



1992 LMBL Champions, Coneybeare Aluminum, clockwise from top left; Doug Workman, Rick Wilson, Steve Douglas, Ed Condon, Jim Coneybeare, Chris Phillips, Mike Herman, Paul Cox, Ron St. Clair, Jim Matchett, Tim Tremblay, and Ian Wood. Missing from photo were Terry MacDonnell, Dan Robinson and Doug Fletcher Coneybeare squaked by O'Briens 10-9 to win the leagues first season.

IN THE BEGINNING

LEAGUE CHAIRMAN REMEMBERS THE EARLY DAYS OF LMBL

Just a few of the guys playing a little pickup ball; that's how the London Mens Baseball League got started back in the summer of 1991.

Hans Jonckheere and myself, while watching our sons play ball, had talked about the possibility of getting something off the ground, so we put our heads together and tried to measure the interest. We had enough players to bat the ball around but not enough to actually get a game going.

Over the next winter, Paul Cox and I

decided to put an effort into creating a real league; finding diamonds, pricing equipment, putting together a flyer, and what seemed like a million other little details. The end result was a four team league with Steve Douglas, Brent Kats, Carl Cywink, and Kelly Whalen as managers of the teams sponsored by Coneybeare Aluminum, Sultans Court, O'Briens Restaurant, and London City Chrysler respectively. Paul Cox acted as vice-chair, Gerry Lane took on the treasurers job and I became league chairman.

The first year, 1992, was a smashing success. The players all had a good time reliving their youth (to varying degrees of success) and as word about the league spread, more and more people showed an interest in playing. By seasons end, in September, the Coneybeare Aluminum team had won the first ever league championship, an honour many had aspired to but alas only one team could claim. Congratulations guys!

For 1993, we have expanded to six teams adding Jim Nanny(who took over for Kelly Whalen part way through 92 when he had to leave) and Gerry Lane as managers of two of the original teams and Jim Silverthorne and Bob Major as manager of the two new teams. We had so many players apply this year that the league is hoping to expand once more next year to accommodate those on the spare list and the waiting list. That will depend on the availability of good diamonds, but that's something for future consideration. There are still a few little bugs to iron out, but all in all it has been a good start to the season and I am looking forward to as good a year this year as it was in our first.

Harvey Brown,
Chairman

Man Exorcises Boyhood Demon

by Chris Philips

It is the middle of June of 1968. the place is West Newbury, Massachusetts. Mosquitoes are everywhere. There is a little league baseball game going on. Parents are watching.

A small boy, unsure of himself, is playing right field. Chances are that he was placed there by an exasperated coach in hopes that no hits ever go out there. The boy looks like he is in a stupor. Lord knows the boy cant bat, he either strikes out or walks every time he comes up to the plate.

Suddenly, everyone is shouting. A fly ball has come his way. But, by the time the boy realizes what all the shouting is about, the ball is well past him.

Well, that boy was me. I quit playing baseball not long after that game. I just wasn't good enough. Its not that the league I was in was too competitive or anything, I just didn't feel I was getting the hang of it.

West Newbury, at that time was a sleepy little farm town (pop.2200) whose only claim to fame is two native sons who hit the big time. One is Paul Gruen (inventor of the game "Payday") and the other is comedian Kevin Rooney who has appeared on Carson and Letterman.

Anyway, a quarter of a century later I have taken up the bat and glove again. I no longer automatically walk or strike out

every time I get up to bat. I no longer chant "no batter" with my teammates at the prompting of the my coach. In fact I'm not even a half-forgotten right fielder anymore. And London is certainly no sleepy little farm town.

But, for better or worse, I'm still a bit of a kid inside who wants to prove himself through mastering the game of baseball and I've been doing okay. I've always been a bit of a late bloomer and sometimes a blooming idiot, but whatever the case, me and some 85 other guys are, more or less, are chasing the same dream I am at the the ball park every Sunday night. Maybe some are exorcising some demons of the past too and maybe some are just exercising a growing demon waistline.

Yet whatever the motivation that led us all to join the London Mens Baseball League, we all share the love of the same mistress, the superb sport of

baseball. Every new game is rich with promise, every new at bat conjures visions of the home run ball. If you have a good game you can then look back over the field of battle much the same way Napoleon must have after the battle of Austerlitz, or General MacArthur after his return to the Philippines. At the very least, winning puts a smile on your face all the way to Monday morning.

It has been strange for me to pick up baseball again in another country and another era(no - not that ERA). It has been a curious sequence of events that led me here. Fate is sometimes a fickle curve ball indeed, but I couldn't be happier than when playing with friends in the manicured, professional, beautiful Labatt Park, win or lose.

