



Bases Loaded

A cold north wind blows

A SHARP change in temperature meant that games on Tuesday and Wednesday were played in more familiar freezing conditions. This didn't prevent **Storm** from having a blast at the **Enforcers'** expense, winning 29-4 in a 3½-inning slaughter. Eleven home runs were scored, including three apiece from Ross Birch (doubling his tally for the season) and Richard Sarver. And it was a case of Barratt homers as brothers Nathan and Adam managed one each. **Sharks** got their campaign up and running with a mercy win over the **Bats**, while **Mayhem II** and **Hurricanes** were neck and neck until the Canes' relief pitcher walked in 5 runs in the 5th to hand the Mossley crew the initiative. Much closer was the **Camels II's** 10-9 defeat of the **Pirates**, in which the home team's decision to bat first came back to bite them on the bum big time: 9-9 going into the 7th, the Camels made full use of the gifted advantage, putting out 3

Pirates in order, and then scoring the winning run in the bottom of the inning they should, by rights, have been defending.

In Division 4, there was a similar win for **Drizzle**, who were the home team, and who didn't need the final half-inning to beat the **Colt 45s** 10-9. The two other games ended in slaughters, **Moorkats** 34-6 over

Freeze, while the **Wildcats'** first outing ended in a 16-1 defeat by **Mavs II**.

Wednesday saw the top two both win, **Lions** by their usual frugal aggregate score against the **Dodgers**, while the **Greensox** scored plenty in their high-

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MSL three get GB call-up

THERE was some great news a few days ago when it was announced that Thunder's Areej Elmaazi, Danny Gunn of the Greensox and the Lions' Ed Watkinson had been selected for the GB squad for the European Nationals tournament to be held at the end of July in Bulgaria.

It is a fantastic achievement to be selected and is a fine reward for all the hard work they have put in. Their selection along with the players recently announced in the development

squad is a great reflection on the talent that exists in the Manchester Softball League. On behalf of all you I wish them the very best of luck.

David Dean, League Head



This week's games at a glance

Division 1

LIO @ GRX (6, DD)
 MAV @ MKT (5, AG)
 MHM @ THU (4, MD)
 DOD @ OUT (9, TLF)

Division 2

SPE @ TIG (2, IW)
 OU2 @ LIG (7, BMcG)
 MUT @ BUL (3, HS)

Division 3

ENF @ SHA (3, MG)
 HUR @ CM2 (1, AG)
 PIR @ BAT (2, CE)
 STO @ MM2 (4, RH)

Division 4

BFL @ COL (9, BA)
 MV2 @ DRZ (6, JF)
 FRZ @ HAC (7, AK)
 PHX @ WCT (8, IC)

scoring game with **Thunder**. **Meerkats** must have thought they would cruise to victory over **Mayhem** with a 10-run lead-off, but the crew, featuring Anthony Garcia in his 74th consecutive game, which gave him his 47th homer and 28th MVP nomination, came back at them and took a 12-11 lead in the 5th only to see the Kats recover their form to win 16-14. In their game against the **Mavericks**, the **Outlaws** briefly took the lead with 7 runs in the 3rd but that only spurred the steers to match their effort, and thereafter see the game out.

Division 2's zoological clash saw the **Camels** and **Tigers** share 45 runs in a game that was neck and neck for four innings (14-14) until the Camels drew away with 6 and 5 runs in the 5th and 6th. Undoubted MVP was bacterian Tom Atkinson with four home runs, including one grand slam. The game between the **Speeders** and **Lightning** also ended up being close: the fast ones looked comfortable enough with a 10-2 lead going into the 6th, but the flashers scored 8 to even the score. Speeders notched 3 in reply, then managed a shut out in the top of the 7th to obviate the need to bat again. **Bullfrogs** and **Outlaws II** were also running close until the frogs batted round in the 4th to score 10, and were leading 22-14 when the umpire called the game for bad light.

Match reports

Sharks show no mercy

BATS 0 0 1 0 0 1

SHARKS 11 1 2 0 2 16

Ump: Tony Stonard; Pitch 8; **RAR HRs** **SHA** Phil Longfield, Stephen Shearer

BATS Martin Williams (SS), Beryl Iannin-Jones (2B), Jerry L, Karen Baddley (C), Steve Kelleth (BUL)(P), Ellie Sams (SPE)(1B)

SHARKS Phil Longfield (2B), Kate Shearer (EP), Graeme Nickson (P), Sarah Nickson (3B), Stephen Shearer (SS), Katy Coupland (MK2)(RF), Paul Colton (LC), Kaff Longfield (LF), Stephen Woods (RC), Rebecca Ebo (FRZ)(1B), Liam Harris (EP), Claire Riley (C)

MVPs: Lannin-Jones, Fagan (BAT), Ebo, Nickson (SHA)

LOOKING to exercise the demons of the opening night defeat to Camells II, Sharks bit back with a mercy rule 16-1 win in 5 innings. They started strong in the field shutting the Bats out in the 1st inning and allowing only one base hit.

The fielding continued in that vein for the remainder of the game and there was some excellent work by the outfield with impressive catches from Stephen Woods, Kaff Longfield, Rebecca Ebo and a superb catch at home by Claire Riley.

