

BASES LOADED



Manchester Softball League
30th anniversary

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This week's games

W-L streaks include last season played

TUESDAY

Division 3

Hackers 4W @ Bats 2W (pitch 3) *ump Somers*

Seagulls 1L @ Freeze 2W (2) *Roberts*

Stingers 2L @ Enforcers 2L (4) *Goff*

Thunder III rest

Division 4

Barflies 5L @ Screwballs 2W(8) *Sharp*

Thunder IV 2L @ Sluggababes 2W (6) *F Fagan*

Tiggers 3W @ Swingers 1L (7) *P Fagan*

Raiders rest

WEDNESDAY

Division 1

Camels 1L @ Mayhem 2W (F) *Strayer*

L Dodgers 3L @ Greensox 1L (H) *Green*

Sharks 1W @ Mavericks 2L (G) *Creelman*

Thunder 1W @ T Dodgers 4W (E) *Dunn*

Division 2

Bandidos 1W @ Thunder II 3L (F) *Davies*

Speeders 2W @ Mavericks II 1L (A) *Hung*

Tigers 1L @ Camels II 1W (C) *Caird*

Titans 1L @ Meerkats 3W (B) *Fagan*

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Todgers and Mayhem upset old order

The **Travelling Dodgers** sit on top of the league with a 3-0 record after 'slaughtering' the **Mavericks** thanks to a 13-run 4th inning. The new Dodgers appear to be a bogey team for the Mavs, with three wins in as many meetings. Also unbeaten, though with their first game incomplete, are **Mayhem**, who beat **Greensox** comfortably, allowing only one run in the first six innings before letting up a little in the bottom of the 7th. After winning the quiz at the end-of-season party last autumn, the Mossley crew are clearly a force to be reckoned with. **Thunder** got their first win of

the season in a high-scoring game with **Camels**, the turning point being their 9-run bat-around in response to the bactrians levelling the score at 6-6 in the 3rd. In a game featuring Lott family members on both teams, it was a case of parent power. In the division's other game, **Sharks** registered their first ever top-flight win with an 18-2 mercy win over the struggling **Lion Dodgers**.

In Division 2, **Meerkats** continued their winning streak with a steady hitting performance against **Thunder II**, who have yet to find their last year's promotion-winning

► *Continued on page 4*

National news: funding for BSUK and the return of MLB to London

BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) released the following statement last week (lightly edited here): "BSUK is set to receive guidance, support and an investment of £2.3 million of Government and National Lottery funding from Sport England as part of a group of over 120 organisations working in partnership with Sport England to open up access to sport



and physical activity across the country. The award is set to cover a five-year period from April 2022.

"The award will enable BSUK to continue delivering its strategy, launched in 2020, to get more

(Continued on page 4)

Birthdays

Week beginning May 16th

Tuesday Jeffrey Fong (Mavericks II), Diane Wycherley (Mavericks II)

Wednesday Tereza Kokocińska (Tigers), Amy Somers (Thunder III)

Thursday Siân McNeill (Speeders)

Friday Luis Arrevillagas (Thunder), Kate Lilley (Hackers)

Baseball birthday: Friday May 20th will be the 82nd birthday of **Sadaharu Oh**, not so well known to fans of MLB but the undisputed king of Japanese baseball (intentional pun: his name means 'king' in Japanese). Oh played his entire career with the Yomiuri Giants, who dominated Japanese baseball in the 1960s and '70s. He holds the world-wide record for lifetime home-runs with 868 and for a



long time held the Japanese single-season home-run record, hitting 55 homers in the 1964 season. It is believed that, somewhat controversially, on three occasions foreign-born hitters were prevented from passing it by being walked. It was eventually surpassed in 2013. He would certainly have been lured to MLB were it not for strict contractual rules in Japanese baseball (a bit like football, pre-Bosman) preventing this.

The MSL Years—1994-5

Pre-season 1994 saw the (in-) famous captains' meeting in the Lloyds in Chorlton. Veterans remember hours of haggling over the rules (we played a kind of softball-baseball hybrid) as we welcomed two well-established teams from the North West Softball League: Runners and Mavericks. We have extensive but incomplete records of games played, with the title going to the Mavs, Pirates runners-up.

