

# BASES LOADED



**MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

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## This week's games

**TUESDAY****Division 3**

Bandidos 2W @ Tiggers 7L (pitch 2, umpire Hugill)

Seagulls 4W @ Stingers 1W (6, F Fagan)

Sluggababes 3L @ Thunder III 2L (3, P Fagan)

Screwballs rest

**Division 4**

Barflies 3W @ Fireballs 3W (1, Hung)

Raiders 1L @ Swingers 1L (7, Goff)

Thunder IV rest

**WEDNESDAY****Division 1**

Camels @ Travelling Dodgers—postponed

Greensox 7L @ Speeders 2L (B, Wallace)

Mavericks 1L @ Mayhem 1L (D, Strayer)

Sharks 1W @ Thunder 8W (J, Somers)

Meerkats rest

**Division 2**

Bats 3L @ Camels II 1W (E)

Dodgers 13W @ Mavericks II 1W (G, Green)

Hackers 1W @ Thunder II 2L (F, Caird)

Tigers 1L @ Titans 4W (H, Creelman)

Freeze rest

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## Thunder favourites after Mavs defeat

**T**hunder have one firm hand on the trophy after beating **Mavericks** in the top-of-the-table clash last week. Mavs have now lost two games to Thunder's one—their previous meeting back in May—and Thunder can even afford to lose one of their remaining three games with a head-to-head lead over the Mavs on runs aggregate over the two games. Thunder led from start to finish and came out 14-5 on top after 6½ innings. **Greensox** remain rooted to the bottom of the standings after narrowly losing to the **Sharks** in a relatively low-scoring encounter: trailing for five

innings, they tied it up at 8-8 in the top of the 6th, but were unable to hold off the maneaters with their home advantage, and lost 11-10. Their fellow-strugglers, the **Speeders**, met their match in the **Camels** who “mercied” them in five innings. The bottom two both have rescheduled games in hand, but neither looks likely to catch 3rd-bottom **Meerkats**, who had a good win against **Mayhem** putting them level with Sharks on 5-8.

The league's only unbeaten team came mighty close to losing their per-

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## Relegation decider?

**T**here is an exciting game in Division 3 this week which could decide the second relegation slot (Tiggers are already down): Sluggababes meet Thunder III with the babes currently 5th, rumblers 6th. But a win for Thunder would leave both teams on 8-8 records. In their first en-

counter, Sluggababes won 16-14, so Thunder would only have to win by three to have the better head-to-head record on aggregate. If they won by two, their aggregate scores would be tied, but their overall runs conceded (in all games) is much fewer. This week's game won't

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## Birthdays

Week beginning August 7th

**Monday** Jack Hoban (Hackers), Nacho Sánchez (Bandidos), Amy Swiszcowski (Thunder II)

**Tuesday** Carolyn Barratt (Speeders)

**Wednesday** Nicola Jones (Thunder IV)

**Friday** Rachael Shkurko (Travelling Dodgers)

**Saturday** Atiyah Malik (Thunder IV)

**Sunday** Andrea Dee (Greensox)

## No home team in Div 4

*In Division 4, next week sees the first game of the three-game playoff between the top two for the title. Meanwhile the other three teams play a three-way round-robin. The 'v' rather than '@' in the schedule indicates 'no home team': teams toss up at the start to decide home advantage. The team listed second is responsible for setting out the pitch and should provide one new and one used 11" ball while the team listed first will provide 12" balls.*

## On this day ...

On August 9th 2000, Renegades beat Mavericks 8-7 after ten innings, their first and only defeat of the year. The record of three extra innings stood until 2017 when a game between Mavs and Dodgers went to 11 innings.

Fast forward to 2006 when, in the penultimate week of the season, Mavericks beat 2nd-place Dodgers to secure the title. A week later they would beat Greensox to complete a second consecutive perfect season (28 wins) which they would extend to 32 before eventually losing five games into the following season: this is of course still a record. Dodgers were runners-up for the third, and so far last, time in their long history.

In more recent history (well, 12 years ago), on this date Drizzle (nowadays Thunder II) beat their erstwhile bogy team, Meerkats, for the first time on their way to the Division 3 title. The 12-team division was split into three groups of four for the last few weeks of the

season. In the middle section, Tigers (who have since then morphed into the Travelling Dodgers, at least for the purposes of MSL statistics) were losing to Enforcers, while Mayhem beat the Hurricanes (now Thunder III).

And so to 2017, when on this date Bats beat Storm to secure the Div 3 title, Hackers, already assured promotion from Div 4, beat Titans while the eventual champions, the short-lived Rebels, beat the Barflies. 2017 was the inaugural year of MSL's Division 5. On this date Colt 45s beat the Meteors: both teams merged with Thunder IV in later years. Enforcers beat the Blue Jays, while Freeze beat the Vipers.

On the same day, in Washington DC, a giant inflatable chicken resembling Donald Trump was placed outside the White House as a political protest. Not really relevant to MSL but it nicely fills an otherwise blank space.



### Thunder favourites after Mavs defeat

*(Continued from page 2)*

fect record as **Bats** gave **Dodgers** a proper scare. Bats took an early lead but after two innings it was 7-7, then the Dodgers edged ahead, and held that lead going into the final inning. Batting second, the Didsbury outfit needed five to take it to extra innings, and managed to get four on the board but with two out and the tying run on 1st the next batter grounded out, and the Dodgers had their win. The win sees Dodgers back in Division 1 next year. Elsewhere, the bottom two met, as they surely will again next season on a Tuesday, with **Freeze** already down and **Hackers** joining them if Bats turn up next week. Hackers completed the double in what was a close game until their six-run 5th inning. An oddity here was that both pairs of MVPs were parent-offspring double acts: mum and son Laurie and Owen Salfred-Ingham for Freeze, dad and daughter Ian and Ella Mills for Hackers. **Camels II** look favourite to join Dodgers in Div 1 after winning the 2nd-v-3rd game against the **Tigers**. The big cats took an early lead, the bactrians were level after four, then the felines

edged ahead again. But 13 runs in the bottom of the 6th doubled the Camels' tally, and humps prevailed over stripes. **Titans** proved once again that nine can beat ten, winning despite an auto out in the line-up against **Thunder II**. Both are 7-7 for the season with two games to go and could easily end up in a three-way tie in mid-table with Mavs II, who were resting last week.

