

# BASES LOADED

## End of Season Special Edition



**MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

Volume 29 Issue 19 14 October 2023

Number 511



## Programme

7.00 Arrival; Drinks served  
 8.00 Take your seats  
 8.30 Awards  
     MVPs  
     Home runs  
     Blu ribbon  
     Rookie of the year  
     Young players of the year  
     Lifetime achievement  
     Divisional awards  
 9.15 Raffle draw; Quiz closes  
 9.30 Party casino & Disco  
 10.30 Wave of pizza  
 12.00 Carriages

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## Welcome

**H**i there and welcome to the EOS Ball edition of *Bases Loaded*.

Another season has come and gone with lots of great softball played. Well done to all the teams that have gained promotion and won their division. We had a BASU course at the start of the year and all those that finished the course passed, and a few of them helped with the umpiring duties.



The League is healthy financially and we are looking at using some of the money to get permanent batting boxes at Parrs Wood on some of the fields.

Congratulations to all our players who represented their country as well this year at U16s, U18s and Adults in slowpitch and fastpitch.

With the season finishing we also see our Umpire-in-Chief Ian Caird, stepping down from his post. I

would like to thank him for all his years of service to the committee. I would like to thank Abbie de Zwart for all her hard work in sorting out the website and the media side of stuff for the League, Andrew Bogie for all the fixtures NJ Dyson

for a superb job on social events and tournaments, Harry Somers for his usual contribution, Jonny Huck for handling recruiting

enquiries, Linnie Mitchell for again running the rookie sessions—it's a shame we could not form a new team—and Georgina Pugh for sorting the welfare side of things for the League.

As the AGM approaches it would be good if we can get some new people on the committee as treasurer and tournaments officers.

I hope you all enjoyed 2023 and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

*Paul Fagan  
League Head*

*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/>**

## Results and final standings

Played 22/23 August

### Division 1

**GREENSOX** 2 1 1 3 0 2 0 9  
**CAMELS** 1 6 3 1 4 3 x 18  
 Pitch E, Umpire Ian Caird  
 HRs **CAM** Adam Hugill 3, Tom Atkinson 2, Max Fagan 2

**SHARKS** 1 0 2 0 0 1 2 6  
**MEERKATS** 1 0 2 1 0 7 x 11  
 Pitch G, Umpire Pete Nightingale  
 HR **MKT** Keith Altena

**SPEEDERS** 4 1 0 0 5  
**MAYHEM** 6 12 1 6 25  
 RAR, Pitch E  
 HRs **SPE** Chris Lennon; **MHM** Jordon Colton 2

**THUNDER** 0 2 3 6 11 6 28  
**TR DODGERS** 0 8 1 0 1 2 12  
 RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Paul Fagan  
 HRs **THU** Kris Hadwin 3, Mike Lott, Dave Leverton, Zoe Le Roux; **TDS** Mario Rueda

### Division 2

**BATS** 2 5 6 0 0 2 2 17  
**MAVERICKS II** 2 5 2 2 1 4 0 16  
 Pitch J, Umpire Ian Williams  
 HRs **BATS** Alex Bates; **MV2** Chris Gresty, *Dan Strayer (SCR)*

**CAMELS II** 3 2 0 0 0 3 5 13  
**FREEZE** 3 0 0 0 5 4 1 13  
 Bad light, Pitch B, Umpire Gemma Wallace  
 HR **CM2** James Wooderson 2, Dan Jarman; **FRZ** Drew Stanton

**DODGERS** 7 7 3 1 3 21  
**THUNDER II** 3 0 1 0 2 6  
 RAR, Pitch C, Umpire Emma Carruthers  
 HRs **DOD** David Dyson 2

