BASEBALL NEWS

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

No. 7 ::: MAY 28th, 1955

Two-Section Play-offs for South East League

Leaders to become Senior Division of 1956

Following a decision to reduce its Senior Division to six clubs the South Eastern League has been divided into two Sections this season, these becoming a qualifying competition for the 1956 line-up.

After a series of meetings the sections were constituted as follows:

Section A

Benfleet Greys
Briggs Brigands
Dagenham Royals
Esso Tigers
Hornsey Athletics
Thames Board Mills

Section B

Briggs Tigers
Epsom Lions
Essex Nationals
Ford Sports
Kodak
Queens Park Aces

Teams will play two matches against each opponent in their section and the top two of each section will meet in play-offs for the Senior Division championship. The *fourth* team of each section will meet for the Division I championship.

The top three teams of each section will then constitute the Senior Division in 1956, and the remainder (together with any new applicants) will form other Divisions as necessary.

Baseball News

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Editorial

Third Year

In greeting our readers at the start of the third year of our publication we must firstly apologise for the delay in publishing this first issue of the 1955 season. This has been due to a series of circumstances which caused lack of news due to the weather stopping games being played and owing to delays in receiving news from some other areas.

However, with the help of better weather there should be no cause for lack of news, and we expect our future monthly issues to be off the press in good time.

News, please !

We would ask those clubs outside the South Eastern area to let us have news of their activities for use in future issues, for this is intended to be a *national* newspaper. In this respect we are hoping to start a series featuring one particular club in each issue—thereby getting teams in all parts of the country to know each other better; so if your club " historian " can supply one for future issues, please let us have it!

Meanwhile, thank you for your help—and please keep up the sales!

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CASH WITH ORDER

New Competition for Metropolitan Clubs

A new competition has been started in the South Eastern area this season; this is the Metropolitan Cup and it replaces the former Kent Cup competition. The tournament is confined to those clubs outside the county of Essex who are affiliated to the S.E.C.B.A., and four entries have been received this season. Epsom Lions have already beaten Kodak and will thus meet Hornsey Athletics or Queens Park Aces in the Final.

In addition to this there will be five other cup competitions in the South East: they are the S.E. Counties Cup, Essex Cup, League Senior Cup, League Intermediate Cup and Invitation Tournament.

South-Eastern Results

(inc. May 22nd)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES CUP

Esso Tigers ...	6	Thames B.M. ...	12
Kodak	6	Hornsey Ath. ...	10
Essex Nationals .	8	Briggs Brigands .	17
Benfleet Greys ...	2	Queens Pk. Aces	12
Briggs Brigands .	9	Epsom Lions ...	1

METROPOLITAN CUP

Kodak	4	Epsom Lions ...	20

INTERMEDIATE CUP

Dagenham Royals	9	Benfleet Greys ...	4

ESSEX CUP

Briggs Brigands .	23	Briggs Tigers ...	5

SOUTH EASTERN LEAGUE

Section A

Esso Tigers ...	8	Thames B.M. ...	13
Briggs Brigands .	22	Hornsey Ath. ...	8
Dagenham Royals	8	Thames B.M. ...	18
Hornsey Ath. ...	32	Esso Tigers ...	11
Benfleet Greys ...	6	Briggs Brigands .	22
Esso Tigers	8	Dagenh'm Royals	9
Thames B.M. ...	9	Hornsey Athletics	17

Section B

Ford Sports ...	19	Briggs Tigers ...	6
Epsom Lions ...	1	Essex Nationals .	5
Kodak	30	Queens Park A.	5
Epsom Lions ...	8	Ford Sports ...	24
Essex Nationals .	22	Kodak	8
Briggs Tigers ...	1	Epsom Lions ...	17
Ford Sports ...	7	Queens Park A.	3
Essex Nationals .	23	Briggs Tigers ...	6

The Daily Express

publishes

South-Eastern and Western Week-end Fixtures on Saturdays

and

Results on Mondays

Around the Diamond in the South East

Hooper and Spain join Benfleet Greys

Benfleet Greys have two former Aveley Cubs' players in their line-up this season—Tommy Hooper and Frank Spain. Both will be of great use to this club which has been working very hard to improve its position, and the Greys are indeed to be congratulated on their successful efforts to bring the game to this part of Essex.

