

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 41

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BASEBALL

Mercury.

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MIDLANDS.

Our Senior League starts 1986 with five teams - Arnold Astros, Southglade Hornets, Newark Giants, and a new team from Horncastle. we also have two further teams in the process of forming and, hope fully, coming into our League next season, one from Leicester and one from Daybrook so, happily, baseball again seems to be thriving in the area.

Turning to the Juniors, we are hopeful of having a four team Midland Pony League - Southglade Kestrels, Nottingham Pirates, Arn-old Braves and Newark Titans. The Daybrook club are also in the process of getting a junior side together ready for 1987.

Our area are putting a team into the new BBSF National League Competition (To be known as the Nottingham Knights) who will play their home games at the Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham. Hope-fully, this venture will get off the ground this year although, unfortunately, everything seems to have come to a standstill in getting the fixtures finalised due to problems in booking grounds in a couple of the areas. However, I do feel this is the "Shop window" baseball needs and hope it will make a successful start.

Our area awards for the 1985 season were presented at our Association dance and were won by the following players:-

Midland Senior League Awards - Presented
by Ian Cunningham (Arnold Astros' Manager)

Joint Top Batters - Both players	Andrew Williams	.600
from Southglade Hornets	Chris Needham	.600
Most Valuable Player	Chris Needham	

Midland Pony League awards - Presented by

BBSF National Youth and Schools Officer Benny Benson

Top Fielder (Southglade kestrels)	Matthew Gaunt	
Top Batter (Southglade Kestrels)	Mark Callanan	.687

Special Awards - Also presented by Benny Benson

1. The Dave Illsley Memorial Trophy awarded to the Most Promising Junior (Southglade Eagles) Stephen Bullock
2. BBSF National Pitching Award Stephen Sewell (Southglade kestrels)
3. Merit Awards in appreciation of their hard work for our Association Jean Benson (Treasurer) Simon Burrows (Secretary)

One or two enquiries have been made so, by way of explanation, Southglade Baseball Club until recently consisted of four teams, two senior and two junior. This club will now continue with one senior team -(Southglade Hornets), and one junior team (Southglade Kestrels). Another club has evolved to be known as "Nottingham Pirates Baseball Club", with one senior and one junior team, both to be known as "Nottingham Pirates" and Alec Williams will continue to be the Manager.

Sheila Williams.

C.E.B.A. 1985.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>CHAMPION CLUB</u>
Italy	19,190	Parma Angels
The Netherlands	13,561	Haarlem Nicols
Spain	4,436	Viladecans(Barcelona)
France	3,376	Paris University Club
West Germany(x)	2,385	
Belgium	1,458	Royal Antwerp Eagles
Sweden	575	Sundyberg
Yugoslavia(x)	580	
Malta(x)	457	
Great Britain(x)	818	Hull Mets
Czechoslovakia	382	T.J. Kovo(Prague)
Tunisia	402	Assoc. SP.M. Bizetta
Poland(x)	378	
Switzerland	239	Lions B.C.(Zurich)
San Marino(x)	232	
Finland	215	Kintaro(Helsinki,
Denmark	594	
Austria(x)	77	

(x) Estimated by C.E.B.A.

Total Membership for 1985 was 49,355. This was a decrease of 25,365 from the 1984 figure; most of the decrease took place in Italy which reported a fall of 24,182.

The European Cup 1985 broke new ground by having three separate pools organised.

The A Pool was organised in Italy by World Vision Parma and BeCa Bologna. It was staged from 5th. to 7th. September and ended as follows.

European Cup Winners. BeCa Bologna: 2nd, World Vision Parma: 3rd., Royal Antwerp Eagles: 4th., Opal Haarlem Nicols.

B Pool was organised by Royal Antwerp Eagles during the period, 13th. to 15th. June. It was won by Royal Antwerp Eagles who thus qualified for the A Pool. 2nd. was Viladecans(Spain): 3rd. Sunbyberg (Sweden): 4th. Paris University Club.

The C Pool was organised by Tornados Mannheim at Mannheim, West Germany; play took place from 21st. to 23rd. June

The C Pool was won by Tornados Mannheim. 2nd. was T.J.Kovo, Prague. 3rd. Zajcki Ljubljana(Yugoslavia): 4th. Puumat Helsinki(Finland).

The next issue of Baseball Mercury will appear in September. Subscription for four issues is £1.

NORTHERN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

This Association is in its second year of existence. In 1985 there were five teams actively participating in baseball in this region, four of them were involved in competition in 1985, and the league placings are given below.

1. Blackadders(Whitley Bay). 2. Hexham Hellcats. 3. Wearside Hornets(Washington). 4. Chargers(North Shields).

Many of the games were played at Wallsend Sports Centre; but teams are anxious to lay-out baseball diamonds in their own localities. Baseball was played in the area in the distant past - the 1890's, and briefly at semi-pro level in 1938. As far as most people are concerned its present position dates back to 1984 when it began to gain in popularity thanks to local enthusiasts, who were helped by the national governing body of the sport(the BABSF) British Amateur Baseball & Softball Federation. An exhibition match was staged in Gateshead and as a result the Northern Baseball & Softball Association came into being.

Indoor coaching sessions were held at the start of 1985 at Killingworth Sports Centre which proved very popular and attracted a lot of new players to the sport. Coaches from Hull were supplied by the BABSF for many of the sessions and helped give the players knowledge of the sport which could then be carried forward to the outdoor season.

