

BASES LOADED



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Inside this issue

Match reports	2
Alex Hall tournie	4
Camels deducted 1 point	5
Batting helmets	6
Batting stats	8
Birthdays	8
Obituary	10
Home runs	10
Last week's MVPs	10
Next week's games	11
Results and standings	12

This week's games

Including streaks, pitches and umpires

Division 1

DOD 1L @ THU 1W (3, TLF)

LIG 2L @ MAV 1W (2, CE)

LIO 4W @ MKT 1L (4, PF)

GRX 2W rest

Division 2

MV2 2W @ CM2 2W (6, HS)

SPE 2L @ MUT 1W (5, IC)

SHA 1L @ MHM 1L (9, MD)

CAM 2L rest

Division 3

PIR 1L @ STO 4L (8, MD/JF)

RIP 1L @ OUT 1L (7, MG)

TIG 3W @ DRZ 10W (6, AR)

BAT 5W rest

Division 4

BFL 3L @ HUR 2L (1, TLF)

BLJ 1W @ VIP 1W (6, ML/LA)

ENF 1W @ HAC 1W (4, PF)

MET 1L @ FRZ 4L (2, PN)

REB 3L @ COL 3W (3, SS)

TTN 8L @ PHX 1W (7, DW)

New season off to a bright start

THE opening 'day', now spread over half the week, saw bright and dry, though cold weather with games averaging 30.5 runs apiece, the biggest opening day average since 2004, and at 458, the highest total ever (there's the 'bright start' promised in the headline—see box).

Opening day proper saw a mercy win for new—but not really new—**Vipers** over the genuinely new **Meteors** who avoided the shut-out with a solo homer by Dave Olsen. There was a big win for the **Blue Jays**, who re-

sponded to **Freeze's** 5-run 5th inning with a double bat-around to win 33-8 in the 6th. **Phoenix** recovered from being 10-1 down to the **Barflies** after two to level the scores at 12-12 in the 4th before almost doubling their tally in the final three innings while restricting the flies to a single run. **Colt 45s** similarly pulled away from a tied position at 3-3 after four, outshooting the **Titans** to win

12-8. Last year's relegated **Hackers** and **Rebels** had an immediate rematch in which the

(Continued on page 8)

Opening week runs scored

Year	Total	Games	Av'ge
2017	458	15	30.5
2016	370	14*	26.4
2015	447	15	29.8
2014	336	13	25.8
2013	420	14	30.0
2012	324	13	24.9
2011	353	13	27.2
2010	328	11	29.8
2009	326	12	27.2
2008	328	12	27.3
2007	282	11	25.6
2006	213	8	26.6
2005	202	7	28.9
2004	208	7	29.7
2003	283	9	31.4

* Week 2: the first full day of fixtures

Totals do not include forfeits

The great helmet debate reopens

IN one of those Facebook anniversary reminders, a three-year old posting by Luis Arrevillagas has resurfaced, and prompted a vigorous and interesting debate on whether

running helmets should be made compulsory. We say "running helmets" because, as everyone acknowledges, it is only when running the bases (and not when actually facing

the pitching) that batters run the risk of being hit in the head by the ball.

The original posting, from 2014, shows the front page of an issue

(Continued on page 6)

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Match reports

Meteors mercied

Vipers	8 6 9 4	27
Meteors	1 0 0 0	1

RAR, Umpire Dave Wareham, Pitch 4
HRs: **VIP** Scott Barton, Dave Warren,
Anthony Henderson (GS); **MET** Dave Olsen

VIPERS Ian Millar (CR), Vanessa Nolan (RF), Dave Warren (P), Kat Rhead (LF), Scott Barton (CL), Mandy Ashton (1B), Chris Wilson-Grady (SS), Sarah Douglas (2B), Stewart Pilling (3B), Gemma Wallace (C), Anthony Henderson (EP), Claire Holden (EP)

METEORS Julie Yorke (3B), Dave Olsen (SS), Bryony James (P), Phil Kirby (2B), Laura Hayes (LF), Karl Walsh (LC), Kylie Fedtschyschak (RF), Tom Hiles (RC), *Martine Knight (MHM)*(1B), Dan McDowell (C); **sub** Shane Hunt (for Walsh)

WE love the Meteors, they're great and we were glad that we could face them at the start of the season as we have trained with them a few times, we have drunk with them and we have even named their bats for them. Lovely lovely Meteors. Although we had trained as a collective a few times this was our first meeting in earnest. We had high hopes of a win but were unsure of what was in store. Dave Warren was the giddiest person alive in the run-up to the opening game of the season and his head exploded at least six times on the Tuesday.

As away team we were up to bat first but like a large unsinkable ship, disaster struck, 2 up, 2 down. Then a couple of walks and Scott Barton's home run got us back on track. A few hits and walks later and we were up to 8 before a great catch from Vanessa Nolan's brilliant line drive ended the inning. Meteors replied with a single run courtesy of a massive homer by Dave Olsen and his wonderful bat originally

named 'Gary Philips' (gotta love Gary).

2nd inning: nothing out of the ordinary in this inning: in the grand scheme of things it was as exciting as a grey pair of corduroys. A few hits, a couple of walks, and six runs scored. Some great fielding by Vipers resulted in a Meteor shut-out, score at the end of the inning 14-1

The third inning started with a massive home run from Dave 'Dr. Bunsen Honeydew' Warren (*right*) which literally made one of his arteries catch fire. Then some good hits and running ended the inning with nine runs scored. Brilliant fielding again saw three up, three down with Vipers 23-1 up at the end of the 3rd and Dave was running round and round shouting 'YIP YIP YIP' like an excited miniature dog.