New Ground for Briggs

BIG ARENA AT RUSH GREEN

Briggs Brigands and Briggs Tigers have a new diamond this season, having moved from Victoria Road to a very spacious headquarters at Rush Green Road, Romford, where each sport will have its own area instead of using a communal pitch.

Brigands lose Halpin

Brigands have lost Bill Halpin who returned to U.S.A. during the winter, but have signed two more US Navy men—Salyards and Davis. Another "overseas" player in the side is South African John Hewie, who has now finished his season's soccer with Charlton Athletic. The team is being managed this season by Sam Alexander.

Joe Moore manages Tigers

The Tigers' manager for 1955 is Canadian Joe Moore, who has played in the Briggs' sides in past seasons. The Tigers are meeting stronger opposition this year than they did in Division I last season, but have shown good form in the early games. They have much the same line-up although there have been some new additions to the roster.

Royals change Catchers

Dagenham Royals have practically the same players as last season, although they are without the services of catcher Terry Graves who is working in Folkestone for the summer. However "Mac" McFarlane and "Chopper" Little are filling this position between them adequately, and ex-Hornsey player Peter Ash is also proving valuable to his new club.

Lions move to S.E.

The entry of Epsom Lions into the South Eastern League has brought some powerful opposition for the leading clubs, and although they have made a rather mixed start it is apparent that the Lions will be well up in the race for final honours.

Sinclair rejoins Nationals

Another team that shows few changes is Essex Nationals. They have lost Les Banks (who has returned to Fords) but welcome the return of Canadian Don Sinclair who they missed last season when he went home for a few months.

AVELEY CUBS CHANGE GROUND AND NAME

Esso Tigers—a new name for an established team. The former Aveley Cubs have moved to new headquarters this season at the Esso Sports Ground, Purfleet, and have adopted a name more in keeping with their locality. With some former Fondu players available the team has already shown stronger potentialities, and will be a side to watch in the future.

ex-Snowdown Players for Fords

Ford Sports have built up a powerful team this year and have several newcomers. Among these are former Snowdown players—Eddie Taylor and Ritchie Sullivan—Pee Wee Lay (ex-Enfield) and an American, Walter Powells. Old stalwart Harry Knapp is the new manager.

ICE-HOCKEY STARS WITH ATHLETICS

Hornsey Athletics have also plenty of new faces as well as those who have given the club long service. Harringay ice-hockey stars who have signed include Denny and Bucholtz, and there are also three or four U.S. Navy men on the roster.

Kodak keep same line-up

Kodak have almost the same first-string as they had in 1954, although some new recruits have come along to add to the Harrow club's numerical strength. Kodak's results in opening games were rather one-sided, but their S.E. Counties Cup tie with the Athletics was a real ding-dong tussle.

Navy Quartet for Aces

FORDS HELD TO CLOSE SCORE

Queens Park Aces considerably strengthened their side by signing four Americans, and they led Fords by 3—1 for five innings in a League game before the works team went in front in the sixth innings of a game that was called in the seventh following heavy rain.

FONDU PLAYERS JOIN BOARD MILLS

Several new players are in the Thames Board Mills team, including ex-Fondu men Harry Moreton and Ron Brand. Another newcomer is Bob Thomas, who joins his ex-Marley team-mate Sid Gane at Purfleet.

JUNIOR SIDES IN THE FIELD

Four clubs who are arranging early-season games for new players are Dagenham Royals, Essex, Esso and Thames Board Mills. In the next month or so all these clubs will field sides in which they will give newcomers a full try-out, and in doing so will have an eye to bringing these players into full competition next year.

