

BASES LOADED



MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Volume 29 Issue 12 11-12 July 2023 Number 504



This week's games

TUESDAY

Division 3

Bandidos 2W @ Stingers 8W

(pitch 3, umpire Warren)

Sluggababes 1W @ Tiggers 3L (1, Hung)

Thunder III 1L @ Screwballs 11W (2, Carruthers)

Seagulls rest

Division 4

Swingers 2L @ Fireballs 1W (6, Hugill)

Thunder IV 12L @ Barflies 1L (7, P Fagan)

Raiders rest

WEDNESDAY

Division 1

Mayhem 1W @ Greensox 3L (J, P Fagan)

Meerkats 1L @ Camels 2L (B, Wallace)

Speeders 4L @ Sharks 1L (D)

Travelling Dodgers 2W @ Mavericks 12W (C, Somers)

Thunder rest

Division 2

Camels II 1W @ Hackers 4L (E, Green)

Thunder II 2W @ Mavericks II 1W (C)

Tigers 2W @ Freeze 11L (G, Caird)

Titans 2L @ Bats 1L (H, Creelman)

Dodgers rest

Contents

Div 1 also-rans jostle	2
Birthdays	3
Two players banned	4
Match reports	5
Seeing baseball differently	8
Statto's corner	10
Mike Lott on <i>Countdown</i>	10
Youth players on GB duty	11
Blu corner: how to get ejected	12
Incorrect scoresheet	12
Quote of the week	12
Exec notices	13
MVPs, Guests	13
Home runs	14
Next week's fixtures	15
Results and standings	16

Div 1 also-rans jostle for position

While the top two teams posted wins against—coincidentally—the bottom two, the rest of the pack were jockeying for position as the previously 3rd-placed **Camels** lost convincingly 19-2 to **Mayhem**, who climb to 4th place, while the **Travelling Dodgers**, resplendent in their striking new kits (as reported in these pages two weeks ago) got the better of the **Meerkats** in a much closer game. After forging ahead in the opening exchanges, the TDs saw the suricates catch them and briefly lead before they again pulled away to secure the win by 17-15. In the 2nd-placed vs. 2nd-to-bottom match up, **Thunder** again prevailed over **Greensox**, though rather more comfortably than last May when it was 13-12: the rumblers led by five until a nine-run bat around 6th took them to safety. And top v bottom went pretty much

to form as **Mavericks** scored steadily while restricting the **Speeders** to just a few runs, reaching the 15-run ahead mark in the bottom of the 6th.

Division 2 served up a mid-table thriller between **Bats** and **Thunder II**. The IIs hit a nine-run bat-around 2nd inning but Didsbury scored steadily to maintain a four-run lead at the half-way point. But then the runs suddenly dried up for the Bats and, with the score at 18-18, Thunder were able to close out the top of the inning and then score the one run needed for victory. Elsewhere, **Camels II** led off with 12 on the way to a “mercy” win over **Titans**, while **Mavericks II** were 26-0 up before **Freeze** got the first of their three consolation runs. In only their second meeting in 27 years, **Hackers** and **Dodgers** scored roughly half the

⇒ Continued opposite

Bases Loaded, the Manchester Softball League Review is published by the Manchester Softball League. © 2023 Editor: Harry Somers. Cover photo: Abbie de Zwart

Contributions should be sent to review@manchester-softball.co.uk.

Available online at <https://manchester-softball.co.uk/softball-news/the-review/>

runs that they hit in their previous game, but the result was the same, as the unbeaten Dodgers drive towards a return to the top table.

Divisions 3 and 4 completed the first rotation, including interdivisional games, with a move to WSG for this season's first Afterparty, which, given the date, became something of a "4th of July" celebration, including fireworks (as featured on the front cover). Highlight of the day was the **Sluggababes'** 8-inning win over the **Raiders**, who again put in a performance that mocks their position near the foot of the ladder, including a father-and-son pair of homers for Mark and Luke Crannage. In fact Paul Revere's team (there's a subtle Independence Day reference that only the over-60s will get) were leading by four or more runs right up to the top of the 7th, when the slugs scored seven to take a three-run lead. The Raiders matched that to take the game into extra innings, where the babes were restricted to a single run, which, despite home advantage, the Raiders could not match. Else-

where there were coincidentally matching scores for **Bandidos** against **Thunder IV** and **Screwballs** against **Swingers**, both games ending 27-10 after five innings. Bandida Loz Birch hit for the cycle, with hubby Ross hitting two homers to put them on the couples homers list while the league-leaders inevitably completed their first rotation with an 11-0 record. **Phoenix Fireballs** began their renaissance with an interdivisional defeat of Div 3 **Thunder III**, powering into a 16-4 lead in two innings before easing off a little, but **Barflies**, Division 4's run-away leaders, after two wins by forfeit, got stung by the **Stingers**. Despite a 13-run 3rd inning giving them a ten-run lead which they held on to until the 6th inning, at 16-16 Stingers hit them with a 12-run barrage to which their six-run reply was not enough. In the only all-Div 3 match-up, **Seagulls**, for once not facing a Div 1 guest, got a win against **Tiggers** which puts them level on points with Thunder III (but behind on head-to-head) in the fight to avoid relegation.

Birthdays

Week beginning July 10th

Monday Nicolet Corliss (Thunder III)

Tuesday Charlotte Bowen (Fireballs), Richard Thompson (Tigers)

Thursday Gwen Davies (Thunder), Joiicey Roasara (Sharks)

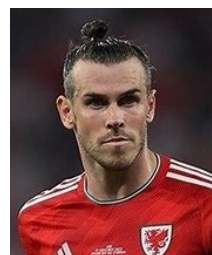
Friday Anissa Aghtarafi (Tigers), Claire Richards (Swingers)

Saturday Natalie Leyland (Travelling Dodgers), Simon Ronksley (Thunder IV)

Sunday Kate Barlow (Meerkats), Simon Hepburn (Dodgers), Benkei Johnson (Mayhem), Stéphane Karayannis+ (Tigers), Conor O'Sullivan* (Tiggers), Milan Nechvátal+ (Screwballs), Sawyer Phinney* (Hackers)

* and +, same year

With seven celebrants (and two sets of "twins") July 16th is the most popular birthday in the league (and it is shared with Gareth Bale).



