

BASEBALL Mercury.

EDITOR -----
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TROJANS VISIT BELGIUM by N. WELLS.

The Berchem Baseball Club of Belgium celebrated its thirtieth year by organising a tournament to which a number of teams from other countries were invited. Liverpool Trojans was one of these clubs.

The lads have nothing but praise for the great hospitality that they received during the whole of their stay.

The Trojans left England by ferry at Dover, crossing to Zeebrugge. The club was met at Zeebrugge by a gentleman, whose duty was to tend to every need and question concerning the Trojans. A coach was at the harbour to take them on to Antwerp, where they were booked into a 5 star hotel, complete with every convenience, including a sauna, and an indoor swimming pool. Full board was given, plus a free round of drinks each day at the Berchem club rooms. We arrived a little late for the champagne opening ceremony, but managed to have time to join the celebrations held in the evening, in a marquee on the ground.

We were placed in group A, together with the host team Berchem Stars, and the German team Mannheim Tornados. Group B contained the Dutch team, Cementbouw(Haarlem), Bagarmossens (Sweden), and a U.S. Service team, S.H.A.P.E.

We went out to play Berchem at 10 a.m. on Saturday, in typical British baseball weather; it was teeming with rain, plus thunder and lightning. The weather was in fact, the only thing to mar the tournament.

In this game we faced the Belgian national pitcher, and we held a 4 to 3 lead for the greater part of the game, but an atrocious 6th. inning caused us to go down losers at 9 - 4.

We didn't play again until 10 a.m. on the Sunday, this time against Mannheim. Brian Bretherton hit the first home-run of the tournament in this game; this was quickly followed by a game winning two run homer from guest player Rick Soan. We ran out winners of this contest 6 - 5.

The weather cleared up in time for the final at 4 p.m. on Sunday, between Berchem Stars and Cementbouw of Holland, and fittingly, the Stars won their own tournament quite convincingly, by 5 runs I believe.

At the prize giving ceremony we learned that we had achieved 3rd. place as a result of run difference, finishing above Bagarmossens(now re-named Ingersoll Rand), S.H.A.P.E., and Mannheim. We received a handsome trophy for our efforts.

The team remained in Antwerp for one more night, which was spent in the company of many of our opponents, learning a little more about each other and the game we have in common.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, and before leaving, Berchem, the hosts, who had never staged such a tournament before, announced that they would stage another in two years time. This year's effort cost them £5,000.

INTER-AREA CHAMPIONSHIP.

	W.	L.	%	GB.
Midlands	3	1	.750	-
South	2	1	.667	$\frac{1}{2}$
Humber-side	1	2	.333	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Perseyside	1	3	.250	2

SOUTHERN BASEBALL LEAGUE.

	W.	L.	%	GB.
Croydon Bluejays	9	1	.900	-
Crawley Giants	7	2	.778	$1\frac{1}{2}$
London Warriors	7	2	.778	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Regents Park Eagles	6	4	.600	3
Thames Board Mills	6	4	.600	3
Golders Green Sox	3	5	.375	5
Wokingham Monarchs	2	7	.222	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Sutton Braves	2	8	.200	7
Rocnester City Dodgers	1	10	.091	$8\frac{1}{2}$

The above tables supplied by Brian Holland, the National Scorer, they give the situation as at 19th. July.

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HUMBER BRIDGE CELEBRATIONS.

A News Release has come to hand concerning the above event. Headed "BIG BRIDGE AND BASEBALL" it reads as follows. To commemorate the building of the longest single span bridge in the world at Hull, England, an international baseball match has been arranged. The game between Great Britain and France is to be held on August 30th. 1980, a few months before the bridge opening date. British baseball teams have taken part successfully in international competition at home and abroad for many years, but the squad are very eager to play this game to become the first British players to play on a floodlit pitch. Following the negotiations between Hull City Association Football Club, Hull City Council, and the BABSF, the Tigers' new development manager, Gordon Dimbleby, has passed on the City board's approval to stage Britain's first international floodlit baseball match at Boothferry Park, whose facilities are classed as some of the finest in the Football League.

Now for some comments about this press release. I recognise the realities of publicity, it is always more impressive to claim something has happened for the first time or is about to happen for the first time than to give facts.

The one statement in the hand-out that I cannot deny is true is that this will be the first international baseball game to be played under floodlights in Britain.

As for being the first British players to play under floodlights, this is incorrect. I was present at a charity baseball game on July 4th. 1966, at the White City, London. It was an evening game, and about the fifth or sixth inning it became necessary to turn on the floodlights.