**HACKERS** 1 5 0 0 0 1 7  
**TIGERS** 4 0 5 6 4 x 19  
 Bad light, Pitch D, Umpire Al Green  
 HR **TIG** Simon Sharp

⇒ Continued on page 4

	P	W	T	L	F	RS	RC	Pts%	GB
Division 1									
<b>Thunder (C)</b>	16	14	0	2	0	318	154	.917	-
<b>Mavericks</b>	16	13	0	3	0	254	181	.875	1
<b>Camels</b>	16	10	0	6	0	243	192	.750	4
<b>Trav Dodgers</b>	16	9	0	7	0	223	225	.708	5
<b>Mayhem</b>	16	8	0	8	0	241	203	.667	6
<b>Sharks</b>	16	7	0	9	0	189	193	.625	7
<b>Meerkats</b>	16	7	0	9	0	220	196	.625	7
<b>Greensox (R)</b>	16	2	0	14	0	186	293	.417	12
<b>Speeders (R)</b>	16	2	0	14	0	95	332	.417	12
Division 2									
<b>Dodgers (C)</b>	16	15	0	1	0	328	168	.958	-
<b>Camels II (P)</b>	16	12	1	3	0	298	196	.854	2½
<b>Tigers</b>	16	9	0	7	0	276	231	.708	6
<b>Titans</b>	16	9	0	7	0	264	256	.708	6
<b>Mavericks II</b>	16	8	0	8	0	281	211	.667	7
<b>Thunder II</b>	16	8	0	8	0	222	236	.667	7
<b>Bats</b>	16	8	0	8	0	279	267	.667	7
<b>Hackers (R)</b>	16	2	0	14	0	177	329	.417	13
<b>Freeze (R)</b>	16	0	1	15	0	158	389	.354	14½
Division 3									
<b>Stingers (C)</b>	17	15	0	2	0	363	247	.922	-
<b>Screwballs (P)</b>	17	14	0	3	0	373	254	.882	1
<b>Bandidos</b>	17	13	0	4	0	365	227	.843	2
<b>Seagulls</b>	17	10	0	7	0	328	296	.725	5
<b>Thunder III</b>	17	8	0	9	0	325	309	.647	7
<b>Slug'babes (R)</b>	17	8	0	9	0	274	321	.647	7
<b>Tiggers (R)</b>	17	3	0	14	0	254	339	.451	12
Division 4									
<b>Barflies (C)</b>	15	12	0	3	0	386	254	.867	-
<b>Fireballs (P)</b>	15	6	0	8	1	232	234	.578	6⅓
<b>Swingers</b>	17	6	0	10	1	213	346	.549	-
<b>Raiders</b>	17	5	0	12	0	287	358	.529	⅔
<b>Thunder IV</b>	17	0	0	17	0	187	402	.333	5⅔

Results (continued from  
page 3)

### Division 3

**SCREWBALLS** 5 4 0 2 5 0 2 **18**  
**BANDIDOS** 2 2 8 2 1 5 x **20**

Pitch 7, Umpire Arthur Hung  
HRs **SCR** AJ Hoysted, Isaac How-  
ard 2; **BND** Ross Birch 2, Liam  
Morrison

**SEAGULLS** 5 0 2 2 0 0 0 **9**  
**THUNDER III** 0 2 1 0 1 2 0 **6**

Pitch 3, Umpire Mike Goff  
HRs **SGL** Carl Emsley, Tom Walk-  
er, Charlie Whalley; **TH3** Dilan  
Bastiampillai 2, Mike Mia

**STINGERS** 1 3 6 0 4 2 2 **18**  
**TIGGERS** 2 0 1 2 3 0 2 **10**

Pitch 1, Umpire Luis Arrevillagas  
HRs **STG** Kris Stokwicz, *Sam*  
*Baker (TTN)*, *Grace Mills (HAC)*

### Division 4

#### Playoff game 2

**BARFLIES** 20  
**FIREBALLS** 0

Forfeit

#### League game

**THUNDER IV** 2 3 3 0 1 0 0 **9**  
**RAIDERS** 4 2 2 0 0 3 x **11**

Pitch 2, Umpire Paul Fagan  
HR **TH4** Phil Cosgrove

Played 30/31 August

### Division 1

**CAMELS** 1 3 1 0 3 **8**  
**TR DODGERS** 0 6 2 3 6 **17**

Bad light. Pitch H, Umpire Paul  
Fagan  
HRs **CAM** Max Fagan, *Joe Gran-*  
*tham (THU)*; **TDS** Dan Downes,  
Mario Rueda 2, Miranda Currie

**MEERKATS** 3 0 2 1 0 3 2 **11**  
**SPEEDERS** 3 4 1 0 0 0 0 **8**

Pitch G, Umpire Simon Sharp  
HRs **MKT** Keith Altena, Carlos Dos  
Ramos; **SPE** Chris Lennon, **Adam**  
**Faloon** GS

### Division 4

**RAIDERS** 2 9 6 4 9 **30**  
**SWINGERS** 0 1 0 5 2 **8**

RAR. Pitch 6, Umpire Arthur Hung  
HRs **RAI** Mark Crannage, Luke  
Crannage 2, Jon Pearson, Alex  
Wall