Two players banned for seven games—Official statement

Two players who were subject of an official complaint following the Enforcers-Barflies game three weeks ago have each been handed a seven-game ban by the MSL Exec.

The essence of the complaint submitted by the Barflies was that the Enforcers captain Mike Davies and another player, Simon Grainger, caused offence and were offensive in their approach to inclusivity rules in the MSL, by claiming that Grainger, a registered large-ball hitter was “gender fluid” and would therefore be playing this game as a small-ball hitter. Alongside this, Grainger is said to have acted in an abusive way towards the opposition. Both players have since left the team, which has also changed its identity.

The committee has formed its conclusions after considering statements from the two accused players and other people present at the game and feels that this was a clear attempt to use the inclusivity approach adopted by the League to subvert the result of a game by individuals who should have known better. Also, that this subversion was done in an insensitive manner causing offence (whether intended or not) to a number of people present,

members of the team who were not present and the wider softball community. The insensitivity was a direct violation of our approach to inclusivity and those who feel supported in our sport by this. It was felt that if this was not addressed clearly by the League and the Exec as representatives of the League, that this could damage the long term reputation of the League and set back the work we have done to make it an inclusive environment. Finally, there is clear evidence of abusive language from Grainger, but that this was not completely one-sided, with warnings being given to both teams during the game.

The Exec felt that this was most strongly linked to our rules in the Captain’s Handbook on individual conduct, and the Code of Conduct which all players sign up to when they register. The Exec also feels that there has been a breach of the Safeguarding Adults policy and Anti-bullying policy. MSL has introduced these policies to ensure that there is fair treatment for all and that prejudice and discrimination on the basis of an individual’s or group of individuals’ protected characteristics are eradicated. As an Exec, we aim to recognise and remove any barriers faced by people involved

or wanting to be involved in our sport, and to ensure that the culture of our sport is one that values diversity and enables the full involvement of disadvantaged groups in every aspect of our sport.

MSL is also committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all adults involved in Softball and we have a shared responsibility to safeguard members’ physical and emotional wellbeing.

The Captain’s Handbook gives some examples of offences and their categorisation. Among them is conduct by individuals identifiable as members of the League, where such conduct is damaging to the good name of the sport (Category 3). Where such conduct is prolonged and/or seen to have lasting negative consequences it shall be deemed to be a Category 2 offence.

The Exec agreed that it views the behaviour of the two players named as a Category 2 offence and has proposed to apply the maximum penalty of a ban for seven games for both players. During the period of this ban these players cannot be present at games, or after-match venues, and cannot take part in any way in league games in Manchester.

MSL Exec

Match reports

Stung in the 7th

STINGERS 3 2 0 4 5 2 12 **28**
BARFLIES 0 2 13 1 0 0 6 **22**
 Pitch F, Umpire Fliss Fagan

STINGERS Kristian Stokwicz (3B), Chloe Patient (P), Mark Fox (C), Amy Sykes (RF), Nick Sims (SS), Nikki Bradshaw (2B), Josh Normie (CL), Michelle Cleator (1B), Jack rains (CR), Ellie Hotcxhkiss (LF) HRs Rains, Fox
BARFLIES Chris Radford (3B), Hayley Jane Sims (LF), Aleck Aspinall (CL), Claire Holden (RF), Chris Smith (P), Mandy Ashton (1B), Kalpesh Makanji (CR), Laura Howarth (C), Ebby Hassan (SS), Sarah Douglas (2B) HRs Hassan, Radford, Aspinall

There are mixed feelings in the Maroon Warriors' camp after Tuesday night's efforts at WSG. Did we put up a good fight against a great side? Did we feel we could have won the game after throwing away a good lead? Were we just kidding ourselves that we had a chance against the Division 3 high flyers?!

The away side took a 5-2 lead after two innings but Barfly morale was high after a 13-run 3rd inning put us 15-5 up and firmly in the driving seat... or so we naively thought! One run followed in the next three innings courtesy of some tight Stinger defending and great pitching, while the hornets (is that the Stinger logo?!) scored steadily.

Going into the final in-

ning, the game was all square at 16-16, but a venomous 12-run sting in the tail pretty much put the game to bed. The Flies tried to rally and scored six, but couldn't close the gap further.

Home runs came from Ebby Hassan (a grand slam), Chris Radford and Aleck Aspinall. Hassan got things going with a four-run salvo, and Radford followed with a two-run shot... which was followed by a friendly debate about whose was the better hit. The former had a strong claim for bragging rights with his grand slam. The latter will take advantage of being the match report author and say, for the record, that his was best!

Meanwhile, as that discussion was taking place, Aspinall laced one to right field, his tenth of the season, keeping him in the hunt for HR honours in Division 4.

The large-ball MVP award went to Aspinall, and Laura Howarth deservedly took the small-ball award for a solid performance as catcher.

Best of luck to the Stingers on their quest for promotion to Div 2. We had an enjoyable game played in great spirits... in less than

enjoyable conditions!

There were some positives for us to take against a really strong side, and some stuff for us to work on and try to put right next week. As always, if there's one thing that we're consistent at, it's being inconsistent!

