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(IN BRITAIN)

MONTHLY

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No. 2 JUNE '50 NINEPENCE

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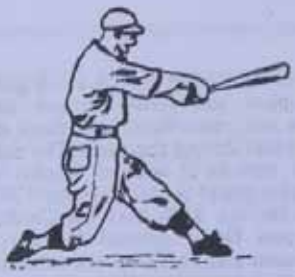

BASEBALL MONTHLY

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EDITORIAL

BASEBALL IS BOOMING!

So well was our first issue of BASEBALL MONTHLY received that we have printed elsewhere in this issue, a selection of the many congratulations that we have on our files.

We have also received a few suggestions and criticisms (happily of the constructive kind), and these have been carefully noted, and will be acted upon where circumstances permit. It has not been possible to acknowledge the letters of all those who have written, so we do here and now thank everybody concerned.

The new Baseball season is now well under way, and things are looking up everywhere, for bigger attendances, keen games, more teams, and many new players are proving the growing interest in this, the most scientific of summer games. Yes, the portents all show that there is a marked desire on the part of all organisations and persons connected with the game to see the sport develop as quickly as possible. We know quite a number of people who are working unceasingly for the day when it will be possible to find a ball game in any part of the country, in the Stadiums, in the Parks, and in the Sports grounds, and they deserve all the support we can give them.

Many newcomers to the game are finding BASEBALL MONTHLY a useful companion in their efforts to master the game as rapidly as possible, and we will not fail them. It is for them to turn to "Beginner's Corner" and to the instructional articles (which this month are illustrated with photographs and sketches), and soon they will find their way to the fascinating possibilities of Baseball.

By doing everything possible to increase the circulation of this journal, all baseball lovers will be doing a great service to the game, and it is for that reason that we ask all areas to report their activities to us, so that we can print the exchange of news, and thus enable all sections to pull together for the big days that are coming.

EDITOR.

THE EDITOR would like to hear from correspondents in the Midlands, North West and Yorkshire areas those conversant with all Baseball activities in their own area.

OUR COVER PHOTO:

shows an incident from the Dodgers v. Redsox opening thriller at Bromley.
(Photo by John W. Craddock)

THE EDITOR invites original contributions from readers and will consider publication of same. If return of MSS. is required, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed. PLEASE NOTE that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor.

CLUB CHATTER

AVELEY CUBS opened their new ground at West Thurrock Recreation Ground with a League Fixture against Essex Cubs. The attendance of nearly 500 saw a very exciting game, won by the visitors in the ninth innings. Aveley are making good progress with a very young side and should have a very strong side in a couple of seasons. Catcher Bruce Rummery is leading the batting and Tommy Hooper and Alan Partridge have shared most of the pitching assignments.

BRIGGS BASEBALL CLUB are having a successful season. The additions of Geoff Hughes, Syd Phillips and George Sandford from Thames Board Mills and the transfer of Arthur Coates from Fords have helped to build a strong side for the Brigands, for whom another newcomer, Ray Hewitt, is pitching very well. The Tigers in Division II have won most of their games and baseball is very much the summer sport at the Victoria Road ground, with the works team making no secret of their ambitions in 1950.

THE COLLEGIANS, under which title the South East Essex Technical College play, are a new side with no great former experience. The keenness of Secretary Don Fox has had much to do with their being formed, and though somewhat handicapped by examinations they are playing regularly. There is a long way to go before they reach the standard of the 1938 Collegians who were champions of the old East London League, but the enthusiasm is there and experience will produce more success.

THE DODGERS have settled down on their new ground at Bromley and are attracting increasing attendances. Though the regular line-up is nearly all-Canadian they have some local newcomers and are hopeful of further progress in that direction. Form has been somewhat "in and out", but the close games have made interest great and the hard work of Bob Shearer and Ken Quinn has put the club very much on the map.

ENFIELD CARDINALS. — There cannot be a more erratic team in the league at the moment than the Cardinals. At Rainham on April 30th they did not have all their own way and managed to come away with a 16-12 win. This being the first League game of the season the Cardinals could do better, and the following week visited Thames Board Mills only to be beaten by 11-1. I gather George Stopher had plenty to say about those errors and must have held more than one post mortem during the week. The defeat was not so sore as it seemed thanks to a good tea and a grand Social given by T.B.M. afterwards. On the 14th May the Cardinals saw their own Home ground for the 1st time this season and Fords Sports were there for the opening ceremony. Errors again won the day and the Cardinals ran out winners of a hard fought match by 18-12. On Saturday, 20th May the Cardinals visited Briggs and played the best match to date. Briggs opened up their scoring with a stolen run in the 1st and the Cardinals made no reply. In the 4th the Cardinals scored 2 runs to lead and 3 more in the 5th, and at the top half of the 9th were virtually winners 5-1, but wait! Here come Briggs and what a finish they made. With 2 men down they had levelled the score and went on to win by 8 runs to 5. Anyhow Congratulations Briggs for a splendid match fought out without any hard feelings, more matches of this calibre and Baseball will soon reach the top, and in addition the Cardinals will soon be back fighting their way through this very bad patch they seem to have struck.

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB appear set for a very successful season though shift-work and holidays will make it difficult for them at times. However, they are showing that local talent is the key to success, for apart from Canadian Don Sinclair they were all born within a few miles of the home ground at Barking. Nationals have used several pitchers this year, but Sonny Campbell and Reg. Sones usually manage the "key" games, with Sinclair and Team Manager, Al Maddison, as catchers. Apart from three players none of the Cubs team are over 21, and the strong showing by these lads in Division II assures that the Club will maintain its position. Attendances at home games are nearly up to the 1,000 mark, and better weather will produce an even bigger following.

FONDU have a number of new players. Their pleasant ground at Purfleet is an ideal venue for games, and after-match hospitality ensures all visitors of a good time. Fondu are still in the building-up stage, but are settling down into a useful team that should provide its rivals with keen opposition. Teddy Morgan is showing good form with the bat and on the mound, and the guidance of Alec Aley provides a steadying influence.

FORDS have a mixture of old-stagers and youngsters who have yet to strike their best form. The hard work put in by "Scotty" and Harry Knapp deserves better luck, but it is hoped that this pioneer club in British baseball will soon be on the up-grade. Old-timers Harry Hughes and Steve Taylor (formerly with Essex B.C.) lead the batting at present, whilst Knapp and "Ginger" Rawlings have done most of the pitching.

HORNSEY BASEBALL CLUB are settling down in their new ground at the Coldfall, Muswell Hill. They have a heavy programme, with three Teams. The Red Sox have the majority of last season's staff left though the departure of Johnny Wiggins and Al Kravitz will be felt. Most of the pitching so far has been done by Geoff Rogers, formerly with Pirates whom he joined from the Red Sox, but we hear that Hornsey are negotiating for "Mr. X", a new pitcher of ability. Undoubtedly the Red Sox will be well in the running for honours again, and should retain at least one of the four trophies they won last season. It is encouraging to see the keen spirit of the Hornsey Club's two new teams—the Athletics and Bruins. Jim Lawler is working hard to keen the Athletics on the up-grade and young Mike Cowling (brother of the redoubtable Doug.) has already proved his ability as a player. The North Londoners owe much to the several keen local sportsmen who are supporting them in their strenuous efforts.

