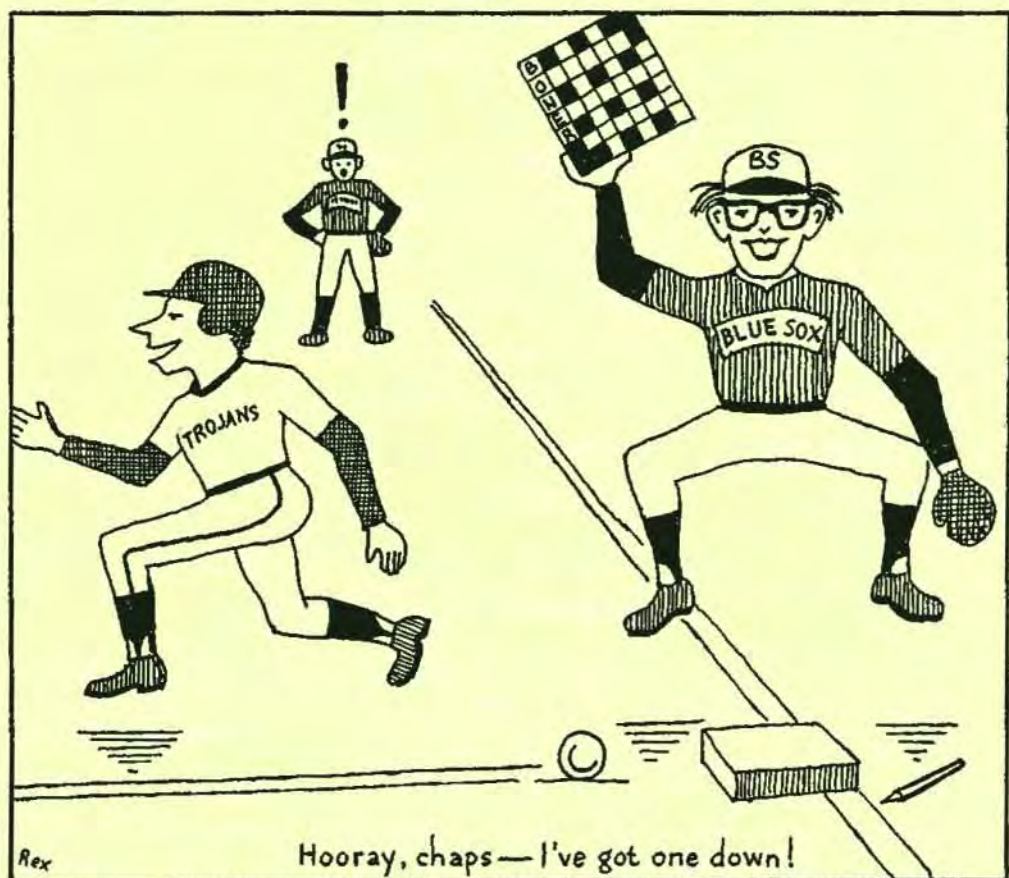


# LINEDRIVE!

Volume III No.4

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



This here's the kind of building where from the outside you can't tell where first base is. — Casey Stengel on the Astrodome.  
We wonder what he would say about Barn Elms Park.

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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# LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 4

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A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

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## IT SIMPLY ISN'T CRICKET !

Dashed unsporting you know, these American wallahs throwing the ball about, what ? I've heard whisper that the game positively rewards sneaking about whilst the bowlers back is turned. I mean it's tricky enough with three chappies to aim at in the wicket thingy without some blighter taking off when you're not looking.

Seriously though, whilst many would consider the gentle click of leather against willow as the serious competition and impediment to baseball's popularity in this country, I am becoming increasingly alarmed at Association Football's attempts to encroach on baseball's main preserves.

A lot of sports writers have intimated that whilst this years World Cup is going to America, soccer itself has only the most tenuous hold in the States, and this is because it does not lend itself to the statistically minded American sports fan.

