



Leicester *Green Sox* Baseball Club

1954 -

1964

7th AUGUST 1943

Printed by Mrs. J. G. Smith, at St. Mary's Hospital, Praeger Street, Leicester.

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Liners or CHURCH'S SAFES.

WAXA SALT
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Baseball As Home Holiday Attraction

ONE of the items of sport most talked about in connection with the local Stay-at-Home Holiday Programme is the baseball match in which coloured troops of the U.S.A. Army will figure. Though baseball is a game which passesh British understanding, the interpretation these coloured boys are likely to give should be highly amusing. Also our appreciation will be increased if a commentator is present and lets himself go in true American baseball-on-the-films style.

* * *

NO Americans a baseball match is like a football match, fast and exciting. We, in England, pride ourselves on our great national game of cricket. The American, in contrast, likes to take his amusement with deep-patch, as he does his business and to spend three days as we do, or even two, in watching a cricket match, savours of madness to him.

* * *

IN America the joy of the baseball fan is incomplete without "pop and pecanits". Sellers of the latter bring an immense flow of description into play. This, for example, "Double-jointed, cannot be bagged, extra-suspense." Baseball

The first baseball match ever played in Leicester will be staged at the Oval, Abbey Grounds, on Monday, August 9th, at 6.30 p.m.

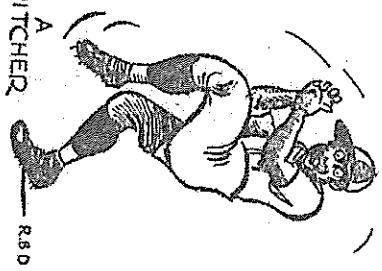
Reports too have a special flavour of their own. Recently, I read in an American newspaper of a ground being scaped of pretty well all its grass.

* * *

COMPARED this with one of our sports writer's descriptions of a batsman at the "tether": "Belcha O'Flynn struts out twice, and it nearly gave him heart disease," or his colourful description of a losing team: "The fielding of Columbia was decidedly yellow and their batting was light. Shant' bother here to attempt a description of players' duties, except to say that a team consists of nine players, a pitcher, catcher, first second and third base, short stop, left centre and right fielder."

* * *

THE pitcher is an all-important figure, and what will astonish most strangers to the game is the ball straight at the batsman's head and yet gets a screw on it—obviously to make the batter miss. The umpire who stands behind the catcher is an interesting figure, and particularly the third and that ball each batter is allowed (provided the two previous deliveries have proved abortive).



A PITCHER
R.S.D.

It is marvellous to see the way in which they slide to defeat the object of the fielder to "out" them.

NOVELTY of novelties to an English crowd is the game having its own tic-tac man. They are known as coaches, and there is a first base coach and a third base coach. The manager has his thoughts to the coaches, and the coaches tick-tac to the players. What the batter should do and not do to the pitcher's deliveries is conveyed by secret signs. The may be given by the lifting of a thumb or the alternating to have a slam by the stroking of the ear or the pulling of an ear.

R.B.D.

TAKE YOUR MEALS MUSIC DURING LEICESTER'S "STAY-AT-HOME" HOLIDAY FORTNIGHT—JULY 31st to AUG. 15th

Special Attractions in
LEWIS'S
NEWLY CONVERTED CAFETERIA and RESTAURANT
2 BANDS SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF ARTISTS

Come to Leicester during Stay-at-Home Holiday Fortnight. Enjoy all the many attractions and come to Lewis's for your meals. There's a new Cafeteria Service in the Basement—a "help yourself" service that's open from 8.30 to 6 p.m. daily. Slip in for Breakfast (served from 8.30), Morning Coffee, Mid-day Lunch, a Snack, Cool Drinks or Tea. Plenty of seats. No waiting. Popular prices. And a special attraction for the Holiday Fortnight.

JACK DWYER'S "RHYTHM MAKERS"
WILL PLAY DAILY from 12 till 2 and 3.0 to 5.30.

Visit the Restaurant too, for Morning Coffee, Lunches or Teas. The following Artists will sing daily from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m., accompanied by

- Monday—Elsa Winfield
- Tuesday—Mary Chamberlain
- Saturday—Cyril Newman
- Wednesday—Sean Statham
- Friday—NoREEN Statham

MARKERSTONE GATE - LEICESTER

Illustrated LEICESTER'S 'BALL GAME' CHRONICLE

As a home holiday attraction, baseball was played by U.S. Forces at the Oval, Abbey Grounds, Leicester, on Monday. There was a large crowd.

SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST, 1943

ESTABLISHED 1810

TWO PENCE



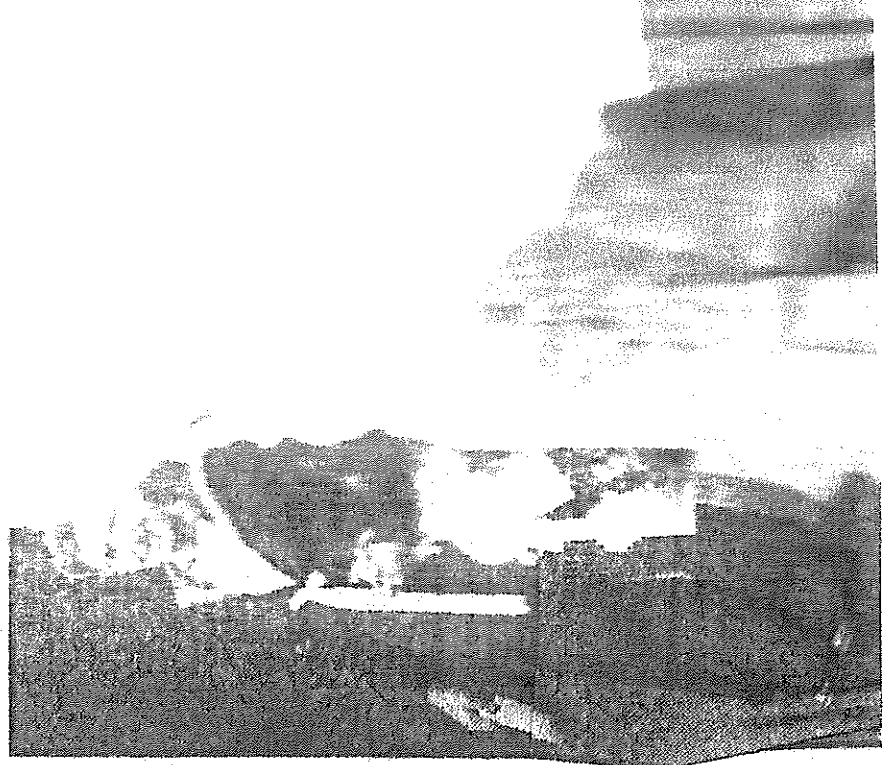


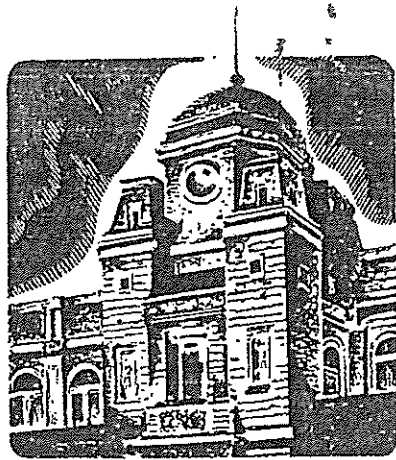
Children and children at South Wigston Day Nursery Christmas party.



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leic. and Mrs. Gifford have a chat with a little patient at Leicester Royal Infirmary, during

BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL A SAUCE



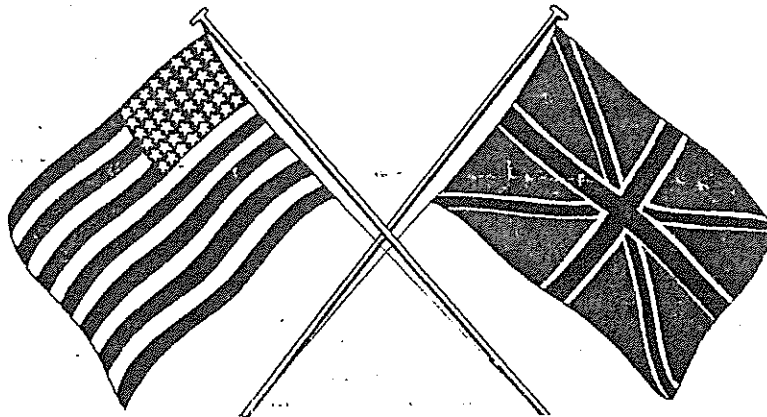


EMPIRE
STADIUM
WEMBLEY

(Managing Director: A. J. ELVIN)

AUGUST 3rd, 1942
at 7.0 p.m.

BASEBALL MATCH



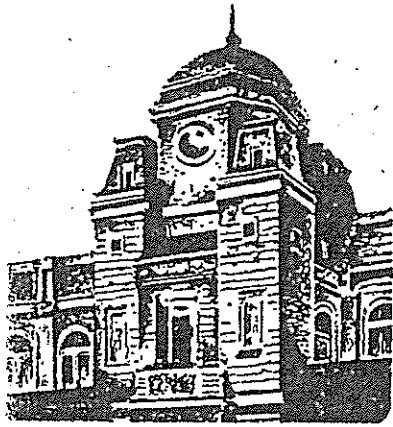
U.S.A. v. CANADA

represented by players from the American
and Canadian Forces now in London

IN AID OF

THE BRITISH RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN FUND

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME SIXPENCE



EMPIRE STADIUM WEMBLEY

Managing Director: A. J. ELVIN

JUNE 3rd, 1944, at 2.45 p.m.

BASEBALL

In aid of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund

SOFTBALL MATCH

(5 Innings)

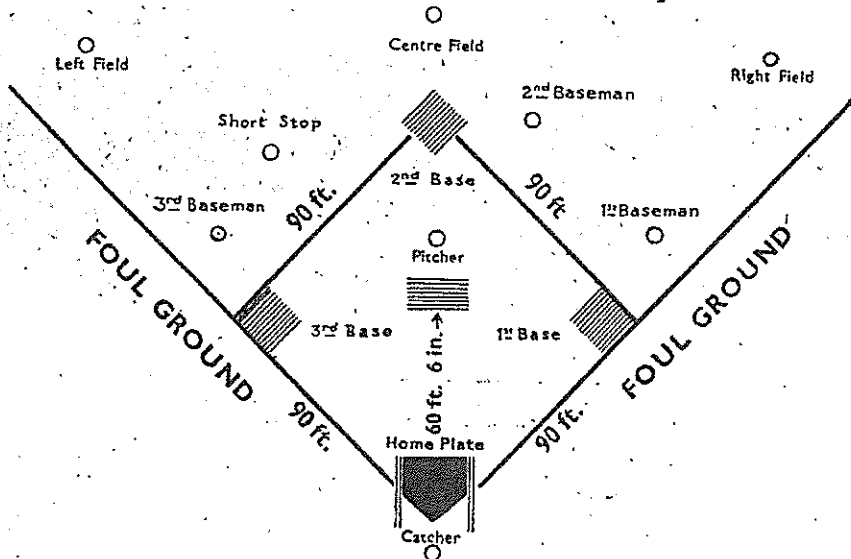
CANADIAN MILITARY H.Q. v. C.B.S. SOLONS
AND (U.S. Army)

BASEBALL GAME

(7 Innings)

U.S. 9th AIR FORCE v. U.S. GROUND FORCES
(The Niners All-Stars) (C.B.S. Clowns)

Diagram of the Field of Play



For abridged Rules of Baseball and Details of Softball see back page.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME SIXPENCE

NATIONAL CUP FINALS

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

1890 Scheduled as the best of three games; won in two straight games by Preston North End Amateurs, who beat Pirmingham Amateurs 42 - 15, and 42 - 7.

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (1)

1892 Middlesbrough 26 - St. Thomas's (Derby) 16.
1893 Thespians (London) 33 - Darlington St. Augustine's 6.
1894 Thespians (London) 38 - Stockton-on-Tees 14.
1895 Derby 20 - Fuller's (London) 16.
1896 Wallsend-on-Tyne 16 - Remington's (London) 10.
1897 Derby 30 - Middlesbrough 7.
1899 Derby 14 - Nottingham Forest 3.
1900 Nottingham Forest 17 - Derby 16.

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (1)

1906 Tottenham Hotspur 16 - Nondescripts 5.
1907 Clapton Orient 8 - Fulham 7.
1908 Tottenham Hotspur 6 - Leyton 5.
1909 Clapton Orient 6 - Leyton 4.

NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (2)

1934 Hatfield (Liverpool) 13 - Albion (Liverpool) 12.
1935 New London 7 - Rochdale Greys 1.
1936 White City (London) 9 - Catford Saints 5.
1937 Hull 5 - Romford Wasps 1.
1938 Rochdale Greys 1 - Oldham Greyhounds 0.
1939 Halifax 9 - Rochdale Greys 5.

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION LTD.

1948 Liverpool Robins 13 - Thames Board Mills (Purfleet) 0.
1949 Hornsey Red Sox 10 - Liverpool Cubs 5.
1950 Burtonwood USAF Bees 23 - Hornsey Red Sox 2.
1951 Burtonwood USAF Bees 9 - Ruislip USAF Rockets 2.

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

1959 Thames Board Mills (Purfleet) 12 - East Hull Aces 4.
1960 Thames Board Mills (Purfleet) 6 - Liverpool Tigers 1.
1962 Liverpool Tigers 8 - East Hull Aces 3.
1963 East Hull Aces 8 - Garrington's (Bromsgrove) 6.

BRITISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (2)

1965 Kingston Aces (Hull) 4 - Stretford Saints (Manchester) 2.

NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (UK)

1966 Stretford Saints (Manchester) 3 - Liverpool Aces 1.
1967 Liverpool Mormon Yankees 4 - Beckenham Bluejays 2.
1968 Hull Aces 4 - Hull Royals 1.
1969 Watford Sun-Rockets 8 - Liverpool Trojans 7 (11 innings).
1970 Hull Royals 3 - Hull Aces 1.

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION

1973 Burtonwood Yanks 23 - Hull Aces 2.
1974 Nottingham Lions 5 - Hull Royals 3.
1975 Liverpool NALGO Tigers 5 - Nottingham Lions 3.
1976 Liverpool Trojans 5 - Kensington Spirit of '76 (London) 4.
1977 Golders Green Sox 9 - Hull Aces 5.

BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FEDERATION

1978 Liverpool Trojans 14 - Crawley Giants 12.
1979 Golders Green Sox 9 - Hull Aces 7 (11 innings).
1980 Liverpool Trojans 12 - Hull Aces 1.
1981 London Warriors 23 - Hull Aces 3.

BASEBALL NEWS

★ A News Sheet of Baseball, published by the South Eastern Baseball League ★ **3^D.**
 No. 4 :: JUNE 2nd, 1954

60 TEAMS START NEW SEASON

Representative Matches in the North, Midlands and Western Areas

As the season has already started we are able to predict the trend of the 1954 baseball programme with some certainty, for the various leagues have already settled down to their regular fixtures.

With a total of 60 teams affiliated to the Baseball Association the position is undoubtedly encouraging, as this shows a slight increase over last season. The forming of new clubs shows that baseball is gaining increasing support everywhere and it is significant that in places such as Leeds clubs have been formed where baseball never previously had a foothold.

Unfortunately the increased cost of travelling makes it difficult in some of these cases for clubs to obtain as many games as they would wish, for not only do the members of the majority of clubs have to pay for their own fares but they usually have to meet heavy subscriptions to keep their club in being. This is particularly so where they have no source of regular "outside" income, and it is a tribute to the enthusiasm of club officials and players that these are overcome.

