

Hull Aces National League fixtures are attracting a greater number of spectators each week, and among the crowds are ex-players, ex-umpires, and ex-officials who gave up the fight. If we can bring one person back into the game to help with administration, then the National League will have justified itself, because in administration, our area is very short of people willing to devote a few hours each week to the furtherance of the game. Mr. H. McAvan comes under a lot of fire when things go wrong in Hull baseball. Being Hon. Secretary, Mac must bear the brunt of these attacks, but his critics would be much better employed in relieving him of some of the administrative burden.

Summing up, everyone must be pleased with the new young players popping-up in all Hull teams, and also with the increase in interest shown by the sporting public. We seem to have halted the slide of our game into oblivion.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Belgium v. Netherlands, Ascension Day game, played at Antwerp, resulted in a win for the Netherlands by a score of 2 - 0. This was the Netherlands 28th. victory in the 35 games played between the two countries. Both Netherlands' run were the result of Belgian errors.

On the same day, the Netherlands beat Belgium 11 - 3 in a youth international.

The Babe Ruth League World Series will this year, for the first time, include an entry from Europe. This entrant will be decided by a play-off between the European Native champions, and the European U.S. Services champions.

Earlier in the year, the Spanish Baseball Federation had the pleasure of welcoming the 1963 U.S.A.F. European Baseball School to Madrid. This school has been held at Wiesbaden, West Germany, in former years. The Americans acting as instructors were Eric Tipton, coach at the U.S. Military Academy, A.L. umpire John Rice, Chuck Hinton, Senators' outfielder, Ron Hansen, White Sox short-stop, and Bubba Church, who pitched for several major-league clubs.



BASEBALL

Courier

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THE TRIMNELL PIRATES by John Varnam.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS by George Livsley.

League standings on Friday 7th. June.

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

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

YOUTH BASEBALL by Lionel Blandford.

The Babe Ruth League programme for boys aged 13 to 15 years, long established in the U.S.A. is now rapidly extending to all corners of the globe. With upwards of 200,000 boys participating throughout the world, it is by far the largest baseball organisation in its age group.

With the many American airmen and their families stationed in this country, it was inevitable that a programme would be provided for the youngsters, and bases throughout Britain started their own local Babe Ruth Leagues. In 1956, the London Area organised a very comprehensive programme of both Babe Ruth and Little League (9 to 12 years) and invited British youngsters to take part.

It was unfortunate that many local British authorities were very prejudiced in favour of cricket and gave little or no help in encouraging this good relationship between nations. Indeed, it is pathetic that even now this petty prejudice still exists.

Nevertheless, quite considerable interest was shown and many British youngsters were included in the American teams and given excellent training. It is significant that the following season, thanks to American training and equipment, an independent all-British team, Ruislip Dodgers, entered the competition and proceeded to go from strength to strength.

The British Babe Ruth team, were of course, several years behind their American opponents and consequently lacked the experience to finish too highly in the honours list. But their younger brothers in the Little League created something of a sensation by becoming three times in succession runners-up for the London Area Championship.

During the 1962 season, two members of the British Dodgers, Roger Applebee and Dave Baird, were selected for the London Area All-Stars who went on to win the British Championship. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the European Championship in Karlsruhe, Germany, by Munich the ultimate winners. In the Little League, the British team captain, hard-throwing pitcher, Rob Baird, played for the All-Stars who also took the British Championship. They went even further than the Babe Ruth lads and were only beaten 7-5 in the final by France, the European Champions.

It is to be hoped that an all-British boys' team will, before too long, win the American sponsored Babe Ruth and Little League Championships in this country and, who knows, America too!

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Subscriptions and all other correspondence must be addressed to William T.Morgan, 11 Heath Street, Riverside, Cardiff

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The Merseyside National Baseball League has arranged a link-up with the Universal Sports Corporation of New York, this arrangement appoints the Merseyside League as sole distributor of Rawlings equipment to British clubs. The Merseyside League has already imported a quantity of fielders gloves at prices ranging from 65/- to 110/-. Several sets of uniforms have already been supplied to clubs under this arrangement.