Chris Radford

MVPs Patient, Fox (STG), Howarth, Aspinall (BFL)

'Fly shagging' by J.R. Hartley

SLG'BABES 3 0 3 0 4 2 7 1 **20**
RAIDERS 6 3 5 0 0 2 3 0 **19**
 Pitch D, Umpire Arthur Hung

SLUGGABABES Mat Tanner (3B), Rachael Wake (2B), James Tanner (CL), Eleanor Harris (1B), Johan Lemmers (CR) (sub Joe Wright), Danielle farthing (LF), Alex Wardle (SS), Jess Flaherty (RF), Tim Roberts (P), *Fran Leyton (TH2)* (C) HRs Wright 2
RAIDERS Kerry Brown (LF), Richard valentine (2B), Nat Wood (3B), Luke Crannage (SS), Lisa Morrissey (1B), Mark Crannage (CL), Mel Kittles (C), Ross Jubber (P), Nicky Kong (RF), Jon Pearson (CR) HRs L Crannage, M Crannage

In the 'two nations separated by a common language' category, 'shagging flies' must be up there. A niche perversion in England turns out to be an everyday term in the US for catching base-/softballs hit high into the air. Much of this game seemed to be a contest

⇒ *Continued on page 6*

Match reports *(Continued from page 5)*

between the Raiders' Kerry Brown and babes' Alex Wardle as to who could catch the most and the highest outfield flies. Brown was probably the winner, not least when she snagged a James Tanner moonshot that went higher and further than anything Elon Musk has achieved to date.

In the overall contest, the slugs continued their recent propensity for drama, starting slowly—down 6-14 after three innings—gradually getting into their stride, and squeaking home in extra innings. The improved performance of the SBHs was apparent, particularly in hitting. In an inspirational aside before the top of the 7th, resting skipper, George Pugh, suggested “Er, we could do with some runs here.” The team obliged with seven.

Joe Wright, subbing in halfway through, modestly claimed to have changed the outcome of the game. Fair enough: he hit well

Somewhere under the rainbow

Photo Johan Lemmers



and took a sharp catch to make the final out, thus earning the MVP award. Rachael Wake was the other one, of course!

Two-out Tim

MVPs Wake, Wright (SLG), Brown, L Crannage (RAI)

Screwballs win dial goes to 11

SCREWBALLS	9 4 5 7 2	27
SWINGERS	0 2 6 0 2	10

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Mike Goff

SCREWBALLS Hannah Tillyard (2B), Lee Harvey (CR), Nicola McKenna (EP), Naveed Ahmed (CL), Carola Guevara (RF), Dan Strayer (1B), Kathryn Craine (LF), Zak Morris (SS) (sub Milan Nechvátal), Emma Swarsbrick (3B), Isaac Howard (EP) (sub AJ Hoysted), Catherine Millan (C), John Reeves (P)
 HRs Dtrayer, Hoysted
SWINGERS Rhianne Boag (CL), Alex Hartley (P), Molly van Koutrik (2B), Ben Rocca (SS), Bekke Platt (RF), Peter Gordon (LF), Josie Sensier (C), Sam Webb (1B), Tegan Francis (3B), Jae Frith (CR)

Manchester Screwballs didn't even have 11 victories in their long, illustrious two-year career heading into 2023. Call it the Year of the Pink and Blue Snow.

The season-long party for the cocktail brigade continued on the Fourth of July at WSG against Division 4 side Swingers. Fireworks galore before the actual fireworks came from the pink and blue bats and gloves in a 27-10 victory to keep them atop the Division 3 standings in MSL interdivisional play.

Five Screwballs (Naveed Ahmed, Kat Craine, John Reeves, Zak Morris and Dan Strayer) finished with four hits apiece, while rookie Nicola McKenna had three hits and a walk to reach safely four times.

Behind a nine-run 1st, a seven-run 4th, and 11 runs scattered across the other three stanzas of a five-inning affair, Screwballs remain top of the table and at the top on other key Division 3 statistics. These include runs scored and run differential, just edging ahead of 3rd-place Bandidos (+120 to +119). Only Division 4 leaders Barflies (with 297) have scored more runs in all of MSL play than the 287 from the pink and blue wrecking crew.

But it was the defence that shone as bright as the fireworks Tuesday. A great relay from the co-captain connection of Hannah Tillyard to Caz Millan cut off a run at home plate to end the 1st inning. Large-ball MVP Milan Nechvátal made several crucial plays at shortstop to head off more big inning potential for the Swingers. And the infielders (particularly Emma Swarsbrick at 3rd base and winning pitcher/substitute outfielder Reeves) all dazzled repeatedly with their glove work.

Tillyard belted two hits and drove in a pair of runs, playing a sterling game defensively at 2nd base to earn small-ball MVP honours. Ahmed was sharp in relief of Reeves, working two strong frames to close out the win.

Strayer homered in the 1st inning for his tenth of the year and finished with his third cycle of the year, driving in six. Not to be outdone, team co-leader in longballs AJ Hoysted came off the bench and pushed his tally to double figures on the first pitch he saw to lead off the 5th. Coaching 3rd base, Strayer jokingly tried to hold up Hoysted to preserve his tenuous lead.

At least it won't be lonely at the top. And not just for the home-run leaderboard either: there remains the top of Division 3 to sort out as well. Screwballs begin the back nine of their Division 3-only schedule with just a one-game lead over the surging Stingers, and a two-game lead over the division's most defensively stingy team, Bandidos.

NEXT WEEK: Screwballs' closest game of 2023 was a 22-20 thriller against Thunder III back on 30th May. The pink and blue host a rematch Tuesday back at Parrs Wood at the friendly

confines of pitch 2. Behind league-leading home-run hitter Mike Mia, they average an impressive 23 runs per game. Swingers return to Division 4 action against the Phoenix Fireballs on Pitch 6. They remain just a half game outside the play-off slot.