1995 represents the first season where we have complete records, and is thus Year 0 for all our stats. One record set in that season remains to this day: on 24th May, Bats and M16s tied 37-37, still the highest-scoring tie on record.

The league structure was a bit strange: 12 teams were divided into two divisions, but after a single five-game rotation two teams were relegated and two promoted, and everything started again from scratch. Once again Mavs were champions, with Pirates runners-up. Rusholme Funsters, after suffering a 0-5 record in the first rotation, were the inaugural Division 2 champions.

Manchester United won the double in 1994 (don't worry City fans, you'll get a mention

later in this series) but were runners-up the following year in both competitions, to Blackburn and Everton.

Elsewhere in Britain, in 1994 Fred and Rosemary West were charged with the Cromwell Street murders, and Labour leader John Smith died suddenly, to be replaced by Tony Blair.

In the rest of the world, after years of Apartheid, South Africa saw its first black President take office when Nelson Mandela was sworn in. In Los Angeles, the opening ceremony of the 1994 World Cup (later won by Brazil) coincided with a televised car chase involving murder suspect O J Simpson, whose trial concluded a year later with a not-guilty verdict. In 1995 it was rugby's turn for a World Cup, hosted and won by South Africa, while that year also saw the end of the Bosnian War.



Todgers and Mayhem upset old order (Continued from page 2)

form, and will be glad to have accepted the league's offer to stay down. The rest of the division is nicely poised with three teams on 2-1 and three on 1-2. **Bandidos** got their first win, beating their fiercest rivals and fellow-promotees the **Tigers** by a convincing ten runs. **Camels II** likewise broke their duck against the previously unbeaten **Mavericks II**. After a sluggish start, the junior bactrians scored six in the 3rd, which was the eventual margin of victory. And in the day's highest-scoring game, **Speeders** got off to a flier opening with eight runs after which **Titans** scored steadily, but were always trailing. The game ended 28-15, at 43 runs just 45 short of the all-time record.

The picture in Divisions 3 and 4 is complicated a little by there being a resting team, but in Div 3 **Hackers** met **Sea-**

gulls, both unbeaten in their first two games, with the axemen prevailing with a comfortable 23-8 run-ahead win. **Freeze** trailed **Thunder III** for two innings but then scored seven in the 3rd and again in the 5th to take the points. **Enforcers** took an early lead against the **Bats**, but the chiroptera rallied in the later innings to win 13-7.

Tiggers lead Division 4 with three wins out of thee, the latest at **Thunder IV's** expense, but also unbeaten having played twice and had their rest week are the rookie **Sluggababes**, living up to their name with the league's leading runs per game average of 27. Their victims this week were the **Raiders**, yet to win since joining the league mid-season last year. Also unbeaten are the other team who started last July, **Screwballs** whose 10-run 2nd inning set up a run-ahead rule win over the **Swingers**.

Choice of dugout

Just a curio, but word reached us this week of a team insisting that, as the home team, they were entitled to set up their "dugout" along the 1st base line. Their opponents were already installed, but grudgingly moved to 3rd base, the grievance allegedly fueling a rousing win for the away team.

Your correspondent believes that this is indeed a convention, though the sometimes conflicting unwritten rule of "first come, first served" is more commonly applied in MSL. We have also seen (especially on pitches where space is limited) both teams sharing one or the other line.

Funding for BSUK and the return of MLB to London (Continued from page 2)

people playing baseball and softball in more places. The organisation will continue to focus on delivering targeted participation, talent development, supporting grassroots leagues, clubs and teams to become safer, stronger and more sustainable, as well as developing BSUK's own organisational health.

"The funding award comes at a particularly exciting time for baseball and softball in the UK with yesterday's announcement in New York by Major League Baseball (MLB) and London Mayor Sadiq Khan of the return of the London Series in 2023, 2024 and 2026. The London Series first took place in 2019 when the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees played at London Stadium. The planned 2020, return was cancelled due to the pandemic."

While the return of MLB's "London Series" will give baseball fans a chance to see a live game—an opportunity that was firmly grasped by thousands of fans in 2020—any associated developments will reportedly mainly focus on East London. On the other hand, the £2.3m investment by Sport England over the next five years will be spread over the whole country, and will hopefully impact and support local plans to develop baseball/softball facilities, currently in the doldrums after plans to develop Hough End were scuppered mainly by local protests.

