

BASES LOADED



MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Volume 29 Issue 8 13-14 June 2023 Number 500



This week's games

TUESDAY

Division 3

Seagulls 1W @ Sluggababes 1W
(pitch 3, ump P Fagan)

Thunder III 2L @ Tiggers 1W (2, F Fagan)

Interdivisional

Bandidos 1L @ Swingers 1L (4, Goff)

Enforcers 4L @ Stingers 4W (1, Arrevillagas)

Raiders 1L @ Screwballs 7W (7, Sharp)

Division 4

Barflies 2W @ Thunder IV 8L (6, Warren)

WEDNESDAY

Division 1

Mayhem 1L @ Sharks 4L (F, P Fagan)

Meerkats 2L @ Mavericks 9W (E, Davies)

Speeders 1W @ Thunder 1W (G, Wallace)

Travelling Dodgers 1L @ Greensox 1L (H, Creelman)

Camels rest

Division 2

Hackers 1L @ Titans 2L (J, Strayer)

Dodgers 6W @ Freeze 7L (B, Caird)

Bats 2L @ Tigers 1W (C, Green)

Camels II 2W @ Mavericks II 1L (D, Somers)

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Screwballs go top, Mavs and Dodgers maintain perfect start

It was all change at the top of Division 3 as **Screwballs** maintained their unbeaten record with a resounding win against **Thunder IV**, while **Bandidos** were stung by the **Stingers**, and drop into 3rd place. The cocktailers got a hefty lead with a 12-run 2nd inning and at 18-5 after four almost doubled their lead with 14 runs in the 5th and were looking at ending early but then saw the juniorest rumblers respond with 14 runs of their own so that it took the Screwballs the full seven innings to complete the win 40-25. Meanwhile, in the day's only all-Div 3 clash, the Bandidos' early lead was swept

away by a ten-run 3rd inning followed by six in the 4th, and the Mexicans went into the bottom of the 6th needing at least one run to avoid a "slaughter". **Barflies** continue to boss Division 4, taking their fourth interdivisional win, this time against **Thunder III**. By a quirk of the fixture schedule, six of their seven games so far have been against opponents from the higher division, and they have lost only twice. Thunder took an 11-5 lead in the 3rd inning, but the flies' response was an 18-run triple bat-around. Thunder responded well and got within two runs of the Barflies' total with

⇒ Continued on page 6

New pitch at WSG

In consultation with Fixtures secretary Andrew Bogie, Wythenshawe ground-staff have agreed to mark out a new pitch as shown here, which we have designated "pitch

J" (to avoid possible confusion between I and
⇒ Continued opposite



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Birthdays

Week beginning June 12th

Monday April Hutchen (Thunder)

Tuesday Lucy Smith (Titans)

Wednesday Laura Somers (Thunder III), Alex Wardle (Sluggababes)

Thursday Robbie Cowbury* (Titans), Dan Jarman* (Camels II), Helen Moore (Mavericks II)

Friday Ed Woodcock (Thunder II)

Saturday Philip Cosgrove (Thunder IV)

* same year



New pitch at WSG
(Continued from page 2)

1). Pitch A, which has been the subject of complaints regarding the setting sun posing a safety threat to pitchers and other infielders, will no longer be used, and all fixtures originally scheduled for pitch A have been moved to pitch J, starting with last week's game between Mavericks II and Dodgers.

On this day ...

Single handed triple play

The issue of 12/13/14 June 2018 featured unassisted triple plays by the pitcher. The previous week there had been one executed by Matty Bell of the Base Invaders, and an opportunity missed by Adam Morrison, playing for the Hurricanes. In both cases the first out was a catch, followed by tagging 1B to get the departed runner. The third out in each case was at 2B likewise for the prematurely departed runner: Bell took his chance, Morrison soft tossed the ball to the fielder at 2B, a missed opportunity that he was mentioning only last week (did he realise it was the fifth anniversary?)

Birthday blues

This date in June 2011 saw one of our regular correspondents, "Two-out Tim" in Australia, from where he sent a number of reports. This one bears reproducing, as it is still relevant:

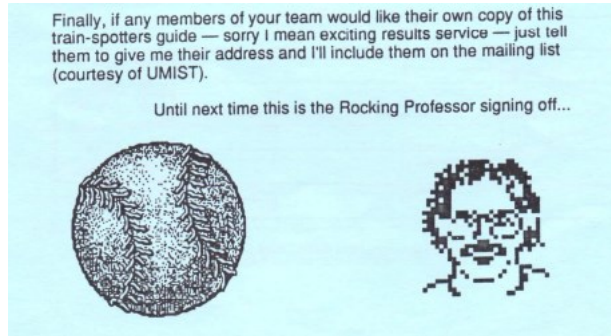
G'day from Down Under. This weekend in Australia is a long weekend with a public holiday for the

*Queen's Birthday (they worship the same one as us apparently). This set me to thinking: it's a nice idea of our Editor to publish a list of those members of the MSL family whose birthday it is in the current week—a chance for team mates and opponents to make them feel special on their special day. And many happy returns for those celebrating this week. But what about players whose birthday falls outside the softball season? (Mine is in late November if you'd like to send a card or perchance a small gift.) We need the love too. Shouldn't we follow the Queen's example and have an actual birthday plus an Official / Softball birthday? Notify the Editor of yours. I'm not sure what Her Maj is doing this weekend, and as a devout republican I don't really care, but we are off to the Hunter Valley to test drive, on your behalf, the 2011 vintages of a couple of Shirazes, Merlots and Cab Saus. "I'm getting hints of blackcurrant. I'm getting notes of cinnamon. I'm getting p*ssed." (Bases Loaded 17.9, 14/15 June 2011)*

500th issue of the *Review*

May 24th 1995 is a date that always gets a mention in the *On this day column* (or equivalent) as being the date of the first issue of the *Review*. In fact, for a few weeks before that I had printed off a sheet showing the results and standings, but on this occasion, as well as some rather dull graphics (I had just discovered Excel charts or some primitive forerunner) I wrote a few paragraphs under the heading *Chat-lines*. The lead story was a 37-37 tie between the Bats and the M16s (still a record by the way) in which the Bats needed 18 to win in the last inning, and improbably nearly got them. And it wasn't until issue number 2, a week later, that it was actually called a "review"—*South Manchester Softball League Review* to be precise. A further 12 issues were published that season, each week on different coloured paper. The first match report was written by Jerry Seabridge for issue 2, and a total of 17 different people wrote for the *Review*. Over the next two years the *Review* appeared regularly, but in modest proportions, often just two pages. Then Volume 4 (1998) lost the "South" from the title, gained a new co-editor in

Lisa Mayhew, and saw the magazine expand to four, sometimes six pages. There was a weekly editorial, sometimes controversial ("How many women does it take to play a softball game?") and match reports showed box scores for the first time. Little changed over the next few years, though issues



South Manchester Softball League Review Issue #1

were often bigger: 12 pages was not unusual, as both the league and its publication thrived under the editorial control of Lisa and then Richard Selfridge.

Tony La Fave took over in 2003 and changed the look of the *Review*, printing it in A4 size, with a more striking layout, printing softball-related cartoons, and encouraging and facilitating more match reports as part of the post-match paperwork. Issues appeared in colour (not just on coloured paper!), sometimes with action photographs. Other innovations, perhaps fuelled by easy web-access to re-

Harry Somers

sources, included illuminating quotes from books and magazines. The new editor was not afraid of controversy, and reading and discussing the *Review* became an essential part of the Tuesday or Wednesday ritual. Dan Lord continued in much the same vein for two years, with regular contributions from former editors, and a competition involving predicting that week's results. In 2008 I once again took over the reins, with a return to the more retro look (A5 booklet, one - or two-column pages. And in 2009 the review was further

rebranded, as *Bases Loaded*, with a slightly more flashy appearance.