South Eastern League

(including 22 . 5 . 55)

Section A	P	W	%
Briggs Brigands	2	2	1000
Hornsey Athletics	3	2	667
Thames Board Mills....	3	2	667
Dagenham Royals	2	1	500
Benfleet Greys	1	0	—
Esso Tigers	3	0	—

Section B	P	W	%
Ford Sports	4	4	1000
Essex Nationals	3	3	1000
Epsom Lions	3	1	333
Kodak	3	1	333
Queens Park Aces	2	0	—
Briggs Tigers....	3	0	—

EQUIPMENT

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MIDLANDS' SET-BACKS

Loss of Area Officials

It was with regret that we heard that Mr. Howard Butler, one of baseball's leading personalities, recently passed away, and his death came as a shock to all those who knew him. Mr. Butler was Area Director of the Midland Counties Association, and had been connected with baseball for many years. The post of Area Director of the Midlands is at present vacant, but it is expected that a new Director will be nominated in the near future.

Another blow to the Midlands' administration has been the temporary loss of Mr. A. H. Wheatcroft, who has undergone a major operation for a ruptured Achilles tendon. The latest news is that Mr. Wheatcroft is reported to be comfortable, and we hope he will soon be back in "harness" again. In the meantime Mr. C. Winnett (the County Chairman) is helping to fill the gaps caused by the loss of his colleagues.

There are at present twelve clubs affiliated to the Midlands Association. Eleven of these are in the two affiliated Leagues (Birmingham and Nottingham) and Chipping Norton have also become members of the Association. It is likely that Chipping Norton will apply for membership of the Birmingham League.

USAF Sides to meet in Birmingham ?

The Midlands Association are at present negotiating for exhibition games, and among these it is hoped to arrange for an inter-area fixture between the Midlands and Yorkshire and a match in Birmingham on August Bank Holiday Monday featuring USAF teams—Lakenheath and Fairford.

NORTH-WEST CLUBS COMBINE FOR AREA GAMES

Mr. E. R. Sharp, Hon. Secretary of the North West Counties Association, has been busy arranging a programme of inter-area games for the two clubs in his Association. Although Bootle Red Sox and Liverpool Cubs are the only two affiliated clubs in the Merseyside area they have an attractive list of engagements, playing both as separate clubs and as a combined team.

Home and away fixtures with Leeds Lions start the season for the county team—at Leeds on May 22nd and at Littlewoods Sports Festival on Whit Saturday. Next come matches with Birmingham Beavers—away on June 12th and home on the 18th or 25th. The July dates include two clashes with Dunlop and another with Leeds, but fixtures with Nottingham and Hull sides are also hoped for.

The County Association under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. Forshaw is working very hard to keep things running smoothly in the North West, and they are to be heartily commended for the efforts in the face of considerable difficulty.

Yorkshire Association to run County Cup Competition

UMPIRES IN NEW ORGANISATION

Most of our news from Yorkshire has come from the County Association Hon. Secretary, Mr. Edward Martin. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robert Crowe, his Association has inaugurated a County Trophy competition this season, and there are bound to be very keen tussles among North Eastern clubs for the honour of becoming first winners.

Yorks v Midlands ?

There is also a very strong possibility of a Yorkshire v Midlands match on June 19th at Leeds, and the staging of an inter-area game at the Middleton Welfare Ground is an indication that this outpost of Yorkshire baseball has a big interest in the sport.

Turning to the officiating side we hear that the local Umpires' Association has taken the title of Yorkshire Baseball Umpires' Association and it is expected that among the new members will be two from Leeds. The umpires are well-organised in Yorkshire, and take regular grading tests before reaching the "top rank."

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE'S FIVE

This season's Birmingham League contains five teams: Allens Cross, Beavers, Birlec, Dunlop and Valor. Unfortunately Wolseley are not competing, but are hoping to arrange games in the near future when they have trained new players.

In the first two weeks Dunlop beat Birlec 24—10 and Beavers pipped Valor by one run (10—9), but rain has seriously curtailed the programme.

Ross Kendrick as Chairman

We were pleased to hear that Ross Kendrick has become Chairman of the League. Ross had lots of experience on the diamond with various clubs before and after the war, and his services will be invaluable. Mr. Wheatcroft is acting as Hon. Sec. pro tem.