## MVPs from final games

### 22/23 August

**CAM** Jackie Ng (RF), Adam Hugill (SS)  
**GRX** Tanya Burton (CL), Matty Green (P)  
**MHM** Sarah Marks (CL), Ant Garcia Reyes (SS)  
**MKT** Amy Miller (CL), James Stevens (P)  
**SHA** Hayley Hulme (1B), Mike Hulme (SS)  
**SPE** Maz Yung (C), Kipp Money-Muter (sub)  
**TDS** Miranda Currie (1B), *Luis Arrevillagas (THU)* (P)  
**THU** Fran Leyton (2B), Kris Hadwin (1B)  
**BAT** Avery Yin Chong (3B), *Ross Birch (BND)* (2B)  
**CM2** Nicola Booth (3B), James Wooderson (CL)  
**DOD** N J Dyson (1B), David Dyson (LF)  
**FRZ** Lorilei Salfred-Ingham (LF), Owen Salfred-Ingham (CR)  
**HAC** Ella Mills (1B), Ian Mills (SS)  
**MV2** *Maddie Gresty (MAV)* (RF), Chris Gresty (SS)  
**TH2** Emma Miller (RF), Andrew Bogie (3B)  
**TIG** Anissa Aghtarafi (EP), Oli Sharpe (EP)  
**BND** Ross Birch (P), *Kim Hannesen (THU)* (RF)  
**SCR** Isaac (SS), Corolla Guevara (1B)  
**SGL** Sam Rahmen (3B), Charlie Whalley (P)  
**STG** Tara Delahoyde (CR), Kristian Stokwicz (3B)  
**TGG** Lyndsey Taylor (2B), Michal Blazek (SS)  
**TH3** Nikki Corlliss (2B), Dilan Bastiampillai (CR)  
**BFL** walk-over  
**PFB** forfeited  
**RAI** Tania Basile (RF), Luke Crannage (SS)  
**TH4** Kelly Brooksure (1B), Phil Cosgrove (SS)

### 29/30 August

**CAM** Katie Flanagan (LF), Max Fagan (CL)  
**MKT** Meagan Hrenko (3B), Carlos dos Ramos (2B)  
**SPE** Christine Hunter (1B), Nick Money (SS)  
**TDS** Miranda (1B), Dan (P)  
**RAI** Nat Wood (1B), Luke Crannage (SS)  
**SWI** Tash Andy (2B), Sam Webb (1B)

## Guests

### Up

Ross Birch (Bandidos) for Bats  
v Mavericks II  
Michelle Cleator (Stinegrs) for  
Freeze v Camels II  
Hollie Glennie (Seagulls) for  
Greensox (2nd) v Camels  
AJ Hoysted (Screwballs) for  
Speeders (2nd) v Mayhem  
Chloe Patient (Stingers) for  
Freeze v Camels  
Dan Strayer (Screwballs) for  
Mavericks II (2nd) v Bats  
**Same**  
Leanne Cracknell (Mavericks)  
for Travelling Dodgers v Cam-  
els  
Joe Grantham (Thunder) for  
Camels v Travelling Dodgers  
Sherry Kenyon (Mavericks)  
for Sharks v Meerkats  
Pete Nightingale (Thunder)  
for Camels v Trav Dodgers

### Down

Sam Baker (Titans) for Sting-  
ers (3rd) v Tiggers  
Michelle Cleator (Stingers) for  
Swingers v Raiders  
Abbie de Zwart (Hackers) for  
Swingers (4th) v Raiders  
Amber Frost (Bats) for Bandi-  
dos v Screwballs  
Maddie Gresty (Mavericks)  
for Mavericks II v Bats  
Kim Hannessen (Thunder) for  
Bandidos v Screwballs  
Grace Mills (Hackers) for  
Stingers (2nd) v Tiggers  
Simon Sharp (Tigers ) for Tig-  
gers v Stingers

## Transfers

Liam Morrison, Bandidos to  
Greensox  
Dave Wareham, Tiggers to  
Tigers

## Review of the year

The 2023 Manchester softball season saw **Thunder** regain the Division 1 trophy from last year's winners for their second title.

Their main rivals were the Mavericks and it was

neck-and-neck all season. The pair beat each other and suffered only one other loss

each, until the penultimate week when a third loss for the Mavs, who finished the season 13-3, handed Thunder (14-2) the title. At the bottom, Speeders' 2-14 season was not a huge surprise, but Greensox, nine-time winners, found themselves tumbling out of the top flight for the first time in their history with a similar record.

In Division 2, **Manchester Dodgers**, relegated for the first time last year, bounced straight back, and narrowly missed out on a perfect season, with an unexpected loss with just two weeks to go. Camels II will join their senior clubmates in Division 1, having come 2nd with a 12½-3½ record. Head-

ing back to Division 3 are two of the promoted teams, Hackers on 2-14, and Freeze, who avoided a fruitless season only in their final game, a dead rubber tied with Camels II as bad light prevented a

result, so ending 1½-15½.

Division 3 went to the wire with an exciting final-day finish: three teams dominated

the division, which began with an 11-game rotation including interleague games with Division 4 teams. Bandidos, who were in Division 2 last year, and Screwballs, pro-

12th outing. Fast forward to the final day with Bandidos unable to catch the other two, playing a crucial role as the team Screwballs had to beat in order to take the title, assuming Stingers won their final game. And a sting in the tail there certainly was, as the Bandidos stole the win to hand the **Stingers** the title. Sluggababes (8-9) found themselves relegated to Division 4, along with Tiggers on 3-14.