In the Division 3 title race Stingers dropped back half a game by dint of resting. **Screwballs** were involved in a tight low-scoring affair against the **Sluggababes**. The cocktailers were leading by a whisker in a game where defences were firmly on top. Then in the bottom of the 5th, the babes edged ahead. Cue the balls tightening the screw with two shutouts and a relatively free-scoring pair of innings to net five. Final score 8-5. In 3rd place, **Bandidos** conceded five runs in the opening salvo but then batted down the hatches against **Thunder III**, shutting them out while extending the lead, in particular with a 13-run barrage in the 4th. **Seagulls** took another step towards safety with a 17-4 defeat of **Tiggers**, which confirms their relegation to Division 4.

**Thunder IV** completed their second rotation with

another loss, this time in a four-inning "slaughter" by the rejuvenated **Fireballs**. Phoenix FB are neck and neck with the Swingers, who rested last week, in the race to see who makes the title play-off against the **Barflies**, whom they meet this week in what could potentially be the first of four games in as many weeks! The runaway league leaders came from behind to beat the **Raiders** who led 11-9 going into the 5th but saw the flies turn things around with a shutout and a bat-around to take the lead for the first time in the game. Raiders hit back to get within two runs, but the tipplers were flying now and prevailed 23-16. Raiders' 2-12 record is really misleading in our opinion, and they should look forward to a more successful season next year.

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### Relegation decider?

*(Continued from page 2)*

be the end of it however: next week Sluggababes complete their programme with a potentially tough game against Stingers, gunning for the title, while Thunder, having rested, end the season against Seagulls, who could be sucked back into the contest if results went badly for them. So the relegation issue could go to the wire.

## Match reports

### Nemesis meets hubris

**SCREWBALLS** 2 0 1 1 0 3 1 8

**SLUGGABABES** 0 1 0 1 3 0 0 5

Pitch 2, Umpire Fliss Fagan

**SCREWBALLS** AJ Hoysted (CR), Nicola McKenna (CL), Naveed Ahmed (P), Carola Guevara (1B), Isaac Howard (SS), Catherine Millan (C), Lee Harvey (LF), Rachel Loggenberg (EH), John Reeves (EH), Hannah Tillyard (2B), Zak Morris (3B), Emma Swarsbrick (RF)

HR Howard

**SLUGGABABES** Alex Wardle (SS), Rachael Wake (CR), James Tanner (3B), Farrah Bennett (2B), Mat Tanner (CL), Eleanor Harris (LF), *Josh Normie (STG)* (RF), Rachel Scaldwell (1B), *Dave Warren (MHM)* (P), Emma Beall (C)

*And sugar, we're going down swinging*

Patrick Stump

After the first meeting of the season it was interesting to find out that Sluggababes were someone's nemesis and that we had spent the winter months hibernating in the collective head of the pink and blue without having to pay a penny of rent, perhaps understandable after the clean sweep last year.

However, the fate of the two teams for Division 3 was set early on and a similar competition between the two was unlikely. And all respect to Screwballs, a winter of training and sound recruitment for the players

they lost has resulted in a team that is deservedly atop Division 3 with one hand on the league title.

At the business end of the season, with both teams fighting for different goals, a close and tense, but good-natured game was rattled through in just over an hour. I won't bore you with talk about the Sluggababes' batting average. I won't bore you with talk about the Sluggababes' batting average. But solid defence from both teams kept the score low throughout, and special mention is needed for Screwballs' small-ball MVP Hannah Tillyard who made a superb diving stop in between 2nd and 1st to save extra bases.

In the end it was a slug from a Screwball that made the difference, a three-run homer from Isaac Howard giving the visitors a lead that they were able to hold on to, shutting us out in the final two innings.

So, it's very likely that Screwballs will romp into Division 2 and continue their march to the big leagues, and with Slug-

gababes teetering on the precipice of relegation it could be a while before the two teams meet again. But, with the overall head-to-head record still at 3-2 to the Babes, maybe don't put the eviction notice up on the door of the cranial box room just yet.

*Mat Tanner*

MVPs Tillyard, Howard (SCR), Scaldwell, J Tanner (SLG)

### Titans trump T'under Two

**THUNDER II** 4 2 2 0 0 4 0 12

**TITANS** 3 4 2 0 3 3 x 15

Pitch J, Umpire Harry Somers

**THUNDER II** Ashlet Swaby (CL), Phil Kirby (2B), Amy Swiszcowski (3B), Jon Taylor (SS), Gabby Mannifield (C), Edmund Woodcock (P), Kirsty Eaton (RF), Andrew bogie (LF), Emma Miller (1B), Benji Pearce (CR) HRs Woodcock 2

**TITANS** Richard Taylor (SS), Kate Winfield (1B), Sam Baker (CL), Izzy Rendell (LF), Luke Nelson (2B), Karyn Cooper (C), Daniel O'Brien (P), Zoe Conway (3B), Nick Baker (CR), auto out HRs Taylor, O'Brien, S Baker, Nelson

Pitch J bore witness to a tight game in a Division 2 mid-table clash between Titans and Thunder II. Thunder went up early in the 1st, with Edmund Woodcock's three-run homer to right field helping Thunder put four on the board. The Titans then hit back adding three of their own in the

⇒ *Continued on page 6*

**Match reports** (Continued from page 5)

1st and four more in the 2nd on the back of a hom-ers from Sam Baker and Luke Nelson.