Dan Strayer

MVPs Tillyard, Nechvátal (SCR), van Koutrik, Hartley (SWI)

Bandidos pass their exams

BANDIDOS	4 6 4 4 9	27
THUNDER IV	3 0 4 3 0	10

RAR, Pitch G, Umpire Emma Carruthers

BANDIDOS Jacob Arnison (CR), Loz Birch (2B), Ross Birch (SS), Carol Ann Costello (LF), Liam Morrison (CL), Lynn Howells (1B), Nacho Sanchez (P), Donna Brierly (C), Harry Somers (3B), Raechel Moss (RF)
HRs L Birch, R Birch 2, Morrison 2
THUNDER IV Mike Swiszcowski (3B), Kelly Brookshaw (1B), Phil Cosgrove (SS), Rachel Jones (CR), Simon Ronksley (P), Atiya Malik (2B), Jamie Saul (CR), Mag Flores (RF), Larry Carr (CL), *Emma Miller (TH2) (C)*

Bandidos completed their first-rotation coursework in the absence of head-teacher Adam, with the Emeritus Professor of Linguistics as stand-in captain for this practical exam against the league's lowest-placed team. For exchange student and starting pitcher Nacho Sánchez it appeared that the dog had eaten his homework, so head-boy Ross Birch came in to relieve in the 2nd inning, causing changes of fielding position throughout the team,

and some solid work on defence not least from head of PE Liam Morrison as stand-in short-stop, head-girl Loz Birch with a stunning catch at 2nd, and your correspondent in the outfield, like in the old days, taking up a slot which the Thunder batters had until then studiously avoided but which suddenly seemed to act as a magnet for them. Apparently he did well enough to get the form prize (a cheeky run stolen from 3rd while young Jacob Arnison was diving around in the mud at 2nd might have helped) while *athro cyflenwi* Lynn Howells stopped everything that came her way at 1st base. The offence showed evidence of good revision, with two pieces of homework each from R Birch and Morrison while L Birch hit for the cycle (if we ignore the fielding errors). You could call it hitting for the cycle sheds. Arnison got home every time he batted, thanks to sensible running, though having the Birches behind him in the line-up to bat him home probably helped. Others not named contributed in their way to a win which even the Almighty approved of, judging by the beautiful rainbow He sent towards the end of the game.

El Niño

MVPs L Birch, Somers (BND), Malik, Cosgrove (TH4)

Seeing baseball differently

Gina Amos (pictured right), part of the fantastic team that organized this year's Alex Hall tournament, will sadly not be playing for her beloved Seagulls team as she is getting more involved in Liverpool's Blind Baseball League, which also runs on a Tuesday.

Currently there are five clubs catering for blind baseball: Lancashire Lions, a multi visually impaired (VI) sports club, Manchester Baseball Club, Liverpool Trojans, Sheffield Strikers VI Baseball and South Wales Dragons based in Cardiff.

The first ever UK-based blind baseball tournament took place at the Norman Wells Ballpark in Bootle, Liverpool on 17th June this year and the Blind Trojans, took home the winners' trophy. The tournament included teams from Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield.

Last weekend also saw Parrs Wood play host to the first Inter Nations Club Cup where Blind

Trojans came second to the Le-onessa Baseball per ciechi from Brescia, Italy, with trophies presented by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Yasmine Dar (pictured below).

Blind baseball in the UK started in 2019 with a collaboration between Lancashire Lions and Manchester Baseball Club.



of visually impaired players and sighted players, the latter providing assistance by communicating with the players, telling runners when

and where to run, and, on defence, guiding the fielders towards the ball. The ball is a hard rubber ball containing two small bells. The diamond is laid



Photo: Lancashire Lions VISC

Since then it has expanded: teams from this country have played in Rome and Milan, and in 2022 a GB team took part in the first WBSC (World Baseball Softball Confederation) Blind Baseball International Cup in the Netherlands, winning a silver medal against Italy in the final.

So how does Blind Baseball work? Teams consist

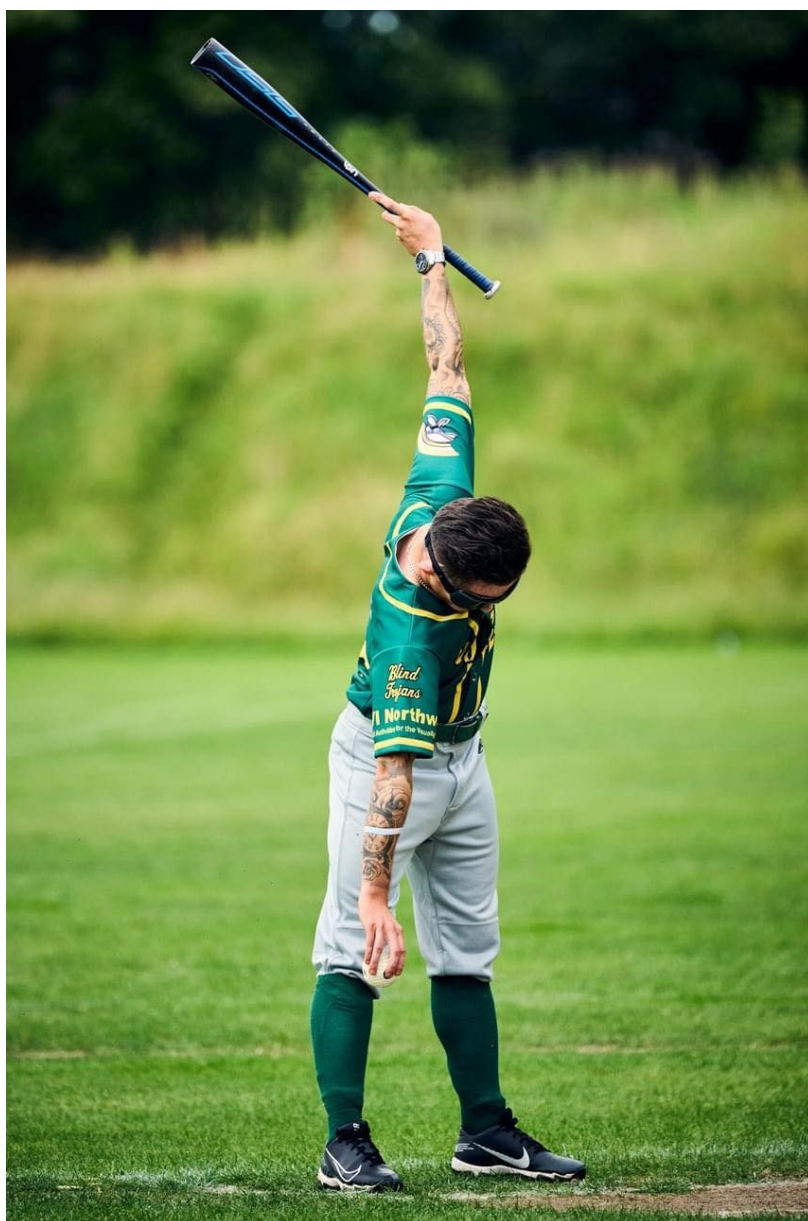
out as you'd expect, except there are two 2nd bases, to keep runners and fielders apart (to avoid collisions). Runners advance around the diamond following the sound of clappers wielded by the (sighted) base coaches. Fielders can get the runners out by tagging the runner or the base, just like in the familiar form of the sport.

