

EUROPEAN NEWS.

EHS. Bulldogs (Haarlem) beat Bell Telephone Pioneers (Antwerp) in the first round of the European Cup, score was 7-2.

The Babe Ruth League European Regional Tournament will take place at Karlsruhe, West Germany from July 31st, to August 4th. Teams taking part are American Servicemen's sons from England, West Germany, Italy, Spain, and France, and native teams from Belgium, Italy, and The Netherlands.

South Africa was invited to compete in the Haarlem Tournament, but was unable to accept; however South Africa has stated that it would be very pleased to send a team to the Netherlands in 1965.

The Grand Rapids Sullivans, one of the strongest U.S. non-professional teams had a most successful trip to Europe, when they took part in the Haarlem Baseball Festival. The Festival was held from Saturday 29th. June to Sunday 7th. July.

Contestants in this tournament were Grand Rapids, The Netherlands, Alconbury (U.S.A.F.) Spartans, and a U.S.A.F. team from France. Results of the tournament staged in the newly constructed baseball stadium are given below.

Team Position.	Won	Lost	%
1. Grand Rapids Sullivans	6	0	1.000
2. The Netherlands	3	3	.500
3. French Woods	2	4	.333
4. Alconbury Spartans	1	5	.167

Trophy Winners. 1. Haarlem Cup: Grand Rapids. 2. Sportweek Cup: The Netherlands. 3. Silver Anchor: French Woods.

Individual Trophy Winners. Best Hitter, Ron Monson (Sullivans); Homerun leader, Ron Monson (Sullivans); Best Pitchers Frank Gorondy, (French Woods) and Herman Beidschat, (Netherlands): MVP, Ron Monson (Sullivans); Best Netherlands Hitter, Boudwijn Maat: Netherlands MVP, Hamilton Richardson; Best Manager, Bill Arce (Netherlands): Best Umpire, Hans Demers: Most Popular Player, Bill Sauls, (Alconbury).

On the Thursday before the tournament opened Grand Rapids defeated a Rotterdam All-Star team 5-3. After the tournament ended Grand Rapids played an All-Star team selected from the other three contestants and won by 9-4.

Original articles and letters are invited for publication. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.



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THE SOUTHERN SCENE by G.R.Gaunt.

For many years, baseball in this country has been run entirely by a handful of men, normally comprising President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Fixtures Secretary. To them has fallen the entire responsibility of organising and ensuring the proper functioning of the baseball league.

This year, the Southern Baseball Association, having seen how efficiently the Royal Dutch Baseball Association functions, has decided to take a leaf out of their book and organise on similar lines.

Basically, the principle is as follows, that the responsibility is divided between various sub-committees.

Finance. This section deals solely with registration of players, fines, financing of international games, and the settling of expenses incurred by executive members.

Fixtures and Ground Arrangements. This section deals with the arranging of all League, Cup, and County games.

Equipment. All surplus equipment is sent to this section, so that any club in the S.B.A. which is in need of equipment can usually obtain what they require. This section is invaluable to new clubs whose biggest problem is obtaining equipment.

Publicity. All write-ups of games, results or anything of interest concerning the game is reported to this section, which

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passes on this information to the national press. This year results are published in four national newspapers : - Evening News, Daily Express, Daily Mail, and Daily Telegraph. In addition, the Evening News carries a regular column on S.B.A. events.

Foreign Relations. Deals solely with games and business outside of the S.B.A., for example, games played by S.B.A. teams in the Midlands, or North of England, and international games played, e.g. Holland.

Discipline. Is a committee dealing solely with fines imposed or suggested against defaulting players or clubs.

Despite being in the early stages of this revised organisational structure it is already evident that this is the only system by which baseball can possibly succeed in this country. Already, four more teams have come into being, and a stream of enquiries is being received.

County Games. This year the S.B.A. has endeavoured to arrange inter-county games. These games are to be played between Essex, Middlesex, and Surrey.

Each team submits the names of two or three players, depending on the number of clubs in the county, to an elected manager. This manager is responsible for the training of the county team, and ensures that the team is properly turned out for its fixtures. This is a new idea in British baseball, and the enthusiasm displayed is most encouraging.

T.V. Programme. The idea of obtaining publicity by means of T.V. originated with Colin Davies of the Kodak club. Discovering that Associated Rediffusion were genuinely interested, he placed the matter in the hands of the Publicity sub-committee, which made arrangements for a game which was filmed for the programme "Here and Now". This game will be shown on I.T.V. on August 13th.

The game was played between the U.S.Navy and a selected British team. The aim was not to put on an All-Star show, but to convey the idea that baseball is a game for young men who enjoy a game which not only requires physical skill but also a tremendous amount of mental concentration, and that the clubs are crying out for more players.

