

The SABR Examiner

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

Number 2

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**SPORTS
FINAL**

SABR INVADES THE NORTH!

British baseball enthusiasts were out in force on May 8 for the first-ever SABR meeting in Manchester. Baseball fans from far afield turned up for the occasion; some of them travelled from as far as the West Country in one direction and Scotland in the other. Almost everyone had a contribution to the meeting, which made it a meeting of minds as much as anything. The confab was enlivened by the veterans of the Stretford Saints Baseball Club, winners of the English Baseball Championship for three years running. They regaled the audience with accounts of British Baseball in the 60's and 70's.

The Chairman reported on the setting up of a study group on the history of baseball in the United Kingdom, with Patrick Carroll as chairman. He quoted various articles and reports on the development of the game here, ending with a quote from former National League president John K. Tener: "Baseball is the very watchword of democracy. England is a democratic country but it lacks the finishing touch of baseball." Patrick Carroll spoke of the need for an authoritative history of the game in the British Isles and hoped all members would try to supply him with as much information as possible. Since Britain is, after all, the place where baseball (or its precursors) originated, we are in a unique position to further research into the game's past. The meeting approved his appointment and gave its blessing to the project. His clarion call for research appears on page 2.

Several presentations were given. Tony Darkin gave an intriguing analysis of pitcher run support, based on a study of Jack Morris, Jim Abbott, Melido Perez and Scott Sanderson in 1992. The most striking fact to emerge was that Morris achieved his success that year not against second-rate pitchers, who might have been expected to give up more runs, but against front line starters. Against them he had a startling 13-0 record.

Also, Ian Smyth presented a detailed study of the development of baseball in Northern England between 1935 and 1939. In addition, Peter Dawson gave an entertaining and evocative report on the history and activities of the Stretford Saints baseball club. Their enthusiasm and skill had brought them the English baseball championship in the 60's. It is hoped to have these reminiscences summarised in the next Newsletter.

Barry Winetrobe of Glasgow, the birthplace of Bobby Thomson, gave an entertaining account of his meeting with Bobby. He told of writing him without a proper address, and receiving a lengthy handwritten reply. He went on to recount how he met Bob in 1992 when he returned to Scotland for a golfing holiday after many years away. He even had photographic evidence of the encounter! It's heart-warming that, despite living most of his life in America, Bobby Thomson still regards the land of his birth with affection and pride.

The Chapter voted to send a formal vote of thanks to SABR Treasurer Norman Macht for his splendid contribution to the success of the London meeting in January. In particular, his presentation on Bobby Thomson, including a taped interview, was the highlight of the occasion. In appreciation of all he did, the Chapter voted to ask Norman if he will agree to become our honorary President. If he accepts, it is planned to present him with a memento of the occasion.

The Deputy Treasurer proposed that the chapter should consider smaller and possibly more frequent local meetings in addition to the larger meetings. The Chapter Secretary, Patrick Morley, writes about this on page 8. The southern contingent has an ideal meeting place - there is a station on the Kent Link line named Bat and Ball. The suggestion was raised that the officers should remain in office initially for three years to

ensure continuity. Members were asked to submit any views they might have to the Chairman or Editor.

Martin Hoerchner offered his services as Editor of the Newsletter, and it was warmly accepted. He was gratified by his appointment, and aims to make the SABR(UK) Newsletter a good mix of informative articles and entertaining writing. On the technical side, the assembly was told that anyone ordering American baseball videos on the American standard can get them converted at reasonable rates (much cheaper than in Britain) in the States. Details can be had from the Stretford Saints via Hugh Robinson. For the uninitiated, television worldwide is recorded and broadcast in a large number of different standards, all mutually unintelligible. The British standard gives the better picture quality - it has 625 lines to the American 525. The advantage of the American standard was that it was compatible with black and white television when it was introduced in the early 50's, and didn't make the earlier TV receivers obsolete. There is an alternative to tape conversion - Martin Hoerchner told of his recent acquisition of a multi-standard VCR, which enables him to play U.S. videos on British televisions without conversion. They are more expensive than regular VCR's, but if you can get someone to pick one up in Hong Kong or Japan (which he did), they can be had for about £250.

