

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUES.

7b TABLES, 1977-1978 LEAGUES

NBL Division One		Pl.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.
1	Cinzano SCP	18	18	0	1881	1343	36
2	Embassy All-Stars	18	16	2	1858	1626	32
3	Team Fiat, Coventry	18	12	6	1820	1668	24
4	Wilson Panthers, Doncaster	18	10	8	1734	1658	20
5	Bowmer & Kirkland L.A.S.	18	9	9	1579	1571	18
6	Stockport Belgrade	18	9	9	1593	1614	18
7	ATS Giants (Manchester)	18	8	10	1637	1625	16
8	London "Y" Metros	18	5	13	1643	1702	9 (1 pt. Deducted)
9	St. Luke's TSB Exeter	18	3	15	1547	1842	6
10	Vauxhall Motors, Bedford	18	0	18	1318	1979	0 Relegated/Withdraw

Crystal Palace carried all before them once again, as they repeated their achievement of completing the 18-game season without defeat – extending their unbeaten run to forty games.

Embassy bounced back to return to their accustomed place in the top two, winning all their games except the ones against their traditional rivals.

Coventry climbed into the top three, leaving Doncaster clinging on to fourth place for the second season running.

At the foot of the table, Vauxhall ended their two year association with Division One on a losing note – or rather, eighteen losing notes. Automatic relegation followed, and they chose to withdraw from the League.

NBL Division Two		Pl.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.
1	Epab, Sunderland	20	20	0	2151	1614	40 Promoted
2	Leatherhead	20	17	3	1761	1409	34 Promoted
3	Telefusion Blackpool	20	14	6	2107	1856	28
4	Seensee Sonics, Maidenhead	20	12	8	1906	1856	24
5	Hemel Hempstead Lakers	20	10	10	1713	1646	20
6	Nottingham	20	9	11	1560	1551	18
7	Avenue (Islington)	20	9	11	1755	1841	18 Withdraw
8	Bromley	20	5	15	1793	2051	10 Re-qualified
9	Derby CFE	20	4	16	1409	1730	8 Re-qualified
10	Miles Mustangs, Leeds	20	4	16	1513	1907	8 Re-qualified
11	Birmingham Bulldogs	20	4	16	1646	1953	8 Re-qualified

Sunderland built on their solid start of the previous season, to take the title without defeat.

They gained automatic promotion, and, to expand Division 1 to eleven teams, so did Leatherhead – despite controversy over whether they were or were not the “second team” of Crystal Palace.

The highest-profile casualties to date were Avenue, the first ever League Champions, who finished seventh, following relegation the year before, and they withdrew from competition, never to return.

The bottom four, who were bracketed by just two points, all survived – Derby for the second season running, and Bromley in only their first season.

Miles Mustangs (who had moved from Morley to Leeds) merged with Leeds Athletic Institute during the close-season.

Southern Pirates were admitted back into the League, and ambitious Brighton also gained a place, but Division Two contracted to ten teams for the following season.

League Qualifiers	
Leeds A.I.	Merged with Miles Mustangs
Southern Pirates (Guildford)	Admitted to Division Two
Brighton Rucanor	Admitted to Division Two
Hampstead	Not admitted
Riversdale ATAC (Liverpool)	Not admitted

NBL Women, Division One							
	Pl.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.	
1							
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

NBL Women, Division Two							
	Pl.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

League Qualifiers	
Coventry Cagers	Admitted to Division 2
Frome CoMets	Admitted to Division 2
Telfers Bonanza (Northampton)	Admitted to Division 2
Crystal Palace Fliers	Admitted to Division 2
Birmingham Sportsco	Admitted to Division 2
Gaywood Phoenix (Kings Lynn)	Admitted to Division 2