



# Bases Loaded

## Mavs2 edge Hackers despite injury Lions squeeze past Mossley

**T**HERE were top-of-the-table clashes in both Divisions 3 and 4 last week, with **Mavs 2** winning a close encounter with **Hackers** and **Sharks** edging out **Camels II**.

The Div 4 clash almost hinged on a detail of our revised guest rules: can a guest playing down be used as a substitute if that puts them anywhere in the line-up other than the lowest place possible? Assorted umpires and Exec members could not decide for sure when the Mavs' Isla Gemmell limped out of the game and rookie Leanne Cracknell—technically a Mavs 1 player so a guest playing “down”—took her place and fielded, but did not bat. Mavs were by this time 10-8 up, thanks to a 7-run 4th inning, and the win was confirmed when they got another 6 in the final inning. Elsewhere in the division, **Moorkats** were never going to lose to **Drizzle** after scoring 14 in the first inning, and **Wildcats** similarly defused the **Colt 45s** with 10 in the first. Much closer was the **Barflies-Phoenix** clash:

with the firebirds 8-1 after 2, the insects got it back to 7-8 before allowing another 7 runs. Despite spirited batting in the 4th and 6th, they never quite caught the **Phoenix**, who won 21-19 with a half-inning to spare.

**THE Sharks** needed an extra inning to overcome the **Camels**, handing them their first defeat of the season, and allowing **Storm** to take over the top spot after a one-sided Club Thunder derby against **Hurricanes**. There was never more than 2 runs in it as the lead repeatedly changed hands,

>>> 2

Inside this issue	
Birthdays	2
Correction	2
Match reports	2
Transfers	3
Fantasy softball	4
Coach's corner	6
Blu corner: Courtesy runner	7
Preview: this week's games	8
Last week's MVPs	8
Home runs	9
Results and standings	10

### Guest rules clarified

*A message from the League Head, Dave Dean*

Greetings MSL players. It's been an interesting few weeks with our first rain postponements in a couple of years and also the first week of Adam's inventive cup competition.

There has also been some unfortunate confusion with the new guest rules. When we all discussed and voted on the new rules certain circumstances were not foreseen, particularly those

regarding bringing in a guest player after the game has started. There have recently been a few instances of this happening which technically broke the new rules in that the guest was not batting in the agreed place, namely as low in the batting order as possible. As you know the batting order cannot be changed during a game. It all came to a point this week when a team had a player injured and brought in a guest to replace them. The guest

>>> 3

### This week's games at a glance

#### Division 1

GRX @ THU (2, TLF)  
LIO @ DOD (6)  
MAV @ OUT (4, DD)  
MHM @ MKT (9, BMcG)

#### Division 2

CAM @ TIG (3, AK)  
OU2 @ BUL (5, AG)  
SPE @ LIG (7, MD)

#### Division 3

ENF @ STO (7, AG)  
HUR @ MM2 (8, AR)  
PIR @ CM2 (3, PN)  
SHA @ BAT (9, LA)

#### Division 4

COL @ MV2 (4, JF)  
FAL @ WCT (5, TS)  
HAC @ DRZ (6, BA)  
MK2 @ BFL (2, IC)  
PHX @ FRZ (1, MG)

the scores being tied at 7-7 at the bottom of the 6th, with a pair of donuts in the 7th taking the game to overtime. Camels managed 2, but Sefton's Stephen Shearer scored the winning run with a walk-off homer, though this was not enough to get him an MVP nomination. **Enforcers** and **Bats** were comfortable winners in the division's other two games.

IN the top tier, **Greensox** continued their inexorable march with the season's biggest winning margin, highest winning score and most runs in an inning (20), though none of these are anywhere near the records in each category set by the freaky **Outlaws-Bats** game in 2009. **Meerkats** were the not-quite hapless victims, who at least managed to avoid a shut-out. Second-from-bottom **Mayhem** gave the **Lions** a scare, rallying from 6-3 down to take a 7-6 lead in the top of the 7th: the cats got the 2 runs needed to post an 8-7 win. The **Mavericks'** bats never really warmed up in what remained a close game until the **Dodgers** managed 8 in the 4th, going on to win 14-7. And **Thunder** pulled steadily away from **Outlaws** all game, scoring 6 in the 7th add icing to the cake.

THERE were only two games in Division 2 as **Bullfrogs** were unable to field a team against the **Tigers**, relinquishing the top spot to **Mutineers** by one league point. The self-styled "mighty Mutes" mercied bottom-placed **Outlaws II**. **Lightning** were always chasing the **Camels** after conceding 5 in the opening inning, and although they came close it was not enough. The struggle to avoid the single relegation place looks like being a close one.

## Birthdays

**Monday** Matthew Arrowsmith (Wildcats), Danny Gunn (Greensox)

**Tuesday** Mandy Knight (Mayhem), Ellie Sams (Speeders)

**Wednesday** Mandy Ashton (Moorkats), Ellie Buckley (Outlaws)

**Thursday** Kirsti Ahmed (Phoenix)

**Friday** Beth Jarrat (Mutineers), Rachel Gavaghan (Mavericks)

**Saturday** Lenka Durisinova (Mavericks II)

## Correction

In last week's Division 3 Cup scores, the team names in the semi-final between Mayhem +Storm and Storm+Mayhem were confused. It was Mayhem O'Storm who won 18-17.

It was also remiss of the report to mention that semi-final as being between two halves of the same two teams (Storm and Mayhem II), when it was the same in the other semi-final with Sharks and Enforcers, where Sharkforce beat Enfarks.