Again in 1971, the National Baseball League(U.K.) entered a team in the European Championships, which were staged at Parma, and Bologna in Italy. At both stadiums lights were used, and I am confident that our team played in some night games.

In 1976 at Rosslyn Park in London, 8 floodlit games were played.

JUNIOR INTER-AREA CHAMPIONSHIP.

This competition was staged at Nottingham on Sunday, 24th June. The entries being Midlands, Humberside, and South.

The South team had been hastily assembled as the BABS had not had a junior baseball affiliate in the South since 1978, what junior baseball was being played had been operated by a maverick bunch which might be described as the "Archer Circus". Anyway one of the staunchest supporters of the above mentioned operation, a person named "Red" Hartz, had become so disillusioned with the way it was being conducted that about seven weeks after the season opened he tried to gain admission for his senior team the Croydon Cubs to the Southern Baseball League. This proved impossible, but he also had a junior Croydon Cubs team. Some of these players were combined with the remnant of the Isleworth Junior Baseball Club, runners-up in 1970 in the British Junior Club Championship, to form a team so that the South could compete.

Humberside drew the holders, Midlands, in the opening game, and this encounter set the scene for the day's baseball. Humberside drew ahead early in the game, and led for most of the match, but in a late rally Midlands swept ahead to gain a 6 - 4 victory.

The second game was between the South and Humberside. What a game it turned out to be! At the end of the sixth inning, which is the regulation length of games in British junior ball, the score was tied 1 - 1. This deadlock continued until the South broke the tie with a run in the twelfth inning! Alan Bloomfield pitched throughout this nailbiting game for the South.

Senny Benson, BABS National Officer for Schools and Junior baseball, described the game as the best he had ever seen; and the standard of play was fantastic, considering that the players were under fifteen years of age.

The long wait by the Midlands' boys, to see who they would play in the final game, seemed to destroy their concentration. The South seemed clear winners throughout the final game, and emerged winners 9 - 1. The South were presented with the "D. Scott Memorial Trophy". Alan Bloomfield was voted "Player of the Day".

SOUTH AFRICA.

The president of the South African Baseball Federation has sent me four pages of most detailed information on the game there, plus two pages from a South African magazine. The magazine article appears on pages 4 and 5.

STATISTICS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1979.

PROVINCE	SENIORS		JUNIORS		TOTAL Players
	Players	Teams	Players	Teams	
London (East London)	69	5	75	5	147
Eastern Prov. (Port Elizabeth)	108	16	109	15	237
Natal (Durban)	226	17	302	30	508
North Tvl. (Pretoria)	150	15	206	16	356
Transvaal (Johannesburg)	475	35	653	57	1,131
West Prov. (Cape Town)	433	38	169	15	600
	<u>1,519</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>3,261</u>

Total of teams was 267; these were operated by 67 clubs.



Black youngsters battle for baseball honours

Baseball, that all-American sport that draws crowds of 120 000 in the USA, is catching on fast here, and it won't be long before the first Black player qualifies for his Springbok colours.

In fact, baseball - although little is written about it in the press - is believed to be a pioneer in multiracial sport.

The youngsters pictured here are sons of workers at the

Cornelia Colliery near Vander Bijl Park, play in what is aptly called the Little League.

Many of them were also chosen on merit for the Vaal provincial sides. In fact, in the last inter-provincial tournament, there were six Black youngsters out of 12 in the under 10 team.

Mr Peter Caple, President of Little League

baseball in South Africa, told HIT that Black youngsters first started playing in mixed teams in 1972 - so the sport was possibly the forerunner of multiracial sport.

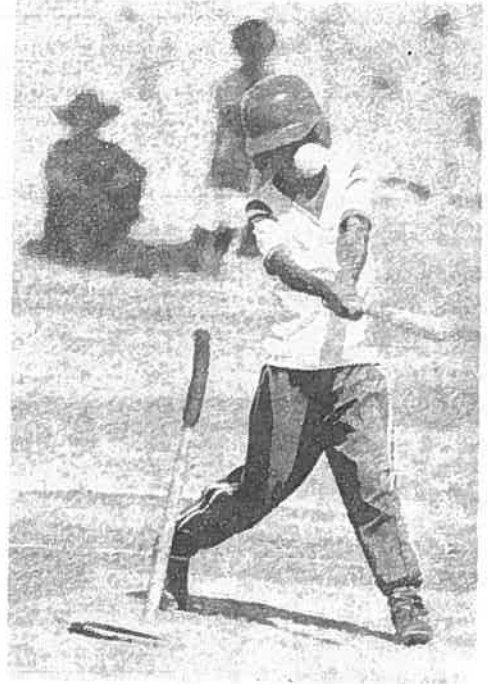
"I've found Black youngsters to be natural baseball players," he said. "They have a good eye and they don't mind training a lot. They play once a week on Saturday afternoons and also in the provincial tournaments."