PARAGON are relying mostly on last season's team with a sprinkling of newcomers. Pitchers Eric Ottley, Sammy Cook, Ron. Petty, and Len. O'Hanrahan have experience that should help the "rookies", and as the season progresses the Div. II champions of last year should be on the winning path. The Paragon ground at Rainham is ideally situated for keen baseball, and it is interesting to note that whenever a train stops at Rainham Station (which adjoins the ground) the windows are crowded with keen faces hoping to see a "homer" in progress!

THAMES BOARD MILLS still remain a threat to all comers, despite the loss of some "old hands." The influx of new players continues and under the coaching of Jimmy McQuade and Jock Campbell they should keep up the high standard expected from the Club. Bill Dawber continues to show his all-round ability to advantage and though no longer on the pitching staff Frank Petrucci is still "showing them how" with the bat and in the field.

MITCHAM ROYALS. — The season has opened adversely for the Mitcham Royals, having lost a league game to the Tigers 28-2 and losing to Standard Telephones and Cables 29-25 in a friendly contest.

In a pre-season Exhibition game at Wokingham the Royals beat the Monarchs 14-13. The influx of new members gave rise to the necessity of putting all members in the field for experience. The game at Wokingham gave Royals' Manager, Harold Tonelli, the chance he was looking for.

"Old Reliable" Harry Jacobs slammed his first home run of the season against Standard Telephones and Cables. Jacobs has by necessity taken the pitching role, proving himself capable to play any position. A complete newcomer to baseball, Percy Edwards has been playing good ball, also in the pitcher's box.

Injuries have taken a toll of Royal players. Wally Kehole, adequate third baseman, has fast, sound ability even while playing with a fractured finger. Pitcher John Pearce is still suffering from acute baseball arm, an impediment still to be eradicated after fifteen months treatment.

Royal supporters and even, opponents, are still amazed at the startling acrobatic manoeuvres shortstop Charlie Cole can perform. Outfielder Alan Fardon is one of the best players the Royals have had for "pegging" second base.

When injuries have been cast aside and the Royals have acclimatised their "rookies". Charlie Cole, newly appointed Captain, and Manager Tonelli are confident of more runs crossing the plate to victory.

BOURNEMOUTH CUBS still emphasise the need for fixtures, although they are pleased to report that a few clubs have come to their help as a result of the S.O.S. in last month's issue. The Cubs announce that they have a new player-manager, Jim Bolton, an ex-American Air Force Pilot, who has already improved the baseball played by the Cubs. The Cubs have arranged matches with Chipping Norton, Paragon and an American Air Force Team amongst others. Clubs offering fixtures write to Victor Beach, 25, Shaftesbury Road, Bournemouth.

MARLEY YOUTH CLUB (Dagenham) are building-up under the coaching of Bert Riley and Tommy Miley and will soon be in the position to undertake games. A programme of "friendlies" will be arranged for them as soon as possible and great hopes are entertained of breaking new ground in this area.

PARDON MY CLEATS

By ERIC B. WILLIAMS

Some folk point to the pre-war experimental Major Leagues in Britain as a failure. I rejoice in being unable to subscribe to that view! To my way of thinking, it was an unqualified success, in that it gave us the opportunity of seeing the Ball game as it should be played.

But it was among the smaller games that the best variety and amusement was to be found. I remember going to see a game that was being played on one of the larger open spaces, when I tumbled into a real juvenile sandlot. Not far from where big brother was to play his match later that afternoon, junior had rigged up his own Yankee Stadium.

A large brick placed carefully on a copy of *Comic Cuts* made an excellent home plate, while a broken roof slate, a stick dug in the ground, and an old milk can acted as first, second and third bases respectively. The keeness of these lads was evident from the enthusiasm with which they were hitting the tired pitcher. Homers in clutch, homers out of clutch, Texas Leaguers, bloopers and all other hits came forth from the plate. All curious, I enquired of the freckled youth who was holding down the Left-field position, "What's the score, Sonny"?

"Seventy-one to nothing"—and he was off after another pop-fly that like so many others was tantalisingly just out of reach. He returned all breathless.

"How many outs"? I asked.

"None".

"What Innings is it?"

"The first".

"Seventy-one to nothing, none out, and only the first innings?" I exclaimed with astonishment.

He looked at me and said indignantly, "Ah, but we haven't batted yet!"

* * *

One senior club used to play on a small enclosed football pitch, and owing to the size the diamond was pitched in one corner of the ground. The spectators were very close to the play under this arrangement, and indeed they had an intimate view of the game.

How they used to root! In one part of the ground, just by third base, three young lady fans would congregate to cheer the runners as they rounded third en route for Home plate.

One league match was being fought out with much spirit and "talk it up" was the order of the day. It so happened that the strap round the third base bag had become broken during the game, and the bag was therefore left to lie loosely on its spot. That was the cause of the trouble.

The local idol had hit his way to second and was taking a cheeky lead-off in an attempt to steal to third, but the catcher was watching him.

"You'll never get there" called out the man in the mask, challengingly.

"Look out glass-arm, I'm going!" the runner shouted back, and true to his word he streaked for third base.

Quick as a flash the catcher pegged the ball to third.

"Slide!" squealed the bobby-soxers to the local idol, and slide he did. It was a beautiful take-off; cleats flying with body parallel to the ground—six feet of British manhood flat out, in fact.

It was an even better landing, but the slide was terrific stuff, for *he* went shooting past the place where third base should have been anchored, *but his pants stayed on the third base hook*!

"How is he?" yelled the third baseman (playfully "beaning" the grounded runner with the ball).

Now who said umpires are not human? Quickly came the decision:—

"Trousers SAFE—runner OUT!"

—and so were three bobby-soxers—out on the rails!

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Essex Baseball Supporters' Club.

The increasing membership of the club, coupled with the fact that both the two Essex Clubs, Nationals and Cubs are heading their respective divisions of the League is giving us great satisfaction, for we feel that our Supporters' Association is stimulating local Baseball, by introducing new people to the "tops" in games—the scientific game of Baseball.

We have been able to show our appreciation of the teams' efforts, in a practical way by providing a new back-stop net, a pennant for each team which flies at the top of the net on match days, some ground materials and a cheque for £5.

We still offer a cordial welcome to all who would like to join us. Our club meets every week at Manor School, Barking, on Wednesdays, or you can enrol at the table behind the net on the ground.

BASEBALL IN THE MIDLANDS

The Nottingham Baseball League is making steady progress with the help of some enthusiastic Clubs and personnel.

Nottingham White Sox were the League Champions in 1949 winning the Harvey Cup in their second season.

The teams competing include the following :—

NOTTINGHAM SEAGULLS.
NOTTINGHAM WHITE SOX.
NOTTINGHAM FLYERS.
NOTTINGHAM DODGERS.
NOTTINGHAM WOLVES.

* * *

NOTTINGHAM WHITE SOX BASEBALL CLUB

The NOTTINGHAM WHITE SOX BASEBALL CLUB was formed in 1948 and achieved very little in their first season of competitive baseball. The experience gained in their first season and with the signing of about four Canadian players helped them in the 1949 season when they won the Nottingham Harvey Trophy Cup, the Cup awarded to the champion team of the Nottingham Baseball League.