## Match reports

### Drizzle don't quite have the answers

**MOORKATS** 14 3 1 0 4 1 1 **24**  
**DRIZZLE** 2 0 7 0 1 0 0 **10**

**Ump:** Charles Everitt; Pitch 7; home team batted first

**HRs DRZ** Brad Hadwin; **MK2** Dan Strosnider 2, Aleck Aspinall

**MOORKATS** Rachel Wain (RF), Dan Strosnider (SS), Cath Whitehead (C), Aleck Aspinall (P), Siobhán Ó Seachnasaigh (1B), Ioan Said (CL), Lisa Weaver (LF), Jono Wrigley (2B), Ellie Walker (3B), Chris Braddick (CR)

**DRIZZLE** Andrew Bogie (EP), Rachel Wildgoose (LC), Brad Hadwin (SS), Emma Waterhouse (3B), Tim Roberts (P), Heather Blythe (1B), Alun Jones (LF), Laura Hartley (C), Sean McCaffrey (2B), Faye Twine (RF), Tom Childs (RC), *Carolyn Barratt* (LIG)(EP)

**Q:** Which of these tribulations would cause Drizzle's heads to drop?

\* Having a miserable team name?

\* Being shellacked in the top of the first and conceding 14 runs?

\* Responding by loading the bases only, through rookie base-running on an infield pop-up, to allow their opponents to execute a triple play (they could have made 4 outs)?

A: None of the above. Indeed, if the soggies could have played their joker to disregard the first half inning, the outcome of the game would have been a 10-10 tie. Resisting the temptation to fold and be the first to try the new post-match venue, Drizzle composed themselves and produced some fine softball. A combination of hitting and patience at the plate provided plenty of base-runners. Meanwhile the defence pulled off their first double play of the season. Not satisfied with this they executed two more. There were contributions from throughout the team, epitomised by Laura Hartley surprising herself by catching a line drive at second then surprising the overeager base-runner with a quick transfer to shortstop Brad Hadwin to effect the double. But the upland felines were not to be denied. Their opening lumber party had done the damage and with skipper Dan Strosnider leading their defence they did enough to secure a deserved victory. Albeit by this time the

June daylight had become distinctly crepuscular and the teams were last to the pub. BTW the Cheshire Lines seems a good choice, especially for real ale fans. Obviously more testing is required. *Two-out Tim*  
 MVPs: Wain, Strosnider, Waterhouse, Bogie

## Shearer wins it for Sharks with extra inning walk-off homer

**CAMELS II** 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 2 9  
**SHARKS** 1 1 2 0 2 1 0 3 10

**Ump:** Baljit Ahluwalia; Pitch 2

**HRs CM2** Adam Craig; **SHA** Stephen Shearer, Phil Longfield

**CAMELS II** Adam Craig / David dean (LC), Helen Rossiter (C), Dan Jarman (SS), Lynne Howells (2B), Julian Jones (LF), *Martine Knight* (FRZ)(3B), Alan Davis / Jim Gunn (1B), auto-out, Chris Drayton (P), *Lara Bragg* (CAM)(RF)  
**SHARKS** Phil Longfield (LC), Kate Shearer (1B), Graeme Nickson (P), Sarah Nickson (2B), Stephen Shearer (SS), Mish Ireland (RF), Stephen Woods (RC), Lauren Bicknell (C), Rob Alger (EP), Sharon Alger (EP), Liam Harris (3B), Kath Longfield (LF)

IN a close game played in great spirit by both teams, Sharks won courtesy of a walk-off home run in extra innings by Captain Stephen Shearer. The team acknowledged that the result could have gone either way especially as Camels II fielded with 9 players so all credit is due to them for keeping the game so close. The Sharks' fielding is clearly improving and all the extra sessions and team bonding is clearly paying off. Pitcher of the night Graeme Nickson had a great game throwing 62 strikes from 86 pitches, not to mention his superhero-like catch on a hit that flew straight back at him into the rib cage and which he still had the presence of mind to keep hold of to get the out before he clasped in a heap. Not wanting to be outdone, his wife Sarah Nickson playing 2nd took a great catch for the out closely followed by being upended by the sliding

base runner. Sharks MVPs were outfielder Phil Longfield who covered the ground well to take several catches and batted with a .750 OBP, and Kate Shearer playing on 1st with an impressive 5 put outs and also batting with an impressive .750 OBP.

*Jawsome*

MVPs Howells, Drayton, K Shearer, P Longfield

## Early lead allows cats to coast

**COLT 45S** 0 1 5 2 1 0 0 9  
**WILDCATS** 10 0 4 4 1 0 x 19

**Ump:** Ian Caird; Pitch 6

**HR WCT** Michael Miah

**COLT 45S** Roger Pedley (RC), Alicia Mangiafico (LC), John Kaye (SS), Rachel Jones (3B), Tadhg Tobin (2B), *Tanya Basu* (MAV)(1B), Tom Currie (LF), *Rebecca Ebo* (FRZ)(C), Phil Cosgrove (P), *Mel Rowles* (FRZ)(RF)  
**WILDCATS** Tony La Fave (P), Emma Pritchard (2B), Michael Miah (SS), Sarah Cassin (3B), Steve Aguirre (1B), Helen Cook (RF), Rob Lawrence (RC), Sandra Zlatinska (LC), Matt Thomas (LF), Lisa Berry (EP), *Dave Wareham* (TIG)(EP), *Teresa Kokocinska* (TIG)(C)

AFTER taking a 10-0 lead in the first inning Wildcats coasted through the rest of the game and had the same 10-run margin at the end. While they should probably have been a bit more clinical overall it was a satisfying performance. Batting leaders were Tony La Fave and Rob Lawrence (4 for 4) and Matt Thomas (3 for 3). Michael Meah was the home run hero with a 3-run blast to set up the big 1st inning. In the field Wildcats played well as a team. Amongst others Rob and Helen Cook looked impressive in the outfield, Steve Aguirre looked good on first and Tony La Fave pitched well, recovering from a 3rd inning wobble to nail down the win. *Wildcats website*

MVPs Mangiafico, Cosgrove, Cook, Lawrence

## Guest rules clarified (Continued from page 1)

was then batting in a place which technically broke the rule. When it came the guest's turn to bat, after several minutes of discussion, the batter skipped their turn at bat as an automatic out. That was unfair and the guest should have batted.

