

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 36

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July 1984

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BASEBALL Mercury.

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HUMBERSIDE by Terry O'Brien

The highlight of the season will be The European Championship B Pool; this tournament will be staged at Hull from 16th/18th. August. A play-off game, if required, will be played on 19th. August. Teams competing are Great Britain, West Germany, Finland, and San Marino. Two games will be played on each of the three days.

The B.A.B.S.F. have received permission from C.E.B.A. to play the tournament on the Hull Cricket Circle, Anlaby Road; this ground has all the facilities associated with a first class cricket ground.

Humberside County Council is sponsoring the tournament. Each of the visiting teams is to bring an umpire. The Great Britain umpire will be Ted Thesingh.

Hull Mets beat Hull Warriors in the first round of the new British K.O. Cup competition. Hull Giants had a bye; both Hull Mets and Hull Giants drew Nottingham teams in the next round.

Teams competing in the Hull League are Hull Mets, Hull Royals, Hull Warriors, Hull Giants, and Menwith Hill U.S. base. We were disappointed by the failure of Hull Aces to raise a senior team, and also by the fact that one interested Nottingham team did not have enough free dates to compete in our league.

We are still short of umpires, both in Hull and nationally. anyone interested in umpiring is invited to contact me.
Terry O'Brien, 2 Midgley Close, Linnaeus Street, Hull, HU3 2QL.

NORTH WEST AMERICAN BASEBALL - SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

We started with high hopes for the entry, for the first time in a number of years, of a seventh team in our local league. This team was to have consisted of Venezuelans resident in the North West who had played a couple of friendly games last season. Their embassy in London had promised them financial assistance which would have included equipment and uniforms. Due to elections in Venezuela causing a change of government, these promises regarding baseball were temporarily forgotten, and the Venezuelan team withdrew just before our season started.

Since then the Embassy has decided to make amends, and has presented the NWBL with a very expensive and handsome medallion - The Simon Bolivar Trophy; this is to be competed for annually between a Venezuelan All Star team and a North West All Star team. A three game series to decide the winner for 1984 has been arranged.

The Venezuelan Embassy has also provided individual awards for our Pony League Champions.

At senior level, we still have our six reliables, and with Burtonwood U.S. Army, and Skelmersdale having started the season

in grand style, Trojans' seven year strangle hold is now in peril.

At Pony level we have enjoyed unexpected success. At the end of 1983 we were down to one team; a concentrated effort by Messrs. Bennett, Lawler, Foster, Dulson, Tracy, Swift, Wells, Hugh King and several newcomers resulted in a tremendous increase in interest. This has led to the formation of a five team league, with the prospect of two extra teams at a later date. Skelmersdale in particular has produced a terrific response, three of the Pony League teams are based in Skelmersdale. Due to the newcomers already mentioned we have had remarkable success in obtaining equipment from the most unthought of places.

Whereas Ponyball has made great strides forward, the same cannot be said of Ladies Softball. Although there are still three teams, Litherland High School has decided not to play outside the school programme they operate. This decision stems from a dispute last year when there was an objection against them using male players in league matches.

The Jets and the Blue-Caps are still keen, but two teams can hardly form a league, and cost has ruled out very much travelling. All that these two teams have is a series of games between themselves. It is to be hoped that they will adopt the attitude of the Pony League, and permit teams to enter a competition if and when they are formed.

To conclude we have arranged a number of All Star games in addition to the series versus the Venezuelan All Stars. We have also arranged a couple of games at Stretford in an attempt reintroduce the sport there.

The North West All Stars played the Great Britain team at Burtonwood Army Base on 24th. June. We were beaten by the G.B. team 11 - 0. We have an All Star game arranged to be played at the Liverpool International Garden Festival on 30th. September.
Norman Wells.

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in November. Items for publication, and/or subscriptions should be sent to the editor - William Morgan, 6(B) Stevenage Road, London, S.W.6. The Subscription is £1 for four issues.

SOUTHERN ENGLAND BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

Standings as at 25th. June 1984.

<u>Group 1</u>				
	W	L	%	GB
Croydon Bluejays	5	0	1000	-
Cobham Yankees	3	2	.600	2
Crawley Giants I	3	2	.600	2
Sutton Braves	3	3	.500	2½
U.S. Navy I	2	2	.500	2½
London Warriors	1	4	.200	4
Regents Parks Eagles	0	4	.000	4½
<u>Group 2</u>				
<u>(West)</u>				
	W	L	%	GB
U.S. Navy II	6	0	1000	-
Wokingham Monarchs	3	2	.600	2½
Southampton Shooters	2	4	.333	4
Ashford Merlins	1	3	.250	4
Esher Rangers	1	5	.167	5

Group 2. (West Central)

	W	L	%	GB
Barnes Barnstormers	5	1	.833	-
Golders Green Sox	3	1	.750	1
Ashford Condors	2	2	.500	2
Oxshott Orioles	2	3	.400	2½
Ashford Mets	0	4	.000	4

(East)