Up until 2011, the review was available in hard copy, distributed at the post-match venue. Printing costs had increased, and a lot of people were anyway reading it online, so we stopped printing. Then briefly a few years later, and for a few years we returned to hard copy thanks to the sponsorship of Dave Warren's company which printed off hard copy in return for a mention in the mag. These days it is back to on-line only, and that is how most people read it. "Subscribers" get an email notification every

years. And the anonymously written “Softballer insider” did its best to wind people up. In-season birthdays are listed (though without mention of the year of birth), archives are dipped into, occasionally there will be a rules question or discussion in “Blu corner”, and Statto is almost always on hand to research statistical oddities. Many issues first aired in the *Review* have subsequently lead to rule changes: playing 5&5, the run-ahead rule, banned bats, guest rules, and so on.

For all its quasi-journalistic content, it has remained

The collage displays several covers of 'The Review', a weekly publication for the Manchester Softball League. The covers are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showing different issues and designs. Key elements visible include the league's logo (a softball bat and ball inside a circle), the title 'the Review' in various fonts, and issue details like 'Vol 8 No 15', 'Vol 12 Issue 9', and 'Volume 2.2 Issue 7'. Some covers also feature dates such as '31st May 1995' and '20/21 June 2006'. The background of the collage is a light, textured surface.

A range of mastheads

based purely on the box-scores was first used by Richard Selfridge in 2001. I often hear some marvellous play or intriguing incident being discussed in the pub, and wish someone would just take a minute to write it up.

The journal has always had a strange semi-official status. Its nominal independence has always been asserted, but for most of its life the editor has been an Exec

The issue you are now reading is the 500th. Actually, it might not be. Over the years there have been some anomalies. There have been double issues and missed issues. One year started with issue No.2: it seems that the issues were numbered to

coincide with the weeks of the season; or possibly issue 1 was published during the winter, which has happened a couple of times. In issue #400 I predicted that the 500th issue would appear “around the end of the 2022 season”. Unfortunately, COVID intervened to almost wipe out the 2020 season, and so here we are in 2023... with issue #600 due about eight weeks into the 2027 season: see you then!

Screwballs go top*(Continued from page 2)*

nine runs in the bottom of the 6th. But it was not quite enough: final score 32-27. Much closer was the game between the **Seagulls** and **Raiders** with the lead changing hands almost every inning up to the 5th. With the scores tied, the gulls shut out their opponents and took a four-run lead into the final inning, which they then successfully defended. **Enforcers** were leading the **Sluggababes** 9-7 after two, but that only served to waken the babes, who carved out a lead over the next two innings which they preserved through to the end. Notable was that the combined age of the two pitchers was 142. And while **Swingers** got off to a bright start against the **Tiggers**, the felines quickly bounced back to win fairly comfortably, 23-12.

In Division 2 the top two met in what looked like the big showdown, but in the end **Dodgers** beat **Mavericks II** fairly comfortably in what turned out to be a bit of a slugfest, with 60 runs scored, thanks to a combination of big hitting and rock-hard grounds making life hard for the infielders. Mavs scorer Mike Goff reports that Ian Williams hit for the cycle, batting 1.000, and also that Dodgers hit three

home runs in three consecutive at-bats “which may be more common than I imagine but worthy of a mention.” **Camels II** went 2nd with the most audacious of wins: 7-0 up after the 1st inning, the **Bats** steadily increased their lead over the next five innings and were leading 18-11 going into the top of the 7th. The junior bactrians needed seven just to make the chirop-tera bat again, but took the lead for the first time in the game, by just one run. They then shut out the Didsbury outfit, ending the game with a double play. The division’s other two games were considerably less close. **Tigers** climbed into 3rd place with a 21-4 “mercy” win over the **Titans**, while **Thunder II** likewise dispatched the **Hackers** in five innings.

In Division 1, **Speeders** had not played **Greensox** since 2010, and had only ever beaten them once in 14 meetings going back to the dawn of time. The previous week’s early finish (after losing 20-1 to the Camels) and the Sox’ 7-0 lead after the 1st inning suggested that nothing much was going to change. But in the 4th inning, Speeders scored seven and suddenly had a lead to defend. The greenies fought back and going into the final inning it was 16-15 to the hurriers. Extending the lead to five, they then

held off the Greensox to record their first win of the campaign, and first victory over Greensox since 1996. League leaders **Mavericks** were 4-0 down to Mayhem after the 1st inning, but went ahead in the 3rd inning, and stayed in front for the remainder of the game, though not by many. Mossley remained close on their tails and going into the final inning got three of the four runs needed to make them bat it out. Final score 16-15. **Camels** move up to 3rd place having led from start to finish against **Travelling Dodgers** in a game reportedly excellently blu’d by TD Katie Jessop until the final inning when she subbed in, and got the MVP shout in recognition of the good job done. **Thunder** saw off the **Sharks** in four innings, with another pair of sibling home runs from the Hadwins, Brad and Kris to add to the list.

Last week was not the highest-scoring Wednesday so far this season (the previous week saw nearly 50 more runs scored), but the total of **five grand slams in one session** was just one short of the all-time record (since 2012 when slams were first recorded) of six (18 May 2016), which included two in the same game by the Dodgers’ Paul Colton.

Single-sex Nationals

MSL was well represented at the Single-sex Nationals which were held at WSG last weekend, organised superbly by our own NJ Dyson. Unfortunately, all the silverware was hauled off down south, but a wonderful sun-baked weekend was enjoyed by all.

Arthur Hung (Bats)

writes: It's a rare occa-

sion that a national tournament is held in Manchester so I took this opportunity to gather a group of gentlemen from MSL Divisions 2 and 3 and, using the name of Bats (just for insurance purposes) entered a Rec team.

Though we may have met each other in

the league, this was the first time these blokes got together as a team to compete and most of us were totally new to single-sex games, which are greatly different from the usual co-ed in terms of speed and playing format.

With no surprise, the fresh squad was heavily crushed in the first round by the mighty Cardiff, the group leader Bracknell Scorchers and the ultimate champion Leicester Royals. However, these reliable lads are quick learners, gained a well-deserved win in the second round, conquering the Welsh capital team

run rally and led 14-11 but time constraints took the win away.) Without losing faith, the flying mammals got another convincing victory over the East Midlanders, scoring five to lead at "no new inning" and shutting them out on time. Lesson learnt!

Coming 3rd was a wonderful achievement and



Bats, back row left to right: Gurajun Grewal (Greensox), Cameron Waddelow (Bats), David Grice (Seagulls), Joe Wright (Sluggababes), Charlie Whalley (Seagulls), Ian Williams (Mavericks II), Ray Wlaker (Liverpool); front: Carl Emsley (Seagulls), Michael Mia (Thunder III), Arthur Hung (Bats), Matt Tanner (Sluggababes), AJ Hoysted (Screwballs); inset Dave Gittens (Seagulls)

with three shut-out innings. What a wonderful end of the first day!

The second day saw the Bats continue to improve, having a close combat with the Bracknell side and marginally losing. (In fact we had a huge eight-

the joint force faced Cardiff again in the semi-final. Unfortunately the batting power only resumed in the 4th inning and was too late to recover the 6-9 loss.

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Single-sex Nationals*(Continued from page 7)*

All in all, it was an amazing weekend seeing such a scratch group becoming a decent company, improving game by game and leaving the pitch with pride and confidence.

Play of the tournament: Gurajun Grewal made a strong throw to SS from the far end of right field, Cameron Waddelow relayed with bullet speed to Catcher Joe Wright who tagged out the runner at home plate.

Hayley Mctear

(Chaos) writes: It was another great softball weekend, this time it was all about girl power at the Single-sex Nationals in sunny Manchester. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had with old and new friends and some of the best team mates around.

