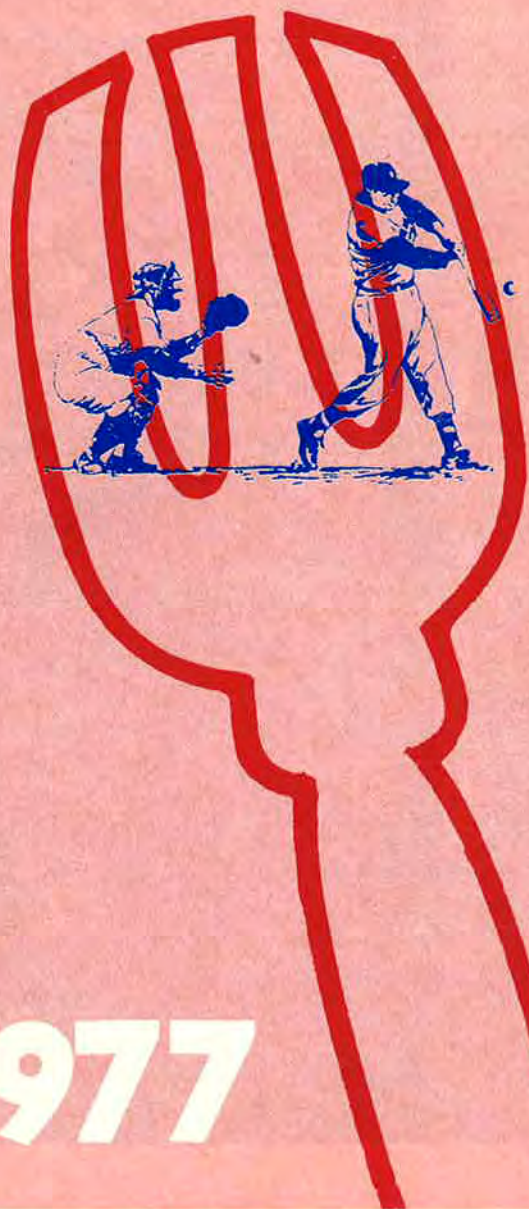


 **Mattessons**



**Yankees'
National
Baseball
League**

1977

ABF



BRITISH AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION

ainba and ceba affiliated

Office:-

197 NEWBRIDGE ROAD — HULL
NORTH HUMBERSIDE

Telephone Hull (std 0482) 76169

Please reply to:-

The introduction of the Mattessons Yankee League is a very important landmark in the movement in the English baseball world to make the game once again a major spectator sport.

In the U.K., Baseball has reached several peaks, especially at the turn of the century, in the late 1930's and in the mid 1950's, when there were several hundred teams and over 50 teams in the Greater London area alone, but unfortunately all of these movements were frustrated by the lack of playing facilities and little junior level provision for coaching.

In recent years all that has changed and once again interest in the game is on the increase. Indeed, one sporting authority has gone so far as to suggest that it may even supercede cricket as the major national summer game!

Determined not to get involved in matters of that kind, which touch individual beliefs and feelings almost as intensely as religion, I can only say that if this is your first taste of baseball, you will find it, after perhaps some initial perplexity, an exciting and skillful game to follow. For those of you who are already enthusiasts, I can promise that the Mattessons Yankee League provides a unique chance in this country to see a very high standard of baseball. I would like to thank Mattessons for their faith in our sport and I feel certain that everybody who is involved in the 1977 Yankee League, whether as spectator, player or organiser, is taking part in a crucial event in English baseball history.

DON SMALLWOOD
President
British Amateur Baseball Federation

A History of Baseball

Baseball is probably English in origin, and the first known historical reference to the word "baseball" appears in a small English work on children's games printed in 1734. "A Little Pretty Pocket Book", and shows a woodcut group of youngsters depicted playing "baseball". This was an evolutionary development of a game called "stoolball" or "rounders" that emigrated with the Pilgrim Fathers to the American colonies, long before the birth of General Abner Doubleday of Cooperstown, New York, the man who most Americans revere as "father of the game".