7th LGBTQ+ Softball tournament

The weather gods were kind on Saturday as Manchester furthered its reputation for inclusivity by hosting the 7th LGBTQ+ softball tournament, organised by BSUK and sponsored by Kellogg’s UK & Ireland in partnership with Pride Sports Pride Tape

Rainbow Warriors (pictured) won the tournament. The runners up were Maelstrom, a team made up of University of Manchester alumni. Awards were presented by Carl Austin Behan, LGBT adviser to the Mayor of Greater Manches-



ter.

The organizers Luis Arrevil- gas and Linni Mitchell were

praised on the MSL Facebook site, where the tournament was widely described as “awesome”.

Match report

Slugs leave Raiders in their trail

SLUGGABABES 5 8 5 2 8 28
RAIDERS 2 2 1 0 2 7

RAR, Pitch 3, Umpire Ian Caird
SLUGGABABES Alex Wardle (SS), Rachael Wake (2B), Johan Lemmers (3B), Emma Beall (LF), Tim Roberts (P), Georgina Pugh (1B), Mike Young (CL), Eleanor Harris (C), Antoon Lemmers (CR), Danielle Farthing (RF)

HRs: A Lemmers, J Lemmers, Wake

RAIDERS Rebekah Trengrove (RF), Luke Crannage (SS), Nat Wood (C), Richard Valentine (LF), Abbie de Zwart (EP), Ross Jubber (P), Jess Ronchetti (3B), Mark Crannage (CR), Eliza Thompson-Allsop (CL), Alex Wall (2B), Claire Simcox (3B), Michael Coburn (EP)

HRs: M Crannage, L Crannage

While the Sluggababes are a new team, they count a number of old hands on their ros-

ter, whereas the Raiders are a team who have come through the rookie programme. The difference in experience showed as the molluscs accumulated runs through base hitting with just three homers in a 28-run total. The dingers were scored by Lad & Dad, Antoon and Johan (*le pistolet a dispersion*) Lemmers, plus—of course!—Rachael Wake. Birthday girl SBH, Emma Beall, went through the gears: first strikeout, next see-the-ball, then hit-the-ball, finally base hit! It was pleasing that the Slugs’ own rookies chipped in to the offensive effort. Well done El Harris,

Mike Young and Danielle Farthing. The latter has some amendments for the Captains’ Handbook. Delete Pitcher, insert Man-in-the-Middle; delete base coach, insert base cheerleader / instructor person. Defensively the soleolifera showed a distinct improvement over their first game and baled out some iffy pitching in the early innings. The freebooters stuck at it and will come on in leaps and bounds as the season progresses. *Two-out Tim*

MVPs: Farthing, Roberts (SLG), Trengrove, Jubber (RAI)

Home runs

* grand slam

Division 1 SBH

1 – Nat Leyland (TDS), Linni Mitchell (MHM)

Division 1 LBH

2 – Dan Downes (TDS), Mike Lott (THU)

1 – Luis Arevillagas (THU), Nathan Barratt (MHM), Matty Bell (TDS), Ian Blease (MAV), Craig Brooks (TDS), Alfonso Carlino (MHM), Luis Carlino (MHM), Matthew Green (CAM), Brad Hadwin (THU), Adam Hughill (CAM), Benkei Johnson (LDS), Stevie Kidd (SHA), Dave Leverton (THU), Andy Lott (CAM), Elieser Mendoza (LDS), Pete Nightingale (MAV), Stephen Shearer (SHA), Sam Steele (TDS)

Division 2 SBH

2 – Kate Barlow (MKT), Faye Dunlop (MV2)

1 – Claire Higgs (CM2), Alyssa Jones (TIG)

Division 2 LBH

3 – Ed Covington (TIG), Rory Gibson (MKT), Ross Maskell (MV2), Liam Morrison (BND), John Taylor (TH2)

2 – Keith Altena* (MKT), Sam Baker (TTN), Adam Faloon (SPE), Jeffery Fong (MV2), Duncan Jones (SPE), Adam Morrison (BND), Luke Nelson (TTN), Simon Sharp (TIG), James Stevens (MKT)

