

# LINEDRIVE!

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN  
1993 Vol. II No. 1

SCHEDULES

## Opening Day

NATIONAL  
NEWS

SCORES  
STATS  
FEATURES

WILL YOU  
THROW OUT THE  
FIRST BALL AGAIN  
ON OPENING DAY,  
M'LORD?

INDEED  
I'D LIKE TO, BUT  
MY ARM HAS NOT  
YET RECOVERED  
FROM LAST YEAR



LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1993

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Justin Brown	Shortstop/Pitcher	20
Julian Dodwell	Centrefield	19
Ben Geddes	Leftfield	17
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Vincente Martinez	Relief Pitcher	16
Steve Marzo	<i>new player for 93 - details to follow.</i>	
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield	18
Alan Smith	Starting Pitcher/Rightfield	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield/Leftfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

# LINEDRIVE ! VOL II ISSUE 1

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A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

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## BACK ON THE BLEACHERS !

At long last season '93 is with us, and the opportunity to enjoy over twenty weeks exciting baseball lies ahead of us all.

Regretably, National League has had to say farewell to Reading Bulldogs, but in their place welcomes Bury Saints and Waltham Forest to bring the Senior Division up to eight. The Buddies League is now the Rookie Division, with teams from Basildon, Bury, Cambridge, London (Barnes) and Tonbridge entered. Rookie Division champs will play Senior Division basement boys in an end of season play-off, and results and league rules permitting, could promote themselves to the Seniors for season '94.

For London Warriors fans (loud cheers from the *Linedrive* ! editorial and graphics departments), season '93 sees the defence of the '92 championship, which was won in such exciting fashion at Enfield last September, so before looking at today's contest, lets take a look at the championship play-offs for 1992.

### PLAY-OFF'S 1992

With the top four from the regular season to compete in the championship play-offs, things could not possibly have been tighter. London Warriors and Enfield Spartans tied for first spot on won-lost record, and had to be separated by the toss of a coin, which gave Enfield the first place tie, and that meant meeting the team in fourth. Well, Birmingham Devils and Croydon Blue Jays were tied for fourth, and had to play off too, the Devils winning through to meet Enfield

Warriors, having been awarded second spot by the fall of a coin, found themselves having to play third placed Cambridge Knights, a side who had shown quite an improvement after the mid-season session with American coaching, having dished out Enfield's first league defeat of the season in late July, and then beating Warriors 8-7 shortly after.

National League Play-Off Semi Final.

Sunday 20th September

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Cambridge Knights	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
London Warriors	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	X

A strong first inning start by the Warriors brought one run in reply by the Knights, only for London's three run lead to be restored in the bottom of the third.

The middle innings were very tight, with neither side prepared to give an inch, and it was with the break of this deadlock in the bottom of the seventh that Warriors began to sense that the finals were in their reach, with two further runs in the eighth finally settling the outcome.

National League Play-Off Final Game One

Saturday 26th September

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Enfield Spartans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Warriors	1	1	5	0	4	9	0	2	2	X

Earlier in the season, Spartans had put a crimp in Warriors style by beating them 10-0 in the league. Despite the fact that both sides had been at the top of the league all season, this first championship game was surprisingly one-sided, with the box score speaking for itself - no contest !

National League Play-Off Final Game Two

Sunday 27th September

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
London Warriors	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Enfield Spartans	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	4

Nerve wracking stuff this at Enfield's King George V Playing Fields home. Warriors early three run lead had been eliminated, and coming into the ninth, they found themselves 4-3 down. A game saving triple by Darrin Ward, followed by RBI's for Julian Dodwell and Justin Brown put Warriors into a one run lead.

Then a nightmarish start to the bottom of the ninth as Enfield's Gary Bedingfield hit a mighty shot off to the left field boundary. The pursuing Warriors fielder, Oliver Heidecker, put both arms into the air, and the fans by the London dugout groaned, presuming a home run, when, in fact it was a ground rule double.

Vincente Martinez pitching, then had a spell of two-out trouble, and with Bedingfield in a scoring position, the tension was unbearable. Finally the third out came, Harry Atwood collecting the ball and throwing to Darrin Ward at first for the out and the championship.