However, with increasing interest it is now becoming possible to stage representative and other special matches with the likelihood of raising funds to assist the game's progress, and support for these during the present season can do much to ensure the future.

Yorks v Yanks

One of these representative games takes place on Whit Monday at Craven Park Stadium, Hull, when Yorkshire meet Holme Cowboys (a U.S.A.F. team who are new entrants to the Hull League).

The Yorkshire team will be selected from: R. Marshall, B. Glanville, A. Fewlass, W. Hadden (Royals), P. Shorten, G. Jackson, R. Cawthorn (Aces), M. Chouler, J. Brown (Leeds), B. MacIver, G. Green, N. Stanford (Eagles), G. Bean, B. Lazerby, J. Lowther, D. Bean (Giants), L. Ashton, T. Busby (Pirates). Art Fewlass and Norman Stanford are English Internationals.

Nottingham's Double with Hull

The Nottingham League have arranged "home and away" fixtures with the Hull League, the first taking place at Bulwell Park, Nottingham, on June 13th, with the return at Hull on July 4th.

Western Counties v S.E. Counties

The annual meeting between the Western Counties and the South Eastern Counties for the Coronation Pennant will take place at Mitcham Stadium on July 3rd. The first match in this series was played at Dagenham last season, South Eastern winning an exciting duel by a 4-3 margin.

LEAGUE TABLES

Birmingham				Hull			
(including 23 . 5 . 54)				(including 30 . 5 . 54)			
Division I	P	W	%	Division A	P	W	%
Dunlop Tigers	3	2	667	Holme (U.S.A.F)	3	3	1000
Valor	3	2	667	Giants	3	2	667
Wellingborough	3	2	667	Hull Royals	3	2	667
Allen's Cross	2	1	500	Priestman Panthers	2	1	500
Beavers	3	0	—	East Hull Aces	3	1	333
Division II	P	W	%	Pirates	3	1	333
Dunlop Eagles	3	2	667	Eagles	3	0	—
Pirates	2	1	500	Division B	P	W	%
Wolseley	2	1	500	Kingston Diamonds	1	1	1000
Birlec Dodgers	3	1	333	Reckitts Robins	1	1	1000
				Maybury Y.C.	2	1	500
				Wold Road S.C.	3	1	333
				Hull Police	1	0	—
Nottingham				South Eastern			
(including 23 . 5 . 54)				(including 30 . 5 . 54)			
	P	W	%	Senior Division	P	W	%
R.C.A.F. Langar	3	3	1000	Briggs Brigands	3	3	1000
Athletics	3	2	667	Kodak	4	3	750
Dodgers A	1	1	1000	Thames Board Mills	4	3	750
Senators	2	1	500	Hornsey Athletics	2	1	500
Leicester	2	1	500	Dagenham Royals	3	1	333
Braves	2	0	—	Essex Nationals	3	1	333
Dodgers B	3	0	—	Ford Sports	3	1	333
R.C.A.F. Luffenham	0	0	—	Aveley Cubs	4	0	—
Western				Division I			
(including 23 . 5 . 54)							
	P	W	%	De Havilland Comets <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>667</td>	3	2	667
Sutton Beavers	3	3	1000	Snowdown Magpies	1	1	1000
Tigers (Mitcham)	3	3	1000	Briggs Tigers	2	1	500
Epsom Lions	3	2	666	Southend Buffaloes	2	0	—
Dulwich Bluejays	2	0	—	Queens Park Aces	0	0	—
Mitcham Royals	2	0	—				
Wokingham Monarchs	3	0	—				

NOTTINGHAM LEAGUE v HULL LEAGUE

Bulwell Park, Nottingham

Craven Park, Hull

★ Sunday, 13th June ★

★ Sunday, 4th July ★

In the Beginning

Alan Shepherd had just been married in 1954 when he responded to an invitation in the Leicester Mercury to prospective baseball players. The ad. had been placed by a consortium of three ex-Canadian Airforce men who had settled in the City after the war. Alan was the only player there for the duration – first game to last. I joined as a 15 year old Gateway Grammar School student a year later.

Steve Hordal, Johnny Groulx and Bill Brown were the three Canadians. They were supported by American – living in Woodhouse Eaves- Lawrence 'Al' Alexander and the ginger haired Dennis 'Red' Diglin an Englishman who had previously played the game in the North of England.

No minutes were taken at any meetings. However some clarification of the inaugural set up appears in an interview with Steve Hordal in the Illustrated Leicester Chronicle of 27 October 1955. "The advertisement in the paper was placed by Steve Cobbett who was from Birmingham. He became the first Secretary and Treasurer . We discussed the possibility of forming a club but only five of us attended that meeting, hence the advertisement ".

The inaugural meetings were held in the Blue Boar Inn which was in Applegate Street.

Cobbett contacted the Midland Counties Baseball Association for ideas but the Association minutes do not show any Leicester attendee. In 1953 the Association made £25. 5s and 10d income over expenditure.

The Midland Counties Baseball Association was an affiliate of the Baseball Association Ltd. The Baseball Association had the idea of copying the FA set up i.e. with a controlling body running separate county districts.

In what correspondence that has survived there is a fascinating 1953 report from the Baseball Association Ltd. The report emphasises their supreme control of the game and any attempt to break away from their Association is "treachery to the game ". Strong stuff. Unfortunately there is no detail of the Association or its whereabouts.

After a short time Hordal decided to break away from Cobbett who had the crazy notion that baseball in this country should be run on a professional basis. Hordal became the overall organiser.

Now . . .

THING

**SPORTS
SPOT**



STEVE HORDAL

MIDLAND COUNTIES BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Crown Hotel, Corporation Street, Birmingham

Friday, 29th. January 1954

ATTENDANCE ..

Messrs. G. Tudor, C. Winnett, R. Read, R. Ebdon, E. Wheatcroft,
J. Stephenson, R. Hjelter, W. West, H. Johnson, A. Wheatcroft.

CHAIRMAN .. It was proposed by Mr. Tudor that in the absence of the President, Mr. Winnett take the Chair. Seconded by Mr. Stephenson. Carried.

APOLOGIES .. Apologies were received from Messrs. R. Boardman and H. Butler. The Secretary was instructed to convey the Meeting's good wishes to Mr. Boardman for his future.

MINUTES .. As a copy of the Minutes of the previous A. G. M. had been circulated to each member, Mr. Tudor proposed that they be taken as read. Seconded by Mr. West. Carried.

Treasurer's Report ..

Mr. Johnson gave a detailed statement of the Income and Expenditure for 1953 and explained that due to the resignation of the Auditor for domestic reasons, an audited account and Balance Sheet could not be produced. The Secretary confirmed that the Auditor had checked the Accounts, receipts and payments, and had instructed the Treasurer to prepare individual sheets and compile a trading account. Mr. Tudor proposed that the acceptance of the Balance sheet be held over until an auditor's signature could be obtained. Seconded by Mr. T. Wheatcroft. Carried. The Chairman voiced the feelings of the Meeting when he thanked the Treasurer for his work during the year.

Secretary's Report ..

In his report the Secretary gave details of events of the past season and informed the Meeting that three Clubs, viz: Beavers, Allens Cross and Saints, had decided to form themselves into a new organisation to be called "The Birmingham Baseball Combination". He also explained that his report would be brief in view of the highlights contained in the General Secretary's report. Some of these were stressed and copies of the report were passed to members to read at their leisure.

Birmingham Representative's Report ..

Mr. Tudor remarked that with an unwieldy number of teams in one division it was difficult to fulfil League commitments, Area Cup matches and arrange representative matches. However, with a full season, Allens Cross received a composite team from Liverpool and the Saints travelled to Hull. Much experience had been gained by the mistakes made. An entirely new Executive had been formed and high hopes had been raised for the 1954 season.

Nottingham Representative's Report .. No Report was received from the Nottingham Area.

Election of Officers.

Mr. Stephenson proposed that the retiring members of the Council (Messrs. West and Johnson) be re-elected. Seconded by Mr. Tudor. Carried.

Other Business.

Mr. Read as Umpires' Representative, spoke of the striving for better conditions and accentuated the need for more umpires and in particular umpires who would be most firm in their decisions. He also reminded Clubs that it was a duty to suggest names for nomination as independent members to the Council. It was, however, a recognised fact that enthusiasts associated with Clubs were invariably required to serve on their own Committees, and it was difficult to find personnel who were independent members of Clubs.

The question of a possible affiliation of "The Birmingham Baseball Combination" was criticised by Mr. Stephenson, in the light that prospects of the weaker clubs in the Birmingham Baseball League winning the Area Cup would be practically nil. Mr. West pointed out that the Council's jurisdiction on this or any like matter could be confidently accepted as being entirely unbiased.

Mr. Read proposed that a vote of thanks to the Secretary be recorded for his work and persistence during the past season. Seconded by Mr. Tudor. Carried.

Mr. Johnson informed the Meeting that movements were now going ahead to form a body of umpires in the Nottingham Area and that examinations had already been made.

Mr. Stephenson proposed that the next A. G. M. be held in a private room either at the Crown or another hotel. Seconded by Mr. West. Carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the Meeting.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES R.S.B. BALL ASSOCIATION.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD 1st. JANUARY 1953 to 31st. DECEMBER 1953

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	s	d	<u>INCOME</u>	£	s	d
Loss transferred from Trading Account	8	9	6	League affiliations	4	4	0
Secretary's expenses:				Club affiliations	8	10	6
Postages	4	16	2	Midland area Cup entrance fees	3	0	0
Telephones	1	2	6	Subscriptions from President and Vice-presidents	5	3	0
Telegrams	1	6	6	Players registrations	1	8	9
Advertising	12	9	9	Donations from two umpires (McCoy and Reed)	15	0	0
Procurer's expenses:				England v U.S.A.F. (Lakenheath) Game 5.8.53:-	29	0	0
Postages	1	0	2	Excess of income over expenditure	1	4	9
Telephones	1	6	6	Midland area Cup Final 8.8.53:-			
Telegrams	1	6	6	Excess of income over expenditure			
Receipt Book	1	1	6				
Travelling (Nottingham 29.11.53)	12	6	6				
Miscellaneous	10	0	0				
Contribution Game 1.6.53. Excess of Income over expenditure	1	8	9				
Printing of rooms	4	14	0				
Printing and polishing Cup for Notts League	1	3	0				
Chemists and Bank charges	1	15	0				
Repairation of typewriter	1	10	0				
Excess of Income over expenditure	24	5	10				
TOTAL	51	5	6	TOTAL	51	5	6

THE SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE

Founded in 1933 as the East London Baseball League

Affiliated to the South Eastern Counties Baseball Association

Hon. Treasurer
T. A. CORKEST
6 Lever Square
Chadwell St. Mary
Grays : : Essex

Chairman
H. S. KNAPP
515 Old Southend Road
Lim Park : : Essex
Tel.: Hornchurch 4760

Hon. Secretary
J. F. HELLAR
36 Derby Avenue
Upminster, Essex
Tel.: Hornchurch 5561

S. Cobbett, Esq.
82 Hand Avenue
Leicester

3rd March 1954

Dear Mr. Cobbett

I thank you for your interesting letter of 16th February and must first of all apologise for not replying previously to this. However, owing to the necessity of arranging fixtures and attending several meetings I have not had time to deal with my correspondence with the result that I now have to spend an evening on catching up.

Needless to say I was pleased to hear from you, for I believe that I once met you whilst at a baseball game in this area at the time when I was Secretary of the Essex Nationals club just after the war. Since those days I have become Secretary of the S.E. League and have been associated with three other clubs -- Fould, Harley and now Dagenham Royals (of whom I am team manager).

I was pleased to hear of your efforts in the Leicester area and hope that you are meeting with success in getting a club to compete in the Nottingham League. We are hoping that we shall be able to visit Nottingham for an inter-area game at Whitsun (this will be discussed at our fixtures meeting on Friday). If so, perhaps I shall have the opportunity of seeing you. Likewise, if you are in the London area on a Sunday perhaps you could contact me and I would let you know where to see a ball game.

Things are progressing favourably in our League so far and we have 14 teams. I attended a meeting of the Western League on Monday and they have ~~eight teams down Essex and are building up to ten~~ six teams, so we are managing to keep the game going down here despite several difficulties.

I am enclosing three copies of "Baseball News" published last season. We are hoping to run this again this season, and if so would appreciate your assistance in offering news from your area and also helping the sale of copies. I also enclose a list of officials (our Handbook is not published yet).

Looking forward to hearing from you again.

Yours sincerely

Jack Hellar

JACK HELLAR

THE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (LIMITED BY
(INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION) (GUARANTEE)
Founder : JOHN MOORES, Esq.

Directors : M. JOUBERT, (Lt. Col. (Retd) U.S.A.) H. T. BUTLER, (Canadian). R. SMALLWOOD. L. J. KOSTA,
D. C. FAULKNER. J. E. NEALE. E. H. MATHEWS. E. R. SHARPE. ~~L. W. SHARMAN~~. A. WHEATCROFT.

Reg. Office :
47/49 CASTLE STREET,
LIVERPOOL, 2.

Tel. CENTRAL 8162.

Hon. General Secretary :
RICHARD COWARD,
79 PENNY LANE,
LIVERPOOL, 18.

14th. september 1953.

Mr. S. Cobbett,
LEICESTER.

Dear Sir,

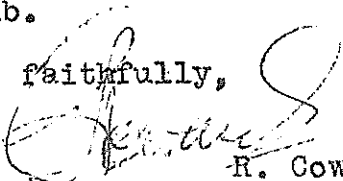
In reply to yours of 13th. inst. No, we are not in any way connected with the Association you mention. There are two types of Baseball played in this country, viz; English baseball (or rounders) and National Baseball, which is based on the American game.

If your team is formed to play the English game, then you want the Association in Village Street, Everton. If you intend to play the American game, then you come under my Association, as named above.

The objects and purposes of the Baseball Association Ltd., are roughly, to propagate the game of National Baseball. ~~It~~ I would suggest you contact Mr. A. H. Wheatcroft, 131, Roebuck Lane, ~~Smith~~ Smethwick, 40, who is the Hon. secretary of the Midland Counties Baseball Association, which is the Midlands Area Council of the B.A. Lt I am sending your letter on to him for his information.

The best of luck to the club.

Yours faithfully,


R. Coward.

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION LTD.

General Secretary's Report.

December, 1953.

We are again approaching the end of a year, and the beginning of a new one, and for baseball in general the past year has been a momentous and heartbreaking one. It is time to face up to County General Meetings, and what is to be promulgated at these meetings. I think it is time for more clear thinking and clear speaking.

Where are we and what have we got? In the North-West, the County Association with two teams at its disposal, and all the umpires and officials, staged some entertaining baseball, which cost money, but enhanced the prestige of all concerned. The "Pirate" organisation, notwithstanding the wide publicity and the glowing reports which heralded its formation, would appear to have fallen far short of the "paradise" it offered to the game of baseball. The majority of the games presented were chaotic, unruly exhibitions, doing only harm to the game and the reputations of those officials who have associated themselves with the B.B.A. Already, in the few months they have been in existence, there have been reported resignations of senior officials, and discontentment was obvious in the clubs even during the playing season. The final debacle was the announcement in the press, of the intention to form a league, in Widnes, of mixed teams!! Mixed in the sense that both men and women would be playing in the same team!! The game played, would be a simplified form, with a simplified set of rules, as the real game was considered to be too complicated to catch on!! Surely no self-respecting club would be found dead in such an organisation.