They have a mixed selection of American, Canadian and English boys playing and hope to repeat their success of last year this season. In Jerry Davis, Hank Putt and Charlie Pratt they have three very good pitchers and with three Canadian boys, namely, Red Hawthorne, Norman McKown, and Al Marks, they have an experienced In Field, but, of course, there are always the new English players to think of, so they try to mix in the new rookie players as often as possible to give them experience.

The Catching for this team is done by Ken. Sheppard, an English boy who learned to play baseball with this team.

The out Field is covered by Joe Rowe, Jack Trenam, Alf. Pendleton, Pete Beckerton, Alan Jennings and Vic Smith, again a mixed selection of boys with long experience and boys who have only recently taken up baseball activities .

A very keen interest is shown by all. The public interest in baseball in Nottingham is steadily growing and crowds numbering several hundreds are turning up each week to watch the games.

New members are invited to join this team and are welcomed whether experienced or otherwise. Secretary, K. Sheppard, 4, Victoria Road, Sherwood, Nottingham.

DUNLOP BASEBALL CLUB

Baseball became part of the Dunlop Rubber Company's sporting activities in 1937, when a team was entered in the Birmingham District League.

This team played until the outbreak of war, when due to mobilization, etc., Baseball faded out. However, Baseball was not to be allowed to die in Birmingham, for in 1945, Dunlop along with a few more Clubs started up again.

Naturally, it was tough going at first, but gradually the strength of the club increased with demobilization of old players and the enthusiasm of a number of new comers to the game.

The game in Birmingham had grown to such an extent by 1948, that two leagues were formed comprising six teams in each. Dunlop's were fortunate in being able to be represented in each League.

So from then on, till the present moment, the Dunlop 'Tigers' have played in the Midland Major League and the 'Eagles' in the Minor League.

This successful reformation of the Dunlop Baseball Club is due in no small measure, to the wholehearted and sincere efforts of Mr. J. Butler. Indeed, it may be safely stated that if it was not for Jack Butler, there would be no Dunlop Baseball Club to-day.

The Club does not lay claim to any outstanding individual players like most Clubs, but is built up of average players relying on team work and backing up to pull them through.

Some measure of the success of this policy may be gathered from last Season's League results. The 'Tigers' won 7 of their 10 League games, lost 2 and were given 1 thus finishing 2nd to the 'Beavers' (the Midland Area Finalists in the All England Cup).

During the winter a number of 1st Team players left the employment of the firm and so could not play for us this season. This meant bringing 'Eagles' players into the 'Tigers' and leaving the 'Eagles' rather short of experienced players. Nevertheless, the new comers training now are very promising and in a season or two, should make 1st class players.

One final note. The Umpires' Association commend Dunlop Baseball Club on its sportsmanship. No more need be said.

(Reports from all Midlands Clubs are welcomed.—Ed.)

BRITISH BASEBALL CLUBS

No. 3. FORD SPORTS BASEBALL CLUB

When first the Ford Motor Works were moved from Manchester to Dagenham, the Company recognised the need for Sport for their employees and generously laid out the present fine Sports ground at Kent Avenue.

A Baseball section soon made good use of the facilities provided, for forming up in 1935, the prime mover behind the team was the late Ed. Smith, assisted by his son Cyril Smith, and supported by a mixed band of enthusiasts, some of whom had played ball in Detroit, and others, British lads who had shown interest in the game. Included amongst these pioneers was Bob Collett and the present Chairman of the Baseball Section, Danny Macudden.

In the first round-up of potential members, it was found that the club possessed six experienced Umpires which was probably a higher number than the actual experienced players available. However, play was not of a very high standard at first, although there was enough enthusiasm to form two teams. As the younger players came along, so the older players sportingly dropped out to make way for them. Then next development was the formation of a junior team which under the guidance of W. Squire (who became President of the Club), and the late Mr. Atkinson, the Trade School Master, and this was an immediate success. Mr. Frank Morgan was the Coach and Manager.

We must mention here that while the above preliminary work was going on, there was one person responsible for the hard detail work. That was Mr. H. F. Scott ("Scotty" as he is known to all his many friends) the present Hon. Secretary.

Listen to his comment on those times. "New players continued to come along, and I found myself running five games each week-end, which meant hard work and not a little amount of worry. On top of this Tommy Cole started a girls team on Softball which could only find the Kodak girls' team to play." Scotty also modestly forgets to mention that he was also, at the same time, helping to organise the various Baseball Leagues and Associations which are the roots of the present organisations.

Perhaps you may think that organising all that was enough for one person, yet he continues: "Amateur Clubs were asked to interest a School in Baseball; this new interest by Marley Youth Centre is actually the second, because we sponsored them at the same time."

The Ford teams continued to carry on, and eventually played a large part as a member club of the Senior Amateur League, but unfortunately they lost some of their best players to other Clubs who had started playing ball on the Stadiums in London. In 1939, however, the Club got to the Semi-final of the National Cup in company with the formidable De Haviland Comets, but were beaten by Halifax after a hard struggle. They gained consolation, however, by winning both the London East League and the K.O. Cup.

After the war, Fords were one of the first clubs to get going and they set out to build a team round the framework of the few experienced players they had left.

This Season they have had some new Canadians join them, and they are hoping for better things. The present Ford team may not be as glamorous as some of their pre-war teams, but they are more popular, and assure every other team of a sporting game. Under their present Team Manager Howard Knapp they are improving, and as Scotty says "The old spirit is there, and we aren't afraid of any team!"

He then playfully concludes: "So git up youse guys—PLAY BALL!"

"BASEBALL MONTHLY" may be obtained through your newagent or branches of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son, Ltd., if you place a definite order. In case of difficulty, however, write direct to "BASEBALL MONTHLY" 193 Tyrrell Road, Sth. Benfleet, Essex, enclosing Postal order for 10½d.

Above: Helen Backlin, American stage and screen actress, tries her hand at batting, before pitching off for the Dodgers v. Brigands game
(Photo by John W. Craddock)

BASEBALL PICTORIAL

Below: Bob Shearer sacrifices to score L. Lorrie for the Dodgers against Hornsey Redsox. The Dodgers won 4-3.
(Photo by John W. Craddock)

Above: Bob Pullen, promising pitcher of Essex Cubs. Bob has won 5 games so far this season.
(Photo by Beckwith & Martin)

BASEBALL RESULTS FOR MAY, 1950

South Eastern League:

April 30th.

Nationals	9	Brigands	7
Dodgers	5	Red Sox	4
Paragon	12	Cardinals	16
Fords	4	Thames B.M.	16
Fondu	19	Aveley	28
Tigers	1	Essex Cubs	29

May 6th and 7th.

Brigands	11	Fords	4
Paragon	3	Dodgers	4
Red Sox	10	Nationals	4
Thames B.M.	11	Cardinals	1
Collegians	5	Aveley	21
Essex Cubs	24	Hornsey Ath.	0

May 13th and 14th.

Cardinals	23	Fords	17
Nationals	11	Thames B.M.	5
Collegians	10	Essex Cubs	30
Hornsey Ath.	7	Aveley Cubs	9
Tigers	29	Collegians	2

May 20th and 21st.