So, perhaps encouraged by a FIFA directive to broaden the appeal of the game, a number of soccer commentators are beginning to slip in baseball-isms into their descriptives. Goals are no longer 'made' by a player, they are increasingly classified as 'assists', and strikers success rates are being described as '1 for 4', (1 goal scored out of four shots on target).

FIFA must also be delighted by the success of Fantasy Football Leagues, where pundits are now gleefully describing their fictitious teams in terms of offensive rating, defensive rating, goals scored, assists and goals conceded, which are but parallels of hits, errors, runs scored, rbi's and runs conceded.

With soccer happily occupying 10 months of most years, and all year during European Nations and World Cup seasons, baseball could well find its potential audience of statistically minded fans number crunching their way through the stats of Newcastle United, Norwich City or Tottenham Hotspurs, rather than London Warriors, Enfield Spartans and Waltham Forest Angels. I must protest, it simply isn't cricket !

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REPORTS & SCORES
National League

22nd May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R		
Enfield Spartans	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	3	11	LP Fountain
Waltham Forest Angels	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	x	12	WP Dyett

A top of the table tussle with both sides unbeaten (4-0) going into this game. In order to break up the schedule a little, both sides agreed to switch diamond, and so for the second time this season, Enfield batted first on their own ground.

Spartans started brightly, with three of the first four batters hitting singles, including an opening inning RBI for Fountain (p). However, good fielding from Angels prevented further runs being scored, and in the top of the third, a Rob Lanario line drive was plucked out of the air at second base by Noel Omechi, and whipped along to Namorah at first to double off Darren Cobb (lf).

Spartans were no slouches in the field themselves. Bottom of the fourth, with Omechi and Inamura on 1st and 2nd for the Angels, Justin Horner (3b) collected Kamiyama's grounder at third, and fired it across to Bedingfield at first, making Inamura and Kamiyama the double-play victims.

Enfield forged ahead in the fifth, a bases loaded single for Ian Lanario batting in Horner, Cobb and Rob Lanario. Angels replied in their half of the frame with an O'Hare RBI, making it 4-1 Spartans.

Enfield benefitted from a lapse in concentration in the 6th. With bases loaded, Angels catcher Inamura threw to Kamiyama on third, hoping to catch Bedingfield off the bag. Sadly Kamiyama saw the accurate throw too late (it damn near hit him !) and the ball sailed down the leftfield line to allow Bedingfield and Horner to score.

Then came Angels big inning which saw off Julien Fountain (6-6, two out bases loaded), and brought on reliever Gary Bedingfield.

The scoring started with a Noel Omechi RBI single, then a Mark McCrory bunt scored Omechi. A bases loaded walk for Tony Dyett brought in Kamiyama for 6-4 Spartans, and then RBI singles for Moseley and Nemorah tied the game.

Bedingfield then walked Inamura, bringing in Tony Dyett, before Noel Omechi cleared the bags with a grand slam, making 5 RBI's for him in the inning.

Bedingfield was partially avenged in the seventh, his line drive to right centrefield good for two runs from Ian Lanario and Julien Fountain. Po Chen extended Angels lead from 11-8 to 12-8 in the bottom of the seventh, his single scoring Mark McCrory.

A scoreless eighth inning set us up for a thrilling ninth, and we weren't disappointed ! Singles for Chris McGovern, Chris Stein and Justin Hornet loaded up the bases for Enfield. A further single from Rob Lanario made it 12-9. Two out, bases loaded, Steve Simmons at bat. Simmons struck a shallow fly to centrefield, and Chris Stein scored as Mark McCrory gloved it off the bounce. His throw was caught and relayed by Moseley (ss), as Justin Hornet came in for 12-11 Angels. Then Rob Lanario, Takao Inamura (c) and the ball, arrived at the plate together. There could have been no more than a whisker in it, but the call was 'out' and the game was over. Victory for the Waltham Forest Angels.