There is no pitcher: batters put the ball in play by hitting it out of their hand or by tossing it the air and hitting it. The umpire alerts the fielders that the ball is “in play”.

Blind baseball is an inclusive and exciting sport that showcases the abilities of visually impaired individuals, emphasizing teamwork, communication, and spatial awareness. It allows participants to enjoy the thrill of baseball while accommodating their specific needs.

Gina’s involvement with blind baseball initially came by accident, having met some blind players practising at a cricket facility close to her home. She has since supported taster sessions in Liverpool and was a regular part of the winter training that immediately preceded this, their first competitive season.

For any more information about the Liverpool Trojans Blind baseball team please call Matt on 07825 381198. The UK Blind Baseball Association (UKBBA), which is based in Manchester, works with British Blind Sport and BSUK along with both the British Baseball and Softball Federations



BBF and BSF. To get involved please contact them via Facebook.

Photos Malc Burke



Statto's Corner: Lambs to the slaughter?

As the first rotation in Divisions 3 and 4 has come to its conclusion, it is worth considering whether fears that this arrangement would involve a large number of mismatches were well-founded. It should be pointed out that the decision to combine the divisions was more or less inevitable given the 7-5 split in teams, but how many of the 34 interdivisional games (one was postponed) ended up subject to the run-ahead rule? The answer is 15, that is 44% of interdivisional

games. How does this compare with games played between teams in the same division?

Well four of the eight all-Div 4 games were “slaughters” (50%) (there were two forfeits), and the same number in Division 3 out of 21 games (19%), which turns out to be, on this measure, the most evenly contested division, as there have been respectively ten (23%) and 17 (39%) RAR wins in Divisions 1 and 2 so far.

Div	Games	RAR	%
1	43	10	23.2
2	44	17	38.6
3	21	4	19.0
3/4	34	15	44.1
4	8	4	50.0

What the figures show, in my opinion, is where the biggest gulf in quality among the teams is, namely in Divisions 2 and 4. Overall 50 out of the 150 games played so far have resulted in “mercy” wins—that’s exactly a third of all games—which suggests to me that our four divisions are not all that well balanced.

How to fix that? Well that’s another question altogether.

Mike Lott on Countdown

Our very own Mike Lott (we share him with Sef-ton) appeared on *Countdown* last Monday and put in a great plug for softball. You can see the

clip at <https://tinyurl.com/MikeLott> and the whole show on catchup.

As for the quiz show (spoiler alert), Mike did

really well, taking it to the very last word, but unfortunately ending up in the silver medal position. Hats off to you, Mike!



Youth players on international duty

Proud parents are keeping an eye on events in the Czech Republic, where GB Under-18 and Under-16 Men's Fastpitch Teams are playing in the European Championships. The U18 squad features Danny Casey-Wright of the Stingers, and Luis Allan Arrevillagas (Thunder III), while Rory Casey-Wright (Stingers) and Ben Acton (Thunder IV) are in the U16 squad, all four on their first European fastpitch outing.

Opening-day saw both teams facing the Czech hosts, the powerhouse in this format, and the results reflected the difference in standing, both teams going down to shutout defeats.



Results were not so good for the GB teams on day 2 either. Both the U18s and U16s lost their opening games to Israel, 10-1 and 16-1 respectively. In their second game the U18s managed a decent tally, but still lost 22-12 to Denmark.

Day 3 saw a vast improvement as the U18s faced Croatia, both teams on 0-3 records. Despite a slow start, the U18 outfit soon picked up and piled on the runs to score an emphatic 20-9 mercy rule win. Mentioned in dispatches were Arrevillagas, and Danny Casey-Wright (pictured above), who hit a two-run home run deep to left field.

The U16s meanwhile suffered two more defeats

with only one run scored, against Denmark, and a second meeting with Czechia. Ben Acton (pictured left) was mentioned as assisting in "a fine double play".

The fourth day of play saw further defeats for both teams. The U18s were tied 5-5 with



Israel after the top of the 3rd inning, but then fell away as Israel recorded a 14-6 win. Later in the day they came up against the all-conquering Czechs, and went down 21-1.

The U16s had only one game in which they lost 16-1 to Denmark.

On the penultimate day of action, the U18s beat Croatia again to make it to the bronze medal game, so that their later 17-2 loss to Denmark did not have any effect. The U16s suffered a heavy loss against Israel, but were always guaranteed a medal game in the four-team competition.

Medal game reports next week.

Source: BSF website

Blu Corner: How to get ejected

How easy is it for a player to be ejected from a game? In reality it is very easy to be ejected from a game: here are the ten most common infractions that can get a player ejected from a game.

- 1 Profanity or insulting an umpire
- 2 Physical abuse of an umpire
- 3 Questioning balls and strikes
- 4 Removing the lines from the batting box
- 5 Refusing to stop arguing with an umpire
- 6 Use of histrionics or gestures towards an umpire after a call
- 7 Actions intended to ridicule the umpire, for example umpire calls a ball and the pitcher puts their hands in the air, or

batter gets a strike and looks back at the umpire or points the bat to where the ball landed

8 Throwing equipment in disgust

9 Arguing or disputing a warning

10 Verbal and physical abuse of other players

So remember all those times as a pitcher you have shaken your head or put your hands in the air after a call did not go your way, as a batter you look or point to where the ball landed, as a player you have shouted at the umpire after a safe call?



