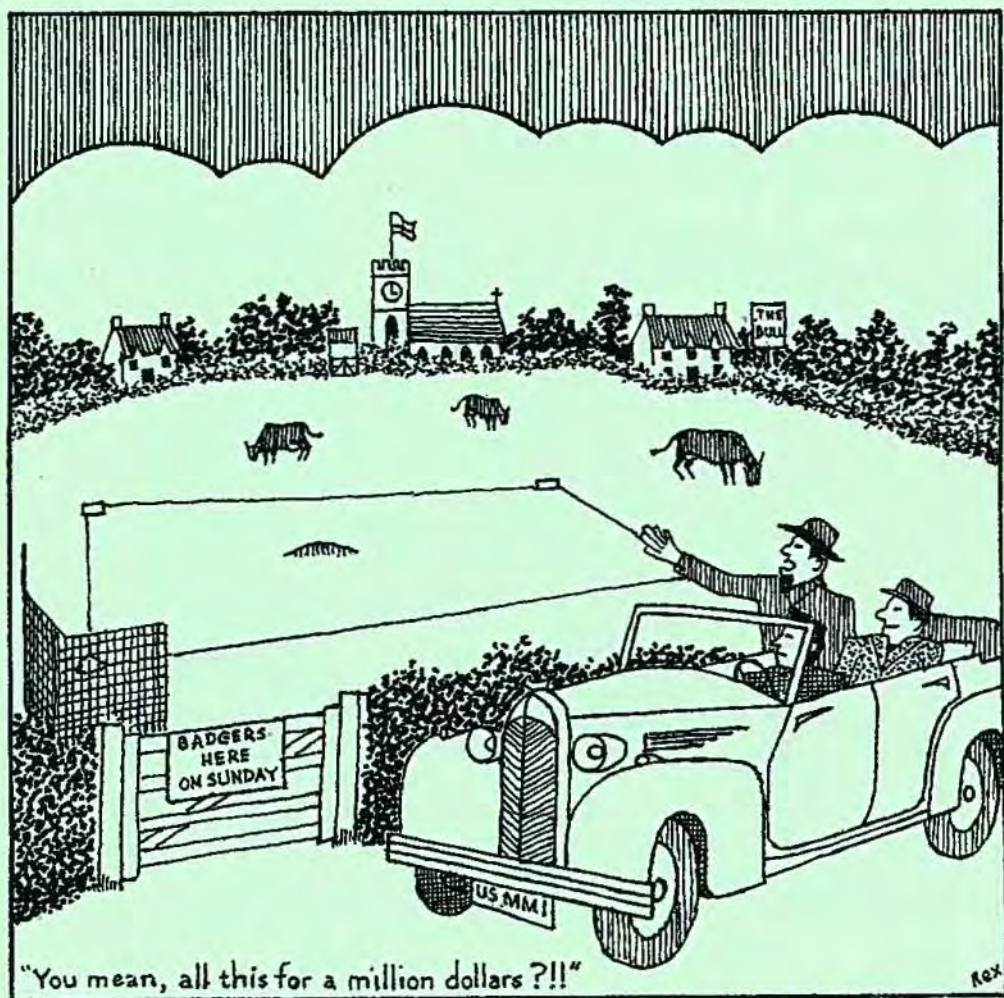


LINEDRIVE!

Volume III No. 3

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1994

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Rupert Armitage	Leftfield/Rightfield	20
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Cody Cain	Pitcher/First Base	19
Kevin Coldiron	Second Base/Pitcher	13
Steve Dumain	Rightfield	2
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Tom Juhase	Centrefield/Rightfield	16
Richard Kemp	Leftfield/Centrefield	17
Kevin Murphy	Leftfield/Centrefield	18
Carlos Rodriguez	Centrefield/Rightfield	15
Alan Smith	Pitcher/First Base	8
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

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

METROPOLIS

An excuse to get Fritz Lang's 1927 movie into *Linedrive* ! ? No, not quite, although this seminal movie did have as part of its story structure, the trials and tribulations befalling a struggling and overlooked under-class, whilst a favoured few lived in an 'eternal garden', wholly unaware of the plight of their neighbours.

So, where is Metropolis ? The answer is London. Who are the privileged few in the 'eternal garden' of media exposure ? The answer is professional soccer, the county cricket teams, and the Courage League rugby teams. Who are the struggling and forgotten underclass ? Well it's people like us. Baseball fans.

Trying to raise the public profile of the sport in Greater London is a business fraught with disappointments. To be told by local papers that they 'might' consider scores for the entire league if they can be faxed to them by 4.30 a.m on monday morning, does come as a bit of a shock, and to then find that that is the best offer you're going to get from anyone, can be very deflating.

