

# LINEDRIVE!



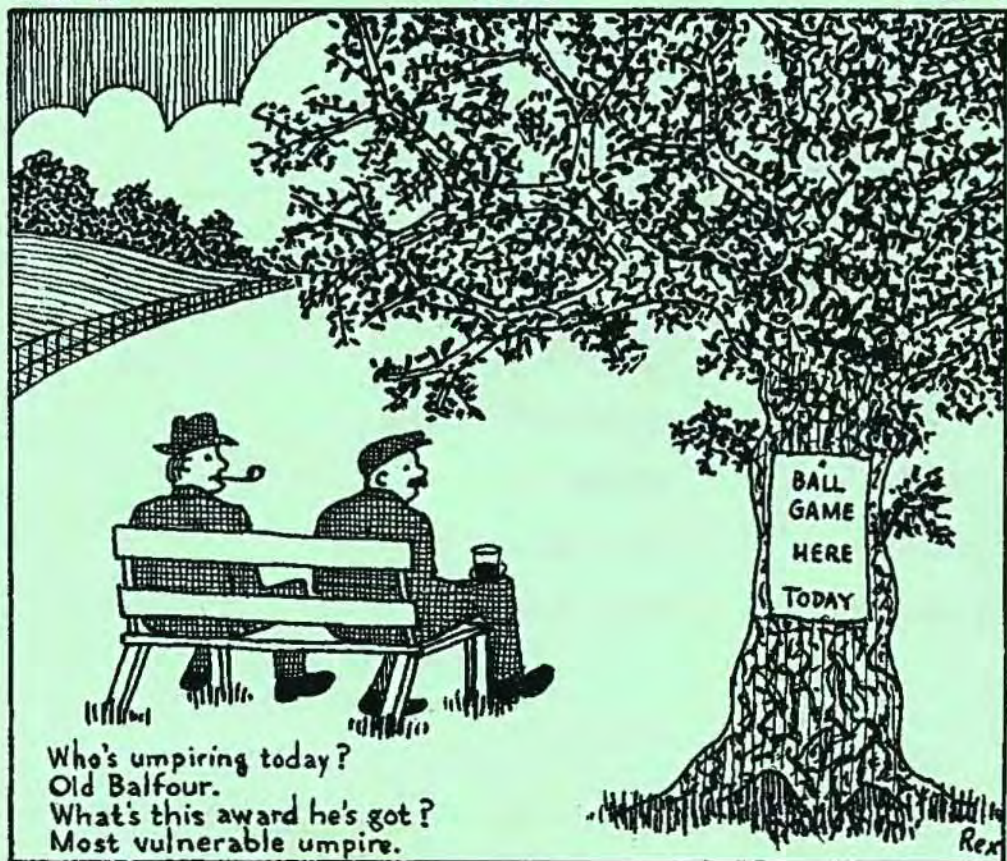
BASEBALL

IN BRITAIN

Vol. II

1993

No. 4



Who's umpiring today?  
Old Balfour.  
What's this award he's got?  
Most vulnerable umpire.

Rex



## A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF BASEBALL— 5

*In baseball you don't know nothin'*—Yogi Berra. Cassell's dictionary defines rapport as sympathetic relationship, agreement, harmony. So you see that when we talk of the rapport between player and umpire the word is well chosen. A casual spectator might feel that the game the players are playing has little to do with the game the umpires are umpiring, but experience will show the current of goodwill and understanding that runs through the proceedings. Players and umpires are always more than willing to correct one another's misapprehensions, and to give valuable advice as to how to develop their respective skills. If anything, the umpire's role is the more testing, because extreme tact is required to avoid offending one side while pleasing the other, whereas the player has only the umpire to please, and the other side can go to blazes. We should like to relate two events that took place recently in Britain, examples of the umpire's kindly consideration for the players. In the first case, a player threw a ball, which he didn't like, into the middle of a nearby wood, whereupon the umpire, immediately sensing the player's remorse, gave him the rest of the afternoon off, so that he, the player, might avoid the possible jibes of fans and opponents. On the second occasion, the umpire called time in order to read the rule book, and while most of the players awaited patiently the sage's judgment, one player joined the umpire in discussing the rules. He was given the afternoon off in order to further his studies.

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	17
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Vincente Martinez	Pitcher	16
Steve Marzo	Rightfield	13
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield/Centrefield	18
Alan Smith	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 4

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

## LINEDRIVE ! AMERICAN STYLE

For a modest publication, *Linedrive !* is much travelled, with copies posted to Japan, Australia, Spain, Sweden and numerous towns and cities in America, particularly Boston and its environs.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a package from one of my correspondants from Rhode Island, an ex Croydon Blue Jay returned to his home. It appears that due to a big response to advertisements for players, the Rhode Island Senior League decided to expand from 10 to 12 teams, and so the Cranston Knights were formed. As they were unable to gain direct sponsorship for the team, my friend, Dave Slater, has decided to produce the Rhode Island Senior League 'Baseball Weekly', inspired, so he says, by *Linedrive !*

Having access through his work to some very hi-tech computer equipment, the resulting publication can carry illustrations, and more importantly from the revenue point of view, advertising, and it is through that, that the Cranston Knights gain indirect sponsorship. Sadly the Knights are suffering the fate reserved for most expansion sides, and are currently 0-3, but if the baseball matches the professionalism of the publication, they'll soon turn that around.