The new rules were put in place this year as it was felt that some teams were perceived to be abusing the old rules. What we didn't want with the new rules was that they would penalise teams for making logical and sensible decisions. I have heard many suggestions about what amendments should be made and a case can be made for any of them. However they have to wait until next year. This year is solely based on the rules we all agreed upon at the Captains' meeting. So here is where we stand. Each time we see a breach of the guest rules the Exec (led by myself) will investigate the reasons why this took place. Each case will be looked at separately but if a player is genuinely injured then they should be replaced without penalty and the game continue as normal. For other circumstances please use common sense. My advice is to at least let the opposing captain and the umpire know what you are doing. I cannot say teams will avoid penalties but I haven't seen a case this year where a team has deserved one.

*Dave Dean, League Head*

## Transfers

**Kellie Whitaker**, Thunder to Storm, 16 June

**Leanne Cracknell**, Mavericks to Mavericks II, 18 June

**Sarah Marks**, Mayhem to Mayhem II, 22 June

**Tanya Vedernikova**, Mayhem II to Freeze, 22 June

**A** big round of applause goes to to Shark's All Stars who finally deflated Scruffy's Blue Jays and condemned them to their first defeat of the season. The Sharks put up 54 (20 points more than in any previous week). The Jays' 38 was also a low point for the season and could be the sign of trend: since a season high of 67 in week 5, the Jays have scored only 42 and 38 in weeks 6 and 9. Are the Isotopes ready to pounce in Week 10 and make it two defeats on the trot for the Jays? 28 of the Sharks' points came from three players: S and B Flanagan of Enforcers (9 and 10 each) and 9 from K Whitaker newly of Storm.

## Record scores

IT was a week of records for many of the Fantasy Teams with 7 managers setting or equalling their personal highest scores: Joey's Giants (60), Jawsome (58), Shark's All Star (54), Lily's Legends (47), Podnahs (46½), Captain Brody's Brunch (44) and Ace of Jades (36). Rob Reckless also set the record for the lowest ever Fantasy score in a week, posting just 9 points, worse than the Isotopes' 11, set way back in week 2. Designated Drinkers got back on form with a 64 in victory over Chris Newham. The Drinkers' big score also sees them jump back in front

## DREAM TEAM AFTER WEEK 8

Danny Gunn (Greensox, Div 1)	61
Vicky Green (Greensox, Div 1)	54
Ian Mills (Hackers, Div 4)	53
Ross Birch (Storm, Div 3)	51
Richard Sarver (Storm, Div 3)	50
Darren Corner (Hackers, Div 4)	50
Andy Gardner (Mavs II, Div 4)	48
Vic O'Farrell (Greensox)	48
Kay Carter (Hackers, Div 4)	48
Jan Bradley (Mavs II, Div 4)	44
Jo Gardiner (Mavs II, Div 4)	40
Maz Yung (Mutineers, Div 2)	39

*Notice that Mutineer Maz has taken over from the Bullfrogs' Adam Faloona as top Div 2 player—thanks no doubt to Bullfrogs forfeiting this week.*

sitting on top with a 2-point lead and a record of 7 wins and 1 defeat.

A 4-point gap between 9th

ACCUMULATION LEAGUE TABLE				
Pos	Chg	Team	This Wk	Tot Pts
1	↑ 1	Designated Drinkers	64	386
2	↓ 1	Scruffy's Blue Jays	38	362
3	↑ 1	Jawsome	58	313
4	↓ 1	The Rays	32½	292½
5	↑ 1	Sarah Marks	41	282½
6	↓ 1	Watt's Up	32	276
7	–	Joey's Giants	60	272½
8	–	Captain Brody's Bunch	44	244
9	–	Podnahs	46½	229
10	–	Late Winner	32	212
11	↑ 2	Shark's All Stars	54	211
12	–	Lily's Legends	47	207½
13	↓ 2	Chris Newham	19	193
14	–	Ace of Jades	36	192
15	↑ 1	Isotopes	22	165½
16	↓ 1	Rob Reckless	9	155

of the

## LAST WEEK'S SCORES

The Rays	32½–22	Isotopes
Scruffy's Blue Jays	38–54	Shark's All Stars
Jawsome	58–9	Rob Reckless
Designated Drinkers	64–19	Chris Newham
Podnahs	46½–44	Capt Brody's Bunch
Watt's Up	32–60	Joey's Giants
Sarah Marks	41–32	Late Winner

Jays atop the Accumulation standings (left). Podnahs' pipping of Captain Brody's Brunch 46½–44 and the defeat of the Jays by Shark's All Stars means we have a new leader in the Head to Head League has Podnahs

and 10th may mean we have the bottom 5 teams fighting it out for the last three places in the Playoffs with only two wins separating those bottom 5 teams.

## Next round of fixtures in two weeks' time

The Week 9 fixtures see the top half of the table facing off against the bottom half ... well

almost, as 1st place Podnabs face The Rays in 7th. So league position could very well be as we were going into the finalisation of the missing week 7 Division 3 fixtures next week, when the Wednesday cup games, and games in Division 4 are not counted.