In the fourth inning we were 2 out with bases loaded when up steps Anthony 'Urinal' Henderson, BOOM grand slam home run, bringing in all four of our runs in the 4th. After some more great fielding it was game over, final score 27-1: a great start to the season, let's hope we can keep it up against next week's opponents, the Red Mockingbirds or something like that... . *Dave Warren*

MVPs Rhead, Henderson (VIP); James, Olsen (MET)

Rebels hacked

Hackers	2 0 0 4 0 4 1	11
Rebels	2 2 1 0 2 0 0	7

Umpire Pete Nightingale, Pitch 2
HRs: **REB** Hayley McTear, Dave Eaton

HACKERS Helen Moore (C), Ian Radford (3B), Ella Mills (LF), Ian Mills (SS), Rachel Naylor (2B), Daniel Johansson (P), Grace Mills (RF), Dave Ogden (CL),



Alicija Gilderdale (EP), Andy Shaw (CR), *Jane Curley* (DOD)(1B), Tim Lonsdale (EP)

REBELS Conor Battersby (LC), Hayley McTear (RC), Dave Eaton (SS), Sarah Cassin (LF), Chuan Fu Yap (3B), Emma Miller (1B), Julian Jones (P), Jen Douglas (2B), Craig Lawson (EP), Amy Torkington (C), Matt Thomas (RF), *Lynne Howells* (CM2)(EP)

IN typical Manchester fashion the wonderfully sunny day turned cold and overcast once game time rolled around, but this didn't dull the Rebels' spirit who were excited to begin the season and welcome some new players aboard. Jen Douglas, Amy Torkington, Julian Jones and Craig Lawson made their Rebels debut in a closely contested game, where in the end the Rebels fell 11-7 to the Hackers.

As the score suggests, the fielding was the star of the game, with the outfield girls (Sarah Cassin and Hayley McTear) showing everyone how to gracefully take a catch. Julian pitched well in his Rebels debut, Amy took some catches at home, and a number of outs

were recorded by Emma at one. Despite home runs from Hayley and Dave Eaton the Rebels' bid to start the season with a win was hampered by a number of injuries, meaning that key players were limping to one. All in all though, this captain is optimistic that the season will shape up to be a good one. *Emma Miller*
MVPs Naylor, I Mills (HAC); Miller, Eaton (REB)

Urmston caught in heavy Drizzle

Drizzle 6 7 5 12 7 **37**
Rippers 5 0 3 5 5 **18**

RAR, Umpire Mike Davies, Pitch 8
HRs: **DRZ** Mario Rueda (STO) 3, Dean Phillips; **RIP** Paul Duffy, Zac Rayson

DRIZZLE Tomm Childs (3B), Ellei Phillips (LF), Brad Hadwin (SS), Amy Somers (1B), Beto Soto (RC), Laura Somers (RF), Andrew Bogie (P), Beth Werakso (2B), Dean Phiullips (LC), Laura Hartley (EP), *Mario Escobedo* (STO)(EP), Fsyer Evans (C)
RIPPERS Bruce (P), Janette Rayton (3B), Zac Rayson (CL), Ellie Sams (LF), Ed Woodcock (SS), Beccy Katie Cantrill (1B), Paul Duffy (2B), Becky Baird (CR), Jon Brookes (RF), Laura Bintcliffe (C), Jon Cantrill (EP), Sophie Temple (EP)

WELL it wasn't the greatest start to our Division 3 campaign but there were some saving graces. As the home team we fielded first and from the start the pitching was not good. A strong headwind made the default high ball pitch null and void hitting the plate every single time so Drizzle scored 6 runs in the first before we got the outs.

Rippers' first inning of batting in the 3rd division saw 5 runs scored with 6 at bats starting with a walk: clearly the wind was affecting the Drizzle pitcher too.

Next inning was a little better with Drizzle scoring only one but we failed to take advantage and took two strikeouts and a ground-out to first for the third out.

The third inning we were feeling as hopeful as a Jeremy Corbyn

leadership – ie should be sound but came to nothing and Drizzle scored a mighty 11. We tried to combat it and even with Paul Duffy's home run, we only managed 3 runs leaving Drizzle walloping us 18-8.

It wasn't over though and with a mercy rule in sight, we stepped up. We fielded well in the fourth but some walks and homers from Drizzle left us trailing 30-12 at the top of the 4th.

We needed 3 runs to avoid the mercy and they came with some cheeky running and a few big hits leaving us at the bottom of the fourth 30-13. We were hanging in like a Diane Abbot tribute band.

The 5th saw the mercy dawn upon us. Although we had warmed up and found a second wind, we could not stop Drizzle's onslaught (which wasn't really an onslaught – it was our poor pitching and a guest hitter slamming homers for fun (a future article again maybe?))

Bottom of the fifth saw a score of 37-18 and the mercy rule applied. Some lessons learned maybe (get an EP from a higher division!?) but we will fight another day. Bring it on Rippers!!!