It is my considered view that the B.B.A. are not, nor ever will be the formidable threat as appeared likely a few months ago, to the continued existence of the Baseball Association and what it represents.

But harm has been done. In the North-West it has driven away a large part of the solid following for the game. In other areas, disaffected elements have used the appearance of the "B.B.A." as a weapon with which to threaten The Baseball Association and its Areas with secession. Discipline is flouted. Local aspirants to dictatorship have created a situation which has occasioned neglect in all departments of the game. Standards are deteriorating in an alarming manner. The game is in a deplorable condition. Let us face facts.

The National Baseball Association founded baseball in Great Britain and launched it in 1934. After the war, the Trustees of the N.B.A. re-organised the body into its present form, The Baseball Association Ltd., and this body continues to govern the game under the same rules and regulations, regardless of the changing personnel in the administration. Baseball, in this country, has been organised, under the auspices of the N.B.A. in the method of football. Teams formed into leagues, and affiliations to County Associations who govern the areas and are responsible to the parent body, the Baseball Assn. Ltd., whose job it is to co-ordinate and govern the game over the whole of the country. This affiliation to the Baseball Assn. Ltd., through its areas, implies an obligation on the part of Leagues and officials, Clubs and officials, and players, to loyally and unselfishly accept the laws and rules and regulations, and calls for unquestioning obedience to the authority of the B.A. Ltd., at all stages. To contravene these laws and flout the authority of the B.A. Ltd., and to attempt to disaffect personnel and set up rival organisations, is treachery to the game, and ingratitude to the founders, without whom baseball would not exist in Gt. Britain to-day. The patent failure of the breakaway organisation in the North-West should be sufficient deterrent to all those who seek to follow in their footsteps.

Obviously Hordal was looking for any player with experience, There is an interest letter in the surviving archive from Vic Jackson. Jackson was an Australian cricket all rounder playing County Cricket for Leicestershire at that time. In the letter he explains that he played baseball in Australia and prefers it to cricket. He appeared as a pitcher for the club occasionally when other summer commitments allowed. He would appear in our tatty uniforms but wearing his white cricket boots.

It was not until a year later – 1956- the name “Green Sox” was added at the initial re-branding suggestion of the new secretary – Mike Grimsley who took over that year . Mike was an addictive enthusiast in anything that he became involved in and baseball was no exception. He quickly sorted out the admin. and produced a set of accounts for 1956 showing a “loss” of 7s and 3d.

In later years all meeting were held at the Marquis of Wellington pub on London Road.

38 Evington Parks Rd.,
Leicester.

24th. Aug. 1953.

Dear Mr. Hobbett,

I am very pleased to see baseball has made a start in Leicester, and I wish you every success in this venture. I am mad about the game, but have not played or seen it since 1946.

Since 1946, I have been with the Leicestershire County Cricket Club, so of course, as I presume you play in the summer, I will have little time for baseball. If your continue into September, I will only be too pleased to help in any way I can.

When I was 12 years of age, baseball was my game in Australia, and I must confess, to me, it is the best game of all. From 1937 until the end of the war, I represented N. S. W., and in the last few years

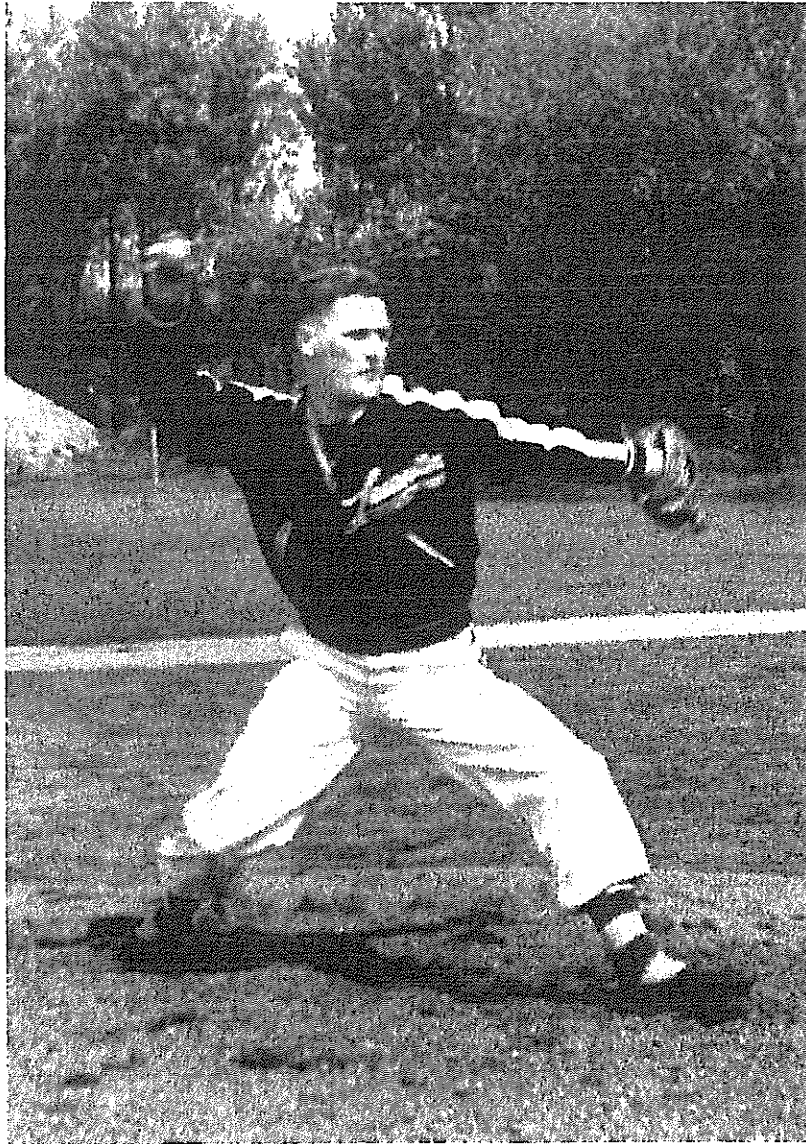
of the war, pitched for the state in patriotic
fund games

I hope to hear from you in the near
future, and you can count on my full
support in anything you do to get baseball
on a good footing in this city.

Perhaps you would like to visit Grace
Rd. during our final home game against
Wlamorgan on Sat, Mon. & Tuesday, 29th,
31st. and 1st. Sep. If so, would you contact
me beforehand, telling which day you prefer
coming, and I will leave a ticket on the gate
for you with pleasure.

Best wishes,
yours sincerely,

W. Jackson.



MIKE
GRIMSLEY



ALAN SHEPHERD

Where did we play?

Steve Hordal , a native of Saskatchewan, wanted to launch baseball on a sound (but amateur) footing. Regrettably the club had no funds . Hence his requests to the Leicester Blackbird Road Speedway and Greyhound Stadium fell on deaf ears nor did the City Council feel charitably generous towards Mr. Hordal's pleas regarding the Saffron Lane Sports Stadium. .

There was another fly in the ointment at that time. The religious organisation – The Lords Day Observation Society – held sway over the Council Parks Dept. who would not allow any organised sport to be played on a Sunday. At this time even the childrens swings were locked on Sundays. This was a definite stumbling block to the teams future and was not rectified until some time later – mainly through the clubs efforts. But more of that later.

Baseball was finally launched on the Wellington Vics FC ground which at that time was on Stonesby Avenue behind what was then the Tiger Pub and is now a housing estate. Joe Jacobs the well know local boxing promoter performed the opening ceremony in front of a crowd estimated at 1,500 against the Nottingham Braves . County cricketer Vic Jackson did the pitching and the team beat the Braves 6-3. During that first season crowds exceeding 250 were common.

Due to the Sunday ban on Council owned parks we also used other venues – Park Drive ,Leicester Forest East, the John Bull Sports Ground Groby road before finally settling at Victoria Park – playing on Saturdays – changing in what was then temporary huts close to the War Memorial.

Wherever we played baseball at that time – home or away – no venue had an outfield fence . So , any hit into the outfield gaps which would normally go for a routine double became a home run. The meant that scores of 40 or more runs was not exceptional.

The kit was begged from colleagues of the Canadians. A sizeable donation of surplus kit was also received from a Birmingham side probably through Steve Corbetts connections. So we appeared initially looking like a bunch of ragamuffins. We eventually got around to organising stitched logos for the shirts and cut down painters trousers suitably completed the uniform. Later the green socks were added. Unlike the bent dustbin lid gloves of today our gloves were more like padded pancakes. Batting helmets were unheard of.

The main source of new kit was Archie Stinchcombes Mercury Sports in Nottingham . Although Lillywhites of London also sold baseball equipment – mainly British made Bailey equipment. .



J. W. WATSON
F. INST. P.A.
PARKS SUPERINTENDENT
TELEPHONE 21603-4

Parks & Recreation Grounds Department

*Superintendent's Office,
Abbey Park,
Leicester.*

OUR REF. JW.1/WB
YOUR REF.

14th October, 1954.

Mr. S.G. Hordal,
6 Francis Avenue,
Leicester.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th inst. The only question I can answer definitely is that no games will be allowed on Sundays.

Regarding the use of the Victoria Road East ground, I will submit your letter to the next Parks Committee, but the original intention for this ground was that it should be used for unorganised games.

Yours faithfully,

Parks Superintendent.

Town Hall, Leicester.

Town Clerk's Office.

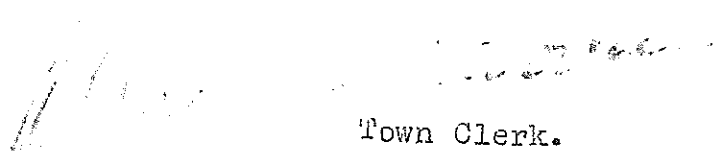
Ref.
JHC/SD/Pk/1.

4th March 1954.

Dear Sir,

I am requested by the Chairman of the Parks Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo and to inform you that he is not prepared to grant permission for the sale of programmes on the Parks. I have been asked to point out that the Saffron Lane Showground Stadium is available for hire by any organisation for sports purposes and that programmes may be sold there and charges made for the admission of the public. If you are interested in hiring the Stadium for baseball matches perhaps you will communicate with the Parks Superintendent at Abbey Park, Leicester.

Yours faithfully,


Town Clerk.

Mr. S.J. Cobbett,
82 Hand Avenue,
LEICESTER.

MIDLAND SPORTS STADIUMS LTD.

LEICESTER STADIUM
UNDER THE RULES OF AND LICENSED BY
THE NATIONAL GREYHOUND RACING CLUB

DIRECTORS:
A. D. SANDERSON (CHAIRMAN)
C. CLORE

BLACKBIRD ROAD
LEICESTER

TELEPHONE: LEIC. 62518/9

From: Selsdon Park,
Sanderstead,
Surrey.

27th May, 1954.

S.G. Hordal Esq.
6, Francis Avenue,
BRAUNSTONE, Leicester.

Dear Mr. Hordal,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and am sorry to hear that you do not feel at the present moment you are in a position to "hire" the Stadium.

Quite frankly, I looked upon the figure suggested as a token charge rather than a hiring fee. It was designed to cover cost of turnstile attendants and other staff who would have to be available when the Stadium was open and cost of clearing up etc.

I am afraid I do not feel justified in granting you free use of the Stadium, as apparently you suggest.

If you think that you are going to continue to get the very large crowds to which you referred in your letter of May 9th I would consider charging out-of-pocket expenses only and allow you to collect your out-of-pocket expenses, and then divide any profit - it would of course only be on a trial basis.

Yours faithfully,

(A.D. Sanderson)

1954



THE ORIGINAL TEAM: BACK ROW

F. BAINES, ALAN SHEPHERD, RAY ESSEX, STEVE HORDAL
STEVE COBBETT, RED DIGLIN, BILL BROWN, VIC JACKSON.

FRONT ROW:-

NL ALEXANDER, E. PICKETT, JOHNNY GROULX, B. JONES.

1954 FIXTURES

Leicester Baseball Fixtures

LEICESTER'S newly formed baseball team, in which Vic Jackson, the County cricketer, takes a big interest, include four matches with Canadian airmen in their fixtures for the coming season. The matches will be played on Saturdays and Sundays, those in Leicester taking place on the Stonesby Avenue ground, which the Wellington Vics use in the winter.

The club have now enough players for a team, although the President, Mr. S. Hordal is prepared to consider further requests to join.

Fixtures.—

May 9, v. Braves (home); 16, Athletics, Midland Cup, (home); 23, Dodgers A (Bulwell Hall, Notts.); 29, Dodgers B (home). June 9, Senators (Melbourne Park, Notts.); 19, R.C.A.F. North Luffenham (home); 26, R.C.A.F. Langar (probably home).

July 4, R.C.A.F. North Luffenham (North Luffenham); 10, Dodgers B, Nottingham Cup (home); 17, Braves (Melbourne Park); 18, R.C.A.F. Langar (home); August 1, Athletics (Melbourne Park); 8, Senators (Bulwell Hall); 15, Athletics (home); 22, Dodgers B (Bulwell Hall); 29, Dodgers A (home)

TELEPHONE
73580

Mercury

SPORTS CENTRE

PROPRIETORS: ARCHIE STINCHECOMBE & LES STRONGMAN

119 ALFRETON ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

PRICE-LIST-----BASEBALL EQUIPMENT.--1954.

Fielder's Glove in Heavy Cream Horse Hide-----	65/9	each.
First Baseman's Glove- ditto -----	67/11	"
Catcher's Glove----- ditto -----	123/7	"
Fielder's Glove in Red Tan Hide-----	67/11	"
First Baseman's Glove- Ditto -----	69/3	"
Catcher's Glove----- Ditto -----	127/1	"
Catcher's Bodyguard in Tan Canvas-----	42/8	"
Baseball Shoes-- -----(cleated)--	49/2	pair.
Bats-----	17/6	each.
Balls-----WEBBLSR---Chrome Horse Hide (Keep clean)	17/10	each.
Horsehide-----	17/10	"
SPALDING--(supplied by)-----	12/3	"

Purchase tax included in all Prices.

FACTORIES:
MORA STREET, E.C.1.
BELVEDERE PLACE, SE.1.
TONBRIDGE, KENT.

Directors:
D. H. DAVIES (Chairman)
R. H. BLISS
R. GARDNER

LILLYWHITE  FROWD LIMITED

18/29 MORA STREET, CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.1.

TELEPHONE:
Clerkenwell
6 6 7 1 - 5
(4 LINES)

THB/JM

10th February 1956

S.G. Hordal Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
Leicester Baseball Club,
6, Francis Avenue,
Leicester.

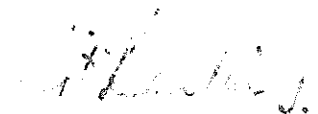
Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of the 4th instant, together with your order and remittance of 12s.9d., our official receipt for which has been forwarded to you under separate cover.

With reference to your second paragraph, we regret to advise you that we do not supply Baseball Shoes.

Apologising for our inability to be of assistance to you on this occasion.

Yours faithfully,
LILLYWHITE FROWD LIMITED


SALES MANAGER

City Embroidery Co. (Leicester)

Badges · Gold & Silver Wire Work · Block & Script Lettering

92½ BRUNSWICK STREET · LEICESTER

Telephone: LEICESTER GRANBY 250

G. Hordal Esq.,
6, Francis Ave.
LEICESTER.

When replying please quote :

QUOTATION No. 0646

Date Feb. 14th. 1955.

Dear Sirs,

We thank you for your esteemed enquiry of
for which we now have pleasure in submitting our Quotation.