Week 9, based on the games of July 7th, sees the following fixtures:

The Rays v Podnabs  
 Scruffy's Blue Jays v Isotopes  
 Jawsome v Shark's All Stars  
 Des Drinkers v Rob Reckless  
 Sarah Marks v Chris Newham  
 Watt's Up v Capn Brody's Bunch  
 Joey's Giants v Late Winner

There are a couple of interesting "derbies" in there as managers who in real life are on the same MSL team come face to face: there's Blue Jays v Isotopes (Hurricanes), Jawsome v All Stars (Sharks), while Drinkers v Reckless is a

sort of Drizzle derby.

### Manager of the week and Fantasy MVP

As already mentioned, there were record scores this week, but top manager once again (after a few weeks of low scores) was Designated Drinkers' **Mark Griffin** with 64.

Meanwhile, The Greensox'

### TOP TEN FANTASY PLAYERS

**Danny Gunn** (GRX, Blue Jays)  
**Vicky Green** (GRX, Blue Jays)  
**Ian Mills** (HAC, Blue Jays)  
**Ross Birch** (STO, Des Drinkers)  
**Richard Sarver** (STO, Legends)  
**Darren Corner** (HAC, Rays)  
**Daniel Johansson** (HAC, Rays)  
**Paul Fagan** (GRX, Jawsome)  
**Vic O'Farrell** (GRX, Des Drinkers)  
**Kay Carter** (HAC, Ace of Jades)



### HEAD-TO-HEAD LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Mov e	Team	P	W	T	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	↑ 2	<b>Podnabs</b>	7	6	0	1	225	176	+49	18
2	↓ 1	<b>Scruffy's Blue Jays</b>	7	5	1	1	368	286½	+81½	16
3	↑ 1	<b>Jawsome</b>	7	5	0	2	313	234	+79	15
4	↓ 2	<b>Watt's Up</b>	7	5	0	2	270	230½	+39½	15
5	↑ 1	<b>Joey's Giants</b>	7	5	0	2	272½	265½	+16	15
6	↑ 1	<b>Designated Drinkers</b>	7	4	0	3	386	294½	+91½	12
7	↑ 1	<b>The Rays</b>	7	4	0	3	292½	300	-7½	12
8	↓ 3	<b>Captain Brody's Bunch</b>	7	4	0	3	244	253½	-9½	12
9	-	<b>Sarah Marks</b>	7	3	1	3	282½	278½	+4	10
10	↑ 2	<b>Shark's All Stars</b>	7	2	0	5	210½	222	-11½	6
11	↓ 1	<b>Isotopes</b>	7	2	0	5	165½	199½	-34	6
12	↓ 1	<b>Late Winner</b>	7	2	0	5	212	268½	-56½	6
13	-	<b>Rob Reckless</b>	7	1	0	6	155	252	-97	3
14	-	<b>Chris Newham</b>	7	0	0	7	193	337½	-144½	0

mauling of the Meerkats on Wednesday, combined with the Hackers' first defeat of the season means **Danny Gunn** is leading the Fantasy MVP race on 61 points. The Fantasy version of Mr Gunn is shown above.

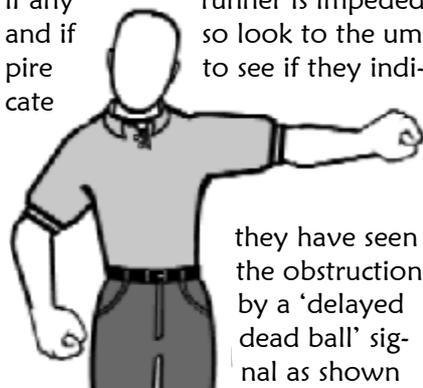
IT is little wonder that Scruffy is doing so well (he should be back on top once Week 7 is complete) when you consider that the Jays currently have the top three highest point scorers, as the table above shows (note how it differs from the Dream team, for the usual reasons). Just three teams are represented: Greensox, Storm and Hackers.

# Coach's corner #8: Base coaching

**O**NE of the most important and underestimated roles in softball is that of base coaching. Everyone is familiar with 1st and 3rd base coaches, but the on-deck batter also has a coaching role, as we will see below.

In general, whichever base you are coaching, you should know how many outs there are and if you forget or lose track, check with your scorer so that you do know. Double check with the other base coach with an exchange of signals.

Both coaches should watch to see if any runner is impeded, and if so look to the umpire to see if they indicate



they have seen the obstruction by a 'delayed dead ball' signal as shown here. If this

happens, send the runner to the next base as they cannot be given out. If they do not attempt to get to the next base, they will not be awarded it. On the other hand, watch also for the umpire canceling the signal once the runner has reached the base they would have been awarded.

Coaches should bear in mind how many outs there are: don't send runners into risky situations with no outs. Subsequent batters may be able to score the runners. Also, consider how fast the runner is and whether they can slide: don't send slow runners to the next base if they are unlikely to make it.

Know the game situation and who is up to bat next: with two outs and the winning run on 3rd base it may be worth sending them home if the next batter is weak or inexperienced.

Under-18s must wear a helmet when coaching.

**1st base Coach:** You are responsible for the batter-runner and the runner on 1st base. Generally encourage the batter-runner to run to 1st base and give them an early indication of whether to turn to 2nd or just run through. Watch any ball thrown (particularly if there are side fences) and tell your batter-runner to go to 2nd if it is achievable. Don't get hit by a thrown ball or get in the way of any fielder. You are not entitled to stand still and must get out of the way of fly balls or thrown balls and allow fielders to field. If you get in the way it could result in an out.