Paul Fagan

Umpires are human and we can make mistakes, but more mistakes are usually made in a game by both teams than the number of mistakes an umpire makes. During a seven-inning game an umpire has over 8,500

decisions to think about compared to a player either at bat or fielding or pitching.

Don't cross that boundary and you won't be making an early exit from the game and taking a walk to the car-park.



Incorrect scoresheet

SCORE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	total
team batting first Bats	4	3	6	4	0	0	0	18
team batting 2nd Thunder II	1	9	1	2	5	0	1	19

The captains of Thunder II and Bats last week co-signed a scoresheet showing the correct result, but on which the box scores

and final totals did not tally. The automatic tariff penalty for this minor infraction is an official warning to both teams.

Quote of the week

"I've been playing so long that I once got an ashtray as a trophy"
(Chris Gresty)

We invite readers to submit alternative ways to complete the statement "I've been playing so long that ..." to review@manchester-softball.co.uk

Exec notices

Practice pitches

Pitches at Parrs Wood can be booked for training when they are not in use by MSL, but they must be paid for. They can be booked via the Parrs Wood School head groundsman, Dave Letven. Email appears to be the best way to make contact: d.letven@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk

Pitches should NOT be used without being booked and paid for.

Transferred players playing as guests

Player transfers are announced in these pages, sometimes after the player has played for their new team. Transfers can change the eligibility of a player to play as a guest: specifically a player transferring to a Division 1 team from a lower division would no longer be eligible to guest in Division 4. Individual players recently transferred should check if they are eligible, when they are invited or offering to guest, even if captains remain ultimately responsible for fielding a legal team.

Last week's MVPs

CAM	Jacqui Ng (C), Tom Atkinson (SS)
GRX	Tanya Burton (CL), Kieran O'Leary (LF)
MAV	Maddy Gresty (RF), Lubo Durisin (CR)
MHM	Emma Agostini (3B), Anthony Garcia Reyes (P)
MKT	Ali (C), Darren Shaw (LF)
SHA	rested
SPE	Sian McNeil (RF), Chris Thompson (CR)
TDS	Nat Leyland (CL), Oscar Marengo (P)
THU	Sian Payne (3B), Kris Hadwin (CR)
BAT	Beryl Lannin-Jones (LF), Arthur Hung (P)
CM2	Fliss Fagan (1B), Chris Drayton (P)
DOD	Keely Congleton (3B), Steve Howard (P)
FRZ	Emma Ashby (2B), Tom Huntley (SS)
HAC	Ella Mills (1B), Alex Mills (CR)
MV2	Lins O'Farrell (1B), Chris Gresty (SS)
TH2	Bryony James (P), Jevio Gomez (LF)
TIG	rested
TTN	Kate Winfield (1B), Sam Baker (CL)
BND	Loz Birch (2B), Harry Somers (3B)
SCR	Hannah Tillyard (2B), Milan Nechvatal (sub)
SGL	Yolie Bendall (1B), Jai Bhagdev (P)
SLG	Rachael Wake (2B), Joe Wright (sub)
STG	Chloe Patient (P), Mark Fox (C)
TGG	Becky Crawford (3B), Josh Kehoe (CR)
TH3	Luna Sanchez Palacio (1B), Dilan Bastiamplillai (SS)
BFL	Laura Howarth (C), Aleck Aspinall (CL)
PFB	Hannah Ebbitt (1B), Ade Ngang (CR)
RAI	Kerry Brown (LF), Luke Crannage (SS)
SWI	Molly Vankoutrik (2B), Alex Hartley (P)
TH4	Atiyah Malik (2B), Phil Cosgrove (SS)

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

Guests

DOWN

Abbie de Zwart (Hackers) for Fireballs v Thunder III
 Martine Knight (Mayhem) for Seagulls v Tiggers
 Fran Leyton (Thunder II) for Sluggababes (2nd) v Raiders
 Emma Miller (Thunder II) for Thunder IV (3rd) v Bandidos
 Laurie Salfred-Ingham (Freeze) for Seagulls v Tiggers

SAME

Rebecca Ebo (Sharks) for Thunder v Greensox
 Su Obrien (Sharks) for Camels v Mayhem
 George Stamets (Sharks) for Travelling Dodgers v Meerkats
 Natasha Wicikowski (Tiggers) for Bats v Thunder II

UP

Hollie Glennie (Seagulls) for Titans (3rd) v Camels II
 Stéphane Karayannis (Tigers) for Speeders v Mavericks

Home runs

Division 1

SBH

2—Maddy Gresty (MAV)

1—Emma Agostini (MHM), Tanya Burton (GRX), Sarah Cassin (CAM), Rebecca Ebo (SHA), Celine Frederic (GRX), Beth Jarratt (THU), Katie Jessop (TDS), Sherry Kenyon (MAV), Nat Leyland (TDS), Amy Miller (MKT), Linni Mitchell (MHM), Jacqueline Ng (CAM), Su O'Brien (SHA), Rachel Shkurko (TDS)

LBH

8—Joe Grantham (THU)

7—Tom Russell (THU)

6—Keith Altena (MKT), Dan Downes (TDS), Oscar Marenco (TDS)

5—Carlos dos Ramos (MKT), Anthony Garcia Reyes (MHM)

4—Tom Atkinson (CAM), Gurarjun Grewal (GRX), Kris Hadwin (THU), Tatsuyoshi Hikawa (GRX), Andy Lott (CAM), Karthik Manjunath (SHA), Luke Martin* (TDS), Darren Shaw (MKT), George Stamets (SHA) 3—Luis Arrevillagas (THU), Jordan Colton (MHM), Brad Hadwin (THU), Adam Hugill (CAM), Pete Nightingale (MAV)

Division 2

SBH

5—Grace Mills (HAC)

3—Lisa Jepson (DOD)

2—Faye Dunlop (MV2)

1—Sara Alwagfi (TIG), Nicola Booth (CM2), Keely Congleton (DOD), Suzanne Donovan (BAT), Bryony James (TH2), Lynsey O'Farrell (MV2), Laurie Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Abbie Thwaite (DOD), Kate Winfield (TTN), Carla Zuill (BAT)