For prices of all items of equipment, clubs are invited to write to Mr.P.Hemmings, 62 Heathfield Road, Liverpool 15.

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MERSEYSIDE NOTES by W.T.Morgan.

The League has received the best tonic for some years by the inclusion of the Mormon Yankees. The Mormon boys, who are a fine bunch of ballplayers, are giving the other clubs something to aim at. At the time of writing the Yankees had won all their games. They had played an exhibition game against the Rest of the League, and had provided the battery and the keystone pair of the Merseyside All-Star team which played the Alconbury Spartans on Whit-Monday.

This game which saw the Spartans win by a score of 10 - 2, was marred by early errors on the part of the All-Star 3rd. baseman, and the All-Star centre-fielder. The Spartans thus built up a commanding lead early in the game, and the excitement largely vanished. For the Spartans, Marvin Drury, a stylish left-hander, gave an excellent pitching performance in long-relief. Their lead-off man and centre-fielder, Danny Fraser, entertained by his tremendous speed of foot and a few comic interludes. To see Fraser push a bunt towards third, and hare away to first, was well worth the price of admission. Elder McLelland, also a south-paw, went the distance on the mound for the All-Stars.

The Chatham Sheetahs, the newly formed youth team, did not appear in the later stages of their training to be strong enough to compete on a serious basis in the league competition. Their fixtures therefore do not carry any league points.

The Burtonwood (U.S.A.F.) Comets, the other new entry, are

unfortunately a very weak side. They have two ballplayers, Don Palin, a pitcher, and Mike Herd who plays the outfield and at shortstop. Herd is also a great hitter. The catcher appears to know what the game is about, but the rest of the team, that I had the misfortune to see playing the Stretford Saints on Whit-Sunday, are as raw an outfit as I have ever seen. Palin had a sore arm, so Herd had to pitch.

This game produced the biggest score by one team, and the largest combined score that I have ever witnessed. Stretford won 37 - 15. Stretford made a number of errors, the most costly being wild throws to first. The Comets made almost every error imaginable. An unusual play occurred, when with Comet base-runners on 2nd. and 3rd., the runner on 2nd. decided to steal 3rd., the occupant of that bag was most surprised to find that another runner was sharing it with him.

Due to administrative muddle the Comets have received a set of softball uniforms from the States, this makes a bad team look even worse, as the Aces, Yankees, and Stretford are very smartly uniformed clubs.

The Cubs, perennially the weak sisters of the league, can take heart, as with the inclusion of the Comets, whom they have already beaten, they have a grand opportunity of finishing out of the Cellar this season. Ted Lambe, the Cubs' secretary and hard working catcher, is a real enthusiast. For a number of seasons he has worked tirelessly to build-up the Cubs but without success. Each season he has to start coaching novices. The team that I saw lose to the Yankees 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2, contained Lambe, a good catcher even though he is 42, three veteran ballplayers who either could not, or would not hustle, and a bunch of youngsters who were no ballplayers.

The Tigers, league champions in 1960, 61, and 62, and B.B.F. Cup winners in 62, are suffering from a depleted playing strength, and have had the utmost difficulty in fielding nine men for some games.

The Aces have beaten the Tigers in two league games by scores of 9 - 7, and 6 - 4, They have lost twice to the Yankees, a league game by 27 - 6, and an N.B.C. Trophy game by 5 - 3. Acquisitions this season are Alan Williams, the league's fastest pitcher, and Fred Moore, who plays short-stop or centre-field. Brian Stredder, Aces leading hitter, and the league's first choice at first-base, was regrettably unable to appear against Alconbury, as his wife was critically ill. Alan Williams pitched the first game against the Yankees, but that club just relishes fast-ball pitching as their 27 run score indicates.

THE SOUTHERN SCENE by W.T.Morgan.