This was a first outing at single-sex for Chaos—better known as Chads—a mixture of players from Manchester, Nottingham, Glasgow and London). Coming into the tourna-

ment there were a lot of nerves as many of the team had never played together. Those nerves were quickly silenced as Chaos came out swinging, scoring 22 runs to take to the first game from the mighty Travelling Dodgerettes. Chaos only dropped one game the whole weekend, losing to Blitchzes in the round robin. Both the semi-final and final came down to the last inning. Both Travelling Dodgerettes and Topcats pushed Chaos to the limit, but



Chaos, back row left to right: Bobbie-Jay Paysen (Glasgow), Katie Flanagan, Hayley Mctear (both Camels), Jenny Heglet (Glasgow), Rebecca Ebo (Sharks), Alexander Selicka (Nottingham) Deborah Wilson (Glasgow); front row: Dani Arashida (London), Jacqueline Ng, Zoe Le Roux, Sarah Cassin (all Camels), Kat Peters (Nottingham)

with determination, nerves of steel and hot bats Chaos were triumphant in securing the title. Chaos (Chads) are already looking forward to next year's nationals, where they will aim to retain the title.

Emma Carruthers (Minx) writes: The Single-sex Nationals are always a highlight for me, as they are for many. I had the privilege to once again captain this wonderful team of talented players from the Manchester Softball League. Minx came out on the wrong side of some hard fought battles on the Saturday, with all but one of the games with the top four teams being decided in the last inning, but went undefeated on the Sunday to win the Gold Plate final.

Across the weekend we had glorious base hits,

rundowns, leaping catches, water pistol fights, grand slams, relays for tags at home and 3rd, water balloon BP, clutch hits, ice lollies, exceptional pitching and defence, ... and earned much deserved "well done" stickers from our two mini Minx supporters.

Big shout outs to those not pictured: to Loz Birch and Jane Curley, who played on the Saturday, and Martine Knight, who came down to base-coach after being unable to join us through injury. And as always, to the Hoggs for supporting us across the

weekend (I wish we'd gotten to see more of your games!).

Sonia Hine (TopCats) writes: This is one of my favourite weekends of the softball calendar, and it didn't disappoint. Introducing our new team TopCats to the single sex softball nationals, and we only went and made the Gold Cup final!! We narrowly missed out on the title, by one run, in an incredibly competitive game against Chaos. it was a brand new team, evolving from the Meerkat ladies. A few of us

⇒ Continued on page 10



Minx, back row left to right: Nicola Duerden, Maddy Gresty (both Mavericks), Katie Jessop (Travelling Dodgers), Charlie Cook (Mavericks), Sherry Kenyon (Travelling Dodgers), Lindsay O'Farrell (Mavericks II); front: Emma Carruthers, Tanya Basu (both Mavericks), Tanya Lochery (Greensox), Leanne Cracknell (Mavericks), Lara Bragg (Camels); mascots Finn and Edie O'Farrell-Duerden (shown here with permission); not pictured Lauren Birch (Bandidos), Jane Curley (Mavericks II)

Single-sex Nationals*(Continued from page 9)*

TopCats, from left to right: Autumn Starr (Florida), Areej Elmaazi (High Wycombe), Laura Cameron (Edinburgh), Emma Bennett (Speeders), Kate Barlow, Sonia Hine, Meagan Hrenko (all Meerkats), Christine Hunter (Speeders), Amy Miller, Ellie Seed (both Meerkats), Laura Hutchinson (Leeds)

had never played together before, so we were incredibly proud, and exceeded all expectations. We gave it our all, here's to the being "the most tip-top, TopCats" and thanks to UnderDog Sportswear for our quality new tops.

Nikita Shkurko (Travelling Dodgerettes) writes: What a weekend with the most amazing girls!! We absolutely killed it this weekend with amazing plays and brilliant batting but fell short by a run in the semi-finals to the team

that took the title, Chaos—the only team we lost to all weekend. These weekends just get better if that's even possible! The war wounds were totally worth it! Well played girls! Roll on 2024!



Travelling Dodgerettes back row left to right: Lauren Shkurko (Milton Keynes), Kelsey Mumford (Nottingham), Rachael Shkurko (Travelling Dodgers), Nikita Shkurko (MK), Jade Binder (Nottingham), Hiroe Ryan (Manchester); front: Macy Cortez (Guernsey), Kexin Wang, Mel Cybaniak (Leeds), Charlotte Stuckes (Nottingham), Jade Shaw (Barflies), Natalie Gallagher, Georgie Macey (both TDs)

Match reports

Explosive softball showdown with John McClane

SWINGERS 5 0 0 3 3 0 1 12
TIGGERS 2 5 3 0 8 5 x 23
 Pitch 3, Umpire Simon Sharp

SWINGERS Rhianne Boag (CL), Alex Hartley (P), Molly van Koutrik (3B), Ben Leeks (SS), Josie Sensier (2B), Peter Gordon (CR), Natasha Andy (C), Sam Webb (1B), *Abbie de Zwart (HAC)* (RF), Ben Rocca (LF), John McClane (EP)
 HRs Hartley, Rocca 2, McClane
TIGGERS Harry Schulte (CL), Emma Pritchard (LF), Steve Beddows (P), Natasha Wicikowski (3B), Matt Lyons (SS), Rebecca Crawford (2B), Conor O'Sullivan (CR), Jennifer Loubo (C), Dave Wareham (1B), *Caroline Drake (TIG)* (RF)
 HRs Schulte, Wicikowski

In a softball showdown like no other, the fearless John McClane (*pictured*) from the *Die Hard* franchise stepped onto the field with his team, the Swingers, ready to face off against their arch-rivals, the Tiggers. Little did anyone know that this game would become a heart-pounding display of athletic prowess and McClane's relentless battle against a band of determined adversaries.

As the game commenced, the Swingers exploded into action, opening their batting inning with an impressive display of power. Led by McClane, they swiftly

scored five runs, leaving the crowd in awe of their dominance. However, unbeknownst to them, a group of cunning criminals had infiltrated the field, plotting to wreak havoc amidst the chaos of the game.

While the Swingers celebrated their initial success, McClane's sharp instincts kicked in to high gear. He noticed the malicious intent of the criminals and realized that their plans extended far beyond mere disruption. Determined to protect both the game and its spectators, McClane sprung into action, diving headfirst into a battle against overwhelming odds.

As the Swingers valiantly fought on the field, McClane waged his own personal war against the nefarious foes. Explosions echoed through the air as gunfire pierced the backdrop of the softball game. With unwavering resolve, McClane employed his trademark blend of cun-

ning tactics and sheer brute force to neutralize the attackers, all while keeping one eye on the game.



Amidst the chaos and explosions, the game continued, driven by an adrenaline-fuelled atmosphere. The Tiggers, undeterred by the firefight that

unfolded, mustered their strength and retaliated. They replied with two runs, displaying their resilience in the face of the dual battles taking place on and off the field.

The Swingers, distracted by the tumultuous events unfolding around them, struggled to find their rhythm in the subsequent innings. In the second and third innings, they failed to score any runs, allowing the Tiggers to capitalize on their vulnerability. The opposing team, emboldened by the chaos, unleashed a flurry of offense, scoring five runs in the second inning and three runs in

⇒ Continued on page 12

Match reports *(Continued from page 11)*

the third, cementing their lead.

Despite the relentless firefight raging around him, McClane refused to let his team falter. Rallying the Swingers with his unwavering determination, he led them in a comeback attempt during the fourth inning. With explosive intensity, the Swingers managed to score three runs, narrowing the gap and reminding everyone of their fighting spirit.

As the game progressed into the fifth and sixth innings, the battles intensified. McClane, ever the action hero, juggled his role on the field with his relentless pursuit of justice. Explosions continued to rock the stadium as McClane single-handedly took down the remaining criminals, ensuring the safety of all those present.

