

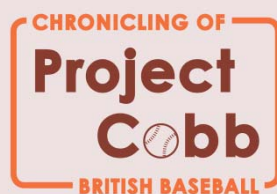
# BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 23

<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/mercury.html>

December 1979

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# BASEBALL

## Mercury.

No. 23. DECEMBER 1979.

### MERSEYSIDE 1979 by Norman Wells.

The final chapter of the 1979 season was not enacted, until September 30th., when our committee decreed that the Trojans and Tigers would "play off" to decide the league title, both teams having finished on equal terms. This game proved to be as thrilling as any game played during the season, and was played under near "Arctic" conditions.

Tigers were leading through runs scored in the third and fifth innings, until Arthur Bolton hit a home run, scoring A. Campbell, to level the score in the seventh inning. Tigers went ahead in the seventh, the result of an outfield error, and but for an absolutely brilliant catch by Alan Campbell at 2nd., would have increased their score by at least two more runs.

Trojans went into bat in the top of the ninth and struggled to get two men on base, A. Bolton reached first on an infield error, scoring A. Campbell. Norm. Wells sacrificed to score Brian Bretherton for what turned out to be the winning run. As Tigers went three up, three down in the bottom of the ninth; Trojans came out League winners with a score of 4 - 3.

This must be some sort of "first", winning the League championship in the ninth inning of the "play off" by one run.

As for the rest of the trophy winners - Tigers clinched the Lancashire Cup. Trojans took the Artco, and the Robertson Trophies. Trojans also won the Humberside League, and were semi-finalists in the National Cup.

The 1979 season had been one of great experience for the Trojans, as they had played and truly competed against foreign opposition in Amsterdam and at Hull; also appearing, although not as a team, versus Brockport University (U.S.A.).

The League has yet to name its individual awards, as these are kept secret until the presentation dance.

All in all, the 1979 season on Merseyside would have gone down as a rather unspectacular one, had it not been for the Trojans participation in other areas.

The Inter-Area All-Star League team won only one game in 1979, finishing last; a marked contrast from 1978 when we finished top. It would appear that in our area, All-Star selections and appearances do not hold too much glamour. The accent is obviously on performance for one's club.

Our League committee considers that we must set this to rights! We are of the opinion that there must be more incentive and challenge to being selected for an Area All-Star team. At the moment it is a case of who can we get to travel. With this problem in mind, we will be most interested and concerned to find out which way the Inter-Area All-Star Championship will operate in 1980.

At present things look brighter for 1980 than they were in 1979. A young American, Bob Tune, has formed a new club which will register as Skelmersdale Cardinals. The Southport Bootleggers are re-organising under the name of Southport Monarchs. Liverpool Tigers are gaining in strength, and have new uniforms. Liverpool Trojans are happily anticipating the full return of Jim Kewley, and Stan Windross. Trojans have also signed a Japanese, and we hope to make contact with Japanese living in the Northwest next season.

Trojans have also accepted an invitation to play in an international tournament in Antwerp next June.

The Merseyside American Baseball League are also hoping to have a team of

Mormon missionaries competing in 1980.

During the past month there has been a very determined attempt to form a Merseyside Veterans Club. Two meetings have already been held under the chairmanship of Harry Kenyon, with Bill Sturgeon acting as secretary. Nineteen people have agreed to participate. Some of these are have become veterans only recently. Uniforms are being organised.

The aim of this group is to play games correctly uniformed and to set an example to all in the way a club should conduct itself both on and off the field. Initially they plan to play friendly games versus each of the clubs in the Merseyside American Baseball League. The group has asked me to issue a challenge on their behalf to the other areas in membership of the B.A.B.S.F. to form similar clubs, and to participate in a Veterans Inter-Area Championship. Optimistically, they feel that depending on initial practices and performances, entry into the Merseyside League may be possible.

The concept of a Veterans Baseball Club has certainly caught the interest of the local press. Despite the soccer season being in full swing, the Vets. have had a fair amount of publicity, including a report on Radio Merseyside.

I am overjoyed to see so many "old faces", some of them ex-team mates, return to the baseball scene. Who knows, with a fresh revival of interest we may produce even more teams, and dare I say it "Umpires"!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### B.A.B.S.F. SENIOR FINAL 1979 by Brian Holland.

Golders Green Sox 9 - Hull Aces 7, this game was what baseball is all about, excitement, close score, plenty of runs, and of course, home runs. This final had everything.

The neighbours of Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham must have wondered what was going on when they heard the noise the fans in the stand were making. They must have an idea of what Wembley sounds like on Cup Final Day.

