

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 32

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April 1983

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BASEBALL Mercury.

EDITOR -----
WILLIAM MORGAN,
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sold by agents,

10p.

WORLD CHAMPIONS.

1938 England
1939 Cuba
1940 Cuba
1941 Venezuela
1942 Cuba
1943 Cuba
1944 Mexico
1945 Venezuela
1947 Colombia
1948 Puerto Rico
1950 Cuba
1951 Cuba
1952 Cuba
1953 Cuba
1961 Cuba
1965 Colombia
1969 Cuba
1970 Cuba
1971 Cuba
1972 Cuba
1973 Cuba (F.I.B.A.)
1973 U.S.A. (P.E.M.B.A.)
1974 U.S.A.
1976 Cuba
1978 Cuba
1980 Cuba
1982 South Korea

No. 32. APRIL 1983. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS.

1954 Italy
1955 Spain
1956 The Netherlands
1957 The Netherlands
1958 The Netherlands
1960 The Netherlands
1962 The Netherlands
1964 The Netherlands
1965 The Netherlands
1967 Belgium
1969 The Netherlands
1971 The Netherlands
1973 The Netherlands
1975 Italy
1977 Italy
1979 Italy
1981 The Netherlands

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP.

1973 Japan
1975 U.S.A.
1977 South Korea
1979 Cuba
1981 U.S.A.

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MANUFACTURERS' OF BASEBALLS

SOFTBALLS AND PLAYGROUND BALLS

SWEDEN 1982.

Baseball DIV I.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Swemade | 17 | 4 | 34 |
| Leksand | 16 | 5 | 32 |
| Sundbyberg | 15 | 6 | 30 |
| Skarpnack | 14 | 7 | 28 |
| Ljusdal | 10 | 11 | 20 |
| Sundsvall | 6 | 15 | 12 |
| Skelleftea | 4 | 17 | 8 |
| Kungsängen | 2 | 19 | 4 |

The first four clubs went in to the semi-finals of the Swedish championship. The bottom four played in a relegation series.

In the final series of the championship Leksand beat Swemade by 3 games to 0. The relegation series ended with Skelleftea having to drop to Div. II.

Baseball- Junior

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Edsberg | 6 | 0 | 12 |
| Sollentuna | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Sundbyberg | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Taby | 0 | 6 | 0 |

In the Junior Swedish championship Edsberg beat Sollentuna 28 - 16. Leksand ended in third place.

Softball DIV II North.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Leksand B | 8 | 4 | 16 |
| Skelleftea | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Ljusdal | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Sundsvall | 5 | 7 | 10 |

Softball DIV II South.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Insjon | 11 | 1 | 22 |
| Sundbyberg | 7 | 5 | 14 |
| Rattvik | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Skarpnack | 1 | 11 | 2 |

In 1982 there were 894 licensed players. There were 25 clubs with a total of 70 teams. Sundbyberg led in the number of teams, fielding six.

For the club. Leksand in 1979 became the first Swedish club to have an electric scoreboard.

Baseball DIV II.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Rattvik | 17 | 3 | 34 |
| Insjon | 14 | 7 | 28 |
| Ornkarr | 13 | 8 | 26 |
| Alby | 10 | 11 | 20 |
| Momotaro | 9 | 9 | 18 |
| Nalsta | 8 | 10 | 16 |
| Taby | 5 | 16 | 10 |
| Kungsbacka | 4 | 16 | 8 |

Rattvik beat Insjon in the promotion series.

Baseball DIV III.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Edsberg | 7 | 2 | 14 |
| Skarpnack B | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Sundbyberg B | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| Sollentuna | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Bagarmossen B | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Enköping | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Nalsta B | 1 | 10 | 2 |

This division did not run as smoothly as it should have done; note the differing number of results for the various teams.

Softball DIV I.

| | W. | L. | Pts. |
|------------|----|----|------|
| Leksand | 18 | 2 | 36 |
| Swemade | 16 | 3 | 32 |
| Sundbyberg | 11 | 9 | 22 |
| Ornkarr | 5 | 15 | 10 |
| Nalsta | 5 | 14 | 10 |
| Alby | 4 | 16 | 8 |

Leksand beat Swemade in the Swedish championship. Alby is relegated to Div. II.

