



Above: Islip town Historian Robert Finnegan poses with the victorious Brooklyn Atlantics (one member holding the Islip Cup) and the New York Gotham team. Below: The Brooklyn Atlantics and the New York Gothams show good sportsmanship after the last game.

SCN/Finnegan

# The inaugural Islip Cup



# 1860 baseball teams battle it out at Islip Grange

By LIZ FINNEGAN

**SAYVILLE** — Three baseball teams — re-enactors of the 1860-style game — met last Saturday on the grounds of historic Islip Grange, the Islip Town-owned park, to compete in a tournament to garner the first Islip Cup championship. The competition was tough, they all stepped up to the plate (so to speak) and in the end the Brooklyn Atlantics took home the prize, beating the New York Gothams 2-0.

The Atlantics had faced the Gothams and the New Jersey Neshanocks in three games, each of the teams playing at least two. Each team exhibited skill, tenacity and physical strength, especially when playing without a mitt. No steroids were involved, either. And, they showed an abundance of sportsmanship as well, win or lose, shouting words that were appropriate for all age groups to hear. And apparently everyone could hear what the players had to say, as spectators were seated on the grass only steps away

from the playing field.

Islip Town Historian Robert Finnegan said that the event is appropriate for the mid-19th century time period of the village.

"The game highlights some of the activities that might have taken place at that time," he noted. Finnegan added that since this is the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War, it is also very timely.

"The game came about around the time of the war and spread in popularity during it as a result of the interaction of the troops."

In addition to the games, a blacksmith, broom maker, storyteller and musical entertainment enhanced the ambiance of the day. As always, parking and admission were free.

At the end of the day, the Atlantics were presented with the Islip Cup, a perpetual trophy that was donated to the event by South Shore Outdoor Sports in Bay Shore. Every year, the winning team's name will be

added to the base of the award.

Finnegan said he hopes to have four vintage baseball games and another tournament next year.

"This was a great event and just the type of historic activity that should take place at the Islip Grange." ■



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