Chris Philips is a freelance writer and part time teacher and still strikes out occasionally on the Compucentre team.

PLAYER SUSPENSIONS

**JOE MAGIEROSKI, 1 GAME FOR INTENT TO INJURE,
JIM CONEYBEARE, 1 GAME FOR REPEAT OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE
TERRY MacDONNELL, EJECTED FROM LEAGUE FOR REPEAT OFFENCES AND INSTIGATING A FIGHT.**

ABOUT BASELINES

BASELINES is produced in its entirety by Steve Douglas and he alone is responsible for its contents. Although Steve is careful about making sure facts are facts and names and words are spelled correctly, sometimes these things slip through. For those, if any, I apologize. I would be forever grateful for your help in pointing out any errors in spelling or grammar. Submissions of articles, photos, article ideas, or information correction is encouraged and welcomed. I don't foresee ever offering any remuneration for submissions. Anyone interested in advertising in **BASELINES** is encouraged to call me, as this is the only way I can cover some of the costs of production. This premier issue was made possible with the generous assistance of the advertisers. I hope the readers will patronize these businesses. Thanks, too, go to Harvey, Paul, and Chris for their editorial contributions and to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Herman for their photo contribution on the front page.

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THE SPIRIT OF OUR LEAGUE

As our playoffs approach, and in light of some recent difficulties, I feel that is important at this time for each of us to remind ourselves why we are members of the London Mens Baseball League.

From the beginning, it has been my view that this league is an opportunity to play real baseball, to make new friends, to ward off the effects of aging, (Is anyone else finding this becoming increasingly more difficult?), and a host of other reasons.

I have seen players who have had close calls go against them, and, being respectful of the few people in the stand, of their league mates and of themselves, they have chosen to accept the call and go on with the game. These players have earned my respect.

— them I wish to say thank you; and I am happy to be involved in a league venture with them.

Playoffs add some increased tension. It is as if it is suddenly more important to win. When the time comes, I am hopeful that we will all react and behave in a manner that is in keeping with the spirit in which the league was founded.

The 13th annual *Terry Fox Run* is scheduled for Sunday September 19, at Wonderland Gardens, University of Western Ontario, and in conjunction with the Springbank Road Race.

Again this year the London Men's Baseball League is happy to support the *Terry Fox Run*. All persons in attendance (players too!) at the league championship game are asked to donate at least \$1.00 to this cause.

For further information about the run, please contact me at 679-0616

Paul Cox

...y player wishing to express his views in this column is welcome to submit his article to the editor.



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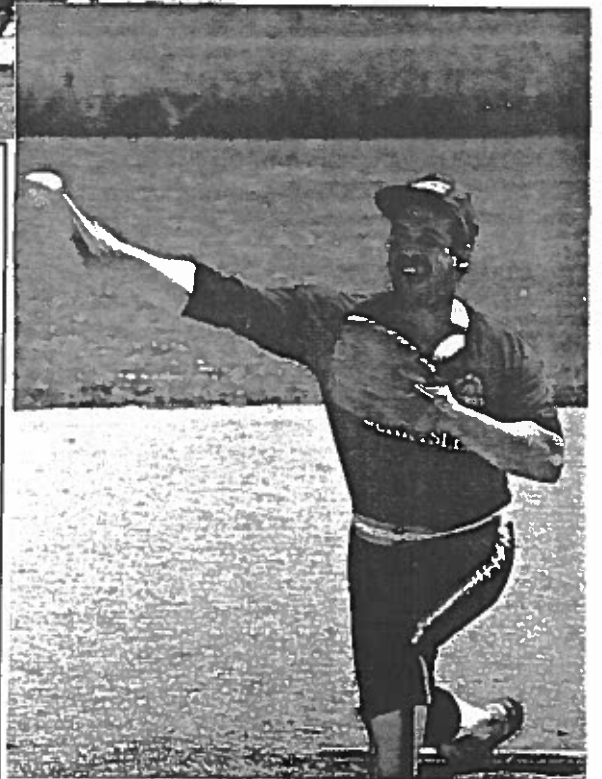
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Catcher, Ed Condon, of Compucentre, assumes the position

London City Chryslers' Paul Allen puts his all into a pitch at Arva.