The meeting ended with a taxing Trivia Quiz, lovingly and cleverly devised by Brian Williams. It was a team quiz in two parts and the ultimate winners were the side comprising Patrick Carroll, Martin Hoerchner and Dave Halliwell. The chapter's three officers finished runners up, beaten out of sight!

All in all, the meeting was a raving success, and all attendees are looking forward to the next one, wherever and whenever it may be.

AN EPISTLE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear SABR (UK) Members and Friends:

Our Secretary has been so efficient and speedy in keeping you up to date with the news that I have hardly had cause to write to you. With Patrick Morley and the efforts of Hugh Robinson, our deputy in Manchester, the SABR ship has been plodding along with nary the whisper of storm warnings. You will find Patrick Carroll down below stoking the boiler of history (we let him up on Sundays and holidays), while Brian Williams languishes on the top deck dreaming up another demanding trivia quiz. Glen Sportun and David Halliwell are perfecting their speedy outfield play, that which held our victorious squad together in Manchester (without a right fielder, you can imagine the chore). Andy's health is improving and Hugh's shoulder is mending on schedule - that's after break II (that one while making a diving catch in his dreams - honest!).

On a sadder note I spoke with Monte Irvin the other evening who phoned me to inform me of a friend of his who was coming to London for a visit. We discussed the unfortunate passing away of the wife of his former teammate which Monte described as "A real tragedy". Apparently it wasn't old age that had caught up with the late Mrs. Bob Thomson; Monte described her as "young and beautiful, a wonderful person". Our collective regrets will be conveyed by Irvin who had just learned of what happened and is planning to write Bob.

Monte spoke of possibly coming to England with Bob for a SABR(UK) conference which we would endeavour to organize at their convenience. Not that easy, but let's think positive. It might be an idea to select a target date coinciding with the visit of the Major Leaguers to Lords (an event more than a pipe dream and no less than a pretty sure thing) in early October, 1994. Of course, we would have to find some means to subsidize

their journey, certainly not through our slim-line treasury but perhaps through some sort of endowment. At any rate it is on the agenda. Ideas please!

As for future conferences, November has been mentioned, although perhaps we could get by, this year, with selected local gathering, thus giving us plenty of time to plan for spring and fall 1994. And certainly a SABR meet at the time of the Lords game is an inviting option for next year. At any rate, I would like to arrange for a semi-official get together, in London, where we could meet for a full session, day and evening, with the notion that we'll talk baseball, indulge in some trivia, and watch a game. I was thinking of either a summer meet and/or a hot stove session in mid-late November. Don't forget these sort of gatherings can materialize as long as you have at least two or three members ready to set the stage.

Members are invited to submit material and ideas - anything at all - for the SABR Times, Telegraph, Sun, Mirror, Ratter, Tattler, Star, Post Dispatch, Examiner, Bugle, Guardian, Independent to Martin Hoerchner, address listed elsewhere. The Examiner will examine, the Mirror will reflect, the Times will be current, the Tattler will tell all; the Star will be sensational, the Sun will dazzle; the Bugle will blow its own horn... I hope to include in the next bulletin an article sent to me by Geraint Johnes categorically stating, with proof, that baseball was invented in England!!!! Roll up your research sleeves.

If you have not yet sent in your SABR membership but wish to carry on receiving the Journal and various mailouts, please send a cheque for £3.50 made out to SABR(UK), send it to Martin and he will keep you on the mailing list. We figure the cost of production per issue will be about 50p, postage 18p, so the £3.50 will cover four issues and various second class mailings. Don't forget to renew your membership, or to join up if

you're thinking about it. Non-members in the future will not receive the same benefits as members. To make things easier, you can send the sterling equivalent of \$50 (figure \$1.53 to the £ currently) to me and I will arrange the proper transfer to SABR in bucks.

We are hoping to raise funds for the SABR(UK) treasury, so as to assist with research expenses and publicity to attract other would-be members hiding in the woods. Members are invited to advertise their baseball wares or wants free, through this journal - that is if you are willing to share the wealth, i.e. a 10% commission up to £10, 15% over. Write or phone Martin with details of goods, and your selling price.