Alan Aley, former secretary of Essex Tigers, is now team coach to Southend Aces, whose home ground is at Leigh-on-Sea, some two miles from Southend. When Alan joined the club in February of this year, the players who had only one year's experience were a bit green, but training, lectures, and hard work has improved them tremendously. Aces are a hard hitting team, and Jeff Klein, the club secretary, opened the season by hitting a home-run against Harlow Hustlers. Aces won this game 16 - 10.

Aces are strong in pitching with the services of Bob, and Ron Bellamy. Old stalwart Bob Buckle can always be relied on for strike-outs whenever he throws his curves. Aces have strengthened their team by the signing of Roger Senior, who has had considerable experience as a ballplayer in Southern Rhodesia. Roger's catching, and good hitting ability will aid Aces immensely.

The highlight of the S.B.A. season, the international game between the South of England, and the U.S. Navy, resulted in a win for the South of England by 8 - 7. The game, played on the Crystal Palace F.C. ground on 26th. May, was the best staged game that I have ever seen in Britain. I must compliment the S.B.A., on the manner in which they presented this game, if all important games played in Britain were presented as well as this one, then baseball would win support from the ranks of those who might only attend such a contest out of curiosity.

The game could have been better publicised, but I appreciate the difficulty of obtaining greater publicity for a sport with such little popular support in Britain. All the more regrettable is it, that not all Southern clubs made use of the window posters which the publicity committee made available.

Both teams were smartly and uniformly clad, the game commenced at the advertised time, after a short opening ceremony in which the two national anthems were played, and in which the players lined up and were introduced to Capt. H.D.Fuller, Commander U.S. Naval Activities, U.K., and to the Deputy Mayor of Croydon.

South of England	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	=	8
U.S. Navy	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	=	7.

The Editor would like to hear from correspondents prepared to supply news of all baseball activities in the Midlands and the South.

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HULL REPORT from Don Smallwood.

The 1963 season already shows signs of being an improvement on last year. First pointer to this is the increase in the number of spectators. It is now up to the clubs to present the game in the best possible way. I realise that all clubs are on a tight budget, but it costs nothing to run onto the diamond after each frame. Another fault in previous seasons has been that of players turning out in any old dress, even although their clubs have provided uniforms. Good presentation isn't a substitute for good baseball, but the appearance of a team leaves a lasting impression on new spectators to our game.

Hull Braves won the newly introduced Hull League Consolation Trophy, beating Blackburn Buccaneers 15 - 9, and Braves knocked-out the Buccaneers 14 - 4, in a preliminary round of the B.B.F. Cup. There are new faces in Braves line-up this season, and they look like making a big impression. The shock of the season was the defeat of East Hull Aces by Hull Royals 4 - 3, on Whit-Saturday. The game went to ten frames, and if this is to be the pattern of games between these old rivals there is bound to be fireworks. Aces went through their 1962 Hull League campaign without defeat, and now they fall at the very first hurdle. This must have been a wonderful tonic to Royals. Royals' captain and catcher Brian Lamb displayed his feelings by almost throwing his mitt into orbit at the end. This is what Hull baseball needs, and I'm sure it will bring a new spirit into all league games this season.

Highlight of the new season was the three day visit by U.S.A.F. Lakenheath, who are at present leading the U.S.A.F. United Kingdom League. They have completed the double over last year's champions Alconbury Spartans, and at present have a team batting average of .303. On Whit-Sunday they met Aces and drew a big crowd. They didn't disappoint anyone. They showed us everything in the book, and some plays not in the book, the final score was Lakenheath 21 - Aces 2. For Whit-Monday's game, the Hull League revived the All-Star team, and they extended Lakenheath to 5 - 1, in an excellent game. Having seen the success of the All-Star team, Hull League officials are planning a series of fixtures. Once again it was proved that the Americans draw the crowds, and they can be a great factor in bringing our sport into prominence. They left behind them a wonderful feeling of friendliness, and a genuine hope that baseball does become a major sport in Britain.