



7-8 SEPTEMBER & 14-15 SEPTEMBER 2013
FARNHAM PARK

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

7-8 SEPTEMBER 2013

AAA League

Saturday, 7 September 2013

10:00	Main Diamond	SF 1	Halton Jaguars	@	Liverpool Trojans
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17:00	Diamond 3	SF 2	Cambridge Royals	@	London Metros
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Sunday, 8 September 2013

15:00	Main Diamond	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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AA League

Saturday, 7 September 2013

12:30	Diamond 2	SF 1	Guildford Mavericks	@	Hull Scorpions
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15:30	Diamond 2	SF 2	Harrogate Tigers	@	Hove Tuesday
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Sunday, 8 September 2013

13:30	Main Diamond	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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Single-A League

Saturday, 7 September 2013

10:00	Diamond 2	SF 1	Richmond Dukes	@	London Marauders
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10:00	Diamond 3	SF 2	Haverhill Blackjacks	@	Herts Raptors
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15:00	Main Diamond	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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SCHEDULE OF PLAY

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2013

National Baseball League

Saturday, 14 September 2013

10:00	Main Diamond	SF 1	Southampton Mustangs	@	London Mets
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14:30	Main Diamond	SF 2	Harlow Nationals	@	Herts Falcons
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Sunday, 15 September 2013

15:00	Main Diamond	Final	SF2 Winner	@	SF1 Winner
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Pony League

Saturday, 14 September 2013

10:30	Diamond 3	SF 1	London Mets	@	Herts Harriers
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14:30	Diamond 3	SF 2	Cobham Cougars	@	Halton Polecats
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Sunday, 15 September 2013

10:00	Diamond 3	3rd/4th	Loser SF 2	@	Loser SF 1
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11:00	Main Diamond	Final	Winner SF 2	@	Winner SF 1
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Bronco League

Saturday, 14 September 2013

11:00	Diamond 2	SF 1	LYBL Bulldogs	@	London Mets
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14:30	Diamond 2	SF 2	Forest Glade Redbacks	@	Halton Polecats
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Sunday, 15 September 2013

10:00	Diamond 2	3rd/4th	Loser SF 2	@	Loser SF 1
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12:30	Diamond 2	Final	Winner SF 2	@	Winner SF 1
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



One of my favourite baseball quotes comes from Yankees pitcher Jim Bouton:

‘ You see, you spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time. ‘

This so aptly describes what happens to me every summer. Baseball is like no other sport. From the beautiful geometrical aesthetics of a baseball diamond to the history and romance of the stories that make up the folklore the game; from the dreams of a kid sleeping with their baseball glove under the pillow to the exhilaration of a home run ball or hard hit line drive.

I also find it amusing how our game contributes to so much of the language we use in our day to day lives. In sports discussions on TV you’ll hear about a footballer who ‘stepped up to the plate’. I find myself shouting back that if he does that he’ll have to be playing baseball. My son usually has to remind me that I’m talking to a TV! An article by Liam Carroll about his anger at us not reaping the legacy of the Olympics because baseball was kicked out of the games also pointed out how terms like ‘being dealt a curveball’, ‘touching base with colleagues’, ‘estimating ball park figures’ or ‘getting to first base’ is commonly used language that originated in baseball. It puzzles me that this game we love is not shared by millions in the UK.

Following an exciting 2013 season with several twists and turns in all our adult and youth divisions I would like to welcome you to the British Baseball Federation finals.

Our coaches and players all over the UK have spent the summer working towards taking part in the finals and I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to all those who have made it to the big event. I would also like to say thank you to all the dedicated and committed volunteers who keep our sport going.

Thank you to GB Baseball and BaseballSoftballUK who have put it all together. I hope you all have a great experience and go home with baseball memories to cherish this winter.

Earl Dix

President

British Baseball Federation

MEET THE COMPETITION

National Baseball League (NBL)

Harlow Nationals

After bursting onto the NBL scene last year, and winning the National Baseball Championship in their first season, the Harlow Nationals proved that it was no fluke by winning the 2012 NBL title as well. Harlow struggled to continue their dominant form in the first half of the season and had to come through the wildcard playoffs but will be hoping they have hit form at the right moment as they look for a historical three-peat.

Herts Falcons

The Herts Falcons finished second last year in both the regular season and in the postseason, losing to the Harlow Nationals in the final. With new additions and an improved pitching rotation, the Falcons finished this regular season in first place with an impressive 24-4 record and go into the NBL Semi-Final with a 19-game winning streak. This season they have had the best offence (234 runs scored) and the best defence (79 runs allowed).