	W	L	%	GB
Essex Raiders	4	0	1000	-
Rochester City Dodgers	2	1	.600	1½
Middlesex Trojans	2	3	.400	2½
Shoreditch Eagles	1	3	.250	3
Waltham Abbey Arrows	1	3	.250	3

(East Central)

	W	L	%	GB
Crawley Giants II	4	0	1000	-
Enfield Spartans	5	1	.833	-
Croydon Borough Pirates	3	2	.600	1½
Brighton Jets	2	4	.333	3
Gants Hill Stingrays	0	7	.000	5½

MIDLANDS. by Sheila Williams

We started the season with Senior and Junior Leagues each of them containing five teams. The Midland Pony League is made up of Southglade Eagles, Southglade Kestrels, Leicester Dodgers, Newark Titans, and a brand-new team "Boston Bullets". Standings to date -

	W	L	%
Newark Titans	2	0	1.000
Southglade Eagles	3	1	.750
Boston Bullets	1	1	.500
Southglade Kestrels	1	2	.333
Leicester Dodgers	0	3	.000

Newark Titans and Southglade Eagles qualified for the final of the Jimmy Goins Trophy.

The Midland Senior League includes two brand-new teams this season, Newark Gladiators and Arnold Astros. Standings so far;-

	W	L	%
Southglade Hornets	4	0	1.000
Clifton Cougars	1	1	.500
Southglade Pirates	1	2	.333
Arnold Astros	0	1	.000
Newark Gladiators	0	2	.000

Hornets and Cougars reached the second round of the new British Knock-out Cup. In this round Hornets are drawn away to Hull Giants, and Clifton Cougars drew a home game versus Hull Mets.

Midland Mets played the Great Britain side on Sunday, 10th. June; the weather was kind to Mets but not the opposition, Gt. Britain crushing them 20 runs to 1. The Great Britain squad were well turned out and played baseball as it should be played. Our young -sters were most impressed with the second-baseman, Alan Bloomfield; the catcher, Carl South, Brian Bretherton, and short-stop Neil Read.

A correspondent in Hull has asked me to up-date and extend details given in fact sheets that I have previously compiled.

NATIONAL CUP FINALS.

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION.

1910. Brentford 20 - West Ham 5 (Clapton Orient F.C. ground)
 1911. Leyton 6 - Crystal Palace 5 (Leyton F.C. ground)
 B.A.B.S.F.
 1983. Cobham Yankees 10 - Hull Mets 3 (Harvey Hadden Stadium)
 Juniors.
 1978. Hull Danes 5 - Isleworth (Middlesex) Tigers 2 (Barham Park)
 1979. Hull Red Sox 12 - Southglade (Nottingham) Eagles 0
 1980. Isleworth (Middlesex) Tigers 10 - Top Valley Tigers 4
 1981. Hull Aces 9 - Ashford (Middlesex) Eagles 3 (Kirkby Stadium)
 1982. Top Valley Tigers (Nottingham) 23 - Hull Rebels 13
 1983. Southglade Eagles 32 - Ince Blundell Freebirds (Merseyside) 12

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1983. Italy

EUROPEAN CUP

1982. No competition
 1983. Parmalat Parma (Italy)

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

1983. Cuba.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL. EUROPA CUP

1978. Terrasvogels (venue Haarlem)	1981. Terrasvogels (Finale Ligure)
1979. H.H.C. (Haarlem)	1982. Bloemendaal
1980. Terrasvogels (Brasschaat)	1983. Terrasvogels (Santpoort)

A VISIT TO CARDIFF.

On July 1st. I was able to see the annual international game between Wales and England on T.V. twice. In the afternoon BBC - Wales screened a 50 minute edited version of the game, played the day before. The game, played on the Civil Service Sports Ground, Newport, had lasted for just short of 90 minutes; so a 50 minutes version was able to cover all the action. In the evening on S4C a Welsh language version was screened, this lasted for 40 minutes. Again it seemed to cover all the action, it was just more tightly edited.

An interesting point about the game, won by Wales, after two successive victories by England, was that in addition to the main sponsor, Welsh Brewers (a subsidiary of Bass, Charrington); the Welsh Baseball Union had a secondary sponsor, Balan Sports. This firm, which retails sports equipment, supplied a set of kit for Wales, the shirts carried the words Balan Sports prominently on the chest. In fact as far as camera coverage was concerned, Balan Sports appeared to do better than Welsh Brewers, who relied as usual on signs placed around the perimeter of the field. I wonder whether Welsh Brewers, or on Merseyside next year, Bass North West, will insist on exclusive sponsorship rights; in which case Wales may well play with a brand of beer emblazoned on the chests of the players.

The leading Welsh club, Llanrumney Y.C., have also obtained shirt sponsorship, they play in strip advertising Howells Motors, Austin Rover. Another club, Old Illtydians, I am told is sponsored by Allied Irish Banks.

OLYMPIC BASEBALL.

As Cuba has withdrawn from the Olympic Games, the Dominican Republic has come into the tournament; additionally the I.O.C. has granted permission for the format to be enlarged from a six to an eight team set-up. Japan and Canada have therefore joined the tournament, the others, are U.S.A., Italy, Taiwan, South Korea, and Nicaragua.