Division 4 was a slightly odd confection this year, with only five teams. There was a tussle for 2nd place between the Swing-

### Honours Board

Division 1	<b>Thunder</b>
Division 2	<b>Dodgers</b>
Division 3	<b>Stingers</b>
Division 4	<b>Barflies</b>



Photo Mike Lott

moted from Division 4, started strongly, as did the Stingers. Bandidos fell behind with two defeats in the first rotation, while Screwballs did not lose a game until their

ers and the Phoenix Fireballs, with the latter scheduled to play a three-game play-off for the title, regardless of their win-loss records, though any-

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**Review of the year***(Continued from page 5)*

thing but a win for the run-away leaders, **Barflies**, would have been a travesty. As it was, the Barflies confirmed the title with a win and a walk-over. At the bottom, Thunder IV had the misfortune to suffer a winless season, 0-16.

MSL loves its stats, and one long-standing record was broken this season as Sluggababes and Tiggers shared 91 runs in a 46-45 win for the Babes, beating the previous record aggregate score of 88 which had stood since 2009. 45 was also a new highest losing score, easily surpassing the previous record of 34, which had stood since records began in 1996. And this magazine also celebrated its 500th edition.

Manchester Main tournament saw 22 teams compete through some very wet weather, with teams travelling from Scotland, London and the Midlands. **Camels** (pictured) were the overall winners in Gold with Nottingham friends Famille Casling taking the Silver trophy and Speeders winning Bronze. Manchester players also



Camels won Manchester Main

joined in the Single Sex tournament that was hosted at Parrs Wood this year.

Manchester teams represented the league all over the country and the world this season. Division 1 team **Travelling Dodgers** proudly flew the Manchester flag at the European Co-ed Slowpitch Super Cup in Bulgaria. They finished a respectable fourth, returning to the UK to reach the NSL Platinum cup final. Manchester was also well represented with two players each in the GB U18 and U16 men's fastpitch squads who travelled to Czechia for the Euros, both reaching the bronze finals. One of our U18

women travelled across the pond for the Canada Cup. Five Manchester teams played regularly at Farnham in the National Softball League, along with Tempest and Tempest II, being largely formed from Manchester players. Four Manchester teams joined the League Nationals this year, with Bats, Meerkats and Travelling Dodgers all reaching their respective finals. There were several other successes at tournaments up and down the country.

*AdZ / HS*

Tuesday nights: chip butties at the Griffin.

Photo HS

## Thunder

Division 1 winners



P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	14	2	318	154	.875

26 Apr	Camels	H	29-21
3 May	Greensox	H	13-12
17 May	Mayhem	A	19-10
24 May	Meerkats	A	17-9
31 May	Mavericks	A	21-23
7 Jun	Sharks	A	20-5
14 Jun	Speeders	H	16-1
21 Jun	Trav Dodg	H	17-2
28 Jun	Camels	A	17-9
5 Jul	Greensox	A	23-10
19 Jul	Mayhem	H	17-5
26 Jul	Meerkats	H	17-10
2 Aug	Mavericks	H	14-5
9 Aug	Sharks	H	11-14
16 Aug	Speeders	A	31-6
23 Aug	Trav Dodg	A	28-12

Name	App	Start	MVP	HR
Brad Hadwin	16	14	0	3
Tom Russell	15	12	6	12
Kris Hadwin	14	14	5	12
Kim Hannessen	14	14	5	0
Joe Grantham	14	13	2	11
Beth Jarratt	12	12	1	1
April Hutchen	12	10	4	0
Mike Lott	12	10	1	3
Sian Payne	11	11	2	0
Dave Leverton	10	6	0	3
Luis Arreivillagas	9	9	1	5
Zoe Le Roux	9	9	1	1
Kellie Whitaker	7	7	0	0
Laura Hirai	6	6	2	0
Fran Leyton	6	4	1	0
Gwen Davies	3	3	0	0
Gabbie Mannifield	3	2	0	0
Tanya Burton	1	1	0	0
guests	3	3	1	0

The 2023 season for Manchester Thunder was truly exceptional, marked by the debut of two promising talents, Tom Russell and Zoe Le Roux, and a career-defining perfor-



Back row L to R: Kim Hannessen, Fran Leyton, Joe Grantham, Zoe Le Roux, Kris Hadwin, Gwen Davies, Sian Payne; Front row: Luis Arreivillagas, Tom Russell, Dave Leverton, Mike Lott, Brad Hadwin

mance by Kris Hadwin.