In the midst of the chaos, the Tiggers capitalized on the Swingers' momentary loss of focus. Exploiting some lapses in fielding, they displayed their batting prowess, adding to their score with a series of remarkable home runs. Harry Schulte and Tash Wicikowski of the Tiggers

blasted the ball out of the park, igniting the crowd with their incredible displays of power.

Not to be outdone, the Swingers fought back with their own incredible home runs. Ben Rocca, Alex Hartley, and McClane himself showcased their exceptional skills, launching the ball into the stratosphere. Each hit mirrored the explosions that reverberated throughout Parrs Wood, leaving spectators in awe of the spectacle unfolding before them.

However, despite the Swingers' valiant efforts and McClane's heroics, the Tiggers ultimately emerged victorious. With the match coming to a close, the final score stood at 12-23 in favour of the Tiggers. The Swingers, while defeated on the field, had triumphed in protecting the integrity of the game and the safety of its participants.

As the dust settled and the echoes of gunfire faded, John McClane, battered but unbowed, led his team off the field. Though they had fallen short in the game itself, their indomitable spirit and McClane's relentless battle against the crimi-

nals would forever be etched in the memories of all who witnessed the explosive softball showdown.

Written by Chat GPT, submitted by Alex Hartley

Tiggers' view

The Tiggers went behind early but came back well to record an ultimately comfortable win with an eight-run bottom of the 5th giving us a game-winning advantage. Large-ball OBP leader was Harry Schulte (5 for 5) with guest Caroline Drake (4 for 4) the small-ball lead. Steve Beddows, Natasha Wicikowski and Matt Lyons (all 4 for 5) were close behind. Home-run heroes this week were Wicikowski and Schulte with one apiece. In the field pitcher Beddows recorded a large number of assists, Becky Crawford did some nice work on 2nd, Wicikowski took a fine catch on 3rd and Emma Pritchard and Drake each took a fine running outfield catch. The video record shows that the top of the 6th inning lasted 53 seconds from first pitch to last out. There is no way of proving it, but I can't imagine there have been many shorter half-innings.

Dave Wareham

MVPs Boag, Rocca (SWI),
Wicikowski, Schulte (TGG)

Win some , lose some

SPEEDERS 0 5 3 7 0 1 4 **20**

GREENSOX 7 3 0 1 2 2 2 **17**

Pitch G, Umpire Paul Fagan

SPEEDERS Alex Claridge-Ingham (SS), Emma Bennett (LF), Chris Iennon (CL), Christine Hunter (1B), Nick Money (CR), Maz Yung (C), Warren Osborne (2B) (sub Ethan Money), Sian McNeill (RF), Jeremy Fothergill (P), Carolyn Barrett (3B) HR Claridge-Ingham

GREENSOX Gurarjun Grewal (LF), Tanya Burton (CL), Tatsuyoshi Hikawa (SS), Natasha Miotk (2B), Andy Rawson (3B), Tanya Lochery (1B), Kieran O'leary (CR), Celine Frederick (EP), Mat Green (P), Tina Yao (RF), Paul Kidley (EP) (sub Hector Martinez), Ella Town (C) (sub Rodiesha Johnson) HRs Grewal, Hikawa

Softball is a game of two, well, games. Two weeks ago we played the Camels and after a promising first two innings the game descended into a prompt "mercy" in four-and-one-half innings, with the game finishing by 7.47 and the team sat in the pub before 8pm (see picture). In fact we had the pub to ourselves for nearly 40 minutes!

Last week we met the Greensox. Like us, perhaps they are a bit of an enigma. Rescued from fold-

ing by Pabs they have a roster of young and old, experienced and rookie. Until the week of our early finish they had no wins, and then they won against the Sharks. So, come last week, would we become another embarrassing statistic in Division 1 or could we finally get that elusive win? The game did not start promisingly, an almost 3-up and 3-down, with the Sox putting seven on the board. There might have been a few new faces, but the new faces could play. Two more innings and we were starting to find both our bats and our fielding. The game was now 8-10 to the Sox. Suddenly, in the 4th, the god of batting blessed us and we batted round the order to now hold a modest lead. From there it was a game of cat and mouse be-

tween the two teams for three more innings with the Speeders hanging in there for a three-run win. The game finished around 8.50pm making us almost the last players off the field. The debate that night was did we prefer the loss and parking spaces at the club or winning and having to queue for beer?

Jeremy Fothergill

MVPs Yung, Claridge-Ingham (SPE), Lochery, Grewal (GRX)

Tigers sink Titanics

TIGERS 0 8 3 4 6 **21**

TITANS 1 0 3 0 0 **4**

RAR, Pitch B, Umpire Ian Caird

TIGERS Oli Sharpe (2B), Caroline Drake (LF), Simon Sharp (P), Holly Smith (C), Stéphane Karayannis (SS), Anissa Aghtarafi (RF), Richard Thompson (CL), Tereza Kocińska (1B), Robert Lawrence (CR), Sara Alwagfi (3B) HRs Karayannis 2, Alwagfi

TITANS Claire Simcox (RF), Daniel O'Brien (P), Zoe Conway (2B), Luke Nelson (CL), Kate Winfield (1B), Nick Baker (LF), Karyn Cooper (C), Dan Hacking (3B), Isabelle Rendell (CR), Richard Taylor (SS)

After the Tigers came up empty in the 1st inning an eight-run 2nd set us up for a comfortable win against a Titans team that never really got going offensively.

Large-ball OBP leaders were Stéphane Karayannis, who also hit two home runs, one of them a grand slam and Rob Lawrence (each 4 for 4).

⇒ Continued on page 14



Speeders have the pub to themselves after an early finish.

Photo Jeremy Fothergill

Match reports (Continued from page 13)

Small-ball leaders were Anissa Aghtarafi and Sara Alwagfi (each 3 for 4), Alwagfi's stats including a homer. For the "couples home runs list", Karayannis's homers came 24 hours after partner Tash Wicikowski homered for the Tiggers, having just got back from their wedding. In the field Tereza Kokocińska did a good job on 1st, Oli Sharpe was excellent at 2nd, Alwagfi did some good work on 3rd with the whole team contributing to an efficient defensive display.

Lawrence was making his first league appearance since 2021 in this game and it was good to have him back.

Dave Wareham

MVPs Kokocińska, Karayannis (TIG), Conway, Nelson (TTN)

Luis late to the party

THUNDER	3	1	13	11	28
SHARKS	0	0	1	4	5

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Mike Davies

Last Wednesday saw the return of Kellie Whitaker, Joe Grantham and Luis Arrevillagas from a successful trip with GB to Antwerp. However a mix up meant Luis did get lost along the way. Following a high-scoring loss against the league leaders the previous

THUNDER Kris Hadwin (SS), Beth Jarratt (RF), Joe Grantham (P), Kim Hannessen (CL), Brad Hadwin (LF), Sian Payne (3B), Mike Lott (2B), April Hutchen (C), Dave Leverton (CR) (sub Tom Russell), Kellie Whitaker (1B)
HRs K Hadwin, Grantham 3, B Hadwin

SHARKS Michael Hulme (SS), Rebecca Ebo (LF), George Stamets (CL), Su O'Brien (RF), Karthik Manjunath (CR), Hayley Hulme (1B), Anthony Hulme (2B), Joiicey Roasara (3B), *James Stevens (MKT)* (P), Meg Bankier (C)

week, Thunder started the game against Sharks in the same form with the bats as the top three in the batting order all scored, followed by a shut out to end the 1st inning 3-0. A single run scored by Dave Leverton was all Thunder could manage in the 2nd inning and that trip around the bases was too much for his back, resulting in an early replacement with Tom Russell taking over in the outfield. Good defence kept the Sharks from scoring before a 13-run bat-around from Thunder made the score 17-0 after 2½ innings. Sharks scored a single in the bottom of the 3rd inning. Another bat-around in the 4th inning resulted in 11 more runs with Joe Grantham scoring his third home run of the night, leaving the Sharks needing to score



eight runs to avoid an early night.