A nine-player Titan defence then got funky, mixing things up to cover for being one short, helping them control the game through five in-nings. After the 5th there was much confusion over the state of the game, with both teams having recorded different scores and different numbers of innings. Umpire Harry Somers came to the res-cue and the innumerate Titans found themselves 12-8 up with two innings remaining.

The delay spurred Thunder into action, tying up the game mid-way through the 6th with a second home run for Woodcock. With the game on the line, pitcher Daniel "OB" O'Brien hit a two-out homer to help break open a three-run lead. Titans then shut it down in the top of seven, with a fifth strikeout from OB and a terrific catch from left fielder Izzy Rendell to complete her stellar defensive outing.

**Have Titans found a new star?**

After ten games, Titans were struggling with a 3-7 record, which had includ-ed a couple of stuttering, unconvincing victories against now relegated teams.

Move forward to today and Titans have improved to 7-7, having won their last four games. The se-cret to their newfound success? Well, three of the last four games have been played with nine players, leading the Ti-tans to think that just maybe, their best player is their auto out....

*Sam Baker*

MVPs Swiszcowski, Wood-cock (TH2), Rendell, Nelson (TTN)

**Bandidos' thunder-bolt**

**THUNDER III** 5 0 0 0 3    **8**  
**BANDIDOS** 5 4 0 13 1    **23**  
 RAR, Pitch 1, Umpire Pete Night-ingle

**THUNDER III** Luis Allan Arrevillagas (CL), Nikki Corliss (2B), Michael Mia (P), Lauren Pritchard (LF), Tomm Childs (EH), Ellie Sams (EH), Lewis Le Fevre (SS), Freya Parmar (CR), Dilan Bastiampillai (3B), Leonie Mumford (C), Elliot Boydell (RF), Luna Sanchez (1B)  
 HR Mia

**BANDIDOS** Nacho Sanchez (3B), Loz Birch (2B), Ross Birch (P), Carol Ann Costello (LF), Liam Morrison (SS), Jane Langford (1B), Harry Somers (CL), Kate Davidson (CR), *Kris Stokwicz (STG)* (RF), Donna Briery (C)  
 HRs R Birch 3, Morrison 2

Identically named but unrelated captains, one deputising, the other non-playing but looking very

relaxed in a fetching out-fit, oversaw the latest in-stalment of the Bandidos' friendly rivalry with their former team-mates.

Thunder gave the Mexi-cans a scare with an as-sured opening frame, but thereafter the ruffians' somewhat makeshift de-fence was very much on top, with three donuts and three runs conceded in what turned out to be the final inning possibly helped by a temporary change of pitcher. In a moment of comedy, a miscounted score had the Bandidos three-cheering when it turned out they needed to bat the bottom of the 5th after all, need-ing one run for the "mercy" win.

The division's top three home-run hitters all in-creased their tallies:

Thunder's Mike Mia got their team's only round-tripper, while Bandidos Liam Morrison and Ross Birch got five between them. Morrison's were generally a combination of right-field hits from the south paw and ag-gressive running, espe-cially when the 3rd-base coach was missing, though he would proba-bly have ignored him or her anyway. Birch's were interspersed with a dou-



ble and a single: if he'd stopped at 3rd on his fourth at-bat he would have hit for the cycle. His final homer was a walk-off, batting in the winning run so counting for the HR trophy but not the final score. Loz Birch showed great sliding skills, and there were RBIs for all the batters bar one, despite reduced opportunities for mid-order hitters following base-clearing home-runs!

Big D was also solid, as the box-score indicates, with some impressive catches, a confident put-out at home for rookie Donna Brierly, and the solidity at 1st base we have now come to expect from small-ball MVP Jane Langford. There were some fine catches, and smart relays from an outfield missing two of its usual mainstays, and consistent pitching from Ross, which, combined with his undoubted batting prowess, earned him a rare MVP award—perhaps Thunder are unaware of the unwritten rule. *El Niño*

MVPs Sanchez, Le Fevre (TH3), Langford, R Birch (BND)

PS Name game: two Somers (no relation), two Sánchez (no relation), two Birches but only one Morrison.

## NSL promotion for Meerkats

Sonia Hine

After missing out on promotion to NSL2 last season by half a point, Meerkats went in to our last weekend in the top spot in NSL3, by no means safe, but we bloody went and did it: finishing in 2nd place for the season

there were many), and a lot of partying along the way. A special shout out to the ghost of Tina, making an appearance to help us celebrate promo-



we are onwards and upwards to NSL2 next season.

A massive well played to the team and each and everyone of the players who came to help us out through the series.

There have been nail-biting thrillers, amazing plays (the splits on 1st base if we have to mention a standout, of which

tion.

Here's to a fab season and looking ahead to the next in NSL2.

### For the record ...

Meerkats came second in NSL3 with a 16½-5½ record, just a half-game behind the winners, Bracknell, and with the best run difference in the

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### NSL promotion for Meerkats *(Continued from page 7)*

league.

In the other divisions, there were mixed outcomes for the Manchester-based teams.

Travelling Dodgers ended a mid-table 6th with a winning 12½-9½ record, while Spittin' Camels, in their first year in the top flight of NSL and hovering near the relegation places before last weekends, crept into the top eight, earning a place in the NSL Nationals in September. But with only three wins from their 22 games, Tempest came bottom and will play NSL2 next year.

There they will meet Mavericks who, with a 9-13 record finished 3rd from bottom, one place and one game above the drop, along with promoted Meerkats, as reported above.

In NSL3, Sharks and Tempest 2 finished 7th and 8th, and thus avoid tumbling into the proposed NSL4.

*Additional reporting from NSL website*

## When teams are tied

Mike Lott wrote to *Bases Loaded* this week asking "How does the head-to-head work? Last week you mentioned that Thunder needed to win by six to take a head-to-head lead over the Mavs in case they lost their game in hand." That was actually a mistake: Mavs beat Thunder by two runs, so three, not six, was the winning margin Thunder needed. Mike went on to point out that in the first game Mavs still had a 'bat in hand', since they were at home, and the game ended after 6½ innings. "So how does that get taken into account?" he asks.