National League

29th May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
<u>London Warriors</u>	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	3	0	11
<u>Waltham Forest Angels</u>	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	0

WP Cody Cain  
LP Tony Dyett

After their dramatic victory over Enfield the previous week, Angels played host to the London Warriors, and demonstrated again how much they have improved over the past two years.

After two quiet innings, Alan Bloomfield opened the scoring in the third with a rightfield double to bring in Harry Atwood. Angels equalised through Mick Moseley, who had an adventurous tour of the

bags. He started with a single, stretched into a double by a fielding overthrow. Sho Vozumi advanced him courtesy of a ground out, and finally Moseley took home on a passed ball.

Oliver Millet (2b), put Angels ahead with a 2 RBI double, Noel Omechi and Marck McCrory the run scorers.

Rich Kemp put Warriors back in contention with a 2 run homer to centrefield. McCrory reached for the ball, but fell over the outfield fence, allowing Kemp the round-tripper.

A fallen Warriors fielder restored the Angels two run lead. Kevin Coldiron skidded out in leftfield, and from flat on his back watched Sho Vozumi's double sail onward toward the outfield fence; Mick Moseley and Daniel Memorah the grateful recipients of Angels runs four and five.

A second Warrior home run, this time a solo for Cody Cain, reduced the arrears to 5-4 Angels, and an Alan Smith ground out brought in Kevin Coldiron from third for 5-5.

Anything Warriors could do, Angels could do too, Mark McCrory's solo homer restoring their one run lead in the bottom of the fifth.

A busy top of the sixth for the Warriors had Dean Ward, Rich Kemp and Harry Atwood all reach 2nd base, but no-one could drive them in.

An Alan Smith single to right in the seventh produced two RBI's, Coldiron and Heidecker the run scorers. With the score now 7-6 Warriors, Dean Ward added an insurance run with a ground rule double, Kevin Murphy reaching home.

A combination of a wild pitch, two walks and a steal then loaded up the bases, but Angels pitcher Dyett kept his nerve, and retired the visiting side without further loss.

A little Angels inexperience showed in the seventh, Oliver Millet starting his at bat by digging in. Not surprisingly, Warriors

relief pitcher, Cody Cain, sent down an inside letter-ball that was personally addressed !

Cody Cain batted in Alan Bloomfield in the top of the ninth, and set himself up for a few jibes, as for the second time this year he went in to pitch the close of the ninth, with Warriors leading 9-6.

However, this was no Enfield, and with Cain putting over a good mix of stuff, retired the Angels with just a Vozumi single conceded.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 6

29/5/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Waltham Forest A	5	1	.833	--
Enfield Spartans	4	1	.800	½
Bury Saints	2	2	.500	2
Essex Eagles	2	2	.500	2
London Warriors	2	2	.500	2
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	2	.333	2½
Bromley Blue Jays	0	3	.000	4
Lakenheath Yankees	0	3	.000	4

BBF Knockout Cup - Second Round

22nd May 1994

Cambridge Monarchs 9 Croydon Pirates 4

Monarchs restricted Pirates to just five hits to end the Surrey sides involvement in this years BBF Cup. The home team started with one run in the first, but Pirates replied in the third with a combination of three walks and two hits, including a 2 RBI single for Darrin Ward, to go 4-1 up.

Cambridge then added two runs in the bottom of the third to make it 4-3 Pirates, and there then followed two scoreless innings. Then in the bottom of the sixth, Cambridge forged 7-4 ahead, Pirates never looking like they would catch them.

Darrin Ward pitched throughout for the loss (5-2), and aside from his two singles, the only other Pirate hits came from Dave Ward, Harvey Sahker and Simon Price

Southern Division Two

22nd May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Tiptree Hotsports Rays	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	3	2	11
Caterham Athletics	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4

A frustrating day for the A's playing a Tiptree side equipped either with magic gloves or a radio controlled ball, as every hit seemed destined for a Hotsports fielder.