Bruce

MVPs E Phillips, Hadwin (DRZ); Rayton, Duffy (RIP)

Tigers turn it around

Outlaws 3 1 1 0 0 0 **5**
Tigers 2 0 1 5 0 3 x **11**

Umpire Mike Goff, Pitch 7
HRs: **TIG** *Jonny Huck* (LIO) 2, 1GS

OUTLAWS Ian McCann (P), Bailey Saunders (RF), Richard Goar (1B), Nancy Bennett (3B), Greg Spiers (LF), Kirstie Hewitt (LC), Stuart Coppock (RC), Jillian MacMath (2B), Mark Buscini (SS), Hannah Ebbitt (C); sub Andy Cocking (for Spiers)

TIGERS Tony La Fave (EP), Emma Pritchard (2B), Dan Downes (SS), Annie Downes (C), Michael Miah (3B), Sandra Zlatinská (LF), Rob Lawrence (LC), Jennie Duckworth (EP), Dave Wareham (P), Caroline Drake (RC), *Jonny Huck* (LIO)(RF), *Jade Shaw* (LIO)(1B)

Tigers recorded a fine win to start their 2017 league season in a tight game played in an excellent spirit. The Outlaws were in the lead for the first half of the game, but Tigers shut them out for the last four innings whilst gradually accumulating runs themselves. Injuries and work commitments meant Tigers had to use two guest players, the first guests they have included in the line-up since 2015. Both Jonny Huck and Jade Shaw played a full part in the victory but there were lots of other fine performances up and down the line-up.

In the field Dan Downes was excellent at short stop, Michael Meah impressed at 3rd. Dave Wareham pitched well, Emma Pritchard recorded a large number of outs at 2nd and Sandra Zlatinská and Caroline Drake both recorded important outs in the outfield. Annie Downes took a nice catch on a pop up, and paid the price as she was cleaned out (accidentally) by the base runner. Guest Shaw was impressive on 1st and Huck recorded an impressive sliding catch in right field and also hit with two homers, including a Grand Slam in the 4th that gave Tigers the lead they held for the rest of the game.

Jennie Duckworth made her debut for the team and had a successful time, getting her first hit and also scoring a run !

Dave Wareham

MVPs Bennett, McCann (OUT); Zlatinská, D Downes (TIG)

Alex Hall Memorial Tournament—June 3rd

Mike Goff

This year's Alex Hall Tournament will take place at Parrs Wood School on Saturday 3rd June from 9:00 to 18:00. This will be the 14th tournament.

For those who haven't played before, the tournament is a one-day event to raise as much money as possible for the Christie Hospital who treated Alex Hall, an MSL player, when she was diagnosed with cancer. You enter as an individual and are put into one of a number of colour-coded teams that are as evenly

matched as possible. You then play every other team throughout the day and the two best teams meet in the final. Players are encouraged to dress up in their team's colour (a t-shirt is included in the entry fee) and prepare a picnic lunch for their team, again in the team colour. You will be assigned to a team two weeks before the tournament and your captain will explain everything, or you can just ask me. The rules are a little different to normal softball, but that's easy to grasp. It is a great way to

raise money, have a grand day out and make new friends.

This year I am hoping to get back to ten teams. This will mean that the games are shorter, but also that you'll get more playing time, as ten teams of twelve means less time sitting out than eight teams of fifteen. I have seven captains so far so need three more – please volunteer. A fifth pitch also requires a fifth umpire so I'd like a volunteer for that too. You get a light blue t-shirt!

one you'd like to play with (or avoid – I won't tell them). I have the records of past tournaments so you won't get the same colour each time, unless you want to: having spent a fortune on a pink ballgown you won't wear otherwise and the lads at the fire station will laugh at you if you wear it to work... Some players are getting close to having a full set of colours, so I have brought white and brown back this year to mess with their collection.



Oh yes, and I need players too. There is a form on the Facebook group for the tournament, but you don't really need to fill it in. The information I require is as follows: your name, your email address, the team you play for, your preferred position(s), your t-shirt size and if there is any-

Sign up to play, and bring your friends too, even if they have never played before. Each team has a range of availabilities, and the more experienced players are usually happy to give help to improve your game.

Camels deducted 1 league point for rule breach

THE Exec's judicial arm was called into action in the first round of fixtures as the Camels unfortunately fell foul of a change to the guest rules introduced this year.

THE new ruling stipulates that all guests, including those playing 'up', must bat as low as possible in the order. Camels' two female guests, both from Division 3 Rebels, should have batted #8 and #10 (or #7 and #9), but one of them came in at #2.

WHILE appreciating that this was an honest error with no intention to cheat, the Exec have agreed, following precedent, that a 1-point deduction for fielding an illegal line-up is the appropriate sanction. The Exec noted that the player roster was legal, just the batting line-up in breach of regulations. If the line-up had included an ineligible player, for example a third guest, then a forfeit would have resulted. The Exec also noted that if the Camels had won or tied the game, a stronger sanction (i.e. a forfeit) would have applied.

At the time of publication, the Camels are considering an appeal.

This interpretation of the rules will be added to the Handbook in future.

To clarify further, the Handbook suggests that mistakes of this nature should be rectified on the field if spotted in

ted during the first at-bat, then the swop can be made without penalty. After that, the illegal batter must be substituted, or become an automatic out (they can still field though). If the illegal

batter is on base, an out is recorded.

Again, it is the non-offending team's prerogative whether to play under protest.