Mike of course knew what the rules say, as they are clearly stated in the Captain's Handbook. When teams are tied with the same overall win-loss record, their head-to-head record determines league position. If they have each won one and lost one (a situation that never used to arise when teams played each other three times), the aggregate score in their games against each other is the next deciding criterion. Mike's point is that Mavs lost the opportunity to

win the first game by more than two by dint of being the home team, and being denied a seventh inning.

Mike presented a scenario where, in a title deciding game, the team having lost the first game as the away team by, say, two runs, found itself now the home team, level after 6½ innings and so unable to win the title because as soon as they scored one, the game would be over, won by a lesser margin, despite bats 'in hand'. This would be especially frustrating if the winning hit would have batted in sufficient runs, for them to simply not count.

There are two things to say about this. First, the losing team have done enough to deserve the title by restricting their opponents to a sufficiently narrow win. But more important, in softball, like cricket, the aim is to out-score your opponents. Because the game is over as soon as you reach your target, the margin of victory is not really relevant, which is why runs scored/conceded is only a last resort for separating two teams. But how else could we manage it?



## Todgers' European adventure

**T**he Travelling Dodgers were making their way to Sofia, Bulgaria last weekend to compete in the 2023 European Co-ed Slowpitch Super Cup that started on Monday. They earned their place in the competition as 2021 national champions. They will be part of a 13-team competition, representing eight different countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands. The 2022 national champions, H2O, are also representing GB.

Travelling Dodgers are in a group of seven teams, playing a full round-robin against Waynes Pardubice (Czechia), Beveren Reapers (Belgium), BSC Buffaloes (Bulgaria), Hangerounds (Germany), Dodder Dynamos (Ireland) and Tex Town Tigers-Eastpro (Netherlands). If they manage to finish in the top three they will progress to a further six-team round-robin with the top two meeting in the final next Saturday.

The Todgers' nationals squad is a mix of MSL players and others, with Manchester-based players forming the majority. Fa-



miliar names on the 12-player roster are Jonathan Huck (captain), Dan Downes, Sam Steele, Rachael Shkurko, Sherry Kenyon, Katie Jessop, and former MSL player Areej Elmaazi.

Jonathan Huck said, "It has been a big learning curve ahead of the tournament, but I must thank the BSF, all the umpires going from the UK, and Roger Grooms of H2O for all reaching out to me at various times to help, guide and support me through the complexities of participating in this competition.

"What I think is really amazing about this whole journey is that several of us have been playing for Travelling Dodgers since

2016, when we were essentially a B-grade softball team. I think this is often under-appreciated.

"The team is buzzing with excitement," Jonathan added, "and the group chat has been non-stop all week in the lead-up to the tournament. My main job whilst there is to serve the players and take care of everything so that they can focus on their softball and on having a good time in Bulgaria.

"It took us six years to qualify for the European Cup, so we know just how hard it is to do that. And there is simply no point being there unless your aim is to win it!" We look forward to a full report on their return.

*Adapted from BSF webpage*



## Manchester tournament

**T**his year's main tournament kicked off in torrential rain which lasted until well into the afternoon, forcing umpires to move pitches away from quagmire batting boxes, and leaving everyone soaked and more or less miserable. The age-old cliché that the weather did not dampen spirits could barely be said to be true. However we all ploughed on (more or less literally) and day two was much better, with occasional bright sunshine, and just one squally shower.

With significant numbers of teams from beyond the M and SK postcodes—Scots and Yorkies as usual, and East Midlands, but even a team from London—this was, weather apart, one of our better tournaments, with one visiting team stating that it was the friendliest tourna-

ment they had ever played.

It was a good weekend for the Camels, who won the main prize, while their IInd team won the Silver Plate. Silver Cup winners were Famille Casling (Nottingham), while Bronze Cup winners were our own Speeders. This reverses a recent trend for the silverware to be carted off by our visitors, as a Manchester team—Drizzle—also won the Bronze Plate. There was no plate competition at Gold level, as, with only six teams, two round robins were played with the top four making up the

semi-finals. Camels eventually won an all-Manc final, beating Mavericks 16-6, gaining revenge for their two losses in the round-robins. Full results are available on the MSL website.

The rec competition was contested by 16 teams, who were divided into Silver and Bronze at the end of two eight-team round-robins. Famille Casling went the whole weekend unbeaten (comp next year?), while their opponents, Game of Throws, had a modest 2½-2½ record on day 1, but came good on the Sunday progressing through the



**The winning Camels team. With only four SBHs all weekend, the Camels relied on guests, hence the “interlopers” in the picture.** Photo Adam Hugill





ule ... tweaked at the last moment when a team dropped out at short notice; crew chief Ian Caird for an umpire-friendly schedule (and thanks to all the players who stepped up for the odd game to give the regular blus a break), but

knock-outs until they met the invincible Caslings.

The bronze section was much tighter, with a three-way tie in group B, but Speeders got stronger as the second day went on, eventually beating the Dalriada Demons—who

have been regularly making the journey south almost since our first tournament—fairly comfortably as their opponents ran out of Scottish steam.

Massive thanks go as usual to the organizers: Andrew Bogie for the sched-

most of all NJ Dyson who makes an extremely demanding job look so effortless.

*Text HS; photos this page  
Abbie de Zwart*





## Adjusting to softball in Calgary

George Swann & Miranda Currie

**G**eorge Swann and Miranda Currie of the Travelling Dodgers are in the process of emigrating to Canada and have found their new team for when they do arrive: the Odd Balls are based out of Calgary, Alberta, and are one of 697 slowpitch teams in the city, not including tournament teams, and one of over 2,000 (yes you read that right) slowpitch teams in Alberta alone! Odd Balls play in League B in an organization operating Elite A, B and C, Leagues A to D, and Seniors A, B and C, so overall a fairly “middle of the road” choice ...or so they thought. After playing they wouldn't say there was much difference from a Division 1 team in Manchester or NSL 2 standard, and despite the Odd Balls captain Brianna apologising repeatedly for playing “sub par” the pair felt like they managed to represent our (for now) home league very well. However, neither of us seemed to be gunning for the elite leagues...fear can get the best of you!

