

# LINEDRIVE!

September  
BASEBALL IN  
BRITAIN  
1995

STEE-EE-EE-EE-EE-RIK!

SAFE!  
WAY TO DIE!  
YOU'RE OUT!  
MINE!

I GOT IT!  
LOOKED GOOD!  
HOME!  
WAY TO HUSTLE!

THREE UP THREE DOWN!  
GOOD EYE!  
YOU CAN DO IT!  
GOOD PITCH!

ATTABOY!

DID YOU PLAY ROUNDERS  
WHEN YOU WERE A BOY?

CERTAINLY NOT! IF I  
HAD I WOULD NOT BE  
WHAT I AM NOW!

BALL GAME  
HERE  
ALL STARS  
★  
TO-DAY

WHEN *Linedrive* was published regularly, I was given free rein for my eccentricities on the front and back covers, while the serious editorial business was conducted responsibly by Phil Ross.

I now find myself pinch-hitting as editor in this special number to celebrate the Warriors' success in winning the National Premier League South.

Hello again to the familiar faces, and a warm welcome to the newcomers who have played a great part in giving us a season to remember.

There have been so many good performances and great plays that it is not possible to list them all. But anyone who has seen all or most of them can assure any casual spectator who may read this that the London Warriors' success is based on skill and flair and total commitment.

The origin of baseball probably was rounders, but it is just as true to say that London was once a few mud huts.

The season is not over yet. There is still the confrontation between north and south, to decide the champions of Great Britain. There's going to be some exciting and probably tense baseball leading up to the final play-offs on September 16th and 17th at Roundshaw.

When Colonel Lindbergh landed at Croydon Aerodrome in the *Spirit of St. Louis* in 1927, he couldn't foresee that the airfield would become a ball park, the venue for Great Britain's own World Series.

## BASEBALL MERCURY

HERE are some extracts from William Morgan's fascinating and comprehensive periodical:

No. 29. February 1982

Midlands 1981.... The Bert Imms Trophy .... turned into a very torrid affair. Cougars were drawn against Hornets in the first semi-final .... Hornets snatching victory by 3 runs to 2. The following semi-final was between .... Tigers and .... Dodgers, who sensationally withdrew when Bill Casey was sent off for using foul language. Dodgers were trailing 7-3 at the time. The final was a one-sided affair, Hornets crushing Tigers 21-4. Unfortunately, Hornets could not be presented with the Trophy as Bromsgrove Dodgers were mean enough to take the trophy with them when they withdrew.

