

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 42

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MIDLANDS

Our Pony League was comprised of only three teams, Nottingham Pirates, Southglade Kestrels and Bestwood Braves. Kestrels proved to be much the strongest team and as well as winning the League they took the Jimmy Goins Tournament, Jason Ball (Southglade Kestrels) winning the M.V.P. Award. Bestwood Braves did very well in their first season, coming close to beating Pirates on one occasion and also managing to give Kestrels a bit of a scare.

Nottingham All-Stars travelled to Humberside and picked up the Eagle Invitation Trophy for the third successive year, beating Humberside 13 - 3. Stephen Sewell (Southglade Kestrels) took the Player of the Day award.

Nottingham won the Colt County Championship for the third year in a row when they beat Humberside 11 - 6 at Southglade Park. Matthew Gaunt (Nottingham Pirates) was awarded the Player of the Day Trophy.

The Pony County Championships were played in Hull. Humberside beating Nottingham 14 - 3. Nicky Weaver (Southglade Kestrels) picking up the award for the Most Valuable Player.

The Senior League is still in progress with Nottingham Pirates at the top followed by Southglade Hornets, Arnold Astros, Newark Giants and Horncastle Panthers. There are one or two games left to play with everything probably hinging on the game between Pirates and Southglade Hornets to be played on the 7th. September. If Pirates can grab this one they take the League: if not, a play-off will be necessary, Pirates having beaten Hornets 4 - 3 early in the season, both teams having won all their other games.

Southglade Hornets won the Nottingham Cup with a 23 - 13 victory in the Final at the Harvey Hadden Stadium.

Radio Trent Knights entered the new National League. There were one or two "Hiccups" but, with some effort from all involved, this League could be a success. Knights record was not too good - one win and three losses.

The British K.O. Cup Final was played at the Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham. Southglade Hornets beating Nottingham Pirates 15 - 8.

SHEILA WILLIAMS

CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

In early 1985, the national team participated for the first time in the Asian Baseball Championship series. A national junior tournament was held in the summer of 1985, and a Chinese 12 and under team finished second in the third world Junior Rubber Baseball Championships in Japan. People's Republic amateur officials organised two training camps for junior players last winter.

Among foreign coaches visiting China to train Chinese teams was Bill Arce of the United States.

FRANCE

PUC(Paris University Club) won the tournament for the European Cup 'B' Pool. This was played in Paris from 5th. to 8th. June. PUC thus qualified to enter the 'A' Pool. PUC claim that by winning the gold in the tournament, French baseball had achieved its first ever gold medal. Teams taking part, in addition to PUC, were Jezica Ljubljana (Yugoslavia), Cologne Dodgers(West Germany),Kovo Prague(Czechoslovakia), Espoo(Finland).

Since winning its first French title in 1970, PUC has sought to raise its standard of play by entering many tournaments in such places as Italy, Sweden and Quebec.

Results of this tournament.

Kovo Prague beat Espoo 17 - 2 : PUC beat Jezica Ljubljana 15 - 0
 Cologne Dodgers beat Espoo 17 - 1 : PUC beat Kovo Prague 9 - 0
 KOVO Prague beat Cologne Dodgers 13 - 5: PUC beat Espoo 19 - 3
 Kovo Prague beat Jezica Ljubljana 21 - 11 : PUC beat Cologne 10 - 0
 Espoo beat Jezica Ljubljana 9 - 2 : Cologne Dodgers beat Jezica 7 - 1
 Final Classification : 1. PUC : 2. Kovo Prague : 3. Cologne Dodgers :
 4. Espoo : 5. Jezica Ljubljana

I note that the French Federation has 64 clubs in membership; some of these clubs, such as PUC for example operate several teams, so the total of teams and players is quite impressive.

Ron Marshall, National Coach of the BBSF, kindly gave me brief details of the recent European Championship Tournament, 'B' Pool, staged in Paris, from 1st. to 6th. July. Five countries competed, and ended in the following order. 1. West Germany : 2. France : 3. Great Britain : 4. Finland : 5. Switzerland.

Ron described the field as a soccer pitch sited inside an athletics track. A pitcher's mound had been constructed. The right field line ran across the width of the field; and in right field the track had been covered temporarily with green matting.