Brigands	7	Cardinals	5
Cardinals	2	Brigands	4
Dodgers	8	Thames B.M.	7
Thames B.M.	9	Dodgers	4
Nationals	20	Paragon	7
Paragon	7	Nationals	17
Fords	1	Red Sox	30
Aveley Cubs	12	Essex Cubs	18
Tigers	16	Fondu	0

May 27th and 28th.

Hornsey Ath.	5	Tigers	19
Essex Cubs	24	Bruins	5
Fondu	11	Collegians	1
Aveley Cubs	7	Tigers	11
Brigands	8	Nationals	9
Thames B.M.	24	Paragon	18

S.E.L. Senior Cup.

May 14th.

Dodgers	4	Brigands	22

May 28th.

Fords	12	Cardinals	26

S.E.L. Intermediate Cup.

May 14th.

Fondu	20	Bruins	3

Essex Charity Cup.

May 7th (Round 2).

Fondu	3	Tigers	22

May 14th (Round 1).

Paragon	7	Essex Cubs	2

National Cup (First Round).

May 28th.

Royals	5	Pirates	7
W.L. Pioneers	14	Dodgers	7

Other Matches.

May 28th and 29th.

Red Sox	15	M'ham Tigers	7
Red Sox	13	N'ham Stars	0
Aveley Cubs	8	Essex Cubs	13

HULL DISTRICT AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

The Hull District League was founded way back in 1936 and continues to grow as is shown by the number of Clubs competing during 1950. The Chairman is Mr. A. C. Dodds, and the Hon. General Secretary is Mr. W. Holmes, 173, Southcoates Avenue, Hull. The Hull League is in the Yorkshire Association, and any enquiries for this area can be sent to the Hon. Area Director, Mr. R. Smallwood, 77, Spring Gardens, Anlaby Common, Hull.

The League has a Major League in two Divisions, a Minor League, and a Ladies' Softball League.

Here are the Clubs:—

Major League, Div. I.

ALEXANDRA.
CAVENDISH CARDINALS.
HULL ROYALS.
MAYBURY ROYALS.
PIRATES.
THE GIANTS.

Major League, Div. II.

BLACKBURN BOMBERS.
EASTFIELD EAGLES.
ELECTRICITY.
FENNERS V's.
KINGSTON DIAMONDS.
PRIESTMAN PANTHERS.
THE SAINTS.

Minor League.

CAVENDISH COMETS.
HOPEWELL ACES.
MAYBURY Y.C.
TRINITY BULLDOGS.

Cavendish Cardinals were the winners of Division I last season and were also Semi-Finalists in the National Cup.

Alexandra were the winners of Division II and this year are promoted to Division I. Maybury Y.C. won the Minor League, whilst Maybury Ladies won the Softball Competition.

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO PLAY BASEBALL

IS SENT TO ALL

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YOUTH CLUBS
SCHOOLS, ETC.

★ ★ ★

Full details and advice may be obtained through THE EDITOR, "Baseball Monthly," who will forward enquiries to the nearest Area Association.

(S. & A.E. all enquiries)

LEAGUE STANDINGS, 1950

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE.

(up to and including May 28th)

DIVISION I.	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Essex Nationals	6	5	1	10	(.833)
Thames Board Mills	6	4	2	8	(.666)
Dodgers	4	3	1	6	(.750)
Briggs Brigands	5	3	2	6	(.600)
Hornsey Red Sox	3	2	1	4	(.666)
Enfield Cardinals	5	2	3	4	(.400)
Ford Sports	4	0	4	0	(.000)
Paragon	5	0	5	0	(.000)

DIVISION II.	P.	W.	L.	Pts.	%
Essex Cubs	5	5	0	10	(1.000)
Briggs Tigers	5	4	1	8	(.800)
Aveley Cubs	5	3	2	6	(.600)
Fondu	3	1	2	2	(.333)
Hornsey Bruins	1	0	1	0	(.000)
Hornsey Athletics	3	0	3	0	(.000)
Collegians	4	0	4	0	(.000)

Note on League Tables.

The figures in parenthesis are included for the easy comparison of results between Leagues. The Western Amateur League favours the American system of percentages, which has the advantage that one can more easily judge the form of clubs in mid-season when clubs may have played an unequal number of games. The S.E. League on the other hand uses the English style awarding 2 points for a win, believing that it is more easily followed by the supporters in Britain. The two methods come to exactly the same thing so far as results go, so BASEBALL MONTHLY has included both percentages and points. This will ensure a standard method of printing League Tables.

BEGINNERS' CORNER

RUNNER CAUGHT OFF BASE

We will attempt, in the course of this article, to describe what happens when a baserunner is cut off from the safety of his base. The play described should prove of interest to many players as well as to learners, for how often have we seen in this country, a trapped runner make his way to safety by virtue of the inexperience of the fielders.

In good baseball, the runner rarely—if ever—escapes once he is trapped between bases.

How runner becomes trapped.

It may not necessarily be an error of judgment on the part of the runner that causes him to get cut off. He may be taking a long and sensible lead off the base, when the batter hits a lightning drive straight at the baseman, giving the runner no time to return to base. The runner is now between bases and he will naturally start running for the next base in order to avoid being touched-out by the baseman. (The rule requires the runner to be touched-out by the ball held firmly in the hand of a fielder in these circumstances.)

Once the runner has started, it is not easy for the fielders to catch him—unless they know how!

Try this way.

So we will try and play it the American way. Let us look at (Fig 1). The baserunner has taken a long lead from first base, when first baseman gets possession of the ball. The baserunner makes a dash toward second base, and first base attempts to catch him to touch him out. The short stop has taken charge of second base, while second baseman has started a dash towards first base (a move which will later make him the "king pin" in this play).

The second baseman continues running until he has passed both the oncoming runner and the pursuing first baseman (Fig. 2). The runner is nearing the safety of second base, so the first baseman fires the ball to short stop, cutting off the runner again, who immediately reverses and starts back to first base.

The runner is now pursued by short stop (Fig. 3), the first baseman runs past him to second base, and takes up his position

Runner Caught off Base—continued

thereon. Second baseman has now reversed, and having narrowed down the gap, the short stop fires the ball to him and second base now makes the "out" by touching the runner with the ball (even though the runner attempts to reverse again).

It must be remembered that the rules do not allow a baserunner to run wide of the direct line between bases for the purpose of avoiding being touched-out.

Other players should take positions.

In most cases the outfielders and the remaining infielders will take up strategic positions while the above play it going on. From the moment the runner is cut off from base, the right fielder dashes towards first base to cover his basemen taking up a position near the base, but *not* between the bases in order to avoid interfering with the play. By this method of covering the outfielder may yet be able to save the situation should there be a wild throw past the baseman.

If runner is caught off second base.

The same play as described in the diagram, would take place if the runner was cut off at second base. All that happens, is that in the case of a baserunner being isolated from second base, the player who caught the ball (second base or short stop) starts the runner moving towards third base, and at the right moment throws the ball to third baseman, who chases the runner back toward second. The player who started the move must continue running past the runner and third baseman, and take up the third base position.

If runner caught off third base.