Yours faithfully,
CITY EMBROIDERY CO. (Leicester)

LEICESTER.

2doz.

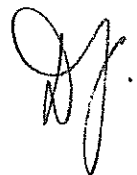
3/6d. ea. + Tax.

15 only.

4/-

+ Tax.

order
4. 3. 52





J. W. WATSON
F. INST. P. A.
PARKS SUPERINTENDENT
TELEPHONE 21603-4

Parks & Recreation Grounds Department

*Superintendent's Office,
Abbey Park,
Leicester.*

1st. September 1955.

OUR REF. JWW/CCB.
YOUR REF.

Mr. S. G. Hordal,
6 Francis Avenue,
Leicester.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th. ult., and have to inform you that a pitch for baseball will be available at Victoria Park for the Summer of 1956.

The fees for baseball will be 5/- registration fee, and 10/- for each game played.

I should be pleased if you will make an early application for the booking of this pitch, as I am having numerous enquiries for sports at Victoria Park.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. Watson
Parks Superintendent.

Rep. 23.9.55

Who were our opponents ?

From the outset we joined the Nottingham League. We filled out the League to seven teams.

RCAF North Luffenham
Nottingham; Dodgers
Athletics
Royals
Braves
Senators
Leicester Green Sox.

The Canadians were the powerhouse of the League. The leading ~English team were the Athletics with pitcher Red Goodier, catcher George Bowles and others included Wes Smith and Lol Whelan. Bowles was also the Secretary of the League.

No scorebooks survive so it is difficult to name many other players. Dodgers very aggressive pitcher was Albert Whitehead. Tom Munns pitched for the Royals who were the only team that we could beat at that time. Harry Todd and Benny Benson ran the Braves who were regularly able to conjure up US servicemen to compliment their side. Benny later became an umpire on the National League of the late 80's. Johnny West was regrettably disabled but did a great job in motivating the Senators.

With the demise of RCAF North Luffenham another RCAF base at Langar took their place. Needless to say they were always a strong side.

In 1958 a competition was organised entitled the Nottingham and Birmingham Knock out competition. The Birmingham teams were Birlec, Austin, Northfields, Valor, Dunlop, Bromsgrove and Chipping Norton. I have no record of the outcome of this competition.

Nottingham and Hull regularly played representative games and I was lucky enough to represent the Nottingham League at 2nd base on 20 July 1958 at Craven Stadium, Hull. I had 4 at bats with a hit and a strike out.

University Park was Nottingham councils attempt to create a real baseball diamond otherwise the venues were other Public Parks. Although the pitches were marked out clubs had to fit and dismantle temporary back stops after each game.

There were other games played outside the League. Secretary Mavis Jackson invited us to meet Leeds Lions in September of 1956. Another one off was at Chipping Norton, a small village in Gloucestershire who were playing in the

Birmingham League at that time. Mention is also made in correspondence with Ross Kendricks Beavers Club from Birmingham . there is further correspondence mentioning a club named " Saints" although no location is mentioned. A Nottingham Saints team appeared in the National League in 1964 so it is assumed that was the team mentioned.

Mike Grimsleys contact with USAF bases at Molesworth (Hunts) , Bruntingthorpe(Leics) and Burtonwood (Lancs) failed to produce fixtures. Mike was successful though with a fixture at USAF Croughton (Brackley-Northants).

Correspondence also shows contact with Essex Baseball Club (Dagenham) and Norman Sutherlands team the Edinburgh Clansmen. Alas the latter was asking if we had any spare baseball kit. Sutherland later came to England and formed a team in Coventry.

The very few non playing members (including wives) were pressed into duty as scorers. Hence on numerous occasions arguments would break out over minor details like the actual run score. Crude statistic were kept- a copy of the 1956 figures is shown.

By this time and following my lead the backbone of the side was pupils from the Gateway School . John Smith Played first base and shared pitching duties with Al Alexander, I played second base, Graham Spiers was the catcher, Tony Peasgood was shortstop and a miscellany of other school colleagues were sprinkled in the outfield. In a letter to the Southern Association (April 1957) Mike Grimsley thanks the Association for a set of uniform and a mask value £6.2s.0d and reports to him that the club had 25 signed players

What was baseball in England really like in the mid-50's and early 60's ? I had an article published in the American magazine Baseball Digest (May 1962) explaining the realities of baseball life at the time .

Umpiring was a nightmare. We happened to find a Canadian , Don Quigley, who did a fair job. Obviously knowing the rules, as he did , helps. Many others pressed into duty had little idea. On many occasions because of the lack of protective clothing for umpires they would make their judgments including balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. The pitcher would make his deliveries not from a mound but from playing field level.



1955 L-R (BACK ROW) BILL BROWN, AL ALEXANDER, BUNNY NASH, RED DIGLIN
ALAN SHEPHERD
(FRONT ROW) RAY ESSEX, STEVE HORDAL, JOHN VARNAM, GRAHAM SPIERS
NOTE THE ABSENCE OF CAPS!

HARVEY TROPHY

May	12	Leicester v. Dodgers	Victoria Park
"	13	Athletics v. Royals	Melbourne Park
"	13	Braves v. Senators	University Park
"	20	Senators v. Athletics	Melbourne Park
"	20	Dodgers v. Leicester	University Park
"	20	Maple Leafs v. Royals	R.C.A.F. Langar
"	26	Leicester v. Athletics	Victoria Park
"	27	Royals v. Maple Leafs	Melbourne Park
"	27	Dodgers v. Braves ..	University Park
June	3	Senators v. Leicester	Melbourne Park
"	3	Braves v. Athletics	University Park
"	10	Braves v. Leicester	University Park
"	10	Maple Leafs v. Dodgers	R.C.A.F. Langar
"	16	Leicester v. Senators	Victoria Park
"	17	Royals v. Braves ..	Melbourne Park
"	17	Dodgers v. Athletics	University Park
"	24	Senators v. Dodgers	Melbourne Park
"	24	Braves v. Royals ..	University Park
"	24	Maple Leafs v. Athletics	R.C.A.F. Langar
"	30	Leicester v. Royals..	Victoria Park
July	1	Athletics v. Braves	Melbourne Park
"	1	Dodgers v. Senators	University Park
"	8	Senators v. Royals	Melbourne Park
"	8	Maple Leafs v. Braves	R.C.A.F. Langar
"	15	Athletics v. Maple Leafs	Melbourne Park
"	15	Braves v. Dodgers ..	University Park
"	21	Leicester v. Braves	Victoria Park
"	22	Senators v. Maple Leafs	Melbourne Park
"	29	Athletics v. Leicester	Melbourne Park
"	29	Dodgers v. Royals ..	University Park
"	29	Maple Leafs v. Senators	R.C.A.F. Langar
Aug.	5	Royals v. Senators	Melbourne Park
"	5	Braves v. Maple Leafs	University Park
"	11	Leicester v. Maple Leafs	Victoria Park
"	12	Athletics v. Senators	Melbourne Park
"	19	Royals v. Leicester	Melbourne Park
"	19	Dodgers v. Maple Leafs	University Park
"	26	Athletics v. Dodgers	Melbourne Park
"	26	Maple Leafs v. Leicester ..	R.C.A.F. Langar
Sept.	2	Senators v. Braves	Melbourne Park
"	9	Royals v. Athletics	Melbourne Park
"	16	Royals v. Dodgers ..	Melbourne Park

M.C.B.A. CUP

June	9	Senators v. Athletics	Melbourne Park
"	9	Leicester v. Maple Leafs ..	Victoria Park
"	16	Dodgers v. Braves ..	University Park
SEMI-FINAL			
		v.	
		v.	
M.C.B.A. FINAL			
Sept.	2	v.	University Park

NOTTINGHAM TROPHY

June	2	Athletics v. Dodgers	Melbourne Park
"	2	Leicester v. Royals	Victoria Park
"	2	Maple Leafs v. Braves ..	R.C.A.F. Langar
SEMI-FINAL			
		v.	
		v.	
NOTTINGHAM TROPHY			
Sept.	9	FINAL	University Park
		v.	

NIGHT SCHEDULE

June	5	Dodgers v. Braves ..	University Park
"	14	Braves v. Royals ..	University Park
"	20	Senators v. Athletics	Melbourne Park
"	26	Dodgers v. Royals ..	University Park
July	5	Braves v. Athletics	University Park
"	11	Senators v. Dodgers	Melbourne Park
"	17	Royals v. Athletics	Melbourne Park
"	26	Athletics v. Dodgers	Melbourne Park
"	31	Royals v. Senators	Melbourne Park
Aug.	1	Senators v. Braves	Melbourne Park

Exhibition Games will be arranged from time to time during the season with teams from Hull, London, and the U.S.A.F. Times and Dates will appear in the Nottingham Press.

NOTTINGHAM LEAGUE FIXTURES 1956

NOTTINGHAM BASEBALL LEAGUE

Result of game played on

Between (A) (B)

(A) Runs Hits (B) Runs Hits

Summary of game, outstanding events or players.

A																				
B																				

Umpire's Signature

Captain's Signature (A)

(B)

To be completed by Home Team and submitted within 72 hours.

1956

LEICESTER STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION CLUB.

Income & Expenditure Account for Year ended August 31st 1956.

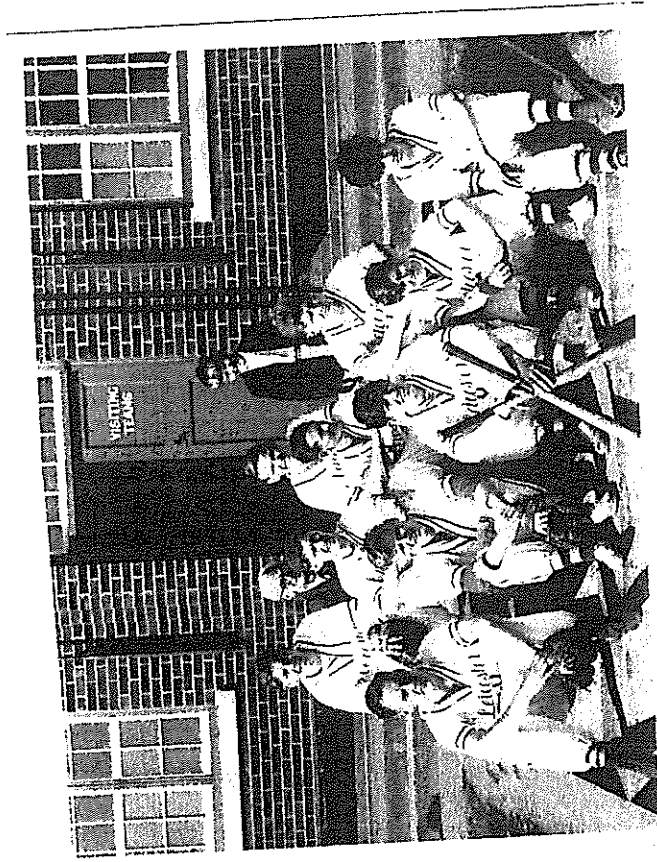
1955			
10	10		
1	16	4-17-6	Subscriptions
2	4	1-12-6	Donations
3	1		Collections
4			Receipts from Funck Board
5	15	15-12-0	Less Purchases
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Expenses on Licence & Trav	12-11-2	
Less Receipts	11-10-0.11-6-5	
Balance being excess of income over expenditure for the year to date.	1-19-6	25-9-4
		<u>36</u>

Balance Sheet for Year ended August 31st 1956.	
1955	Assets
10	Equipment as per valuation
11	Stock of Funck Boards at cost
12	Cash in hand
13	
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I have examined the Income & Expenditure Account of the Leicester Football Club for the year ended August 31st 1956, together with the Balance Sheet as at 31st August 1956, with the books & vouchers of the Club, and I certify the same to be in accordance therewith.

54 Dunstall Ave. Leicester. 8th October 1956.
 D.R. WELLS. Incorporated Accountant.
 Honorary Auditor.



1955 MELBOURNE PARK NOTTINGHAM

PLAYERS:- (BACK ROW) ALAN SHEPHERD

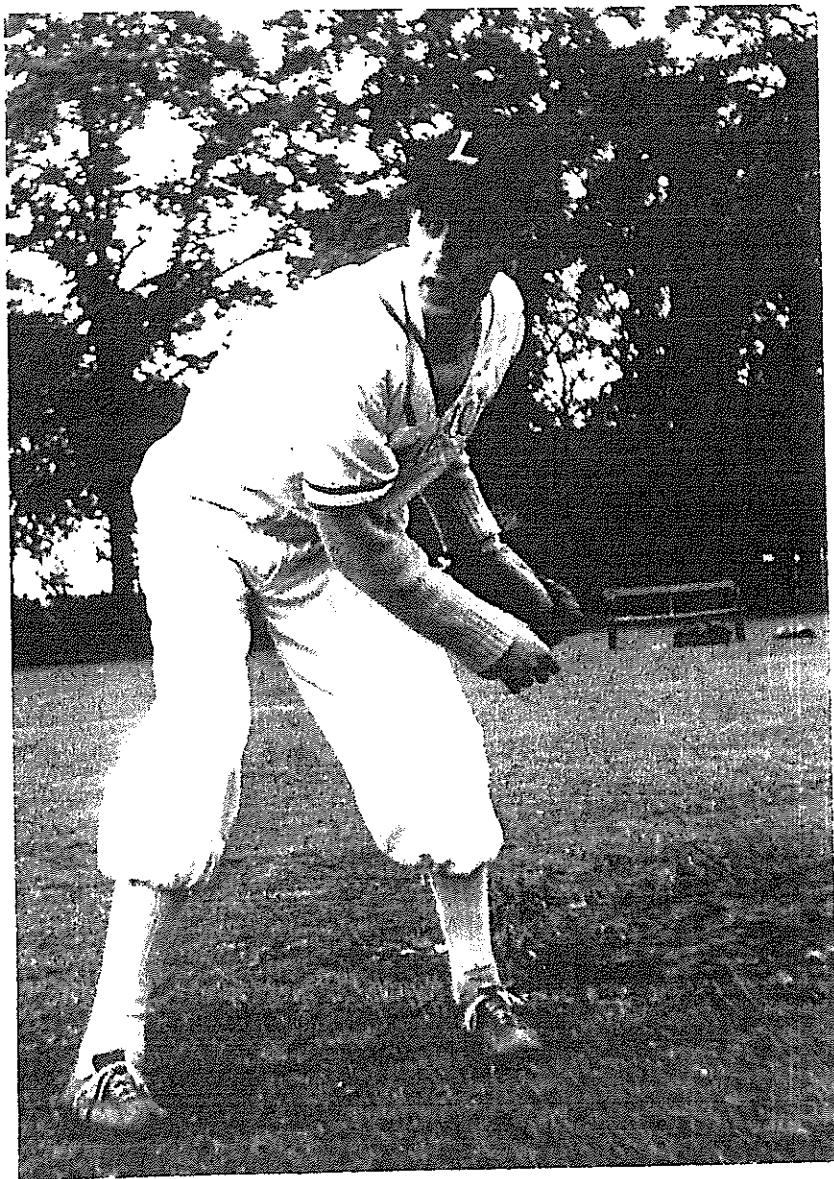
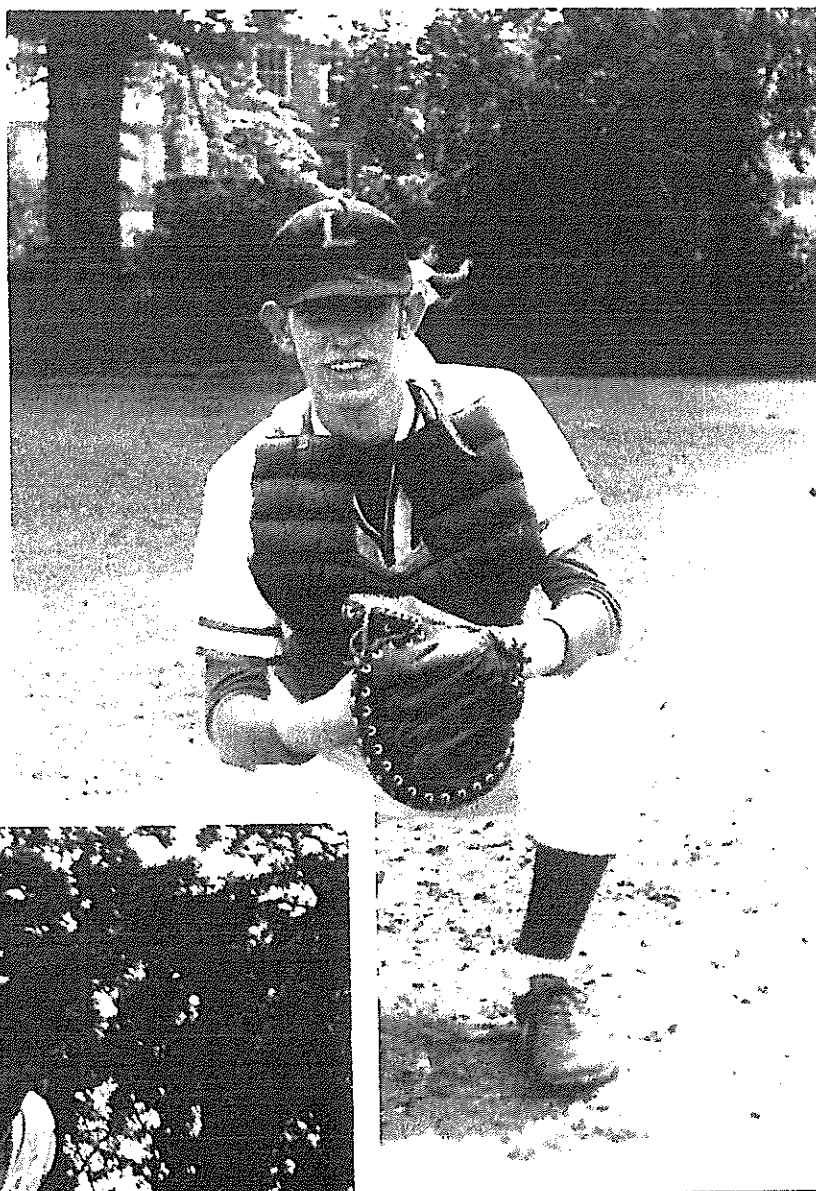
MIKE GRIMSLEY, RAY ESSEX (BEHIND) STEVE HORDAL