You should talk to the runner on 1st: tell them how many outs there are and, if they are inexperienced, what to do when the ball is hit e.g. 'there are 2 outs, run on contact' (a phrase you might have to explain). Remind them to watch the 3rd base coach as soon as you send them, not look at the ball.

Consider whether the runner is likely to make it to the next base on a fly ball. If the hit is not very deep or into right field, telling the runner to 'take a few steps' will put them in a position where they can make the next base if the ball is dropped. They can return to base if it is caught so long as they don't go too far. On a deeper hit, they should hold their position on the base and only set off once the ball has been caught (or from when it is first touched to be precise) and make the next base comfortably. Don't let runners wander off the base on deep fly balls when they think the ball is just clearing the fielder.

Consider the 'squeeze play' if you have runners on 1st and 3rd.

In our league, the 1st base coach

also has the responsibility of exchanging balls with the pitcher. Don't get too caught up in exchanging the balls as this isn't the reason you are there. Listen for the umpire to call 'time'. If the fielder throws the ball to you before this happens, don't catch it: just step out of the way. Similarly don't throw the ball you are holding onto the field until 'time' is called.

**3rd base coach:** You have responsibility for runners on 2nd and 3rd. Talk to them, let them know how many outs there are and, if they are inexperienced, what to do when the ball is hit. Get their attention



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before the hit and make sure they focus on you for direction. On a fly ball into the outfield, especially right field, the runner on 2nd has their back to the ball, and should be watching you (not the ball) for the signal to run once the ball is touched, or (in your judgment) is going to ground. Make sure they know to watch for your signal and not watch the ball.

If you can do it, signal the runner on 2nd with your hands and direct the runner from 3rd verbally. Agree what hand signals you are going to use within your team. You will need at least a 'stop' sign (both hands up in the air) and a 'go to the next base' sign (windmill movement or pointing to the next base). A sign to indicate a slide (palms to the ground) is also useful for those who can slide. For those who can't, it is

still a good signal to indicate the ball is coming in and they should hustle to the base. If you are sending the runner home, you should have a way of telling them whether they need to hurry, or they can ease up, though that should also be the on-deck batter's job (see below).

You also have responsibility for the runner approaching 2nd so you may have to help up to 4 base runners during any play.

If any runners are very inexperienced, make sure they know to touch each base as they progress. Do not under any circumstances touch the runner as they go past, or give them a shove to get back on base if they have over-run: they will be given out if you help them. If the batter has hit a home run, avoid the temptation to high-five them as they run past. Unbelievably, some umpires will give the batter out for this, so don't take the risk: the batter will certainly not thank you for robbing him of his homer (and the team will forfeit one run and an unnecessary out).

Give any instructions as early as possible. Don't expect runners to be able to stop if you hold them at the last second. 'Stay on 2' is a good call to give early to a runner from 1st and clearly applies to that runner.

Be decisive. If you are asking runners to go to the next base be loud, positive and clear. Keep watching the play as, if the ball is misfielded, you may need to give additional instructions to runners who may be able to progress to the next base.

Don't use the word 'Hold' as this may be confused with the word 'Home'.

**On-deck batter:** You are the only person on offense allowed in foul territory near to home plate, so long as you have a bat with you and are in any on-deck circle marked. Use this to your team's advantage. Take up a position on the 3rd base side, even if your team dugout is on the 1st base side. Don't pick the bat up,

## Blu corner—courtesy runner

AFTER a considerable number of occasions recently when it has become clear that the local Courtesy runner rules are not fully understood, here is a timely reminder of how they work.

1. **It is a local rule.** The ISF rulebook makes no mention of courtesy runners at all, so don't expect our rules to apply at tournaments elsewhere. Under ISF rules, you can make a substitution once the batter gets on base (any base), and then the batter can re-enter next time—but they can only do that once, and the sub cannot then re-enter the game.

2. **It is a courtesy.** It is entirely up to the opposing team to agree to a courtesy runner; it is not up to the umpire to decide. Anyone can request a runner, even (unlike in cricket) if you come into the game with an injury. However, it would be reasonable of the opposition to oppose a courtesy runner for someone who was just slow, not genuinely injured. Or if they can see that you have subs available.

3. **It should be requested before the at-bat begins** or at least before the batter gets on base. If you ask for a runner, and then hit a home run, that's tough. You can't decide whether you need a runner on the basis of how well you hit.

4. It's the last person of the same

sex **who was out** (not just the last person in the order). The reason for this is to introduce both some randomness in the process (it won't always be the same person) and also some determination (you can't just choose the fastest runner on your team). If no one has been out, then take the last person due to bat. If the runner is still on base when it's their turn to bat, swop them with the *next* last person.

5. **Why can't I have a runner from home?** If you can't even get to 1st, maybe you should be sitting out the rest of the game. Also it is impossible for the umpire to judge whether your runner left early.

6. **If a batter gets awarded 2nd base** (e.g. a male walk, or an overthrow) can they still have a runner? Of course, let's be sensible about this. Technically, the batter should get to 1st and then the courtesy runner should take over. As long as someone touches 1st base, does it really matter? I've seen it claimed that if the batter walks to 2nd they can't have a runner. Where's the logic in that?

7. **If you had a runner in an earlier inning**, do you have to have one for the rest of the game? Of course not. An injury can get better with rest, even after 10 or 15 minutes.

that is the job of the 'double-deck' batter, i.e. the batter who is next up after you (sometimes called the batter 'in the hole'). Your job as on-deck batter is to coach the runners coming home. Tell them to slide if they need to or ease up if the ball is not coming in. Don't get in the way of any play or the

umpire who may move around to get a good angle on the play.

The double-deck batter should take care, when picking up the bat, not to obstruct any fielders or the umpire. If they do so, the umpire will give any outs that they think would have occurred.