The frustration is doubly compounded, as any attempt to interest home counties media of teams playing just inside the Greater London border is met with the response that the Greater London equivalent covers that area, not them.

This is particularly sad when London is such a cosmopolitan city, attracting large numbers of both American and Japanese workers, students and holidaymakers, who no doubt would be thrilled to know that baseball is played here, and that sadness is compounded by the fact that Greater London and its immediate environs plays host to so many of our current baseball teams.

As the papers and radio diversify to cover sports like trampolining, lacrosse, orienteering, polo and clay pigeon shooting, it does seem a trifle odd that baseball seems to hit a publicity brick wall in the capital. All we can do is keep plugging away.

 REPORTS & SCORES

NATIONAL LEAGUE

8th May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Eury Saints	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0
London Warriors	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5

WP John Nevelle (1-0)
LP Alan Smith (0-1)

A very enjoyable pitchers duel for the first National League game of the season at Barn Elms Park. Both Nevelle and Smith went the distance, with Nevelle collecting 14 K's to Alan Smiths 11 K's.

Smith was firmly on the strike zone, with only 1 HBP to mar a game without walks. Nevelle, who opened with some fearsome speed, began to falter slightly around innings 6 & 7, but only offered 4 walks on the day.

Warriors opened brightly with both lead off batters, Harry Atwood and Alan Bloomfield, getting on base, with Atwood batted in by Cody Cain.

Hopes of Warriors extending their lead were extinguished in the fourth inning. Kevin Murphy (lf) singled to left, and next batter, Alan Smith, tried to place a shot just behind the advancing John Nevelle. However, the Saints pitcher spun around, scooped the ball up to Johnson (2b) who relayed to Hawk (1b) for the double play.

Warriors replied with a DP of their own in the sixth. Durnell (lf), hit the only triple of the day, and John Nevelle then attempted a sac-fly to centrefield. Rich Kemp took the expected catch, but a huge throw straight to Alan Bloomfield at home, doubled out Durnell, and preserved Warriors slender lead.

Saints finally broke the shut-out in the eighth, starting with Isaakson (ss) hit to leftfield, which came as close as it can be to a home run, hitting the top of the boundary fence and landing just inside the park for a double. Rick Hefner (c) then singled to centre to tie the game, and he was in turn batted home by a Howard Braband (cf) single to left.

Despite getting both Alan Bloomfield (c) and Cody Cain (1b) on second in the eighth and ninth respectively, Warriors could not break the Saints defence, and having been unbeaten at Barn Elms all season '93, Warriors lost their 1994 home opener.

15th May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	
London Warriors	4	1	0	2	4	2	6	1	19
Essex Eagles	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	11

WF Cody Cain (1-1)
LP Dave Reed (0-2)

Warriors have started the season displaying some uncharacteristic traits. However they behaved in much more characteristic fashion on their visit to Witham, with a middle inning run surge that included a two run homer for Kevin Coldiron, a grand slam homer for Cody Cain (a baseball first for Cody), followed immediately by a solo homer for Oliver Heidecker.

Cody Cain pitched the first five, striking out four in the fourth inning (another first for Cody). Sadly the dropped third strike was poorly dealt with, an overthrow yielding the unearned run. Cody finished his spell with 10K's. Kevin Coldiron took over for innings six and seven, pitching to just seven batters for the game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 4

15/5/94

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Enfield Spartans	4	0	1,000	--
Waltham Fst Angels	4	0	1,000	--
Bury Saints	2	1	,667	1½
Essex Eagles	1	2	,333	2½
London Warriors	1	2	,333	2½
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	2	,333	2½
Bromley Blue Jays	0	3	,000	3½
Lakenheath Yankees	0	3	,000	3½

The above table includes the following forfeits, which may be re-scheduled and removed from the standings if re-played :- Enfield Spartans 9, Bury Saints 0. Waltham Forest Angels 9, Bromley Blue Jays 0. Bury Saints 9, Bromley Blue Jays 0.

SCHEDULES

22/5/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ Tonbridge Bobcats
 Enfield Spartans @ Waltham Forest Angels (at Enfield's diamond)
 Lakenheath Yankees @ Bury Saints

29/5/94

Bury Saints @ Essex Eagles
 London Warriors @ Waltham Forest Angels

An interesting couple of weeks ahead as the two unbeaten sides, Spartans and Angels, do battle on the 22nd May. No doubt there will be a few 'scouts' out from the London Warriors, reigning National League Champions, who face the Angels the very next week.

Also, there is the Kent derby between the Bromley Blue Jays and Tonbridge Bobcats, with at present, just one game between the two sides in the standings.