To kick-start the great baseball bazaar: I have some model stadiums retailing for £20 - to you for £10 + £! p&p. Also media guides and team uniforms, logos, badges, all going at rock bottom rates. Stadiums include Ebbetts Field, Tiger Stadium, New Comiskey Park, and a few Fenways. Money back if you don't like them. Assorted media guides going back to 1982, for between £5-£7.00 (depending on the number of pages) + 60p. The badges are the best I've seen. Were selling @ £5.95+; to SABR for £4.00+30p. The uniform ones are replicas of official team jerseys. You can phone me or write and tell me what team(s) you are interested in. I will telephone you with availability. Hugh Robinson is still holding pictures of the Bobby Thomson signed photo.

Watch for David Mankelov's regular baseball column in Friday's Daily Telegraph. And don't forget to stay in touch with your ideas or opinions. And write if you get work.

Yours, Mike Ross, Chairman

P.S. In case I neglected to mention it, I have taken over as baseball editor of Anglo-American Sports.

OFFICERS AND GENTLEMEN

Chairman: Mike Ross, 2 Maida Avenue, Suite B, Little Venice, London W2 1TF (Tel: 071 723 9848; Fax: 071 266 3166) **Secretary:** Patrick Morley, Spring Cottage, The Batch, Hill Road, Sandford, Bristol BS19 5RH (Tel: 0934 822781) **Treasurer:** Andy Parkes, 84 Hillingdon Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8PJ (Tel and Fax: 061 865 2952) **Deputy Treasurer:** Hugh Robinson, 567 Kings Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8JQ (Tel: 061 864 1250) **Chairman of British Baseball Historical Committee:** Patrick Carroll, 10 Court Barton, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7HP (Tel: 0460 74183) **Newsletter Editor:** Martin Hoerchner, 48 Mildmay Road, London N1 4NG (Tel: 071 254 3492)

"R" IS FOR RESEARCH

by Patrick Carroll

When Mike Ross informed me - and I say 'informed'; there was no question of choice here - that I had been appointed (again, 'appointed' is the operative word) to the chair of the British Baseball History Committee of this organization I was at some pains to point out to him what I didn't know about the history of British Baseball is about on a par with what I don't know about the Peloponnesian Wars, which is practically nothing. The only things that I have picked up, except from word of mouth, came through ephemera and short accounts, some of which are fascinating. And, if you have a lot of them, and the detective instincts and the historical methodology to being piecing them all together, it's an intriguing story which I think has been called 'an underground, secret story' that is largely unknown to people who haven't participated in it. Whether the suppression of this story is a conspiracy or a cock up, or comes under the heading of the 'cocked up conspiracy' theory (which is my own view), is something to be found out through research.

CAME AS A BLANK...

The only thing I can say in my own defence for even considering taking this position is that I at least come to it a blank. I don't have any preconceptions about it. I don't know anything about the politics that my have gone on in 1938 or 1928 or 1893 or whenever. It's no nevermind to me one way or the other, except as a matter of sporting historical interest. There are individuals who are important in the history of the British game - some of you may know them. There are American figures, especially Albert Spalding. What, for instance, has become of the Spalding Cup? Which was, I'm told, the first British amateur championship trophy, played for at least through the First World War, and so-called hav-

ing been given by Albert Goodwill himself. The same man who brought American teams of touring professionals to this country as early as 1874. And what of the other - the earliest - aspect of this, which is that these visitors were re-importing a game that came from these shores to begin with. Whether you want to call it 'one old cat' or 'town ball' or 'stool ball' or 'base ball' in two words, or whatever, it has a history in this country that goes back into the mists. There is the theory that cricket and baseball both derive from 'stool ball'. You threw the ball at a stool; that was the target; a three-legged stool. Is anyone an expert on this? And who's interested enough to go and dig it out?

As an end product it's been mooted by various people that what we would like to have eventually it an authoritative history of baseball in Britain and Ireland. In Ireland still they play what is called 'base rounders', which is an obvious derivative. Tough game too. Fast pitch, underarm with a run up from thirty feet. Ain't easy. I've seen them play it. It's a tough game and practically like fast-pitch softball. And they consider it a Gaelic game, under the same heading as hurling and Gaelic football, administered by the same organization. That, like the variation peculiar to parts of Wales, is an area of study. To have such an end-product, and even to be able to produce bits out of it as a 'work-in-progress' would have a double-edge advantage for us in that, for one thing, we're finding out about the games, which is what... Well, 'Baseball Research': that's the name of the organization. And the other aspect is as a vehicle for our own publicity, and the publicity of the game itself. The average person in this country doesn't think of baseball as a game that really exists in this country, let alone has a history in this country that pre-dates the history of the game in the New World. And for anyone of a sporting turn of mind, for genuine sporting ecumenists - that, I think, if anything, ties us all together. It isn't that we are fanatics about one game alone, but rather about the principle of games, the principle of sport. It is simply that this is the game that we happen to like best of all, or nearly best of all. If you are speaking to anyone who loves sports on that basis, it is not an imperialistic thing: you are not trying to displace one game with another game. To say that you don't like cricket and that you do like baseball is to say that you don't like maple trees but you do like oak trees. What you want is a healthy forest.

