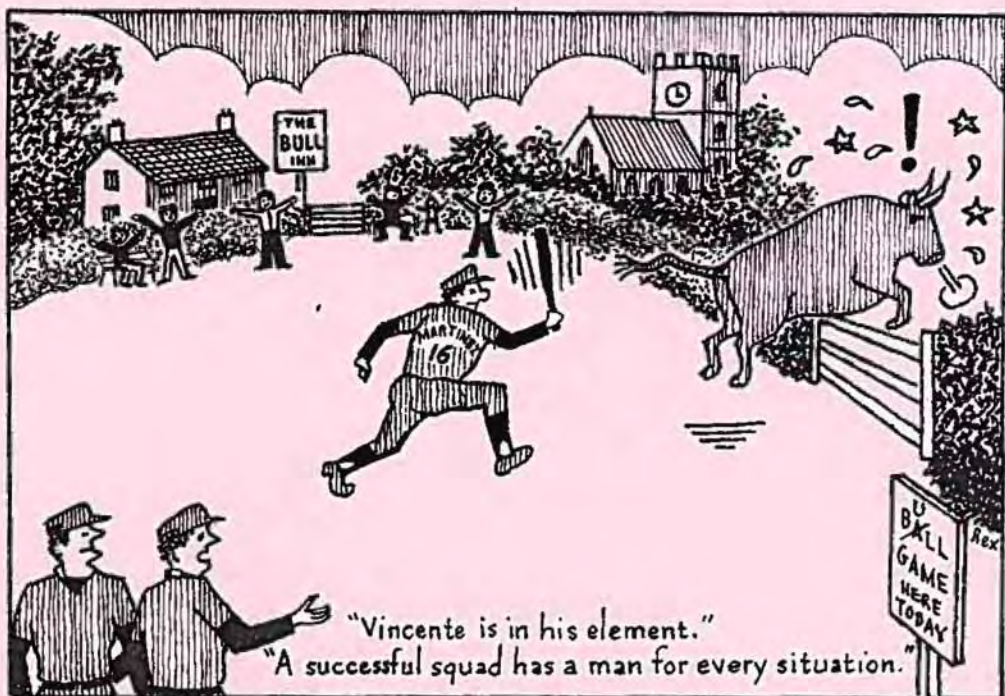


LINEDRIVE!

Volume III No.1

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



NUMBER ONE QUIZ

These five clubs retired their Number 1:

Dodgers — Red Sox — Reds — Pirates — Yankees

Can you name the five players concerned?

AN EASY ONE
TO GET YOU
STARTED

—
IN THE
NATURE OF
SPRING
TRAINING

LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1994

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Rupert Armitage	Rightfield	13
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Cody Cain	Pitcher/First Base	19
Steve Demain	Rightfield	16
Julian Dodwell	Centrefield	17
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Richard Kemp	Leftfield	7
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield/Centrefield	18
Carlos Rodriguez	Centrefield	19
Alan Smith	Pitcher/First Base	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield/Leftfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

SUBSCRIBE TO LINEDRIVE !

If you would like to receive *Linedrive !* on a regular basis, then send a cheque payable to P Ross for £1.25 per issue, (inc P & P), or £10 for 10 issues, to *Linedrive !*, Flat 2 'Thanescroft', Selborne Road, Croydon CR0 5JQ. Tel 081 686 7727.

Alternatively, follow the LONDON WARRIORS through the season and get your *Linedrive !* FREE !!!

LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 1

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

HOLA !

Welcome to another season of National League Baseball, and as ever, the *Linedrive !* team of Phil Ross (editor), and Rex Phillips (artwork and research), are ready with a new season of fortnightly publications.

With the departure of Anglo American Sports, and with it Transatlantic Baseball News, we are actively campaigning to increase the circulation and editorial content of *Linedrive !*, offering a subscription service, and hoping to include news not only from National League, BBF and Baseball Southwest, but also a quick glimpse at the Major Leagues as well.

If you have any baseball news, reports or just general comments on the game, then please contact us at the address on the inside front cover. Now onto the real matter in hand, and baseball reports, starting with the London Warriors visit to Spain at Easter.