1 – Steve Bartlett (TH2), Anthony Boffey (CM2), Andrew Bogie (TH2), Alex Claridge-Ingham (SPE), Matt Fairweather (MKT), Finn Gavaghan (MV2), Dan Jarman (CM2), Stephane Karayannis (TIG), Jason Kneen (BND), Chris Lennon (SPE), Jonny Reuben (SPE), Igor von Orel Bronte (MKT), James Wright* (TIG)

Division 3 LBH

3 – Alex Bates (BAT), Carl Emsley (SGL)

2 – Ian Mills (HAC)

1 – Darren Bamford (FRZ), Harry Bell (HAC), Mike Connolly (SGL), Sean Fitzpatrick (BAT), David Grice (SGL), Mark Hayward (FRZ), Ant Henderson (SGL), Daniel Johansson (HAC), Hector Matinez (BAT), Alex Mills (HAC), Jonno Wrigley (FRZ)

Division 4 SBH

2 – Rachael Wake (SLG)

1 – Janette Rayton (TH4)

Division 4 LBH

4 – Joe Regan* (SWI)

3 – James Tanner (SLG)

2 – Luke Crannage (RAI), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Peter Reeves (SCR), Daniel Strayer (SCR), Sam Webb (SWI)

1 – Aleck Aspinall (BFL), Mike Blazek (TGG), Mark Crannage (RAI), Ben Leeks (SWI), Antoon Lemmers (SLG), Matt Lyons (TGG), Artem Rastrepaev (SCR), Daniel Schofield (TH4), Harry Schulte (TGG), Ollie Sharpe (TGG), Chris Smith (BFL)

Last week's MVPs

CAMELS	Hayley McTear (1B), Andy Lott (LF)
GREENSOX	Sophie Addison (3B), Ben Tomlin (Sub)
LION DODGRS	Nicola Duerden (CL), Elieser Mendoza (LF)
MAVERICKS	Sherry Kenyon (CL), Lubo (CR)
MAYHEM	Linni Mitchell (RF), Luis Carlino (SS)
SHARKS	Su O'Brien (RF), Stevie Kidd (CR)
THUNDER	Kim Hannesen (CL), Kris Hadwin (LF)
TRAV DODGERS	Sara Al-Wagfi (3B), Dan Downes (SS)
BANDIDOS	Carol Anne Costello (1B), Ross (P)
CAMELS II	Alia Paschali (RF), Dan Jarman (SS)
MAVERICKS II	Faye Dunlop Steven Kellett
MEERKATS	Kate Barlow (3b), James Stevens (p)
SPEEDERS	Emma Bennet (LF), Adam Faloon (CL)
THUNDER II	Emma Miller (1B), Andy Bogie (SS)
TIGERS	Natasha Wicikowski (C), Simon Sharp (SS)
TITANS	Amber Barnes-Yates (CR), Sam Baker (CL)
BATS	Amber Frost (RF), Christian Frost (P)
ENFORCERS	Becky Stevens (2B), Mike Davies (P)
FREEZE	Emma Ashby (2B), Mark Hayward (P)
HACKERS	Grace Mills (LF), Ian Mills (SS)
SEAGULLS	Holly Glennie (3B), Dave Grice (CL)
STINGERS	rested
THUNDER III	Luna Sanchez (1B), Joe Wright (CR)
BARFLIES	rested
RAIDERS	Rebekah Trengrove (RF), "Ross" (P)
SCREWBALLS	Olivia Westmacott (SS), Javier Gevara (2B)
SLUGGABABES	Danielle Farthing (RF), Tim Roberts (P)
SWINGERS	Jae Frith (3B), Ben Leeks (SS)
THUNDER IV	Atujah Malik (2B), Lee McCarthy (P)
TIGGERS	Jenna Gamble (1B), Oliver Sharpe (P)

Next week's fixtures

Division 1

Greensox @ Mavericks (A, PF) Last meeting 11 August 2021, Greensox won 13-10 to take a 1-win lead in this, the most played fixture in the league. This will be their 71st meeting: Sox lead 35-34 with one tie.

Lion Dodgers @ Thunder (D, IC) Last meeting 25 August 2021, Thunder won 21-3 in 4½ innings, and lead 17-9 in all meetings (LDs have inherited the Jammy Dodgers' records).

