

THE SABRE RATTLER

The Journal of the Bobby Thomson Chapter of SABR (UK)

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Next Meeting: May 8/9

The next meeting of SABR UK is fixed for the weekend of May 8 and 9 in Manchester. Andy Parkes has again been able to find good accommodation at reasonable prices. What's more, he's organising a ball game (softball); SABR(UK) vs. Stretford Saints. So BE PREPARED! It looks like being a great fund weekend. Full details on all the arrangements a little nearer the date.

Pontel Only?

It looks at the moment as if Pontel will be the only way we shall see baseball on our TV screens this season. We hope to set up a Pontel tape exchange for those who are subscribers to the service. For those who are not, the phone number for inquiries is: 010 49 211 494601 (that's Germany, of course). We also hope we might be able to organise some kind of group subscription rate with Pontel. More on that later.

Newsletter

We plan to have a regular newsletter and welcome your views on how often it should come out and what size and format it should take. It can be a forum for letters, articles, swaps and sales of all kinds: books, magazines, videos, audio tapes, etc. We shall need plenty of contributions if it's to be worthwhile - and preparing and posting it will cost money. All of this we can discuss at the Manchester meeting. We look forward to meeting up again with you then.

Ideas Please

We'd like YOUR views on the meeting itself. Are there any subjects you want brought up? Would you like to sound off about some special topic dear to your heart? What contribution do you think YOU can make to SABR UK? To help on this, we've drawn up a questionnaire which we'd like you to spend a few minutes filling in. It'll help us all to get to know each other better - and to make SABR UK more than just a chat shop. We hope to make a real contribution to the baseball research scene. To this end, we've already set up a Committee on Historical Research UK. The chairman is Patrick Carroll, a writer specialising in radio plays for the BBC. If you have any useful information on the history of baseball in Britain he'd be glad to hear from you. And if you'd like to offer him some practical help in what is a major project, he'd be even more grateful! His address: 10 Court Barton, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7HP.

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Fund Raising

Organising meetings costs money. So we welcome ideas for fund raising. Mike Ross has a collection of model stadiums, badges and the like he is willing to offer at a substantial discount. Normal retail price for the stadiums is £19.95. To SABR members they're on offer at £16.95. Mike is also planning to publish the next issue of the TRANSATLANTIC BASEBALL NEWS AND REVIEW in a week's time, with a full report of the SABR inaugural meeting. Available from SPORTSPAGES, WATERSTONES in Manchester or of course direct from him (send £2 if not a subscriber).

New Members

Thanks to the London meeting, we already have nearly a dozen new SABR members. In other words, the UK membership has doubled! It takes a while for details to come through from SABR headquarters so I've sent all those I have listed as new members a copy of this newsletter. In due course, perhaps you could confirm with me or Andy Parkes that you are now a fully paid-up member and entitled to any special privileges, discounts, or what have you we may be able to negotiate. Once the questionnaires are all in, I'll prepare a UK SABR directory and circulate it to all members, so we all have a handy list of UK members and some idea of what their special baseball interests are as well. That way we can help each other with research projects and maybe loan books, magazines, videos, audio tapes or any other useful information.