BASEBALL NEWS

★ *A News Sheet of Baseball, published by the South Eastern Baseball League* ★ **3D.**

No. 8 ::: JULY 1st, 1955

West v South-East for Pennant

THIRD GAME IN COUNTIES' SERIES

A feature of this week-end's programme will be the meeting of the South Eastern and Western Counties Associations at Briggs Sports Ground, Dagenham on Saturday (2nd July).

This will be for the Coronation Pennant, a trophy put up for competition two years ago. The South-East won the first game (in 1953) at Dagenham by 4—3 but the West had their revenge with a 4—0 win at Mitcham Stadium in 1954.

Dollard to pitch again ?

Indications are that this game may again be a low-scoring one. Western should have their opening battery of Dollard and Cooper who did so well at Mitcham, but the South-East's chances seem to rest on defensive fielding and the possible big-hitting of several players to gain the vital runs for their pitchers to protect.

S.E. Trial

In a trial match on June 18th between Section A and Section B of the S.E. League the score ended 19—15 in favour of the A's and it was worthy of mention that no less than half-a-dozen batters made the round trip through big hits finding their way through the outfield.

Both sides include a large number of newcomers, and although the "veterans" may provide the necessary experience to steady their team-mates an inspired spell by one of the youngsters might well be the deciding factor.

THE TEAMS

The teams will be selected from the following players:

Western

W. Dollard, N. Dearlove, W. Cooper, F. Adey, T. Farley, A. Dade (*Beavers*); D. Wasielewski, F. Haw, B. Robinson (*Bluejays*); J. Rex, P. Sharp, D. Sargeant, M. Watt (*Monarchs*); R. Buxton, D. Hubbard, R. Rowland, H. Smith (*Tigers*); J. Murry, H. Jacobs (*Royals*); R. Kent (*Comets*). *Manager*: F. Adey; *Coach*: H. Smith.

South Eastern

A. Dowley (*Benfleet*); E. Davis, W. Halsey, W. Isaacs, A. Mant, H. Yellop (*Brigands*); W. Willson (*Dagenham*); L. Howse (*Epsom*); R. Pullen, D. Tinton (*Essex*); L. Banks, R. King (*Fords*); J. Roberts, T. Sullivan (*Hornsey*); R. Field, S. Russell, P. Staples, R. Wayrenen (*Kodak*); W. Dawber (*TBM*). *Manager*: J. Helliar (*Dagenham*).

Western Cup Starts

In the opening games of the Western Association Cup the Tigers beat Wokingham Monarchs by 5—3 at Mitcham and the Beavers beat Mitcham Royals by 12—3 at Rosehill Rec.

Subsequently the Beavers met with surprising reverses at Wokingham and Mitcham to fall from the position of favourites.

League-style this season

The competition is being run on a league basis this year, as only four teams entered — Tigers, Beavers, Monarchs and Royals. Each team meets its opponents once at home and once away.

Western Counties Cup

(including 18 . 6 . 55)

	P	W	%
Tigers (Mitcham)	2	2	1000
Mitcham Royals	2	1	500
Sutton Beavers	3	1	333
Wokingham Monarchs	3	1	333

WESTERN ASSOCIATION CUP

Wok'm Monarchs	21	Sutton Beavers ...	7
Mitcham Tigers	8	Sutton Beavers ...	4
Wok'm Monarchs	0	Mitcham Royals	9

USAF TEAMS IN EXHIBITION GAMES

USAF teams from Lakenheath and Brize Norton will meet in an exhibition game on August Monday, probably at the beautiful Dunlop ground.

Fords in Two

Two exhibition games between the USAF Manston Wildcats and Ford Sports are to take place at Cliftonville, Kent (July 1st), and Gillingham, Kent (July 16th). The first is on a Friday evening and is part of the Margate Carnival activities and the second is on a Saturday at the United Services Ground in aid of the National Playing Fields Association.