Our first competitive season was dominated by the Whitley Bay Blackadders which went through the season without a single defeat, but all the teams helped to ensure that we had a successful season, and we saw several close games.

What does the future hold for the sport in this area? The short term future seems bright with the promise of competition with other areas and the formation of a Northern All-Star team. It is by continually striving to improve and attracting younger players to the sport that baseball's future will be assured in this area. Several schools play softball, and the Northern Association will be working to increase the numbers playing in our area. Softball has the beauty of allowing younger children to become interested and attracts more people to both sports.

Neil Carmichael.

NORTH WEST AMERICAN BASEBALL - SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Our area has been strengthened by the transfer of the Americans based at Menwith Hill, who formerly played in the North East Area. We have also had an upsurge in women's softball with an eight team league operating, member teams being drawn from a wide area. This is heartening news compared to our softball experiences in 1985. Then we only had three teams competing, the teams from Manchester and Liverpool, never continued, after playing initially. However, this in no way dampened the enthusiasm of the remaining teams, Skelmersdale Jets, Litherland Cubs, and Southport Squaws.

Because of the refusal of other softball areas to register with the BABSF in 1985, the Squaws and the Jets played for the 1985 National Championship at Crawford Sports Ground, Liverpool. The Final, could only be described as "excellent", an utterly marvelous game, won by the Jets by one run.

1985 Junior Baseball. Five teams started, but unfortunately, the Ashurst Aces, who led the league at the half way stage, inexplicably withdrew.

The remaining four teams fought out a dour battle, with the Litherland Freebirds emerging as winners; final positions.

Champions - Litherland Freebirds; 2nd. Tolona White Sox; 3rd. Rainford Bees; 4th. Litherland Cubs.

Northwest K.O. Cup was won by Tolona White Sox; and the Dawnlight Trophy by Litherland Freebirds.

Norman Wells

S.E.B.A. 1985

Division 1

1. LONDON WARRIORS
2. Sutton Braves
3. Copnam Yankees
4. Crawley Giants I, and Croydon Bluejays
6. U.S. Navy Seahawks
7. Barnes Barnstormers
8. Rochester City Dodgers

Division 2

1. BASILDON RAIDERS
2. Enfield Spartans, and Golders Green Sox.
4. Ashford Condors, and Brighton Jets

Division 3

1. Waltham Abbey Arrows
2. Southampton Shooters
3. Croydon Borough Pirates

At the end of September at Feltham, Middlesex, the Southern England Baseball Association staged a One Day Baseball Festival. Results of games played, S.E.B.A. Cup Final - Croydon Bluejays beat London Warriors 10 - 4. S.E.B.A. Plate Final - Basildon Raiders triumphed over Southampton Shooters 14 - 3. In the S.E.B.A. Second Division All-Star Game. Basildon Raiders beat the 2nd. Division All-Stars 12 - 4.
Brian Holland.



**WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
BASEBALL 1986
THE NETHERLANDS**

19 JULI t/m 2 AUGUSTUS

Countries playing - Belgium, Colombia, Cuba, Italy, Japan, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Taiwan, The Netherlands, U.S.A., Venezuela.

Four cities will host games - Haarlem 24, Rotterdam 14, Eindhoven 14, Utrecht 14.

Passe-partouts valid for all games at Haarlem and valid in the other cities cost 150 D.Fl. for adults and 75 D. Fl. for youths of 14 years and younger.

Passe-partouts for the other cities are only valid for the city for which they are issued, and cost 90 D.Fl. for adults and 45 D.Fl. for youths.

The four cities have spent considerable sums on improving the baseball stadiums to be used for the series.

With. WOMEN'S WORLD SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND 1986

Twelve countries participated, each country played one game versus each other country in the first stage of the competition. At the completion of this stage the positions were 1. U.S.A. 22pts. 2. New Zealand 18. 3. China 18. 4. Canada 14. 5. Puerto Rico 12. 6. Taiwan 12. 7. The Netherlands 10. 8. Australia 8. 9. Japan 8. 10. Italy 6. 11. Indonesia 4. 12. Zimbabwe 0.

An extra game was played to decide second place in this ranking New Zealand beat China 3 - 1. In the play-offs China beat Canada 4 - 5; U.S.A. beat New Zealand 1 - 0. U.S.A. went to the final. For the second place in the final China beat New Zealand 9 - 1. Final game U.S.A. beat China 2 - 0.

Top Four Standings. 1. U.S.A., 2. China, 3. New Zealand. 4. Canada.

WELSH BASEBALL UNION

At the beginning of 1985 the administrations of the Welsh Baseball Union and The Welsh National Baseball League were merged. A continuing problem was the industrial action by the teaching unions, about 250 school teams are affiliated to the W.B.U., but schools baseball has ground to a standstill during 1984/1985; with the exception of about seven junior schools whose heads were sufficiently supportive and co-operative to permit games to be played completely during the school day.

To overcome this problem the W.B.U. are hoping that Scout and Guide troops will operate baseball teams.

Highlights of 1985. Llanrumney Y.C. won the Premier Division Championship for the twelfth successive season. Llanrumney Y.C. also won a hard fought final of the W.B.U. Cup versus Caerau, the largest W.B.U. Final crowd for some years turned out in the hope of seeing a win by the underdog Caerau team, which had gained a victory over Llanrumney a couple of weeks earlier.