THE SPANISH INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Teams :- London Warriors - Champions of England
 Murciana All Stars - Best players from Murcia
 Murcia Black Stars - Champions of Murciana
 Seville Scorpions - Champions of Andalucia

With the German participants, Mannheim, dropping out of the tournament, the Spanish organisers had to quickly arrange for a replacement, and after negotiations with a prospective French entrant came to nothing, a local regional All Star Team was formed to complete the foursome.

After flying out to Alicante on the Thursday, the Warriors were thrown straight into the thick of things on Good Friday, 1st April, with two games. For the Spaniards, it was the close of the season, for the Warriors, it was the first competitive game for many months.

Troubled by existing injuries, and pitcher Cody Cain being made unavailable for the tour at the last moment, Warriors rather unsteadily creaked through a 20-16 defeat at the hands of the All Stars. The unusually high score and error tally (eight), being all the more remarkable, as it was a seven inning game.

The next game in the competition saw the two local sides, the All Stars, and the Murcia Black Stars, battling it out, and there was certainly no love lost between these two ! Any umpiring call that could be construed in any way as close was bitterly contested by both sides, and one incident, where a batted ball struck an umpire before leaving the field of play, resulted in a twenty minute halt in play whilst both competing sides, and the watching Seville Scorpions and London Warriors, became embroiled in a mass consultation of rule books, both English and Spanish text. This only proved to spur the All Stars on, turning a 10-4 deficit into 24-10 victory over the next three innings.

Warriors then returned to the field for their second game of the day, and with a much more polished performance, saw off the Seville Scorpions 16-4. David Omholt, pitching his first competitive game in something over 6 years, putting up a fiery display.

Day Two provided Warriors with one early afternoon outing to complete the round-robin stage, and so they took advantage of the later start to take a rest and a leisurely breakfast.

Upon arrival at the diamond, Warriors found that the All Stars had batted in another 20 runs, making a total of 64 in 22 innings, to defeat the Seville Scorpions 20-11.

Despite much of the team suffering from some ailment or other, such as flu, muscle pulls, blisters, or stomach upsets, the Warriors put in a strong performance, with Harry Atwood's determined pitching limiting the Murcia Black Stars to just 5 runs in a 21-5 London victory, thus ensuring Warriors place in the final.

Highlight of the tour saw David Omholt thumping in a grand slam homer, to the noisy delight of the team and their travelling entourage.

The second day closed with Murcia Black Stars and Seville Scorpions, both on two defeats each, playing a dress rehearsal for the next day's third place play off, with Black Stars winning both games 9-8 and 18-7 respectively.

With four games in just three days, and the generous hospitality of the Spaniards keeping much of the team out until the early hours of every morning, it was a rather weary, but nonetheless determined Warriors that took to the field on Easter Sunday for the final.

With only ten players kitted out, and one a rookie in an 'emergency' capacity, the Warriors were feeling the pace. However, they made the Murciana All Stars battle every inch of the way, and it was at 15-15, one out, bottom of the ninth, that the All Stars cracked a two-run homer to take the game, and the championship.

Despite illness, fatigue and playing with a limited squad, the Warriors put on a very committed and gutsy display, which must surely have won friends and admirers in Murcia.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Championship Final 1993

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

For the third year running the National League Championship was contested by the Enfield Spartans and the London Warriors, and for the second season running, it was the Warriors who clinched the title in a nailbiting contest.

London opener Cody Cain kept Spartans off the scoresheet for his six inning spell, and left the mound one run ahead, thanks to his own solo homer smacked firmly into leftfield.

Reliever Justin Brown then gave Warrior fans the jitters by loading up the bases in the seventh, a Gary Bedingfield bunt bringing Ian Lanario in for the tying run.

However, for the second time that day Cody Cain got a run scoring hit off Enfield's Rob Nelson, his single scoring Alan Bloomfield and restoring the Warrior lead.

There then followed another inning and a half of very tense, quality baseball, the third out in the top of the ninth greeted by rapturous shouts from the Warriors supporters.

Having pitched six scoreless innings and batted both London's scoring hits, Cody Cain deservedly collected his Championship MVP award, and the Warriors, who lost just twice all season, retained the National League title.