London Mets

In 2012 the London Mets stormed out of the blocks but lost form as the season wore on and exited the playoffs in the double-elimination round. There was no loss of form in 2013 though as the Mets challenged for the regular season title right to the end, finishing just one game back from Herts. London will be full of confidence as they look to add to the back-to-back titles they won in 2007-8.

Southampton Mustangs

The Southampton Mustangs are the only side to have made the NBL National Baseball Championship every season since 2010, but they have yet to land the big prize. With their best ever regular season behind them, including their current seventeen-game winning streak, they believe this could finally be their year to go all the way and seal the first national title in the club's history.

A group of baseball players in grey uniforms with blue and yellow accents are celebrating on a field. They are high-fiving each other. One player in the foreground is wearing a blue helmet and has a tattoo on his left arm. The background shows a green field and a blue sky with some clouds.

AAA

Cambridge Royals

The Cambridge Royals enjoy a return to the NBCs for a third straight year, second at the AAA level. The Royals come with one of the best 1-2 pitching rotations in the league with Brett Curran and newcomer Doug Grabowski. Jon Hollis, Chanse Durdahl and Mike Poindexter also add clutch hitting. The Royals hope to add a AAA title to their A title from 2011.

Halton Jaguars

The Jaguars have gone from strength to strength this year, culminating in a blow-out victory against the top AAA Midlands team at the Play-off. Out of their 15 eligible players for the final, 12 have come from Halton's youth system.

Liverpool Trojans

The Liverpool Trojans eased to their fourth straight AAA North pennant finishing with a 21-2 record that included an astonishing 19 game winning streak. Liverpool eliminated Cambridge 11-5 to reach the NBCs and the 2011 and 2012 AAA Champions will be hot favourites to take home a third title.

London Metros

The London Metros finished the regular season 23-5. The diverse team, based in Finsbury Park, brings together players from the Dominican Republic, Australia, France, Netherlands, UK, US, Canada, and Venezuela. Five Metros have hit home runs this season and the team prides itself on developing pitchers who will potentially be playing for the NBL team in the future. This year, they have at their disposal four solid pitchers, each capable of starting any game.

Guildford Mavericks

Few teams know better than the Guildford Mavericks about the drama of the post-season, as they went unbeaten during the regular season last year only to lose in the final playoff round and miss out on an NBC place. With one of the best rotations the Mavericks are well-placed to advance but know full well that there's no room for complacency on this stage.

Harrogate Tigers

The Harrogate Tigers return to the NBC's after a four year absence and since winning the AAA crown in 2009, the Tigers are a transformed team with a totally new squad since then. The Tigers are supported by a strong group of hitters that have paced the team all season, averaging over 15 runs scored per game. The pitching is led by Masa Koshien who threw a one hitter against Leicester Blue Sox in the playoff game but it is their team chemistry that could make them contenders.

Hove Tuesday

Though they've found a few tough foes on the diamonds Hove have overcome most of those in front of them, taking the AA South pennant with a 14-2 record. Over the second half of the season Hove has ridden Thomas Izuta's arm and their hitting has been relentless. If anyone wants to win this year's AA Championship they'll likely have to beat losing finalists in 2012, the Brighton-based side will be confident of going one step further in 2013.

Hull Scorpions

Hull Scorpions failed to finish the 2012 season and at one point looked like they would not even start the 2013 season. Thanks however to the return of some former players including BBF Hall of Famer Gavin Marshall along with some new players Hull not only were able to field a team this year but proved to be one of the standout teams in 2013, topping the AA North with a 24-2 record.

Single-A

Haverhill Blackjacks

2013 is Haverhill's first competitive season in British baseball and to make the NBCs is a remarkable achievement. The Blackjacks won their pool with a 7-7 record, emphasising how closely matched the teams are and how unpredictable these NBCs could be.