Mayhem @ Sharks (B, MD) Last meeting 15 August 2018 (Division 2), Mayhem won 19-18 in a close game shortened by bad light. The pair have shared three wins each in their six meetings.

Travelling Dodgers @ Camels (C, AH) Last meeting 11 August 2021, Dodgers won 13-9 to make it 4-4 in all meetings.

Division 2

Bandidos @ Speeders (H, AG) First ever meeting.

Mavericks II @ Titans (G, CD) First ever meeting.

Meerkats @ Tigers (F, JC) First ever meeting.

Thunder II @ Camels II (E, DS) Last meeting 8 September 2021, Thunder won 10-7 in a light-affected game. They lead 2-1 in all meetings.

Division 3

Enforcers @ Thunder III (8,

FF) Last meeting 15 June 2021, Thunder won 22-16, only their 4th win in 13 meetings.

Freeze @ Hackers (6, SS) Last meeting 1 September 2015 (Division 4), Freeze won 15-7, gaining revenge for their earlier loss in their only meetings so far.

Stingers @ Seagulls (7, PF) Only previous meeting 18 May 2021, Stingers won 30-23.

Bats rest

Division 4

Barflies @ Thunder IV (3, AR) Last meeting 19 June 2018, Barflies beat the then named Colt 45s 21-20, and lead 7-3 in all meetings. This is the most-played fixture between Div 4 teams.

Screwballs @ Raiders (4, MG) Only previous meeting 27 July 2021, Screwballs won this meeting of the two rookie teams 12-10, and

were awarded the Rookie Cup (pictured), kindly donated by coach John Reese.

Sluggababes @ Tiggers (2, HS) First ever meeting.

Swingers rest



Results (Continued from page 8)

FREEZE 4 2 7 0 7 0 0 **20**
THUNDER III 6 1 1 0 0 2 3 **13**
 Pitch 7, Umpire Paul Fagan
 HRs: **FRZ** Jono Wrigley; **TH3** Joe Grantham (THU)

SEAGULLS 3 2 0 1 2 0 **8**
HACKERS 4 6 5 3 3 2 **23**
 RAR, Pitch 8, Umpire Dave Warren
 HRs: **SGL** Carl Emsley; **HAC** Ian Mills, Daniel Johansson

Division 4

SLUGGABABES 5 8 5 2 8 **28**
RAIDERS 2 2 1 0 2 **7**
 RAR, Pitch 3, Umpire Ian Caird
 HRs: **SLG** Antoon Lemmers, Johan Lemmers, Rachael Wake; **RAI** Mark Crannage, Luke Crannage

SWINGERS 2 1 0 0 0 **3**
SCREWBALLS 3 1 0 0 6 x **19**
 RAR, Pitch 2, Umpire Adam Roberts
 HR: **SWI** Dan Strayer

THUNDER IV 2 1 1 0 1 0 2 **7**
TIGGERS 5 6 0 0 3 1 x **15**
 Pitch 4, Umpire Mike Goff
 HR: **TGG** Harry Schulte

Guest appearances

UP

Serena Badesha (TH4) for Sharks
 Carlos dos Ramos (BAT) for Sharks (2nd)
 Hannah Tillyard (SCR) for Titans

SAME DIV

Michelle Cleator (STG) for Hackers
 Charlie Cook (MAV) for Lion Dodgers

DOWN

Joe Grantham (THU) for Thunder III
 Holly Smith (TIG) for Swingers
 Amy Sykes (STG) for Swingers

Transfers

Nadia Aghtarafi Mayhem to Tigers
Lisa Jepson, Lion Dodgers to Meerkats
Natasha Wicikowski Tigers to Tiggers
Sandra Zlatinska Tiggers to Tigers

Results and Standings

Played May 10/11

Division 1

LION DODGERS 0 0 0 1 1 **2**
SHARKS 2 5 3 8 x **18**

RAR, Pitch B, Umpire Arthur Hung
 HRs: **LDS** Elieser Mendoza; **SHA** Stephen Shearer

