not without skill of their own, ending the inning strongly with a neat double play to catch Harry Atwood and Ben Geddes.

The top of the third saw Alan Smith really enjoying his game. He started with a single, stole second, took third on a passed ball, and taking a substantial lead-off, reached home on a Harry Atwood bunt. In an inning that saw the whole Warriors rotation bat, other run scorers were Harry Atwood, Ben Geddes, both Darrin and Dean Ward, and Alan Bloomfield.

Bulldogs came back with two runs of their own, but in the top of the fifth, a triple from Julian Dodwell, followed by a Justin Brown two run homer, began to make the slaughter rule victory seem inevitable.

Salt in the wound came in the form of a neat double play in the bottom of the fifth, when Vincente Martinez caught a bunt, and relayed to third base to beat the tag up.

To close, Warriors brought on Justin Brown to pitch the final two innings, and together with his battery mate, Ben Geddes, who had an excellent game as catcher, they kept the Bulldogs off the scoreboard.

PRITCHETT CONSTRUCTION NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS - WEEK 10

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB	
Enfield Spartans	11	0	1.000	-	4/7/92
<b>London Warriors</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.909</b>	<b>1</b>	
Croydon Blue Jays	7	6	0.538	5	
Birmingham Devils	5	6	0.455	6	
Cambridge Knights	5	7	0.417	6½	
Reading Bulldogs	2	11	0.154	10	
Essex Eagles	2	11	0.154	10	

All contributions to *LINEDRIVE !* are most welcome and should be addressed to PHIL ROSS, FLAT 2 'THANESCROFT' SELBORNE ROAD, CROYDON CR0 5JQ, (081 680 2966)

## LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1992

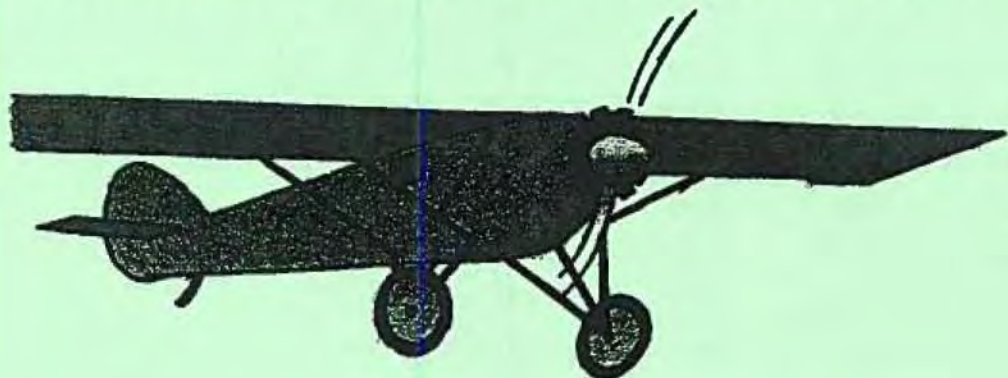
Sun 26th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	W 11-3
Sun 10th May	HOME TO READING BULLDOGS (D)	W 16-4 & 17-0
Sun 17th May	away to Essex Eagles (D)	W 15-1 & 16-1
Sun 24th May	away to Birmingham Devils	W 16-6
Sun 31st May	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS	W 9-3
Sun 14th June	away to Cambridge Knights (D)	
Sun 21st 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 BLUE 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 Blue 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.*

# ROUNDSHAW

A BALLPARK UNIQUE IN HISTORY



The Spirit of St. Louis 1927

BLUE JAYS



PIRATES

The transatlantic spirit of 1992