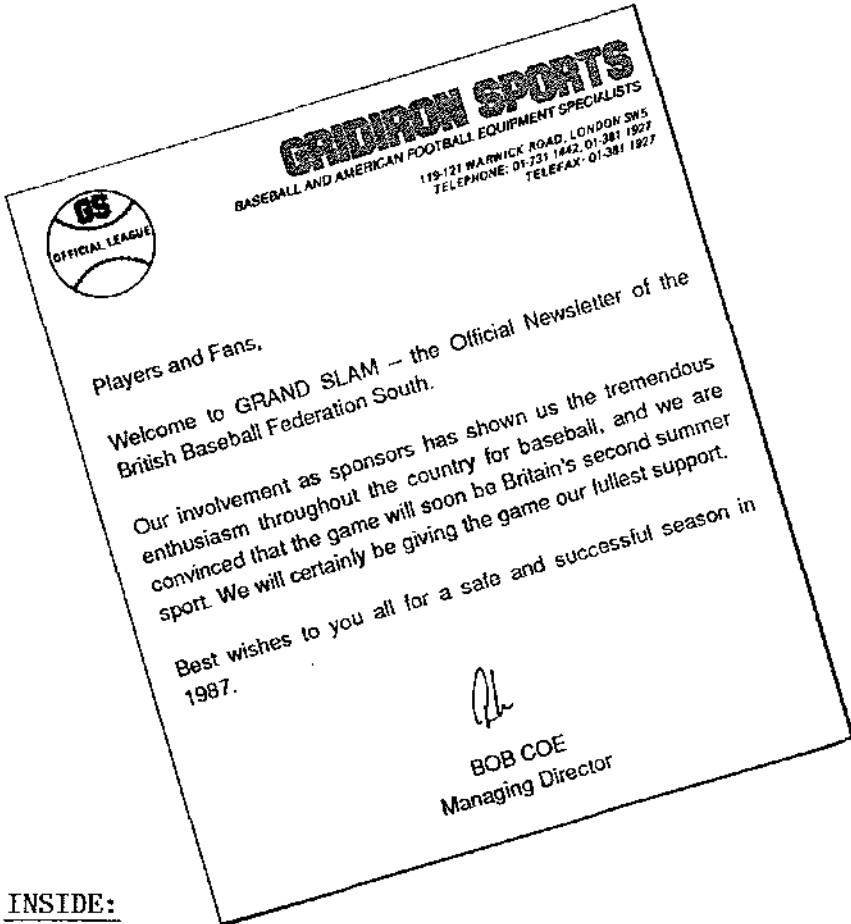



Number 2 - May 29th, 1987.

GRAND SLAM


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION - SOUTH



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Best wishes to you all for a safe and successful season in
1987.


BOB COE
Managing Director

INSIDE:

Results, Standings up to date, Youth News.
Ian Pont (Essex CCC & Spartans) in the USA.
National League.

30p

USA

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With one issue of Grand Slam under my belt, I now have a much better idea of what it takes - which is, basically, a lot of time consuming work, especially on distribution. If there is anyone out there with a word processor who would be prepared to print up batches of address labels, I would be very grateful.

Apologies to Bob Locke of the Hoddesden Sharks for misprinting his phone no.; it should be correct on page 6 of this issue.

On page 4 you will see some game reports. I consider the carrying of game reports & standings to be one of the basic functions of Grand Slam. In the past, it was always a case of turning up on Sunday not knowing how your opponents were playing, how they did last week, which teams were hot, which cold, who was pitching well etc.. Each game was played in a kind of vacuum. I hope GS can give everybody a feel for how the season is shaping up, but this can only happen if you send me game reports, maximum 150 words, which must include a line score. Maybe eventually we can progress to box scores.

Congratulations to Enfield and Golders Green for their impressive away wins over Cobham and Crawley respectively. With no unbeaten teams in Div.1, it looks like being a tight race. The Hemel Red Sox have the only 4-0 record in the league.

The National League starts on June 6. Let's go out and support the Tigers & Warriors at the turnstiles, because their success will become ours. Entrance fees (at least at Tigers games) will be £2 (adults) & £1 (under 14). Food & drink will be on sale, and there will be pre-game shows, so make a day of it.

The sad death has been reported of Mr. Charles Prosser, manager of the newly formed Hemel Rebels. Mr Prosser was a genuine, likeable man, with a great love of baseball, and he will be missed by all connected with the game.