The interviewer was Huw Thomas, the well known T.V. commentator. Complete in uniform he tried his hand with a bat and promptly belted one into deep centre-field. The ball was neatly fielded, and Huw was put-out trying to stretch a double into a triple.

It was a lively game, and we hope that as a result of its being screened, the S.B.A. will receive numerous enquiries from prospective ballplayers.

S.B.A. League tables up to July 14th.

Senior Division	Played	Won	Lost	Pts.
U.S.Navy	5	5	0	10
Ford Sports	5	4	1	8
Richmond Red Sox	5	3	2	6
Kodak	5	3	2	6
Thames Board Mills	6	1	5	2
Middlesox Athletics	6	0	6	0
First Division.				
Richmond Knights	6	5	1	10
Essex Tigers	5	4	1	8
Bluejays	6	4	2	8
Crawley Giants	3	3	0	6
Southend Aces	3	0	3	0
Enfield Dodgers	4	0	4	0
Crawley Beavers	5	0	5	0

STATE SIDE DIAMOND NEWS by Norman Sutherland.

A tremendous fight is taking place, between the New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox, for supremacy in the American League. A four game series between these clubs, drew a total of 182,184 fans to Comiskey Park, Chicago, Chicago fans were delighted to see their favourites winning three games of this series. It's the first real effort by the White Sox since 1959 to break the Yankees' stranglehold on the league. In that year the "Go Go Sox" got moving to win the pennant, the last club to win the American League pennant other than the Yankees.

Incidentally, from 1949 to 1962, the Yankees have failed to win the American League championship on only two occasions, in 1954, Cleveland won the title, in 1959, Chicago were victors, both of these pennant winners were managed by Al Lopez, the present manager of the White Sox.

The New York Yankees and the New York Mets who are currently at opposite ends of their respective leagues, drew 50,742 fans to Yankee Stadium for their annual exhibition game. The receipts from this game go to boys' baseball. The game, won by

the Mets 6-2, raised 133,408 dollars, and proved to be among the most exciting of the season. Met fans are said to be the noisiest in baseball. They really let go as their heroes defeated their hated neighbours.

St. Louis, the Dodgers, and the Giants are all fighting to hold the lead in the National League. The top spot has changed hands many times already. I believe that the Giants will repeat as pennant winners. Juan Marichal, 22 year old Giant right-hander from the Dominican Republic, pitched his first no-hitter, against the Phillies.

Comic Jim Piersall, recently traded to the Mets by the A.L. cellar dwellers, Washington, ran backwards around the bases, when he hit his one hundredth major-league homer. This prank which occurred at the Polo Grounds, led to a reprimand from the National League, but Jim sure does add spice to the game.

HULL REPORT by Don Smallwood.

The shocks continue in the Hull League. Braves beat Royals 13-2. From eye-witness reports, Braves gave Bromsgrove Garringtons a hard game in the British Baseball Federation Cup. This game was won by Bromsgrove 11-3, Braves winning the B.B.F. Consolation Cup. These performances must have given Braves great confidence for the future. Ron Marshall, Royals' pitcher, is confident of having sufficient young players for Royals to field a second team next season. Blackburn Buccaneers are still at the stage of gaining experience. Although not having won a game up to the present, they enjoy every minute of play, and recent scores indicate that they are improving.

Aces are having a mixed season. After dropping a game to Royals, crashing to U.S.A.F. Lakenheath, and losing a home N.L. game to Stretford 15-5, they appeared to be slipping. However, in recent weeks the old bounce seems to be returning, and Aces could still retain all the trophies that they won last year. Aces also have a chance of winning the B.B.F. Cup, meeting Bromsgrove Garringtons in the final on 18th. August.

Aces visit the South during September 13th. to 15th. They play an Essex team on the 14th. at the Thames Board Mills ground. On the 15th. they meet U.S. Navy at Sutton, Surrey. Aces are to visit Holland again in 1964, it is hoped that three games will be played against Dutch teams. Realising now how strong the Dutch

teams are, Aces hope to include a number of guest players in the party.

With the return of Les Sharp as an umpire, and a weekly class being run by the league for anyone interested in umpiring, the problem of the shortage of umpires, and of the standard of umpiring, is at last receiving attention. E.Jacklin, and H.McAven must be two very happy men, as for some time they have been our only umpires.

I realise that we have a long way to go; however, I sincerely believe that at no time during the last ten years have we had club officers who were so ready to work for the strengthening of their respective clubs as the present officers. The league championship is still open and we are looking forward to a great second half of our season.

Hull League up to 13th. July.

	Played	Won	Lost	Pts.
Hull Royals	4	3	1	6
East Hull Aces	3	2	1	4
Hull Braves	4	2	2	4
Blackburn Buccaneers.	3	0	0	0

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS by George Livsley.

League standings to 17th. July.