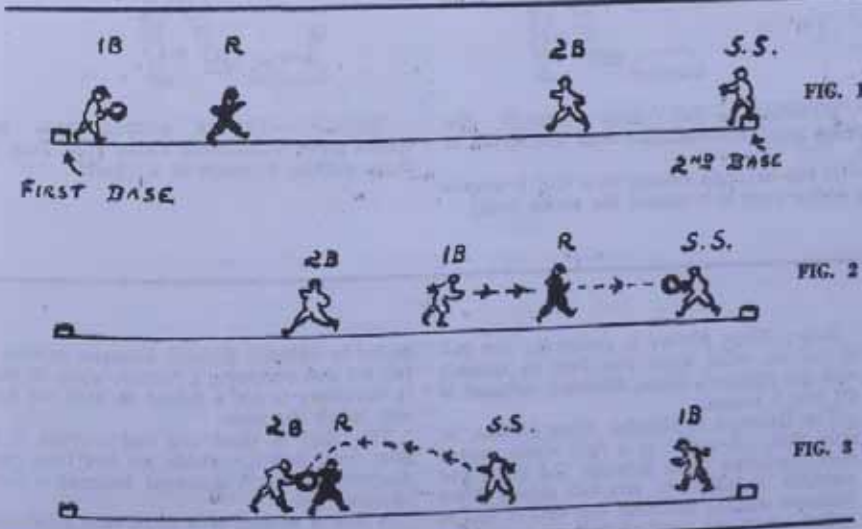
In this case the third baseman starts the runner moving toward the plate and the short stop moves on to third base. The third baseman makes a timely throw to the catcher who then pursues the runner almost back to third and pegs to short stop who makes the put-out, the third baseman will, of course, have moved to the plate, covering same.

If runner stops.

When a runner elects to stop in between bases, in the hope of reaching safety by confusing the fielders, the infielder holding the ball should rush directly at the runner and get him started in one definite direction. Other fielders adopt the usual covering positions.

Rehearse the play.

It is not necessary to devote a lot of training time to rehearsing this method, for once it has been understood by the fielders, about one hour should suffice to play it in practice, and afterwards it need only be practiced at special times, such as when a new infielder is being included in the line-up in a forthcoming match.



THE METHOD OF "TRAPPING" A BASERUNNER (see Text)

BEGINNERS' CORNER—*continued*

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME

(Baseball under American Rules)

A Game consists of nine innings 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.
2. Catcher.
3. 1st Base.
4. 2nd Base.
5. 3rd Base.
6. Short Stop.
7. Left Fielder.
8. Centre Fielder.
9. Right Fielder.

It 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 or flies over fair ground, that is inside the foul lines (see diagram).

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 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 (see diagram), unless it is caught, batsman is then declared out.

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

"STRIKES"—Ball goes through the strike area, but batsman does not strike at it.

(If the batsman swings at a ball it counts a strike even if it misses the strike area).

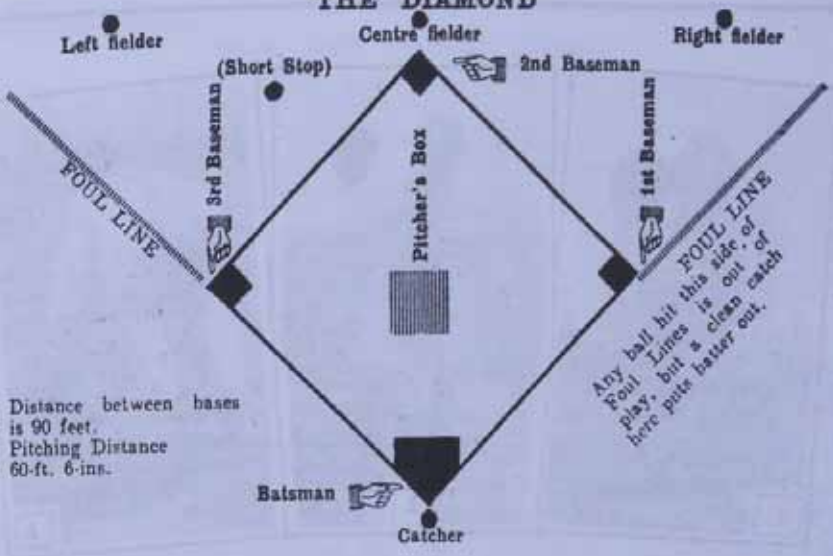
"BALLS"—Various pitched balls are shown going outside the strike area. Four of these entitles batsman to a "walk".

Note: When pitcher is delivering the ball to bat he must keep one foot in contact with the Pitcher's Plate. Pitching distance is 60 feet 6 inches.

The *Batsman* is allowed three *Strikes*, or four *Balls*. A strike is a ball which passes over the home plate between the knee and shoulder of batter, or any ball struck at by 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.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE GAME—*continued from page 12.*

THE DIAMOND



NOTES OF INTEREST

PLAYERS' CLOTHES. These are designed mainly to keep the player warm. A warm, sweating arm is able to throw the ball hard, fast, and often without soreness and injury. The knickerbockers are worn to protect the players' legs when "sliding" into base. "Sliding" makes a baserunner a difficult target for the fielder to "touch-out" and sliding also prevents the baserunner from over-running the base.

WHY GLOVES ARE WORN. Accurate and hard throwing is one of the most important elements of fielding, and during practice a great deal of time is devoted to this. Even when gloves are worn, the catching hand develops severe bruises on the palm, not because of the speed of one or two throws, but because of the continual shocks of many hard thrown balls. Practice also consists of stopping a succession of "hot" grounders and line-drives off the bat. The consequence of the training practices is that a player finds it awkward to catch the ball without his glove, much the same way as a cricketer finds it awkward to catch a ball with a baseball glove.

THE BAT must be round and not more than 2¾ inches in diameter. The bat is of one-piece hardwood.

GOOD FIELDERS cannot be made of slow thinkers. It is not sufficient for a fielder to be able to throw and catch the ball. The play is constantly changing; he must know instantly on receiving the ball the best play to make.

THE PITCHER may pitch a ball straight or he may cause it to "break" and change its direction of flight whilst in the air. This is called a "curve" and the purpose is to deceive the batsman. A "curve" may break upwards, downwards or sideways. A pitcher may take only one step when pitching.

BASEBALL RULES: The rules played under in Britain are almost the same as those in America and Canada. The differences are negligible.

THE ART OF CATCHING

1. The position just before ball is pitched.
2. Catcher has come into the throwing position.
3. The position of the hands for a low pitched ball.
4. The hand moves automatically to the mask for a fly-ball.
5. The mask is thrown off and the ball quickly sighted.

(Photos by Beckwith & Martin)

THE COLLEGE OF BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE

One of the aims of "BASEBALL MONTHLY" will be to improve the Standard of play in British Baseball, and each month we will feature an article to coach players in the finer points of the game.

No. 2. HOW TO PLAY CATCHER

It has been said that the Catcher is the eyes, the ears and the brain of the team. This may not be wholly true, for all fielders in baseball must be able to make split second decisions by experience and instinct. Yet, undoubtedly the catcher has the major role in directing operations, and for this reason he should possess exceptional qualifications, in order to succeed.

These requirements include Mental alertness, sharp eyes, the ability to catch balls (even if deflected by the bat), a strong arm, quickness of the feet, a good physique and unlimited enthusiasm and optimism. On the question of physique, it should be noted that short catchers *have* succeeded, but as a general rule, the tall strong rangy catcher has a better chance of making the grade.