Russell and Le Roux, newcomers to the Manchester Thunder family, made an immediate impact in their first season. Their seamless integration into the squad was a testament to their dedication and the welcoming atmosphere within the team. Hadwin, a seasoned veteran, delivered a career-best season that showcased his exceptional skills. His team spirit both on and off the field played a pivotal role in Thunder's success. His dedication and hard work served as an inspiration to his teammates.

Acknowledging the contributions and efforts of all involved is a crucial part of celebrating a suc-

cessful season. Let's recognize and appreciate the diverse roles that each of them played in making the 2023 season for the Thunder I team a resounding success:

Kellie Whitaker and Luis Arreivillagas provided strong leadership both on and off the field, setting a positive example for the entire team. Their guidance and strategic insights were instrumental in navigating challenging moments throughout the season. April Hutchen and Beth Jarratt showcased remarkable adaptability and flexibility in various positions and situations. Their versatility allowed the team to respond effectively to

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**Review of the year***(Continued from page 7)*

changing game dynamics. Joe Grantham's and Dave Leverton's consistent performance was a stabilising force for the team. Their reliability in key moments was invaluable in maintaining the team's momentum. Mike Lott and Sian Payne were the bedrock of reliability, always delivering when it counted most. Their dependable contributions ensured that Thunder remained a formidable opponent. Laura Hirai, Fran Leyton, and Gwen Davies injected fresh energy and enthusiasm into the team. Their determination and drive to push boundaries and try new approaches were inspiring. Kim Hannessen's and Brad Hadwin's solid defensive skills helped fortify the team's performance. Their ability to thwart opponents' advances was key in securing victories. Gavin Whitaker's stern look from the sidelines added a touch of intensity and focus. Team members know that Gavo's unwavering support and high expectations were integral to the team's success.

Together, this talented and dedicated group of

individuals formed a cohesive unit that showcased the best of teamwork and sportsmanship. The Thunder I softball team is truly grateful for their contributions, commitment, and passion for the game. As the team and the Manchester Softball League move forward, these individuals will continue to be pillars of strength, ensuring the future success of the club. Thank you to each and every one of them for making the 2023 season an unforgettable journey.

The 2023 season was marked by sportsmanship and respect between teams. Competing with integrity and mutual respect elevated the league's atmosphere. The battles on the field were fierce, but the camaraderie off the field was equally important in fostering a sense of unity among all the teams. A heartfelt thanks to the League Executive for their tireless efforts in running one of the finest softball leagues in the country. Their commitment to organising and managing the league ensured that players enjoyed a memorable season of softball.

Looking ahead, Manchester Thunder Softball Club

is poised to build on the success of the 2023 season. This will be only possible with the continued support of Club Thunder, its members and the committee.

In closing, the 2023 season was a remarkable chapter in the history of Thunder I. As we reflect on this memorable season, we eagerly anticipate the future, knowing that the club and the entire league will continue to thrive and set new standards of excellence in the years to come. Thank you to everyone involved for an unforgettable season!

*Luis Arrevillagas*

**Dodgers**

Division 2 winners

P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	15	1	328	168	.938

The Manchester (Jammy) Dodgers' story so far: a very well established Division 1 team for many years struggled like a lot of teams over the past couple of years predominantly for SBHs (even after merging with

26 Apr	Titans	H	19-18
3 May	Hackers	A	32-10
17 May	Tigers	A	20-2
24 May	Camels II	A	20-2
31 May	Bats	H	26-10
7 Jun	Mavericks II	H	34-26
14 Jun	Freeze	A	28-2
21 Jun	Thunder II	H	18-12
28 Jun	Titans	A	21-11
5 Jul	Hackers	H	13-5
19 Jul	Tigers	H	19-16
26 Jul	Camels II	H	8-4
2 Aug	Bats	A	16-15
9 Aug	Mavericks II	A	6-10
16 Aug	Freeze	H	21-15
23 Aug	Thunder II	A	21-6

Name	App	Start	MVP	HR
Brian Slusarek	16	12	3	8
Keely Congleton	13	13	4	5
Stephen Howard	13	13	5	1
Eli Dorronsoro	13	11	2	8
Alexa Martinez	12	12	1	0
Abbie Thwaite	12	12	3	2
Chris Mannion	12	11	3	10
Criselle De Jesus	12	10	0	0
David Dyson	12	10	1	8
Simon Hepburn	12	10	0	0
Angie Thompson	12	9	0	0
Luis Rodriguez	10	10	1	0
Lisa Jepson	10	9	7	3
Lee Kendrick-Walker	10	3	0	1
Louise Gape	7	6	0	0
NJ Dyson	4	4	1	0
Mandy Knight	2	2	0	0
Nor Hamid	2	1	1	0
guest	1	1	0	0

the Lions) which resulted in losing more games than we won last year and the inevitable relegation to Division 2 for this season. Utilising the off-season to regroup and re-build we had a refreshed sense of attack and drive for this year and the aim was to have fun... which we absolutely did. The team became closer and within a matter of weeks we became our fun-loving, winning "family" and in turn we managed