Vice-captain Luis Arrevillagas finally turned up as the 4th inning was under way, with a can of refreshment in his hand but unfortunately missing his lovely new rucksack (pictured).

Some good base hitting kept the Sharks in with a chance of extending the game but after four runs scored Thunder were able to close the game out for a comfortable 28-5 win.

Mike Lott

MVPs Hannessen, Grantham (THU), Bankier, A Hulme (SHA)

Screwballs face Thunder again, clap back

SCREWBALLS	2	12	4	0	14	1	740
THUNDER IV	0	1	3	1	14	2	425

Pitch 1, Umpire Dave Warren

Taking aim at their seventh win to open 2023, the two-year old Manchester Screwballs rode the efforts of a new pitch-

SCREWBALLS AJ Hoysted (CR), Nicola McKenna (CL), Milan Nechvátal (EP), Hannah Tillyard (EP), Isaac Howard (SS), Carola Guevara (2B), Zak Morris (LF), Catherine Millan (3B), John Reeves (1B), Rachel Loggenberg (RF), Naveed Ahmed (P) (sub Dan Strayer), Emma Swarsbrick (C) HRs Tillyard, Nechvátal, McKenna
THUNDER IV Phil Cosgrove (P), Atiyah Malik (1B), Jamie Acton (SS), Nic Jones (LF), Jamie Saul (CL), Rachel Osbourne (2B), Graham Hartley (3B), Karen Dixon (C), Ben Acton (CR), *Angie Thompson (DOD)* (RF) HRs Malik, B Acton

er and team record offensive output to outlast an eager Thunder IV squad 40-25. It marks the second win in as many weeks against the Thunder clubs, having beaten T3 the week before.

It marked the end of a night filled with comeback efforts that staved off a run-ahead rule win and a big upset on the other side of Parrs Wood. Through it all, the pink and blue wrecking crew sat alone at the top of Division 3. It is the first time Screwballs have ever been in sole possession of first place.

A showdown with the Bandidos (who are now joint second with Stingers after falling to them Tuesday) is next week at Parrs Wood. Read more in this issue to see how the tables and the tie-breakers stack up in both Division 3 and the rest of

Manchester Softball League.

Thunder IV were not going to make it easy though. Still seeking their first win in 2023, T4 staved off run-ahead rule defeat with a defiant 14-run outburst that extended the game first to the 6th inning, and outscored Screwballs 2-1 to push the matter to a 7th inning. Big-ball MVP Ben Acton and Tia Malik both drilled home runs to keep the meteorological service alive. Rachel Osbourne had a fine day of her own, taking home the team's SBH MVP honours for the day.

But in the end, Screwballs stayed undefeated and undaunted. Naveed Ahmed threw three strong innings to start the game for Screwballs in a solid outing and return to action after two weeks off. In a big historical moment for the pink and blue, Ahmed gave way to the team's first ever SBH pitcher, Emma Swarsbrick. The second-year bespectacled wonder found her rhythm and recorded the victory in four innings of relief, garnering small-ball MVP honours. Offensively, she scored four runs and drove in five on the

strength of three hits and a walk.

The big boppers for the pink and blue wrecking crew were also of the small-ball variety. Veteran co-captain Hannah Tillyard and rookie sensation Nik McKenna both drove in seven runs, with McKenna drilling her first homer of the season. A reliable hitter so often unable to drive in runners this season because the batter before her had homered, Tillyard went yard for the first time and tallied five hits on the night.

Large-ball hitters Zak Morris, LBH MVP AJ Hoysted and Milan Nechvátal each banded out six hits apiece, with Nechvátal drilling his sixth homer of the season. He's dead even for the team lead with Hoysted and Dan Strayer, who sat most of the night with a slight case of excessive farmer's tan as the Screwballs tried out new arrangements.

The lefty was not missed in the slightest, however: the 40-run output is a new team record, one of many firsts for Screwballs: first time scoring 40 runs in a game; first SBH pitcher appearance;

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Match reports (Continued from page 15)

first SBH winning pitcher; first place.

NEXT WEEK: Thunder IV host Division 4 leaders Barflies Tuesday at Field 6. The Maroon Platoon come in with a 5-2 record and hope to outlast this scrappy team. Meanwhile, Screwballs have had enough with storm clouds. Instead, they try their luck Tuesday against an old friend/foe: their fellow 2021 second-half expansion companions, the Raiders. It's the Rookie Session Derby: a tradition unlike any other, and it takes place at Pitch 7. First pitch is 7pm.

Dan Strayer

MVPs Swarsbrick, Hoysted (SCR), Osborne, B Acton (TH4)

Close but no cigar

RAIDERS 2 0 5 5 3 0 2 17
SEAGULLS 2 4 1 3 5 4 x 19
Pitch 6, Umpire Emma Carruthers

In last week's match report I hinted at a possible giant-killing act incoming. Well it was close but not to be. This week the Raiders took on the experienced Seagulls and in a back and forth game the Division 3 Gulls eventually came out on top. There was never more than four runs between the teams with Seagulls getting out

RAIDERS Mike Spiers (CR), Nat Wood (3B), Mark Crannage (CL), Kerry Brown (LF), Luke Crannage (SS), Mel Kittles (RF), Richard Valentine (P), Lisa Morrissey (1B), Alex Wall (2B), *Priti Mehta (BAT)* (C)
HRs Valentine, M Crannage
SEAGULLS Charlie Whalley (3B), Estelle Speers (LF), Carl Emsley (SS), Gina Amos (1B), Dave Grice (CL), Hollie Glennie (2B), Jai Baghdev (P), Phoebe Kay (C), Ian Caird (CR), *Ashley Swaby (TH2)* (RF)
HRs Caird, Whalley 2, Emery

early before Raiders inched ahead after four. The game ultimately turned around at the bottom of the 5th, where the Gulls, batting second, scored five before keeping the Raiders to zero and then bagging another four. Into the final inning and with Raiders needing five to take the lead, a chaotic run out was the worst possible start for the Div 4 minnows. A couple of runs later and with things starting to look promising, young sensation Luke Crannage stepped up to the plate and absolutely drilled one down the left lane. Double home run hitting Charlie Whalley stuck out a paw and held on to a fantastic game clinching catch. That giant killing is still in the mix but not quite yet. If Raiders can keep hitting the ball as well as in recent weeks (homers this time from Mark Crannage and myself) then it is coming... although this week sees us coming up

against the unbeaten Screwballs so maybe bump it on a week or two!

Richard Valentine

MVPs Wood, Valentine (RAI), Amos, Whalley (SGL)

Despite injuries, Thunder still mangle a "slaughter"

THUNDER II 0 11 5 10 0 26
HACKERS 4 1 2 1 0 8
RAR, Pitch D, Umpire Al Green

THUNDER II Ashley Swaby (LF), Steve Bartlett (CR), Fran Leyton (2B), Andrew Bogie (SS), Emma Miller (1B), David Eaton (C), Amy Swiszcowski (RF) (sub Kirsty Eaton), Jeivo Gomez (CL), Bryony James (P), Ed Woodcock (3B)
HRs Bogie, Gomez
HACKERS Rachel Naylor (2B), Alex Mills (3B), Grace Mills (LF), Darren Corner (SS), Emma Cosgrove (RF), Harry Bell (CL), Abbie de Zwart (1B), Jack Hoban (CR), Hannah Law (C), *Jai Baghdev (SGL)* (P)
HR Bell

Injury-hit Thunder II continued its erratic season with a first run-ahead victory against a burgeoning Hackers line-up.

Following a fine defensive effort to prevent a score from Thunder's top six batters, the coders jumped into a 4-0 lead, only for the brontologists' bats to warm rapidly in the 2nd, led by an RBI double and a two-RBI triple from inspirational captain and MVP Bryony James, for a super-sized 11-run bat-around.