### ANYBODY HOME ?

Apologies to any *Linedrive !* regulars expecting to see London Warriors at home to Croydon Blue Jays on May 30th. Blue Jays diamond share with Croydon Pirates, the Pirates having first call in its use, and so to make life easier, a fixture swap was negotiated with the Warriors, changing the May fixture to Warriors away, and the August 15th fixture to Warriors home. Sadly this all took place after *Linedrive ! 3* was issued, and undoubtedly left many of you staring in bewilderment at an empty diamond. Hopefully this didn't put you to a great deal of inconvenience, and that the knowledge that Blue Jays @ Warriors is now scheduled for August 15th, will now act as some kind of consolation.

EDITORIAL EGO TRIP

Surprised and delighted is the only way to phrase it. Whilst drifting aimlessly through my nine-to-five employ, I was astonished to receive a call from an officer of the BBF (British Baseball Federation), who had encountered the BBF version of *Linedrive* !, and on the strength of my willingness to produce a magazine on the game, asked me if I would be interested in the current vacancy for a press officer for the BBF.

Purely from a fans point of view, a highly interesting proposition, especially as it offered the opportunity to have a foot in both camps (NLB & BBF). However, I also had immediate visions of me becoming the rope in a tug-of-war, should the relations between these two parties sour. Not only would I be the rope, but one of my main functions would be to shout 'pull' to both teams in this contest, so I declined. Still, nice to feel wanted, isn't it ?

REPORTS & SCORESNational League Senior Division

Sunday 23rd May

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
<u>London Warriors</u>	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	1	3	12	11
<u>Birmingham Brewers</u>	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	7	4

Ouch ! A definite Warrior wobble at the start of this game, with London starter, Alan Smith, off the mound after 2.333 innings, pondering just why, on this day, it wasn't coming together.

A Cody Cain 2 run homer in the third made things a little more respectable, but RBI's for Brewers' Underwood and Shears kept Birmingham 2 ahead. Then in inning four the Brewers pitcher, Martin Dutton, lost control, with both Harry Atwood and Cody Cain scoring on passed balls.

Top of the fifth saw Warriors second two run homer of the day, sweetly struck by Alan Bloomfield, and with Dutton's composure regained, and Cody Cain pitching strongly for Warriors, the scoring



settled until the top of the ninth, when Brad Thompson, Dean Ward and Alan Bloomfield hit the final three London runs.

Definitely a day for London to display their versatility, with four players each playing three different positions, and only Dean Ward playing the one position (3B) for the entire game.

National League Senior Division

Sunday 30th May

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R
London Warriors	1	3	1	0	3	1	0	4	11
Croydon Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3

The Blue Jays play on the site of the old Croydon Airport, and it is a sight that still retains a fairly open character. As the wind blasted its way across the diamond, those Warrior players not engaged on the field took to sheltering close to their travelling support, who in their little cluster of chairs, acted as a small windbreak.

Still, despite the conditions, it was nice to see Vincente Martinez start a game, pitching well in his four inning spell. Highlight of this part of the game came in the bottom of the third, Vince throwing a delightful pick off to first, the runner too surprised to react in time.

Not really a day for big hits, the prevailing wind curling them foul, or lifting them to become outfield fly balls, so most scoring was done by linedrives low through the infield, with Cody Cain, Julian Dodwell, Alan Smith and Darrin Ward faring best.

Croydon staged a mini revival in the sixth, only for Kevin D'Armour to hit into a double play, nicely turned from second base by Harry Atwood to Alan Smith (first base). However, a Julian Dodwell fly ball to centrefield in the eighth was enough to see Harry Atwood home, and with no reply coming from Blue Jays, the slaughter rule was invoked.

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

Wk 5 23/5/93

Senior Division London Warriors 12 Birmingham Brewers 6, Cambridge Knights 5 Essex Eagles 4, Croydon Blue Jays 7 Enfield Spartans 6, Bury Saints 11, Waltham Forest Angels 3.

Rookie Division London Stormers 18, Tonbridge Bobcats 2 (7 innings)

Wk 6 30/5/93

Senior Division London Warriors 13 Croydon Blue Jays 3, Enfield Spartans 13 Cambridge Knights 5, Essex Eagles 24 Waltham Forest Angels 9. Birmingham Brewers @ Bury Saints - postponed.

Rookie Division London Stormers 26 Basildon Mariners 14, Cambridge Monarchs @ Tonbridge Bobcats - result unknown.

STANDINGS

Senior Division

	W	L	Pcent	GB
London Warriors	6	0	1.000	
Enfield Spartans	4	1	.800	1½
Essex Eagles	3	2	.600	2½
Cambridge Knights	3	3	.500	3
Croydon Blue Jays	3	3	.500	3
Bury Saints	2	3	.400	3½
Birmingham Brewers	0	4	.000	5
Waltham Fst Angels	0	5	.000	5½

Rookie Division

	W	L	Pcent	GB
London Stormers	4	0	1.000	
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	2	.333	2½
Cambridge Monarchs	0	2	.000	3
Basildon Mariners	0	1	.000	3½
Lakenheath High - replace Bury				

NATIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES

6/6/93

Senior Division

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

Rookie Division

Cambridge @ Basildon  
 Tonbridge @ Lakenheath

Senior Division

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

Rookie Division 13/6/93

Cambridge @ London  
 Lakenheath @ Tonbridge

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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	W 8-1
Sun 16th May	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 6-0
Sun 23rd May	away to Birmingham Brewers	W 12-6
Sun 30th May	away to Croydon Blue Jays	W 13-3
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	HOME 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.*