This rule clarification will also be added to next year's Handbook.

What the rulebook says ...

3.2.1 League position calculation

For all league games, 2 points are awarded for a win, and 1 for a tie, and [for all games] 1 point, as long as a legal side is fielded, ...

3.5.5.2 Guests

During a game each team can have up to **two** guests at any one time in their line-up. Guests playing in a higher division than the one in which their team is rostered ("playing up") are subject to the batting restrictions, but not fielding restrictions, set out below.

[...] **Batting restrictions:** All guests must bat as low as possible in the batting order, subject to the rule regarding sex of batters.

time. If a guest is found to be fielding in an illegal position, they should move to a legal position. It is then the prerogative of the non-offending team to play under protest because a portion of the game had been played with an illegal defence.

A guest batting too high up the order can be rectified by changing the batting order, and having them exchange places in the order with an eligible player ... as long as that player has not already batted. If the mistake is spot-

Illegal bats and a reminder about metal cleats

While we have your attention, the Umpire-in-Chief would also like to remind all players that we use the ASA banned bats list. Last year a large selection of older Easton bats were voluntarily added to the list. These appear to be all bats where the code starts SCN or SCX. These bats are no longer legal in tournaments and leagues in the UK.

And finally, a reminder that metal cleats (studs) are not permitted.

Great helmet debate reopened

(Continued from page 1)

of *Bases Loaded* describing how Tigers player Becky Ellis suffered a serious head injury while running the bases, an injury that would have been avoided if she had been wearing a helmet.

We reproduce here a selection of comments on that Facebook post from May 2014 ...

Luis Arrevillagas For every ball player out there and particularly for my team-mates: can we please be the first team in the MSL where everyone wears a helmet? If anything I want you to run the bases completely fearless.

Julie Lott Absolutely agree with you Luis, we make it compulsory at Sefton.

Linda March Greensox are close to 100%. I just don't get why more people don't wear them.

Sandra Jones absolutely in agreement Luis, I am trying to get the Phoenix to do this too.

... And here we report on the recent discussion:

Danny Gunn I've been wearing a helmet for 15 years now, since I saw my good friend get concussion from a thrown ball. I bought a new one recently which cost only £20. I've been hit on head 3 times since wearing it, and I didn't feel a thing, best thing was ball went dead all three times and I got extra bases.

Diana Maynard I also got

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MSL Review – Week 3 2014



Runner suffers serious head injury

Becky Ellis of the Tigers suffered a suspected fractured skull in an incident in the 6th inning of their game with Outlaws II. As she was running to 2nd base, a ball thrown from right field took an unfortunate bounce and hit her on the side of her head just above the ear. As the report confirmed, this was an injury that would probably have been avoided if the runner had been wearing a helmet. The game was immediately abandoned with the Outlaws well ahead thanks to consecutive bat-arounds in the 2nd and 3rd innings. We all wish Becky a speedy recovery, while many will also no doubt point to this incident to strengthen the case for compulsory helmets.

concussion around 10 years ago and have been wearing a helmet ever since. I never want to have concussion again, it was horrible and I wasn't right for weeks. Been hit on

No one denies the potential dangers, but a few still argue it should be a matter of personal choice, at least for experienced players. But piecemeal compulsion would be hard to enforce ...

the head a few times since. Also had the exact same thing with the ball going dead and getting extra bases!

Sandra Jones It's been compulsory for Phoenix for a few years now

Julie Lott, Matt Crawshaw, Larry Chan and Leah Hokmes commented that wearing a helmet was compulsory in Sefton, East Midlands, Leeds and Milton Keynes leagues.

Anthony Pratt we should also consider the emotion/guilt the person who throws the ball has to live with in the event of a

serious injury... Helmets protect fielders as well as the runners

Jay Tennant offered a dissenting view: I wouldn't like to see helmets made compulsory. I've tried them at various points and find them baulking (in the same way as sunglasses & caps when fielding) and uncomfortable. I understand the safety reasons for wearing them but in 17 years I've seen vanishingly small number of injuries from people being hit on the head with balls. Yes, I recognise if you are hit on the head the risk of serious injury is relatively high, but we are a product of our experiences. It should be recommended but left to an individual's choice.

Harry Somers I know there are plenty of people like Jay who will resist, which is why compulsion will be difficult to enforce. I know people who have said they will quit if forced to wear helmets. I wonder if they really will.

Mike Lott Make it compulsory—no one will quit! [In Sefton] we've not had one player complain since we started in 2012!

Joanna Griffin Like Jay, I get the safety reasons but I think it's a personal choice. I wear one, Griff doesn't, and if you talk to him he actually has a good reason for not wanting to wear one.

John Fletch I wanted it made compulsory in the Leeds league so new players who we had encouraged to play and did not understand the risks had to wear them. and the only real way is if everyone wears them every time, as an example

Simon Hepburn Myself and Danny Gunn were I believe two of the first players in NSL / A comp ball and subsequently MSL back in 2007 to wear helmets. I unfortunately got hit running to 1st from a ball whilst we were playing for GB in USA. It was a scary incident ...

Roger Grooms It's an interesting discussion. My personal opinion is that I am against a compulsory requirement. I don't feel comfortable in playing with it and I feel it affects my ability to play the sport. If it became an ISF rule that it was compulsory then I think that I would respect it at that point in time.