Jawsome power was released on offence enabling Sharks to bat round the order in the first inning. It all started with lead-off hit man Phil Longfield hitting his first home run of the season and continued from there. Not wanting to be outdone Stephen Shearer also hit his first home run of the season.

Captain Shearer commented "I'm glad I don't have to pick our own MVPs as there were so many candidates it would have been so hard to narrow down to just two".

Didsbury Bats selected Rebecca Ebo, our impressive guest from Mayhem Freeze playing on 1st and

at RF, showing solid glove work with two great catches and a 1.000 OBP to boot. And for our male MVP they went for Graeme Nickson; it would be hard to disagree with this, when he nearly shut the opposition out with some excellent pitching and command of his inner diamond.

Adapted from the Sharks' website

Drizzle defuse Colts

COLT 45s 0 0 0 2 0 3 4 9

DRIZZLE 3 3 0 2 0 2 x 10

Ump: Al Green; Pitch 4

HRs **COL** Phil Cosgrove; **DRZ** Brad Hadwin, Mark Griffin

COLTS Lee McCarthy (P), Eleanor Swallow (RF), John Kaye (3B), Gwen Cripps (1B), Phil Cosgrove (SS), Ange Thompson (2B), Tadgh Tobin (LC), Anne Fallon / Rachel Jones (RC), Roger Pedley (LF), Amy Colbert (C)

DRIZZLE Brad Hadwin (SS), Catalina Sarmiguel (3B), Andrew Bogie (P), Rachael Wildgoose (LC), Tim Roberts (2B), Heather Blythe (1B), Tomm Childs (LF), Katrina Shiels (EP), Sam McCaffrey (RC), Becky Grooby (C), Mark Griffin (THU)(EP), Laura Hartley (RF)

MVPs: Swallow, Kaye (COL), Blythe, Bogie (DRZ)

FOR an essentially rookie outfit, Drizzle put in a more than competent performance to edge out the sixguns. The more experienced Brad Hadwin took control of the infield, while Andrew Bogie belied his novice status with a calm pitching display, maturely refusing to be rattled when behind in the count. At 1st base Heather Blythe coped splendidly with the variety of throws from her teammates to ensure the routine outs were made to maintain the droplets' grip on the game. This grip meant there was little action for those operating in the frozen tundra of the outfield until the late innings when the revolvers' bats came to life. But the moist ones held their nerve to triumph in 6½.

Two-out Tim

Former softball player caught in Nepal earthquake

Now helping rescue and recovery efforts

FOUNDER member of the Meerkats, **Bethan Werakso** (pictured right) now lives in Kathmandu where she runs a hostel, and, having escaped harm after fleeing the earthquake that has devastated Nepal, is now helping with rescue and rebuilding efforts.

Bethan and her Nepalese boyfriend Dipu run the Secret Garden Guest House for tourists and backpackers, a few minutes from the city's Durbar Square, a World Heritage site almost totally destroyed in last week's quake in the centre of the city.

Sonia Hine of the Meerkats contacted Beth via Facebook promising to send money raised by her former team-mates, and got the following reply:

"Thank you sooo much! It really is going to the best places, I will be setting up a small team of trusted friends and together we will work to make a strategy to buy supplies and distribute

goods. Big love to all you guys and the softball league.... I am missing you guys more than ever! Please keep sharing and spreading the word. I cannot thank you enough!"

Bethan is described by her mother, Su, as a member of the local community:

"Everyone knows her and she knows all the shopkeepers. She is not going to come home because they are her people, she is now a local. She is doing things like helping get bodies out of buildings – it's just horrendous. When she Skyped me she was exhausted and covered in dust. She is shattered, so tired, it's relentless but she will keep on working, doing as much as she can for those people."

Bethan's former team-mates, seen below, have already put their hands in their pockets to raise money for food, medicines, blankets and drinking water to send to Bethan. MSL is joining in this fund-raising,



Photo: Manchester Evening News

and invites all players to contribute by visiting the website at <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/ezOu3/sh/34klcc>.

Text partly based on MEN report, www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/nepal-earthquake-stockport-woman-who-9140144



BSUK to raise awareness of softball across Greater Manchester

BaseballSoftball UK has accessed funding from Greater Sport, the Greater Manchester Sports Partnership, to raise awareness of softball across the whole of Greater Manchester.

THE funding will allow BSUK to run introductory sessions in all 10 Greater Manchester boroughs during the course of the summer through a campaign called #ILoveManchesterSoftball.

THE sessions will be aimed at many different sectors of the adult population, including BME groups, and will be run in universities, schools and colleges and in one case at a Muslim Heritage Centre. All the sessions will be LGBT-friendly and one session in Altrincham will be specifically for the LGBT community.

WHILE the existing Manchester Softball League will be a key exit route for new players, the idea will also be to create new local teams in the different boroughs. New participants attending the sessions can also be signposted to opportunities in Greater Manchester to play baseball.

BSUK's North West resident coach Linni Mitchell said:

"Whenever we welcome a new participant we inform them of all the opportunities available to play our sports in the region, and with younger players or parents of younger players, we make sure they know that we have great baseball clubs in the area that would welcome them."

Sessions

THE delivery of local weekly sessions began at the end of April, led by Linni Mitchell, who has also been involved in the funding application and planning for the project. Players from MSL will be supporting the sessions where possible.