The Swedish Baseball and Softball Federation has a new president - Mats Fransson.

Leksand Baseball Club celebrated its 20th. year of membership of the SBSF. During its 20 years Leksand has won the Swedish championship 12 times. In 1970 the town constructed an authentic baseball diamond

NATIONAL CUP FINALS.

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

1890. Scheduled as the best of three games; won in two straight by Preston North End Amateurs who beat Birmingham Amateurs 42 - 15, and 42 - 7.

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

1892. Middlesbrough 26 - St. Thomas's (Derby) 16
 1893. Thespians(London) 33 - Darlington St. Augustine's 6
 1894. Thespians(London) 38 - Stockton-on-Tees 14
 1895. Derby 20 - Fuller's(London) 16
 1896. Wallsend- on-Tyne 16 - Remington's(London) 10
 1897. Derby 30 - Middlesbrough 7
 1899. Derby 14 - Nottingham Forest 3
 1900. Nottingham Forest 17 - Derby 16

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

1906. Tottenham Hotspur 16 - Nondescripts 5
 1907. Clapton Orient 8 - Fulham 7
 1908. Tottenham Hotspur 6 - Leyton 5
 1909. Clapton Orient 6 - Leyton 4

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION(2nd.)

1934. Hatfield(Liverpool) 13 - Albion(Liverpool) 12
 1935. New London 7 - Rochdale Greys 1
 1936. White City(London) 9 - Catford Saints 5
 1937. Hull 5 - Romford Wasps 1
 1938. Rochdale Greys 1 - Oldham Greyhounds 0
 1939. Halifax 9 - Rochdale Greys 5

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION LTD.

1948. Liverpool Robins 13 - Thames Board Mills(Purfleet) 0
 1949. Hornsey Red Sox 10 - Liverpool Cubs 5
 1950. Burtonwood U.S.A.F. Bees 23 - Hornsey Red Sox 2
 1951. Burtonwood U.S.A.F. Bees 9 - Ruislip U.S.A.F. Rockets 2

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION.

1959. Thames Board Mills(Purfleet) 12 - East Hull Aces 4
 1960. Thames Board Mills(Purfleet) 6 - Liverpool Tigers 1
 1962. Liverpool Tigers 8 - East Hull Aces 3
 1963. East Hull Aces 8 - Garringtons(Bromagrove) 6

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION(2nd.)

1965. Kingston Aces(Hull) 4 - Stretford Saints(Manchester) 2

NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE(U.K.).

1966. Stretford Saints(Manchester) 3 - Liverpool Aces 1
 1967. Liverpool Mormon Yankees 4 - Beckenham Bluejays 2
 1968. Hull Aces 4 - Hull Royals 1
 1969. Watford Sun-Rockets 8 - Liverpool Trojans 7(11 innings)
 1970. Hull Royals 3 - Hull Aces 1
 1971. Liverpool N.A.L.G.O. Tigers 8 - Hull Aces 3
 1972. Hull Aces beat Hull Royals(Nobody has been able to give me the score)

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION.

1973. Burtonwood Yanks 23 - Hull Aces 2
 1974. Nottingham Lions 5 - Hull Royals 3
 1975. Liverpool N.A.L.G.O. Tigers 5 - Nottingham Lions 3
 1976. Liverpool Trojans 5 - Kensington Spirit of '76(London) 4
 1977. Golders Green Sox 9 - Hull Aces 5

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FEDERATION.

1978. Liverpool Trojans 14 - Crawley Giants 12
 1979. Golders Green Sox 9 - Hull Aces 7 (11 innings)
 1980. Liverpool Trojans 12 - Hull Aces 1
 1981. London Warriors 23 - Hull Aces 3
 1982. London Warriors 16 - Liverpool Trojans 7

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in July. Material for inclusion is always welcome. Subscription is 60p. for three issues. All correspondence should be sent to the editor.

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EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS.