Tanya Basu I really like that this discussion has popped up again and all the encouragement for wearing a helmet. One of my fellow players once likened it to wearing a seatbelt in a car: you don't expect to need it, but on the occasion you

do, you'd be thankful. And people hated when it first became law to wear one, but we see the benefits now.

*And the final word (for now) goes to **Becky Ellis**, who was the player who suffered the head injury that sparked the debate in the first place:* I didn't realise this feed was still live either but I genuinely don't understand why helmets aren't compulsory. I was playing div 2 at the time, so it shouldn't be just newbies and regardless of your skill mistakes can still

Batting helmets : a personal view

Dave Wareham

THREE years ago I spent more than 3 hours in A&E after a softball game. I sat with Becky waiting for someone to come and check her out. She sat there white faced and feeling sick. She'd been hit in the head by the ball whilst running the bases.

It was after midnight before I went home when she was taken away for a scan. When I woke in the morning I found that she'd sent me a text overnight to tell me she'd got a fractured skull and bleeding inside her brain. Getting that text was the worst moment in my Softball career. I sat on the side of the bed thinking "She

could die". I still don't like thinking about that moment.

Even now I don't believe that it's right to force adult players to wear a helmet. I played for years without a helmet without being hit in the head. I don't like wearing a helmet, it's hot and uncomfortable. Also I've seen people be hit in the

head and be basically fine afterwards, and a helmet doesn't help if you are hit in the face, BUT, you only need to be unlucky once.

Becky was hit in the side of the head going into 2nd base when a throw from

right field skipped past the 2nd baseman's glove. She never saw the ball that hit her. Being hit like that cost her more than a week in hospital followed by more weeks off work, unable to drive, whilst she recovered. If she'd been wearing a helmet she wouldn't have been injured.

In the end maybe she was lucky too, she made a full recovery and she's back playing with the Mavericks. The next person might not be that lucky.

It's your personal choice whether you want to take that risk, but don't kid yourself that that risk isn't there, be it in a league game, at practice or in a casual friendly. In this case it really could, as they say, be **you**.

... and Becky's team captain, Dave Wareham, reflects three years later on "the worst moment in my softball career"

Season off to a bright stat

(Continued from page 1)

axemen came from behind to quash the uprising 11-7. And in the lowest-scoring game of the week, the **Enforcers** showed their experience beating the rookie-rich **Hurricanes** 8-3.

WEDNESDAY's games saw **Dodgers** take a slender early lead over the **Mavericks** only to be pegged back by a bat-around 8-run 4th inning, and a repeat in the 7th just to be sure.

Greensox similarly led off with 8 runs which was the eventual margin of victory over the **Meerkats**. In the club Thunder derby, **Thunder** opened with 10 runs only to concede 7 in **Lightning's** reply. The boomers edged ahead until the 5th when the flashers scored eight to take a

16-14 lead. Order was restored in the final two innings with the senior partners prevailing by 18-16.

IN Division 2 **Mayhem** and serial promotees **Mavericks II** had the closest game of the week, with the Mavs' early lead whittled away by the Mosseley crew but eventually proving a run too many. The **Mutineers** put an end to their 18-game losing streak stretching back to the last game of the 2015 season, and only four short of the Dragons' all-time record, with a convincing defeat of the **Camels**. The junior bactrians on the other hand survived the **Shark** pool as **Camels II** beat the Sefton outfit in a high- and steady-scoring game.

THE three days of slugfests ended with the sluggish of

them all as **Rippers** were slaughtered, despite scoring 18 runs, by **Drizzle** who averaged 7 runs per inning to win in five.

Tigers drafted in two guests from the champion Lions to play 6&6 but trailed to the **Outlaws** for half the game before a leonine grand slam secured the lead and the eventual win. And the **Pirates'** improbable streak of three ties last season came to an end with defeat at the hands of the **Bats**: the two teams traded 4-run innings before the chiroptera powered ahead to take the win fairly comfortably in the end.

SO, we are up and running, with offence on top for the moment, as the bright stat promised earlier demonstrates. See you next week!

Full batting stats

Camels II	4 8 0 7 1 3 4	27
Sharks	2 4 5 0 3 4 1	19

Hurricanes	2 0 0 0 1 0 0	3
Enforcers	0 2 0 0 2 4 x	8

Jakki Rogers (2B)	4	1	0	0	2
Nathan Barratt (RC)	3	2	0	2	2
Kelly Murray (C)	3	1	0	0	2
Mark Griffin (P)	3	1	0	0	1
Kim Gallaher (RF)	3	1	0	1	0

CAMELS II	AB	H	BB	R	RBI
Richard Jameson (LF)	5	3	0	3	3
Rachel Sewell (EP)	5	4	0	4	0
David Dean (RC)	3	3	0	3	3
Lynne Howells (2B)	5	4	0	3	6
Kieran Taylor-Thomas (EP)	5	4	0	5	3
Rebecca Ebo (1B)	5	2	0	2	2
Charlie Gardiner	5	1	0	1	3
Helen Rossiter (LC)	4	0	0	2	0
Jim Gunn (3B)	4	0	0	1	0
Holly Jones (RF)	4	1	0	1	0
Chris Drayton (P)	4	1	0	1	0
Hannah Hochland (C)	4	2	0	1	0
S-Lee Kendrick-Walker (Dean)	2	1	0	2	0