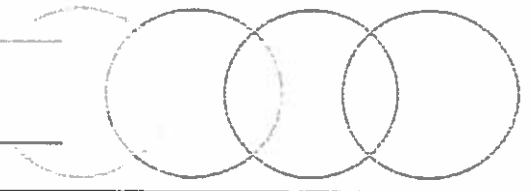
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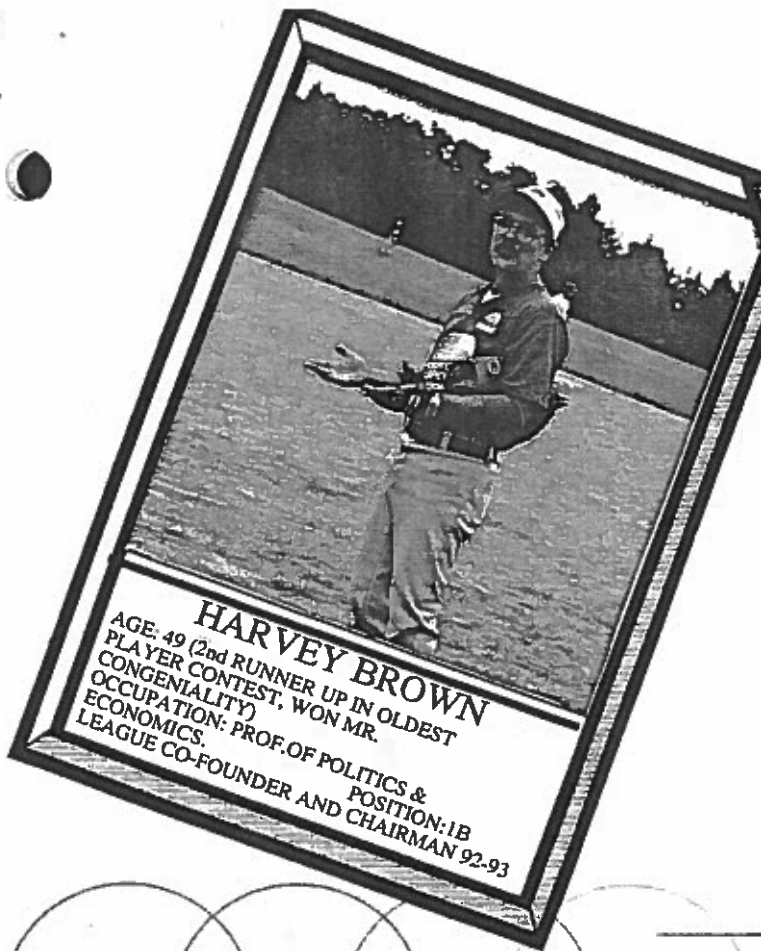
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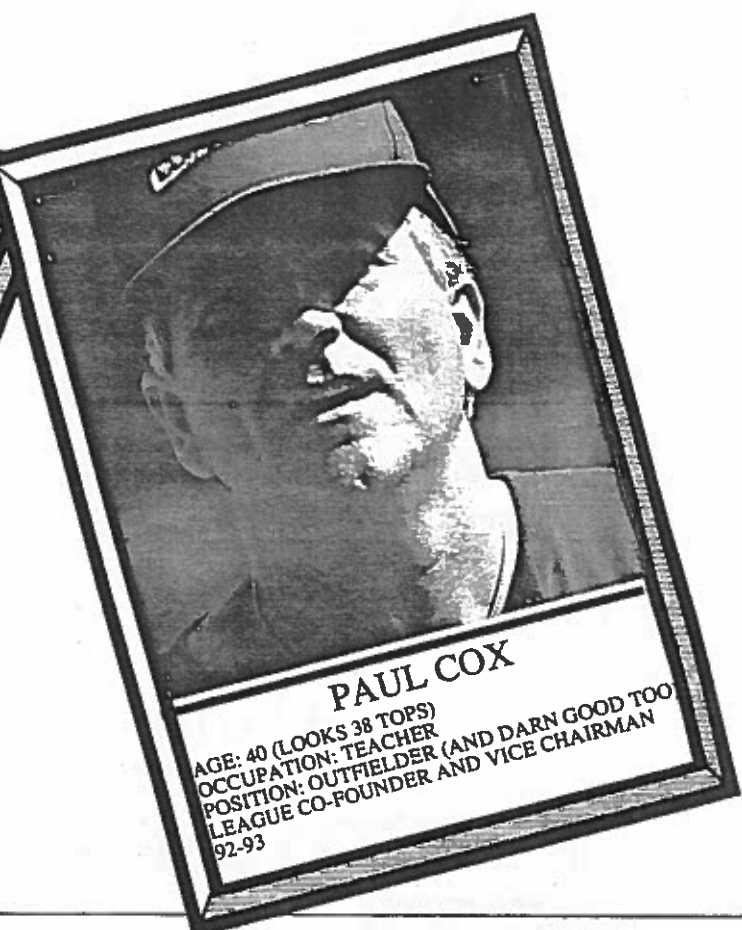
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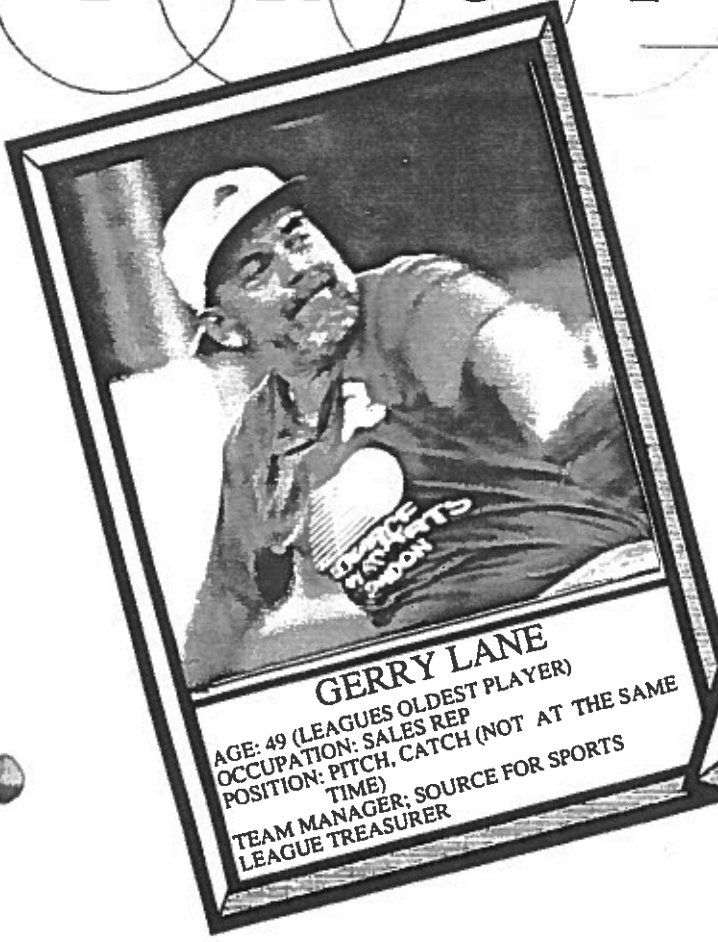