1963. Barcelona Picadero, Spain
 1964. Real Madrid Pirates, Spain
 1965. Simmenthal Nettuno, Italy
 1966. Haarlem Nicols, The Netherlands
 1967. Real Madrid Pirates, Spain
 1968. Barcelona Picadero, Spain
 1969. Europhon Milano, Italy
 1970. Ausonia Milano, Italy
 1971. Glen Grant Nettuno, Italy
 1972. Glen Grant Nettuno, Italy
 1973. Fortitudo Amaro Montenegro, Bologna, Italy
 1974. Raak Nicols, The Netherlands
 1975. Raak Nicols, The Netherlands
 1976. Derbigum Rimini, Italy
 1977. Germal Parma, Italy
 1978. Germal Parma, Italy
 1979. Derbigum Rimini, Italy
 1980. Parmalat Parma, Italy
 1981. Parmalat Parma, Italy



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INCORPORATED

HULL ACES.

During the past winter, players of the Hull Aces senior team decided to break away. They have formed a club to be known as Hull Mets.

Hull Aces were formed in the late 1940's, and have had some changes of name, for instance when I first became acquainted with the club it was East Hull Aces. Under the name of East Hull, Kingston, or Hull Aces, the club has appeared in 13 National Cup finals from 1959 to 1981; winning on four occasions.

My first contact with the club was early in 1963, this was at the time when the club was seeking support for the launching of a National League. The concept was not acceptable to clubs in the South of England, for the simple reason that they had sufficient numbers to play a satisfactory programme of games without travelling outside of the South. Hull Aces however had to overcome the problem of having only three other clubs in Hull to provide local opposition, for what that was worth. Aces had won the Hull League title for several years in succession. Don Smallwood the club secretary was finding it increasingly difficult to motivate club members due to lack of interesting games in Hull, hence the desire to launch a National League.

In 1963 the club achieved a partial success, a number of clubs in other areas did combine to form the National League. That first season, East Hull Aces, Stretford Saints (Manchester), Bromsgrove, Austin British Legion (Birmingham), Coventry Blue Sox, and Nottingham Athletics competed. I saw one game - Austin British Legion v. East Hull Aces at Birmingham - and was very impressed by the way that East Hull Aces was organised and the manner in which the club presented itself. The reverse impression was created by Austin British Legion.

Stretford Saints won the National League championship in seasons 1963,64,65. In 1963 they impressed me as making a real contribution to the National League, they not only played well, but looked a well organised and presented club; this was while George Livesey was secretary. When he finished with the club it started to decline as far as presentation was concerned.

Stretford Saints, and Hull Aces are the only British clubs to have competed for the European Cup. Stretford on one occasion, Aces on two. Stretford had some financial assistance from a Dutch club when they competed in a North European pool in Rotterdam. Hull Aces paid all their own expenses on their two visits to Europe to play in the competition. They entered for a third time, and were "lucky" to be drawn at home to the Italian champion club Europhon Milano, this was in 1969. Imagine the shock that Hull received when some weeks before Europhon were to have played at Hull, Aces received an invoice from the Italian club for the equivalent of £950 to cover travelling expenses. There was no way that Aces could pay such an amount, so Europhon had a walk-over into the next round, eventually emerging as cup winners.

At the time that I became acquainted with the club in the '60's, all the members were under pressure, most of all Don Smallwood. The club had no subscription for playing members. All funds at that time were being raised by operating a bingo club in a Co-op. Hall. The bingo operated on four evenings a week through the year, and members had to devote some evenings each week to running the bingo club. I am sure that Don Smallwood was at the bingo every evening.

During the spring and summer the club was running bingo for four evenings a week, practised on another two evenings, and during the season played baseball most Saturdays and Sundays.

In the late 60's the club managed to persuade the authority of Kingston-upon-Hull to provide an authentic diamond in a local recreation ground, this is known as the Alderman Kneeshaw baseball ground. This was a great step forward, although in retrospect it could have been an even greater step forward, if the baseball ground had been laid out somewhere where sufficient space was available. It was fitted into an area which had been planned to

accommodate a cycle track.

At about the time that Aces obtained a diamond, the club put some money into launching the Yorkshire Babe Ruth League. From this seed has grown schoolboys' and junior baseball in Hull.