The game took place at

Deer Foot Athletic Park Diamonds (pictured), where Odd Balls play the majority of their league games, as a weekly double header (each team plays home and away on a Tuesday evening against their opponent and this is done twice in the season before a week-end playoff tournament at season's end). With different rules in place,



USSSA bats, ASA balls, no batters' boxes but a pristine diamond resembling a “soft sponge” they got to work. Miranda played all evening at 1st base, her usual perch both home and away it seems, while George got stuck in at short stop and then 3rd base. Both play-

ers played well, representing their MSL in their Travelling Dodgers uniforms, ending the evening with a 1-1 record, but more importantly making a group of great friends as they meandered over to the local bar for a beer and snack. Highlights of the game for the pair included both players batting above a .700 aver-

age, a shout of “watch the gofer hole” in the outfield, “great poke” being the term coined for a good hit at bat and four successful double plays made by the pair in isolation.

Some of the differences MSL play were very

quickly made apparent, and who knows, maybe the league here may consider bringing them in.

Teams play with six men and four women or even

and vice versa. Apparently this is a safety measure to avoid being too close and getting hit.

They use ASA balls (same size for men and women)



7&3. This ensures all teams can field a team regularly where a lack of women is often the case. [Ed's note, no chance of MSL going back to the dark ages ;) ]

No batters boxes: we found this very strange, but this is often a field by field thing, with the batter having two feet leeway (as the Blu sees it) from the front of the plate to step forward for a hit.

Blus don't stand behind the catcher: for a left-handed batter, the Blus position themselves to the rear right-hand side

but USSSA bats. The ball doesn't come off the bat as hard as USSSA balls would, and it creates both a challenge for the batter to hit bigger, thus speeding up the game, while also it's another safety feature.

No helmets for batters but compulsory helmets or face guards for pitchers.

Five-run limit per inning, to speed up games, ensure seven innings are played and ensure that double headers can be completed. We did note however that the games

lasted for a similar length of time to those in the MSL while also it kept things competitive.

No running over home plate: you run behind the plate and there are no tags at home. All outs at home are like force-outs. Tagging at home is played at tournaments and Elite levels but to avoid collisions and injuries it has been removed from the non-elite divisions.

No batting order or fielding position requirements based on gender. But females are allowed to bunt.

Overall, it was a great experience for us and a fantastic way of getting involved with our new community of slowpitch enthusiasts! We would both actively encourage anyone headed to Canada or somewhere with a softball league to get stuck in and try out playing on foreign soil. We both wanted to put out a huge thanks to the Odd Balls for their kind hospitality and the friendly and encouraging way in which they brought us in. Next stop will be the "Snow Pitch" league when we are visiting again in December... very cold but lots of sliding by the sounds of things!



## Public Liability Insurance explained

### from the BSF

This article is designed to explain the Public Liability Insurance that the British Softball Federation provides for its member teams, including all MSL teams. This insurance is mandatory but is included in the annual affiliation fees that teams pay.

BSF Public Liability Insurance cover runs each year from 2nd April to 1st April of the following year. The Limit of Indemnity on the BSF's Public Liability insurance is £10 million. Each claim is subject to an excess of £250, to be paid by the claimant—i.e. the BSF member team making the claim—with some exceptions under Criminal Damage and Pollution.

The BSF's Public Liability insurance covers affiliated members should

something happen to a member of the public or if property damage occurs, such as a home run smashing a window or

denting a car—or the old adage which we hope never happens: the little old lady crossing the outfield and getting hurt. Those insured whilst engaged in BSF-approved activities in-

**The BSF's Public Liability insurance covers affiliated members should something happen to a member of the public or if property damage occurs**

clude all members of affiliated teams, employees, volunteers, accredited coaches, and BASU or league-qualified umpires. Each team that affiliates to the BSF is automatically covered under this Public Liability policy, and there is an option to take out an additional Personal Accident insur-

past opted not to take this option. choose This policy would provide cover for injuries sustained whilst playing in BSF-sanctioned compe-

tition. If you would like more information on the cover

provided under Personal Accident insurance, please contact [info@britishsoftball.org](mailto:info@britishsoftball.org).

Should your team or league wish to hire venues, indoor or outdoor, you may be required to provide a copy of the BSF's Public Liability Insurance certificate before the hire will be confirmed. This can be obtained by contacting the BSF at the above email address.

The BSF understands that some players may play for multiple teams and these players may wonder why they need to pay affiliation fees to each of their teams. The reason is that the BSF team affiliation fee does not only cover insurance, which is a very small

*Continued opposite*





part of the fee, but also provides membership of the national governing body that regulates, organises, promotes and supports softball in the UK in a variety of ways, including the management of safeguarding, inclusivity and anti-doping. The reason that the BSF's Public Liability insurance is per team is that there is currently no nationwide individual player registration in softball, as there is in many other sports, although we do have such a system in place here in Manchester.

An incident report form, which must be filled in before a claim can be made, is available through the BSF website. Go to

'Resources' ([www.britishsoftball.org/resources](http://www.britishsoftball.org/resources)), then click on 'Insurance & Incident Reporting', which takes you through to the BSUK website as they administer insurance claims on the BSF's behalf. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for a link to the Incident Report Form and an email address to use to begin the process of making a claim.