RED DIGLIN

(FRONT ROW) NORMAN HODGES, JOHN VARNAM

GRAHAM SPIERS, TONY PEASGOOD, — ASTILL

GRAHAM
SPIERS



JOHN SMITH

South Eastern
Counties Baseball
Association

and

South Eastern
Baseball League

HANDBOOK and GUIDE

1956

Printed by
HELLIAR & SONS
237 Barking Road
London, E.13

UNITED STATES NAVY (London)

Secretary: **Lt. GROSSKOPF**
 Special Services Officer, United States Navy
 H.Q., Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.
 Telephone: **MAYfair 9222 (Ext. 110).**
 Ground: **To be notified.**

**CUP WINNERS
 1955**

SOUTH EASTERN COUNTRIES CUP FINAL	
Briggs Brigands	28
Queens Park Aces	8
S.E. LEAGUE SENIOR CUP FINAL	
Kodak	25
Briggs Brigands	9
S.E. LEAGUE INTERMEDIATE CUP FINAL	
Queens Park Aces	6
Esso Tigers	5
Essex Cup	
Briggs Brigands	15
Ford Sports	10
METROPOLITAN CUP	
Epsom Lions	9
Hornsey Athletics	6
S.E. LEAGUE INVITATION TOURNAMENT FINAL	
Kodak	15
Dagenham Royals	4

**LEAGUE TABLES and PLAY-OFFS
 1955**

SECTION A			
Briggs Brigands	Pld.	Won	Lost
Hornsey Athletics	10	9	1
Dagenham Royals	10	8	2
Thames Board Mills	10	6	4
Benfleet Greys	10	4	6
Esso Tigers	10	2	8
Esso Tigers	10	1	9
Esso Tigers	10	0	10
SECTION B			
Essex Nationals	Pld.	Won	Lost
Epsom Lions	10	9	1
Ford Sports	10	7	3
Kodak	10	7	3
Queens Park Aces	10	5	5
Briggs Tigers	10	2	8
Briggs Tigers	10	0	10
Play-Offs			
PRELIMINARY			
Epsom Lions	14	Ford Sports	5
SEMI-FINALS			
Hornsey Athletics	12	Essex Nationals	8
Briggs Brigands	9	Epsom Lions	7
FINAL			
Hornsey Athletics	12	Briggs Brigands	11
League Champions—Hornsey Athletics			
DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP—PLAY-OFF			
Thames Board Mills	11	Kodak	6



Leicester *Green Sox* Baseball Club

1957 SCHEDULE

League and Cup Matches

May 4	Green Sox v. Dodgers	Victoria Pk.
„ 12	Dodgers v. Green Sox	University Pk., Nottm.
„ 18	Green Sox v. Athletics	Victoria Pk.
„ 26	Senators v. Green Sox	Melbourne Pk., Nottm.
June 1	Nottingham League Cup	
„ 2	Canada v. U.S.A.F.,	Exhibition Game, Nottm.
„ 8	Midland Counties Cup	
„ 9	Braves v. Green Sox	University Pk., Nottm.
„ 15	Green Sox v. Senators	Victoria Pk.
„ 29	Green Sox v. Royals	Victoria Pk.
July 17	Green Sox v. Maple Leafs	Victoria Pk.
„ 20	Green Sox v. Braves	Victoria Park.
„ 28	Athletics v. Green Sox	Melbourne Pk., Nottm.
Aug. 18	Royals v. Green Sox	Melbourne Pk., Nottm.
„ 25	Maple Leafs v. Green Sox	R.C.A.F. Langar

Challenge Match

Apr. 27 Green Sox v. Royals Victoria Pk.

Other friendly matches are being arranged and dates for these will appear in the press.

For further information of the club's activities write to:

Honorary Secretary:

M. M. GRIMSLEY,
51 Narborough Road South,
Leicester.

LEICESTER GREEN SOX BASEBALL CLUB.

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year ended 31st. August, 1957.

	1956	1957	
ment of pitches	4	10	0
affiliation, Cup and Umpires fees	3	12	6
repairs & Upkeep of Equipment & Uniforms	14	2	2
Telephone, Postage, Printing & Stationery	9	1	7
Travelling Expenses	2	11	9
miscellaneous Expenses	-	-	-
Expenses of Film Show	4	12	0
Expenses of Dance & Draw, Less Receipts	-	-	-
Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year to date.	39	7	0
		26	

	31st. AUGUST, 1957	
	ASSETS	
Capital Fund	10	0
Balance at 31st. August, 1956	2	5
Excess of expenditure over Income for Year to date	7.5	10
	15	5
	6	10
	21	18

	1956	1957
By Subscriptions		6.12.0
Playing Members		1.5.0
Non-Playing Members		1.2.3
Supporters		
" Donations		
" Collections and Sundry Receipts.		
Receipts from Punchboards		36.11.6
Less Purchases		15.4.8
		23
		6
		7
		7

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account of the Leicester Baseball Club for the year ended 31st. August, 1957, together with the Balance Sheet as at 31st. August, 1957, with the books, accounts and vouchers of the Club, and I certify them to be in accordance therewith.

D. W. WELLS
 Incorporated Accountant,
 Honorary Auditor.

..... Treasurer.

Sec.
37, Finchbury Drive,
Ispley Lane,
Gotta.

L. G. 53.

Dear Mr. Grimsley,

The first full - Gotta. Representative game will be on Sunday June 24th. at 3 p.m. on the Melbourne Rd. ground. Will you please notify any of your players who have been selected about this.

The second game will be played at Craven Park stadium full on the 10th July at 3 p.m. I will let you have details of the bus etc. when this is arranged. I shall be pleased if you will let me know how many seats you require on the bus as soon as possible within 14 days.

There will be the usual monthly executive meeting on Monday the 16th June at my address as above. Please let me know if you are unable to attend on this date.

Although I have not any details I understand there is a baseball game at Radcliffe Lodge, Radcliffe on Trent on July 14th between two Canadian Teams. Perhaps some of your players would be interested?

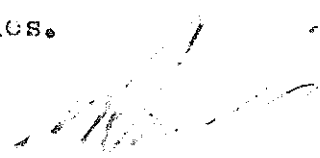
Are all your players registered yet? If not please let Mr. Turner have the forms as soon as you can. League Subs. are also due, these to Mr. Harvey.

All for now,

Yours faithfully,

P.S. I have notified Mr. Todd about you claiming the game. I will also see that this is on the agenda at the next meeting.

Geo. Bowles.



HULL and YORKSHIRE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

YOU MUST NOT MISS!



Hull v Nottingham

SUNDAY, 20th JULY, 1958

CRAVEN PARK STADIUM, HULL.

PITCH OFF 3 p.m.

ADMISSION
BY

Programme - 1/-

Children and O.A.P's - SIXPENCE

Hull

Nottingham

Duggie Suddards	..... Manager	.....
Pete Shorten	..... Coach	.....
Ron Marshall	..... Pitcher	GOODIER (ATHS)
Terry Busby	..... Catcher	BOWLES (ATHS)
John Read	..... 1st Base	SMITH (ATHS)
Frank Parker	..... 2nd Base	YARMAM (GRSOX)
Harry Andrews	..... Short Stop	BELABY (ATHS)
Jack Willerton	..... 3rd Base	JENNINGS (STS)
Don Smallwood	..... Left Field	BENSON (BRAVES)
Don Akers	..... Centre Field	BURROWS (ATHS)
Brian Lamb	..... Right Field	MUNNES (ROYALS)
G. Sheddon	..... Benchers	ALEXANDER (GRSOX)
G. Jackson	..... "	GRIMSLEY (GRESOX)
R. Hammond	..... "	SHEPHERD (GRESOX)
C. Megson	..... "	BOOKER (ROYALS)
		BOWLEY (STS)

Chief Umpire :- Mr. W. Holmes Base Umpire :- Mr. M. Styles

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Hull										
Nottingham										

Hull Amateur League matches are played every Saturday, for details of fixtures see Friday's Hull Daily Mail or apply to any player or Committee Member.

NEXT SUNDAY at CRAVEN PARK — HULL v LIVERPOOL

NOTTINGHAM BASEBALL LEAGUE

(AFFILIATED TO THE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION)

League Secretary: Treasurer.

T. O. HARVEY,
400 St. Albans Road,
Bulwell,
Nottingham.

Tel. Bulwell 27-1150.

Sec.
37, Kingsbury Drive
Aspley.

Dear Mr. Grimsley,

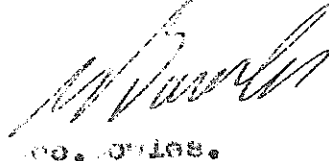
8th May 1958

The draw for the 1958-59 League Knockout Cup has now been made and is as follows. Home team first.

Witlee.	v	Graves. 9-0
Austin.	v	Wolverfield. 17-3
Wolver.	v	Senators. 15-12
Dunlop.	v	Athletics. 3-25
Royals.	v	Beavers.
Wolverhampton.		Up 1 to second round.
Wolverhampton.		Up 1 to second round.
Wolverhampton.		Up 1 to second round.

These games are to be played on the 14th by today, and no team to make all arrangements regarding times, grounds, umpires etc. I will let our Secretaries know the final scores as soon as they are sent.

Yours faithfully,



T. O. HARVEY.

LEICESTER GREEN SOX BASEBALL CLUB, 1956.

FINAL BATTING PERCENTAGES.

(N.B. Excludes all errors)

NAME.	AT BAT.	RUNS.	HITS.	BASE ON BALLS.	STRIKE OUTS.	%
SAMUELS.	36	10	21	3	9	.636
DIGLIN.	69	13	39	-	6	.565
BRASGOOD.	54	12	19	12	8	.500
ALEXANDER.	45	9	20	1	6	.455
SMITH.	74	13	28	6	15	.411
SHEPHERD.	44	7	15	3	10	.391
VARNHAM.	37	5	21	2	11	.381
GRIFFIN.	66	11	19	12	11	.351
DENNIS.	39	5	9	6	13	.272
SPINERS.	57	10	12	12	16	.266

The following also batted;-

ASTLEY, BOWEN, BROWN, COUCH, DUNN, FINN, GIBBY,
HALLIDAY, HODGES, HYDE, LEVINGS, ROSS.



Leicester *Green Sox* Baseball Club

Letter from England

86 Roehampton Drive
Wigston Fields
Leicester, England

DEAR SIR: Being a regular cover-to-cover reader of your very informative and newsy magazine, I am amused by the hard tone to stories of minor league players. If only they know what baseball in the raw is really like. In my opinion here in England we do see the game in the raw. Admittedly we only play the game for the kicks (many of which we receive in the teeth) and not as our bread and butter.

Literature, playing equipment and coaching are very hard to come by, hence many of the players are so ignorant of the rules of the game that some of their antics make us roll with laughter. In two games last year, for instance, we had batters coming to bat and taking a stance on top of the plate. Another player who had got on base with a lucky hit was bullied as far as third base. At the crack of the bat and a yell in his ear from the coach he took off, rounded home and set off for first base again to start his second lap. In a practice game last year we had a player take a cricket stance in front of the plate; he never did make the team.

Possibly the biggest cause of mirth and broken teeth here are the grounds on which we play.

Pype Hayes Park, Birmingham, supports two diamonds, both with peculiar right fields. One has an old gnarled oak tree in very short right, while the other develops into a bog about 120 feet from home. Of course, ground-rule double for anything off the tree or in the bog.

Actual outfield boundaries are rare. Edgbaston Park, Birmingham, however, is bounded in left by a brook. Many is the poor unsuspecting left fielder who with eyes glued firmly on a fly ball has prematurely taken the early bath.

Talking of baths, another local park, where changing accommodation is a converted stable, has no water laid on, so many of the players after a hot game wash in the nearby boating lake, much to the annoyance of the resident ducks.

Chipping Norton is a place that we have only visited once. (The expenses, borne by individual players, were rather high.) The Chippies had been given reluctant permission to use the local football ground on the proviso that the grass on the overworked footballing surface was not mown during the summer

months. Unfortunately the infield was partly on the pitch, partly off, which meant that the area from home to first was tightly mown but second and third and all of the left field was about six inches deep in grass.

About three seasons ago baseball was so popular in Nottingham that the secretary of the eight-team Nottingham League, George Bowles, and his followers persuaded the local corporation of the necessity of a proper playing field. Quoth George to the parks committee, "We want this to be the 'real McCoy'; we want a permanent backstop and sanded lines." Because of the councilmen's puzzled looks George drew them diagrams and explained fully what was needed, though left it with them to discuss details.

The result of Mr. Bowles' time at the Town Hall was a diamond, wedged between the corporation tip and an overgrown disused railway line, where-after many a game was stopped for 20 minutes while a search was organized in order to find a priceless baseball. The tip together with its accompanying flock of birds formed the fateful right field boundary.