The Aces put the first run on the scoreboard in the second inning when their pitcher Peter Darnell reached second base on a throwing error by Iso. Soon after Darnell stole third. B. Head later reached first with a walk, and whilst he was involved in a run-down between first and second, Darnell crossed the plate to make it 1 - 0.

That was the last Hull player to get past first base for the next six innings, due to some fine pitching from Golders Green's Jim Minkkenen. In fact the next twelve batters he faced went down in order.

In the fifth inning the Green Sox broke their run drought. Pete Binns drew a walk, and was followed by Brad Thompson who sent his second pitch over the right-centre field fence for a two run homer.

Green Sox's next run came in the seventh after Minkkenen reached second with the aid of an error from J. Read. Minkkenen scored when Lee Pierce clouted the ball to deep left field for a two base hit.

Another Hull error helped Golders Green to score another run in the eighth inning. This time Jim Neffendorf arrived at second base thanks to the miscue. He was followed by Tim Claffey who singled to left enabling Neffendorf to score.

As the game went into the ninth inning and Green Sox were holding a 4 - 1 lead, they must have thought they had the game wrapped up. No way! It was their turn to commit the errors. They also made some changes in the field that almost cost them the game.

Frank Parker led off for the Aces. He got to first base after the Golders Green third baseman, Cyrus Cooper, threw the ball over the first baseman's head. Johnson followed with a walk. Terry Jarvis singled, allowing Parker to score. Johnson scored after Cooper threw another ball over the head of Mark Savage. B. Head singled, sending Darnell to third. Darnell put Hull back in the lead, when he scored in front of an unsuccessful tag at the plate.

Binns started the Green Sox ninth with a single, and was forced at second by Minkkenen. Then Pierce came to bat. This time he hit a ground rule triple to tie the score.

Going into the tenth, Golders Green made another change that nearly lost them the game. They brought on Savage in relief of Minkkenen who went to first base. The first batter that Savage faced, Johnson, survived a dropped fly ball in left field. Then Jarvis lifted a fly ball to left. This time the fielder caught it. Johnson then scored off a ground rule triple by Darnell.

Had he won this game for himself? Darnell must have thought so as he stood at third base, and watched Savage walk the next two batters to load the bases.

Back came Minkkenen to the mound. He struck out the next two batters to finish the inning.

Claffey singled in the bottom of the inning. Again the Green Sox' spirits were lifted. Savage grounded to the Hull shortstop, who made an unsuccessful attempt to throw Claffey out at the plate. Again the score was tied, 6 - 6.

Back came Hull Aces to try and finish off the Green Sox. Charles Trevor led off with a walk. Johnson grounded to the pitcher who threw to Iso at shortstop to force out Trevor. In trying to get a double play Iso threw wild-ly to first, enabling Johnson to reach second. Yet again Hull took the lead when Jarvis singled and Johnson crossed the plate.

Green Sox' turn. By this time Darnell must have been getting tired, having already pitched ten innings.

Thompson greeted Darnell's eleventh inning with a single. Along came Minkkenen to hit a three bagger to tie the score. Next to bat was Pierce. He took the count to 3 and 1 before he hit the ball over the right field fence for a two run homer, and put an end to this thriller.

After the game Golders Green Sox were presented with the National Cup, and the Wilkinson Sword Trophy. The presentations being made by Ray Yeomans, sports writer on the Nottingham Evening Post.

Green Sox pitcher Jim Minkkenen was voted Most Valuable Player of the game.

It's a pity we don't have tied games in baseball. Nobody deserved to lose this game. Both teams put on a great afternoon's entertainment for the crowd.

\* \* \* \* \*

BRITISH INTER-AREA CHAMPIONSHIP 1979.

Final Standings.  
(After Play-off)

	Won	Lost	%	Games Behind.
South	5	2	.714	-
Midlands	4	3	.571	1
Humberside	3	3	.500	1½
Merseyside	1	5	.167	3½

\* \* \* \* \*

SOUTHERN BASEBALL LEAGUE.

Final Standings.

	Won	Lost	%	Games Behind.
Golders Green Sox	10	2	.833	-
Crawley Giants	7	4	.636	2½
Croydon Bluejays	7	5	.583	3
Sutton Braves	7	5	.583	3
Wokingham Monarchs	5	6	.455	4½
Thames Board Mills	5	7	.417	5
Regents Park Eagles	0	12	.000	10

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MIDLANDS 1979 by S. Williams.