Back row L to R: Simon Hepburn, Alexa Martinez, Abbie Thwaite, Lisa Jepson, Keely Congleton, Nicola-Jane Dyson, Louise Gape, Criselle DeJesus, Luis Rodriguez; Front: Brian Slusarek, David Dyson, Chris Mannion, Lee Kendrick Walker, Steve Howard, Eli Dorronsoro.

to complete a very successful season with only one loss all year, not to mention the *huge* 54 home runs scored this year, just fantastic. It was amazing to have the continued support of our core members, N-J Dyson (captain), David Dyson, Simon Hepburn, Alexa Martinez and Elieser Dorronsoro Mendoza, who were then joined in 2022 by Lee Kendrick-Walker, Stephen Howard, Keely Congleton, Abbie Thwaite, Chris Mannion and Mandy Knight. Our merry Dodger band grew further in 2023 with this season's recruits, Brian Slusarek, Lisa Jepson, Angie Thompson, Luis Rodriguez, Criselle Salcedo DeJesus and Louise Gape. Each of these fabulous players bring different styles, tal-

ents, strengths and personalities and without all of whom, the Manchester Dodgers would not be the fabulous, fun-loving, competitive team of Champs they are today. This season has been by far the easiest and most enjoyable season to captain and with continued training and fun planned for this off-season we are chomping at the bit to get back into the softball season of 2024 in Division 1, where we will also be entering more tournaments too. I simply couldn't be more proud of this team and every single player in it and thank you all for your continued support and commitment and cannot wait to see what 2024 brings. Such a wonderful sport, in a won-

(Continued on page 10)

**Review of the year***(Continued from page 9)*

derful league with a wonderful sense of community and one I personally am proud to have been associated with for 30 years along with the irreplaceable friendships along the way. GO MANCHESTER (JAMMY) DODGERS! *N-J Dyson*

**Stingers****Division 3 winners**

P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
17	15	2	363	247	.882

25 Apr	Swingers	H	26-6
2 May	Sluggababes	H	17-15
9 May	Screwballs	A	10-25
16 May	Thunder III	A	46-32
23 May	Tiggers	H	20-11
30 May	Seagulls	A	22-15
6 Jun	Bandidos	A	25-20
13 Jun	Enforcers	H	17-13
20 Jun	Raiders	A	25-21
27 Jun	Thunder IV	H	22-7
4 Jul	Barflies	A	28-22
11 Jul	Bandidos	H	23-11
18 Jul	Screwballs	H	17-23
25 Jul	Thunder III	H	10-3
8 Aug	Seagulls	H	18-16
15 Aug	Sluggababes	A	18-3
22 Aug	Tiggers	A	18-10

Name	App	Start	MVP	HR
Chloe Patient	17	17	4	0
Kristian Stokwicz	17	17	2	13
Mark Fox	15	15	2	2
Amy Sykes	14	14	3	2
Nicola Bradshaw	13	13	6	6
Michelle Cleator	13	13	1	0
Josh Normie	12	12	2	4
Eleanor Hotchkiss	11	11	2	1
Danny Casey-Wright	10	10	3	6
Jack Rains	8	8	2	2
Nick Sims	8	8	3	11
Rory Casey-Wright	7	7	3	2
Demi Rabette	7	7	0	0
Charlotte Rozsas	7	7	0	0
Carl Dunn	2	2	0	0
Callum Schora	2	2	0	0
Tara Delahoyde	1	1	1	0
Michelle Fisher	1	1	0	0
guests	7	7	0	8



L to R (back) Demi Rabette, Amy Sykes, Mark Fox, Nick Sims, Josh Normie, Charlotte Rozsas, Callum Schora, Kristian Stokwicz, Michelle Cleator, Jack Rains, Nikki Bradshaw, Ellie Hotchkiss; (front) Chloe Patient; (insets) Danny Casey-Wright, Rory Casey-Wright

“Basics!” implores Carl Dunn as the batting tee is sent flying across the uncut and muddy Parrs Wood grass – the batters are as keen as puppies and it shows in the enthusiastic but rather uncontrolled practice swings. It is a Saturday in late March, and the first chance for the Stingers to

regroup following a bitter winter of outdoor softball, the sun low in the sky and the threat of rain never far from the diamond. Division 3 last year was a mixed bag for us, with some soaring highs (a triple bat around inning against the Enforcers) and some crushing lows (being on the receiving end of the same fate against the Hackers) but we built upon the surprise successes of 2021 and finished in a respectable mid-table position. Going into 2023, the goal was to strengthen as a new squad following several recent LBH comings



and goings, and just have fun doing so.