THERE are already seven confirmed sessions and another seven are planned for later in the summer. With 10 boroughs in Greater Manchester,

that's more than one opportunity to get involved with our sports per borough.

THE cost will be £10 for six sessions (that's £1.66 per session), with the first session free, and participants will get the "I Love Manchester Softball" T-shirt pictured here once they pay their £10.

Promotion

THE sessions will be promoted on social media through the campaign hash tag #ILoveManchesterSoftball and members of the Manchester Softball League will have access to flyers as shown opposite to distribute at work and where they live.

FLYERS will also be delivered door-to-door in targeted areas and supported by banners in strategic locations.

BSUK's North West Development Manager Luis Arrebillagas said: "Linni Mitchell worked really hard to build strong applications to be presented to Greater Sports. Our partnership with Greater Sports over the years and our working relationship with Jane O'Brien – the Sportivate lead for Greater Sports -- helped

us create this campaign, which we believe will bring softball activity to all corners of Greater Manchester.

"WE are trying to break down the barriers that people face to engage in sports," Luis continued, "by bringing the sport to their environment and offering a good number of sessions at different days and times and at a very reasonable price, so there are no excuses.

"ONCE new participants try our sports," Luis added, "then they will decide whether they want to play softball in an existing team, create their own new team, have a go at baseball, bring their children to the local baseball clubs or simply play informally once a week."



"I love Manchester softball" T-shirts like the ones given to participants in sessions can be obtained by MSL players for £15 from Luis or Linni.

COME AND PLAY SOFTBALL!



BURY - Mondays from 21 May 7pm - Tottington High Sports Hall, BL8 3LY
DIDSBURY - Tuesdays from 28 April 6pm, Parrswood High sports grounds, M20 5PG
DIDSBURY - Tuesdays from 5 May 7pm, Parrswood High sports grounds, M20 5PG
STOCKPORT - Tuesdays from 28 April 6pm, Stockport Academy, SK3 0UP
ROCHDALE - Thursdays from 1 June 6pm, Bowlee Park Sport Centre, M24 4LA
ALTRINCHAM - Thursdays from 21 May 9pm, Altrincham Leisure centre, WA15 8EW
URMSTON - Thursdays from 28 April - Urmston Grammar school, M41 5UG

- Softball is for everyone, no experience required!
- For men and women to enjoy together
- Equipment provided and quality coaches on hand
- Keep healthy and active



Contact Luis on LA@BSUK.com for more information

Search for
'Manchester Softball'



LGBT Friendly



Coach's corner—Know your position #1: 1st base

In the first of a weekly series featuring articles on the roles and responsibilities of each of the softball fielding positions, written by MSL's former Coaching Officer, Peter Jones.

ALL players should know what 'playing short stop', or whatever position is assigned, actually means and this series is an attempt to provide the basics for each position. Players should know what plays that are called by the SS mean and when, for example, "the play is 2 then 1" is called, know what that means. All players should be able to call these plays.

Players should also have a good knowledge of the rules to be most effective.

The responsibilities are split into:

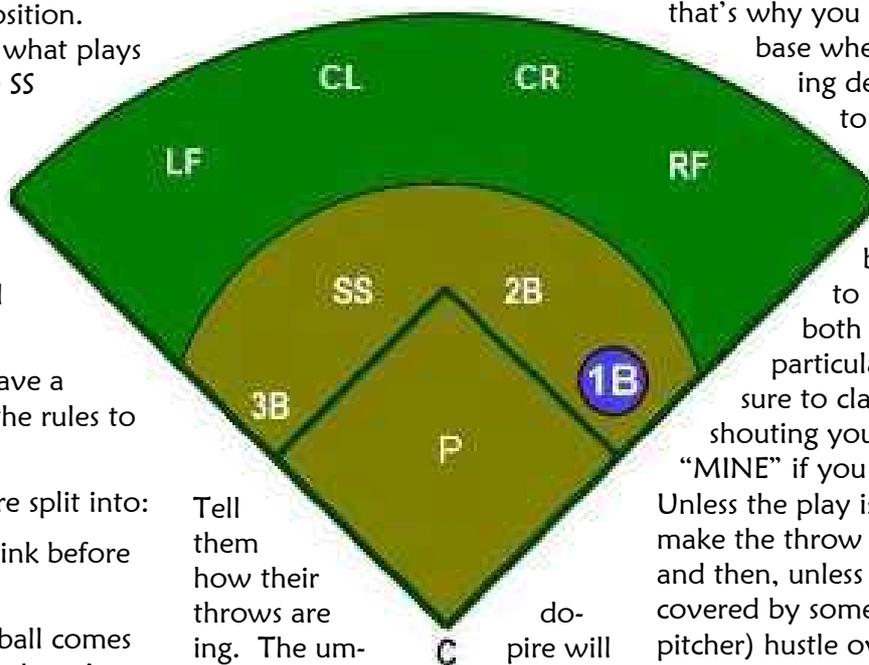
1. What to do and think before the pitch
2. What to do if the ball comes to you and if the ball doesn't come to you
3. What to do when not / no longer involved in the play

Ask your coach to run some drills that practice the skills described here. What you do in training, you will do in a game. Don't expect to skip it all during practice and then be able to 'switch it on' at key times in a game.

Have the right gear for the game, particularly for bright sunshine. You will need sunglasses, hat and sunscreen. With practice, you can use your glove to shield the sun when catching fly balls.