Season '94

With both Birmingham Brewers and Cambridge Knights opting to join the BBF this season (Birmingham will play as the Braves in National Premier League North, Cambridge will play as the Monarchs in Southern Division One), and Basildon Mariners opting to play friendlies only this season the National League has opted for a different constitution this year.

Initially all nine National League teams will play each other once. At the end of this nine week spell the league will split into two divisions, with the top five in the first, and the bottom four in the second.

The teams in each division will then play their divisional opponents twice more to complete the season, with no inter-divisional play. The top two teams from each division will then play off for their respective divisional championships.

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATIONNational Premier League North

Having lost both Scottish participants part way through last seasons campaign, Premier League North returns to it's six team constitution by adding the Birmingham Braves (ex MLB Brewers), and promoting Liverpool Trojans from Division One North. For Humberside Mets, Humberside Warriors, Leeds City Royals and Nottingham Hornets, it's the same as last season.

National Premier League South

The successful Milton Keynes Truckers have vanished from Premier League South this season and are now playing in Division Three South, and are replaced by the Bristol Black Sox, promoted from Division One West. Bedford Chicksands Indians, Brighton Buccaneers, Crawley Comets, Essex Arrows and Hounslow Rangers complete the division.

Division One North

With Liverpool Trojans promoted and Sheffield Bladerunners relegated to Division Two North, the reformed Nottingham Pirates and the newly created Tamworth Strykers replace them. Hulls Giants, Mets and Royals are joined by Barnsley Strikers, Menwith Hill Pirates and Liverpool Tigers for a second season in this division.

Division Two North

Stretford A's disappear without trace, and as well as the relegated Sheffield Bladerunners, last years four other Division Two teams, Cumbria Lakers, Durham Demons, Leeds City Royals II and Preston Bobcats, are joined by five new teams. They are the Birmingham Dodgers, Cleveland Indians, Hessele Astros, Newark Giants and Sibley Vikings.

Division One Scotland

No change from last season. A seven team division consisting of Clyde Valley Knights, Dalriada Diamonds, Dundee Dodgers, Edinburgh Reivers, Glasgow Comets, Tayside Cobras and the West Lothian Wildcats.

Division One South

Are you ready for this ? Last season this division was split into two sub-divisions, East & West. This season, East & West has become North and South. Division One South (North) ? Oh well !

Of the 11 teams competing in the two subsections last season the following 10 teams remain in the division :- Arun Panthers, Bournemouth Bees, City Slick Sidewinders, Croydon Pirates, Gillingham Dodgers, Gloster Meteors, Hemel Red Sox, Stevenage Knights, Totteridge Trailblazers and the Tunbridge Wells Royals.

The four new teams are the Cambridge Monarchs (ex NLB Cambridge Knights), the newly created Droitwich Spa Tans, and the Hounslow Hawks and Reading Royals who were promoted from last seasons Division Two South (East).

Division Two South

Following the mass defection of the Division Two South (West) teams to form the breakaway Baseball South West, Division Two has dropped it's East regionalisation tag.

From last season's eight teams, Caterham Athletics, Guildford Mavericks and Lashing Sluggers remain unchanged. Chichester Titans have reformed as the Chichester Kyotes. Bracknell Blazers, London Wolves and Tiptree Hotsports Rays are all promoted from Division Three. Hounslow Sentinels have vanished from Division Three altogether, but the Hounslow Falcons have surfaced in Division Two.

Waltham Abbey Cardinals were relegated to Division Three, whilst Burgess Hill Red Hats, having lost key personnel to local rivals the Brighton Buccaneers, opted for Division Three ball this season whilst they rebuilt their team.

Division Three South

Of the seven teams that finished last season, only two remain. Brighton Buccaneers B and the Fulham Flames. Milton Keynes Truckers must be looking at a completely new squad after dropping out of the Premier Division and down to the third. Burgess Hill Red Hats are certainly looking to rebuild, having chosen to drop from Division Two. Waltham Abbey Cardinals were relegated from Division Two, and the division is completed by five new teams. Cambridge Fellows, Eastbourne Aces, Gloster Meteors B, Guildford Mudcats and Norwich Wanderers.