Trevor Prosser will take over as the Rebel's club secretary, at the address printed in the yearbook.

You may have seen yours truly (briefly) and the Sidewinders (in their 40s style baggy uniforms) on C4's Network 7 TV show on May 17th. It was an amusing little piece that managed to convey the fun of transforming yourself with gaudy uniforms and outlandish accessories into that Creature of the Diamond, The Ballplayer!

Muir MacKean. 3.



- GAME REPORTS -

SUTTON BRAVES 10 CRAWLEY GIANTS 6.

Rose Hill Park, May 17th.

Previous games between the Giants and the Braves have always been close, and Sunday's game was no exception. Steve Chinn was the starting pitcher for the Giants, and, though successful in a pre-season friendly against the Braves, gave up four runs in five innings this time. Martin Jewer started for Sutton, and held Crawley to one run before Australian Andy Evans came on in relief in the fifth. Then the rain started, and the run rate increased. The closing innings were tense as Crawley rallied, but Sutton held on to boost their record to 2-1.

	R	H	E	
CRAWLEY	000	010	122	6 14 4
SUTTON	003	016	00x	10 13 4

Steve Chinn.

COBHAM YANKEES 27 GILLINGHAM DODGERS 4.

American School, Surrey, May 17th.

Cobham gave a warm welcome to Gillingham, newly promoted to the BBFS Division One. Gillingham might have felt it was a little too warm, as Cobham blistered the visitors by 27-4 in a match that was terminated after seven innings under the slaughter rule. The win strengthened Cobham's grip on first place in Div. One. For the Yankees, it was an easy win, as the local side scored eight runs in the first inning, and were leading 16-0 before Gillingham were able to mount any sort of attack. Dave Jensen, Cobham's starting pitcher, was credited with the win, his first of the season, and aided his own cause with two triples; Alan Smith, who relieved Jensen, also tripled twice. Dale Newman, promoted from Oxshott only this week, went two for two.

	R	H	E	
DODGERS	000	102	1 4 4	9
YANKEES	862	614	x 27	22 1

Dave Brown.

HOUNSLOW HOWLERS 11 OXSHOTT ORIOLES 16.

Feltham Arena, May 17th.

Second Division Oxshott surprised the division leading Howlers with a 16-11 win played in the rain at Hounslow. The win moved Oxshott into a tie for second place in the division. The Orioles, a team not expected to beat the powers of the second division, were only momentarily behind after giving their opponents two unearned runs in the first inning. Then they ran up a 13-4 lead after five behind the pitching of left-hander Tony Kuramitsu, who also went five for five at the plate. With the rain making the ball slick and hard to handle, the Howlers pushed over five runs in the seventh to close the gap to 16-11, but Kuramitsu struck out his eleventh victim and got two fly balls to the infield to end the game.

	R	H	E	
ORIOLES	021	461	2 16	17 1
HOWLERS	200	202	5 11	15 0

Dave Brown.

ENFIELD SPARTANS 20 BARNESTORMERS 5.

George V Playing Fields, May 17th.

On an overcast, windy day, and in occasional driving rain, Enfield comfortably beat Barnes in a game that was called after 7 innings on the slaughter rule. The Spartans scored 10 runs in the first inning on 10 hits, 2 walks, a sac fly and three errors, effectively ending the game as a contest before it started. Their new starter, Essex cricketer Ian Pont, went five innings, giving up 7 hits and walking 4 in only the sixth ballgame of his career - although one of these was played for the Philadelphia Phillies! Using a hard fastball and change, he effectively silenced the Barnes bats. Iain Lanario and Oscar Marcelino hit inside-the-park homers for Enfield.

	R	H	E	
BARNES	020	020	1 5 8	5
ENFIELD	0040	402	x 20	20 2

Muir MacKean.