Hotsports must consider themselves fortunate that Caterham could not capitalise on the large number of walks surrendered by the Tiptree pitcher, and the most alarming stat for the A's must have been the 13 men left on base in scoring positions.

Pitching for the A's, Shane Fletcher stood the first six and took the loss, followed by Kev Mac for innings seven and eight, and John Delaney, in first spell on the hill for the A's, to close.

On the fielding side, credit to Anthony Weakner taking three vital catches in centrefield, helping to keep the Tiptree score within reach.

Southern Division Two

29th May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
Caterham Athletics	2	6	3	5	1	1	3	0
Bracknell Blazers	1	2	0	3	7	0	0	3

Defying the American convention of expressing baseball fixtures as the away team at the home team, we indelibly made our British mark on the sport by expressing games as home team versus away team.

So the schedule says May 29th, Bracknell versus Caterham, followed by June 5th, Caterham versus Bracknell. So where was the game played on the 29th ? Caterham. Who were the home team ? Bracknell. Where is next weeks game ? Bracknell. Who's at home, Caterham.



Well, that should leave a few bemused fans lying on the floor gurgling the theme tune of the Aussie soap 'Home and Away', particularly as if it rains in Bracknell, next Sunday's game could well be switched back to Caterham.

Needless to say with Caterham averaging 4½ runs scored per innings its the bat-stats that dominate this game. Kev Mac was 6 for 7, Anthony Weakner 4 for 5, Gary Cope 4 for 6 and Shane Fletcher 5 for 6, including one triple and 2 doubles.

Shane could have made the triple into a homer, but lost in admiration at the graceful flight of the ball he had just propelled into the outfield, he didn't see the base coaches signal.

Dave Flynn went 2 for 4, and possibly collected the hit of the game, with a sweetly struck line drive through shortstop.

The return game next week could be an entirely different matter with Shane Fletcher, Mark Dalton and John Delaney all unavailable for the Athletics.

BRE STANDINGS - WEEK 8

29/5/94

National Premier League South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Bedford Chicksands	6	1	.857	--
Essex Arrows	6	3	.667	1
Hounslow Rangers	5	3	.625	1½
Crawley Comets	4	5	.444	3
Brighton Buccaneers	4	6	.400	3½
Bristol Black Sox	0	7	.000	6½

Southern Division One North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Hemel Red Sox	3	0	1.000	--
Cambridge Monarchs	3	1	.750	½
Totteridge T'blazers	3	1	.750	½
Gloster Meteors	2	1	.667	1
City Slick	2	3	.400	2
Droitwich Spa Tans	1	3	.250	2½
Reading Royals	0	4	.000	3½

Hounslow Rangers played a double header at Brighton Buccaneers with both teams in .500 on Sunday 29th, but victories by 11-9 and 11-3 now put the Rangers just 1½ games out on the Indians.

In Division One North, City Slick collected their second win of the season thumping the hapless Reading Royals 20-5. The only other side to concede 20 were the equally winless Stevenage Knights. (cont)

Southern Division One South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Arun Panthers	3	0	1,000	--
Croydon Pirates	2	1	,667	1
Tunbridge Wells R	2	1	,667	1
Hounslow Hawks	3	2	,600	1
Gillingham Dodgers	2	2	,500	1½
Bournemouth Bees	2	3	,400	2
Stevenage Knights	0	6	,000	4½

Southern Division Two

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Tiptree Hotspots	5	1	,833	--
London Wolves	4	1	,800	½
Lashing Sluggers	3	1	,750	1
Caterham Athletics	3	2	,600	1½
Guildford Mavericks	3	2	,600	1½
Hounslow Falcons	2	4	,333	3
Chichester Kyotes	1	6	,143	4½
Bracknell Blazers	0	4	,000	4½

Southern Division Three North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Milton Keynes T	3	1	,750	--
Norwich Wanderers	3	1	,750	--
Waltham Abbey Cards	2	3	,400	1½
Fulham Flames	1	2	,333	1½
Cambridge Fellows	0	2	,000	2½