In fact, there is some hint that Doubleday was not an American by birth and that he was born in Oxfordshire. For a long time after Doubleday the game remained in a state of flux, and it took a long time for irregular practices to be abolished — such as the use of any type of bat or ball, rubbing the ball on spikes, buckles, emery cloth, or blackening the ball with tobacco juice, etc. Right up until the American National League was founded in 1876, veterans regarded the use of gloves, chest protectors, wire masks and shin guards as veritable signs of degeneracy. In fact, they dubbed gloves as "pillows", showing off their gnarled hands as evidence of real toughness. Organised baseball in Great Britain dates back to 1874, when a touring American team made its debut at no less a national shrine than Lords. Played in 40 countries, the game gets considerable support in Europe, especially in Italy and Holland, but in the United Kingdom it is only just beginning to gather momentum after several false starts in the first years of this century, the late 30's and in the mid 50's. The advent of the Mattessons Yankee League is an important milestone in the history of English baseball, indicating that the game is at last ready for commercial sponsorship. In passing it should be noted that Yankees' is no acknowledgement of American origins of the game, but a reference to the celebrated hot dog sausage of that name made by Mattessons.

HOW THE MATTESSONS YANKEES' LEAGUE WORKS

Four teams representing the best players from each of the four regional leagues that make up the British Amateur Baseball Federation will take part in the Mattessons Yankees' League.

The winner of the League will be established on a points basis. The points will be accumulated during the twelve games that make up the League fixture list. The points system is very simple - 2 points for a win and 1 point for a no result.

The winners of the League will receive the Mattessons Trophy to be kept by the winning team for one year. Each winning team member will also receive a replica to be kept and the outstanding player in each game will receive a "Man of the Match" award.

HUMBERSIDE

Baseball has for many years enjoyed popularity in the Humberside Area, pre war the Hull professional side attracted thousands to Craven Park and the pitcher 'Lefty' Wilson is still remembered by many. At that time Hull and District Amateur Baseball League had around sixty teams drawn from all walks of life and Hull Schools were very active. Since the war the sport hasn't reached back to those halcyon days but these last two years have seen another upsurge of interest. Hull boasts the only two American designed cut-out diamonds in the Country which are the homes of Hull Aces and Hull Royals, both of these clubs have carved a name in British Baseball. Hull Aces in the sixties captured the British Championship no fewer than three times and represented Great Britain in Holland and Germany. Hull juniors are now very organised and recently beat the American Servicemens Juniors.

If you are interested in taking an active part please contact:-

Seniors:- Mrs. D. Megson, 'Doreli', Station Road, Burstwick, N. Humberside

Juniors:- Mr. W. Jewitt, 25, Thanet Road, Bilton Grange, Hull, N. Humberside

Schools:- Mr. T. Williams, 24, Farndale Grove, Southcoates Lane, Hull, N. Humberside

MIDLANDS

In 1948 both Nottingham and Birmingham had thriving baseball competition with teams comprised principally of American and Canadian servicemen. As the bases closed and the teams dwindled the game went into a recession as in other parts of the Country. The Nottingham Lions (then called Nottingham Athletic) and the Bromsgrove Dodgers managed to carry on having to travel to Merseyside and Humberside for competition. The Nottingham baseball and Softball Association, which runs the Midland League was founded in 1974 and four Nottingham teams plus one in Corby, Northants have started the revival. Junior baseball for boys between 11 and 16 got under way on a league basis in 1977 and is already proving a success.

For further information please contact:-

Mr. S.M. Williams, 61, Portree Drive, Rise Park, Nottingham

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THE MATTESSON YANKEES' BASEBALL LEAGUE 1977

TEAM NAME

302

MIDLAND

STARTING LINE UP

Position

Pitcher 12/10

Catcher 3

1st Base 10/11

2nd Base 13

3rd Base 6

Short Stop 7

Centre Field 5

Left Field 1

Right Field 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10			✓		3.0			6.9	7.0
133			0.5			P.1		3.0	0.5
650				3		P.2		P.2	
90	11/30	1/1	20		C.0	0/1		25.0	3
	1 30		0.0		0/4	0.0		25.0	
	4 30		0.0		0/4	0.0		25.0	
	0/0	3.0	0.0		0/4	0.0		25.0	
	5.0	0/1	0.0		0.0			3	
	7				0/1			25.0	