How did he break the sports barriers that existed back in 1972?

"I just took the bull by the horns and started it. It went very well and no one objected."

Since then he has taken an all-Black side to Port Elizabeth and mixed sides to Durban. Black youngsters, aged between 9 and 15, were planning to





travel to Newcastle for a tournament this month and in March they will possibly be going to Newcastle.

How do Blacks compare with Whites who have been playing the game much longer?

Mr Caple said: "They compare very well. One Black nine-year-old was on the short list to travel with the last Springbok team to Europe."

"At the moment I am negotiating another Springbok tour overseas and I expect at least one Black to be included in the side. Remember it is merit selection. We don't choose anyone for our teams simply for the colour of their skin."

"Our Junior Springboks do not receive the same badges as the adult Springbok. Their badge only has on it a springbok's head."



SOUTH AFRICAN BASEBALL FEDERATIONS.A. BREWERIES "CASTLE CUP" INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPSDOUBLE ROUND

PERIOD:- 27 JANUARY 1979 TO 1 MARCH 1980

FINAL LOG POSITIONS AFTER 30 GAMES

<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>RUNS FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
TRANSVAAL	10	8	0	2	16	96	42
NORTH TVAAL.	10	8	0	2	16	78	55
WEST. PROV.	10	7	0	3	14	79	44
EAST. PROV.	10	5	0	5	10	70	71
NATAL	10	1	0	9	2	59	78
BORDER	10	1	0	9	2	38	134

PLAY OFF:- JOHANNESBURG 29 MARCH 1980

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>T</u>
NORTH TVAAL.	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	-	2
TRANSVAAL	-	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	X	-	5

WINNER - TRANSVAALRESULTS CHART

<u>PROVINCE</u>		<u>BRD.</u>	<u>E.P.</u>	<u>NAT.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>	<u>TVL.</u>	<u>W.P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>L.</u>
BORDER	HOME		1-9	1-24	13-16	5-9	3-19	0	5
	AWAY	C	5-10	7-5	3-17	0-21	0-4	1	4
EASTERN PROV.	HOME	10-5		9-6	1-5	8-9	10-7	3	2
	AWAY	9-1	A	10-6	2-7	5-14	6-11	2	3
NATAL	HOME	5-7	6-10		5-6	3-7	2-10	0	5
	AWAY	24-1	6-9	S	4-5	2-12	2-7	1	4
NORTH TVAAL.	HOME	17-3	7-2	5-4		8-6	7-6	5	0
	AWAY	16-13	5-1	6-5	T	2-9	5-6	3	2
TRANSVAAL	HOME	21-0	14-5	12-2	9-2		7-2	5	0
	AWAY	9-5	9-8	7-3	6-8	L	2-7	3	2
WESTERN PROV.	HOME	4-0	11-6	7-2	6-5	7-2		5	0
	AWAY	19-3	7-10	10-2	6-7	2-7	E	2	3

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in December. Annual subscription is 50p. Subscriptions should be made payable to William Morgan.

B.A.B.S.F. 50/50 CLUB.

This is a fundraising scheme introduced by myself as treasurer of the B.A.B.S.F. It made a gross profit of £63 in its first full year of operation, this was with a very small membership.

I have been somewhat disappointed at the lack of response from the membership in general. About five weeks ago I sent out 300 copies of a combined appeal letter/subscription form, but to date have had no response from this appeal.

I appeal once again to members of the B.A.B.S.F. who read Baseball Mercury, and are not members of the 50/50 Club; please fill in a form and become a participant in this very simple means of financing the development of baseball.

winners.

1979		1980	
July	M.S.Harrold	£2.50	January M.S. Harrold £6.00
August	M.S.Harrold	£4.50	February John Bennett £6.00
September	B. Holland	£4.50	March Southglade
October	M.S.Harrold	£4.50	Hornets £6.00
November	D.Smallwood	£5.50	April J. Bennett £6.00
December	M.S.Harrold	£5.50	May D.Smallwood £6.00
			June A.&S.Williams £6.00
			July G. Simmons £7.50

HUMBERSIDE REPORT.

The Humberside season was opened by a visit from the Scoten Club from Belgium. Scoten played two games versus Hull Aces. On the evening of Friday, 9th. May, the two clubs played an 11-11 tie, the game being called on account of failing light. Hull Aces had an easy win in the Saturday game. Scoten Speedies were not at full strength for the visit, but nevertheless complimented Hull Aces on the standard of baseball played which had rather surprised them.