STANDINGS

FIRST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cobham	3	1	.750	-
Enfield	3	1	.750	-
Sutton	3	1	.750	-
Croydon	2	1	.660	½
Golders Gn	2	1	.660	½
Barnes	1	3	.250	2
Crawley	1	3	.250	2
Gillingham	0	4	.000	3½

SECOND DIVISION

Waltham Arrows	3	0	1.000	-
Oxshott	3	1	.750	½
Hounslow Hlrs	2	1	.660	1
Southampton	2	1	.660	1
Croydon BP	2	2	.500	1½
Tonbridge	0	3	.000	3
Hounslow Hcns	0	4	.000	3½

THIRD DIVISION (NORTH)

Hemel RS	4	0	1.000	-
Basildon	3	0	1.000	-
Totteridge	1	1	.500	1½
City Slick	1	2	.330	2½
Waltham FRR	1	2	.330	2½
Waltham AS	0	2	.000	3
Hemel Rebels	0	3	.000	3½

THIRD DIVISION (SOUTH)

Reading	3	0	1.000	-
Crawley	3	1	.750	½
Arun	2	1	.660	1
Croydon BJ 2	2	1	.660	1
Brighton	2	2	.500	1½
Ashford	1	2	.330	2
Burgess Hill	1	3	.250	2½
Bournemouth	0	4	.000	3½

17 May

Cobham	27	Gillingham	4
Enfield	20	Barnes	5
Sutton	10	Crawley	6

24 May

Barnes	9	Gillingham	2
Cobham	5	Enfield	7
Crawley	7	Golders Gn	8
Sutton	24	Croydon	9

17 May

Croydon BP	33	Hounslow Hcns	15
Hounslow Hlrs	11	Oxshott	16
Waltham Arrows	8	Southampton	6

24 May

Southampton	28	Croydon BP	12
Tonbridge	7	Oxshott	15
Waltham Arrows	49	Hounslow Hcns	3

17 May

Hemel Red Sox	32	Hemel Rebels	7
(Totteridge)	21	Waltham Saxons	21)
Waltham RR	19	City Slick	41

24 May

Basildon	10	City Slick	6
Hemel Red Sox	33	Waltham Saxons	15
Totteridge	31	Hemel Rebels	29

17 May

Bournemouth	10	Reading	25
Crawley	5	Burgess Hill	18

24 May

Arun	17	Burgess Hill	12
Ashford	13	Crawley	16
Brighton	1	Croydon BJ 2	6

(up to and including 24th May)



BBFS YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

Teams in the BBFS Youth Instructional League will play their first games on 13th June. The seven teams will play a twelve game schedule, home and away, ending on September 12th. The games will be mainly on Saturdays, and umpires will be needed. If you would like to umpire, contact Geoff Mann (address on page 7). The teams are;

<u>BURGESS HILL RED HAT COLTS</u>	<u>Lee Bartholomew</u> , 5A Victoria Rd, Burgess Hill, W.Sussex RH15 9QS. 04446 5983.
<u>CHELMSFORD BADDOW BEES</u>	<u>Gordon Tozer</u> , 130 Noakes Ave, Gt Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 ADT. 0245 72500.
<u>HEMEL RED SOX COLTS</u>	<u>Chris Cullen</u> , 50 Hales Pk, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4RH. h.0442 48471.w.0707 323434.
<u>HODDESDEN SHARKS</u>	<u>Bob Locke</u> , 107 Ware Rd, Hoddesden. 0992 442202.
<u>HOUNSLOW HUSTLERS</u>	<u>Bob Winning</u> , 140 Station Crescent, Ashford, Middx. 07842 49122.
<u>SUTTON BRAVES COLTS</u>	<u>Rick D'Alesandro</u> , 42 Cypress Ct, 60 Cheam Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SU. h,643 4335 w.673 0906.
<u>WEYBRIDGE WHITE SOX</u>	<u>Hugh Neffendorf</u> , 41 Oatlands Ave, Weybridge KT13 9FF. 0932 47427.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The National League kicks off in London on June 6th with a derby game between the capital's two teams, The London Warriors and The Southern Tigers, at Richmond Rugby and Athletic ground, where both sides will play their home games. The Tigers, (Business Manager Peter Hunt, 937 6054, Administration Marianne Ball, 937 6054, Team Manager Julian Dodwell 07842 54938) have a practice on Wednesday 3rd of June at 6pm in Old Deer Pk, Richmond, to which all players regardless of nationality are invited. Practice enquiries to Julian Dodwell. The Warriors, (Chairman Alan Smith, wk.222 7676 hm.278 8706, Team Manager Lee Pierce, wk.0273 684736, hm. 0273 508252) do not have confirmed practice times, contact Tim Turner (wk. 6613115, hm. 531 7159) or Alan Smith for details.