East Hull beat Leeds Lions for Armstrong Trophy

A 10—6 victory in the second "leg" at Craven Park, Hull, on Whit Monday left East Hull Aces as the winners of the Robert Armstrong Cup this year, for they had beaten Leeds Lions at the Middleton Ground in May in the first of two games by 9—7 to win 19—13 on aggregate.

East Hull A.	3	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	x	—10
Leeds Lions .	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	— 6

Stanford joins Lions

The Leeds team shows few changes from last season, although a welcome addition has been Yorkshire and England short-stop Norman Stanford.

Brigands versus Athletics or Aces in S.E. Counties Cup

Although without a League win to their credit Queens Park Aces have made sufficient progress in the South Eastern Counties Cup to nearly reach the Final. The word "nearly" covers much ground in this case, as in the Semi-Final they held Hornsey Athletics to a 4—4 tie, the game being rained-off at the end of the fifth innings. The replay takes place on July 10th.

As a result of this the Final has been postponed till after the holiday period, Brigands meeting the winners on September 4th.

First Defeats for Royals & Pirates

Hull Royals and Pirates each suffered their first defeat on May 28th. Royals lost a thriller with East Hull Aces by four runs to five, while Pirates were beaten 10—8 by the Giants.

The Eagles v Newland Tigers match was also a close affair, although Eagles took an early 3—0 lead. Pitchers Eric Kirk (Eagles) and Len Smith (Tigers) were prominent. In the seventh innings the Tigers crept up to 3—5, but a home run by catcher Stan Wallace and good hitting by Hancock and MacIver finally put the Eagles in a strong position, the score at the end being 9—5.

Hull League

(including 18 . 6 . 55)

	P	W	%
Pirates	4	3	750
Hull Royals	4	3	750
East Hull Aces A	3	2	666
Reckitts Robins	4	2	500
Giants	3	1	333
Priestman Panthers	4	0	—

BEAVERS GAIN LEAD IN WESTERN RACE

Out to repeat 1954 Championship Success

Results during the first two months of the season have shown that Sutton Beavers again appear likely to emerge as the strongest team in the Western League, for they have established a sound lead in the table by defeating all other rivals.

15-Game Schedule

However, there is still plenty of time for the other teams to catch them, as each side is playing 15 games—each meeting the others three times. Likewise the Beavers have already been twice defeated in the Western Counties Cup—which makes the position more open than at first appears.

Changed Line-ups

Several sides show major changes in their line-ups, and the benefit of starting the Minor League last season has already been proved by the graduation of these players into the first-strings of their clubs.

Western League

(including 26 . 6 . 55)

	P	W	%
Sutton Beavers	6	6	1000
Dulwich Bluejays	7	5	714
Tigers (Mitcham)	6	4	667
Mitcham Royals	5	2	400
Wokingham Monarchs	6	1	167
D.H. Comets	6	0	—

WESTERN LEAGUE

Dulwich Bluejays	9	D.H. Comets	0
Dulwich Bluejays	5	Sutton Beavers	8
Mitcham Tigers	10	Wok'm Monarchs	3

FRIENDLIES

Dulwich Bluejays	8	D.H. Comets	3
Wok'm Monarchs	9	Mitcham Royals	7

'LITTLE LEAGUE' FOUNDER VISITS ENGLAND

CARL STOTZ AT KINGSTON

The visit of Mr. Carl Stotz, the founder of American Little League Baseball, attracted an interested audience to the Kingston-on-Thames Guildhall on June 7th.

In the course of his lecture Mr. Stotz outlined the formation and progress of "Little League," which is baseball played on a smaller-than-regulation diamond by boys of 10-12 years; the players graduate into other age-group leagues until they become seniors.

This lecture was one of a series which Mr. Stotz has made in Europe, the main point being that by using the Little League set-up as a basis it could be adopted for other national sports to the benefit of youngsters in all countries. There were obvious difficulties which could only be overcome by amendments suitable to the locality, but the principles are very sound and greatly to be commended.