On Saturday, 31st. May, the Humberside Junior All-Star team journeyed to Nottingham to take part in the competition for the Nottingham Lions Junior Challenge Trophy. They won the contest for the sixth time in seven years, when they beat the Midlands Juniors 6 - 4 in a game played under terrible weather conditions.

The Midlands team took a 4 - 0 lead in the second inning, and Humberside looked set for a very hard task. In the third inning, Humberside combined hits from T. Bowler, M. Lockton, C. Wright, and J. Cooledge, and took a 5 - 4 lead. In the fourth inning M. Lockton scored on an error, this ended the scoring for the game.

Wayne Parker of Humberside won the "Man of the Match" Award.

On Saturday, 7th. June, the Humberside Junior All-Star team visited the Midlands again. This time to play an exhibition game versus the Midlands Junior All-Star team at a Festival arranged by Rotary International at the Ruscliffe Leisure Centre. Our squad had two surprises, the first was to find that the Midlands team had nearly the same line-up that confronted the Humberside Senior All-Star team recently. The second shock was in the second half of the fifth inning when the umpire had to call the game because of an electrical storm. By that time Humberside Juniors had built a 7 - 1 lead and were in full command.

S. Badge and W. Talbot were in good form with the bat, and T. Parker scored two runs. M. Adamson pitched well, gaining six strike-outs. He got good backing from a very sharp infield.

In June Hull Pirates travelled to Harrogate to meet the 001

of the United States base at Menwith Hill in the first leg of the contest for the "Don Smallwood Trophy". This annual contest is conducted at two age levels, under 12 years, and under 15 years.

The first game was that at the under 12 years age group. Hull Pirates beat the American youngsters 12 - 7, the score underlining the strength of the Hull team in this age bracket. The whole team played magnificently and the American lads were never in the contest.

In the second game, the older boys were unable to match the display of the under 12 group. Menwith Hill won 16 - 3, but the score rather flattered the Americans.

On Sunday, 13th. July, the Hull Schools Baseball League staged a One Day Tournament, the first ever. It was played at the Alderman Kneeshaw Baseball Ground. Three schools took part, Alderman Cogan, Coleford J.H.S., and Dales J.H.S. Dales is a new school at North Bransholm. The age group of the boys was 10 years to 13 years.

The tournament was organised by Mr. B. Morrell, secretary of the Hull Schools Baseball Association. The umpires were Harry Clutterbuck, Ernie Jacklin, and Terry O'Brien. The programme started at 11 a.m., and took the form of a league competition, the two top teams playing in a final game. The teams reaching the final were Alderman Cogan Eagles and Coleford Cougars. The new Dales Dodgers put up a very creditable show against the other two schools which have been playing baseball for some years.

Coleford Cougars gave Alderman Cogan Eagles a fright in the preliminary phase holding them to a narrow 3 - 1 score. In the final a tiring Coleford Cougars lost 10 - 0 to Alderman Cogan.

Emphasis was placed on participation, and every player is to receive a medal from the Humberside Baseball & Softball Association. If a trophy had been presented for endurance it should have been given to the three umpires who stood for six hours. This first tournament was a credit to the schoolteachers who give up hours of their time to pass on knowledge of the sport.

After the visit last season by Canon de Spartaan (Amsterdam) Ladies' Softball Team, a few ladies in Humberside asked the local Association to help in organising softball in the area.

A group has been meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Alderman Kneeshaw Ground for training, lack of equipment and qualified coaches is a problem, but it is planned to undertake fundraising to pay for equipment and to meet the expenses of visits to Hull by properly qualified coaches.

Hull Royals, second oldest of the present baseball clubs, who were founded in 1937 or 1938, ran into trouble this season. They were unable to meet their playing commitments, due to a shortage of experienced players. This in spite of having registered more players with the BASSF than any other club, 23 to be exact. I find this very strange, as other clubs with manyless players do struggle on, in some cases having to put junior players into the line-up.

Hull Schools Baseball Association has an important fixture on Saturday, 30th. August when their representative team play a team from Nottingham Schools in a curtain raiser to the Great Britain v. France game.

Three products of Humberside Junior Baseball have been selected by National Coach, Ron Marshall, for the Great Britain squad. They are E. Parker (Hull Aces), Mark Storey (Hull Giants), and Martin Adamson (Hull Royals).

The selection of Frank Parker came as no surprise, his father, Frank Parker, was also an international. Frank Parker, senior, is now crippled by arthritis.

The real surprise is the selection of Martin Adamson, as recently as 1978 Martin was playing junior baseball.