SCHEDULES:(home games)

<u>TIGERS</u>		<u>WARRIORS</u>	
June 13	v Humberside County Bears	June 6	v Southern Tigers
June 27	v Lancashire Red Sox	June 20	v Mersey Mariners
July 25	v Nottingham Knights	July 11	v Nottingham Knights
Aug 1	v London Warriors	Aug 8	v Humberside County Bears
Aug 15	v Mersey Mariners	Aug 15	v Lancashire Red Sox

(Aug 15 is a doubleheader)



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CONTACTS

If you want to participate in baseball in any way, please contact:

Nigel Summers (BBFS Secretary)
11 Field Close,
Burgess Hill, hm.04446 47800
Sussex RH15 2PE. wk.0273 209422

or: Don Ferguson (BBFS President)
36a Baltham Villas,
London N11 1PD. hm.007 221

or: Jack Akers (Youth)
5 Clivedon Close,
Woodside Park. hm.245 9366
London N12. wk.3828014

or: Geoff Mann (Umpires)
12 Elgin Mansions,
Fleain Ave. hm.290 2529
London W9 1LG. wk.702 6311
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Ian Pont: Spring Training in America!

It is nine thousand miles, as the fastball flies, from the baseball field of the Durban Vikings, where I had last played, to the magnificent astroturf of Veterans Stadium, home of the Philadelphia Phillies. There I was, having played just five games in my life, looking down from seat 12, row 163, at the fifty thousand capacity park hoping I could make it my home. Surely the Americans had seen it all before, or had they? An Englishman chasing the American dream? It's just not cricket.

During my try-out with the Yankees the previous September, I had never seen a mound or gripped a ball or worn a mitt. I had just gone out there and thrown the ball. The electronic digits on the radar speed gun blinked 86mph. I was back in America on February 10th this year armed with a six week crash course in throwing technique, a snappy curve, and a shocking pickoff movement. I had also learnt the rules - well, most of the important ones. Six major league try-outs lay ahead in a journey across the country and back, taking me to the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Dodgers and Toronto Blue Jays. I received plenty of useful advice, lots of encouragement, but in each case a 'thanks, but no thanks'. My major league E.R.A. of 0.80 from South Africa stood for little.

The whole story had been a question of combatting the attitudes that people had towards me. Just because I hadn't grown up playing the sport didn't mean that I couldn't adapt to it. Age was a concern too. Roy Krasik, the Yankees' assistant scouting director, summed it up: 'It would take on average five years in the minor leagues for a prospect to make the majors. I will say that if this trial had been five years ago, I would have offered a contract on the spot.'

The Phillies held out a lifeline. I had a ten day invitation to join spring training in Clearwater, Florida. On day seven, I had a chance to show off my arm; a twelve minute B.P. session to third baseman Mike Schmidt. I found out why he is worth \$2.1 million and I'm not. But the biggest test was yet to come - on day ten, I was to start against a New York college for the class A Phillies team. After three innings I left the field with 6-0 lead, having walked two, allowed one hit and struck out three. I was happy to get out of a bases loaded jam in the third.

March 23rd arrived with a request from the Phillies management to extend my stay for a further three weeks. The cricket season was due to start on April 1st. Could the Phillies guarantee me a contract at the end of my trial period? 'No one's safe in this game', said Jack Pastore, player personnel manager.

The next day, unfortunately, I was jetting back to my cricket career, reflecting on the chance I had had to take aim at the odds, fire at the strike zone of big league ball and make a fresh start. It all brought life sharply into focus - the Yanks play ball, we just play at it.

Ian Pont 1987.

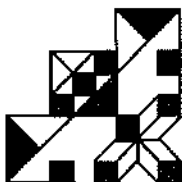


Ian Pont pitching for Enfield against Barnes, May 17th. 9.

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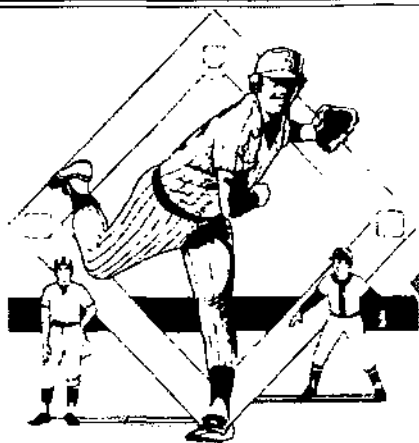
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