SENIOR LEAGUE

FINAL PLACINGS

	Pl.	Won.	Lost	Points.
Bromsgrove Dodgers	6	6	0	12
Southglade Hornets	8	6	2	12
Top Valley Tigers	6	2	4	4
Perry Bar Hawks	6	1	5	2
Pressac Panthers	4	0	4	0

Player of the year in the Senior League was Steve Frost, first baseman and up-and-coming pitcher of Hornets. Top batter was Tony Mee with .515 average, Mee is also a Hornets' player.

The Junior Player of the year was Ian Ashford of Tigers.

The Junior Nottingham Lions Challenge Trophy was won by Humberside. In a

three-cornered tournament they had a bye to the final. Midlands played Mersey -side and won 13 - 2.

The final produced a very tight game, both teams scoring one run in the first inning, which is how the game stood at the top of the sixth and final inning. Midlands failed to score and Humberside managed to pull the game out of the bag with the vital run in their last at bat.

Earlier this year Cougars entertained a college team from the States, Brock -port University. This was a team of very talented ball players, who showed quite an interest in our situation. They conducted an evening clinic for anyone interested. It is hoped that they will come again during 1980.

In the British Junior Club Final Southglade Eagles lost to Hull Red Sox 12 - 0.

#### JUNIOR LEAGUE

	Pl.	W.	L.	Pts.
Eagles	11	8	3	16
Tigers	8	2	6	4
Raiders	5	0	5	0
* Cubs	6	5	1	0

#### FINAL STANDINGS

\* As Cubs were found to have used players who were over-age they forfeited all points.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 1979 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.

This tournament was played at Trieste during August. Two ball parks were used, both were lighted. The older and smaller park was at Ronchi dei Legionari. At Prosecco a 6,000 seat stadium was constructed, and inaugurated for the championship. The Italian Federation expects a great growth of interest in the game in Trieste.

Adjacent to the new stadium at Prosecco, a college for baseball and softball was opened. This is designed to provide fifteen day courses to physical education instructors. It is hoped that many instructors will come to the college from the countries of Eastern Europe, so that eventually baseball and softball will be played throughout that area. At present the game is played in a minor way in Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

Results. Elimination Round - Italy 6 - Sweden 0 : Netherlands 14 - Belgium 0 : Netherlands 9 - Sweden 0 : Italy 21 - Belgium 5.

First place series - Italy 3 - Netherlands 2 : Italy 14 - Netherlands 1 : Italy 5 - Netherlands 0.

Third place series - Belgium 5 - Sweden 4 : Belgium 13 - Sweden 11.

Placings. 1st. Italy; 2nd. Netherlands; 3rd. Belgium; 4th. Sweden.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MISCELLANY.

On 23rd. September Derbigum Rimini won the European Cup. Results - Biemme Bologna 10 - Hercules Las Cortes 0: Derbigum Rimini 4 - Germal Parma 2 : Hercules Las Cortes 0 - Germal Parma 17: Vax Kinheim 0 - Derbigum Rimini 4 : Hercules Las Cortes 0 - Derbigum Rimini 13 : Biemme Bologna 6 - Vax Kinheim 1 : Germal Parma 6 - Biemme Bologna 1 : Hercules Las Cortes 4 - Vax Kinheim 5 : Vax Kinheim 1 - Germal Parma 3 : Derbigum Rimini 11 - Biemme Bologna 6 :

Final placings - 1. Derbigum Rimini(Italy); 2. Germal Parma (Italy); 3. Biemme Bologna(Italy); 4. Vax Kinheim(Netherlands). 5. Hercules Las Cortes(Spain).

In Belgium Luchtbal won the Belgian championship for the seventeenth time. Berchem Stars finished in second place. The 1978 champions, General Motors, tied for third place with Antwerp Eagles.

The premier division consisted of twelve teams in 1979, but will be restricted to eight teams in 1980. The top eight teams in 1979 were to form the premier division for 1980. Brasschaatse and the Dutch club Zeeuwse Honk tied for eighth place. A play-off took place which was won by Zeeuwse Honk.

In women's softball General Motors became champions following a play-off with Deurne Spartans.

In youth baseball Antwerp Eagles were champions in the pupil category; while Deurne Spartans won the championship in the adspiranten category.

The European baseball championship for juniors will be played at Antwerp in 1980, from 9-15 August. This will be for 17 - 18 year old players. Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, France, Sweden, and West Germany will take part.

Martin Ronnenbergh formerly pitcher for the Dutch national team, and for Unique Giants has signed a professional contract with the San Diego Padres.