The sanded base paths were certainly sanded. The landscape "artists" from the Park Department had dug down about four inches and simply filled in the paths with sand. After swinging at a ball it took about five steps to propel oneself out of the batter's box; conversely in the infield a hit ball

Toshiba BASEBALL RADIO

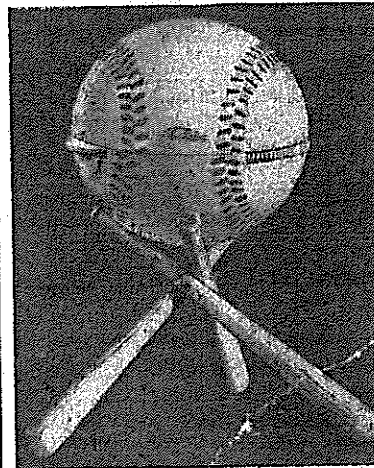


Illustration four-ninths actual size

A six-transistor radio that looks like a baseball and performs like an all-star. It's "big league" in every way . . . styled and sized like an official baseball . . . when mounted on its three-bat pedestal it's a trophy piece for mantel, desk or dresser . . . remove it and it is a personal portable that can be taken everywhere. Superheterodyne circuit and two-inch PM speaker. Built-in Ferrite core antenna. Complete with nine-volt battery, earphone, three-bat stand and cord with ring for portability. Guaranteed against manufacturing defects. Gift boxed. Postpaid.

Only \$29.95

Illinois residents add \$1.20 tax

THE R B I SHOP
Box 304, Highland Park, Ill.

would merely sink into the sand lines and stop. It was regular "beach ball" at University Park and, in fact, still is every Sunday during the sunny season.

But I suppose every ground has its little faults. We just love the game, with for us few ups and many downs. The shining example of our keenness is illustrated, I think, by the "John Bull incident."

Last year before the lifting of the Sunday games ban, we had difficulty in finding a ground, so we jumped at the affirmative reply given to us by the John Bull Rubber Co. Ltd., to use part of their new sports ground at Glenfield a little way out of town.

On arrival at the ground on Sunday morning to assist in marking-out for the afternoon game, we discovered to our horror that the grass on our playing surface was no less than two foot six inches high. The groundsman said that he had received no instructions to mow the grass or mark out the pitch and added that without authorized permission from the factory he could not consider lending us any equipment belonging to the rubber company. So after some argument the three of us set off on hands and knees to cut the infield, in turn, with a pair of hand shears. This completed we marked out, using a four-inch paint brush.

We welcomed our opponents with

heavily blistered hands, sore knees and aching backs. They took one look at the grass in the outfield and said they refused to play the game as a league game but would play us in a friendly game. We won the "friendly" at the cost of two lost baseballs in the long outfield grass and one outfielder with chronic hay fever.

Not all grounds over here are as zany as the above mentioned, only about 75 per cent of them. Scores in games run up to anything from 2 to 42. The heaviest defeat we have suffered was in 1955, our first season, when we were defeated 41-3 by the Nottingham Athletics.

Scorers often differ in trivial matters like final scores. Umpires and managers are virtually nonexistent.

The only real baseball we see is at a neighboring American air base, but owing to security we have a job sometimes getting onto the base.

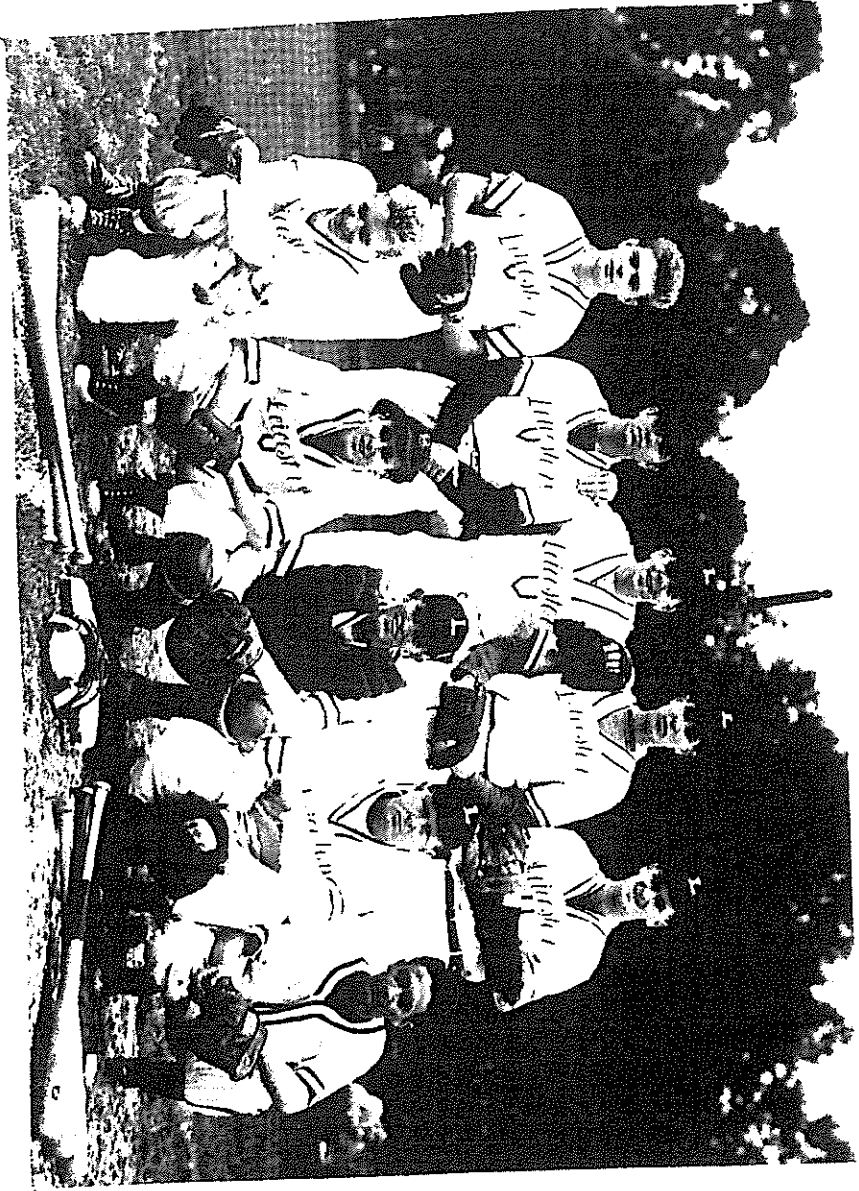
Yesiree, this is England and this is really baseball in the raw. Have we any rivals for the title?

Yours 'til pro ball in England,

John Varnam,
Leicester Green Sox

(Secretary, second baseman, catcher, outfielder, joint-pitching and fielding coach, scorer, statistician, ground marker-out-er, hired coach driver, baseball correspondent, general trouble shooter for the game, holder of club baseballs and 22 next birthday.)

WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH THIS COPY OF BASEBALL DIGEST,
A FOUR-CENT STAMP CARRIES IT TO A FRIEND IN SERVICE



1957 (Back Row) STUART FIRTH, BOB DENNIS, ALAN STEPHENSON
JOHN SMITH, MIKE GRIMSLEY
(Front Row) KEVIN VANANAM, TONY DEARGOOD, GRAHAM SPIERS
BOB DIGLIN, CY HYDE

J.V. Personal Record for 1957 *

	Batting							Fielding		Outs	
	G	AB	H	R	SO	BB	PCT	E	C	F	A
V ROYALS	7	19	11	8	-	1	.631	7	2	51	10
V ATHLETICS	1	4	2	1	-	1	.666	-	2	1	11
V SENATORS	2	9	5	2	2	-	.555	1	3	22	10.5
V R.C.A.F. LANGRAK	2	7	5	2	+	-	.718	2	1	9	0.9
V U.S.A.F. BRUNTINGTHORPE	2	7	-	-	5	-	.000	7	1	5	11
	11	43	21	13	9	2	.521	14	9	110	50

* every time reach first counted as hit

Personal Record 1958 (W5-L2)

	G	AB	H	R	BB	SO	Pct	Outs	
								F	A
V ROYALS	2	12	5	4	-	-	.416	3	9
V ATHLETICS	1	5	2	-	-	-	.400	7	18
V SENATORS	3	16	5	5	2	1	.357	5	11
V BRAVES	1	4	1	-	-	1	.250	6	8
League v HULL	1	4	1	-	-	1	.250	0	14
	8	41	14	9	2	3	.364	10	60

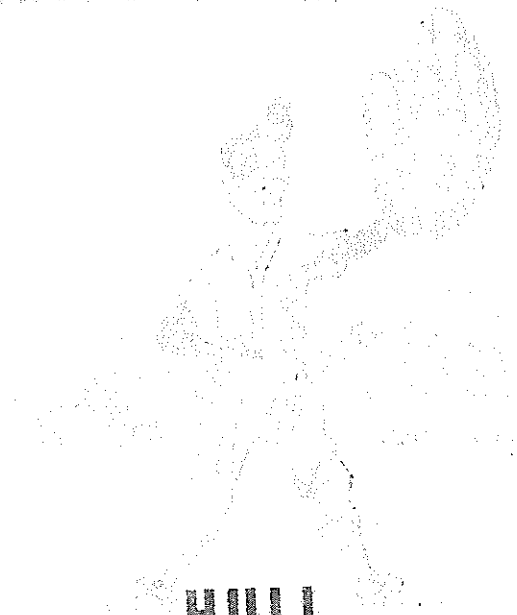
After July 4th 1959

	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	IP	PO	SO	Pct	Fielding
Angell	23	9	13	10	3	-	-	$\frac{11}{16}$	1 [*]	3	.619	
Alexander	28	11	17	14	2	-	1	22	-	2	.607	
Smith	25	8	13	8	4	1	-	19	-	1	.520	
Grimmley	37	10	14	9	2	2	1	23	4 [*]	1	.437	
Boyle	13	4	5	3	1	1	-	8	-	5	.384	PO A E Pct
Varnam	34	13	11	6	2	2	1	20	2 [*]	3	.305	12 14 2 .928
Shepherd	27	6	6	4	2	-	-	8	6	7	.245	
Doubleday	28	5	7	6	1	-	-	8	2 [*]	6	.280	
Spiers	27	4	4	2	1	1	-	7	5	9	.181	
Kempin	12	3	2	2	-	-	-	2	*	4	.181	
Woodcock	11	4	2	2	-	-	-	2	2	6	.222	
Essex	14	1	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	7	.142	
Powell	10	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	4	.111	
Under 10 AB.												
Carr	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1.000	
Percy	9	2	5	5	-	-	-	5	-	1	.544	
Samuels	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	.500	
Thacker	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	.333	
Peasgood	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	.000	
Bryans	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	.000	

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

National Cup Final

YOU MUST NOT MISS!



HULL

(East Hull Aces)

v

LONDON

(Thames Board Mills)

SUNDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER, 1959

THE WOLSELEY GROUND

BIRMINGHAM

PITCH OFF 3 p.m

Programme 3d

FOR THE UNINITIATED SPECTATORS

A Game consists of nine innings each for each team, but a game can count if terminated by the Umpire after five innings. An innings terminates when three men of the batting side are out.

The distribution of the fielding side is as follows:-

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. PITCHER | 6. SHORT STOP |
| 2. CATCHER | 7. LEFT FIELDER |
| 3. 1st BASE | 8. CENTRE FIELDER |
| 4. 2nd BASE | 9. RIGHT FIELDER |
| 5. 3rd BASE | |

NOTE: When pitcher is delivering the ball to bat he must keep one foot in contact with the Pitcher's Plate.

THE BATSMAN IS ALLOWED THREE STRIKES OR FOUR BALLS. A Strike is a ball which passes over the home plate between the knee and the shoulder of the batter, or any ball struck at by the batsman without touching the bat. A ball is called when the pitched ball is below the knee or above the shoulder, or which passes wide of the home plate.

If the pitcher sends down **FOUR BALLS** before **THREE STRIKES**, batsman is allowed first base.

Batsman becomes a baserunner when a **FAIR HIT** is made or when he gets first base on balls.

A **FAIR HIT** is one which settles on fair territory in the infield, or lands in territory in outfield.

A baserunner is out at first base if ball is held on bag before he reaches it. At second, third and home plate baserunner must be touched by ball which is held by a fielder before he reaches the bases, except when play is **FORCED**, that is when baserunners are compelled to advance through batsman making a fair hit and becoming a runner, when all that is necessary is for a fielder to hold the ball and touch the base.

The ball is dead and not in play if it goes foul, that is outside the foul lines, unless it is caught. In such a case the batsman is declared out.

A Run is scored only when each individual batsman has made a complete round of the diamond, touching each base in regular order before three men are out.

Pitching distance 60ft. Gms. Distance between bases 90ft.

East Hull Aces

Thames Board Mills

Pete Shorten	Manager	J. McQuade	Manager
R. Seddon	Pitcher	W. McCray	
F. Parker	Catcher	K. Jones	
J. Read	1st Base	G. Browne	
G. Jackson	2nd Base	W. Dawber	
A. Eherington	Short Stop	D. Sinclair	
J. Ginley	3rd Base	R. Sumner	
D. Smallwood	Left Field	T. Devane	
W. Sanderson	Centre Field	C. Dunn	
D. Hammond	Right Field	W. Whiteby	
A. Wilson	Benchers	G. Johnson	
N. Sanderson	"	A. Ashwell	
K. Wilson	"	G. White	
R. Armstrong	"	H. Moreton	
		R. Reynolds	
		C. Jones	
		W. Cartle	Scorer

Umpires: Messrs. Reid, McCoy and Perrott
from the Birmingham League.

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Hull	—	1								
LONDON										



1961 @ MEMORIAL PARK COVENTRY

(BACK) STEW FIRTH, ROGER PERCY, RICK ASTILL, ALAN SHEPHERD,
JOHN SMITH, DAVE SACHELL, TONY POWELL, TEET TOONE,

(FRONT) PAULINE GRIMSLEY, HAYDEN BRADFORD, MICK GRIMSLEY,
AL ALEXANDER, JOHN VARNAM, ROD ANGELL, TREVOR KEMPIN.

Sunday Sport

Our five years campaign for Sunday sport had fallen on stoney ground. Surprisingly we had received no support from football or any other sport.

It was then that we were approached by a Mr. P. G. Smith (whom I corresponded with but never actually met). He explained that the only solution was a political one. He gave us a list of Parks Committee Councillors. He advised that a few of these gentlemen were in support of Sunday Sport. We lobbied the rest. He also explained that the chairman of the committee – Councillor "Sludge" Powell was vehemently against and would make every effort to divert the proposal – made by Councillor Ashwell – back into committee where it would in all probability be shelved.

Ashwell and several other pro-councillors persisted with the motion, fought off Mr. Powell and succeeded 32 votes to 14 .

So Sunday sport in Leicester became a reality in January 1960

Baseball Club's New Player

Leicester Green Sox Baseball Club are engaged in two matches this weekend. On Saturday they entertain the Nottingham Senators at Victoria Park in a friendly match, and on Saturday travel to Nottingham for a league match against the Braves at University Park.

For these two matches the Leicester side include their new signing John Sullivan, a powerfully built Australian pitcher. Following represent Leicester in the two matches: Smith, Sullivan, Alexander, Spiers, Angell, Varnham, Samuel, Shepherd, Grimsley, Essex, Shaw, Dennis, Powell, Crawford, Barnes, Percy, Thacker and Tebbutt.