THE POSITION FOR CATCHING—

The body must be well balanced on the feet, poised in such a way as to be ready to spring whatever direction the play may dictate. The hands are held just about chin height, and as close together as they can be without blocking the view. (See Fig. 1). This is, of course, the position adopted when the ball is about to be pitched. Other times the catcher should come to the squatting and relaxed position, to conserve his strength. The squatting position also affords the maximum cover for the signalling that Catcher will normally give with his fingers.

OPTIONAL POSITION FOR HANDS—

Some experienced catchers prefer to hold their hands while waiting for the pitch, with the palms turned inwards, so that only the side of the hand and the little finger is visible to the pitcher. The hands then come together in "cymbal" fashion when catching the ball. The object being to present only the minimum amount of the hands towards any ball which may foul quickly off the bat, thus minimising the risk of split or broken fingers. The choice of the hands position is therefore left for the catcher to decide, but it is recommended that the position adopted be permanent, as a mixed mind on the subject can only lead to failure.

LOW PITCHED BALLS—

The ball that pitches into the dirt, and low pitched balls generally are the hardest to catch. They are best tackled, by the catcher dropping to his knees right in the path of the ball, so that his body will at least form a barrier to the ball if the hands fail. If a catcher has done this, he has done everything possible. When presenting the hands to a low pitched ball it is advisable that the face of the mitt, and the palm of the hand should face the ball (Fig. 3) as it comes toward the catcher. Never present the open edges of the hand or the mitt to the ball—it may have painful consequences.

THE THROWING POSITION—

As soon as the pitched ball is received by the catcher he must come into the throwing position immediately. A quick aggressive catcher is an essential part of the defence of any fielding team. In Fig. 2, the catcher has the ball, and even before the ball had been caught the feet had taken up the position for the attacking throw, which will make the baserunner(s) remember that the catcher has his head in the game; even if the throw is not required to catch a runner stealing.

THE THROW—

It is not possible in the compass of the limited space of this article, to describe the throw itself, as the circumstances will inevitably dictate a different play. For instance there may be runners on bases other than first, the catcher may have signalled for a waste ball in anticipation of an attempted steal, these and other situations determine the type of throw, and the purpose of the throw. This is really tied up with defence strategy, and will be described in a later article.

THE FLY BALL—

To most beginners, the fly ball presents quite a problem, the ball flying off the rounded bat at all angles, is soon out of the limited vision of the catcher, for he is impeded by the mask. Therefore, as soon as the ball has glanced off the bat out of vision it must be *automatic* for the catcher to let his hand fly to his mask (Fig.4) and throw same away, with the head and eyes turning upwards in the same motion (Fig. 5). This must be done quickly for the ball may not have gone very high and must be caught almost in the same action as the throwing-off of the mask.

SIGNALS—

The catcher should be capable of giving clearly the pre-arranged signals to the pitcher and the fielders. This is done in the squatting position with the fingers. For instance, one finger could mean a fast inside ball is wanted from the pitcher. Two fingers may call for an outside ball, or three for a curve and so on.

Remember that the fingers should be hid from the opposing coaches at third and first bases. This is done by keeping the knees bent forward as far as possible while in the squatting position and the hands held close against the body inside the angle formed by the knees.

PRACTICE SIGNALS—

During training it should be part of the routine of every team to get together to work out rehearse and practice signals. They can so easily go wrong unless they are thoroughly mastered.

THE WESTERN AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

The Western Amateur Baseball League came into being under its present title in 1949, but the founder clubs had been playing against each other for some time.

The clubs met regularly throughout 1948, doing the spade work for the present successful combination. Mr. Edward C. Brown was elected as President and Mr. Charles Dixon as Vice-President, while Mr. Geoff Rogers was elected as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Brown has been closely connected with Baseball in England since 1934 with the old N.B.A., and later as a Vice-President to the Southern Counties Baseball Association. He was, for a number of years manager of the Wembley Pirates. Mr. Charles Dixon, although a comparative newcomer, is rapidly coming to the top through his energy and drive. Mr. Dixon has also served as a Vice-President of the S.C.B.A.

Mr. Geoff Rogers was a Tower of strength in the launching of the new League, but is unfortunately no longer with the League, his place having been filled by Mr. Ken Brown.

West London Pioneers were the winners of the League for the first Season. They did not lose a League game until August when they were beaten by Eltham Dodgers. Their outstanding players were F. Ingalls, Bud Spencer, Curtin and Ridenhour.

The Pirates had an enjoyable season with Jud Jackson putting up some fine pitching figures and Ted Brown was a good all rounder and a stalwart of the team.

Mitcham Tigers played a fairly consistent game under the leadership of Joe Durling who did most of the mound duties. Outstanding players were Sandy Fear, Jack Green and George Bailey.

Mitcham Royals concentrated on the younger talent, which should stand them in good stead. Fred King and Charles Cole were the stalwarts of the team during 1949.

Wokingham Monarchs a new team were popular wherever they played. Fortune did not exactly smile upon them, for they managed to win only one game, but they were always an entertaining team.

Eltham Dodgers had a fairly good season. They are now competing in the South Eastern League owing to travel problems.

The League has started the 1950 Season with a swing and some good games have already taken place. The new teams—Kodak, Standard Telephones and the Blue-Jays are proving themselves to be worthy members of the League.

Here are the Clubs and the Divisions for 1950:—

Western Amateur League.

DIV. I.

MITCHAM ROYALS.
MITCHAM TIGERS.
PIRATES.
WEST LONDON PIONEERS.

DIV. II.

DULWICH BLUE-JAYS.
KODAK.
MONARCHS (Wokingham).
STANDARD TELEPHONES.

NOTICE REGARDING FIXTURES

The Fixtures published in "Baseball Monthly" are correct at time of going to press. As they are liable to alteration, it is advisable to consult the fixtures in the "Daily Express" on Saturdays.

CORRESPONDENCE

(We invite letters from readers on all aspects of Baseball. If a written reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed).

On BASEBALL MONTHLY.

. . . they are small compact and extremely interesting . . . may your monthly book continue on from success to success.

(P. H. Bourne, Aveley, Essex.)

I found the copy of your magazine very interesting, and on showing the magazine to people, they took down your address . . .

(A. Sims, Mitcham, Surrey.)

. . . May I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your initiative and enterprise in bringing out a badly needed publication.

(D. Cowling, Hornsey, London.)

I would like to congratulate you on a really wonderful effort . . .

(J. Lloyd, Leyton, London.)

. . . Congratulations on getting out a fine little book. Carry on with the good work!

(F. W. Cobb, Wellingboro', Northants.)

May I congratulate you on the first issue, and I expect to be ordering more copies regularly as the news gets around . . .

(D. Spicer, Norbury, London.)

Congrats. on your first edition, it is really good to know that we have our own magazine . . .

(Victor Beach, Bournemouth.)

(These are only a selection of the large number of letters received, and all are similar in tone. Many thanks to those who wrote, your kind remarks are truly appreciated.— EDITOR.)

Information Wanted—

I used to get a great deal of enjoyment before the war, in watching the baseball games that were played in the High Wycombe district. It seems hard to believe that all interest in the area is completely dead as a result of the break-up due to the war.

Can you tell me if there is any likelihood of Baseball being played again in these parts?

(W. Hadrick, High Wycombe, Bucks.)