513

TEAM NAME

SOUTHERN

STARTING LINE UP

Position

Pitcher 12

Catcher 13

1st Base 2

2nd Base 1

3rd Base 51

Short Stop 15

Centre Field 8

Left Field 9

Right Field 7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	2.50	C.0	X	P.1			6.0		
20	0/2		P.2	C.0		1.5	2/7	P.1	0.0
90			1	2.4		P.1	1/5	0.0	0/15
100		C.0					C.0	0.0	
131		C.0					X	0	
5130		0/1	X		P.0		C.0	X	
60	12.0		5.0	0/1	0.0	0.0	3	0	
	9.0				0.0		3	0	
	15.0						0	1	0

1977 LEAGUE SCHEDULE

29 May Southern All-Stars v Merseyside All-Stars
Humberside All-Stars v Midland All-Stars

12 Jun Midland All-Stars v Southern All-Stars
Merseyside All-Stars v Humberside All-Stars

26 Jun Southern All-Stars v Midland All-Stars
Humberside All-Stars v Merseyside All-Stars

3 Jul Merseyside All-Stars v Midlands All-Stars
Southern All-Stars v Humberside All-Stars

17 Jul Midlands All-Stars v Humberside All-Stars
Merseyside All-Stars v Southern All-Stars

14 Aug Midlands All-Stars v Merseyside All-Stars
Humberside All-Stars v Southern All-Stars

13

MERSEYSIDE

Merseyside formed its first baseball league in the 1920's steadily growing in strength up to a peak immediately before the War. At that time apart from the thriving league there was a semi professional side – The Giants. During the war there was an American forces league based at Goodison Park. The league continued for another decade with two divisions in the Manchester area. In common with other areas there has been a renewal of interest and teams from the region have won the National Club Championship in the last two years.

For further information please contact:-

Southport Bootleggers	Sec. J. Bennett	Southport 40933
Aintree Indians	Sec. S. Williams	051-521 1087
Trojan Red Sox	Sec. C. Bolton	051-226 6491
Lucas Royals	Sec. P. Van Holt	051-546 9574
Skelmesdale Tigers	Sec. A. Foster	Skelmesdale 23979
Liverpool Trojans	Sec. C. Bolton	051-226 6491
Ladies Softball League	Sec. Mrs. C. Ainsworth	Marshalls Cross 814687

SOUTH

Baseball in the London area started its present phase of development immediately after the war when 50 teams played in and around the London area. Most of these had a large American influence but there was a good percentage of English players in all teams in the Southern baseball league, with an American team playing games against European opposition at the Wasps rugby ground, Wembley. There are also a couple of teams of our Latin American friends playing within the London area.

This year's all star team is managed by Terry Warner, an expert England manager and ex-England team pitcher. His assistant and chief coach, Albert Wright was the predecessor to the current England team manager, Bill Casey. The teams in the Southern baseball league are:-

Golders Green Socks

Thames Board Mills Raiders

Sutton Braves

Crawley Giants

Wokingham Monarchs

Spirit of 76

The Cuban Embassy

INTRODUCING BASEBALL

A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE GAME OF BASEBALL

The object of the game is to score runs by going round the bases before three men are out. A full *game* consists of nine innings for each team. An innings ends when three men of the batting side are out. When any man crosses home plate he scores a run. Running can go on almost any time as the ball does not go dead. A *strike* is a ball thrown by the pitcher that passes over the *home-plate* between the batters knees and arm-pits. A *ball* is called when a pitched ball is outside that area. After *three strikes* the batter is put out but if the pitcher throws *four balls* the batter walks to first base. If a batter is hit by the ball he also walks to first base. A *fair hit* is one that flies over or settles on fair ground, that is inside the *foul lines*. Outside these lines is a *foul ball* which the umpire will call. A batter becomes a *base-runner* when a fair hit is made or a walk is given. A baserunner is out if the ball reaches first base before him, at second third and home-plate the runner must be touched with the ball held by the fielder *except* when forced to advance. On a catch the baserunner cannot advance from his base until after the catch is made.



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