HARVEY BROWN
AGE: 49 (2nd RUNNER UP IN OLDEST
PLAYER CONTEST, WON MR.
CONGENIALITY)
OCCUPATION: PROF. OF POLITICS &
ECONOMICS. POSITION: 1B
LEAGUE CO-FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN 92-93



PAUL COX
AGE: 40 (LOOKS 38 TOPS)
OCCUPATION: TEACHER
POSITION: OUTFIELDER (AND DARN GOOD TOO)
LEAGUE CO-FOUNDER AND VICE CHAIRMAN
92-93

P R O F I L E S



GERRY LANE
AGE: 49 (LEAGUES OLDEST PLAYER)
OCCUPATION: SALES REP
POSITION: PITCH, CATCH (NOT AT THE SAME
TIME)
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JIM NANNI
AGE: 39 (HE INSISTS)
OCCUPATION: MARKETING REP.,
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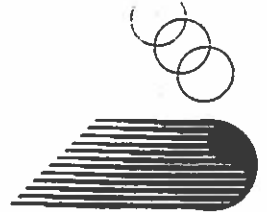
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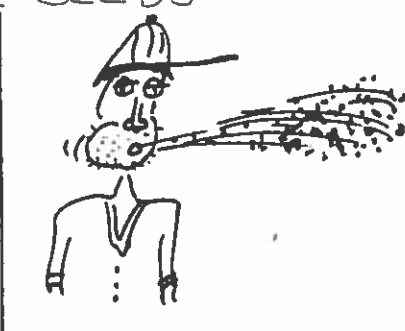
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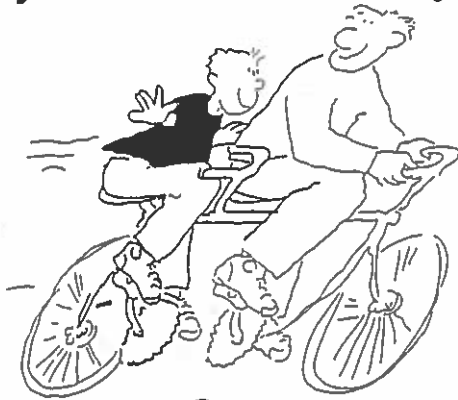