In this first week, rather logically we cover the first of the infield positions, 1st baseman (no sexism intended).

Try to be the first onto the diamond and take a ball onto the field. Don't use a match ball, use a team ball. While the pitcher is warming up or the batter is getting ready, throw a few ground balls to the infield.



Tell them how their throws are coming. The umpire will call a halt to this with a call of "Balls In", "Batter's ready" and eventually "Play ball".

Know the play before the pitch. Repeat it to yourself or out loud. Remind yourself after every pitch so when the ball is hit, you know what to do without having to think.

Don't hug the 1st base line and even more to the point, don't stand on your base in the first instance: half-way between where 2B is standing and the 1st base line is a good starting position. If there are two strikes, move further away from the base line as batters tend to hit more towards the middle in these circumstances. You will

have plenty of time to get on base and make the out if the ball is hit to another fielder.

Your first responsibility is to field the ball. Someone else (e.g. the pitcher) should cover your base if you do this. Regardless of what the play is, get the ball! Remember the phrase "BALL then BASE then BACKUP". Your first responsibility when the ball is hit, is to field it:

that's why you don't stand on the base when the pitch is being delivered. Try not to get in a collision with the 2B fielder if they are going for the ball and remember to communicate. On both ground balls, and particularly fly-balls, be sure to claim the play by shouting your name or at least "MINE" if you are going for it.

Unless the play is at 1st, try to make the throw to the correct base and then, unless your base is being covered by someone else (e.g. the pitcher) hustle over to 1st for the double play.

Most plays can end up at 1st so, if the ball is hit away from you and then thrown to another base, still move towards 1st in case a throw comes your way. You can switch off when the umpire calls "side away" or "time" or when there are no runners left on the diamond, but not before.

If you don't get the decision at 1st and you have the ball, stay alive and watch for plays at other bases and/or the squeeze play. If there are no other runners, watch the batter-runner to see if they turn to 2nd and tag them as they return to 1st.

However, don't stand on the base



ally uses the white section and the runner uses the orange but in the situation where the ball is being thrown to you from foul territory along the 1st base line, those roles are reversed and the fielder should step to the outside and use the orange whilst the runner uses the white. In these circumstances, if the runner is shouting for you to get out of the way when you are on the orange, they are wrong and you should hold your ground. The umpire will know what you are doing and give you credit for this when making their call.

if the ball is not coming to you as you may obstruct the runner which will disadvantage your team.

If the ball is to be thrown to you, get over to, and stand initially with both heels on, 1st base and be prepared to step with the foot on your glove side to catch the ball, i.e. right-handed fielders who have their glove on the left hand should move their left foot to make the catch and keep their right heel in contact with the base. More experienced fielders will be able to run towards the base and feel the thickness of the base under their heels rather than have to look for it. The sooner you can raise your head from looking for the base and see the incoming throw, the sooner your team-mate can make their throw and the more chance you have of making the out. To ensure your team-mate knows you are ready to receive the throw, get your glove up (or better still, both hands) so that the fielder can see where to throw to. Behind you may be several

spectators (or a base coach) so make yourself obvious. A shout that you are ready for the throw can also help.

If there are side fences, the overthrown ball will still be live, so chase after it and pick it up.

Be mindful that whenever there is a runner on your base and the ball is hit in the air, it can be thrown to you after it is caught to try and catch a runner off the base. This will rarely be an audible call as this would alert the runner.

Once the batter-runner has made it most of the way to 2nd, watch that they touch the bases. If anyone misses a base, appeal it to the umpire. Be specific which runner and which base. Alternatively, if you are feeling particularly energetic, get over to home plate and back up the catcher.

Finally, be aware of the lesser known and infrequently used rule about who gets which part of the safety/double base. In simple terms, the fielder gener-

Transfers

Kate Hallsworth, Mutineers to Enforcers, 28 April

Ellie Sams, Speeders to Bats, 30 April

Birthdays



Monday Ian Mills (Hackers), Pete Rush-ton (Hackers), Cath Whitehead (Moorkats)

Tuesday Larcia Bragg (Camels), Jonny Huck (Meerkats) *pictured*

Sunday Ivan Hinchley (Speeders), Natasha Hopkins (Phoenix)

Fantasy softball

by Charles Everitt

THE downtime between weeks 1 and 2 saw Fantasy mangers delve into the free agent market for the first time as four players were cut and replaced. Fantasy managers focused in on the HR stat with three of the players David Dean, Ian Mills and Darren Corner all being picked up. All three hit two homers for their respective MSL teams in week 1 with Ian Mills adding to that tally with 3 against Barflies in Week 2. Ian now has 19 points for the season.

Week 1 corrections

TWO errors from week 1 need correcting: Designated Drinkers actually scored 87 in victory over Joey's Giants, improving on what was already a good score and The Rays scored 23½ in defeat to Scruffy's Blue Jays. Head to Head results are not affected but it does alter the points for and against for those two teams.