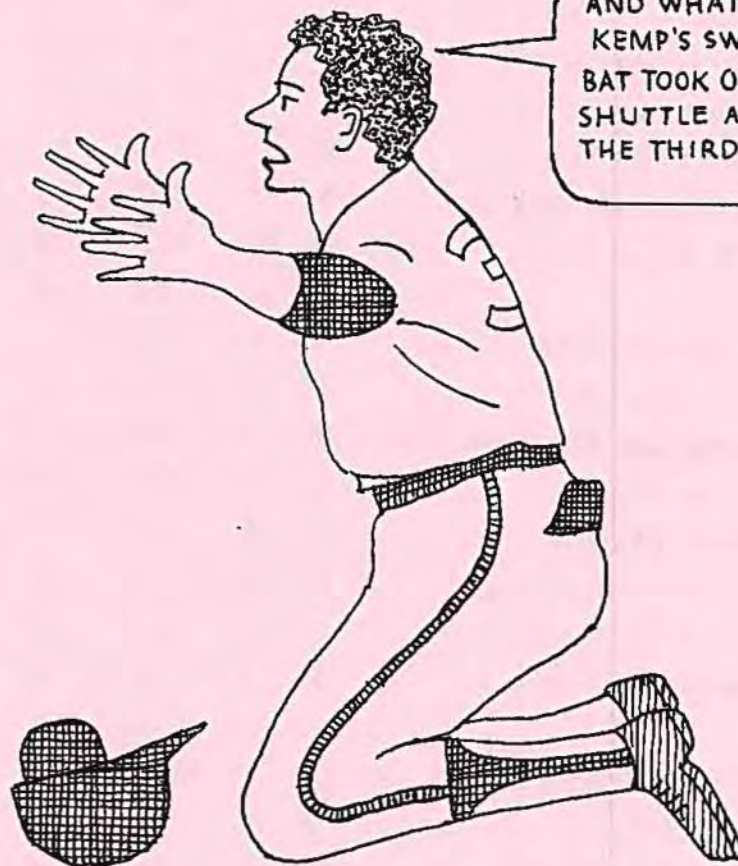
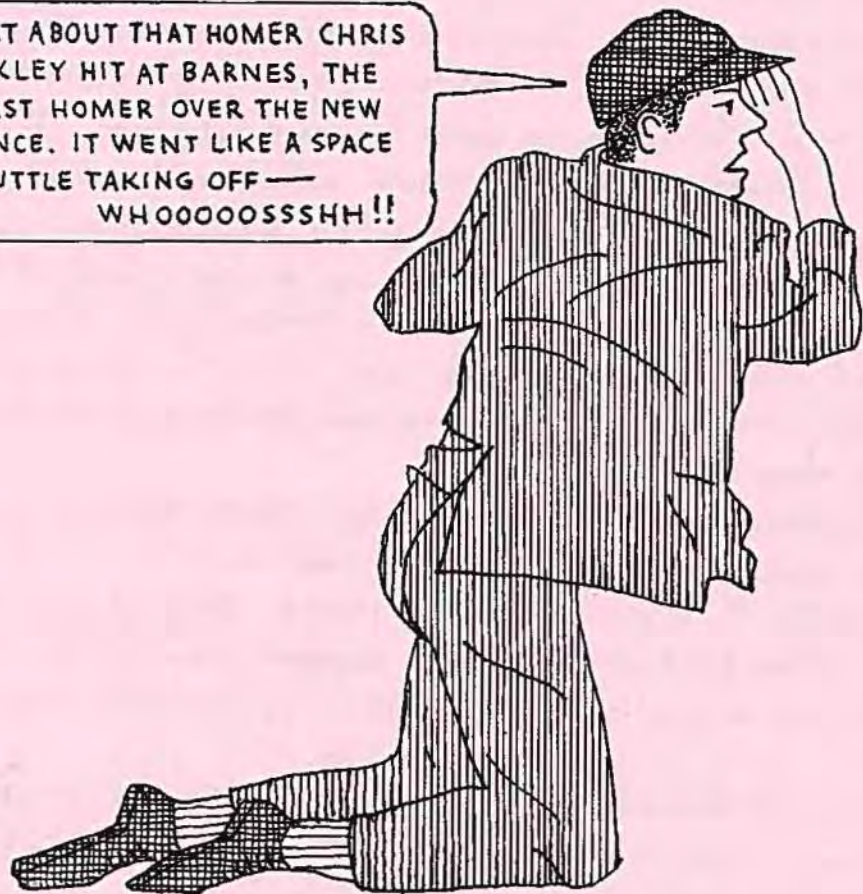
International matches.... Up to.... World War II, 22 games were played .... England won 8 .... and Wales 14 .... Since World War II, 34 games have been played. England have won 7.... Wales have won 26.... The highest attendance .... at an international match is 16,000 .... at Cardiff in 1948.

No. 48. July 1988

British Baseball Federation - South .... Due to expansion in the number of teams it has been necessary to create an extra Third Division, Central. There are fourteen new senior teams; while the Youth League has four new teams. Leaders of the divisions in 1987 were:— 1st. Enfield Spartans: 2nd. Waltham Abbey Arrows: 3rd. North. Hemel Red Sox: 3rd. South. Reading Royals: Youth League. Red Hats Colts.

WHAT ABOUT THAT HOMER CHRIS  
ACKLEY HIT AT BARNES, THE  
FIRST HOMER OVER THE NEW  
FENCE. IT WENT LIKE A SPACE  
SHUTTLE TAKING OFF —  
WHOOOOOSSHH!!

AND WHAT ABOUT RICHARD  
KEMP'S SWING WHEN HIS  
BAT TOOK OFF LIKE A SPACE  
SHUTTLE AND ONLY MISSED  
THE THIRD BASE COACH  
BY THIS MUCH!