*BSF press release, lightly adapted*

## Last week's MVPs

CAM	Lara Bragg (C), Adam Hugill (SS)
GRX	Tanya Lochery (CL), Yoshi Hikawa (SS)
MAV	Maddy Gresty (RF), Laurence Pearmain (LF)
MHM	Emma Simpson (C), Michael Elsy (CR)
MKT	Ellie Seed (1B), Keith Altena (CL)
SHA	Rebecca Ebo (LF), Shearer (P)
SPE	Christine Hunter (1B), Jeremy Fothergill (P)
TDS	rested
THU	April Hutchen (RF), Tom Russell (SS)
BAT	Amber Frost (3B), Kris Frost (2B)
CM2	Nic Booth (3B), Dan Jarman (SS)
DOD	Lisa Jepson, Steve Howard
FRZ	Laurie Salfred-Ingham (3B), Owen Salfred-Ingham (CR)
HAC	Ella Mills (1B), Ian Mills (SS)
MV2	rested
TH2	Amy Swiszcowski (3B), Edmund Woodcock (P)
TIG	Anissa Eghtarafi (2B), Simon Sharp (P)
TTN	Izzy Rendell (LF), Luke Nelson (2B)
BND	Jane Longford (1B), Ross Birch (P)
SCR	Hannah Tillyard (2B), Isaac Howard (SS)
SGL	Jo Griffin (LF), Dave Grice (CL)
SLG	Racheal Scaldwell (1B), James Tanner (3B)
STG	rested
TGG	Linsey Taylor (2B), James Wright (SS)
TH3	Luna Sanchez (1B), Lewis Le Fevre (SS)
BFL	Claire Holden (RF), Aleck Aspinall (P)
PFB	Rhiannon Flame (1B), Cris Newhall (2B)
RAI	Kerry (LF), Ross Jubber (SS)
SWI	rested
TH4	Lois Shenton, Mike Swiszcowski

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

## Guests

### DOWN

Michelle Cleator (Stingers) for Thunder IV v Fireballs  
 Miranda Currie (Travelling Dodgers) for Bats v Dodgers  
 Caroline Drake (Tigers) for Tiggers (2nd) v Seagulls  
 Arthur Hung (Bats) for Raiders v Barflies  
 Jack Rains (Stingers) for Raiders v Barflies  
 George Swann (Travelling Dodgers) for Bats v Dodgers  
 Natasha Wicikowski (Tigers) for Tiggers (2nd) v Seagulls  
 Ian Williams (Mavericks II) for Seagulls v Tiggers

### SAME

Katie Jessop (Travelling Dodgers) for Meerkats v Mayhem  
 Josh Normie (Stingers) for Sluggababes v Screwballs  
 Sam Steele (Travelling Dodgers) for Meerkats v Mayhem  
 Kris Stokwicz (Stingers) for Bandidos v Thunder III

### UP

Luis Allan Arrevillagas (Thunder III) for Greensox v Sharks  
 Nicola Bradshaw (Stingers) for Freeze v Hackers  
 Jane Curley (Mavericks II) for Greensox v Sharks  
 Ellie Hotchkiss (Stingers) for Hackers v Freeze  
 Jack Rains (Stingers) for Freeze v Hackers

## Home runs—leading scorers

### Division 1

#### SBH

3—Nat Leyland\* (TDS)  
2—Emma Agostini (MHM),  
Maddy Gresty (MAV), Amy  
Miller (MKT)

#### LBH

11—Joe Grantham (THU)  
9—Dan Downes (TDS), Kris  
Hadwin\* (THU), Oscar Ma-  
renco\* (TDS)  
8—Keith Altena (MKT), Tom  
Russell (THU)  
6—Tom Atkinson (CAM), An-  
thony Garcia Reyes (MHM),  
Adam Hugill (CAM), Andy  
Lott (CAM)  
5—Carlos dos Ramos (MKT),  
Karthik Manjunath (SHA),  
Darren Shaw (MKT)  
4—Gururjun Grewal (GRX),  
Danny Gunn\* (MAV), Ta-  
tsuyoshi Hikawa (GRX), Luke  
Martin\* (TDS), Pete Nightin-  
gale (MAV), George Stamets  
(SHA), Igor von Orel Bronte\*  
(MKT)  
3—Luis Arreivillagas (THU),  
Craig Brooks\* (MAV), Jordan  
Colton (MHM), Brad Hadwin  
(THU)  
2—Baljit Ahluwalia\* (MAV),  
Nathan Barratt (MHM), Ian  
Blease (MAV), Paul Kidley  
(GRX), Chris Lennon\* (SPE),  
Dave Leverton (THU), Colin  
McKie (CAM), Laurence Pear-  
main\* (MAV), Andy Rawson  
(GRX), Jack Scholes (CAM)

### Division 2

#### SBH

5—Grace Mills (HAC)  
3—Keely Congleton (DOD),  
Lisa Jepson (DOD)  
2—Faye Dunlop (MV2), Bryo-  
ny James (TH2), Kate Win-  
field (TTN)

#### LBH

12—Stéphane Karayannis\*\*  
(TIG)  
11—Chris Mannion\* (DOD)

10—Cameron Waddelow\*  
(BAT), James Wooderson\*\*  
(CM2)  
8—Sam Baker (TTN), Conor  
Battersby\* (CM2), Dave Mar-  
tin Baez (MV2)  
7—Wes Ng (MV2), Luis Rodri-  
guez (DOD)  
6—Harry Bell (HAC), Jeivo  
Gomez (TH2), Simon Sharp  
(TIG), Ian Williams (MV2)  
5—Steve Bartlett (TH2), An-  
drew Bogie\* (TH2), Elieser  
Doronsoro\* (DOD)  
4—Chris Gresty\* (MV2), Craig  
Lawson (CM2), Oliver Potts  
(CM2), Brian Slusarek (DOD),  
Drew Stanton (FRZ), Richard  
Taylor (TTN)  
3—Alex Bates (BAT), Ed Cov-  
ington (TIG), David Dyson  
(DOD), Richard Goar (TIG),  
Dan Jarman (CM2), Benji  
Pearce (TH2), Sean Rafter  
(HAC), Jon Taylor (TH2)  
2—Darren Corner (HAC), Jeff  
Fong (MV2), Mark Heyward  
(FRZ), Dan Hocking (TTN), Leo  
Pearn (CM2), Oli Sharpe (TIG),  
Alex Mills (HAC), Ed Woodcock  
(TH2)