He stated that attendances had run from 500 upwards, and surprised me by mentioning an attendance of 7,000 at the France v. West Germany game.

NORTH WEST AMERICAN BASEBALL-SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Burtonwood Braves won the North west title this season.

Youth baseball suffered considerably this year, mainly due to last years youngsters reaching the age of senior baseball, and with insufficient numbers to take their places, only two teams survived. There are however, new teams in formation, and we look forward to season '87 with much optimism

Ladies' Softball(fast pitch)

Success, Success is the name of the game.

We have had an eight team league, fully uniformed and equipped, some sponsored; drawing increasing numbers of fans. The league programme has not finished yet, but the outcome is already decided. Skelmersdale Jets have secured the championship yet again; but this time after a much harder struggle. Several of the newer teams developed quickly, and a real struggle looks set for the '87 season. Jets took the title. Four One Day Events were shared between Jets and Squaws. Tournaments and winners are shown below.
 Sefton Festival Cup & Gordon Rimmer Shield - Park Hotel Squaws
 West Lancs Cup & Park Hotel Trophy - Skelmersdale Jets
 An All-Star game was played at the American Day, Arrowe Park, Birkenhead.

This year, we have been granted permission to stage the BBSF British National Softball Cup This will be decided in a One Day Tournament, to be held at Skelmersdale, on Sunday, 21st. September.

The following teams will compete:-

Labatt Bluebellies(Southern area): Bransholme Cougars(Hull): Park Hotel Squaws(Southport): Skelmersdale Jets: Skelmersdale Raiders:Warrington Pumas: Centro Scorpions (Southport): Liverpool Arms Crusaders(Litherland, Liverpool).

We would hope to see as many members of the BBSF executive present at these games as possible. Because, they will then realise, just how much enthusiasm abounds within these young ladies, who contribute to our Association; and who can offer yet more support, and by so doing, can bring more recruits to baseball.

If the main stream of the BBSF executive is considering a split of our two sports. I urge them to **THINK AGAIN**.

Norman Wells.

The next issue of Baseball Mercury will appear in December. Subscription for four issues is £1, and should be made payable to William Morgan.

I have received an interesting letter from Peter Ash concerning the Great Britain Softball Association; and hope to get a complete report from him for inclusion in the December issue



**WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
BASEBALL 1986
THE NETHERLANDS**
19 JULI t/m 2 AUGUSTUS

Sixty-six games were played but I have only managed to discover scores of fifty-seven games. These are shown below.

Cuba beat the following countries.

Italy 15 - 5 : Puerto Rico 11 - 1:

Colombia 11 - 0 : U.S.A. 11 - 0 :

Netherlands Antilles 15 - 3 :

Netherlands 12 - 1 : Belgium 21 - 3 :

South Korea 10 - 2 : Japan 4 - 2:

Venezuela 9 - 3:

South Korea beat the following

countries. Puerto Rico 5 - 4:

Venezuela 11 - 2 : Italy 14 - 8 :

Netherlands 12 - 2 : Belgium 26 - 2

Netherlands Antilles 14 - 4 :

Japan 3 - 2 : Taiwan 1 - 0 :

Taiwan had the following victories. Italy 9 - 5 : Belgium 16 - 0 :

Colombia 17 - 1 : Netherlands Antilles 5 - 0 : Puerto Rico 1 - 0 :

U.S.A. 7 - 6 : Cuba 4 - 3:

U.S.A. Beat these countries. Netherlands 4 - 3 : Belgium 19 - 0 :

South Korea 10 - 4 : Netherlands Antilles 10 - 2 :

Japan's wins were. Colombia 15 - 3 : Italy 3 - 0 : Belgium 13 - 1 :

U.S.A. 4 - 1 :

Italy beat the following. Netherlands Antilles 9 - 4 : Belgium 17-0:

Venezuela 10 - 8: Colombia 13 - 3:

Puerto Rico's wins were. Venezuela 9 - 6: Colombia 9 - 3:

Belgium 15 - 2: Japan 5 - 2: Italy 9 - 6:

Venezuela beat the following. Taiwan 5 - 4: Belgium 5 - 2:

Colombia 11 - 3: Netherlands 7 - 5 : Netherlands Antilles 14 - 7:

Netherlands' victories were. Taiwan 6 - 5: Puerto Rico 3 - 2:

Belgium 6 - 2: Colombia 5 - 3: Netherlands Antilles 10 - 5 :

Colombia beat - Belgium 6 - 5: Netherlands Antilles 4 - 3:

Netherlands Antilles beat Japan 5 - 3: Belgium had one win, versus Netherlands Antilles 4 - 1.