Herts Raptors

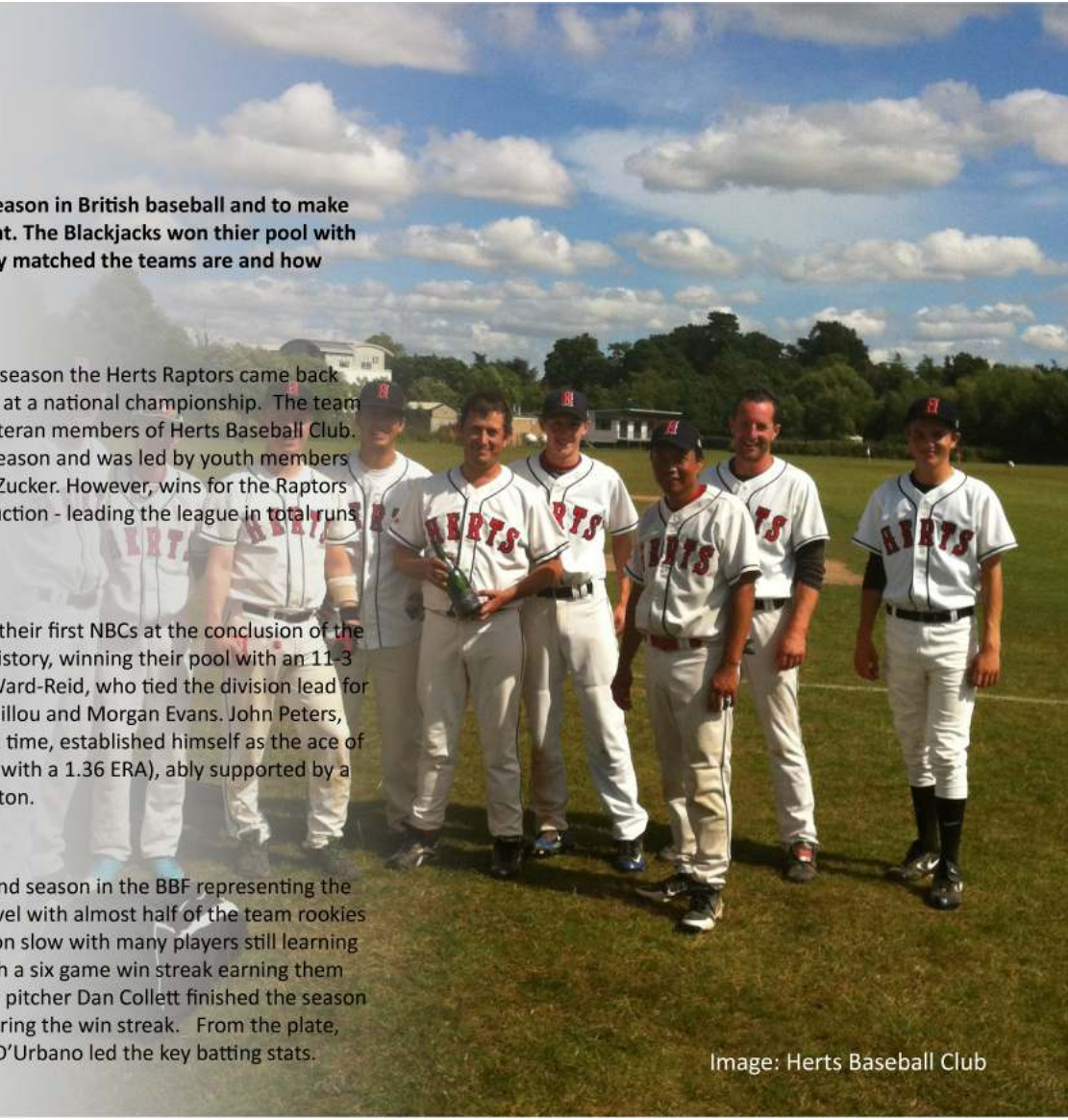
After narrowly missing last year's postseason the Herts Raptors came back strong for the team's very first chance at a national championship. The team was again a great mix of youth and veteran members of Herts Baseball Club. Pitching depth proved to be key this season and was led by youth members Zack Longboy, Brodie Caress and Will Zucker. However, wins for the Raptors came from their formidable run production - leading the league in total runs scored by a wide margin.

London Marauders

The London Marauders have reached their first NBCs at the conclusion of the finest season in the team's five-year history, winning their pool with an 11-3 record. Offensive stars included Carl Ward-Reid, who tied the division lead for home runs, and speedsters Paul Le Guillou and Morgan Evans. John Peters, playing organised baseball for the first time, established himself as the ace of the pitching staff (leading the division with a 1.36 ERA), ably supported by a cast including Matt Ford and Sam Melton.