THIS WEEK'S RESULTS			
The Rays	30–58	Jawsome	
Designated Drinkers	59–28	Captain Brody's Bunch	
Sarah Marks	45½–36	Joey's Giants	
Chris Newham	18–43	Watt's Up	
Rob Reckless	27–20½	Podnahs	
Shark's All Stars	33–11	Isotopes	
Late Winner	34–51	Scruffy's Blue Jays	

Head to Head League

WEEK 2 saw first wins of the season for Shark's All Stars, Sarah Marks and Rob Reckless, leaving four teams at the foot of the table fighting for the last two remaining playoff spots. My Rays are yet to win as yet again I fell to a team scoring over 50 points. This week's defeat was at the hands of Jawsome who scored 58 points, more on that below. Watt's Up with 42 and 43 points across the first two weeks, and Late Winner (33½ and 34) are the marks of consistency.

Scruffy's Blue Jays, Jawsome, Designated Drinkers and Watt's Up got their second wins of the

season and lead the way sitting in four positions that will guarantee them a bye in the first week of the playoffs.

Biggest movers were Shark's All Stars who moved up five places after victory against Isotopes (as Dan Lord's team is now known). Head-to-

head is all about the luck of the weekly draw. Joey's Giants' score of 36 was high enough to beat eight other Fantasy teams, but lost to Sarah Marks's 45½. With 80 points so far Giants are 13th in H2H but 6th in the Accumulation league. Sarah moves into 6th place above Podnahs by virtue of the higher points scored.

Week 3 sees the following fixtures (current league placings in brackets). Will it be three weeks in a row that the Rays concede 50 plus point? It could well be as they face league leaders Designated Drinkers, who have scored the most with 146 points over the first two weeks. At the foot of the table, either Chris Newham or Joey's Giants will get their hands on a win, and at the top of the table 2nd plays 3rd as Scruffy's Blue Jays take on Jawsome.

Rays (14) v Designated Drinkers (1)
Scruffy's Blue Jays (2) v Jawsome (3)
Sarah Marks (6) v Brody's Bunch (11)
Newham (12) v Giants (13)
Rob Reckless (10) v Watt's Up (4)
Shark's All Stars (5) v Podnahs (7)
Late Winner (9) v Isotopes (8)

Accumulation League

TWO new teams have entered the Accumulation League: a big welcome to Ace of Jades and Martine Knight. Even with 168 players already selected before these two teams made their fantasy picks it was a good start

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Move	Team	P	W	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	–	Designated Drinkers	2	2	0	146	72	+74	6
2	–	Scruffy's Blue Jays	2	2	0	106	57½	+48½	6
3	↑ 3	Jawsome	2	2	0	97	63	+34	6
4	↑ 3	Watt's Up	2	2	0	85	58	+27	6
5	↑ 5	Shark's All Stars	2	1	1	59½	44½	+15	3
6	↑ 2	Sarah Marks	2	1	1	85½	78	+7½	3
7	↓ 3	Podnahs	2	1	1	57½	50	+7½	3
8	↓ 5	Isotopes	2	1	1	45½	51	–5½	0
9	↓ 4	Late Winner	2	1	1	67½	77½	–10	0
10	↑ 2	Rob Reckless	2	1	1	45	55	–10	0
11	↓ 2	Captain Brody's Bunch	2	0	2	61	98	–37	0
12	↓ 1	Chris Newham	2	0	2	41	80	–39	0
13	↑ 1	Joey's Giants	2	0	2	80	132½	–52½	0
14	↓ 1	The Rays	2	0	2	53½	113	–59½	0

from both, with Ace of Jades scoring 31½ and Martine Knight just edging it by two points with 33½. A few more scores like that over the next few weeks will see the deficit from week 1 erased as they look to climb the table.

Biggest movers of the week were Joey's Giants, Podnabs and Dan Lord's Isotopes all falling 3 spots with the biggest mover in the other direction Team of Week Jawsome who move up three places into 3rd. Designated Drinkers hold a substantial lead of 40 points over 2nd place, with the fight for 4th through 6th being closely contested.

Manager of the Week

MARK Griffin (Designated Drinkers) again, with 59 points, though Jawsome ran him close with 58 points. Aleck Aspinall scored 14 of those 58 points as the Moorkats RAR'd Freeze. Aleck also hit 3 home runs includ-

DREAM TEAM AFTER WEEK 2

Ross Birch (Storm, Div 3)	22
Richard Sarver (Storm, Div 3)	20
Aleck Aspinall (Moorkats, Div 4)	20
Ian Mills (Hackers, Div 4)	19
Dan Strosnider (Moorkats, Div 4)	18
Thomas Atkinson (Camels, Div 2)	17
Dee Devine or Kim Gallaher or Yvette Lee (Storm, Div 3)	16
Sam Gardiner (Mavs II, Div 4)	16
Vic O'Farrell (Greensox, Div 1)	15
Jan Bradley (Mavs II, Div 4)	15
Choose two from 12 female players	14

Note that the dream team is not necessarily the 12 highest scorers: the dream team must obey the rules, maximum 3 per MSL team, and at least one player from each division

ing a grand slam, the first of the season by virtue of it coming on Tuesday evening and he is therefore **Fantasy Player of the Week**. Griff is the top man despite having four 0-pointers on his team.

After two weeks of softball the Fantasy Dream Team is filled by players whose MSL teams have two wins from two and earned bonus

points from strong offensive and defensive performances. Storm, Greensox, Moorkats and Hackers all have plenty of players who would make it into the Dream Team. With six home runs Storm's Ross Birch, who is on the Designated Drinkers roster, is currently leading the Fantasy player's list with 22 points. Five of the top 20 and 19 of the top 50 fantasy players were still at the time of writing in the free agent market and available for those fantasy managers looking to strengthen their squads.