The Stinger ethos has always been to seek ways in which we are strongest as a team, playing without expectations and getting each other through. It carried us through the difficult first season of being mercied by 8pm each week, and it brought us this far. With three teams promoted from D3 to D2 last season it was a wide-open league this year, and one the team relished getting their teeth into.

Interdivisional fixtures for the first rotation saw us up against the Swingers first, and a steady but controlled performance saw us win the fixture comfortably. Newly promoted Sluggababes were always going to be tough for our second fixture but we scored strongly in the first inning and protected it to the last.

Losing our third game of the season was a double-edged sword; on one hand it put a serious dent in our confidence, but on the other it removed any pressure of a winning streak and allowed us to concentrate only on the game in front of us. The Screwballs, to their credit, were worth both of

their victories as the only team to take us down this year – they were simply better than us in our first fixture and we weren't tidy enough in the second to ever have control over the game.

Beaten, and with a depleted squad following injury and illness to key players Jack Rains and Michelle Cleator, we had to fight back. And so followed our highest-scoring game ever, a furious epic against Thunder III with 78 runs shared between us, an evening when Kris-

Tiggers and Seagulls followed, and both were games characterised by excellent short stop performances: Danny Casey Wright and Josh Normie in respective fixtures ran the show infield.

While the Tiggers was a somewhat smoother fixture, Seagulls pushed it to the wire and only a late inning salvo put the game to bed on a rather tidy double play.

The Bandidos stepped up on an evening of last minute lineup changes, a late injury to Casey



Photo Chloe Patient

tian Stokwicz, somewhat frustrated in the previous week's game, lashed out at the bat with venom: three home runs and eight times round the diamond from eight at-bats and on his absolute best form.

Wright and a large number of holidays meant that two D2 guests had to be borrowed for what promised to be a tough game and very much was. It was the evening on which Nikki Bradshaw

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**Review of the year***(Continued from page 11)*

began to flex with the bat, a home run bashed to centre right with no chance of return gave us the momentum we needed to see the game out and record a first ever win against a very strong team. The following week's Enforcers game was another close one; ever since we stung them for 27 runs back in 2022 they have been determined to prevent this happening again. On a blisteringly hot evening we sweated hard to a narrow victory and very much a family affair for brothers Danny and Rory Casey Wright with a number of relatives lining up against them.

The tenacity continued through the next three weeks and probably two of our toughest games this year both against Division 4 teams. A well-organised and impressive Raiders side absolutely went for it and in all fairness were unlucky not to have got more from that game, positive plays seeing them ahead at the 5th and without a late push from us we would have fallen. Thunder IV gave us enough of a scare with seven runs in the first inning to step us up a

gear on an evening where five home runs were hit by small-ball hitters, and Amy Sykes nailed the grand slam. An exceptional Barflies team on great form forced us to overturn a ten-run deficit to earn the points at USG a week later – on an evening where rain fell on 3rd base at the same time as the sun shone on a dry 1st base – the game ended under a double rainbow (pictured) with a hard-fought victory to end the interdivisional fixtures.

The second rotation saw us against the Bandidos again, and a slightly smoother home victory for us in which Bradshaw continued her home running form. This was followed by another defeat to Screwballs in by far the wettest game of the season that saw some weather-enforced errors and unusual plays. Sublime infield work from Danny Casey Wright and Nick Sims kept their runners under some control but unfortunately wasn't enough to see the game out. The following week's fixture with Thunder III sadly ended prematurely after an injury, but we had established and held a significant enough lead to take the points from a

low-scoring game, a marked contrast to the unrestrained slugfest played in May.

After a well-earned rest week we lined up against a strong Seagulls side who were oddly now fighting for D3 survival with Thunder and Sluggababes, and it showed in their plays – they were tough, and only some quick thinking from the outfield and serious heroics from Mark Fox at catcher kept us in the game for long enough to nick it at the death. The second fixture with Sluggababes was a more relaxed affair, the win marred only by knowing the result had sent our friends down a division, and with one fixture remaining we needed to win to stand any chance of going up to D2 as unlikely champions, having not occupied the top spot once in the entire campaign.

That wasn't in our hands though and following an exodus of a lot of players on their annual holidays, we lined up against an already relegated Tiggers who hadn't come to just roll over – with some of the team in unfamiliar positions to accommodate the guests we had to

stay focused all the way to see the game out. And as it happened, it was enough. With Screwballs losing their final fixture to Bandidos, this victory saw us finally leapfrog to the top of the table just in time for the season to draw to a close, crowning us Division 3 champions for 2023.