Sadly, the Tunbridge Wells Wanderers have vanished from the scene.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

This season sees the creation of a Central Division in both the American and National Leagues, and *Linedrive !* cordially invites all pundits to name their prospective divisional and World Series nominations for this season. As *Linedrive !* is non-profit making, there will be no prizes, only that smug 'I told you so feeling' for the winner ! You've had a few weeks to see how they've started, and you have until the end of May to send in your entries.

As the season progresses, we'll keep you informed on who's tips for the top are doing the best. To help you out, we give you the new divisional constitutions. Go on, be bold, drop us a line !

American League

Central :- Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, Kansas City Royals, Milwaukee Brewers & Minnesota Twins

East :- Baltimore Orioles, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees & Toronto Blue Jays.

West :- California Angels, Oakland Athletics, Seattle Mariners & Texas Rangers.

National League

Central :- Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Houston Astros, Pittsburgh Pirates & St Louis Cardinals

East :- Atlanta Braves, Florida Marlins, Montreal Expos, New York Mets & Philadelphia Phillies

West :- Colorado Rockies, Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego Padres & San Francisco Giants

Editors Tips

AL Central - Cleveland Indians. AL East - Toronto Blue Jays. AL West - Seattle Mariners. NL Central - Houston Astros. NL East - Atlanta Braves. NL West - San Francisco Giants. Wild Cards - Chicago White Sox and Montreal Expos. World Series - Atlanta (at last !)

NATIONAL LEAGUE LAST WEEK

24/4/94

Enfield Spartans @ Bromley Blue Jays (at Enfield !)
Essex Eagles @ Lakenheath Yankees
Tonbridge Bobcats @ Waltham Forest Angels

TODAY

1/5/94

Essex Eagles @ Tonbridge Bobcats
London Warriors @ Enfield Spartans
Waltham Forest Angels @ Bromley Blue Jays

STOP PRESS

Following the withdrawal of the London Stormers, National League now consists of eight teams. It is likely, therefore, that the proposed division of the league from the end of June will not occur. As soon as we are notified of a revised league schedule, we will publish same.

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

Sun 24th April	away to Alconbury
Sun 1st May	away to Enfield Spartans
Sun 8th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS
Sun 15th May	away to Essex Eagles
Sun 22nd May	HOME TO LONDON STORMERS
Sun 29th May	away to Waltham Forest Angels
Sun 5th June	HOME TO BROMLEY BLUE JAYS
Sun 12th June	away to Lakenheath Yankees
Sun 19th June	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS
Sun 26th June	Rain date & division splits top 5/bottom 5
Sun 3rd July	HOME
Sun 10th July	away
Sun 17th July	HOME
Sun 24th July	
Sun 31st July	away
Sun 7th August	
Sun 14th August	HOME
Sun 21st August	HOME
Sun 28th August	away
Sun 4th September	away
Sun 11th September	

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Sat 18th September	
Sun 25th September	

READERS should note of this back page editorial. It is easy when the editor is here is an independent Spanish campaign.



that the contents are not necessarily to slip something in not looking. For instance, a report on the recent It is not generally known

that the object of the allied Warriors' invasion was to restore a Philip to Spain. And it is an even more closely guarded secret that the pretender was to be introduced in the guise of a baseball player. Whether or not this subterfuge to turn back the pages of history was seen through by the Spaniards, determined resistance was to be expected from the indefatigable Vincente Martinez, as long as his recent gallant exploits on this side of the Channel did not affect him with divided loyalty. In any case, we should be very surprised not to hear that his armada new lease of life.

LAST SEASON'S NUMBER ELEVEN QUIZ—THE ANSWERS

CY YOUNG	won 2 complete games in one day in	1890
NAP LAJOIE	hit 3 triples in one game in	1904
WALTER JOHNSON	struck out 4 in one inning in	1911
EDDIE COLLINS	stole 2nd 3rd and home in one game in	1912
TRIS SPEAKER	walked 5 times in one game in	1912
TY COBB	stole 2nd 3rd and home in one game in	1917
HONUS WAGNER	walked twice in one inning in	1917
GROVER ALEXANDER	won 2 complete games in one day in	1917
CONNIE MACK	his team hit 7 home runs in one game in	1921
GEORGE SISLER	scored 5 runs in one game in	1922
BABE RUTH	was struck out twice in one inning in	1934

They were the eleven inductees present at the dedication of the Hall of Fame in 1939