As the visit of the Enfield Spartans to the Bromley Blue Jays was brought forward to the opening day of the season, there are only two National League games scheduled for the 29th, but it could be worthwhile contacting your local teams to see if they have re-arranged a fixture.

BDF STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 6

15/5/94

National Premier League South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Bedford C Indians	5	1	.833	--
Hounslow Rangers	3	2	.600	1K
Crawley Comets	4	3	.571	1K
Essex Arrows	4	3	.571	1K
Brighton Buccaneers	3	4	.429	2K
Bristol Black Sox	0	6	.000	5

Southern Division One North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Hemel Red Sox	3	0	1.000	--
Cambridge Monarchs	2	1	.667	1
Gloster Meteors	2	1	.667	1
Totteridge T'bizrs	2	1	.667	1
Droitwich Spa Tans	1	2	.333	2
City Slick	1	3	.250	2K
Reading Royals	0	3	.000	3

Southern Division One South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Arun Panthers	2	0	1,000	--
Croydon Pirates	2	1	,667	½
Gillingham Dodgers	2	1	,667	½
Tunbridge W Royals	2	1	,667	½
Hounslow Hawks	2	2	,500	1
Bournemouth Bees	1	2	,333	1½
Stevenage Knights	0	4	,000	3

Southern Division Two

	W	L	Pcent	GB
London Wolves	4	0	1,000	--
Lashing Sluggers	3	0	1,000	½
Caterham Athletics	2	1	,667	1½
Tiptree Hotsports	2	1	,667	1½
Guildford Mavericks	2	2	,500	2
Bracknell Blazers	0	3	,000	3½
Chichester Kyotes	0	3	,000	3½
Hounslow Falcons	0	3	,000	3½

A season of woe continues for the Bristol Black Sox after losing a number of personnel, including a quality starting pitcher, to the Norton Braves of Baseball South West, the Sox prop up National Premier League South.

Bedford Chicksands Indians only defeat comes off splitting a double-header with second placed Hounslow Rangers. Black Sox entertain Indians this Sunday (May 22).

Both Division One's unbeaten sides, Hemel Red Sox and Arun Panthers, should be looking to extend their unbeaten run one further week, with the Red Sox visiting City Slick, and the Panthers away at the winless Stevenage Knights. Hemel then entertain Bournemouth Bees, whilst Arun face the sterner challenge of the Gillingham Dodgers.

In Division Two, London Wolves are scheduled to visit Lashing Sluggers for an exciting top of the table clash, and whoever loses will have to look closely at Caterham Athletics and Tiptree Hotsports Rays, who play against each other at Caterham's Fox Field on the same day (22/5)

Chichester Kyotes and Hounslow Falcons have a double-header, and Falcons must be hoping to take both games, as the next week they host the currently all conquering London Wolves.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

9/5/94

American League East

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
New York Yankees	20	10	,667	--	7-3
Baltimore Orioles	19	10	,655	½	7-3
Boston Red Sox	20	11	,645	½	6-4
Toronto Blue Jays	17	15	,531	4	4-6
Detroit Tigers	12	16	,429	7	6-4

American League Central

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
Chicago White Sox	16	14	,533	--	4-6
Milwaukee Brewers	16	14	,533	--	5-5
Kansas City Royals	15	14	,517	½	6-4
Cleveland Indians	14	14	,500	1	3-7
Minnesota Twins	14	18	,438	3	6-4

American League West

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	13	16	,448	--	5-5
Seattle Mariners	13	17	,433	½	5-5
California Angels	13	20	,394	2	4-6
Oakland Athletics	9	22	,290	5	2-8

National League West

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
San Francisco Giants	17	15	,531	--	6-4
Los Angeles Dodgers	15	17	,469	2	5-5
Colorado Rockies	13	16	,448	2½	4-6
San Diego Padres	10	21	,323	6½	3-7

National League East

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
Atlanta Braves	19	11	,633	--	5-5
Montreal Expos	17	14	,548	2½	6-4
New York Mets	17	14	,548	2½	6-4
Florida Marlins	17	15	,531	3	6-4
Philadelphia Phil's	12	19	,387	7½	4-6

National League Central

	Wn	Lt	Pct	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	20	11	,645	--	5-5
Pittsburgh Pirates	15	13	,552	3	6-4
Houston Astros	17	14	,548	3	6-4
St Louis Cardinals	15	14	,517	4	3-7
Chicago Cubs	9	20	,310	10	4-6

The American League seems to be the most competitive with all three divisions having the top half of the table covered by just ½ a game, although Texas Rangers record in AL West would put them bottom if they were playing in the other two divisions.