So, if we can organize a mechanism whereby individuals take up whatever they run across that arouses their interest and allows them to say: "I'll follow this." Follow it through oral history from people they know and can speak to; through local record offices, through newspapers, through... You find this kind of information in the goddamnedest places. And if you can connect things, one name with... Here's an example. A piece was once written about a team of Americans that toured this country in 1938: it was essentially the American Olympic baseball team.

LES MANN ... MIRACLE BRAVES

Baseball was not an Olympic medal sport at that time but Les Mann, who also ran an energetic campaign to have it made an Olympic sport, brought his players here. They played various British teams and lost...two out of three or three out of four. But the Brits beat them. In fact, most of the 'British' players were foreign-born, mostly Canadians. Les Mann, who managed the losing Americans, had during his own Major League career played for the 1914 'Miracle Braves', the team that was in last place in mid-July and wound up winning the World Series in four straight. Mann drove in the winning run in one of the Series games and then jumped to the Federal League the following year. We'd love to know the inside story of that. Where did that individual - who had his place in British baseball history - come from, and what became of him afterwards? There are many other individuals of that kind who can be cited and studied and recorded, and made pieces - however small and seemingly unconnected, of the mosaic of British baseball history and, therefore, the history of baseball in its existing and continuing entirety.

GET WELL, ANDY

The big disappointment at the Manchester meeting was that Andy Parkes wasn't well enough to attend. He had done the lion's share of all the work in arranging the gathering and the meeting paid tribute to his efforts. A warm vote of thanks to Andy was passed unanimously with the member's good wishes. Get well soon, Andy.

THE MANCHESTER MEETING : A PERSONAL VIEW

I think I was the only one at the recent SABR meeting that had never been to Manchester. I didn't know much about Manchester - all I really knew about it before I moved to Britain seven years ago is that there was a song about it in "HAIR", in which some guy from Queens wishes he was from Manchester England England, which he supposes infinitely more interesting than New York City. This attitude reflects a common American misapprehension, prevalent in the 60's, in which the entire country was viewed as a collection of towns and villages straight out of a Hovis advertisement. This seems to me a reaction to the soulless miles of long straight roads dotted with lighted signs advertising fast food joints which seem to populate America, at least California. So I finally made it to Manchester. I can't say a lot about the city, having only seen it from the charming tram that runs from the main BR station to Stretford, but it did seem cleaner and more modern than London (or Queens, for that matter). But charming and romantic?..Well, we weren't always right in the sixties.

GHOST OF STRETFORD PAST

So then I get to the conference hotel, the Greatstone. This place is not luxurious, but has incredible atmosphere. There was a suit of armour in the living room, and medieval artefacts hung on the walls like so many Old Masters. My first thought was that I hoped it was haunted. Alas, the ghost of Stretford past did not make an appearance that night. Then the taxi takes us to the Bowlers, smack dab in the middle of a huge industrial park. This place is the size of the space shuttle hangar; when the cab pulled up I had in mind a huge meeting of thousands of baseball enthusiasts from all over Europe. Upon entering, however, I found that it was split up into a large number of different sports facilities, and of course what seems to be everyone's favourite sports facility, a pub.