This proved an adequate firewall against any further attacks, as the pluvio-philis repelled some threatening offense, de-

spite a sixth home run of the season for deep-hitting Harry Bell. Grace Mills was unlucky not to increase her lead in the Division 2 SBH home run table, denied by an excellent relay from Jeivo Gomez in deep centre-field and a good tag at the plate by Thunder catcher David Eaton. Thunder's bats exerted some more high pressure, securing a second bat-around in the 4th thanks to a grand-slam by hobbling shortstop Andrew Bogie on early return from injury. In typical Thunder II fashion he was greeted at home plate with several helpful explanations of how the fielding side could have done better rather than the more traditional high-fives (he would have it no other way). Gomez was denied a second slam and victory in four innings by a fine catch in centre-field, before both sides confirmed a rare early arrival to the pub with a blanked 5th inning. Going into their rest week, Thunder occupy fifth spot in the division having beaten every side below them and lost to all but one side above, while the very promising Hackers team should be optimistic about adding to their one win in their return to Wednesday even-

ing softball. *Dick Move*

Gerald and Daphne go to the park

Daphne: Oh Gerald, let's lay down in the shade of that beautiful oak tree and make daisy chains for each other.

Gerald: Sure Daphne, that's a spiffing idea.

Daphne: Look Gerald, there are some people over there, running around and throwing balls at each other.

Gerald: Gosh, you are right, Daphne. Some of them are wearing scary looking shirts proclaiming that they are "Hackers". Rather vulgar if you ask me.

Daphne: Yes, I agree. And so does one of the opposition as he has a face like Thunder Too!

Daphne: One of those Hacker people just had a ball thrown at him and he clubbed it way into the air, really really high before it was caught by that lady with a large, deformed hand. And then she threw it back to the first person. How strange. Meanwhile the man with the club has thrown it in the bushes and gone for a jog!

Gerald: That is strange, darling. I wonder if that's how the common folk play cricket around here?

Daphne: Don't be silly Gerald. They don't play

cricket in Wythenshawe. They can't afford the Pimms and cucumber sandwiches. It's not Wilmslow you know. I think it might be one of those brash American games that they've taken to playing in the ghettos.

Gerald: You know, I think I'm getting the hang of this now. It seems like Hackers have got off to a good start, scoring four whilst that Thunder team look more like a scattered shower, not getting any-one round.

Daphne: Forget them now, Gerald. Come over here and poke your stalk through my daisy.

Gerald: I can't Daphne, it's getting rather exciting now. A storm is brewing as Hackers keep getting out while Thunder keep on rumbling around the bases scoring double figures in two of the innings.

Gerald: Oh, it's suddenly all over. That was awfully premature. It leaves one feeling rather deflated.

Daphne: I know the feeling, Gerald!!

Gerald: And now they are having a debrief. Seems like Hackers couldn't weather the storm and were mercied 26-8 by those Thunder II chaps.

Daphne: What does "you are a load of useless,

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Match reports (Continued from page 17)

f***ing w***ers” mean?

Gerald: Daphne! Please! Wash your mouth out immediately.

Daphne: Sorry Gerald. I was just repeating what he said as I don’t understand what it means.

Gerald: I’ll just get comfy. Now pass me your hand darling and I’ll try and explain...

TBC

Footnote: The author would like to thank Jai for pitching us out of a hole when our regular pitcher was sick. No other thanks are necessary as the rest of the Hackers were rubbish!

Mills (without Boon)

MVPs James, Gomez (TH2), G Mills, Hoban (HAC)

Camels snatch victory in final inning

CAMELS II 0 1 3 4 3 0 8 **19**
BATS 7 2 3 5 0 1 0 **18**
 Pitch C, Umpire Dan Strayer
 Camels II had a very dodgy start to their game against the Bats: they were seven runs down after the 1st inning. However the batrians started to edge back into the game. Nicola Booth hit a stunning home run, the first, we are sure, of many to come this season. She was closely followed by

CAMELS II Conor Battersby (EP), Alia Paschali (LF), Dan Jarman (SS), Nicola Booth (1B), James Wooderson (CL), Jen Douglas (2B), Oli Potts (3B), Fliss Fagan (EP), Leo Pearn (CR), Ann Gledson (RF), Chris Drayton (P), Kate Manzur (C)
 HRs Booth, Potts

BATS Christian Frost (P), Avery Yin Chong (3B), Cameron Waddelow (SS), Beryl Lannin-Jones (1B), Shawn Khwaja (LF), Suzanne Donovan (CL), Alex Bates (CR), Rachel merrie (C), Jeremy Denness (2B), Amber frost (RF) (sub Priti Mehta)
 HRs Waddelow, Bates

another from Ollie Potts. Last week Craig Lawson played his first game of the season and scored four home runs: this example appeared to have boosted the Camels’ batting. But going into the 7th inning the Camels still needed eight runs to win—and they did it, shutting out the Bats who were the home team with a 4-3 double play by Jen Douglas and Booth to end the game. Excellent play by the whole team. Also a great start for Kate Manzur who was making her debut for Camels II.

Fliss Fagan

MVPs Booth, Drayton (CM2), Donovan, Waddelow (BAT)

Jarabe tapatio

STINGERS 1 2 10 6 4 2 0 **25**

BANDIDOS 1 4 3 2 0 3 1 **20**

Pitch 4, Umpire Mike Goff

(To the tune of *The Mexican Hat Dance*)

We were scheduled to play v the Stingers

STINGERS Kristian Stokwicz (3B), Nikki Bradshaw (2B), Nick Simms (SS), Chloe Patient (P), Mark Fox (CL), Michelle Cleator (1B), *Sam Baker (TTN)* (RF), Ellie Hotchkiss (LF), *Stéphane Karayannis (TIG)* (C), Demi Rabette (CR)
 HRs Sims, Bradshaw, Baker 3, Karayannis

BANDIDOS Adam Morriosn (CL), Loz Birch (EP), Ross Birch (SS), Jane Langford (2B), Jason Kneen (3B), Helen Parr (1B), Jacob Arnison (CR), Kate Davidson (C), Nacho Sánchez (P), Carol Ann Costello (LF), Harry Somers (EP), Rachael Moss (RF)
 HR Arnison

They had drafted in two tricky ringers

Who managed to hit several dingers

While the Mexicans searched for their bats. They were better than us with their catches

And we played well only in patches

In the end we lost one of our matches

To the Stingers we take off our hats. *El Niño* MVPs Bradshaw, Simms (STG), Costello, Arnison (BND)

These pages have featured eleven match reports from nine different games, in response to the Editor’s plea for reports to grace this, the 500th issue of the Review. We have not seen this level of match reporting for many a year. It would be nice to imagine it could continue, but whether or not reporters feel inspired, the Editor thanks all contributors for their splendid response to the request.

Youngest home run hitter

Thunder IV's **Ben Acton** (pictured below) hit his second home run of the season last week, to add to the one hit on May 30th, 32 days after his 14th birthday. Luis Arrevillagas asks if this makes him the youngest ever MSL home-run hitter, which, within the slightly limited statistics available, certainly seems to be the case.

In fact, of the top ten youngest debutants (see *Bases Loaded* 28.8, 14-15 June 2022) as far as we can see, none of them hit homers in their debut year. Well done Ben, one of our most promising young players.