Leicester Baseball Team

Leicester Green Sox baseball team travel to Nottingham on Saturday for the return match against the Senators who they beat by 19-7 last week at Victoria Park. They will be without catcher Gray Spiers, who was injured in last week's game. Ken Dennis will deputise behind the plate.

Green Sox line-up: Smith, Alexander, Sullivan, Dennis, Angell, Varnham, Samuel, Shepherd, Grimsley, Robertshaw, Percy, Powell.

LEICESTER BASEBALL TEAM BIG WIN

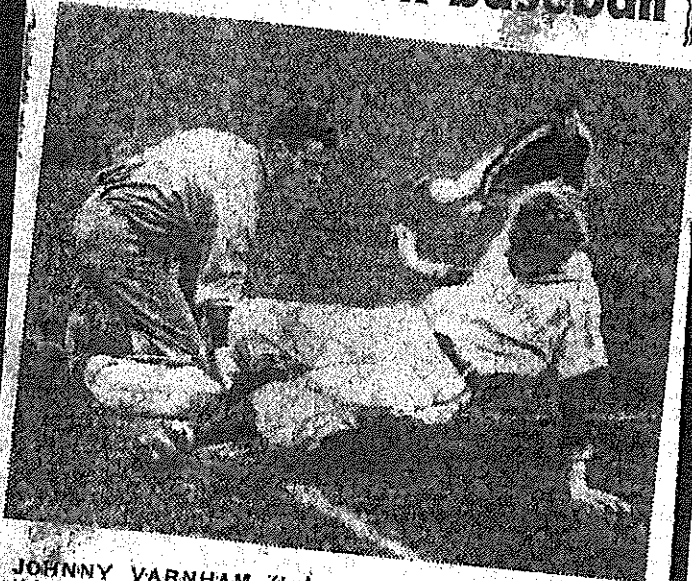
Leicester Green Sox baseball proved too strong in every part of the game for Nottingham Senators when they met at University Park, Nottingham, on Saturday. The home batting could make little impression on the Leicester pitching while the reverse happened when the local side came to bat. The Green Sox also looked far the more steady in their fielding and finished by recording the biggest win in the history of the club, 26-1.

Green Sox v Royals at baseball



AL SHEPHERD (Leicester Green Sox) is the striker here against Nottingham Royals in the baseball match this afternoon at Victoria Park.

Victoria Park baseball



JOHNNY VARNHAM (Leicester Green Sox) slides into third base despite the attentions of John Campbell (Nottingham Royals) in the league baseball match this afternoon at Victoria Park.

Leicester Baseball Team's Big Win

Leicester Green Sox baseball team gave their best display to date when the side completely overpowered the Nottingham Royals in a league match at Victoria Park on Saturday by 25-0.

Flawless fielding and great pitching by Jon Smith, capped the home team earn their first complete shut-out. The Green Sox batting also produced some lusty hitting, with home runs by Angell, Essex and Samuel.

The highlight of the game, however, was the magnificent catch by Johnny Varnham off the last hit of the match taken at full stretch while running backwards.

Run-scorers for Leicester were: Angell 4, Samuel 4, Grimsley 4, Varnham 4, Alexander 3, Smith 2, Spiers 2, Shepherd 2, Essex 1.

Score by innings (Leicester first): 0-0, 3-0, 3-0, 1-0, 5-0, 4-0, 1-0, 2-0, D.N.B.-0.

GREEN SOX SHIP

Al Shepherd and Johnny Varnham, Leicester Green Sox, play their first representative match for the Nottingham Baseball All-Stars yesterday.

In continuous rain the home League beat Hull Le Stars 12-7.

Green A Wa

Leicester Green Sox team got through at the Midlands Saturday by a win. They were away after their opponents, had half side within half pitch-off time.

Green Sox met Ham Beavers in July 15.

Green Sox Have A Home League Match

Leicester Green Sox baseball team entertain Nottingham Saints on Saturday in a league match at Victoria Park (3.15). The Green Sox have beaten Saints in a friendly match this season.

Green Sox: John Smith, Gray Spiers, Rod Angell, Johnny Varnham, Al Alexander, Bob Robertshaw, Mike Grimsley, Ray Essex, Al Shepherd, Stew Elith, Roger Percy, Tony Powell, Ken Dennis.

Green Sox To Be Full Strength

Leicester Green Sox baseball team will have a full line-up tomorrow's (Sunday) Midlands semi-final in Birmingham against the local league leaders, Eltham Beavers.

Green Sox line-up: John Smith, Al Alexander, Gray Spiers, Rod Angell, Johnny Varnham, Bob Robertshaw, Mike Grimsley, Ray Essex, Al Shepherd, Roger Percy, Tony Powell.

WHAT ABOUT BASEBALL?

Why the headlines on the Yanks playing cricket?

Leicester has had a baseball team for the past five years. In 1957 Brumfit, Thorpe came to play the Green Sox on our Victoria Park diamond, and edged the Sox 3-2.

Last year we were beaten by the Nottingham Braves 5-6. The Braves had seven American airmen playing for them, the Green Sox have all local players but one.

We get hardly a mention—ret McMullen only has to say the word—cricket—and hits the headlines.

Why do we play baseball? because it's the greatest summer team game in the world. —JOHN VARNHAM (Leicester Green Sox).

Ready To Go U.S.

NEILL, Australia's Test cricketer, is today that he will travel to the United States in the next few weeks if New World champion were agreeable.

He invited him to a training camp in Florida.

He has played well as cricketer with Wales, said by first love, and anything to inter-

long discussions they employ a tele- with Bill Talbot, of the American team, invited O'Neill on negotiations with successful he gave Australia of March.

Baseball gets a new lead

WHAT is regarded as the most progressive post-war step in British baseball has been taken by a 16-strong representative committee.

They have formed the British Baseball Federation, which will incorporate five leagues, the Southern, Hull and District, Merseyside, Birmingham and Nottingham, in which Leicester Green Sox take part.

For added interest, the representatives arranged a national competition to be run on a knock-out basis.

The competition will be zoned, and the winners from each section will reach the all-England final.

It is hoped the Federation will link with the European Federation and eventually a team from England may be sent to compete in the World Series, in the U.S.A.

O'Neill will join Yankee

PERTH, Thursday. — O'Neill, Australian Test said today he will not be the United States this year baseball with the New York Yankees.

The only terms under which he could have made the move, O'Neill, were unacceptable to the Yankees — Reuters.

VIC JACKSON FIT WITH SOME BASEBALL

THEY tell me that Vic Jackson was one of the de-theorists who ever came to Leicestershire — but had his time over again he mightn't take a dip at A

For Vic, who has just sent a newsy letter to County Cricket Club committee-man Billy Butler asking for a Cricket Buff to be sent him each week, says that he is not now playing serious cricket.

But recently he played in a team of leading Down Under cricketers against the New South Wales ball team. And what d'ye know the cricketers beat them 5-1.

Test skipper Ritchie Benaud, Neil Harvey, Ian Craig, Les Favell and Norman O'Neill were all in there pitching with Jackson.

Newcomers Sell For Green Sox

A bright future is for Leicester Green Sox baseman, Al Doubleday only one practice game the lineup for their open game at University Park against the Nottingham.

Also new to the first baseman Tony P takes over from Rod An on National Service.

Team: Al Alexander Spiers (C.), Tony Powell (C.), Johnny Varnam (2b.), Al Doubleday (3b.), Mike Grimsley (3b.), Bob Thacker (R.F.), Al (C.F.), Ray Essex (L.F.).

Subs.: Dave Woodcock, Don Carr, Len Samuels, Roger Percy, Bob Robertshaw.

Harry Brown's Sports Gossip

"As you know," Vic writes, "I have always liked baseball and will play in the winter time."

Coaching

REMEMBERING the fabulous offer that went to new Test star O'Neill recently from American baseball I'm wondering.

What has he done? Certain the with morn under he can ago. His day clerk i "It's s regular taken s down," But now, I and life Gop in long th shire cr

More Baseball

LETTER from S. J. Cobbett, of 82, Hand Avenue, Leicester, today, draws attention to the gossip note in Saturday's sports pages of the Leicester Mercury dealing with Vic Jackson, who is now in Australia.

Says Mr. Cobbett: "I was just over six years ago I made the acquaintance of Vic Jackson. It was his interest in baseball that brought us together, as he had been told that a baseball club was being formed here and was anxious to join it.

"So keen was Vic that he pitched for the club in their first match on Stonesby Avenue and our opponents declared that it was his pitching that won the game. So I was not surprised to read that he had been playing in Australia.

"MY REGRET IS THAT MORE CLUBS HAVE NOT BEEN FORMED IN LEICESTER BY SOME ENTERPRISING BUSINESS HOUSES WHO HAVE SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUBS ATTACHED TO THEIR BUSINESSES. I CONSIDER BASEBALL A GREAT GAME AND TRUST TO ITS PROGRESS MORE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

Green Sox Team

Leicester Green Sox probably their strongest baseball line-up ever for their two games this weekend. The first game is on Saturday against Nottingham Athletics at Victoria Park and on Sunday they have a friendly game in Birmingham against the Dunlop Tigers.

Team: — Pitchers: Johnny Smith, Al Alexander, Len Samuels; catchers, Gray Spiers, Mick Grimsley; infielders, Rod Angell, Tony Powell, Johnny Varnam, Bob Thacker, Tony Peasgood; Al Doubleday, Bob Robertshaw; outfielders, Al Shepherd, Ray Essex, Roger Percy, Don Carr, Roger Kempin; Dave Satchell, Dave Woodcock, Dave Bryans.

Green Sox Gain Easy Win

Leicester Green Sox got revenge on Saturday when they trounced Dunlop Tigers 17-1. Green Sox 19-year-old pitcher ace, Johnny Smith, gave a display that must rank him among the best pitchers in the Midlands.

This is the second big win the Sox have had in two weeks. Run scorers: Al Alexander 4, Johnny Smith, Johnny Varnam, 3 each, Mick Grimsley, Les Boyce, Al Shepherd, 2 each, Trev Kempin 1.

Green Sox Base Team

Leicester Green Sox played their first home game of the season at Victoria Park tomorrow, Nottingham Saints. Team:

Gray Spiers (p.), Ray (c.), Rod Angell (1b.), Varnam (2b.), Mick C (s.s.), Al Doubleday (3b.), Powell (r.f.), Al Shepherd, Bob Thacker (l.f.), Subs: Percy, Len Samuels, Dave Woodcock, Don Carr, Dave S

BASEBALL DEFEAT

Leicester Green Sox were thrashed on Saturday by the Nottingham Saints, 21-8. Run scorers for Leicester: Rod Angell 3, Johnny Varnam, Dave Woodcock, Al Doubleday, Tony Powell and Gray Spiers (1 each).

TWO BASEBALL DEFEATS

Leicester Green Sox baseball team were beaten twice over the week-end. In a league match on Saturday they lost 13-8 to league leaders Nottingham Athletics and in a friendly yesterday they were beaten 8-3 by the Birmingham team, Dunlop Tigers.

Green Sox Team

On Saturday, Leicester Green Sox baseball team have a chance for revenge when the visitors to Victoria Park will be Dunlop Tigers. A fortnight ago in Birmingham the Tigers beat the Sox 8-3.

Green Sox team: Al Alexander, Johnny Smith, Gray Spiers, Rod Angell, Johnny Varnam, Mick Grimsley, Al Doubleday, Tony Powell, Ray Essex, Al Shepherd, Bob Thacker, Les Boyce, Trev Kempin, Dave Woodcock, Don Carr, Dave Satchell, Dave Bryans, Roger Percy.

Ian Johnson's Local Cricket Round

BASEBALL'S ONE ANSWER

THE GIRL FRIEND PRO

THE ANSWER TO THOSE YOUNG CRICKETERS WHO TWEEN PLAYING UNTIL LATE ON A SATURDAY NIGHT DANCING WITH THEIR GIRL FRIENDS IS SIMPLE. PLAY

League, who says that cricket is losing young blood because of late finishing.

VARNAM SAYS: "WHY NOT PLAY BASEBALL AS IT ONLY LASTS TWO AND A HALF HOURS. IT IS THE FASTEST AND MOST COLORFUL SUMMER SPORT IN THE WORLD, AND WE ARE ALL VERY ENGLISH."

When I spoke to Brian he appeared to be rather amused at the letter and I fancy a challenge will be sent to the Greensox.

Gre... F... Leicester their best yesterday... of the game home run also pitch... the Sox. Varnam & Johnny S (each), Rog day and T

LWATSON AND HIS
LOW WHACKERS



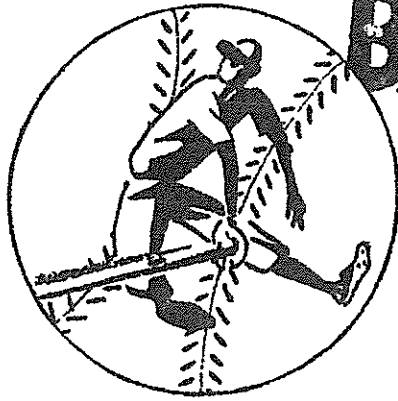
Sid Trimnell

The Nottingham League finally met its demise in 1960 so we moved on to join the Trimnell Pirates.

My article in W. T. Morgan's excellent magazine "Baseball Courier" of June 1963 outlines Sid and his outfit.

We made the Trimnell League up to six teams;

Coventry Tigers. Aston Manor, Birmingham Dodgers, West Bromwich, and Birmingham Brummies. Later additions included the Dunlop Tigers, Valor Sports, Birlec Blues, Erdington Monarchs, USAF Croughton(Oxon) and Chipping Norton.



BASEBALL

Courier

NO. 4. JUNE 1963.

THE TRIMNELL PIRATES by John Varnam.

What is or who are the Trimmell "pirates"? The Trimmell "pirates" are two leagues run by Mr. Sidney Trimmell, of Erdington, Birmingham, and are affiliated to nobody. Sid runs his own little baseball "empire" in the Midlands, and doesn't want to know the British Baseball Federation, the National League, or any other organisation.

Rightly or wrongly, Sid is a dictator, and he is hated by all other Midland baseball authorities because his dictatorship flourishes. I first met Sid, three years ago, after the collapse of the Nottingham League, in which we at Leicester participated. We grabbed onto the nearest organisation that we could in order to sustain the interest of our players, and keep the Green Sox on the map. The nearest was Mr. Trimmell.

Sid is a bespectacled gent of about 55, short and stocky, with a grey crew-cut. His fog-horn voice repeats swear words with monotonous regularity. I don't think he could say a sentence without swearing, but make no mistake, Sid has a baseball where his heart should be. While playing in the Nottingham League, we heard various rumours about the Trimmell Leagues. We heard he was promoting baseball for financial gain - some hopes! Others said that he was paying some of his players, switching players from team to team. Nothing could be further from the truth, in fact he must tip a fair amount into the game each season. His

little black van is usually half full of baseball equipment, where he gets it all from, nobody will ever know. His pride and joy is his youth organisation, from this source he has built up his two leagues, having started with only one senior team, the Aston Monarchs, when he broke away from the Birmingham League in 1953. It is Sid's proud claim that since his break-away, he has spent five nights of each week every summer in popularising baseball among boys, and coaching them until they reach a standard of skill which enables him to work them into his senior leagues. If his many critics were as active in this field as Sid has been, then the game would be in a much stronger position.

As I made clear earlier, Mr. Trimmell is a dictator. No committee decisions, no treasurer, no secretary, and what Sid says, goes. Funnily enough it's the smoothest run league that I know of. His ultimate aim is to develop his two leagues, the Midland County, and Inter-Cities Leagues, into a sort of American League-National League relationship, having teams of equal strength from eight of the large Midland cities.

