

BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 45

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

July 1987

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No. 45. JULY 1987.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

This league consists of six teams; and I understand should in fact consist of representative teams, but this idea has fallen down in the South of England. One Southern team, London warriors, consists largely of players who on Sundays play as Cobham Yankees, the current British club champions. The other Southern entrant, Southern Tigers, consists of young players from several clubs, Sutton Braves, Crawley Giants, Croydon Bluejays, Barnes Stormers and Ashford. Enfield Spartans were originally represented, but as they have recently climbed to the top of the B.B.F. Southern League Div. 1, their manager has requested Enfield players not to play in the National League.

The teams are Southern Tigers and London Warriors who share the Richmond Athletic Ground. Humberside Bears whose games are played at Quibell Park Stadium, Scunthorpe. Nottingham Knights whose ground is Milford Sports Complex, West Bridgford. Merseyside Mariners who use the Southport F.C. ground; and Lancashire Red Sox who are based at the Preston North End ground.

Merseyside Mariners draw players from Liverpool Trojans, Tornados, and Southport Mets. Lancashire Red Sox are drawn from Liverpool Tigers, Burtonwood Braves and Menwith Hill.

I am informed that each club in the league received a grant of £2,000. Travel costs are high, as are rents, I believe that the Richmond Athletic ground costs £500 a game. The league has got off to a slow start as far as attendances go. A couple of games having drawn 200 spectators at £2 a head, but some games drawing much lower figures.

Results to date. June 6th. Humberside County Bears - Merseyside Mariners 14 - 7; London Warriors - Southern Tigers 17 - 13;

Nottingham Knights - Lancashire Red Sox 17 - 3.

June 13th. Merseyside Mariners - Lancashire Red Sox 4 - 3; Southern Tigers - Humberside County Bears 22 - 0; Nottingham Knights - London Warriors 7 - 9.

June 20th. Humberside County Bears - Lancashire Red Sox 3 - 11;

London Warriors - Merseyside Mariners 19 - 15; Nottingham Knights - Southern Tigers 9 - 6;

June 27th. Southern Tigers - Lancashire Red Sox 5 - 8; Humberside County Bears - London Warriors 11 - 7; Merseyside Mariners - Nottingham Knights 6 - 3.

An individual associated with Lancashire Red Sox expressed the opinion to me, that until such time as Channel 4 T.V. began showing Major League baseball on a weekly basis as it does for American football, we cannot expect a great upsurge of interest in watching baseball games in the U.K.

NORTH WEST.

In respect of Ladies' Softball, the European Softball Federation has acknowledged the South Eastern Softball Association (GBSA). This despite all our correspondence with them. Needless to say, the ladies up here are pretty sick with the BBF, after they had been promised that a new organisation would be formed after meetings between all U.K. softball organisations and Elaine Burgess of the Sports Council. This meeting was promised last November, and these promises have been made almost every month since. In the meantime the Great Britain Softball Association has totally ignored all this and gone ahead roughshod, without consideration of the rest of the country.

As a result our girls formed their own federation, known as the United Kingdom Fast Pitch Ladies' Softball Federation. They have been refused recognition by the European Softball Federation, and by the Sports Council. As yet the Sports Council does not recognise any British Softball Federation.

This has not deterred our girls who are prepared to soldier on as a 'wild cat' federation. We have an eight team league, with an other two teams playing friendlies, all very well sponsored, organised and equipped. They certainly set an example to the men's base-ball teams. League standings to June 6th. follow.

1. Park Hotel Squaws (Southport) W.5 b L.0; 2. Skelmersdale Jets W.4 - L.0; 3. Lord Daresbury Hotel Pumas (Warrington) W.3 - L.2. 4. Litherland Blue Jays and CENRO scorpions (Southport) w.2 - L.3; 6. U.K. Raiders (Burscough) W.1 - L.3; 7. Southport Athletic Softball (SAS) W1 - L.4; 8. Southport Angels W. 0 - L.4.

Jets won the first of four one day tournaments involving all ten teams, the "Gordon Rimmer Shield".

In the North West Baseball League (a Region as we are told to be) Trojans are leading the field with a 5 - 0 record, - one rainout. Menwith Hill being the only other undefeated team at 4 - 0, with two rainouts. Last year's champions Burtonwood Braves are struggling, with a 2 - 3 record. We have had a bad time with the weather, which has meant a backlog of fixtures.

The new Scottish Amicable National League has also taken its toll, as some players find it difficult to take time off to play both Saturday and Sunday.

In our first National League game at home - we drew about 200 spectators - which is many more than attended at our away game at Scunthorpe. In the North west we feel that the lack of concentrated publicity is causing this lack of support - which the success of the League is entirely dependent upon. We will be letting Erad Thompson (National League Administrator) know of our feelings this week.

We have four junior teams who are playing a series of one day tournaments plus a League programme.

Norman Wells.

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in November. Subscription for four issues is £1. Subscriptions and any items for publication should be sent to the editor.

UNITED STATES BASEBALL FEDERATION

University of Miami coach Ron Fraser will handle the head coaching duties for the 1987 USA Team. The USA Team which is sponsored exclusively by Plymouth. The team has a programme of similar length to 1986.

Fraser piloted the Netherlands national team to three European titles in 1960, 62, 73.

The USEB has concluded a sponsorship deal with a firm of cooked meats manufacturers, Oscar Mayer. This is designed to support youth baseball and is tied in to purchasers of Oscar Mayer products collecting tokens which can be used for equipment for individual players, teams or leagues. Among other events sponsored by Oscar Mayer will be the Oscar Mayer Junior Olympic Baseball Super Series. The Super Series will match the 16 year old world series champions from the American Amateur Baseball Congress, Dixie Baseball, and Pony Baseball with an all-star team from Youngstown, Ohio. Youngstown is the host city. The Super Series is scheduled for September 3 - 7.