MAYHEM 0 5 2 1 0 2 0 **10**
GREENSOX 0 0 0 1 0 0 3 **4**

Pitch D, Umpire Ian Caird
 HRs: **MHM** Linni Mitchell, Luis Carlino

THUNDER 5 1 0 0 9 2 2 **19**
CAMELS 2 1 0 3 0 6 1 **13**

Pitch A, Umpire Paul Fagan
 HRs: **THU** Luis Arreivillagas, Mike Lott 2, Dave Leverton; **CAM** Matthew Green, Andy Lott

TRAV DODGERS 4 1 0 13 0 0 **18**
MAVERICKS 0 2 0 0 0 0 **2**

RAR, Pitch C, Umpire Gemma Wallace
 HRs: **TDS** Sam Steele, Dan Downes; **MAV** Ian Blease

Division 2

BANDIDOS 2 4 3 6 3 0 0 **18**
TIGERS 1 3 1 0 1 0 2 **8**

Pitch F, Umpire Carl Dunn
 HRs: **BND** Andrew Morrison, Liam Morrison 2; **TIG** Stéphane Karayannis

MAVERICKS II 0 0 0 1 4 4 0 **9**
CAMELS II 1 0 6 2 2 4 x **15**

Pitch G, Umpire Jonny Creelman
 HRs: **MV2** Faye Dunlop, Ross Maskell; **CM2** Dan Jarman, Anthony Boffey, Claire Higgs

MEERKATS 6 1 2 1 1 12 **22**
THUNDER II 2 0 1 1 0 **4**

RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Al Green
 HRs: **MKT** James Stevens, **Keith Al-tena** (GS), Rory Gibson, Kate Barlow;

SPEEDERS 8 1 5 0 4 5 5 **28**
TITANS 2 0 2 4 0 5 2 **15**

Pitch E, Umpire Dan Strayer
 HRs: **SPE** Duncan Jones, Adam Falona, Alex Claridge-Ingham, Jonny Reuben

Division 3

BATS 1 0 3 2 4 1 2 **13**
ENFORCERS 4 0 2 0 0 1 0 **7**

Pitch 6, Umpire Simon Sharp
 HRs: **BAT** Sean Fitzpatrick, Hector Martinez

Standings

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pts%	GB
Division 1									
▲ Trav Dodgers	3	3	0	0	0	56	17	1.000	-
▲ Mayhem	2	2	0	0	0	29	22	1.000	½
▼ Greensox	3	2	0	1	0	32	17	.778	1
▲ Thunder	2	1	0	1	0	24	24	.667	1½
▶ Camels	3	1	0	2	0	33	34	.556	2
▲ Sharks	3	1	0	2	0	30	36	.556	2
▼ Mavericks	3	1	0	2	0	32	48	.556	2
▼ Lion Dodgers	3	0	0	3	0	10	48	.333	3
Division 2									
▲ Meerkats	3	3	0	0	0	60	20	1.000	-
▼ Mavericks II	3	2	0	1	0	44	30	.778	1
▲ Speeders	3	2	0	1	0	64	47	.778	1
▼ Titans	3	2	0	1	0	51	60	.778	1
▲ Bandidos	3	1	0	2	0	37	42	.556	2
▲ Camels II	3	1	0	2	0	36	46	.556	2
▼ Tigers	3	1	0	2	0	39	51	.556	2
▶ Thunder II	3	0	0	3	0	31	66	.333	3
Division 3									
▶ Hackers	3	3	0	0	0	62	27	1.000	-
▲ Freeze	2	2	0	0	0	35	26	1.000	½
▼ Seagulls	3	2	0	1	0	49	49	.778	1
▶ Bats	3	2	0	1	0	46	33	.778	1
▶ Enforcers	2	0	0	2	0	21	34	.333	2½
▶ Stingers	2	0	0	2	0	19	36	.333	2½
▶ Thunder III	3	0	0	3	0	32	59	.333	3
Seagulls above Bats on head-to-head									
Division 4									
▶ Tiggers	3	3	0	0	0	50	23	1.000	-
▶ Screwballs	2	2	0	0	0	41	12	1.000	½
▶ Sluggababes	2	2	0	0	0	54	21	1.000	½
▶ Thunder IV	3	1	0	2	0	37	49	.556	2
▶ Swingers	3	1	0	2	0	43	53	.556	2
▶ Barflies	2	0	0	2	0	22	38	.333	2½
▶ Raiders	3	0	0	3	0	28	79	.333	3

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