*Peter Jones*

## Preview: This week's games

Games in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 are the return match-ups from Week 2, 28th/29th April, while Division 4 starts its second rotation with return fixtures from the opening day.

### Division 1

**Greensox @ Thunder** (2, TLF) *Last meeting, Greensox won 23-13, and lead 10-4.*

**Lions @ Dodgers** (6) *Last meeting Lions won 7-4 and have won 19 of their 24 encounters.* With Sox rapidly disappearing out of sight, 2nd and 3rd meet with almost identical records: a 5-3 win-loss record and run difference +19. Lions are above on head-to-head as well as fewer runs conceded (2).

**Mavericks @ Outlaws** (4, DD) *Last meeting Mavs won 14-8, their 13th win in 16 meetings.* Two of the three teams on 4-4 meet in the battle to make the cut.

**Mayhem @ Meerkats** (9, BMCg)



*Last meeting Meerkats won 16-14 to take a 2-1 lead overall. It's hard, frankly, to imagine anything other than that these two will face the drop at the end of the season. BUT, by the end of this week, one of them will be only 2 games off 6th, so they won't be giving up just yet.*

### Division 2

**Camels @ Tigers** (3, AK) *Last meeting Camels won 25-20, their 4th win in 5.* A Tigers win by 5 runs will see these two swap places either side of the cut-off line. Anything less (including a Bactrian victory) and Camels stay 4th.

**Outlaws II @ Bullfrogs** (5, AG) *Last meeting Bullfrogs won 22-14 in 6 innings (bad light), to make it 2 out of 2.* Until their forfeit last week, Bullfrogs had been doing well enough to head the table. The form book says they should get back to winning ways this week.

**Speeders @ Lightning** (7, MD) *Last*

*meeting Speeders won 13-10 to make it 4-2 overall. Speeders are right in their with their game in hand. Lightning need to get their season rolling.*

### Division 3

**Enforcers @ Storm** (7, AG) *Last meeting Storm won 29-4 in 3½ innings, their 6th win in 9 meetings.* Storm have looked just too strong for all comers, despite their one loss, in Week 3.

**Hurricanes @ Mayhem II** (8, AR) *Last meeting Mayhem won 17-9 (6 innings, bad light) in their first ever encounter.*

**Pirates @ Camels II** (3, PN) *Last meeting Camels won 10-9 to take a 3-2 lead.*

**Sharks @ Bats** (9, LA) *Last time Sharks won 16-1 (5 innings), their first ever meeting.*

### Division 4

**Colt 45s @ Mavericks II** (4, JF) *Mavs won 24-10 (6 innings, bad light) in their first ever meeting.* Last week's win over the Hackers wasn't a title decider, but it clearly puts the junior steers in the box seat.

**Falcons @ Wildcats** (5, TS) *First game for the new team.*

**Hackers @ Drizzle** (6, BA) *Hackers won 23-8 in 5 innings, but trail 2-3 overall.* Historically Drizzle have the edge, but on current form you would expect the computermen to recover from last week's loss and square the series.

**Moorkats @ Barflies** (2, IC) *Moorkats won 23-19 in 6 innings due to bad light, and have won 7 of their 9 meetings.* The flies came close to a win last week, so expect this game to be closer than their respective league positions might predict.

**Phoenix @ Freeze** (1, MG) *Phoenix won 20-6 to make it 4 wins in 4.*

## Last week's MVPs

- Barflies** Kirsten Froehlich, Chris Radford  
**Bats** Karren Baddeley, Max Fagin  
**Camels** Claire Higgs, James Wooderon  
**Camels II** Lynne Howells, Chris Drayton  
**Colt 45s** Alicia Mangiafico, Phil Cosgrove  
**Dodgers** Jocelyne, Jez Dennett  
**Drizzle** Emma Waterhouse, Andrew Bogie  
**Enforcers** Katie Flanagan, Steve Flanagan  
**Greensox** Kathryn Mullins, Danny Gunn  
**Hackers** Kay Carter, Ian Mills  
**Hurricanes** Jodie Munday, Adam Morrison  
**Lightning** Carolyn Barratt, Steve Bennett  
**Lions** Jade Shaw, Chris Fulton  
**Mavericks** Jan Bradley (MV2), Laurence Pearson  
**Mavericks II** Jan Bradley, David Kirby  
**Mayhem** Lucy Shattock, Steve Howard  
**Mayhem II** Laura Bertalot, Lewis La Favre  
**Meerkats** Nadia Peak, Sam Steele  
**Moorkats** Rachel Wain, Dan Strosnider  
**Mutineers** Kate Williamson, Duncan Jones  
**Outlaws** Kyrstie Hewitt, Stuart Roscoe  
**Outlaws II** Rolf Herbert, Stan ? (ENF)  
**Phoenix** Michelle Fisher, Stan Johnson  
**Pirates** Sue Obrian, Nate Fields  
**Sharks** Kate Shearer, Phil Longfield  
**Storm** Charlotte Green, Nathan Barratt  
**Thunder** Sian Payne, Mark Griffin  
**Wildcats** Helen Cook, Rob Lawrence
- All names reproduced exactly as they appear on the scoresheets



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# Home runs

## Division 1 Female

4 - Kath Mullins (GRX)  
 3 - Nancy Bennett (OUT)  
 2 - Ellie Buckley (OUT), Areej El-maazi (THU, 1GS)  
 1 - Andrea Dee (MAV), Natalie Leyland (GRX), Linni Mitchell (MHM, GS), Vic O'Farrell (GRX), Sian Payne (THU), Jade Shaw (LIO)