A flurry of moves at the

end of Week 2 has seen managers scrambling for the remaining free agents, with three players each from Hackers and Storm picked up, and two each from Moorkats and Lightning.

Facts that may interest only me

FROM the 14 original fantasy teams the Lions had the most players selected with 13: will they be able maintain 2014's strong offensive and defensive displays (10 offensive bonus games, 9 defensive bonus games)? So far, their low-scoring games have provided defensive bonuses but few home runs. 86% of Sharks (12 of 14 rostered players) were selected by

Fantasy managers, who obviously believe the Sharks will be able to repeat 2014's dominance of Division 4 but in the higher division this year. Meerkats had 7 of the top 25 highest 2014 points scorers, but early indications are that the running won't be quite as smooth for the Kats following promotion to Division 1 starting with a tough fixture against the Champion Greensox. So far, Storm are the team to back, with 9 players in the top 15, thanks to two high-scoring wins (one of them a slaughter) and 17 home runs scored.

SPECIAL OFFER to new Fantasy managers: Email before 11.59pm Wednesday 6th May 2015 and you'll get first dibs on those players still in the free agent pool. (Subject to a lottery pick by me if more than one team selects the same player.)

ENTRIES are still being accepted for the AL league and if we can get 5 or 6 more teams before 16th June, I will be able run a mini head-to-head league and playoff in the second half of the season for those new entrants. There are still 312 players in the free agent pool so plenty of room for lots more teams. Email me at manchesterfantasysoftball@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

ACCUMULATION LEAGUE TABLE				
Pos	Chg	Team	This Wk	Tot Pts
1	-	Designated Drinkers	59	146
2	-	Scruffy's Blue Jays	51	106
3	↑ 3	Jawsome	58	97
4	↑ 1	Sarah Marks	45½	85½
5	↓ 1	Watt's Up	43	85
6	↓ 3	Joey's Giants	36	80
7	↑ 2	Late Winner	34	67½
8	↑ 2	Captain Brody's Bunch	28	61
9	↑ 2	Sharks All Stars	33	59½
10	↓ 3	Podnabs	20½	57½
11	↑ 2	The Rays	30	53½
12	↓ 4	Isotopes	11	45½
13	↑ 1	Rob Reckless	27	45
14	↓ 2	Chris Newham	18	41
15	-	Martine Knight	33½	33½
16	-	Ace of Jades	31½	31½

Preview: This week's games

Division 1

GAME OF THE DAY



Lions at Greensox (6, DD) One of the early front-runners will be facing their first defeat of the season in this, the 25th meeting of the two teams. *Last meeting 20 August 2014, Greensox won 20-5 (6 inns) to clinch the title. Sox lead 18-6.*

Last week's MVPs

Barflies	Helen Smith, Paul Warburton
Bats	Beril, Max Fagan
Bullfrogs	Christine Hunter, Johnny Ruben
Camels	Darel Macdonald, Tom Atkinson
Camels II	Lynne Howells, Dan Jarman
Colt 45s	Eleanor Swallow, John Kaye
Dodgers	Amy Tanner, Melvin Beltre
Drizzle	Heather Blythe, Andrew Bogie
Enforcers	Jackie Ky, James Ridgeway
Freeze	Martine Knight, Peter Wilkinson
Greensox	Shane Stark, Linda Horan
Hackers	Ella Mills, Ian Mills
Hurricanes	Jodie Munday, Carl McCarthy
Lightning	Carolyn Barrett, Steve Bennett
Lions	Hiroe Ryan, Adam Roberts
Mavericks	Jan Bradley (MV2), Adam Cole
Mavs II	Tamsin Middleton, Andy Gardner
Mayhem	Linni Mitchell, Anthony Garcia
Mayhem II	Jocelyn Tong, Steve Beddows
Meerkats	Ann Gledson, Jonny Huck
Moorkats	Lisa Weaver, Dan Strosnider
Outlaws	Ellie Buckley, David Collins
Outlaws II	Beth Arrowsmith-Herbert, Chris Thompson
Pirates	Natalie Robinson, Dave Hannam-Smith
Sharks	Rebecca Ebo (FRZ), Graeme Nickson
Speeders	Cat Thornton, Nick Money
Storm	Kim Gallaher, Nathan Barratt
Thunder	Areej Almaazi, Dave Lev
Tigers	Tereza Kokocinska, Ed Covington
Wildcats	Louisa Tolu, Steve Aguirre

As usual, all names are reproduced exactly as they appear on the scoresheets

Mavericks at Meerkats (5, AG) Both teams picked up their first win last week: the league's most successful club meets the Div 1 newbies for the first time.