	Pl.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Stretford Saints	5	5	0	54	25	10
East Hull Aces	4	3	1	49	26	6
Nottingham Athletics	4	3	1	25	39	6
Bromsgrove Garringtons	3	1	2	25	23	2
Birmingham Austin B.L.Bombers	4	1	3	26	46	2
Coventry Blue Sox	5	0	5	22	41	0

John Collins(Stretford) and J.Read(Aces) have each hit a home-run. Leading pitchers in the strike-out department are Wally O'Neill(Stretford) with 42, F.Parker (Aces) 40, and Cliff Court (Austin) 35.

On September 22nd. at the Austin B.L. ground, the N.L. One day Tournament for the last four clubs will be held. All trophies will be presented to the teams and individuals who have won them. It is hoped that a large turn-out of N.L. players and supporters will be seen.

On 29th. September at Thames Board Mills ground, the first ever N.I. All-Star team will meet the Southern B.A.'s. All-Star team.

KILL THE UMP. by W. Holmes.

This morbid cry has been howled by both spectators and players for a long, long time; and it looks as if they have nearly succeeded, as good umpires are as scarce in Britain as hairs on a billiard ball.

As an illustration of this fact, consider the position in Hull, where in 1939 we had 24 members in the Hull and District Umpires' Association, which was affiliated to the National Baseball Association. All of these umpires had passed the examinations set by the N.B.A. At that time the umpire's fee for a senior club game was 3/6. In 1949, there remained 8 umpires, and today, only 3 umpires are active in Hull, without this devoted trio the game would not survive. The umpire's fee is now 10/- for Hull League games, and 15/- for National League contests, plus travelling expenses.

The umpire situation has to be improved if the game is to survive, and the secretary of the National Baseball League is launching a scheme to provide first-class umpires in all areas. The intention is that a National Association of Umpires will be formed between now and the opening of the 1964 season, all active umpires, and any former umpires who wish to get back into the game are requested to write to the address given at the end of this article.

For those persons who have never qualified as umpires, but who wish to assist the development of the game, I suggest that they seriously consider taking up umpiring. What is required of a good umpire?

1. A thorough knowledge of the laws of the game.
2. Good eyesight.
3. A keen sense of fair play, and the courage of your convictions.

If you think that you have these qualities, and wish to become an umpire, then write to me for full details.

Please write to: W. Holmes, 1 Preston Road, Hull, Yorks.

BASEBALL COURIER is published six times a year. The next issue will appear in mid-October. Copy for the next number must be received by 5th. October. Annual subscription to BASEBALL COURIER is 4/-. P.O.'s should be made payable to W.T.Morgan. Subscriptions and all other correspondence must be addressed to William T.Morgan, 11 Heath Street, Riverside, Cardiff.

MERSEYSIDE NOTES by P.Hemmings.

Alconbury Spartans have not yet confirmed that they will be able to visit Liverpool for our August Monday All-Star game. We are therefore arranging a game between two teams drawn from our league, probably Mormon Yankees v. the Rest of the League. Stretford Saints, the holders, were knocked-out in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup, by Tigers 5-3. Tigers now meet Mormon Yankees in the final which will be played at Long Lane on 3rd. August.

The final of the National Baseball Congress Commissioner's Trophy will be played between Stretford Saints and either Tigers or N.A.L.G.O. Cubs. Stretford rather surprisingly beat Mormon Yankees 7-0 in this competition, but such upset results are good for the game.

At the present time Mormon Yankees look to be winners of the league championship, not having lost a game, and Aces appear to be favourites to secure the runners-up spot. Liverpool Aces recently defeated East Hull Aces here in the first leg of the "Two Rivers Pennant". The score was 3-1. The second leg of this event, which is decided on aggregate scores, takes place at Hull on Sunday August 11th.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS by Andy Parkes.

As publicity officer of the Stretford Saints I have been successful in placing regular news items in the following newspapers. Manchester Evening News, Manchester Evening Chronicle, Stretford Journal, and Stretford Express. Naturally, the Stretford papers being more local give us rather greater space than the Manchester evening papers.

The stories which have created the greatest interest have been those concerning our new vice-president Miss Maxine Factor, and the pitching of a no-hit game by our Australian pitcher Ian Glover. Miss Factor is the 19 year-old grand-daughter of Hollywood make-up king Max Factor. She is visiting leading British stores demonstrating beauty treatment.

On Monday 17th. June in our N.B.C.Trophy semi-final game against the hitherto invincible Mormon Yankees, Ian Glover pitched a no-hitter, the game was curtailed to seven innings, owing to rain and bad light. Ian had 17 strike-outs. He has played baseball for his State in Australia, and at the age of 17 was offered a try-out by the New York Yankees. He is in Britain as resident professional to the Nantwich cricket club.