## Division 1 Male

7 - Danny Gunn (GRX)  
 3 - Nathan Gulam (GRX), Benkei Johnson (THU), Paul Kidley (GRX), Andy Rawson (GRX)  
 2 - Luis Arrebillagas (THU), Elieser Dorronsoro (MAV), Charles Everitt (LIO), Tyler Lappage (DOD), Pete Nightingale (MAV), Shane Stark (GRX), Ed Watkinson (LIO)  
 1 - Melvin Beltre (DOD), Pete Buckley (OUT), Dave Collins (OUT), Anthony Garcia-Reyes (MHM), Mark Griffin (THU), Andy Grose (THU), Wendell Jones (MAV), Dave Leverton (THU), Andi Marshall (MHM), Gordon Milson (LIO), Mark Sanders (GRX)

## Division 2 Female

2 - Claire Higgs (CAM), Liz Lyon (OU2)  
 1 - Kate Barlow (SPE), Jacquelyn Choudhury (OU2), Christine Hunter (BUL), Becci Wadeson (LIG)

## Division 2 Male

7 - Tom Atkinson (CAM, 1GS)  
 6 - Adam Faloona (BUL), Jo Grantham (MUT)  
 4 - Mike Gaskell (TIG, *pictured*), Chris Lennon (SPE, 1GS), Gary Moors (MUT), Chris Thompson (OU2)  
 3 - Zac Rayson (SPE)  
 2 - Jeremy Fothergill (BUL, 1GS), Richard Goar (OU2), Ali Hallsworth (MUT), Rolf Herbert (OU2), Duncan Jones (MUT), Steve Kellett (BUL), Nick Money (SPE), Jonny Reuben (BUL)  
 1 - Steve Bennett (LIG), Anthony Boffey (CAM), Stuart Collier (SPE),

Ed Covington (TIG), Suchit Desai (MUT), Mark Humphreys (CAM), James Wooderson (CAM)

## Division 3 Female

3 - Sue O'Brien (PIR)  
 2 - Katie Flanagan (ENF)  
 1 - Lynne Howells (CM2), Caroline Jones (MM2), Natalie Robinson (PIR), Jocelyn Tong (MM2)

## Division 3 Male

13 - Ross Birch (STO)  
 7 - Richard Sarver (STO)  
 4 - David Dean (CM2), Liam Harris (SHA), Jon Taylor (STO), Gavin Whitaker (STO), Stephen Woods (SHA)  
 3 - Paul Colton (SHA), Brad Flanagan (ENF), Dave Griffiths (HUR), Phil Longfield (SHA), James Ridgway (ENF), Stephen Shearer (SHA), Ian Williams (PIR, 1GS)  
 2 - Adam Barratt (STO), Nathan Barratt (STO), Adam Craig (CM2), Alan Davis (CM2), Dave Harper (HUR), Lewis Le Fevre (MM2), Graeme Nickson (SHA), Giovanni Santoro (HUR, 1GS)  
 1 - Rob Alger (SHA), Mark Brennan (MM2), Simon Grainger (ENF), Julian Jones (CM2), Carl McCarthy (HUR), Gareth Young (BAT)

## Division 4 Female

6 - Michelle Fisher (PHX)  
 1 - Jan Bradley (MV2), Kay Carter (HAC), Natasha Hopkins (PHX), Martine Knight (FRZ), Ella Mills (HAC), Lisa Weaver (MK2)

## Division 4 Male

9 - Dan Strosnider (MK2, *pictured*)  
 8 - Aleck Aspinall (MK2, 1GS), Darren Corner (HAC)  
 7 - Phil Cosgrove (COL)  
 6 - Brad Hadwin (DRZ), Ian Mills (HAC,

## Results (Continued from page 10)

### Division 4

**BARFLIES** 0 1 6 5 0 5 2 **19**  
**PHOENIX** 3 5 7 0 4 2 x **21**  
**Ump:** Pete Nightingale; Pitch 18  
**HRs BFL** Chris Radford 2; **PHX** Michelle Fisher 2

**COLT 45S** 0 1 5 2 1 0 0 **9**  
**WILDCATS** 10 0 4 4 1 0 x **19**  
**Ump:** Ian Caird; Pitch 6  
**HR WCT** Michael Miah

**MOORKATS\*** 14 3 1 0 4 1 1 **24**  
**DRIZZLE** 2 0 7 0 1 0 0 **10**  
**Ump:** Charles Everitt; Pitch 7; \* home team batted first  
**HRs DRZ** Brad Hadwin; **MK2** Dan Strosnider 2, Aleck Aspinall

**MAVERICKS II** 0 2 1 7 0 0 6 **16**  
**HACKERS** 4 0 2 2 2 1 2 **13**  
**Ump:** Luis Arrebillagas; Pitch 4  
**HRs MV2** Lubo Durisin, Andrew Gardner; **HAC** Darren Corner

1GS)  
 5 - Andy Gardner (MV2)  
 4 - Chris Radford (BFL)  
 3 - Sam Gardiner (MV2), Daniel Johansson (HAC), Michael Miah (WCT)  
 2 - Lubo Durisin (MV2), Chris Gresty (MV2), Tony La Fave (WCT), Simon Ronksley (PHX), Paul Warburton (BFL, 1GS), Ian Yates (PHX)  
 1 - Steve Aguirre (WCT), Andrew Bogie (DRZ), Peter Brannan (BFL), Mike Cooney (BFL), Ben Hughes (PHX), John Kaye (45s), Mike Humphries (MK2), Lee McCarthy (45s), Taj Oddin (MK2), Ian Radford (HAC), Pete Rushton (HAC), Andy Shaw (HAC), Peter Wilkinson (FRZ)