Mayhem at Thunder (4, MD) The Division's bottom two go head-to-head both looking for their first win. *Last meeting 16 July 2014, Thunder won 11-3 to make it 2 out of 2.*

Dodgers at Outlaws (9, TLF) Both teams will want to bounce back from last week's defeats. *Last meeting 30 July 2014, Outlaws won 12-4, but trail 9-5 overall.*

Division 2

Speeders at Tigers (2, IW) After resting in Week 1, Speeders got off to a good start, while Tigers await their first win. *Last meeting 14 May 2014, Speeders won 16-15, to tie series 1-1.*

Outlaws II at Lightning (7, BMcG) Should be a first win for one of these two, both 0-2 so far. *Last meeting 6 August 2014, Outlaws won 12-11 to cut their series deficit to 4-2.*

Mutineers at Bullfrogs (3, HS) Both have perfect records, though Mutineers have only played once so far! *Last meeting 26 June 2013 (POD), Bullfrogs won 5-2, but trail 5-4.*

Camels rest

Division 3

Enforcers at Sharks (3, MG) With both teams on 1-1 but hitting their stride, this should be a close game. *First ever meeting.*

Hurricanes at Camels II (1, AG) Hurricanes have had the longest wait for revenge since their last meeting nearly 4 years ago, and need to get their season started, but the secondary dromedaries look strong. *Last meeting 2 August 2011, Camels won 15-9 to take a 3-2 lead.*

Pirates at Bats (2, CE) Pirates have had a tough start, while the Bats have had mixed results. Another close game in prospect as these two meet for the first time.

Storm at Mayhem II (4, RH) Mossley face Club Thunder for the second week in a row, this time against Storm who look like a good bet for a repeat of last year's title. *Last meeting 22 July 2014, Mayhem won 16-11, their first win in 3 attempts.*

Division 4

Barflies at Colt 45s (9, BA) Neither side has managed a win so far this season, though the 45s came close last week. *Last meeting 22 July 2014, Colts won 16-9, their first win in 4 meetings.*

Mavericks II at Drizzle (6, JF) Drizzle won a close-run thing last week, but the Mavkins look too strong in their maiden season.

Freeze at Hackers (7, AK) Having picked up some Gnus, Hackers look a good bet for promotion at least, and Freeze will find the going tough in this, their first ever meeting.

Phoenix at Wildcats (8, IC) League position will be misleading for the two resting teams from the first two weeks, but Phoenix made the better start, with a win. *Last meeting 20 August 2013, Wildcats won 20-5 (5 inns) and have won all 3 of their meetings.*

Moorkats rest

Home runs

Division 1 Female

1 - Ellie Buckley (OUT), Andrea Dee (MAV), Areej Elmaazi (THU, GS), Linni Mitchell (MHM, GS), Vic O'Farrell (GRX)

Division 1 Male

3 - Paul Kidley (GRX)
1 - Elieser Dorronsoro (MAV), Charles Everitt (LIO), Anthony Garcia (MHM), Tyler Lappage (DOD), Dave Leverton (THU), Andi Marshall (MHM), Gordon Milson (LIO), Andy Rawson (GRX)

Division 2 Female

1 - Liz Lyon (OU2)

Division 2 Male

5 - Tom Atkinson (CAM, 1GS) *pictured*



With 4 home runs, including a grand slam, the Spittin' Camels' Tom Atkinson has made an instant impact on the Division 2 home run trophy race, much to the delight no doubt also of Matt Fairhearst, who has him in his Fantasy League team Joey's Giants.

3 - Adam Faloona (BUL)
2 - Steve Kellett (BUL), Jonny Reuben (BUL), Chris Thompson (OU2)
1 - Steve Bennett (LIG), Ed Coving-

ton (TIG), Mike Gaskell (TIG), Richard Goar (OU2), Ali Halls-worth (MUT), Mark Humphreys (CAM), Duncan Jones (MUT), Nick Money (SPE), Gary Moors (MUT)

Division 3 Male

6 - Ross Birch (STO)
4 - Richard Sarver (STO)
3 - Gavin Whitaker (STO)
2 - David Dean (CM2), Dave Griffiths (HUR), John Taylor (STO)
1 - Adam Barratt (STO), Nathan Barratt (STO), Alan Davis (CM2), Liam Harris (SHA), Julian Jones (CM2), Phil Longfield (SHA), James Ridgway (ENF), Stephen Shearer (SHA), Ian Williams (PIR)

Division 4 Female

2 - Michelle Fisher (PHX)
1 - Jan Bradley (MV2), Natasha Hopkins (PHX), Martine Knight (FRZ), Lisa Weaver (MK2)

Division 4 Male

5 - Ian Mills (HAC)
4 - Aleck Aspinall (MK2, 1GS), Dan Strosnider (MK2)
2 - Darren Corner (HAC), Sam Gardiner (MV2)
1 - Phil Cosgrove (COL), Andy Gardner (MV2), Chris Gresty (MV2), Brad Hadwin (DRZ), Humphries (MK2), Daniel Johansson (HAC), Lee McCarthy (COL), Simon Ronksley (PHX), Peter Wilkinson (FRZ)

(Continued from page 12)

PIRATES * 2 0 4 3 0 0 0 9
CAMELS II 3 2 0 1 0 3 1 10
Ump: Mike Goff; Pitch 7; * home team batted first
HR PIR Ian Williams

Division 4

BARFIES 3 0 9 4 3 19
HACKERS 5 7 8 1 7 28
Ump: ANge Killion; Pitch 2; bad light
HRs HAC Ian Mills 3

COLT 45s 0 0 0 2 0 3 4 9
DRIZZLE 3 3 0 2 0 2 x 10
Ump: Al Green; Pitch 4
HRs COL Phil Cosgrove; **DRZ** Brad Hadwin, *Mark Griffin* (THU)