Total attendance at the 66 games was 217,550. The 24 games at Haar-

lem drew 125,000. The other sites had 14 games each and attendances were - Rotterdam 36,300: Utrecht 30,750 and Eindhoven 25,500.

The overall average gate was 3,296 spectators; but the average varied, 5,208 at Haarlem to 1,821 at Eindhoven.

Individual leaders - Best hitter Giuseppe Carelli(Italy) .478:

Pitcher with lowest ERA. Ming-Shan Kang(taiwan): Pitcher with

most wins - Dong Hee Park (South Korea) 3; Most RBI Luis Casanova (Cuba) - 19; Most Homers - Luis Casanova 6; Most Stolen bases - Roberto Santana (Puerto Rico) 6; Most runs scored - Roberto Bianchi (Italy) 18; Best defensive player - Guglielmo Trinci (Italy) : MVP. Luis Casanova (Cuba).

There were several individual awards which were decided by the fans - these were:- Most popular player - Rafael Jozefa (Netherlands Antilles). Hard luck prize - Ming-Tsu Lu (Taiwan).

Final Classification.	Pl.	Won.	Runs.	F.	A.	Difference
1. CUBA	11	10		122	24	+ 98
2. South Korea	11	8		95	50	+ 45
3. Taiwan	11	8		73	31	+ 42
4. U.S.A.	11	7		78	39	+ 39
5. Japan	11	6		63	32	+ 31
6. Italy	11	6		87	72	+ 15
7. Puerto Rico	11	5		56	45	+ 11
8. Venezuela	11	5		63	73	- 10
9. Netherlands	11	5		49	67	- 18
10. Colombia	11	3		34	110	- 76
11. Netherlands Antilles	11	2		37	90	- 53
12. Belgium	11	1		21	145	- 124

The last game of the series was that in which Taiwan beat Cuba 4 - 3; the Taiwanese at the end of the game broke down in grief as they heard that the President of their baseball federation had just died.

WELSH BASEBALL UNION

Wales played England in the 61st. international match (British code) on 19th. July. Wales won - the record now stands Wales 43 wins; England 17; with one game abandoned.

For Wales, John Smith (Llanrumney Y.C.) set a new record for caps, reaching 13. The previous record of 12, which he equalled in 1985, had stood since 1938; and was held by the late Tommy Denning, who spent his peak years playing for Splott U.S.

England has a smaller player pool to call on - so several English players have obtained more than 13 caps. Bobby Davin (Anfield O.B.) set up a new record of caps for England with 22 in this game.

Ivor Beynon, President of the Welsh Baseball Union, died earlier in the year; the game programme contained an interesting recollection of Ivor, written by Bill Barrett, press correspondent for the South Glamorgan Schools Baseball League.

Bill Barrett also had an item headed Schoolboy/Schoolgirl Baseball included in the programme. I was interested to read that a small schoolboys league had been formed in Luton. Enquiries had also been received from Grimsby and East London.

Ladies baseball is also flourishing in the Cardiff & Newport area. This league was originally formed in 1923, but faded out in the 1960's. However the league was revived in 1973 with 6 teams and has steadily grown. There are now more than 30 teams operating in 4 divisions.

The present secretary of the Ladies Baseball League is Howard Evans, who for some years has acted as publicity officer for the Welsh National Baseball League.

The Welsh League title (mens) was won for the 13th. consecutive time by Llanrumney Y.C.; this team also won the W.B.U. Cup. The other major knock-out cup - the Welsh Brewers Cup - was won by a newcomer to the ranks of trophy winners. St. Michaels Old Boys (Newport) caused an upset by beating the most powerful Gwent team, Alexandra Old Boys.