Southern Division Three South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Brighton Buccaneers	4	1	,800	--
Burgess Hill Reds	4	1	,800	--
Guildford Mudcats	2	3	,400	2
Gloster Meteors	1	3	,250	2½
Eastbourne Aces	0	3	,000	3½

Knights lost 20-9 to the Hounslow Hawks. Victory in both halves of a double header saw Tiptree leapfrog over London Wolves, who lost to the Hounslow Falcons, and the Lashing Sluggers who lost to the Guildford Mavericks. In Division Three, Guildford Mudcats, who lost 52-9 to the Gloster Meteors on the 8th May, themselves pummelled the Eastbourne Aces, winning 25-13.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

5/6/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ London Warriors  
 Essex Eagles @ Tonbridge Bobcats  
 Lakenheath Yankees @ Enfield Spartans  
 Waltham Forest Angels @ Bury Saints

NEXT WEEK

12/6/94

Bury Saints @ Tonbridge Bobcats  
 Essex Eagles @ Bromley Blue Jays  
 London Warriors @ Lakenheath Yankees

### LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

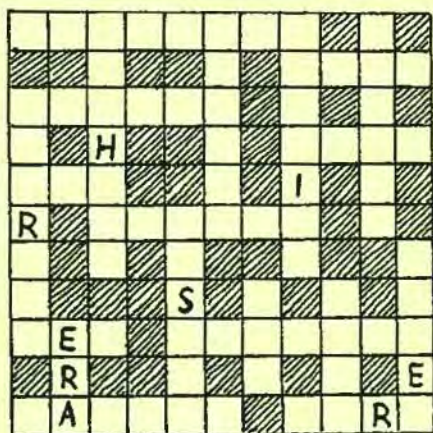
Sun 1st May	away to Enfield Spartans	L 9-10
Sun 8th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	L 1-2
Sun 15th May	away to Essex Eagles	W 19-1
Sun 29th May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 9-6
Sun 5th June	HOME TO BROMLEY BLUE JAYS	
Sun 12th June	away to Lakenheath Yankees	
Sun 19th June	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	
Sun 26th June	Rain date	
Sun 3rd July	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	
Sun 10th July	away to Tonbridge Bobcats	
Sun 17th July	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	
Sun 24th July	away to Bury Saints	
Sun 31st July	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 7th August	away to Bromley Blue Jays	
Sun 14th August	HOME TO LAKENHEATH YANKEES	
Sun 21st August	Rain date	
Sun 28th August	8th v 1st, 6th v 7th, 4th v 5th, 2nd v 3rd	
Sun 4th September	1st v 2nd, 3rd v 4th, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th	

#### KNOCKOUT CUP

Sun 11th September	5th v 1st, 6th v 2nd, 7th v 3rd, 8th v 4th
Sun 18th September	5th/1st v 7th/3rd, 6th/2nd v 8th/4th
Sun 25th September	KNOCKOUT CUP FINAL - venue to be decided

## CUSTOMER SERVICES

THERE are Customer Services everywhere; on the railways, in libraries, in colleges, even in heaven, as far as we know. So let us be with it. For the benefit of our customers who find crossword clues tiresome we have devised a clueless crossword. All one has to do is fill the square with the surnames of nineteen Major League pitchers since 1945. Thank you. Call again.



It is recommended that customers write the names from the left or from the top.

## TRIVIA

THE word "trivia" may express the prevalent attitude towards general knowledge. Much knowledge is indeed trivial, and the expression of it is corny. Here is a little of what might be called corn on the Cobb:

How many did Ty Cobb hit out of the park for his one and only home run title?

Why was Ty Cobb's number never retired?

ANSWERS TO QUOTATIONS IN NO. 2: 1—Prince Philip 2—Happy Chandler 3—Oscar Wilde 4—Sparky Anderson 5—Jane Austen 6—Larry Goetz 7—Billy Martin 8—Ted Williams