B.B.F. (SOUTH)

Back in the winter of 1969/70 the ten Southern teams in the National Baseball League (U.K.) withdrew and formed a body known as the Baseball Association of Great Britain. By 1975 this body had dwindled to five teams, and the future of baseball in the South of England looked extremely gloomy. In 1976, an American, Jeff Archer appeared on the scene and he managed to increase team strength to eight for 1976. He split away in 1977 and formed a rival body, including a youth programme, and for three years was a thorn in the flesh of the federation.

However, the revival of baseball in the South of England dates from 1976, numbers have grown to thirty-two teams organised as follows.

First Division

- Barnes Stormers
- Cobham Yankees
- Crawley Giants
- Enfield Spartans
- Gillingham Dodgers
- Solders Green Sox
- Sutton Braves
- Croydon Bluejays

Second Division

- Basilton Raiders
- Croydon Pirates
- Hounslow Howlers
- Hounslow Hurricanes
- Oxshott Orioles
- Southampton Shooters
- Tonbridge Bobcats
- Waltham Abbey Arrows

Third Div. North

- City Slick Sidewinders
- Colchester Cougars
- Basilton Mariners
- Hemel Rebels
- Hemel Red Sox
- Lea Valley Roadrunners
- Waltham Abbey Saxons
- Totteridge Trailblazers

Third Div. South.

- Arun Panthers
- Ashford Condors
- Bournemouth Bees
- Brighton Jets
- Burgess Hill Red Hats
- Crawley Comets
- Reading Royals
- Tulse Hill JBs.

At the time of writing, First Division leaders are Enfield Spartans, a team which has developed from a youth team, Enfield Chiefs, which played in Jeff Archer's youth programme of 1977. Another product of that youth programme is Julian Dodswell, a Great Britain player who is currently manager of the Southern Tigers of the National League.

WELSH LADIES' BASEBALL LEAGUE.

Information in this item is drawn from details supplied by Howard Evans.

The League, formerly known as the Cardill Ladies' Baseball League, began in 1923. First winners being Grange Wesleyans. In 1925 Mrs. F.W. Alexander presented a shield for annual competition, the shield was awarded to the League champions.

The most successful team is Canton Athletic with 16 titles plus a tie with Jubilee in 1967. Canton Athletic won 9 straight titles

1957/65, and six straight 1975/80. Runner-up in titles is Canton with 11; four straight 1936/39, the other seven in the decade 1946/55. Caerau have won five titles. Grange Albion and Penarth each have four wins. Jubilee gained three with one tie, and Splott U.S. won three titles.

EUROPEAN BASEBALL - 1986 DATA.

Supplied by Roger C. Panays, Secretary General - C.E.B.A.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>PLAYERS</u>	<u>1986 CHAMPIONS</u>
Italy	13,250	Grohe Grosseto
Netherlands	12,280	Cleo Tijgers, Amsterdam
France	6,090	Paris Universite Club
Spain	4,304	Viladecans, Barcelona
W. Germany	4,050	Mannheim Tornados
Belgium	1,386	Royal Antwerp Eagles
Gt. Britain	610	Cobham Yankees
Denmark	680	
Sweden	585	sundyberg
Yugoslavia	469	
Malta	439	
Poland	453	H.S. Silesia Rybnik
Czechoslovakia	380	KOVO Prague
Tunisia	314	A.S.M. Bizerta
Switzerland	305	Challengers Zurich
Finland	162	
San Marino	164	Chesterfield san Marino
Austria	48	Vienna Homerunners

1987 EUROPEAN CUP

Staged 16/21 June at La Cipale, Paris. Participants, Paris Universite Club(France), Amstel Cleo Tijgers (Netherlands), Mamoli Grosseto and World Vision Parma(Italy), Royal Atwerp nashua Eagles(Belgium), Viladecans(Spain).

Three games a day were played, game times - 12.30, 16.30, 20.30
Results. 16 June. Mamoli Grosseto - Viladecans 15 - 5; PUC - Amstel Tijgers 3-15; Eagles Antwerp- Parma 3 - 16; 17th. PUC - Viladecans 3-11; Amstel - Antwerp 13-6; Parma-Grosseto 0-3; 18th. Viladecans -Amstel 3-13; Antwerp-Grosseto 1-11; PUC-Parma 9-19; 19th. Antwerp -Viladecans 7-9; PUC-Grosseto 2-14; Amstel-Parma 2-5

20th. Parma-Viladecans 16-0; Grosseto-Amstel 10-7; PUC-Antwerp 8-4; 21st. Parma- Grosseto 4-0.

Thus World Vision Parma won the European Cup for the 8th. time. The European Cup competition has been staged on 24 occasions, Italian clubs winning no less than 17 times.

Final Classification 1. WORLD VISION PARMA(6-0) 1000; 2.Mamoli Grosseto (4-2) 667; 3. Amstel Tijgers(3-2) 600; 4. Viladecans (2-3) 400; 5. PUC(1-4) 200; 6. Royal Antwerp Eagles(0-5) 000.

Parma has won this trophy in 1977/78/80/81/83/84/86/87. Haarlem Nicols(Netherlands), won in 1966/74/75. Milan in 69/70/71. Picadero Barcelona 1963/68. Pirates Madrid 1964/67. Nettuno(Italy) 1965/72. Rimini 1976/79. Bologna 1973/85.

There are somewhat confusing name changes in the list of winners as the sponsor's name is usually included with part of the club's name. So Parma are listed as Germal Parma, Parmalat Parma, and World Vision Parma. Similar changes have occurred with other Italian winners.

For this tournament the French Federation budgeted 2,500,000 Francs, half of this sum was spent on promotion.