Club Representatives in audience

Mr. Stotz was accompanied by Major John E. Gossner of the U.S. Air Force, and both were surprised to find so many knowledgeable English baseball legislators in their audience, among whom were Mr. L. J. Kosta (S.E. Area Director) and representatives from Sutton Beavers, Epsom Lions, Mitcham Tigers, Dagenham Royals, Ford Sports and the South Eastern League.

EQUIPMENT

New and Second-Hand

BATS : GLOVES : MASKS

CATCHERS' & UMPS' PADS

BALLS : LEG-GUARDS : etc

Write for Price-List (stating Requirements)

S.E. Counties Baseball Assn.

36 Derby Avenue, Upminster, Essex

Yorkshire County Cup

FIRST ROUND

Robins	16	Newland Tigers	10
Aces "A"	6	Eagles	2

SECOND ROUND

Reckitts Robins	8	Royals	4
Leeds Lions	7	Pirates	5
Aces "A"	9	Giants	5
Aces "B"	3	Panthers	0

SEMI-FINAL

Aces "A" v Aces "B"
Reckitts Robins v Leeds Lions

Hull League Cup

FIRST ROUND

Aces "B"	10	Reckitts Robins	17
Panthers	0	Pirates	3
Aces "A"	6	Giants	1

SECOND ROUND

Eagles	0	Hull Royals	3
Leeds Lions	15	Reckitts Robins	14
Pirates	6	Aces "A"	5

Newland Tigers—bye

SEMI-FINALS

Newland Tigers v Leeds Lions
Royals v Pirates

FINAL at Bridlington)

Baseball News

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SURPRISES KEEP SOUTH-EASTERN SECTIONS OPEN

Several surprise results have kept the position in the South Eastern League wide open, and with the league programme occupying nearly every game between now and the end of July there are likely to be constant changes of position in the two tables.

With honours in prospect for the top four teams of each Section there is some extremely keen competition and the situation remains wide open. The two top teams of A and B go into play-offs for the championship (on a knock-out basis) and these four, together with the third teams of each Section form the Senior Section for 1956. Finally the fourth-place teams will meet in one game for the Division I championship.

Close Fight in Section A

Although Brigands remain unbeaten in Section A they have had some close fights with "tail enders," Dagenham and Esso keeping them hard-pressed. They have, however, practically ensured their place in the play-offs, but although Hornsey Athletics are favourites for the runners-up place in this Section it looks like being a tussle that will last till the final game for the other positions.

Nationals lead their Section

Essex Nationals are strongly entrenched in Section B, and with Fords losing to Epsom Lions, gained a slight advantage. The Lions have been settling down and with an influx of new players are still well in the race. Queens Park Aces are the "query club" of this Section, for although having even games for most of the time have still to win one.

South Eastern League

(including 26 . 6 . 55)

Section A	P	W	%
Briggs Brigands	6	6	1000
Hornsey Athletics	6	5	834
Thames Board Mills....	5	2	400
Dagenham Royals	6	2	333
Benfleet Greys	5	1	200
Esso Tigers	6	1	167

Section B	P	W	%
Essex Nationals	7	7	1000
Ford Sports	6	4	666
Epsom Lions	8	5	625
Kodak	6	3	500
Queens Park Aces	5	0	—
Briggs Tigers....	6	0	—

South-Eastern Results

(inc. June 26th)

S.E. League Senior Cup

Thames B.M. ...	10	Queens Park A.	8
Briggs Brigands .	10	Dagenham Royals	5
Hornsey Ath. ...	6	Kodak	10
Ford Sports ...	9	Essex Nationals .	18

Intermediate Cup

Briggs Tigers ...	13	Esso Tigers	25

Essex Cup

Dagenham Royals	3	Esso Tigers ...	8
Fords Sports ...	15	Benfleet Greys ...	1

South East Counties Cup

Ford Sports ...	11	Thames B.M. ...	14
Queens Park A.	4	Hornsey Ath. ...	4

(*Rained off after 5 innings*)