Richmond Dukes

The Richmond Dukes are in their second season in the BBF representing the Richmond Baseball Club at Single A level with almost half of the team rookies in 2013. The Dukes started the season slow with many players still learning the game, but finished the season with a six game win streak earning them their first trip to the post season. Star pitcher Dan Collett finished the season 7-0 and had three complete games during the win streak. From the plate, Mike Archibald, Ben Carter and Dave D'Urbano led the key batting stats.





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Pony

Cobham Cougars

The Cobham Cougars consists of players from the London Youth Baseball League with ages ranging from 16 to 14. A number of the boys have participated in international tournaments representing GB for Little League and BaseballSoftballUK. In terms of nationalities, the team proudly boasts passports from the UK, Mexico, USA, and Japan.

Halton Polecats

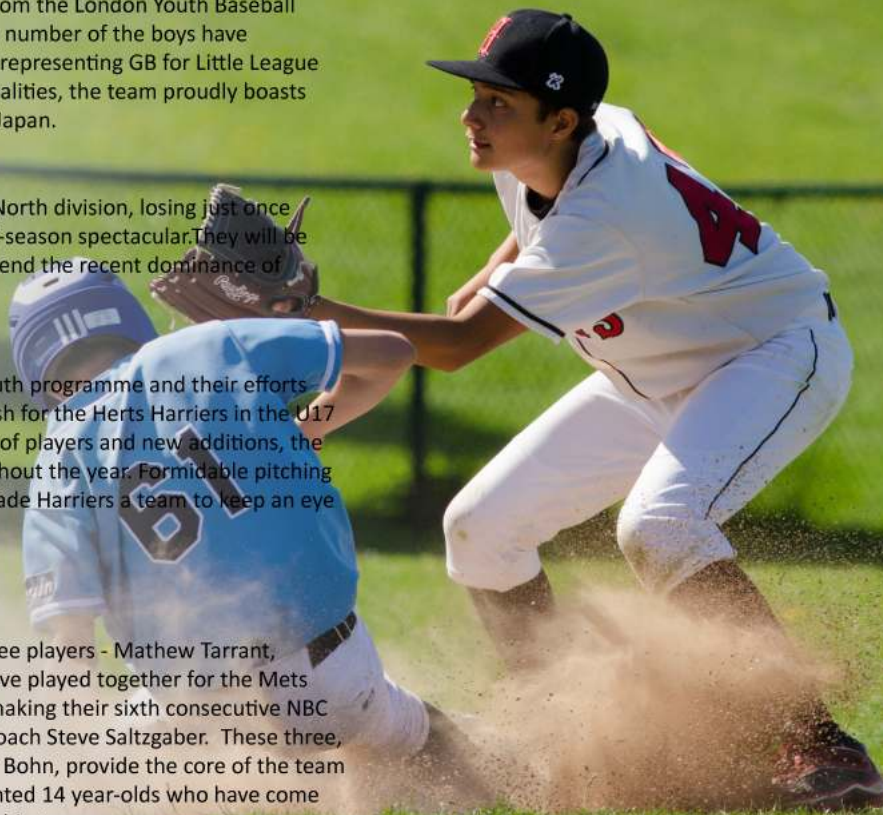
The Halton Polecats dominated the Pony North division, losing just one all season to book their spot at the end-of-season spectacular. They will be hoping that form continues as they look to end the recent dominance of southern teams at the Pony NBCs.

Herts Harriers

Herts have continued to build a strong youth programme and their efforts have been rewarded with a first-place finish for the Herts Harriers in the U17 regular season. With an experienced core of players and new additions, the Harriers have played solid baseball throughout the year. Formidable pitching combined with consistent offence have made Harriers a team to keep an eye on this postseason.

London Mets

The London Mets Pony squad features three players - Mathew Tarrant, Ewan Clegg, and Chris Saltzgaber - who have played together for the Mets for the past seven years and who will be making their sixth consecutive NBC appearance under the guidance of head coach Steve Saltzgaber. These three, together with Marty Cullen, Jr. and Dexter Bohn, provide the core of the team which is rounded out with a group of talented 14 year-olds who have come up from last year's Bronco NBC championship team.



Bronco

Forest Glade Redbacks

The Forest Glade Redbacks make their second trip in three years to the NYBC in what is only their fourth year. Managed by Richard Crabb, the squad consists of an almost all-British roster and is part of the Redbacks Youth Academy, based in Billericay, Essex. With its dedicated coaches the academy now has over 50 children who take part in the U11, U14 and U17 baseball

Halton Polecats

In winning the Northern Youth division the Polecats secured a clean-sweep Northern Youth titles for the Halton ballclub. In flying the flag for the North the 2011 semi-finalists will also be looking to break the southern dominance at the Bronco level in recent years.