In the mid-sixties the club staged a number of games at Craven Park Stadium. This had been the home of professional baseball in Hull from 1936 to 1939. Craven Park Stadium had originally been owned by the Hull Kingston Rovers Rugby League Club. In the latter part of the 1930's the rugby league club had sold the ground to a greyhound racing company, and had become tenants of the new owners. During the period that the greyhound company owned the stadium they were quite well disposed towards baseball, and the local baseball organisation staged major games at the stadium for many years.

During the period that Hull Aces were staging games at the Craven Park Stadium, the Kingston Rovers RFC became concerned at the damage which they considered baseball was causing to the playing surface. Consequently the greyhound company was informed that at any time an approach was made to hire the stadium to stage baseball, the rugby league club was prepared to match or raise any sum discussed, in order to prevent baseball being played in the stadium. This was quite a blow, although not all games of baseball staged at the stadium had shown a profit, over the years quite an amount of profit had gone to local baseball from games at Craven Park.

The last three games in which I have seen Hull Aces playing have been the British Championship finals of 1979, 80, 81. In 1979 they were still turned-out very well. In 1980 and 1981 they fell far below the standard that they had always achieved in the past, when in fact they set a standard which any British club would have had to strive very hard to equal.

FINLAND 1982.

1982 was the second year of an organised championship run by the Finnish Baseball & Softball Federation. Pumaat (formerly Wranglers remain champions) - Pumaat is Finnish for Pumas.

Baseball.

| | W. | L. | Pct. |
|----------|----|----|------|
| PUMAAT | 4 | 1 | .800 |
| Kontaro | 4 | 2 | .667 |
| Sluggers | 3 | 2 | .600 |
| Zebras | 0 | 6 | .000 |

Softball.

| | W. | L. | Pct. |
|----------|----|----|-------|
| PUMAAT | 4 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Fighters | 2 | 2 | .500 |
| Sluggers | 0 | 4 | .000 |

Baseball - MVP Jukka Ropponen, Pumaat: best infielder Sho Sasaki, Kontaro: best outfielder Antero Salo, Sluggers: best coach Bill Copeland, Sluggers.

Softball - MVP Sari Myytiainen, Sluggers.

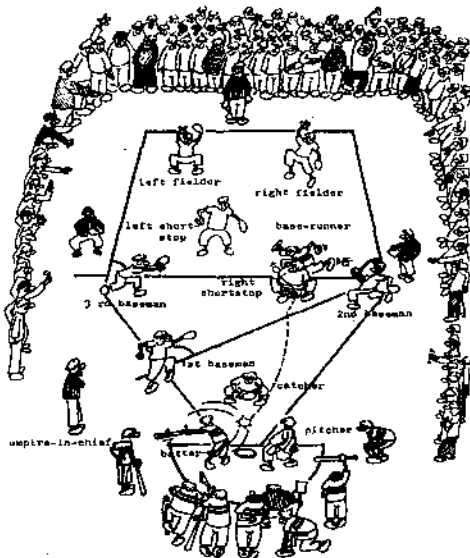
Finland competed in the North European Cup for the first time, at Antwerp in August. Best Finnish player was Jukka Ropponen, he pitched half of the total innings that Finland were on defence; and he hit .500. He finished eighth in the batting averages, higher than any hitters from Great Britain or Denmark. Erkki Lahdgamo hit .429, and Harri Malmsten .333.

On 4th. and 5th. September, Pumaat staged the international Wrangler Cup tournament. Final standings - MOMOTARO (Stockholm), 2. Kungsängen (Stockholm), 3. Kintaro (Helsinki), 4. Pumaat (Helsinki), 5. Alby (Stockholm), 6. Sluggers (Korava).

Jukka Ropponen was president of the FBSF upon its formation, wishing to devote more time to his club Puumat, he has stood down; the new president is Erkki Lampelaho (Pumaat). Erkki is anxious to encourage boys' baseball, and is seeking second-hand baseball equipment in the U.S.A. to overcome the expense problem for youngsters.

Member clubs of the FBSF are Puumat, Kintaro, Fighters, Zebras, Sluggers, and Espoo from Esbo. Abo Bases, pioneers of the game in Finland, have ceased to exist.