We, too, are puzzled that such a thriving League as Wycombe had in 1939, should be so long in being re-formed, but we regret that we have no information to offer. We do, however, feel certain that eventually Baseball will return to Wycombe. Meanwhile, perhaps some of our readers may have contacts with the pre-war members of the League? Any information welcomed.

HOT NEWS

Hornsey Red Sox have revealed that they have obtained the assistance of thirty-year-old pitcher, Ray Carns, a local American resident. Things happen so fast around Muswell Hill these days that it is difficult to keep up with events . . . Ice Creams, Pea-nuts, Cocoa-Cola . . . American Commentator from Station WPX, Lee Benson . . . improvements in the ground for Red Sox and Junior teams' Supporters . . . new Ground Manager, Jim Ostridge . . . matches with Nottingham All-Stars and in addition to all this they manage to play some good Baseball.

At least Red Sox Spectators cannot deny that they get the best that the ball game can offer.

* * *

Many Clubs and Ball fans will regret to learn that Al Hutchinson, of the Dodgers, has had to retire from the game owing to ill-health. Al proved himself an excellent player and was well regarded by all.

* * *

That cheerful personality, "Pop" Sims, who has been responsible for forming or helping to form numerous Ball Clubs, including the Mitcham Tigers, has announced his intention of starting a new Club for Season 1951. He has every hope of succeeding and he wishes it to be known that it will in no way interfere with any present Club. Good Work Pop! Our best wishes go with the venture.

* * *

News comes of a new club in formation at Maldon in Essex. Preliminary information to hand, suggests that the team will be comprised mainly of youths from 16 years of age and upwards.

* * *

Fords have signed Frank Wills, one of their pre-war Junior players. Frank pitched his first post-war game against Enfield on May 28th.

* * *

We were sorry to learn that Aveley Cubs are going to lose the services—temporarily at least — of their stylish pitcher, Frank Spain. Frank is due to join the R.A.F.

* * *

A baseball team is being formed at Cheam, Surrey. It is expected that the club will be playing matches very shortly.

BASKETBALL

BASEBALL CLUBS AND READERS MAY BE INTERESTED IN BASKETBALL AS A MEANS OF KEEPING MEMBERS TOGETHER DURING THE WINTER, AND AS A MEANS OF KEEPING FIT. A MEETING IS SHORTLY TO BE HELD IN THE LONDON AREA TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES. ALL INTERESTED PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR.

BASEBALL FIXTURES

From June 10th to July 9th, inclusive.

Saturday, June 10th—
S.C. Intermediate Cup (1).
Briggs Tigers v. Aveley.

Sunday, June 11th—
National Cup (Round 2).
Fords v. Briggs Brigands.
Hornsey Red Sox v. Enfield.
Essex Nationals v. W.L. Pioneers.
Monarchs v. Pirates.
Norsex Cup.
Essex Nationals v. Chipping Norton.
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Fondu v. Hornsey Bruins.
Aveley Cubs v. Collegians.
Friendlies.
Bournemouth Cubs v. Paragon.
Dodgers v. Mitcham Tigers.

Saturday, June 17th—
S.E.L. Intermediate Cup (1).
Collegians v. Essex Cubs.

Sunday, June 18th—
South Eastern League, Div. I.
Fords v. Enfield Cardinals.
Paragon v. Thames Board Mills.
Essex Nationals v. Hornsey Red Sox.
Dodgers v. Briggs Brigands.
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Hornsey Bruins v. Fondu.

Sunday, June 25th—
S.C. Inter. Cup (Semi-Final).
Fondu v. Essex Cubs.
National Cup 3rd Round ties.
(See Press for Details).

Saturday, July 1st—
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Briggs Tigers v. Hornsey Bruins.

Sunday, July 2nd—
South Eastern League, Div. I.
Dodgers v. Paragon.
Fords v. Briggs Brigands.
Enfield Cardinals v. Thames B.M.
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Essex Cubs v. Fondu.
Briggs Tigers v. Aveley.

Saturday, July 8th—
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Collegians v. Briggs Tigers.

Sunday, July 9th—
National Cup (Area Final).
(See Press for Details).
South Eastern League, Div. I.
Briggs Brigands v. Red Sox (2 games).
Essex Nationals v. Fords (2 games).
Enfield Cardinals v. Dodgers.
South Eastern League, Div. II.
Hornsey Athletics v. Fondu.
Aveley v. Hornsey Bruins.

DIRECTORY OF BASEBALL GROUNDS

(Matches start normally in the region of 3—3.30)

AVELEY CUBS	Ground:	West Thurrock Memorial Ground, West Thurrock.
BRIGGS BRIGANDS	Ground:	Victoria Road, Dagenham Essex.
BRIGGS TIGERS		
COLLEGIANS	Ground:	At South East Essex Technical College, Longbridge Road, Barking.
DODGERS B.C.	Ground:	Bromley Country Club, Crown Lane, Bromley, Kent.
DULWICH BLUE-JAYS	Ground:	Beckenham Place Park, Southend Road, Catford.
ENFIELD CARDINALS	Ground:	Durants Park, Enfield.
ESSEX NATIONALS	Ground:	Mayesbrook Park, Barking, Essex.
ESSEX CUBS		
FONDU	Ground:	North Road, Uplands, Purfleet, Essex. (Near Stork Sports Ground).
FORD SPORTS	Ground:	Kent Avenue, Dagenham, Essex.
HORNSEY RED SOX	Ground:	Coppetts Field, Muswell Hill, N.10.
HORNSEY BRUINS		
HORNSEY ATHLETICS		
KODAK	Ground:	Wormwood Scrubs (100 yds. past White City Stadium).
MARLEY YOUTH CLUB B.C.	Ground:	Marley School, School Road, Dagenham.
MITCHAM ROYALS	Ground:	Mitcham Common, Mitcham. (Near the "Jolly Gardeners").
MITCHAM TIGERS		
MONARCHS (Wokingham)	Ground:	Barkham Road Recreation Ground, Wokingham, Berks.
PARAGON	Ground:	Paragon Sports Ground, Rainham, Essex. (Rear of Rainham Station).
PIRATES	Ground:	Tithe Farm, Rayners Lane (Central London Railway Station).
STANDARD TELEPHONES	Ground:	Oakley Road, New Southgate, N.
THAMES BOARD MILLS	Ground:	Thames Board Mills Sports Ground, London Road, Purfleet.
WEST LONDON PIONEERS	Ground:	Wormwood Scrubs (100 yds. past White City Stadium).

See Fixtures on Page 18 opposite

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

By JACK HELLIAR

(Hon. Secretary of the League and Southern Counties Representative)

Last month's outline of the clubs' prospects in the League forecast a close race in Division I, but there could have been few who expected the neck-and-neck struggle that has already developed, for during the first three weeks every club had sustained at least one defeat, and there were surprises in all directions.

The very close scores of the majority of games have shown that the runaway victories of previous seasons are becoming a thing of the past. We are steadily approaching the more even competition which is a sign of top-class baseball, for it is an old (and largely true) saying that "games are more often won by the errors of your opponents than by the runs scored through your own efforts." In most cases, the lower the scores in a Baseball match, the better the game, for few runs show that few errors have been committed, and good defensive work is often more important than hitting power.