London Mets

The London Mets Broncos ply their trade at Finsbury Park, with a team made up mostly of a mix of London locals and UK-based Americans and Japanese. The team has a long line-up of pitchers and strength in depth at the plate, too, as our scorelines show. The Mets will be targeting back-to-back National Youth Baseball Championships following success in 2012.

LYBL Bulldogs

The London Youth Baseball League Bulldogs come from all over the Greater London region and play a Little League format with over 250 players in divisions that range from 5 years old to 15 year olds. The Bulldogs won the NYBCs in 2011 and were finalist in 2012. In 2013, many of the Bulldogs played on the LYBL All-Star Team that won the first UK Little League Qualifier to represent Great Britain at the Little League Middle-East & Africa (EMEA) Regional Tournament in Kutno, Poland.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF BRITISH BASEBALL.

1890 Preston North End	1960 Thames Board Mills	1986 Cobham Yankees
1892 Middlesborough	1961 Liverpool Tigers	1987 Cobham Yankees
1893 Thespians (London)	1962 Liverpool Tigers	1988 Cobham Yankees
1894 Thespians (London)	1963 East Hull Aces	1989 Enfield Spartans
1895 Derby	1964 Hull Aces	1990 Enfield Spartans
1896 Wallsend-On-Tyne	1965 Hull Aces	1991 Enfield Spartans
1897 Derby	1966 Stretford Saints	1992 Leeds City Royals
1899 Derby	1967 Liverpool Yankees	1993 Humberside Mets
1900 Nottingham Forest	1968 Hull Aces	1994 Humberside Mets
1906 Tottenham Hotspur	1969 Watford Sun-Rockets	1995 Menwith Hill Pirates
1907 Clapton Orient	1970 Hull Royals	1996 Menwith Hill Pirates
1908 Tottenham Hotspur	1971 Liverpool Tigers	1997 London Warriors
1909 Clapton Orient	1972 Hull Aces	1998 Menwith Hill Patriots
1910 Brentford	1973 Burtonwood Yanks	1999 Brighton Buccaneers
1911 Leyton	1974 Nottingham Lions	2000 London Warriors
1934 Hatfield (Liverpool)	1975 Liverpool Tigers	2001 Brighton Buccaneers
1935 New London	1976 Liverpool Trojans	2002 Brighton Buccaneers
1936 White City (London)	1977 Golders Green Sox	2003 Windsor Bears
1937 Hull	1978 Liverpool Trojans	2004 Croydon Pirates
1938 Rochdale Greys	1979 Golders Green Sox	2005 Croydon Pirates
1939 Halifax	1980 Liverpool Trojans	2006 Richmond Flames
1948 Liverpool Robins	1981 London Warriors	2007 London Mets
1949 Hornsey Red Sox	1982 London Warriors	2008 London Mets
1950 Burtonwood Bees	1983 Cobham Yankees	2009 Bracknell Blazers
1951 Burtonwood Bees	1984 Croydon Blue Jays	2010 Richmond Flames
1959 Thames Board Mills	1985 Hull Mets	2011 Southern Nationals
		2012 Harlow Nationals

MOST NATIONAL TITLES

- 5 – Hull Aces (1972, 1968, 1965, 1964, 1963)
- 4 – London Warriors (2000, 1997, 1982, 1981)
- 4 – Cobham Yankees (1988, 1987, 1986, 1983)
- 4 – Liverpool Tigers (1975, 1971, 1962, 1961)
- 3 – Brighton Buccaneers (2002, 2001, 1999)
- 3 – Menwith Hill Pirates/Patriots (1998, 1996, 1995)
- 3 – Enfield Spartans (1991, 1990, 1989)
- 3 – Liverpool Trojans (1980, 1978, 1976)
- 3 – Derby (1898, 1897, 1895)

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1899

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T. PUGHBY, K. ROYAL, D. ALLSOPP, J. P. REIDENFEL, W. C. BERR, J. B. ...
 Left Field, Centre Field, Third Base, Pitcher, First Base

ALLENTON PHOTO CENTRE

... NORTON, J. MULLINS, ...
 Right Field, First Base

THE FIRST BASEBALL CLUB ESTABLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN

Image courtesy of www.projectcobb.org.uk

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