HURRICANES	AB	H	BB	R	RBI
Jay Tennant (SS)	3	1	0	0	2
Sarah Bennett (1B)	3	2	0	0	0
Carl McCarthy (P)	3	1	0	0	0
Karen Davies (2B)	3	1	0	0	0
Harry Somers (EP)	3	0	0	0	0
Janine Hickey (LC)	3	1	0	0	0
Adam Morrison (3B)	2	1	1	0	0
Fiona Lee (RF)	3	1	0	0	0
Dilan Bastiampillai (RC)	2	0	0	0	0
Beth Werakso (DRZ)(EP)	2	1	1	2	0
Chris Newham (LF)	2	1	0	0	0
Jo Griffin (MAV)(C)	2	2	0	1	1
S-Mark Dagnall (Basti)	1	0	0	0	0

SHARKS	AB	H	BB	R	RBI
Dave Martin-Baez (SS)	5	3	0	4	3
Sharon Alger (2B)	5	1	0	0	1
Paul Colton (RC)	5	2	0	4	5
Claire Riley	5	0	0	0	0
Liam Harris (P)	5	2	0	3	0
Sarah Nickson (C)	5	0	0	1	1
Stephen Woods (LC)	4	3	0	2	2
Hayley Broadbent (1B)	5	2	0	4	1
Rob Alger (3B)	5	2	0	3	2
Kate Barlow (SPE)(RF)	4	4	0	4	4

Thunder	10 0 1 2 1 1 3	18
Lightning	7 1 0 0 8 0 0	16

LIGHTNING	AB	H	BB	R	RBI
Jon Taylor (3B)	4	3	0	3	1
Becci Wadeson (LC)	4	2	0	1	0
Paul Finney (SS)	3	0	1	2	1
Carolyn Barratt (EP)	3	2	1	2	1
Jeivo Gomez (LF)	4	2	0	2	3
Deborah Cantu (1B)	3	1	1	1	2
Richard Sarver (EP)	3	2	1	2	0

All managers who are collecting stats for their teams are keenly encouraged to share them with *Bases Loaded*.

Key: AB—at bats, H—hits, BB—walks, R—runs, RBI—runs batted in, S—substitute

Birthdays

Tuesday Zac Rayson (Rippers)

Wednesday Natasha Hopkins (Rebels)

Friday Steve Kellett (Speeders)

Sunday Anthony Henderson (Vipers), Krista Williams (Bats)



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Fastpitch Softball
Saturday 13/05/17
Parrs Wood, Pitch 7

Questions/queries ? Email:
northernfastpitch@gmail.com

Obituary: Dave Griffiths



The joy of the opening of a fresh softball season has been tempered for many by the sad news of the death of Dave 'Griff' Griffiths at the age of 56. Dave, also nicknamed *Swift*, was a long time player with the TS Bees, Stingers and Club Thunder. As a lover of most things American and a follower of MLB, Dave was an early adopter of softball in Manchester. A good glove and a solid, frequently sensational, bat he was a great teammate. Those of us fortunate to know him shared the ups and downs of his life: the loss of his wife Caroline, his meeting Geraldine and sharing his last years with her, and the privilege of watching daughter Phoebe grow from a tiny dot to the beautiful young woman she is today. His leaving showed a dignity we can only hope to exhibit when our time comes: "It's time for me to step off the ride and let someone else have a go. I have been overwhelmed by the support and love I've felt over the last few months. I've had a great life and I consider myself a very lucky man indeed."

Tim Roberts

Home runs

Division 1 Female

1 – Ellie Buckley (MAV), Charlie Cook (MAV), Kathryn Mullin (GRX)

Division 1 Male

2 – Elieser Dorrnsoro (MAV), Danny Gunn (GRX)
1 – Baljit Ahluwalia (MAV), Ian Blease (MKT), Suchit Desai (DOD), Benkei Johnson (THU), Tyler Lappage (DOD), Dave Leverton (THU), Anthony Reyes (DOD), Jon Taylor (LIG)

Division 2 Female

1 – Helen Rossiter (CM2)

Division 2 Male

2 – Tom Atkinson (CAM), Paul Colton (SHA), Joe Grantham (MUT)
1 – Rob Alger (SHA), Andrew Gardner (MV2), Rolf Herbert (MUT), Richard Jameson (CM2), Kieran Taylor-Thomas (CM2)

Division 3 Male

1 – Alex Bates (BAT), Paul Duffy (RIP), Dean Phillips (STO), Zac Rayson (RIP), Ian Williams (PIR)

Division 4 Female

1 – Hayley McTear (REB)

Division 4 Male

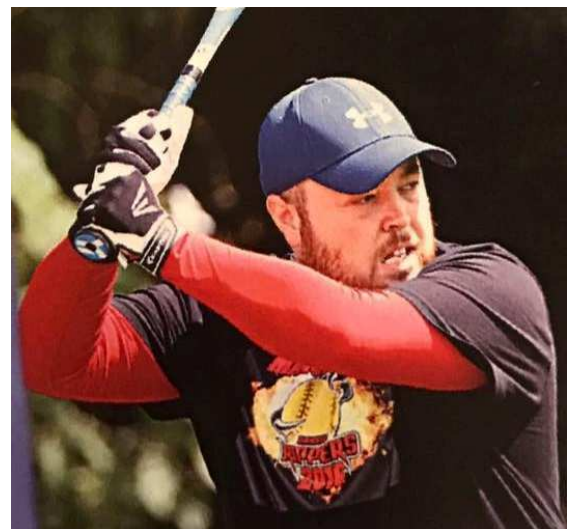
2 – Alec Aspinall (BFL), Taj Uddin (BLJ)
1 – Scott Barton (VIP), Chee Ho Chan (ENF), Phil Cosgrove (COL), Dave Eaton (REB), Anthony Henderson (VIP)* *pictured*, John Kaye (COL), Ryan Noble (PHX), Dave Olsen (MET), Simon Ronksley (BLJ), Dave Warren (VIP), Paul Wolstenholme (FRZ)