So the SABR meeting was in one of the conference rooms, which was large enough to make hearing to-

wards the middle of the room difficult. The meeting ended with a trivia contest expertly prepared by Brian Williams. Our team was taking a commanding lead when it sounded like the voice of God echoed throughout the room. Perhaps this was the visitation I was looking for; but no, it was just a sound check from a P.A. system somewhere in the complex. I think some evening festivities were about to begin. The noise, combined with a compelling thirst, drove us from the conference room to the pub, where the trivia contest was won by a team consisting of Patrick Carroll, David Halliwell, and myself, beating out the Chapter officers in a decisive victory. They got questions like "Who said 'Nice guys finish last?'" while we got questions like "What connects 'Far from the madding crowd', Hoss Radbourne, and the 1945 St. Louis Browns? (Answers on a postcard, please). I'm not mentioning 1919, but draw your own conclusions. Towards the end of the contest music from outside started getting louder and the pub started filling out with a number of barely dressed teenage women with figures that would arouse pity in a sub-Saharan famine relief camp. Surely these couldn't be late-arriving baseball fans?

THE EVENING FESTIVITIES WERE STARTING...

When we left the pub, these women were everywhere, including the men's room. Towards the main entrance there was a monstrous dark room with a loud band, laser lights, and thousands of young people flailing themselves about to some imagined beat. They were even getting ecstatic in the lobby. I felt like suggesting that we take a vote whether we should stay or not; I was wearing a 1923 New York Giants jersey, and with my American accent I'm sure I could have convinced someone that I was in "Field of Dreams". ("Is this heaven?", he asked. "No, it's Stretford", the answer came back.) But my enthusiasm was dimmed by the sight of an army of bouncers that looked like they could have beaten Mike Tyson to a pulp; I quickly dropped the notion of staying and we made it back to the hotel.

The hotel, by contrast, was quiet as a the Polo Grounds in 1958. It only had a small bar that served warm beer, so we took directions to the

nearest pub. Back to the youth scene. The pub was full of fresh-faced young people on the pull. I'm honestly not that old (hint: Bobby Thomsom hit the Shot Heard Round the World the year before I was born), but I felt it that night. My cohorts and I spent the rest of the evening discussing the 1947 Dodgers to thumping rock music (thank God it was more Abba than Ice T); but it was near closing time and they threw us out before any real damage could be done to our ears. Back to the hotel and the stillness of the spirit world. A lesson in contrasts. We parted, weary, and I went to my room and watched a bit of "Catch 22" with the sound off while I tried to tune in AFN. When I finally found them, they were broadcasting basketball, a frenetic sport. All in all, it was an incredible afternoon and evening. But nothing in all that could have prepared us for the bizarre quality of the next day's game.

- Martin Hoerchner

WHO ARE WE?

Controversy has been stirred yet again by the name of this Newsletter. In the search for an appealing title, many names have been kicked around, but all have withered under the distaste of at least one of the Chapter's officers. I think it's about time the issue be thrown open. We'd like a title that's not too bland - something with a catchy title that not one SABR member will come to despise. Mike Ross and I discussed the idea of using a rotating series of titles, all taken from the names of famous U.S. papers (with famous baseball writers), e.g. the Examiner is the name of a San Francisco paper; the Times is found both in New York and Los Angeles, the Tribune is in Chicago. Ideas such as "The SABR Rattler" were met with disapproval "unless we can have a rattlesnake logo in the paper". A title taken as a direct quote from Shakespeare, "This SABR'd Isle", was rejected out of hand as "atrocious". I'd like to say that the winner of the competition will win an all-expenses paid trip to see the next World Series. That would be a lie. We don't have the funds to send someone to San Francisco this year. But the person who comes up with a universally agreeable name to the Newsletter will have our eternal gratitude, everlasting goodwill.

-Martin Hoerchner

COMPUTERS ARE FUN - HONEST!

Baseball is by far the most statistical of sports; it is the easiest to quantify performance, whether it be batting, pitching, defence, base running, you name it. This wealth of statistics has not only kept Bill James and Macmillans in clover for years, but can also be fun and extremely interesting for anyone with a minimal interest and knowledge of computer software. I used to think computers were only for nerds, but no!. Computers are fun!

I'm not an extremely numerate person who devours obscure personal statistics for some obscure end. But I am interested in finding out, say, who was the most successful team during the Dead Ball Era (1901-1920), or which team had the best decade of performance. To this end, I have manually entered the year-by-year results of the teams in the Major Leagues from 1871-1992 on a spreadsheet. A spreadsheet is simply an arithmetical tool that lets you add, total, multiply, divide, etc. any combination of numbers or range of data that you care to handle. With a simple knowledge of how it works, you can calculate the won-loss percentages throughout a team's history, or discover the team standings over any period of time, from a year to a century. I have entered these statistics from the Baseball Encyclopedia on Supercal, however, it might be exportable into spreadsheets such as Lotus 1-2-3 or Excel. To show you what you can do with spreadsheets, at the end of this article there is a summation of the records of all Major League teams throughout their existence. Try counting this up by hand!