### Division 3

#### SBH

6—Nikki Bradshaw (STG)  
3—Loz Birch (BND), Nicola  
McKenna (SCR)  
2—Samiya Rahman (SGL),  
Amy Sykes\* (STG), Natasha  
Wicikowski\* (TGG)

#### LBH

21—Ross Birch\* (BND)  
19—Mike Mia (TH3)  
18—Liam Morrison (BND)  
13—Carl Emsley (SGL)  
12—AJ Hoysted (SCR), Dan  
Strayer (SCR)  
11—Kristian Stokwisch (STG),  
James Tanner (SLG), Charlie  
Whalley\* (SGL), Joe Wright\*  
(SLG)  
7—Anthony Henderson (SGL)  
6—Danny Casey-Wright

(STG), David Grice (SGL),  
Jason Kneen\* (BND), Milan  
Nechvátal (SCR), Nick Sims  
(STG), James Wright (TGG)  
5—Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3),  
Dean Cull (TH3), Harry  
Schulte (TGG), Jimmy War-  
ren (TH3)  
4—Josh Normie (STG), Alex  
Wardle\* (SLG)  
3—Naveed Ahmed (SCR),  
Luis Allan Arreivillagas  
(TH3), Tomm Childs (TH3),  
Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), Zac  
Morris\* (SCR), Mat Tanner  
(SLG)  
2—Jacob Arnison (BND), Rory  
Casey-Wright (STG), Mark Fox  
(STG), Isaac Howard (SCR),  
Josh Kehoe (TGG), Antoon  
Lemmers (SLG), Adam Morri-  
son (BND), Jack Rains (STG)

### Division 4

#### SBH

3—Daisy Lord\* (BFL), Jade  
Shaw (BFL)  
2—Atiyah Malik (TH4)

#### LBH

12—Aleck Aspinall\* (BFL)  
10—Ben Leeks (SWI)  
9—Luke Crannage (RAI)  
7—Ebby Hassan\* (BFL),  
Chris Newhall (ENF/PFB),  
Simon Ronksley (TH4), Chris  
Smith\* (BFL), Jordan Wil-  
cock (ENF/PFB)  
5—Bryn Davies (ENF/PFB),  
Dave Dean (BFL), Chris Rad-  
ford (BFL)  
4—Mark Crannage\* (RAI),  
Jon Pearson (RAI)  
3—Phil Cosgrove (TH4), Alex  
Hartley (SWI), Ross Jubber  
(RAI), Ben Rocca (SWI),  
Mike Spiers (RAI)  
2—Ben Acton (TH4), Mike  
Cooney (BFL), Pete Gordon  
(SWI), Simon Grainger\* (ENF),  
Kalpesh Makanji (BFL), Ade  
Ngang\* (PFB), Richard Valen-  
tine\* (RAI), Sam Webb (SWI)  
\* grand slam

## Next week's fixtures 16/17 August

Next week sees the return fixtures in Divisions 1 and 2 of games played June 14th.

### Division 1

**Greensox @ Traveling Dodgers** followed by completion of reverse fixture (pitch J, umpire Hugill) Earlier this season their game was curtailed by the serious injury to Annie Downes. On completion of the scheduled fixture, the earlier game will be picked up with TDs leading 19-16 after 5½ innings. Prior to this, the pair have met four times with TDs winning three of them.

**Mavericks @ Meerkats** (D, Caird) Previously Mavericks won 26-24, a seventh win in seven meetings.

**Sharks @ Mayhem** (C, Green) Sharks won the previous game 19-5, tying up the all-time record at 6-6.

**Thunder @ Speeders** (B, Strayer) The first rotation game was won by Thunder 16-1 in five innings. Thunder have won all six of their meetings. Camels rest

### Division 2

**Freeze @ Dodgers** (E, Wallace) Dodgers won their only previous meeting 28-2 in five innings.

**Mavericks II @ Camels II** (H, Creelman) In June Camels won a very close game 14-13, only their third win in ten meetings.

**Tigers @ Bats** (G, Somers) In their only previous meeting, Bats won 26-17.

**Titans @ Hackers** (F, P Fagan) Tigers won 24-9 to make it four wins apiece all-time.

Thunder II rest

### Division 3

**Seagulls @ Bandidos** (1, Warren) Only previous meeting 27 June, Bandidos won 33-30.

**Stingers @ Sluggababes** (2, Carruthers) Only previous meeting 2 May when Stingers won 17-15.

**Tiggers @ Screwballs** (6, Sharp) Last meeting 16 May, Screwballs won 28-22. The pair are tied 2-2 in all meetings.

Thunder III rest

### Division 4

Next week sees the first game of the three-game playoff between the top two for the title. The other three teams play a three-way round-robin.

**2nd place @ Barflies** (3) First game of three-game play-off. The Barflies' opponents will be

**Results** (continued from page 18)

**SEAGULLS** 4 1 2 0 3 4 3 15  
**TIGGERS** 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 26  
 Pitch 7, Umpire Luis Arrevillagas  
 HRs **SGL** Dave Grice, Jo Griffin

**THUNDER III** 5 0 0 0 3 8  
**BANDIDOS** 5 4 0 13 1 23  
 RAR, Pitch 1, Umpire Pete Nightingale  
 HRs **TH3** Michael Mia; **BND** Ross Birch 3, Liam Morrison 2

### Division 4

**FIREBALLS** 9 3 4 7 23  
**THUNDER IV** 0 0 1 0 1  
 RAR, Pitch 6, Umpire Emma Carruthers  
 HRs **PFB** Jordan Wilcock, Bryn Davies

**RAIDERS** 0 1 4 6 0 5 0 16  
**BARFLIES** 1 0 1 7 9 5 x 23  
 Pitch 3, Umpire Paul Fagan  
 HRs **BFL** Ebby Hassan; **RAI** John Pearson

## Addendum

Last week the box score from the previous week's Tiggers-Thunder III game was repeated, and the boxscore (below) from the Thunder III-Stingers game omitted.