It is interesting to note, however, that in the National League of America, a recent game between St. Louis Cardinals and Pittsburgh Pirates ended in the former winning by a 17-13 score! If that's what happens to "one hundred thousand dollar batteries", what is to be expected of our week-end Amateurs?

Unfortunately we still face the handicap of National Service which takes away our lads for the best part of two seasons, and all too often interrupts their baseball careers at a time when progress is greatest. However, there is nothing that we can do about that, except grin and bear it.

So back to the Diamond! I wonder what the League tables will look like in the next issue?

THE AMERICAN REVIEW

by "Guestplayer"

On April 18th, the President of the United States, President Truman, performed the time honoured custom of throwing the ball in the Arena to start another Baseball season on its way.

As an indication of their approval of his action, Americans turned out in record numbers to watch the first day's games. And the star-studded teams of the Two Major Leagues did not fail to give the fans the thrills that they were anticipating.

The most remarkable game played for a long time was fought out in Boston on opening day, where the Yankees downed the Red Sox with a 15-10 victory, after the Sox had led by 9 runs to nothing at the end of the sixth. An astonishing eighth innings saw the Yankees drive in nine runs to set the seal on what must rank as an immortal victory. Mel. Parnell, the Red Sox versatile southpaw pitcher, had pitched flawless ball until four runs came off his pitching in the seventh. His relief hurler fared even worse and was charged with the loss of the game.

As most sports writers had predicted, the two New York teams Dodgers and Yankees are leading the Majors; but, of course, the season is young yet, and there is a long, long way to go. The other New York team—the Giants—are in a slump having had a seventeen-game losing streak, which has taken them to the bottom of the table.

The weather in general, has been very much the same as in Britain, Cloudy and Rainy and quite a number of games have been rained-off, but still the attendances at the games have risen. Baseball is as popular as ever!

A TRIBUTE TO T.B.M.

The Thames Board Mills Baseball Club, with their fine ground and well-known hospitality to visiting teams, have always been a credit to British Baseball. It is interesting to note their remarkable post-war record:

Winners:—

S.C.B.A. Cup, 1947
S.C.B.A. League 1947 & 1948
S.C.B.A. Championship, 1947 & 1948
S.C.B.A. (Consolation) Cup, 1948

Runners-up:—

All England Cup, 1948
London East League, 1949
London East Cup, 1949

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We welcome all enquiries for club printing, L'heads, tickets, programmes, posters, etc., etc.—SERVICE PRINTERS, 31, Victoria Dock Road, London, E.16.

BASEBALL CAPS. American style; any colour — £6 8s. 0d. per doz. — Write Douglas Cowling Allsports, 64, Sydney Road, Hornsey, London, N.8.

WANTED. Old programmes of London Major League Baseball pre-war. Especially those with rules and examples of "plays". Either to purchase outright or on loan.— — Write, Box No. 101, BASEBALL MONTHLY.

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB require a few additional players (or learners). Ground at Barking. Moderate subs.—Write, B. Bierkom, 624, Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Western Amateur Baseball League invites applications for membership from new clubs for next season (1951). Help gladly given on getting started.—Write, K. Crown, 103, Carlton Avenue West North Wembley, Middlesex.

THE SOUTH EASTERN BASEBALL LEAGUE is now complete for 1950, but will accept applications for Season 1951 New clubs helped to form up if required — Write or 'phone, J. F. Hellier, 43, Ranelagh Road, East Ham, E.6. Grangewood 2174.

CHIPPING NORTON (oldest club in England, 1920) JUNIORS. 14 to 18 yrs. or just out of services, will play home and away with any team same age. Sundays 2.30 p.m. Youth clubs write in.— Fred Lewis (Hon. Treasurer), Chipping Norton, Oxon. ('Phone: 73.)

ESSEX BASEBALL CLUB

GRAND ★ DANCE

AT

The Bell Hotel, Upminster

ON

Friday, 16th June, 1950

at 7.30 p.m.

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To organisers of Fetes, Carnivals, Holiday Camps, etc.

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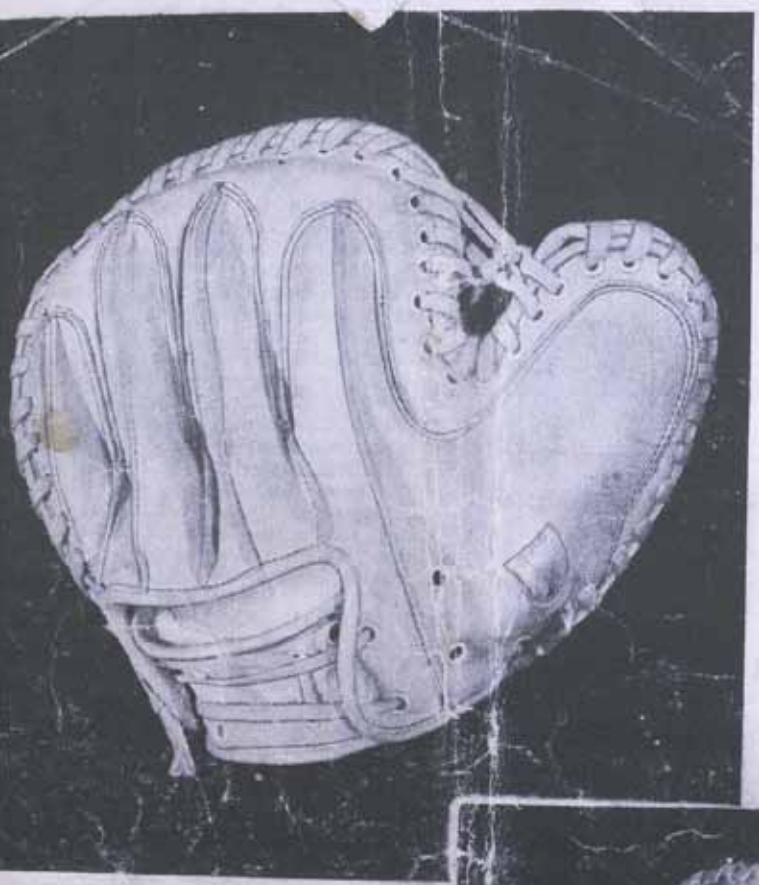

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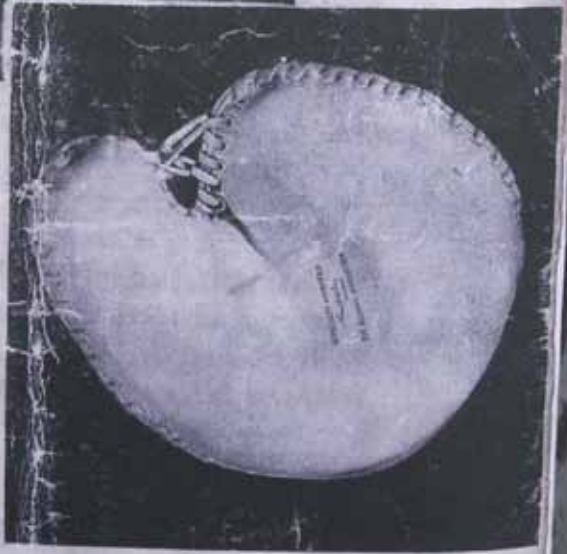

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