MOORKATS 10 0 6 4 14 34
FREEZE 1 1 4 0 0 6
Ump: Pete Nightingale; Pitch 3; RAR
HRs MK2 Aleck Aspinall (3, 1GS), Lisa Weaver, Dan Strosnider 2; **FRZ** Peter Wilkinson

WILDCATS 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
MAVERICKS II 0 7 3 2 0 4 16
Ump: Adam Roberts; Pitch 1; RAR



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Results and standings

Week 2 - 28/29 April

Division 1

DODGERS 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 4
LIONS 1 1 1 0 4 0 x 7
 Ump: Mike Davies; Pitch 9

MEERKATS 10 0 0 0 1 2 3 16
MAYHEM 0 0 5 4 3 0 2 14
 Ump: David Dean; Pitch 6
 HRs **MHM Linni Mitchell** (GS), Anthony Garcia, Andi Marshall

OUTLAWS 0 0 7 1 0 0 0 8
MAVERICKS 2 4 6 2 0 0 x 14
 Pitch 2
 HR OUT Ellie Buckley

THUNDER 0 2 4 3 0 4 0 13
GREENSOX 4 4 4 0 8 3 x 23
 Pitch 9
 HRs **THU Areej Elmaazi** (GS), Dave Lever-ton; **GRX** Paul Kidley, Andy Rawson

Division 2

BULLFROGS 4 0 0 10 6 2 22
OUTLAWS II 2 2 0 6 4 0 14
 Ump: Tony La Fave; Pitch PW7; bad light
 HRs **BUL** Adam Faloon, Steve Kellett, Jonny Reuben 2; **OU2** Chris Thompson 2

LIGHTNING 1 0 0 1 0 8 0 10
SPEEDERS 0 2 4 0 4 3 x 13
 Ump: Tony Stonard; Pitch 3
 HR **SPE** Nick Money

TIGERS 3 5 2 4 2 0 4 20
CAMELS 1 7 3 3 6 5 x 25
 Ump: Alan Green; Pitch 4
 HRs **TIG Steph Hallows** (WCT), Mike Gaskell, Ed Covington; **CAM Tom Atkinson** 4 (1GS), Mark Humphreys

Division 3

BATS 0 0 1 0 0 1
SHARKS 11 1 2 0 2 16
 Ump: Tony Stonard; Pitch 8; RAR
 HRs **SHA** Phil Longfield, Stephen Shearer

ENFORCERS * 0 2 0 2 4
STORM 13 11 5 x 29
 Ump: Jeremy Fothergill; Pitch 6; RAR;
 * home team batted first
 HRs **ENF** James Ridgway; **STO** Richard Sarver 3, Ross Birch 3, Gavin Whitaker 2, John Taylor, Nathan Barratt, Adam Barratt

MAYHEM II 3 1 2 3 8 0 17
HURRICANES 0 2 5 0 2 0 9
 Ump: Rolf Herbert; Pitch 9; bad light
 HRs **HUR** Dave Griffiths 2

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pct	GB
Division 1									
▶ Lions	2	2	0	0	0	13	6	1.000	-
▶ Greensox	2	2	0	0	0	56	20	1.000	-
▶ Dodgers	2	1	0	1	0	16	15	.500	1
▲ Mavericks	2	1	0	1	0	22	20	.500	1
▼ Outlaws	2	1	0	1	0	17	22	.500	1
▲ Meerkats	2	1	0	1	0	23	47	.500	1
▼ Mayhem	2	0	0	2	0	16	22	.000	2
▼ Thunder	2	0	0	2	0	21	32	.000	2
Division 2									
▶ Bullfrogs	2	2	0	0	0	44	19	1.000	-
▲ Camels	2	2	0	0	0	41	28	1.000	-
▼ Mutineers	1	1	0	0	0	23	8	1.000	½
▶ Speeders	1	1	0	0	0	13	10	1.000	½
▶ Lightning	2	0	0	2	0	18	29	.000	2
▲ Outlaws II	2	0	0	2	0	22	45	.000	2
▼ Tigers	2	0	0	2	0	25	47	.000	2
Division 3									
▶ Storm	2	2	0	0	0	56	16	1.000	-
▲ Camels II	2	2	0	0	0	33	25	1.000	-
▲ Sharks	2	1	0	1	0	32	24	.500	1
▲ Mayhem II	2	1	0	1	0	31	30	.500	1
▼ Bats	2	1	0	1	0	22	30	.500	1
▼ Enforcers	2	1	0	1	0	25	42	.500	1
▼ Pirates	2	0	0	2	0	22	31	.000	2
▶ Hurricanes	2	0	0	2	0	21	44	.000	2
Division 4									
▲ Mavericks II	2	2	0	0	0	40	11	1.000	-
▲ Moorkats	2	2	0	0	0	57	25	1.000	-
▼ Hackers	2	2	0	0	0	51	27	1.000	-
▼ Phoenix	1	1	0	0	0	20	6	1.000	½
▲ Drizzle	2	1	0	1	0	18	32	.500	1
▼ Wildcats	1	0	0	1	0	1	16	.000	1½
▲ Colt 45s	2	0	0	2	0	19	34	.000	2
▼ Barflies	2	0	0	2	0	38	51	.000	2
▶ Freeze	2	0	0	2	0	12	54	.000	2