

LINEDRIVE!



BASEBALL
Vol. II

1993

IN BRITAIN
No.2



Excuse me, sir, but — are you being forced?

THE
FIELDER'S
DILEMMA

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See back page

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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
Cody Cain	Leftfield/Pitcher	19
Julian Dodwell	Centrefield	19
Ben Geddes	Leftfield	17
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Vincente Martinez	Relief Pitcher	16
Steve Marzo	Rightfield	13
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield/Centrefield	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 2

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

REBEL ! REBEL !

In the May issue of Anglo-American Sports, pages 22 and 23 are devoted to the story of the split between the British Baseball Federation and National League Baseball.

For those of us on the periphery of baseball's sports politics, it gives a brief insight into the 'how's and why's', but does seem to indicate that the much wanted reconciliation appears to be almost impossible.

One aspect of the report that was disturbing was that a comment, attributed to a BBF member, was given anonymously, as it did not damn the NLB in any way. The request for anonymity was granted, as the BBF member feared reprisals from the BBF board.

For any sporting body, whoever they may be, they can only be certain of retaining the respect and credibility of the membership, if all colours of opinion can be expressed and aired freely where they relate to the sport being played. There is no way on this earth that any sporting body will please the entire membership all the time, unless of course, the membership is only one.

Hopefully, BBF and NLB will learn to accept both bouquets and brickbats, both from within, and outside, their respective memberships. Whilst there may be occasions when league representatives from either house may feel they are being subjected to the ramblings of a deranged fool, they should grit their teeth and listen, after all, like it or not, they represent their membership, be they foolish or be they wise.

WHAT'S ON TELLY ?

Whilst on the politics of baseball, Channel 4's series, 'Naked Sport', will turn it's attentions to American Baseball this Monday (10th May). As we poor Brits are starved of televised ball, it might be an idea to book yourself a spot in front of the box, 9:00pm to 10:00 pm, or at the very least, set the video !

REPORTS & SCORES
National League Senior Division

Sunday 25th April

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Cambridge Knights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
London Warriors	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	X	7	10

Aaaah ! At long last, the satisfying ring of cowhide on aluminium, (or is that alcominum !). Fast becoming an opening day institution, the visit of Cambridge to Barnes marked the start of a new season, and boy was it nice to be back !

Cambridge admitted to feelings of apprehension, knowing that they were to take on the reigning NLB champs with an under strength team. Both sides started jumpily, but it was Warriors who took greatest advantage of the situation, opening up with a bases loaded walk for Kevin Murphy, Brad Thompson scoring. Kevin had four plate appearances in this self same game last year, and walked every time !

On his first ever at bat for Warriors, Steve Marzo scored 2 RBI's, Justin Brown and fellow debutant Cody Cain doing the legwork, and it was Marzo who dealt the psychological killer in the top of the 4th. Knight's Todd Bollinger thumped a ball to the rightfield boundary, only for Marzo to disappear into the undergrowth with all the wild abandon of David Bellamy, and then surface, Excalibur like, with ball in gloved hand - a great catch.

Cody Cain impressed with a two inning spell as relief pitcher, his battery mate, Alan Bloomfield, closing inning seven with a great throw to Harry Atwood to tag out Neil Borley at second.

Although Knights failed to score, they can take great comfort from their improved form in the second half of the game, keeping Warriors scoreless from innings five to eight. Meanwhile, up at Cambridge, the London Stormers also won, beating the Cambridge Monarchs 5-3 in their opening Rookie Division game.

National League Senior Division

Sunday 2nd May

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	
London Warriors	1	2	4	3	2	0	1	1	13	5	2
Waltham Forest Angels	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5

Ever get the feeling it's not going to be your day ? Angels manager Mike Agha had to despatch team members to secure a lawn-mower from the local B & Q when he found the local council contractors had not cut the infield grass. He also found out that the diamond had been marked out incorrectly, the foul lines only vaguely acknowledging the plate. Add to this a two run homer from Warriors' Oliver Heidecker in the very first inning, and you have the perfect recipe for a bad day.

It's Angels first season in the top flight, having won the Buddies League last year, and although their defence was reasonably competent, the offence found the controlled pitching of Alan Smith hard to get to, and the speed of Cody Cain and Justin Brown too much.