**THUNDER III** 0 1 0 0 1 1 3  
**STINGERS** 2 0 0 1 3 4 10  
 Regulation game abandoned due to injury; Pitch 7, Umpire Arthur Hung  
 HRs **TH3** Mike Mia, Luis Allan Arrevillagas; **STG** Jack Rains, Josh Normie, Kristian Stokwicz, Danny Casey Wright

determined by this week's games: Swingers or Fireballs?

**3rd place v Thunder IV** (7).



# Results and Standings

Played 1/2 August

Standings Week 15

## Division 1

**CAMELS** 3 13 4 1 4 **25**

**SPEEDERS** 1 0 0 2 0 **3**

RAR, Pitch E, Umpire Ian Caird  
HRs **CAM** Adam Hugill 4, Andy Lott, Colin McKie

**GREENSOX** 0 0 2 0 3 3 2 **10**

**SHARKS** 3 0 2 2 1 1 2 **11**

Pitch G, umpire Gemma Wallace  
HR **SHA** George Stamets

**MAVERICKS** 0 2 0 0 1 0 2 **5**

**THUNDER** 3 1 1 0 5 4 x **14**

Pitch F, Umpire Al Green  
HRs **THU** Tom Russell 2

**MEERKATS** 3 1 7 2 8 **21**

**MAYHEM** 0 2 3 0 0 **5**

RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Jonny Creelman  
HRs **MKT** Keith Altena 2, Igor von Orel Bronte 2, James Stevens, Carlos dos Santos, Sam Steele; **MHM** Amilcar Gomez

## Division 2

**DODGERS** 1 2 4 3 1 4 1 **16**

**BATS** 2 5 0 2 0 2 4 **15**

Pitch D, Umpire Paul Fagan  
HRs **DOD** Brian Slusarek 2, Elieser Dorransoro 2, David Dyson

**FREEZE** 3 0 1 4 1 3 0 **12**

**HACKERS** 3 1 1 5 6 0 x **16**

Pitch B  
HRs **FRZ** Drew Stanton; **HAC** Alex Mills 3

**THUNDER II** 4 2 2 0 0 4 0 **12**

**TITANS** 3 4 2 0 3 3 x **15**

Pitch J, Umpire Harry Somers  
HRs **TTN** Rich Taylor, Daniel O'Brien, Sam Baker, Luke Nelson; **TH2** Ed Woodcock 2

**TIGERS** 2 4 7 0 2 2 0 **17**

**CAMELS II** 3 4 2 4 0 13 x **26**

Pitch C, Umpire Mike Goff  
HRs **CM2** James Wooderson, Oli Potts, Conor Battersby, Dan Jarman, Leo Pearn

## Division 3

**SCREWBALLS** 2 0 1 1 0 3 18

**SLUGGABABES** 0 1 0 1 3 0 0 5

Pitch 2, Umpire Fliss Fagan  
HR **SCR** Isaac Howard

⇒ Continued on page 17

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pts	GB
<b>Division 1</b>									
▲ <b>Thunder</b>	13	12	0	1	0	248	122	.949	-
▼ <b>Mavericks</b>	14	12	0	2	0	230	159	.905	½
► <b>Camels</b>	14	9	0	5	0	217	166	.762	4
▲ <b>Tr Dodgers</b>	12	6	0	6	0	150	153	.667	5½
▼ <b>Mayhem</b>	13	6	0	7	0	194	166	.641	5½
► <b>Sharks</b>	13	5	0	8	0	148	161	.590	7½
► <b>Meerkats</b>	13	5	0	8	0	188	169	.590	7½
► <b>Speeders</b>	12	2	0	10	0	70	244	.444	9
► <b>Greensox</b>	12	1	0	11	0	120	225	.389	10
<b>Division 2</b>									
► <b>Dodgers (P)</b>	13	13	0	0	0	280	137	1.00	-
► <b>Camels II</b>	13	10	0	3	0	243	164	.846	3
► <b>Tigers</b>	13	8	0	5	0	228	185	.744	5
► <b>Mavericks II</b>	13	7	0	6	0	243	168	.692	6
► <b>Thunder II</b>	14	7	0	7	0	204	207	.667	6½
► <b>Bats</b>	14	7	0	7	0	221	229	.667	6½
► <b>Titans</b>	13	6	0	7	0	228	211	.641	7
► <b>Hackers</b>	13	2	0	11	0	146	267	.436	11
► <b>Freeze (R)</b>	14	0	0	14	0	130	355	.333	13½
<b>Division 3</b>									
► <b>Screwballs</b>	15	13	0	2	0	348	232	.911	-
► <b>Stingers</b>	14	12	0	2	0	309	218	.905	½
► <b>Bandidos</b>	14	11	0	3	0	311	176	.857	1½
▲ <b>Seagulls</b>	14	8	0	6	0	283	257	.714	4½
▼ <b>Slg'babes</b>	15	8	0	7	0	262	290	.689	5
► <b>Thunder III</b>	15	7	0	8	0	306	291	.644	6
► <b>Tiggers (R)</b>	14	3	0	11	0	229	295	.476	9½
<b>Division 4</b>									
► <b>Barflies (P)</b>	14	11	0	3	0	368	251	.857	-
► <b>Fireballs</b>	14	6	0	7	1	229	216	.595	5⅓
► <b>Swingers</b>	14	5	0	8	1	188	291	.548	6⅓
► <b>Raiders</b>	14	2	0	12	0	224	335	.429	9
► <b>Thunder IV</b>	15	0	0	15	0	175	380	.333	11½