NOTTINGHAM LEAGUE'S SIX

Mr. T. O. Harvey is again Hon. Secretary of the Nottingham League with Mr. E. W. Yates as Chairman.

The League contains six clubs: Athletics, Braves, Dodgers, Leicester, R.C.A.F. (Langar) and Senators. It had been expected that Langar would not be competing this year owing to the moving of their personnel, but the team has been reconstituted and should again be a major threat for honours. Leicester B.C. are also becoming strongly established after first-season difficulties and should do better this season.

Leagues meet on Whit-Monday

The Notts League will be playing the Birmingham League in Nottingham on Whit Monday and visit Brum for a return later in the season.

Newcomers in Hull League

Hull League officials for this season are Messrs. Walter Conyers (Chairman) and George Hancock (Hon. Secretary), who will be supported by a committee that has had much to do with the progress of baseball in the Hull area.

The Hull League will again consist of two Sections this season, these being:

Section A: East Hull Aces "A", Giants, Hull Royals, Pirates, Priestman Panthers and Reckitts Robins.

Section B: Eagles, East Hull Aces "B", Fenners and Newland Tigers.

The three last-mentioned are new teams and it is pleasing to see these sides in being; the Aces (now in their seventh season) have made great progress by starting a second side.

It will be interesting to see how the Robins fare in the upper section, for they were undefeated in Section "B" last year.

LEEDS GOING AHEAD WITH INTER-CITY FIXTURES

Former Hull and Essex Pitcher as Manager

The game is going well ahead in Leeds, where the local club is now known as the Lions and is managed by former Hull and Essex player "Red" Holmes. They are associate members of the Hull League, and have arranged a comprehensive programme of inter-city games including fixtures against East Hull Aces, Hull Eagles, Nottingham Royals and Liverpool Cubs.

The Lions are taking part in a two-leg match with East Hull Aces for the Armstrong Trophy, presented by Mr. R. Armstrong. The Aces took two bus-loads of supporters to Leeds for the first leg on May 1st (winning 9—7 in an exciting game shortened to five innings by the weather) and the Lions will have a similar load of followers with them at Craven Park on Whit Monday for the return game.

News from the West

The organisation of the Western Association is in the same hands as last season with Col. Maxim Joubert as Area Director, Mr. Dennis Spicer as Chairman and Mrs. Enid Spicer as Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Spicer is also Hon. Secretary of the Western League with Mr. C. A. Richardson as Chairman.

Coronation Pennant Game

As a result of last season's 4—0 win over the South Eastern Counties at Mitcham Stadium, the Western Association hold the Coronation Pennant. The Associations expect to meet again in July for this season's tussle, and as the South East won the 1953 fixture by 4—3 the 1955 game will be in the nature of a decider.

Western League Six

COMETS JOIN

The number of teams in the Western League is the same as last season, although De Havilland Comets have taken the place of Epsom Lions. Opening games have brought Dulwich Bluejays and last season's champions—Sutton Beavers—to the head of the table, and it is the surprise of the 1955 schedule to find Bluejoys in such a prominent place. They had early doubts about their side, but have now proved to be a very useful combination that has gained convincing wins.

Newcomers, D.H. Comets, have found the going rather difficult, but news from Chairman Harry Fisher, is that they have a stronger line-up than last season and expect to do better.

Western League Results

Mitcham Royals .	8	Sutton Beavers ...	18
Wokingham M. .	6	Dulwich Blue. ...	9
D.H. Comets ...	4	Mitcham Tigers .	16
Mitcham Royals .	8	Dulwich Blue. ...	28
Sutton Beavers ...	40	Mitcham Tigers .	3
D.H. Comets ...	4	Wokingham M. .	8
Dulwich Blue. ...	9	D.H. Comets ...	0
Sutton Beavers ...	18	Wokingham M. .	0
Mitcham Tigers .	3	Mitcham Royals .	5

Table (inc. May 15)

	P	*W*	*L*
Dulwich Bluejays	3	3	0
Sutton Beavers	3	3	0
Mitcham Royals	3	1	2
Mitcham Tigers	3	1	2
Wokingham Monarchs ...	3	1	2
De Havilland Comets ...	3	0	3

Minor League under way

The Western Minor League is being organised by Hon. Secretary H. T. G. Smith, and although at present only Mitcham Tigers, Mitcham Royals and Sutton Beavers have teams in the field, it is possible that other Western clubs will be putting sides into the tournament.