Angels consolation run came from a Dave Singer double to left field that was dropped by Heidecker, giving Inamura the run. Although a slaughter rule victory, with a consistent scoring rate, it was not a game for great plays. Functional rather than stylish, but a win nonetheless.

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTSSenior Division

Week One - 25th April 1993

Waltham Forest Angels @ Birmingham Brewers - No play - no umpires
 Bury Saints 5 Croydon Blue Jays 3
 Essex Eagles @ Enfield Spartans - No play - diamond flooded.
 Cambridge Knights 0 London Warriors 7

Rookie Division

London Stormers 5 Cambridge Monarchs 3
 Basildon Mariners @ Tonbridge Bobcats - No play - diamond flooded.

Senior Division

Week Two - 2nd May 1993

Enfield Spartans 12 Bury Saints 5
 Croydon Blue Jays 11 Cambridge Knights 4
 Birmingham Brewers 2 Essex Eagles 12 (7 inning game)
 London Warriors 13 Waltham Forest Angels 1 (7 inning game)

Rookie Division

Bury Saints II @ Basildon Mariners - No game - Bury have withdrawn
 Cambridge Monarchs 1 Tonbridge Bobcats 16

STANDINGS

Senior Division

	W	L	Pcent	GB
London Warriors	2	0	1.000	
Enfield Spartans	1	0	1.000	½
Essex Eagles	1	0	1.000	½
Bury Saints	1	1	.500	1
Croydon Blue Jays	1	1	.500	1
Birmingham Brewers	0	1	.000	1½
Waltham Fst Angels	0	1	.000	1½
Cambridge Knights	0	2	.000	2

Rookie Division

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Lon Stormers	1	0	1.000	
Ton Bobcats	1	0	1.000	
Bas Mariners	0	0	.000	½
Cam Monarchs	0	2	.000	1½
Bur Saints II	Withdrawn			

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

9/5/93

Senior Division

Essex Eagles @ Croydon Blue Jays
 Birmingham Brewers @ Enfield Spartans
 Bury Saints @ London Warriors
 Cambridge Knights @ Waltham Fst Angels

Rookie Division

Basildon M @ Cambridge M

NEXT WEEK

16/5/93

Senior Division

Bury Saints @ Cambridge Knights
 Birmingham Brewers @ Croydon Blue Jays
 Waltham Fst Angels @ Enfield Spartans
 Essex Eagles @ London Warriors

Rookie Division

London Stm @ Tonbridge B

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LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1993

Sun 25th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	W 7-0
Sun 2nd May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 13-1
Sun 9th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	
Sun 16th May	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 23rd May	away to Birmingham Brewers	
Sun 30th May	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS	
Sun 6th June	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	
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 Brewers	
Sun 1st August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	
Sun 8th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	
Sun 15th August	away to Croydon Blue Jays	
Sun 22nd August	HOME TO BIRMINGHAM BREWERS	
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 25th September	Championship Playoff Game 1	
Sun 26th September	Championship Playoff Games 2 & 3	

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

A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF BASEBALL— 3

We have covered pitching and batting in previous issues, so now it is the fielders' turn. Whenever a fielder finds himself with a ball, he has to decide what to do with it. If he is in doubt he must listen for advice. But if his advisers—coaches, colleagues, fans, manager—are all saying different things, he must make up his own mind, after all. It's easy, really, because there is only one thing to do—tag a runner out. But the snag is that there are two ways of doing it—either tag the runner or tag a base. It is far easier to tag a base than a runner, because the base is there, lying doggo, just waiting to be tagged, whereas a runner is a moving object, and a certain timing is necessary to make a tag at a given point, precisely when the runner happens to be there. So why not always tag a bag, and save a lot of time and trouble? That is a question to which many fielders never find the answer. It all depends on whether a runner is forced. But how does a fielder know when a runner is forced? The runner himself doesn't often know, so there is little point in the fielder asking him, however politely the question may be phrased. If all this seems to be an insurmountable difficulty, the fielder is sometimes faced with one that causes absolute despair—when there are two or more runners at large at the same time. We leave you to consider this dilemma.

Next time the subject will be base stealing, and we shall touch on both its practical and moral aspects.