Rex

The great thing about baseball is that whenever and wherever two people meet, there is always a talking point — a topic for discussion

## BASEBALL MERCURY

HERE'S a glimpse of the past, not as long ago as it seems.  
1983 standings

### SOUTHERN ENGLAND BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

		W.	L.	Pct.	GB.
Group 1.	COBHAM YANKEES	13	2	.867	-
	London Warriors	10	5	.667	3
	Croydon Bluejays	9	6	.600	4
	Crawley Giants	8	7	.533	5
	Regents Park Eagles	4	10	.286	8½
	Essex Raiders	0	14	.000	12½
		W.	L.	Pct.	GB.
Group 2.	SUTTON BRAVES	13	1	.929	-
	Barnes Barnstormers	7	6	.583	5½
	Wokingham Monarchs	7	7	.500	6
	Oxshott Orioles	6	7	.462	6½
	Ashford Merlins	6	8	.429	7
	Rochester City Dodgers	6	8	.429	7
	Croydon Borough Pirates	5	9	.357	8
	Golders Green Sox	5	9	.357	8
		W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Group 3.	ENFIELD SPARTANS	13	0	1.000	-
	Rair Red Sox	9	4	.692	4
	Shoreditch Eagles	10	5	.667	4
	Ashford Condors	6	7	.462	7
	Gants Hill Stingrays	4	11	.267	10
	Esher Rangers	0	15	.000	14

From Baseball Mercury No. 35, February 1984

1995

**WARRIORS****RESULTS**

Essex Arrows	H — L
Enfield Spartans	A — L
Bristol Black Sox	A — W
Hemel Red Sox	H — W
Hounslow Rangers	H — W L
Essex Arrows	A — W L
Enfield Spartans	H — W W
Bristol Black Sox	H — W W
Hemel Red Sox	A — W W
Hounslow Rangers	A — W W
Essex Arrows	H — W
Brighton Buccs	H — W L
Bristol Black Sox	A — W
Hemel Red Sox	H — W
Enfield Spartans	A — W
Brighton Buccs	A — W W

**BATTING**

	Games	Hits	Average
Cody Cain	19	34	.507
Darrin Ward	3	5	.417
Alan Bloomfield	17	20	.351
Chris Ackley	14	17	.340
Harry Atwood	19	22	.333
Graham Haslam	12	11	.314
Gary Osborne	9	8	.308
Alan Smith	22	24	.308
Philip Mertens	13	13	.302
Kevin Coldiron	18	15	.300
Dean Ward	21	18	.298
Richard Kemp	19	18	.281
Carlos Rodrigues	14	8	.218
Grant Delzoppo	3	1	.200
Thomas Osborn	4	1	.187
Brad Thompson	7	2	.187
Oliver Heidecker	3	0	.000
Kevin Murphy	2	0	.000

**NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE****SEMI-FINALS**

Droitwich and Cambridge  
 9th September 1.00pm  
 10th September 11.00am

**FINAL**

Roundshaw  
 (Croydon Aerodrome)  
 16th September 2.00pm  
 17th September 11.00am

**PITCHING**

	Wins	Losses	SO	ERA
Cody Cain	9	0	98	1.508
Alan Smith	8	4	52	3.142

These batting and pitching statistics do not include the last 2 games at Brighton

The number of games played is not an absolute measure of a player's contribution. A lot of good work is done behind the scenes and on the bench.

## DOUBLE PAY

THE front office of the Chattanooga Choo Choo was full of cigar smoke and despondency.

"You there, Diz?" enquired the owner, out of a smoke cloud.

"I'm here, Boss," replied the general manager, out of another.

"Let's go over to the Old Country and see some ball," suggested the owner. "How's my outfit doing over there?"

"The Badgers are just 500, Boss. They need a slugger."

"Get hold of Swipe Fowler. Send him over there."

"Swipe's already over there, Boss. He's with some other outfit, and he's batting 850."

"Get hold of him," repeated the owner. "Whatever the other outfit's paying him, double it."

"That's not the way they do it over there, Boss. They don't pay Swipe. Swipe pays to play."

The owner snorted so vehemently he lost his cigar in the murk. When he'd recovered somewhat he groped in the fog for his smoke.

"Tell me another," he said. "The Badgers, yes, but Swipe Fowler — the great slugger — pays to play? I just don't believe it."

"It's true, Boss. There's only one way to — you there, Boss?"

The owner had disappeared in the smoky gloom.

"I'm here, Diz," came his voice from a remote and dusky corner. "Where is that pesky cigar? — Ah! I got it! — What's that I heard you say? What's the only way?"

"What we must do, Boss, is let Swipe pay us double what he pays the other outfit. He won't join the Badgers for less than that."

"Desmond," exclaimed the owner, once again in control of his cigar, and himself, "you're a genius! A financial wizard! They don't know what they're missing on Wall Street. Have a cigar!"