*indicates grand slam

Last week's MVPs

Barflies	Jane Mordecai	Chris Radford
Bats	Carla Zuill	Max Fagan
Blue Jays	Siobhan O'Shaughnessy	Taj Uddin
Camels	Fliss Fagan	Tom Atkinson
Camels II	Helen Rossiter	Charlie Gardiner
Colt 45s	Pippa Pugh	Phil Cosgrove
Dodgers	Charlie	Eli
Drizzle	Ellie Phillips	Brad Hadwin
Enforcers	Chenice Gilbert	Chee Ho Chan
Freeze	Emma Ashby	Alasdair Brown
Greensox	Kathryn Mullin	Danny Gunn
Hackers	Rachel Naylor	Ian Mills
Hurricanes	Sarah Bennett	Carl McCarthy
Lightning	Jakki Rogers	Paul Finney
Mavericks	Sudeh Sohi	Anthony Reyes
Mavericks II	Rachael Gavaghan	Chris Gresty
Mayhem	Martine Knight	Steve Howard
Meerkats	Julie Lott	Ian Blease
Meteors	Bryony James	Dave Olsen
Mutineers	Liz Lyon	Rolf Herbert
Outlaws	Nancy Bennett	Ian McCann
Phoenix	Michelle Fisher	Ryan Noble
Pirates	Natalie Robinson	Shane Coyles
Rebels	Emma Miller	Dave Eaton
Rippers	Jeanette Rayton	Paul Duffy
Sharks	Kate Barlow (SPE)	Dave Martin-Baez
Storm	Kate Provan	Nathan Barrett
Thunder	Amy Tanner	Guy Hamer
Tigers	Sandra Zlatinska	Dan Downes
Titans	Rachel Birch	Simon Grainger
Vipers	Kat Rhead	Anthony Henderson

All names appear exactly as they were written on the score sheet



The Vipers' Anthony Henderson, the season's first grand slammer

Next week's games - Week 3 (16/17/18 May)

Division 1

Greensox @ Lightning (3) Last meeting 1 May 2013, Greensox won 29-3 (4 inns) and lead 2-0 overall.

Mavericks @ Lions (9) Last meeting 10 August 2016, Lions won 15-7 to take an overall 15-14 lead in this week's most played fixture. *The Lions' Ed Watkinson will no doubt not want to repeat the train ride from Milton Keynes via Chester that preceded last year's encounter.*

Thunder @ Meerkats (6) Last meeting 22 July 2015, Thunder won 19-13 and lead 2-0.

Dodgers rest

Division 2

Camels @ Mavericks II (5) First ever meeting.

Camels II @ Speeders (3) First ever meeting.

Mayhem @ Mutineers (2) Last meeting 7 August 2013(Playoff Division), Mutineers won 25-10 (6 inns) and lead 2-0.

Sharks rest

Division 3

Drizzle @ Pirates (8) Last meeting 23 July 2013,Pirates won 20-14 and lead 4-0.

Outlaws @ Storm (7) Last meeting 21 August 2013 (Division 2), Outlaws II (as they were then known) won 16-8, their 9th win in 11 meetings.

Rippers @ Bats (6) First ever

meeting.

Tigers rest

Division 4

Barflies @ Meteors (7) First ever meeting.

Freeze @ Colt 45s (6) Last meeting 5 July 2016, Colts won 9-6, their 6th win in 7 meetings.

Hackers @ Titans (3) First ever meeting, though some Hackers will remember they had a buddy team called Titans ten years ago.

Hurricanes @ Blue Jays (2) First ever meeting.

Phoenix @ Enforcers (1) First ever meeting.

Vipers @ Rebels (4) First ever meeting.

Results (Continued from page 12)

Division 4 (Tues)

Blue Jays	7 4 3 5 0 14	33
Freeze	2 0 0 1 5 0	8
RAR, Umpire Paul Fagan, Pitch 1 HRs: BLJ Lee Kendrick-Walker (CM2), Taj Uddin 2, Simon Ronksley; FRZ Paul Wolstenholme		
Colt 45s	2 0 0 1 4 2 3	12
Titans	1 2 0 0 3 1 1	8
Umpire Tony La Fave, Pitch 7 HRs: COL John Kaye, Phil Cosgrove		
Hackers	2 0 0 4 0 4 1	11
Rebels	2 2 1 0 2 0 0	7
Umpire Pete Nightingale, Pitch 2 HRs: REB Hayley McTear, Dave Eaton		
Hurricanes	2 0 0 0 1 0 0	3
Enforcers	0 2 0 0 2 4 x	8
Umpire Mike Lott, Pitch 3 HR: ENF Chee Ho Chan		
Phoenix	1 0 3 8 6 1 4	23
Barflies	3 7 0 2 1 0 0	13
Umpire Stephen Shearer, Pitch 6 HRs: PHX Ryan Noble, Ross Birch (STO) 2; BFL Alec Aspinall 2		
Vipers	8 6 9 4	27
Meteors	1 0 0 0 1	
RAR, Umpire Dave Wareham, Pitch 4 HRs: VIP Scott Barton, Dave Warren, Anthony Henderson (GS); MET Dave Olsen		