LBH

10—Stéphane Karayannis** (TIG), Chris Mannion* (DOD)

8—Cameron Waddelow* (BAT), James Wooderson (CM2)

6—Harry Bell (HAC), Wes Ng (MV2), Luis Rodriguez (DOD),

5—Steve Bartlett (TH2), Conor Battersby* (CM2), Elieser Doronsoro* (DOD), Jeivo Gomez (TH2), Dave Martin Baez (MV2)

4—Sam Baker (TTN), Craig Lawson (CM2), Oliver Potts (CM2), Simon Sharp (TIG), Brian Slusarek (DOD)

3—Alex Bates (BAT), David Dyson (DOD), Chris Gresty* (MV2), Sean Rafter (HAC), Ian Williams (MV2)

Division 3

SBH

5—Nikki Bradshaw (STG)

2—Loz Birch (BND), Samiya Rahman (SGL), Amy Sykes* (STG), Natasha Wicikowski* (TGG)

1—Gina Amos (SGL), Emma Beall (SLG), Ellie Hotchkiss (STG), Tanya Lochery (BND), Nicola McKenna (SCR), Amy Somers (TH3), Lynsey Taylor (TGG), Hannah Tillyard (SCR), Rachael Wake (SLG)

LBH

16—Ross Birch (BND)

15—Mike Mia (TH3)

13—Liam Morrison (BND)

11—Charlie Whalley* (SGL), Joe Wright* (SLG)

10—Carl Emsley (SGL), AJ Hoysted (SCR), Dan Strayer (SCR)

9—James Tanner (SLG),

7—Anthony Henderson (SGL), Kristian Stokwicz (STG),

6—Jason Kneen* (BND), Milan Nechvátal (SCR), James Wright (TGG)

5—Dean Cull (TH3), David Grice (SGL), Nick Sims (STG)

4—Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3), Harry Schulte (TGG), Alex Wardle* (SLG),

3—Naveed Ahmed (SCR), Danny Casey-Wright (STG), Tom Childs (TH3), Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), Zac Morris* (SCR), Mat Tanner (SLG), Jimmy Warren (TH3)

2—Jacob Arnison (BND), Luis Allan Arrevillagas (TH3), Mark Fox (STG), Antoon Lemmers (SLG), Adam Morrison (BND), Josh Normie (STG)

1—Noah Arnison (BND), Jai Bhagdev* (SGL), Ian Caird (SGL), Rory Casey-Wright (STG), Isaac Howard (SCR), Josh Kehoe (TGG), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Matt Lyons* (TGG), Jack Rains (STG), John Reeves (SCR), Tim Roberts* (SLG), Nacho Sánchez (BND)

Division 4

SBH

3—Daisy Lord* (BFL), Jade Shaw (BFL)

2—Atiyah Malik (TH4)

1—Rhianne Boag (SWI), Kelly Brookshaw (TH4), Kerry Brown (RAI), Hannah Ebbitt (PFB), Claire Holden (BFL), Ade Ngang (PFB)

LBH

10—Aleck Aspinall* (BFL)

9—Luke Crannage (RAI)

7—Chris Smith (BFL)

6—Ebby Hassan* (BFL), Chris Newhall (ENF/PFB),

5—Dave Dean (BFL), Ben Leeks (SWI), Simon Ronksley (TH4),

4—Jordan Wilcock (ENF)

3—Mark Crannage* (RAI), Alex Hartley (SWI), Ross Jubber (RAI), Chris Radford (BFL), Mike Spiers (RAI)

2—Ben Acton (TH4), Mike Cooney (BFL), Bryn Davies (ENF), Simon Grainger* (ENF), Kalpesh Makanji (BFL), Jon Pearson (RAI), Ben Rocca (SWI), Richard Valentine* (RAI)

1—Jamie Acton (TH4), Phil Cosgrove (TH4), Pete Gordon (SWI), Ed Roberts (SWI), Andy Whatmore (ENF)

* grand slam

Next week's fixtures 18/19 July

Next week sees the return fixtures in Divisions 1 and 2 of games played May 17.

Division 1

Camels @ Mavericks (pitch H, umpire Creelman) Earlier this season Mavericks won 17-15 and lead 21-2 in all meetings.

Mayhem @ Thunder (F, Strayer) Previously Thunder won 19-10 and lead 12-1 in all meetings.

Meerkats @ Greensox (G, Green) In the first rotation game Meerkats won 26-16, their first win in seven meetings.

Travelling Dodgers @ Sharks (E, Caird) Travelling Dodgers narrowly won the previous game 15-14 and lead 5-1 in all meetings, or 6-1 including 2020.

Speeders rest

Division 2

Bats @ Hackers (C, F Fagan) Bats won last time 18-9, and lead this most played series between founder members 24-16.

Freeze @ Thunder II (D, Fothergill) In May Thunder won 16-10 to take a 5-0 lead in all meetings.

Mavericks II @ Titans (B, P Fagan) In their earlier meeting Mavs won 10-8, their first win in three attempts.

Tigers @ Dodgers (J, Wallace) Dodgers won this first ever meeting 20-2.

Camels II rest

Division 3

Screwballs @ Stingers (3, P Fagan) Only previous meeting 9 May, Screwballs won 25-10.

Sluggababes @ Seagulls (7, Hugill) Only previous meeting 13 June, Sluggababes won a close encounter 16-15.

Tiggers @ Thunder III (6, Goff) Last meeting 13 June, Thunder won 27-11 and lead 2-0 in all meetings.

Bandidos rest

Division 4

Fireballs @ Raiders (1, Warren) Only previous meeting 9 May, the then-named Enforcers won 23-8.

Swingers @ Thunder IV (2, Sharp) Last meeting 20 June, Swingers won 17-2, their first win in six attempts, or seven including 2020.