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# Results and standings

## Week 9 - 16/17 June

### Division 1

**DODGERS** 3 0 0 8 0 1 2 14  
**MAVERICKS** 1 1 0 0 0 2 3 7

Ump: Harry Somers; Pitch 3  
 HR **DOD** Tyler Lappage

**MAYHEM** 1 0 0 0 0 2 4 7  
**LIONS** 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 8

Ump: Mike Davies; Pitch 7  
 HR **LIO** Ed Watkinson

**MEERKATS** 0 1 0 0 1  
**GREENSOX** 6 9 20 x 35

Ump: Ian Williams; Pitch 2; RAR  
 HRs **GRX** Danny Gunn 2, Andy Rawson 2, Kathryn Mullins

**THUNDER** 0 3 3 1 0 3 6 16  
**OUTLAWS** 2 0 0 0 0 4 0 6

Ump: Mike Lott; Pitch 3  
 HRs **THU** Benkei Johnson 2, Andy Grose, Mark Griffin

### Division 2

**LIGHTNING** 1 0 3 2 2 2 1 11  
**CAMELS** 5 0 0 6 0 2 x 13

Ump: Tony La Fave; Pitch 6  
 HRs **CAM** Claire Higgs, James Wooderson

**MUTINEERS** 1 3 5 7 5 21  
**OUTLAWS II** 0 0 0 1 5 6

Ump: Alan Green; Pitch 4; RAR  
 HRs **MUT** Suchit Desai, Joe Grantham;  
**OU2** Chris Thompson, *Sian Davies* (ENF)

**TIGERS** 20  
**BULLFROGS** 0

Forfeit

### Division 3

**BATS** 4 2 2 7 0 1 2 18  
**MAYHEM II** 3 3 0 0 2 0 8

Ump: Adam Roberts; Pitch 1  
 HRs **MM2** Sarah Marks (MHM), Lewis Le Fevre

**CAMELS II** 0 2 0 3 0 2 0 9  
**SHARKS** 1 1 2 0 2 1 0 3 10

Ump: Baljit Ahluwalia; Pitch 2  
 HRs **CM2** Adam Craig; **SHA** Stephen Shearer, Phil Longfield

**PIRATES** 3 0 1 0 0 2 6  
**ENFORCERS** 10 0 4 4 1 2 21

Ump: Jeremy Fothergill; Pitch 9; RAR  
 HRs **ENF** Katie Flanagan 2, Bradley Flanagan

**STORM** 2 12 1 6 5 26  
**HURRICANES** 3 2 0 2 1 8

Ump: Alan Green; Pitch 3; RAR  
 HRs **STO** Ross Birch 3, Richard Sarver, Nathan Barratt, Adam Barratt; **HUR** Jodie Munday

>>> 9

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pct	GB
<b>Division 1</b>									
▶ <b>Greensox</b>	8	8	0	0	0	170	59	1.000	-
▲ <b>Lions</b>	8	5	0	3	0	87	68	.625	3
▲ <b>Dodgers</b>	8	5	0	3	0	89	70	.625	3
▼ <b>Mavericks</b>	8	4	0	4	0	104	100	.500	4
▲ <b>Thunder</b>	8	4	0	4	0	111	82	.500	4
▼ <b>Outlaws</b>	8	4	0	4	0	96	94	.500	4
▶ <b>Meerkats</b>	8	1	0	7	0	48	172	.125	7
▶ <b>Mayhem</b>	8	1	0	7	0	72	132	.125	7
MAV>THU>OUT and MKT>MHM on head-to-heads									
<b>Division 2</b>									
▲ <b>Mutineers</b>	7	5	0	2	0	107	61	.714	-
▼ <b>Bullfrogs</b>	7	5	0	1	1	118	93	.714	1/3
▼ <b>Speeders</b>	6	4	0	2	0	108	105	.667	1/2
▶ <b>Camels</b>	7	4	0	3	0	91	98	.571	1
▶ <b>Tigers</b>	7	3	0	4	0	93	96	.429	2
▶ <b>Lightning</b>	7	2	0	5	0	65	89	.286	3
▶ <b>Outlaws II</b>	7	1	0	6	0	98	138	.143	4
<b>Division 3</b>									
▲ <b>Storm</b>	7	6	0	1	0	151	62	.857	-
▼ <b>Camels II</b>	7	6	0	1	0	109	74	.857	-
▶ <b>Sharks</b>	7	5	0	2	0	105	91	.714	1
▶ <b>Enforcers</b>	7	4	0	3	0	130	112	.571	2
▶ <b>Pirates</b>	7	2	0	5	0	93	110	.286	4
▶ <b>Mayhem II</b>	7	2	0	5	0	90	117	.286	4
▲ <b>Bats</b>	7	2	0	4	1	77	126	.286	4 1/3
▼ <b>Hurricanes</b>	7	1	0	6	0	75	138	.143	5
<b>Division 4</b>									
▶ <b>Mavericks II</b>	7	7	0	0	0	150	66	1.000	-
▶ <b>Hackers</b>	7	6	0	1	0	159	70	.857	1
▶ <b>Phoenix</b>	7	5	0	2	0	110	95	.714	2
▶ <b>Wildcats</b>	7	4	0	3	0	101	115	.571	3
▶ <b>Moorkats</b>	7	4	0	3	0	134	102	.571	3
▶ <b>Drizzle</b>	8	3	0	5	0	104	159	.375	4 1/2
▶ <b>Colt 45s</b>	7	2	0	5	0	101	125	.286	5
▶ <b>Barflies</b>	7	1	0	6	0	122	148	.143	6
▶ <b>Freeze</b>	7	0	0	7	0	49	150	.000	7
Wildcats above Moorkats on head-to-head									