LONDON V CAMBRIDGE

Results for the last two seasons run as follows (London's score first):-

	1991	1992
at Barnes	12-5	7-1 7-8 7-1 (Championship playoff)
at Cambridge	13-6 15-4	10-4 9-2

Previous scores read 7-1 in London's favour, but that 8-7 victory for the Knights is a much more appropriate measure of the two sides merits, and today's encounter should be a close one. The Warrior roster is shown on the inside front cover, the Knights roster is as follows with 1992 stats where available :-

	BA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
3 Seb Mills (GB) - Utility.	0.120	25	2	3	--	--	--	1	4
6 Phil Doncaster (GB) - Outfield	0.228	79	16	18	--	--	--	9	7
9 Neil Borley (GB) - Infield	0.324	74	15	24	5	2	--	14	20
10 Mathew Gilbert (GB) - Pitcher	0.302	96	20	29	4	--	--	4	16
19 Luke Martino (GB) - Utility									
21 Todd Bollinger (USA) - Catcher	0.400	40	16	16	5	1	2	11	3
22 Gary Liston (GB) - Utility	0.371	62	20	23	3	1	--	1	13
27 Lenny Cappellan (USA) - Util	0.439	66	22	29	10	--	--	22	3
44 Blair Sharleville (USA) - Infd	0.389	95	33	37	7	6	3	23	18



There are a further four Knights new to the side this season, and at the time of publication their uniform numbers were unknown. They are - Sergio Espinosa (USA) - Pitcher, Rob McGuire (USA) - Utility, Jose Barajas (MEX) - Infield, Richie Lewis (USA) - Pitcher.  
*(Stats and roster courtesy of Tom Sims)*

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

25/4/93

Senior Division

Birmingham Devils v Waltham Forest  
 Croydon Blue Jays v Bury Saints  
 Enfield Spartans v Essex Eagles  
 London Warriors v Cambridge Knights

Rookie Division

Cambridge v London  
 Tonbridge v Basildon

NEXT WEEK

2/5/93

Senior Division

Bury Saints v Enfield Spartans  
 Cambridge Knights v Croydon Blue Jays  
 Essex Eagles v Birmingham Devils  
 Waltham Forest v London Warriors

Rookie Division

Basildon v Bury  
 Tonbridge v Cambridge

THAT SHOULD GET US STARTED

Well, hopefully you have enjoyed this issue of *Linedrive !*, it's always a pleasure for Rex and myself to put together. If you would like copies on a regular basis, then please contact us as below. All UK baseball news, stats, stories and letters are gratefully received, and even if they can't always be included immediately, we'll do our best to sneak 'em in sometime. All that remains is to wish everyone an enjoyable 1993 season.

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 Cover designed and drawn by Rex Phillips.

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1993

Sun 25th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS
Sun 2nd May	away to Waltham Forest
Sun 9th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS
Sun 16th May	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES
Sun 23rd May	away to Birmingham Devils
Sun 30th May	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS
Sun 6th June	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST
Sun 13th June	away to Cambridge Knights
Sun 20th June	away to Enfield Spartans
Sun 4th July	away to Bury Saints
Sun 11th July	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS
Sun 18th July	away to Enfield Spartans
Sun 25th July	away to Birmingham Devils
Sun 1st August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS
Sun 8th August	away to Waltham Forest
Sun 15th August	away to Croydon Blue Jays
Sun 22nd August	HOME TO BIRMINGHAM DEVILS
Sun 29th August	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS
Sun 5th September	away to Bury Saints
Sun 12th September	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES
Sun 19th September	away to Essex Eagles
Sat 26th September	Championship Playoff Game 1
Sun 26th September	Championship Playoff Games 2 & 3

*All nine inning games. All start 3:00 pm.*

## KNOTTY PROBLEMS

In the spring a ball fan's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of..... rules. What was that nagging doubt? What was that point that needed clarifying? Areas that seemed a bit grey last summer will seem even greyer after the winter break, and the season will be under way before actual game situations provide the stimulus for study. The rules, as pure reading matter, are not altogether congenial, and it must be said that some of the approved rulings seem to all but the most diligent students to confuse rather than clarify.

*Baseball's Knotty Problems*, edited by Larry Wigge, published by *The Sporting News*, and available from Sports Pages in London, is exactly what is needed this early in the season, for the editor lists virtually every unusual play that could occur, sets it in a game situation, and provides an explanation in plain English of the official ruling, together with a reference to the appropriate rule. In order to check the official wording one has only to turn to the back of the book, where the complete rules and approved rulings are very neatly and legibly printed.

Fun can be derived from covering the explanations and treating the situations as quiz questions, and the book is enlivened by a number of amusing drawings by Bill Wilson.

R. J. P.

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Our tongue-in-cheek back page feature, "A New Understanding of Baseball," will be resumed shortly.