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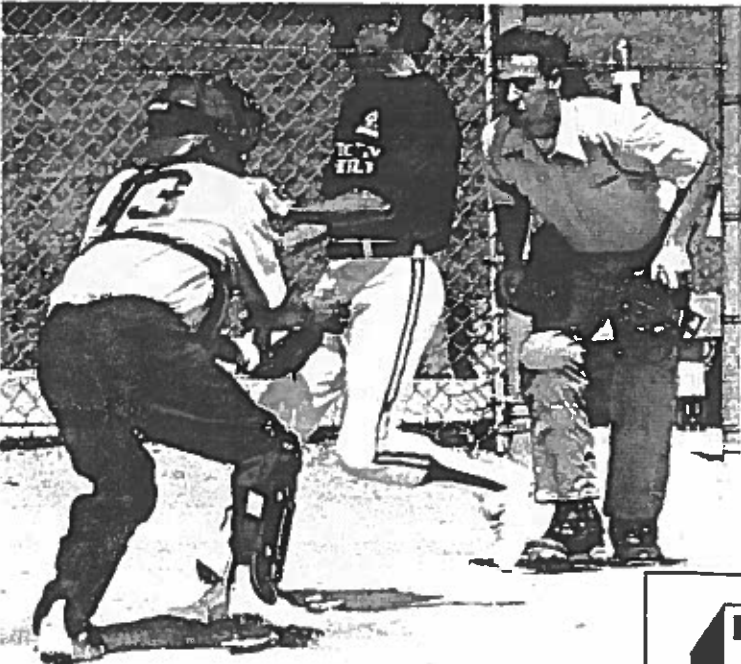
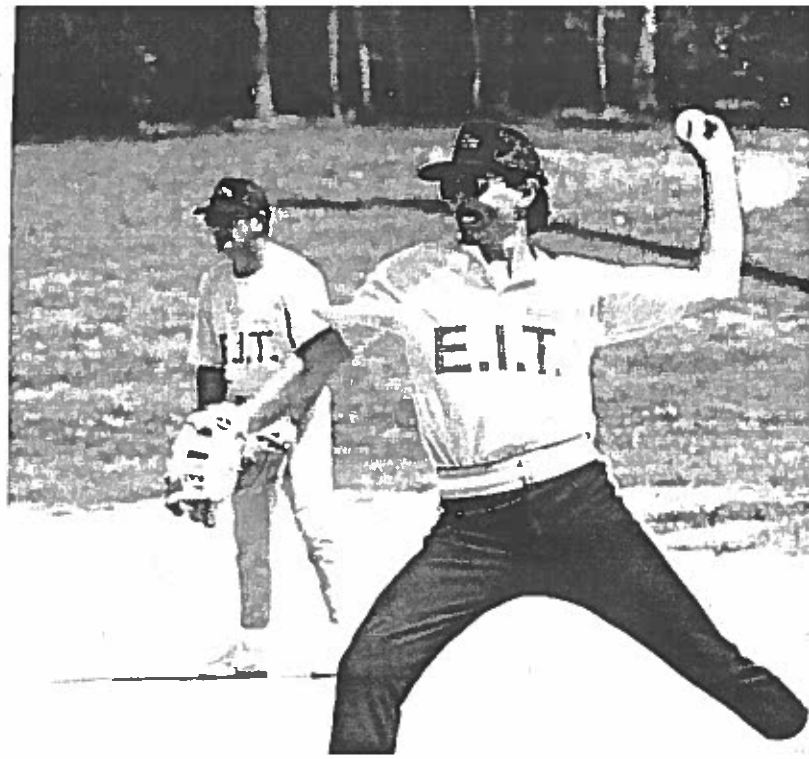
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Umpire, Mike Cripps, does the "Search for Spikes" shuffle, a baseball tradition, to Don Johnson (15) of E.I.T and Mike Anderson of London City Chrysler at Arva.



Tim Tremblay, of COMPUCENTRE, dives back to second and avoids the tag of an unidentified SOURCE for SPORTS spare at a recent game at Windermere.




THE BATTLE:
 Pitcher, Vern Eldridge of E.I.T. (top right), unleashes his best against batter, Jim Nanni, of City Chrysler, (top left). Nanni struck for a double on this play, but was later tagged at home by catcher, Carl Cywink. Umpire Mike Cripps is there to make the call. (left)

Sketchley
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