Briggs Brigands .	30	Thames B.M. ...	4

South Eastern League

Section A

Esso Tigers	9	Benfleet Greys ...	8
Benfleet Greys ...	2	Hornsey Ath. ...	9
Dagenham Royals	2	Briggs Brigands .	19
Briggs Brigands .	10	Dagenham Royals	7
Benfleet Greys ...	5	Thames B.M. ...	3
Hornsey Ath. ...	16	Dagenham Royals	0
Briggs Brigands .	15	Esso Tigers ...	14
Briggs Brigands .	15	Benfleet Greys ...	2
Dagenham Royals	5	Esso Tigers ...	4
Hornsey Athletics	21	Thames B.M. ...	8

Section B

Queens Park A.	10	Essex Nationals .	12
Epsom Lions ...	10	Kodak	9
Epsom Lions ...	27	Briggs Tigers ...	6
Kodak	29	Briggs Tigers ...	8
Essex Nationals .	24	Epsom Lions ...	0
Ford Sports ...	9	Epsom Lions ...	12
Essex Nationals .	17	Queens Park A.	1
Briggs Tigers ...	6	Kodak	13
Essex Nationals	11	Ford Sports ...	8
Epsom Lions ...	9	Queens Park Aces	1

TIGERS UNLUCKY IN MIDLANDS CUP

In the Midlands Area Cup the meeting of Allens Cross and the new Dunlop Eagles team nearly produced a "shock result" for Eagles led 9—2 at the end of the seventh frame. However manager Tomkinson subbed three youngsters—Cooper, Osbourne and Walton—who helped to pull the game out of the fire and with the Cross levelling it up in the ninth frame the game went to extra innings for Allens Cross to score the deciding run and qualify to meet the Beavers.

The other match in this round was Birlec v Valor.

Notts - Birmingham Final

Following the Birmingham area final the winners travel to Nottingham to play the Notts area champions for the Area Trophy.

North-West lose in Leeds

The visit of the North West Counties team to Leeds on May 22nd resulted in a great game, the local Lions being the victors by 13—8.

North-West missed the services of Hal Bonallo who could not make the trip and the pitching of Red Holmes and Bob Long saw Leeds through to a deserved win.

Bonallo in Return Game

The teams met in a return game in Liverpool on June 4th, the North-West team being:

Bonallo (*p.*), Bretherick (*c.*), Rudham (*1st*), Culligan (*2nd*), Lambe (*s.s.*), Hurford (*3rd*), Proctor, Clare, Shepphard (*outfielders*).

Liverpool Goalie at First Base

Doug Rudham has been an added strength to the side, and this South African will be well-remembered by London fans for his displays as goalkeeper for Liverpool F.C. at the Fulham and West Ham United grounds during the past soccer season.

Birmingham League

(including 5 . 6 . 55)

Beavers	4	3	750
Allen's Cross	3	2	666
Valor	3	2	666
Birlec Dodgers	3	1	333
Dunlop Tigers	3	1	333
Dunlop Eagles	2	0	—

BACK NUMBERS of "BASEBALL NEWS," issues 1 to 7 inclusive, are available at 2d. each (plus 2d. postage per lot), Apply: 36 Derby Avenue, Upminster, Essex.

The Daily Express

publishes

South-Eastern and Western

Week-end Fixtures on Saturdays

and

Results on Mondays

Another Club for Liverpool

DOCKERS ON THE DIAMOND

Liverpool's National Dock Labour Board Social Club have re-formed their baseball club, and in their opening game at their new Stadium met Liverpool Cubs. Both sides made experiments in the seven-innings fixture, the visitors' pitching being shared by Hurford (5 innings) and Bonallo. A triple by Hurford in the sixth helped him to win his own game, but a homer in the last frame by Shepphard with two men on base was the highlight.

However, the losers were not disappointed by the result, for their team almost wholly consists of new players through last season's line-up being depleted by the return home of American Servicemen who were working in the Docks.

Cubs	...	5	1	0	0	0	3	4	— 13
N.D.L.B.	.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	— 1

NOTTS BEAT BRUM

Inter-League Clash at Melbourne Park

At Melbourne Park on Whit Monday a Nottingham League representative side received a Birmingham League side in the first of two games, the return being in Birmingham on August 7th.