RESULTS AND STANDINGS - Games played 2/3/4 May

Division 1 (Weds)

Mavericks 1 0 1 8 1 3 8 **22**

Dodgers 3 0 1 0 4 1 5 **14**

Umpire Jeremy Fothergill, Pitch 4
HRs: **MAV** Baljit Ahluwalia, Ellie Buckley, Charlie Cook, Elieser Dorransoro 2; **DOD** Tyler Lappage, Anthony Reyes, Suchit Desai

Meerkats 2 2 0 3 0 0 0 **7**

Greensox 8 2 2 2 0 1 x **15**

Umpire Ian Caird, Pitch 5
HRs: **MKT** Ian Blease; **GRX** Danny Gunn 2, Kathryn Mullin

Thunder 10 0 1 2 1 1 3 **18**

Lightning 7 1 0 0 8 0 0 **16**

Umpire Alan Green, Pitch 3
HRs: **THU** Dave Leverton, Benkei Johnson; **LIG** Jon Taylor

Division 2 (Weds)

Camels II 4 8 0 7 1 3 4 **27**

Sharks 2 4 5 0 3 4 1 **19**

Umpire Harry Somers, Pitch 2
HRs: **CM2** Richard Jameson, Kieran Taylor-Thomas, Helen Rossiter; **SHA** Paul Colton 2, Rob Alger, *Kate Barlow (SPE)* 2

Mayhem 4 0 0 4 0 3 0 **11**

Mavericks II 7 2 0 1 1 1 x **12**

Umpire Tony La Fave, Pitch 6
HR: **MV2** Andrew Gardner

Mutineers 2 5 6 0 4 1 1 **28**

Camels 3 3 0 3 0 3 **12**

Umpire Charlie Everitt, Pitch 9
HRs: **MUT** Rolf Herbert, Joe Grantham 2; **CAM** Tom Atkinson 2
Camels deducted 1 league point for illegal batting line-up

Division 3 (Thurs)

Bats 4 0 4 3 5 6 0 **22**

Pirates 0 4 0 2 2 1 1 **10**

Umpire Dave Dean, Pitch 6
HRs: **BAT** Alex Bates; **PIR** Mark Griffin (LIG) 2, Ian Williams

Drizzle 6 7 5 12 7 **37**

Rippers 5 0 3 5 5 **18**

RAR, Umpire Mike Davies, Pitch 8
HRs: **DRZ** Mario Rueda (STO) 3, Dean Phillips; **RIP** Paul Duffy, Zac Rayson

Outlaws 3 1 1 0 0 0 0 **5**

Tigers 2 0 1 5 0 3 x **11**

Umpire Mike Goff, Pitch 7
HRs: **TIG** *Jonny Huck (LIO)* 2, 1GS

(Continued on page 11)

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pct	GB
Division 1									
Greensox	1	1	0	0	0	15	7	1.000	–
Mavericks	1	1	0	0	0	22	14	1.000	–
Thunder	1	1	0	0	0	18	16	1.000	–
Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	½
Meerkats	1	0	0	1	0	7	15	.000	1
Lightning	1	0	0	1	0	16	18	.000	1
Dodgers	1	0	0	1	0	14	22	.000	1
Division 2									
Mavericks II	1	1	0	0	0	12	11	1.000	–
Mutineers	1	1	0	0	0	28	12	1.000	–
Camels II	1	1	0	0	0	27	19	1.000	–
Speeders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	½
Mayhem	1	0	0	1	0	11	12	.000	1
Sharks	1	0	0	1	0	19	27	.000	1
Camels	1	0	0	1	0	12	28	.000	1½
Camels deducted 1 pt for illegal batting line-up									
Division 3									
Tigers	1	1	0	0	0	11	5	1.000	–
Bats	1	1	0	0	0	22	10	1.000	–
Drizzle	1	1	0	0	0	37	18	1.000	–
Storm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	½
Outlaws	1	0	0	1	0	5	11	.000	1
Pirates	1	0	0	1	0	10	22	.000	1
Rippers	1	0	0	1	0	18	37	.000	1
Division 4									
Vipers	1	1	0	0	0	27	1	1.000	–
Enforcers	1	1	0	0	0	8	3	1.000	–
Hackers	1	1	0	0	0	11	7	1.000	–
Blue Jays	1	1	0	0	0	33	8	1.000	–
Colt 45s	1	1	0	0	0	12	8	1.000	–
Phoenix	1	1	0	0	0	23	13	1.000	–
Hurricanes	1	0	0	1	0	3	8	.000	1
Rebels	1	0	0	1	0	7	11	.000	1
Titans	1	0	0	1	0	8	12	.000	1
Barflies	1	0	0	1	0	13	23	.000	1
Meteors	1	0	0	1	0	1	27	.000	1
Freeze	1	0	0	1	0	8	33	.000	1