Is the Trimmell "empire" good for the game or not? In my opinion, it is good; for the simple reason that a man so devoted to the game cannot possibly harm it. Let us all live and let live.

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS by George Livsley.

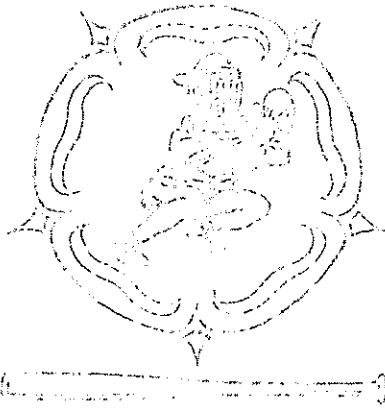
League standings on Friday 7th. June.

	W.	L.	Pts.
East Hull Aces	2	0	4
Stretford Saints	2	0	4
Bromsgrove Garringtons	1	0	2
Nottingham Athletics	0	1	0
Coventry Blue Sox	0	2	0
Birmingham Austin B.L. Bombers	0	2	0

Bromsgrove, who were the most powerful club in the Birmingham League, should be a very tough team to beat. Austin B.L. have quite a good team, with fine potential for the future. The Austin ground set-up is good, but they need more publicity in the local press in order to attract spectators. Nottingham could do with more support. Hull are pleased at the response from the public. We are getting our results published in the Northern editions of the Daily Mirror.

The National Baseball League

The Utopian dream of every British baseball enthusiast, a National League of our own, was mooted during the time of the Green Sox as fragments of correspondence shows.



East Hull Area Baseball Club

Founded 1948

PRESIDENT : R. ANDERSON
VICE - PRESIDENTS : GERRY LOFTUS, ARTHUR HILLIWELL, BERNARD BRADLEY

SECRETARY : DON SMALLWOOD
83 WESTENDALE GROVE
HULL, YORKSHIRE

30.9.62

Dear Sir,

I have sent a copy of the enclosed proposal to everyone interested in baseball in England, I hope you can join with us and make the idea a reality, the inter city plan is very essential to the success of the plan, I have sent Mr Trimmell a copy and I hope for his support, I would appreciate if you would forward the letter to the Coventry secretary whose name and address I don't know, I've sent that in separate envelope

Yours
Don Smallwood

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE SEASON 1964

LEAGUE BULLETIN NO. 2.

An executive meeting will take place on Sunday 14th June. If any Club wishes to have any business discussed would they forward it to reach me by Friday 12th June please. Mr. C. Court has distributed our Fixture Lists therefore I only include June Fixtures:-

Sunday	7th June	Garringtons	v	Nottingham Athletic
		Nottingham Saints	v	Hull Aces
Sunday	14th June	Stretford Saints	v	Hull Aces
		Nottingham Athletic	v	Nottingham Saints
Sunday	21st June	Hull Aces	v	Garringtons
Sunday	28th June	Nottingham Saints	v	Austin B.L.
		Stretford Saints	v	Nottingham Athletic
		Hull Aces	v	U.S. Navy

The success of our Publicity Secretary G. Livsley in having National League results published regular in National Newspapers depends on Clubs telephoning the result on the day of the game to Sale 0141 7.30 - 8.0 p.m. Alternative No. Pyramid 3350.

On match days Club Secretary's could maybe delegate this task to another Club Member, with the pressure of organising the game, teas etc. This important item is sometimes overlooked.

All-Star Fixture 3rd August at Stretford.

Details of the above will be finalised at the Executive Meeting June 14th. A copy of the Minutes will be sent to all Clubs.

National Baseball Congress U.S.A.

No more orders will be dealt with through the National League for any material from N.B.C. but Clubs in membership can order direct, the service is very prompt, and the Baseballs of good quality. At the present time I have on stock Rule Books @ 2/- which are for sale. The decision not to make further orders has only been taken to save unnecessary postage and time. Club Secretary's will find the N.B.C. very helpful in all requests for any type of Baseball need. The very handsome N.B.C. League Trophy has arrived and I will forward Clubs Photographs of the Trophy which could be used for publicity purposes.

THE BRITISH BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

GREAT BRITAIN

Vs.

THE NEDERLANDS

Practice 2 p.m.

PITCH OFF 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, 8th AUGUST, 1965

ADMISSION BY
PROGRAMME ONLY
PRICE:- ADULTS 2/6
CHILDREN 1/6

CRYSTAL PALACE
F.C. GROUND
Selhurst Park, LONDON S.E.

ITALY

Colours:- Maroon Uniforms, White Undershirts,
Blue Caps and Socks.

- 1. BARRASS. (Garrington, Broomsgrove).
- 2. CALIBELLI. (Thames Board Mills, Purfleet).
- 3. DONELL. (U. S. Navy, London).
- 4. PALME. (U. S. Navy, London).
- 5. GORDON. (U. S. Navy, London).
- 6. HALLOND. (Hull Aces, Hull).
- 7. PARKER. (Hull Aces, Hull).
- 8. MAHONEY. (Middlesex Athletics, Enfield).
- 9. BLAKELEY. (Middlesex Athletics, Enfield).
- 10. TINTON. (Thames Board Mills, Purfleet).
- 11. COLLINS. (Stretford Saints, Manchester).
- 12. O'NEILL. (Stretford Saints, Manchester).
- 13. WINDROSS. (Stretford Saints, Manchester).
- 14. KING. (Tigers, Liverpool).
- 15. THOMAS. (Tigers, Liverpool).
- 16. STARK. (Bluejays, Beckenham).

MANAGER. TEAM COACHES.

- ABROTT. N. EDGAR.
- T. WARNER.

3H BASEBALL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES.

- D. O. AKERS. Chairman
- P. S. ASH. Secretary
- K. CLAPPISON. Treasurer

THE NEDERLANDS

Colours:- Grey Uniforms, Orange Undershirts,
Orange Caps with Black peaks,

- Hans AUGUSTINUS. (Sparta, Rotterdam).
- Perry BÄHRLINGEN. (Schoten, Haarlem).
- Rudi DOM. (Sparta, Rotterdam).
- Martin GAUS. (V.V.G.A. Amsterdam).
- Fokke JEISMA. (Storks, 's Gravenhage).
- Matty HOHMAN. (H.O.K. Haarlem).
- Anton POIS. (Schoten, Haarlem).
- Gerard SALEMINK. (A.D.O. 's Gravenhage).
- Hans SIAAF. (A.B.C. Amsterdam).
- Hartin STROKER. (O.V.V.O. Amsterdam).
- Ton VERMEUZEN. (Haarlem Nichols, Haarlem).
- Jan van EWIJK. (U.V.V. Utrecht).
- Peter van 't KIOOSTER. (H.V.A. Amsterdam).
- Hans van LIESHOVT. (Schoten, Haarlem).
- Wim van der STEER. (U.V.V. Utrecht).

TEAM MANAGER

Charles URBANUS.

NEDERLANDS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

- Mr Jan HARTOG Assistant Secretary
- Mr Joop NUSSE Technical Committee

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP

1966

Drawn by Mr. K. Clappison (B. B. A.)

A Club must submit a list of players eligible for the competition to the General Secretary on form provided. A Club may only enter one team. Full rules of the competition are published in the 1966 Hand-book.

<u>Preliminary Round (i)</u>		May 7th or 8th	The North
	Birmingham Birlec	v	Northfield Birmingham
<u>Preliminary Round (ii)</u>		May 21st or 22nd	The North
Match 1	Hull Cardinals	v	Winner of Preliminary Round (i)
Match 2	Hull Blackburn	v	Hull Royals
<u>First Round Proper</u>		May 28th or 29th	
Match 1	Nottingham Skykings	v	Nottingham Athletic
Match 2	Winner of Preliminary (i)	v	Winner of Preliminary (ii)
Match 3	Hull Priestman	v	Garringtons
<u>Second Round</u>		June 18th or 19th	
	Birmingham Austin	v	Stretford
	Liverpool Aces	v	Winner of Match 2 first round
	Hull Aces	v	Winner of Match 3 first round
	Bye Winner of match 1 first round		

Three winners plus bye join four Southern Teams for Round Three to be drawn June 26th and played on JULY 9th.

<u>Preliminary Round One</u>		The South Dates to be announced and printed	
Match One	Barking Curzon Pirates	v	Brighton Jets
Match Two	Southend Aces	v	Harlow Hustlers
	Bye Crawley Beavers		

<u>Second Preliminary Round</u>			
Match A	Winner of Match One	v	Crawley Giants
Match B	Winner of Match Two	v	Essex Tigers
Match C	Enfield Dodgers	v	Crawley Beavers

<u>First Round Proper</u>		Saturday May 28th	
Match No. 1	Winner of Match B	v	Beckenham Bluejays
	2 Ruislip Venturers	v	Sutton Braves
	3 Richmond Knights	v	Winner of Match A
	4 Winner of Match C	v	Barnet Quinta

<u>Second Round</u>		Saturday June 18th	
	U. S. Navy Lions	v	Winner of Match 3
	Winner of Match 2	v	Mormon Elders
	Winner of Match 1	v	Winner of Match 4
	Thames Board Mills	v	Middlesex Athletic

Four Winners join Four Northern Winners for Third Round JULY 9th.

All games Saturday unless mutually agreed between Clubs and the League schedule is not affected.

The End

Mike Grimsley , Alan Shepherd and I kept the team going through the early 1960's but the "endless " football season ate further and further into our short summer season. The death knell was announced in the Leicester Mercury of 28 January 1965 .

After raising my family I returned to the game in mid 80's to join the umpiring squad of Ted Thesingh and Benny Benson et al. in yet another failed reincarnation of a National League.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1965

GREEN SOX HAVE DISBANDED

LEICESTER Green Sox Baseball Club decided to disband at last night's A.G.M. Lack of support is the reason.

Formed in 1954 by a nucleus of exiled Canadians, the club made a good start and attracted support. They played in the Nottingham League until 1959 when a switch was made to the Birmingham Midland League.

In the past 10 seasons Green Sox played in places as far apart as Leeds and Chipping Norton, Bromsgrove and Hull.

It is now hoped to attempt to promote the less arduous but similar game of softball, starting with youth clubs.



President: Don Smallwood.

British Baseball Federation
 197, Newbridge Road, Hull, HU9 2LR. Tel:(0482)76169

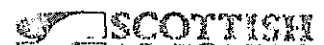
THE 1987 BRITISH KNOCK-OUT CUP FINAL

Welcome to the 1987 Final of the British Baseball Federations National Cup Competition. The winner of today's match will represent Great Britain in the European Club Cup Competition next year. If this is your first visit to a Baseball match, you will find a brief description of the Rules in this programme, plus a match commentary which will describe the plays. The sport in West Midlands is starting to grow and Fox Hollies Sports Centre will play an important part in that growth. It is the centre for Baseball Coaching in the West Midlands. Prior to the start of today's match, the teams will be announced for you to write in the centre spread of your programme. We hope you enjoy the game.

THE TEAMS

<u>HULL METS</u>		<u>NOTTINGHAM SOUTHGLADE HORNETS</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Keith Marshall	- Manager	Mike Harrold	- Manager
Brian Thurston	- Pitcher	Steve Frost	- Pitcher
Neil Read	- Catcher	Chris Needham	- Catcher/Outfield
Barry Marshall	- 1st Base	David Ellis	- Infield
John Read	- 1st Base	Adam Simson	- Infield
Wayne Parker	- Infield	Ian Ashford	- Infield
Frank Parker	- Infield	Gary Sewell	- Catcher/Outfield
Paul Reading	- Infield	Stephen Sewell	- Outfield
Brian Read	- Outfield	Jason Ball	- Pitcher/Outfield
Gary Mortimer	- Outfield	Tony Penwarden	- Outfield
Shaun Brown	- Infield/Outfield	Phil Hazard	- Outfield
Darren Turtle	- Infield/Outfield	Stephen Edwards	- Infield/Outfield
Alan Wilson	- Catcher/Infield	John Allsop	- Infield/Outfield
Clive Megson	- Coach	Andy Knox	- Infield/Outfield
Mike Parker	- Coach	Janice Allsop	- Team Scorer
Doreen Megson	- Team Scorer		

BACKED BY



Baseball's special niche in city sporting history

FORMER MEMBER
JOHN VARNAM
TELLS THE STORY
OF THE GREEN
SOX, LEICESTER'S
BASEBALL TEAM.

Alan Shepherd had just been married in 1954 when he responded to an invitation in the Leicester Mercury to prospective baseball players.

The ad had been placed by a consortium of three ex-Canadian Air Force men who had settled in the city after the war.

Steve Hordle, Johnny Groulx and Bill Brown were avidly supported by American Al Alexander and "Red" Diglin, an Englishman who had previously played the game in the north of England.

Alan turned up for the try-out at Victoria Park and the Leicester Baseball Club was born.

Baseball had been played during the war on the Abbey Park Oval by US forces billeted around the city. In the late 1960s the game was also played by USAF personnel at RAF Bruntingthorpe. The inaugural competitive match-up for the newly-formed team was played on the old Wellington Vics football ground behind the Tiger Pub on Stonesby Avenue - now a housing development.



ENTHUSIASTS: Members of the Green Sox training and getting a team talk in the 1980s

In the early days, we became a nomadic bunch performing at various venues including Park Drive, LFE, and the John Bull Sportsground, Groby Road, before settling down to home games on Victoria Park.

Early regulars included county cricket all-rounder Vic Jackson, who had played in his native Australia. However, locals were encouraged as Alan introduced fellow workmate Ray Essex to join and after I came under the spell of the game in 1955, I dragged in several of my Gateway Boys School colleagues - Tony Peasgood, John Smith, Graham Spiers and many others.

We played in the eight-team Nottingham League in second-hand (or was it third-hand) kit which had been scrounged from their home country by the Canadians. The Nottingham set-

up included several Notts County footballers. We were regularly trounced out of sight by RCAF teams at Langar and North Luffenham.

The late Mike Grimsley (who was a well known local football referee and member of Kibworth Golf Club) became secretary in the late 50s and it was on his instigation that the squad was rebranded as the Leicester Green Sox.

Mike, Alan and I kept the Green Sox afloat until the mid-60s after which the game faded out mainly due to the "endless" football season eating further and further into our short summer season.

The game has made several revival attempts in and around the city in the various guises of baseball and softball.

Alan has been involved in just about every one, including a

move to popularise the game in Ashby de la Zouch.

I rejoined the game in 1988 as an umpire when a failed attempt was made to form a viable English National League.

I have seen baseball played at Lord's and Old Trafford cricket grounds and Selhurst Park Football Stadium. The game is still played in "pockets" around the country and a GB National side participates in the European Qualifying Round of the Olympic Game Tournament. Needless to say they have not qualified for the finals yet. The European game is dominated by Holland and Italy.

Just for the record my claim to local sporting "fame" is that I am mentioned twice on the County FA Honours Board their HQ in Whetstone - years as a referee and 25 years as a coach.

ad dream to turn village into university town; picture's location is a mystery; business

RIES: Do you have any recollections or old photographs that may interest readers? Send them to Mr Leicester at Leicester Mercury, St. George Street, Leicester. LE1

NOV 15 2003

Illustrated LEICESTERS 'BALL GAME' FOR CHRONICLE

As a home holiday attraction, baseball was played by U.S. Forces at the Oval, Abbey Grounds, Leicester, on Monday. There was a large crowd.

SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST, 1943

ESTABLISHED 1810

TWOPENCE