Of course, baseball doesn't only exist in history. There are games being played daily from April to October. You can also use spreadsheets to keep daily current track of standings. Channel 3 teletext, page 162, gives reasonably accurate scores of games from the preceding day - and it's an easy number to remember. I've found that it's not always perfect; sometimes it omits a late game, and forget Bank Holidays, but it's usually up to date; maybe an occasional reference to USA Today will confirm updates. You can combine the daily reference to Teletext with spreadsheet software to keep accurate day-by-day standings. In contrast, USA Today is a day behind and is useless on the weekends. I am also aware of two Major League Baseball scores hotlines that are good, but they too aren't complete on the weekends. If anyone

is interested in finding out how to set up set a spreadsheet to keep track of baseball statistics, I will gladly offer to help them. It's not hard.

One more thing: for those of you graphic instead of statistic computer users out there - I have designed three baseball icons that you can use with Microsoft Windows to activate any computer baseball games you might have, or anything else for that matter. I have also converted these to wallpapers, which means that no matter what you doing in Windows you can always have a reminder of The Game behind you. Contact the Editor for details.

- Martin Hoerchner-

STANDINGS 1876-1992

This is a summary of the standings of all Major League teams throughout the entirety of their existence, compressed as if in a single 162-game season. Teams are followed throughout their geographical moves, e.g. the Atlanta Braves started as the Boston Red Caps in 1876. The Baltimore Orioles include their stint as the St. Louis Browns. Here is the story so far:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
GIANTS	87	75	.540	-
DODGERS	85	77	.523	2
CUBS	84	78	.518	3
PIRATES	84	78	.518	3
REDS	82	80	.506	5
CARDINALS	82	80	.505	5
BRAVES	79	83	.486	8
EXPOS	79	83	.485	8
ASTROS	78	84	.482	9
METS	76	86	.467	11
PHILLIES	75	87	.465	12
PADRES	73	89	.450	14

AMERICAN LEAGUE

YANKEES	91	71	.562	-
TIGERS	84	78	.518	7
ROYALS	84	78	.517	7
RED SOX	83	79	.510	8
INDIANS	82	80	.506	9
WHITE SOX	81	81	.503	10
BLUE JAYS	80	82	.496	11
ANGELS	79	83	.485	12
ATHLETICS	78	84	.480	13
TWINS	78	84	.480	13
BREWERS	77	85	.478	14
ORIOLES	77	85	.476	14
RANGERS	74	88	.454	17
MARINERS	69	93	.427	22

1951 BOOK OFFER...

An offer with McFarland, the American book publisher, has recently been negotiated through SABR(UK). Normally McFarland's books are difficult to impossible to get in the U.K., and with corresponding prices. But they are offering a special price to SABR(UK) members for Harvey Rosenfeld's "The Great Chase", an account of the 1951 National League pennant race.

In the forward, Ernie Harwell says "Harvey brings us a true insight with deep research and interesting quotes from many of the principles of that season. He has done the job accurately and thoroughly". The book normally retails for ~~£25.95~~, but SABR(UK) members can have it for £19.95 - a great price for such an excellent book! Contact the SABR(UK) Examiner for details, c/o the Editor, Martin Hoerchner, at 48 Mildmay Road, London N1 4NG, phone 071 254-3492.

SABR ALL-STARS EDGE STRETFORD SAINTS, 12-11

by Martin Hoerchner, Sports Correspondent

The SABR All-Stars edged the Stretford Saints 12-11 on Sunday, but it was never as close as that. In one of the biggest upsets since the 1914 World Series, a ragtag group of baseball enthusiasts, historians, and trivia experts beat out the British Baseball Champions of three consecutive years in the 1960's.