Picture Clare Acton, used with permission

Last week's MVPs

CAM	Sophie Addison (CL), Tom Atkinson (P)
GRX	Tanya Lochery (1B), Gurajun Grewel (LF)
MAV	Emma Carruthers (1B), Craig Brooks (CR)
MHM	Emma Agostini (3B), Michael Elsy (LF)
MKT	rested
SHA	Meg Bankiar (C), Anthony Hulme (2B)
SPE	Maz Yung (C), Alex Claridge-Ingham (SS)
TDS	Katie Jessop (sub), Sam Steele (CR)
THU	Kim Hannessen (CL), Joe Grantham (P)
BAT	Suzanne Donovan (CL), Cam Waddelow (SS)
CM2	Nicola Booth (1B), Chris Drayton (P)
DOD	Lisa Jepson (1B), Steve Howard (P)
FRZ	rested
HAC	Grace Mills (LF), Jack Hoban (CR)
MV2	Faye Dunlop (2B), Wes Ng (P)
TH2	Bryony James (P), Jeivo Gomez (CL)
TIG	Tereza Kokocinska (1B), Steph Karayannis (SS)
TTN	Zoe Conway (2B), Luke Nelson (CL)
BND	Carol-Anne Costello (LF), Jacob Arnison (CR)
SCR	Emma Swarsbrick (C), AJ Hoystead (CR)
SGL	Gina Amos (1B), Charlie Whalley (3B)
SLG	Rachael Wake (2B), James Tanner (3B)
STG	Nikki Bradshaw (2B), Nick Sims (SS)
TGG	Tash Wicikowski (3B), Harry Schulte (CL)
TH3	Lauren Pritchard-Grier (CL), Luis-Allen Arrevillagas (SS)
BFL	Jade Shaw (3B), Chris Smith (P)
ENF	Bailey Saunders (TIG)(C), Chris Newhall (SS)
RAI	Nat Wood (3B), Richard Valentine (P)
SWI	Rhianne Boag (CL), Ben Rocca (LF)
TH4	Rachel Osborne (2B), Ben Acton (CR)

Note: names are reproduced here exactly as submitted on the scoresheets.

Guests

UP/SAME

Jai Bhagdev (SGL) for Hackers v Thunder II
David Martin Baez (MV2) for Mavericks v Mayhem
James Stevens (MKT) for Sharks v Thunder

DOWN

Sam Baker (TTN) for Stingers (2nd) v Bandidos
Abbie de Zwart (HAC) for Swingers (2nd) v Tiggers
Caroline Drake (TIG) for Tiggers v Swingers
Stephane Karayannis (TIG) for Stingers v Bandidos
Priti Mehta (BAT) for Raiders v Seagulls
Bailey Saunders (TIG) for Enforcers (4th) v Sluggababes
Ashley Swaby (TH2) for Seagulls (2nd) v Raiders
Angie Thompson (DOD) for Thunder IV (3rd) v Screwballs

Home runs

Division 1

SBH

1—Sarah Cassin (CAM), Maddy Gresty (MAV), Sherry Kenyon (MAV), Nat Leyland (TDS), Jacqueline Ng (CAM), Su OBrien (SHA)

LBH

7—Joe Grantham (THU)
 6—Dan Downes (TDS), Tom Russell (THU)
 5—Anthony Garcia Reyes (MHM)
 4—Keith Altena (MKT)
 3—Tom Atkinson (CAM), Carlos dos Ramos (MKT), Gurarjun Grewal (GRX), Brad Hadwin (THU), Kris Hadwin (THU), Tatsuyoshi Hikawa (GRX), Andy Lott (CAM), Karthik Manjunath (SHA), George Stamets (SHA)
 2—Luis Arreivillagas (THU), Ian Blease (MAV), Craig Brooks* (MAV), Jordan Colton (MHM), Adam Hugill (CAM), Luke Martin* (TDS)
 1—Nathan Barratt (MHM), Alex Claridge-Ingham* (SPE), Matt Fairweather (MKT), Paul Kidley (GRX), Chris Lennon (SPE), Mike Lott (THU), Oscar Marengo (TDS), Colin McKie (CAM), Pete Nightingale (MAV), Laurence Pearmain* (MAV), Andy Rawson (GRX), Jack Scholes (CAM), Darren Shaw (MKT), Igor von Orel Bronte (MKT)

Division 2

SBH

3—Grace Mills (HAC)
 2—Faye Dunlop (MV2), Lisa Jepson (DOD)
 1—Sara Alwagfi (TIG), Nicola Booth (CM2), Keely Congleton (DOD), Suzanne Donovan (BAT), Bryony James (TH2), Abbie Thwaite (DOD), Kate Winfield (TTN)

LBH

9—Stéphane Karayannis** (TIG), Chris Mannion* (DOD)
 6—Harry Bell (HAC)
 4—Elieser Doronsoro* (DOD), Craig Lawson (CM2), Wes Ng (MV2), Luis Rodriguez (DOD), Brian Slusarek (DOD), Cameron Waddelow* (BAT)
 3—Jeivo Gomez (TH2), Chris Gresty* (MV2), Dave Martin Baez (MV2), Oliver Potts (CM2), Sean Rafter (HAC), Simon Sharp (TIG), James Wooderson (CM2)
 2—Steve Bartlett (TH2), Alex Bates (BAT), Andrew Bogie* (TH2), Darren Corner (HAC), Ed Covington (TIG), Jeff Fong (MV2), Mark Heyward (FRZ), Alex Mills (HAC)
 1—Sam Baker (TTN), Conor Battersby (CM2), David Dyson (DOD), Dan Hocking (TTN), Steve Howard (DOD), Lee Kendrick-Walker (DOD), Ian Mills (HAC), Leo Pearn (CAM), Drew Stan-

ton (FRZ), Richard Taylor (TTN), Richard Thompson (TIG), Ian Williams (MV2), Ben Wright (TTN)

Division 3

SBH

3—Nikki Bradshaw (STG)
 2—Natasha Wicikowski* (TGG)
 1—Tanya Lochery (BND), Nicola McKenna (SCR), Samiya Rahman (SGL), Amy Sykes (STG), Hannah Tillyard (SCR), Rachel Wake (SLG)

LBH

11—Mike Mia (TH3)
 9—Ross Birch (BND)
 8—Liam Morrison (BND)
 6—AJ Hoysted (SCR), Milan Nechvátal (SCR), Dan Strayer (SCR), Joe Wright * (SLG)
 5—Jason Kneen (BND), Kristian Stokwicz (STG), James Tanner (SLG), Charlie Whalley (SGL)
 4—Carl Emsley (SGL), Anthony Henderson (SGL), Harry Schulte (TGG), James Wright (TGG)
 3—Dean Cull (TH3), David Grice (SGL), Jimmy Warren (TH3)
 2—Naveed Ahmed (SCR), Jacob Arnison (BND), Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3), Danny Casey-Wright (STG), Tom Childs (TH3), Antoon Lemmers (SLG), Zac Morris (SCR), Adam Morrison (BND), Josh Normie (STG), Nick Sims (STG), Mat Tanner (SLG), Alex Wardle (SLG)
 1—Noah Arnison (BND), Luis Allen Arreivillagas (TH3), Ian Caird (SGL), Rory Casey-Wright (STG), Mark Fox (STG), Isaac Howard (SCR), Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), John Reeves (SCR), Nacho Sánchez (BND)

Division 4

SBH

3—Jade Shaw (BFL)
 2—Atiyah Malik (TH4)
 1—Rhianne Boag (SWI), Kerry Brown (RAI), Claire Holden (BFL), Daisy Lord (BFL)

LBH

7—Aleck Aspinall* (BFL), Luke Crannage (RAI)
 6—Chris Smith (BFL)
 4—Dave Dean (BFL), Chris Newhall (ENF), Simon Ronksley (TH4),
 3—Alex Hartley (SWI), Ben Leeks (SWI), Mike Spiers (RAI), Jordan Wilcock (ENF)
 2—Ben Acton (TH4), Mike Cooney (BFL), Mark Crannage* (RAI), Bryn Davies (ENF), Simon Grainger* (ENF), Ebby Hassan (BFL), Jon Pearson (RAI), Chris Radford (BFL), Ben Rocca (SWI), Richard Valentine* (RAI)
 1—Phil Cosgrove (TH4), Ross Jubber (RAI), Ed Roberts (SWI), Andy Whatmore (ENF)

* grand slam

Next week's fixtures 20/21 June

Division 1

Camels @ Greensox (pitch C) Last meeting 24 August 2022, Greensox won 11-10, their 23rd win in 24 meetings: this is the most one-sided of all MSL fixtures.