Although it's very early to be talking about definite leaders, at least the National League division toppers have a minimum two game cushion over their competitors, with no more than a game covering all their pursuers bar the Phillies, Cubs and Padres.

The Yankees and Orioles are the two form sides, taking 7 of the last ten games, whilst Oakland are struggling with just two wins from the last ten.

TOP TIPSTERS 1

9/5/94

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Teams(GB)</u>
1)Kevin Murphy Total	Yankees 0, Brewers 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 0. 50
2)Emma Wallace Total	Orioles ½, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Expos 2½, Reds 0, Dodgers 2, 45
3)Alex Malihoudis Total	Red Sox ½, Indians 1, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Cardinals 4, Giants 0, 44½
3)David Miller Total	Blue Jays 4, Indians 1, Mariners ½, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 0, 44½
5)Phil Ross Total	Blue Jays 4, Indians 1, Mariners ½, Braves 0, Astros 3, Giants 0, 41½
6)Bob Lenhardt Total	Blue Jays 4, White Sox 0, Mariners ½, Expos 2½, Astros 3, Dodgers 2, 39
7)Henk Vroonmans Total	Yankees 0, Royals ½, Athletics 5, Phillies 7½, Cardinals 4, Rockies 2½ 30½
8)Steve Matthews Total	Red Sox ½, Twins 3, Angels 2, Marlins 3, Cubs 10, Padres 6½ 25
9)Rex Phillips Total	Tigers 7, Twins 3, Athletics 5, Phillies 7½, Cubs 10, Padres 6½ 11

Full marks to Kevin Murphy of the London Warriors, his six divisional nominations all leading their respective sections. In second place, is our only lady entrant at present. Although from New England and a Red Sox fan, she confessed to preferring the Orioles for the divisional title, feeling that things were still at the rebuilding stage for the BoSox.

Meanwhile, down at number nine, Linedrives ! own Rex Phillips seems to have read too much Roger Angell and Thomas Boswell, and looks to be taking every divisional last place team to turn on the style and race to the top. Still, it is baseball, and it could happen !

Don't forget, you have until 31st May to send in your entries (UK), or the 14th June (overseas). With entrants from Boston (USA), Cincinnati (USA), Malmo (Sweden) and Rosendaal (Holland), its turning into quite a cosmopolitan competition.

BASEBALL GREATS - TRIS SPEAKER

Tristram E Speaker. "The Gray Eagle". Born 4th April 1888, Hubbard Texas. Batted Right. Threw Right. Height 6' 1". Weight 183 lbs. Major League Debut 14th September 1907. Hall of Fame 1937.

No outfielder played shallower than Tris Speaker. This allowed him to force out runners at second base on occasion. No one went back better on balls, either. As good as he was in the field Speaker was even better at the plate. Doubles were his forte; he led the American League eight times.

Eighteen out of nineteen seasons Speaker hit better than .300, the season he didn't, he hit .296, and twice led the American League in slugging percentage.

It was Speaker who hit the tying run in Game 8 of the 1912 World Series, following the infamous Fred Snodgrass muff, although in fairness to Snodgrass, little was made of the fact that Speaker could have been out if his foul pop that preceeded the scoring hit had been caught by either Merkle or Chief Meyers for the Dodgers. Red Sox went on to win the game 3-2 and take the World Series.

1912 was also the season of great pitching, with Walter Johnson (Washington Senators) and Smoky Joe Wood (Red Sox), both winning 16 consecutive games. When Johnson and Wood met in Boston on Friday, August 20th 1912, it was Speaker who scored the only run of the day, batted in after his double by Duffy Lewis.

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

Sun 1st May	away to Enfield Spartans	L 9-10
Sun 8th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	L 1-2
Sun 15th May	away to Essex Eagles	W 19-1
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 & revised schedule starts.	

SHORT SHORT STORY

A COPY of *Linedrive* came into the possession of multi-millionaire owner of the Chattanooga Choo-choos. "Buy a ball club in the Old Country," he said to the general manager. "I always wanted one."

A month later an American convertible stopped by a field gate on which a notice read "Badgers Ball Club." The owner of the Choo-choos stood up and surveyed the rudimentary diamond, the pub, the church, and the cattle grazing.

"You mean all this is mine?" he asked. "All this for a million dollars?"

"All except the pub, the church, and the cattle," responded the general manager.

"Ah well," sighed the owner. "I guess I can make something of it." He then showed the quality that had made a multi-millionaire out of him.

"Buy the cattle," he instructed, "and start a burgerchain."

"O.K. boss," the general manager responded. "But one thing, boss—when I offered a million dollars for the baseball franchise they threw in all the British railroad franchises."

"Gee!" exclaimed the owner. "I guess I always wanted a railroad in the Old Country."