Beat the British Baseball Champions

The real hero of the game was SABR's Hugh Robinson, who pitched three shutout innings before having to leave the game with an injury sustained while running out a ground. His injury was later diagnosed as a broken collar bone and he is expected to be out the rest of the season. Patrick Carroll, who managed the SABR team, also had to leave the game because of an injury. Carroll played first base until he injured his Achilles tendon stretching for a wide throw while trying to keep his foot on the bag. These injuries had a devastating effect on the SABR All-Stars: the Stretford Saints seem to improve as the game went on, while the SABR's faded. "It was like the battle of Waterloo out there", said manager Patrick "Little Napoleon" Carroll. "The injured just littered the field".

THE INJURED LITTERED THE FIELD

It got so bad that spectators were recruited to fill the gaps, including a man with one hand who pitched brilliantly and a 10-year-old boy who ran the bases with a ferocity not seen since Ty Cobb. Because of the injuries, the SABRites were forced to play without a right fielder in the later innings. This was not a factor until the seventh and final inning. The bottom of the seventh started with the score 12-5 and the Saints at bat. The second baseman, Martin Hoerchner, taunted them, saying "All you need is eight runs!" This was a mistake; they almost got them. The Saints scored six runs in the inning and most of these came with two outs. Shortstop Mike Ross said, "All of a sudden these right-handed hitters started to hit to the opposite side. Without a right fielder, a shot over the second base-

man was as good as an inside-the-park home run." With two out, the Saints scored run after run. "Each one was right over my head", said Hoerchner. "If I was a few inches taller maybe I could have caught them." The game finally (and mercifully) ended with a slow grounder to Hoerchner, who tossed it to Ross covering at second for a force play. The SABR batting champion, David Halliwell, said "It was close...too close...but we pulled it out in the end. We had a good game against the Saints, and that's all that matters."

SABR's 4 1 1 1 3 0 2 12

SAINTS 0 0 0 1 3 1 6 11

T: 1:53

A: 12

HAVE A SAY

The call is going out for submissions. The editorial staff of this Newsletter is concerned that the SABR Examiner reflects the views of the members of the Bobby Thomsom of SABR(UK), and not just the editor's. To that end, we are putting out the call for submissions. What are we looking for? Research papers on baseball in Britain or America are ideal. Another idea - you've got an opinion. Most sentient beings do. Who was better, Ty Cobb or Babe Ruth? Who's not in the Hall that should be? Great ideas for a paper. Anyone with something to say will have a forum to air an idea or create a controversy. Here's another one: reminiscences. When baseball people get together, they usually start asking each other, "What was the most exciting moment you've ever seen at a game?", "What was your first baseball memory?", or even "What was it like being at Ebbetts Field?". I'd certainly like to know. Any submissions will be considered. So get creative! SABR is not just a social club! Have a say!

- Martin Hoerchner

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

We've now had two full-scale meetings of SABR UK. That's enough to show that it's well worthwhile going on. The support is there and so is the interest and enthusiasm. So what form should future meetings take? We could stick to the same format as now. but the answers to the Members' Questionnaire and ideas raised at the Manchester meeting suggest we could do better.

First of all, at Manchester a lot of people travelled from far and wide for a meeting that effectively ended in the early evening. Why travel all that way and then pack up so soon? A good many of those present either lived locally or weren't going home until the next day. Shouldn't we capitalise on that fact? Part of the trouble was we had no fixed place to go in the evening. So ought we to think about having ONE meeting place that combines hotel accommodation and conference room - and a conference room that has video, audio and film facilities? That would certainly help those giving presentations with stats and diagrams.

If we had one place that was ours for the whole afternoon and evening we needn't then break up and go rushing back to the hotel, or feel hurried at the meeting itself. The meal could be a leisurely affair and the setting for a discussion of all sorts of topics followed perhaps by a Trivia Quiz, board games or computer games. You name it. But if we've gone to the trouble of going to a meeting, let's MEET and stay met!

One suggestion that's been made is that we should be in effect a mini SABR convention once a year, extending over the whole weekend. Finding a venue might cost more, but it's only once a year. Isn't it worth it?

We could also have smaller, local meetings which wouldn't involve much travelling for those attending. They could be in a pub or even in people's homes. A half a dozen people attending should be no problem. It would also mean that members would have such long distances to travel - we lose attendance that way.

These are only suggestions. It's your Chapter and they're your meetings. We want to get the best out of them. Let us know what you think. Take part!

- Patrick Morley,
Chapter Secretary