Mayhem @ Speeders (J, umpire Somers) Last official meeting 22 August 2018 (Division 2), already promoted Mayhem won 17-6, a win which also gave them the edge in the 9-game all-time series. The pair met in the unofficial 2020 season when Mayhem again won 18-3.

Meerkats @ Sharks (B, Caird) Last official meeting 21 August 2019 (Division 2), Meerkats won 16-1 and lead 5-3 in all meetings. Meerkats also won their last meeting, an unofficial game in 2020, 21-6.

Travelling Dodgers @ Thunder (D, Green) Last meeting 17 August 2022, Thunder won this top-two clash 15-12 to take a 3-2 lead in all meetings, but it was not enough to prevent the TDs claiming the title a week later.

Mavericks rest

Division 2

Freeze @ Camels II (G, Wallace) First ever meeting.

Mavericks II @ Bats (F, P Fagan) Last meeting 18 July 2018, Mavs won 20-10, a fourth win in four.

Thunder II @ Dodgers (H, Creelman) First ever meeting.

Tigers @ Hackers (E, Davies) First ever meeting.

Titans rest

Division 3

Bandidos @ Screwballs (6, Hugill) First ever meeting.

Thunder III @ Seagulls (1, Hung) Last meeting 9 August 2022. Seagulls won 26-11, a third win in three meetings.

Tiggers @ Sluggababes (3, Arrevillagas) Last meeting 16 August 2022 (Division 4), Tiggers won 17-9 to take a 2-1 lead in all meetings.

Interdivisional

Stingers @ Raiders (4, F Fagan) First ever meeting.

Division 4

Enforcers @ Barflies (2, Warren) Last meeting 15 May 2018. Barflies won 26-22: the pair have met just twice, with one win each.

Thunder IV @ Swingers (7, Carruthers) Last meeting 16 August 2022, Thunder won 20-16, and have won all five official meetings. In the 2020 mini-season, the pair were due to meet, but Swingers forfeited.

Results (continued from page 22)

Division 3

STINGERS 1 2 10 6 4 2 0 25
BANDIDOS 1 4 3 2 0 3 1 20
 Pitch 4, Umpire Mike Goff
 HRs **STG** Nick Sims, Nikki Bradshaw, *Sam Baker (TTN)* 3, *Steph Karayannis (TIG)*; **BND** Jacob Arnison

Interdivisional

BARFLIES 3 1 1 18 2 4 3 32
THUNDER III 1 3 7 3 4 9 0 27
 Pitch 7, Umpire Adam Hugill
 HRs **BFL** Chris Smith 2, Jade Shaw 2, Aleck Aspinall; **TH3** Dean Cull, Dilan Bastiampillai, Lewis Le Fevre

RAIDERS 2 0 5 5 3 0 2 17
SEAGULLS 2 4 1 3 5 4 x 19
 Pitch 6, Umpire Emma Carruthers
 HRs **RAI** Richard Valentine, Mark Crannage; **SGL** Ian Caird, Charlie Whalley 2, Carl Emery

SCREWBALLS 2 12 4 0 14 1 740
THUNDER IV 0 1 3 1 14 2 425
 Pitch 1, Umpire Dave Warren
 HRs **SCR** Hannah Tillyard, Milan Nechvátal, Nicola McKenna; **TH4** Ben Acton, Tia Malik

SLUGGABABES 5 2 1 5 2 3 4 22
ENFORCERS 3 6 0 0 2 1 2 14
 Pitch 2, Umpire Fliss Fagan
 HRs **SLG** Rachel Wake, James Tanner 3, Joe Wright; **ENF** Bryn Davies

SWINGERS 5 0 0 3 3 0 1 12
TIGGERS 2 5 3 0 8 5 x 23
 Pitch 3, Umpire Simon Sharp
 HRs **SWI** Alex Hartley, Ben Rocca 2; **TGG** Harry Schulte, Tash Wicikowski

Transfers

Claire Simcox, Raiders to Titans

Louise Gape, Tiggers to Dodgers. As this is a second transfer, Louise is ineligible for Dodgers' first game.

Results and Standings

Played 6/7 June

Division 1

Pitch H, Umpire Jonny Creelman
HRs **MHM** Jordan Colton, Antho-
ny Garcia Reyes; **MAV** **Craig**
Brooks 2 (1GS), Maddy Gresty

Pitch G, Umpire Paul Fagan
HRs **SPE Alex Claridge-Ingham**
GS; **GRX** Gurarjun Grewal, Ta-
tsuyoshi Hikawa

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Mike Davies
HRs **THU** Kris Hadwin, Joe Gran-
tham 3. Brad Hadwin

Pitch F
HRs **TDS** Dan Downes 3, Luke martin, Oscar Marenco; **CAM** Jack Scholes, Adam Hugill, Andy Lott, Tom Atkinson 2

Division 2

Pitch C, Umpire Dan Strayer
HRs **CM2** Nicola Booth, Oli Potts;
BAT Cam Waddelow GS, Alex
Bates

Pitch J, Umpire Harry Somers
HRs **MV2** Ian Williams, Chris
Gresty; **DOD** Brian Slusarek, Lisa
Jepson 2, Elieser Dorronsoro,
Keely Congleton, Luis Rodriguez
2

RAR, Pitch D, Umpire Al Green
HRs **TH2 Andrew Bogie** GS, Jeivo
Gomez: **HAC** Harry Bell

RAR, Pitch B, Umpire Ian Caird
HRs **TIG Stephane Karayannis** 2
(1GS), Sara Alwaqfi

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Standings Week 7

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pts%	GB
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Division 1

► Mavericks	7	7	0	0	0	117	79	1.00	-
► Thunder	6	5	0	1	0	127	80	.889	1½
► Camels	7	4	0	3	0	118	93	.714	3
▼ Mayhem	6	3	0	3	0	89	90	.667	3½
▼ Tr Dodgers	6	3	0	3	0	81	79	.667	3½
► Meerkats	5	2	0	3	0	59	70	.600	4
► Speeders	5	1	0	4	0	30	93	.467	5
▼ Greensox	5	1	0	4	0	66	80	.467	5
▼ Sharks	6	1	0	5	0	73	93	.444	5½

Mayhem above Trav Dodgers and Speeders above Greensox on head-to-heads

Division 2

► Dodgers	6	6	0	0	0	157	72	1.00	-
► Camels II	6	5	0	1	0	118	90	.889	1
► Tigers	6	4	0	2	0	103	70	.778	2
▼ Mavericks II	6	4	0	2	0	117	85	.778	2
► Thunder II	7	4	0	3	0	108	118	.714	2½
► Bats	6	2	0	4	0	104	115	.556	4
► Titans	7	2	0	5	0	102	119	.524	4½
► Hackers	6	1	0	5	0	105	139	.444	5
► Freeze	6	0	0	6	0	67	173	.333	6

Division 3

▲Screwballs	7	7	0	0	0	182	123	1.00	-
▲Stingers	7	6	0	1	0	166	118	.905	1
▼Bandidos	7	6	0	1	0	156	71	.905	1
►Slugg'babes	7	4	0	3	0	137	131	.714	3
►Seagulls	7	4	0	3	0	148	145	.714	3
▲Tiggers	7	3	0	4	0	117	139	.619	4
▼Thunder III	7	2	0	5	0	160	151	.524	5

Stingers above Bandidos on head-to-head

Division 4

► Barflies	7	5	0	2	0	195	175	.810	-
► Swingers	7	2	0	5	0	99	157	.524	3
► Enforcers	7	2	0	5	0	111	132	.524	3
► Raiders	7	1	0	6	0	116	170	.429	4
► Thunder IV	7	0	0	7	0	107	182	.333	5

Swingers above Enforcers on head-to-head