Barflies rest

A note on Division 4's structure

The Captain's Handbook gives two scenarios for the second half of the season, depending on whether a new team joins the league from the

Results (continued from page 16)

Division 3

TIGGERS 0 2 0 0 2 8 0 12
SEAGULLS 2 0 4 0 1 8 x 15

Pitch C, Umpire Paul Fagan
HRs **TGG** Josh Kehoe; **SGL** Carl Emsley2

Interdivisional

BANDIDOS 4 6 4 4 9 27
THUNDER IV 3 0 4 3 0 10

RAR, Pitch G, Umpire Emma Caruthers
HRs **BND** Loz Birch, Ross Birch 2, Liam Morrison 2

FIREBALLS 7 9 3 4 1 24
THUNDER III 2 2 0 1 4 9

RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Simon Sharp
HRs **PFB** Hannah Ebbitt, Ade Ngang, Cris Newhall; **TH3** Dilan Bastiampillai

SCREWBALLS 9 4 5 7 2 27
SWINGERS 0 2 6 0 2 10

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Mike Goff
HRs **SCR** Dan Strayer, AJ Hoysted

SLG'BABES 3 0 3 0 4 2 7 1 20
RAIDERS 6 3 5 0 0 2 3 0 19

Pitch D, Umpire Arthur Hung
HRs **SLG** Joe Wright 2; **RAI** Luke Crannage, Mark Crannage

STINGERS 3 2 0 4 5 2 12 28
BARFLIES 0 2 13 1 0 0 6 22

Pitch F, Umpire Fliss Fagan
HRs **STG** Jack Rains, Mark Fox;
BFL Ebbby Hassan (GS), Chris Radford, Aleck Aspinall

rookie sessions. Because there will not be an additional team, the top two will play a best-of-three series to determine the title (irrespective of their head-to-head record), while the remaining three teams will play a third half-rotation, that is, two games and a rest week for each team.

Results and Standings

Played 4/5 July

Standings Week 11

Division 1

MAYHEM 7 5 3 4 0 **19**
CAMELS 0 0 0 2 0 **2**

RAR, Pitch G, Umpire Al Green
 HRs **MHM** Ant Garcia Reyes;
CAM Tom Atkinson

SPEEDERS 0 1 4 0 0 2 **7**
MAVERICKS 3 1 2 4 7 5 **22**

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Ian Caird
 HRs **MAV** Danny Gunn, Pete
 Nightingale

THUNDER 3 4 4 1 0 9 2 **23**
GREENSOX 3 0 2 2 0 0 3 **10**

Pitch H, Umpire Jonny Creelman
 HRs **THU** Kris Hadwin 2 (1GS),
 Joe Grantham, Tom Russell,
 Dave Leverton

TR DODGERS 3 6 0 0 5 3 0 17
MEERKATS 2 0 4 4 2 1 2 15

Pitch F, Umpire Stephen Shear-
 er
 HRs **TDS** Oscar, **Matty Bell** GS,
 Natalie Leyland; **MKT** Keith 2,
 Igor von Orel Bronte

Division 2

BATS 4 3 6 5 0 0 0 **18**
THUNDER II 1 9 1 2 5 0 1 **19**

Pitch B, Umpire Harry Somers
 HRs **TH2** Jonny Taylor, Benji
 Pearce, Jeivo Gomez

CAMELS II 12 1 4 3 5 **25**
TITANS 0 0 1 1 2 **4**

RAR, Pitch J, Umpire Gemma
 Wallace
 HRs **CM2** Conor Battersby,
 Dan Jarman, Leo Pearn, Ant
 Boffey; **TTN** Sam Baker

HACKERS 2 0 1 0 0 2 0 **5**
DODGERS 0 6 3 0 1 3 x **13**

Pitch D, Umpire Mike Davies
 HRs **DOD** Keely Congleton 2,
 Luis Rodriguez

MAVERICKS II 8 9 9 3 **29**
FREEZE 0 0 1 2 **3**

RAR, Pitch C, Umpire Paul Fa-
 gan
 HRs **MV2** Dave Martin Baez,
 Wes Ng

⇒ Continued on page 15

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pts%	GB
Division 1									
► Mavericks	10	10	0	0	0	182	126	1.00	-
► Thunder	10	9	0	1	0	200	102	.933	1
► TrDodgers	9	5	0	4	0	111	121	.704	4½
► Mayhem	10	5	0	5	0	156	122	.667	5
► Camels	10	5	0	5	0	155	133	.667	5
► Sharks	9	3	0	6	0	110	118	.556	6½
► Meerkats	9	3	0	6	0	123	128	.556	6½
► Greensox	8	1	0	7	0	97	149	.417	8
► Speeders	9	1	0	8	0	51	186	.407	8½
Division 2									
► Dodgers	10	10	0	0	0	237	102	1.00	-
► Camels II	10	8	0	2	0	192	136	.867	2
► Tigers	9	6	0	3	0	166	125	.778	3½
► Thunder II	10	6	0	4	0	156	162	.733	4
► Bats	10	5	0	5	0	178	173	.667	5
► Mavericks II	10	5	0	5	0	194	140	.667	5
► Titans	10	3	0	7	0	141	174	.533	7
► Hackers	9	1	0	8	0	125	197	.407	8½
► Freeze	10	0	0	1	0	94	274	.333	10
Division 3									
► Screwballs	11	11	0	0	0	287	167	1.00	-
► Stingers	11	10	0	1	0	258	181	.939	1
► Bandidos	11	9	0	2	0	258	139	.879	2
► Slg'babes	11	7	0	4	0	229	238	.758	4
► Thunder III	11	5	0	6	0	256	222	.636	6
► Seagulls	11	5	0	6	0	225	231	.636	6
► Tiggers	10	3	0	7	0	185	227	.533	7½
Division 4									
► Barflies	11	8	0	3	0	297	223	.818	-
► Fireballs	10	3	0	6	1	148	178	.500	4 ⁵ / ₆
► Swingers	11	3	0	7	1	131	231	.485	5 ¹ / ₃
► Raiders	11	1	0	1	0	182	277	.394	7
► Thunder IV	11	0	0	1	0	146	288	.333	8