FINAL POSITIONS FOR 1954

MIDLAND COUNTIES

MIDLAND COUNTIES CUP
RCAF North Luffenham defeated USAF Wellingborough in Final.

Birmingham League

Division I	P	W	%
Valor	8	7	875
Wellingborough USAF	8	7	875
Allen's Cross	8	4	500
Dunlop Tigers	8	4	500
Beavers	8	0	—

Wellingborough beat Valor by 5—4 in play-off for championship.

Division II	P	W	%
Pirates	6	6	1000
Dunlop Eagles	6	3	500
Wolseley	6	2	333
Birlec Dodgers	6	1	167

Division II Cup: Pirates.

Nottingham League

	P	W	%
R.C.A.F. Luffenham	12	11	916
Dodgers	12	11	916
R.C.A.F. Langar	12	7	583
Athletics	12	6	500
Braves	12	3	250
Leicester	12	2	167
Senators	12	2	167

RCAF North Luffenham beat Dodgers in play-off.

NOTTINGHAM CUP
Luff'm RCAF ... 22 Athletics ... 1

YORKSHIRE

A. BAYNES CUP
Kingston Dia. ... 1 Leeds 3

Hull League

Division A	P	W	%
Giants	10	9	900
Hull Royals	9	6	667
East Hull Aces	10	6	600
Pirates	10	4	400
Priestman Panthers	9	3	333
Eagles	9	0	—

Division B	P	W	%
Reckitts Robins	6	6	1000
Kingston Diamonds	6	3½	583
Maybury Y.C.	6	1½	250
Wold Road S.C.	6	1	167

HULL DISTRICT CUP FINAL
East Hull Aces ... 12 Pirates 8

BRITISH LEGION TROPHY
Hull Royals ... 8 Giants 3

SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES

SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES CUP
Briggs Brigands . 16 Essex Nationals . 8

South Eastern League

Senior Division	P	W	%
Briggs Brigands	14	12	857
Essex Nationals	14	11	785
Thames Board Mills	14	10	714
Kodak	14	9	643
Hornsey Athletics	14	6	428
Dagenham Royals	14	4	285
Ford Sports	14	4	285
Aveley Cubs	14	0	—

Division I	P	W	%
Snowdown Magpies	8	8	1000
Briggs Tigers	8	6	750
Queens Park Aces	8	4	500
De Havilland Comets	8	2	250
Southend Buffaloes	8	0	—

S.E. LEAGUE SENIOR CUP
Briggs Brigands . 9 Thames B.M. ... 0

S.E. LEAGUE INTERMEDIATE CUP
Queens Park Aces 11 Briggs Tigers ... 8

S.E. LEAGUE INVITATION TOURNAMENT
D.H. Comets ... 14 Aveley Cubs ... 13

WESTERN COUNTIES

WESTERN COUNTIES CUP
Wokingham M. . 6 Tigers 4

NOAKES CUP
Wokingham M. . 5 Sutton Beavers ... 4

Western League

	P	W	%
Sutton Beavers	15	13	867
Epsom Lions	15	12	800
Tigers (Mitcham)	15	10	667
Mitcham Royals	14	5	356
Wokingham Monarchs	13	3	230
Dulwich Bluejays ...	14	1	071

Western Minor League

	P	W	%
Sutton Beavers	12	9½	791
Tigers (Mitcham)	12	9	750
Epsom Lions	12	3	250
Mitcham Royals	12	2½	209

MINOR LEAGUE TOURNAMENT
Sutton Beavers beat Tigers by 10—9 in play-off.