Pesapallo a game combining elements of Finnish games with some aspects of baseball is a highly popular sport. It has about 100,000 players, and attracts a total of over 1,000,000 spectators to games of the first division. The game has nine fielders on the field, three outs to an inning, nine innings in a game. In the event of a tie, extra innings are played, but if the game is tied at the end of 12 innings, then the tie stands. Each team has a squad of 12 players, players can be moved in and out of the game as in basketball. A plan of the field can be seen to the right.



BELGIUM.

Baseball was introduced to Belgium by Japanese sailors of the MARU line. When in port at Antwerp they played the game as a recreation on the Wilrijkse Plein. Antwerp youths were attracted to watch them. In 1923, two Japanese, Miyata and Kubo, formed the first Belgian club - The Antwerp Baseball Club. This club exists still, now known as Antwerp Eagles; and is celebrating its 60 years of history by organising the Intercontinental Cup Tourney.

Slowly but surely other clubs came into existence, Bell Telephone, and General Motors in 1930. In 1930 the first competition began, the three clubs not only played each other, but also frequently played teams from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Navigation Co. From 1934 until 1939 international games were played regularly against The Netherlands.

The Belgian Baseball Federation was formed in 1948; the earlier internationals had been played by teams selected by Bell Telephone. There are currently 1,500 ballplayers in Belgium belonging to 15 clubs.

As for the Intercontinental Cup Tourney, this was requested originally by Italy. Antwerp Eagles decided to invite four of

the participants to play in a tournament as part of Antwerp Eagles sixtieth anniversary celebrations. Italy had to withdraw its invitation to stage the Intercontinental Cup, as G.E.B.A. decided to stage the 1983 European championship in Italy. It looked as if Eagles plan would fail. However the club decided to attempt to secure the Inter-



-continental Cup Tourney as its celebratory event. There was competition from Taiwan where baseball is a major pastime, whereas in Belgium a major domestic game might draw 400 fans. There were political factors working against Taiwan, and Belgium was granted the right to organise the Cup tourney.

The tournament is to cost Belgium about £180,000. It is hoped that this major event will stimulate interest in Belgium, where the game has made little impact; even today it is confined to the Greater Antwerp area.

The Antwerp Eagles field will have temporary seating for 6,500 spectators. As the field has no lights week day games will begin at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. At the weekend three games will be played each day. The organisers expect to attract many spectators from the South of The Netherlands.

VISITORS FROM THE U.S.A.

In 1982 a team from Texas, the Burkburnett Black Sox played a number of games in the Midlands, and on Humberside. They appeared first at the Holmepierrepont Sports Centre, in co-operation with the Sports Council and the Nottingham Evening Post, the Texans coached some 200 boys and girls. Their second venue was the Oak-tree Lane Sports ground, Mansfield, where some 500 people attended. They then played at Newark, yet another success, about 600 people came along. Their opponents in these Midlands games were the Clifton Cougars. Two more games were played in the Midlands, one at the Coathorpe Recreation ground, Worksop, which drew 400 - 500 spectators.

Mr. B. Benson, the BABSF National Youth Officer, received many congratulatory letters regarding these games from persons such as the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, the High Sherriff of Nottingham, members of Parliament, including one from a member of the European Parliament, Mr. Michael Gallagher, and the two newspapers in the Nottingham area.

Another team to visit the U.K. was Rawlings All-Stars, this team was drawn from two high schools in Ohio, and organised and coached by Jim Humpal. Jim Humpal had coached the U.S.A. Youth team in the World Friendship Series in 1981.

Rawlings was sponsored by the famous sports goods firm, and impressed by their superb baseball. They played an exciting game in the Midlands versus Garringtons' Dodgers. In the South of England Rawlings played games versus London Warriors, Essex Raiders, and Crawley. The visitors impressed by their skill and their discipline, and all their games were won by large margins.

Another visiting club was West Coast, this club played Croydon Bluejays, and Crawley Giants; West Coast was of quite a good standard, players were aged from seventeen to twenty-two; but were not up to the level of Rawlings All-Stars.

This summer a Pittsburgh Pirates junior team will be based at Cobham, Surrey, from 19th. to 25th. July; they will play three games, and undertake coaching sessions. Doug Brown and W. Beckwith are responsible for the arrangements.