In the first game Nottingham ran out easy winners, and it is obvious that the Birmingham selectors will have to pick stronger next time as they appear to have underestimated their opponents' strength. However, Brum had themselves largely to blame, errors and missed catches contributing to their downfall.

Lambrecht signs for Allen's

Allens Cross have signed that stalwart International pitcher—Vic Lambrecht. It is likely, however, that he will not be regularly required, as Cliff Court is pitching very good ball for the Cross this season; but Vic will nevertheless be a very useful acquisition both to the Birmingham League side and the Midland Counties.

SCORE SHEETS

with all details

20 ins. × 10 ins. — Padded

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CASH WITH ORDER

JUNIOR TEAMS UNDER WAY

1956 Minor League in South East ?

The starting of teams among younger players is a good sign for the future of the game and there are several clubs who have these already well organised.

Dunlop fledglings shock Allen's Cross

In the Midlands the Dunlop club has started a side of players who are all under 21 called the Eagles. They have entered the Birmingham League and in opening games have shown themselves a useful combination, running the well-known Allens Cross to 10—9 in the Midlands Area Cup.

Adey's youngsters v USAF Colts?

In the Western area Frank Adey, of Sutton Beavers, has a side of whom the "veterans" are aged about 14. They are seeking fixtures against other young teams and are hoping that they will meet some in the vicinity of Ruislip where there is an American school for the children of USAF men.

In addition Ray Vallu of Epsom Lions is helping to spread the game among local youths by giving lectures and instruction to Boy Scouts and similar groups.

Three S.E. Clubs make progress

In the South East three clubs already have their junior teams organised—Dagenham Royals, Essex Nationals and Ford Sports. The Royals' second-string (aged between 13 and 16) have met both these local rivals, the Essex Nomads consisting of several youngsters from the Mayesbrook Park area together with spare first-team men and the Ford's team being lads of 16 from the Trade School who are coached by Frank Morgan, former player and umpire.

The prospect of a Minor League in the South East is becoming increasingly hopeful and with one or two more clubs coming in it could be in operation next season.

AROUND THE CLUBS

FORDS ON THE UP-GRADE

BUT CLUB TO LOSE PRESENT GROUND

It was in 1934 (three years after the Ford Motor Company concentrated its British production at Dagenham, Essex) that the Ford Sports Club was formed, and in the following year the Baseball Section came into being.

In the East London League

Joining the East London League (also formed in 1935), the Ford club were runners-up in the first two seasons to their traditional rivals Briggs Brigands (from their now-subsidiary company). However, by 1939 they were much stronger and in that year completed the double of League Championship and Cup.

"Old stagers" will remember several of their well-known players of those days including Harry Harper, Jack Dawber and Frank Morgan, who under the managership of Harry Scott were a powerful side. Although now retired from the game "Scotty" still follows his old club and is a welcome spectator at games in the South-East.

Re-opening in 1946

Although World War II meant the closing-down of local baseball, Fords resumed in 1946 and played in S.E. Counties competitions till the London East League (later S.E. League) opened up again in 1949. The team was almost a completely new one, but several players made their mark during that time to bring success to the club. The double of Div. I Championship and Cup was achieved in 1951, when the club also reached the Final of the South Eastern Counties Cup.

Present Success

Much of the Club's post-war success can be attributed to Howard (Harry) Knapp. A former junior player with the Dagenham Dragons club in the late 1930's, he starred as a pitcher when the Fords club met with its South Eastern area successes, and he has taken over as Team-manager this season although not playing regularly. In addition Howard was Chairman of the S.E. League for two seasons (he is still a Committee member), and has also served as S.E. League representative on the SECBA.

The present Hon. Secretary is Ron King (who also serves on the S.E. League Executive) and who plays catcher or outfielder in the Fords team.

New Ground next Year

Unfortunately it seems that Fords B.C. will lose their present ground in the 1956 season owing to expansion of the Ford Works, but steps are already being taken to find alternative accommodation for a team which is once again on the up-grade.

★ *We hope to feature a Club History in each issue*