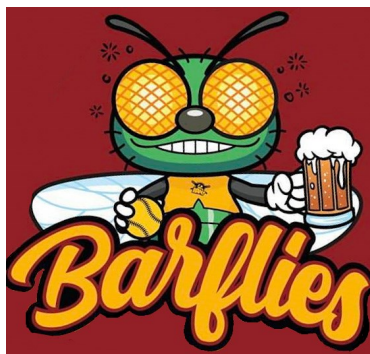
And while the final night of the year took a bit of luck, we wouldn't have been in any position to steal the title without the grit and the teamwork we showed throughout the season – fighting the toughest teams all the way or turning over significant deficits to be on top at the end of the 7th in so many games. We won where we would have lost a year ago. And it was that collective effort, stubbornness and command of those basics that meant we were even in the running when it mattered. It has been a rewarding, challenging and ultimately brilliant season for Stingers. D2 won't be easy but bring on the journey.

*Chloe Patient*

## Barflies

### Division 4 winners

	P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
Lg	15	12	3	386	254	.800
PO	2	2	0	35	10	



25 Apr	Raiders	A	32-22
2 May	Bandidos	H	7-29
9 May	Sluggababes	H	30-27
16 May	Seagulls	A	48-24
23 May	Screwballs	A	15-30
30 May	Tiggers	H	31-16
6 Jun	Thunder III	A	32-27
13 Jun	Thunder IV	A	40-20
20 Jun	Enforcers	H	20-0*
27 Jun	Swingers	H	20-0*
4 Jul	Stingers	H	22-28
11 Jul	Thunder IV	H	21-5
25 Jul	Swingers	A	27-7
1 Aug	Raiders	H	23-16
8 Aug	Fireballs	A	18-3
15 Aug	Fireballs †	H	15-10
22 Aug	Fireballs †	A	20-0*

\* forfeit

† Play-offs

Name	App	Start	MVP	HR
Ebbie Hassan	13	12	4	9
Claire Holden	13	13	1	1
Laura Howarth	12	12	2	0
Aleck Aspinall	11	11	4	12
Mike Cooney	10	10	0	2
Chris Smith	10	10	1	7
Mandy Ashton	9	9	2	0
Chris Radford	9	9	2	7
Hayley-Jane Sims	9	9	0	0
David Dean	8	8	1	5
Sarah Douglas	7	7	2	0
Jade Shaw	6	6	4	3
Daisy Lord	5	5	2	3
Kalpesh Mankanji	4	4	0	2
Taj Uddin	3	3	1	0
Kate Shearer	2	2	0	0
Ellie Bifield	1	1	0	0
Gabby Fagan	1	1	0	0
Mo Hassan	1	1	0	0
guests	6	6	0	2

What a season. Since forming back in 2012, we've won nothing. Nada. Zilch.

Writing this review well after the season ended, it

still feels a bit weird to think that we're actually champions. Over the last decade we've always turned up on a Tuesday to have fun and to win just enough games to have a decent enough season but to not actually get promoted. Well, this season didn't quite go to plan, did it?!

To win 12 out of 15 games is genuinely a massive achievement for us, although it didn't feel like it would end up that way after losing 29-7 to Bandidos in week 2! After that we managed to find some form, with four wins out five (followed by a further two wins by forfeit!) to put us top. A further five consecutive wins followed to draw the season to a close. Unprecedented stuff for the Maroon Warriors!

This season has been full of highlights: solid pitching, improvements in the field (ignoring the occasional holes in gloves!) and some really consistent and clutch hitting from everyone in the lineup. It was fantastic to see so many Barflies names on the home run charts... and the in-team rivalry to see who finish-

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**Review of the year***(Continued from page 13)*

es top is always good fun! Well done to Aleck Aspinall for finishing joint top in the LBH charts, to Jade Shaw and Daisy Lord for topping the SBH table and to Claire Holden for getting on that leaderboard as well!

We've also seen a lot of people try different fielding positions this year which has shown a collective willingness to give things a go in order to help the team. And nobody moaned about where they were asked to play... at least not to my face anyway.

And then, the thankyou's:

To the Exec for making sure that we have somewhere to play and people to play against. Tuesday

nights literally wouldn't be possible without you.

Thanks to the teams we've played against this season and everyone who has umpired our games. It's genuinely been a real blast. And to those who have guested for us this season, thank you for answering our calls when we've been short. It's greatly appreciated!

And finally, most importantly, thanks to my fellow Barflies for everything this season. I'm not one for drama, overreaction and hyperbole, but you've made history!

Whether you made one appearance or played in nearly every game, you're all maroon-clad legends. You've made Tuesday evenings a highlight of the week each and every

week.

It's hard to single out individuals, and I don't want to overdo the word count by naming each and every player. So, I'll just say thanks for all of your efforts, for turning up on Tuesdays and having a laugh, and for answering my constant barrage of "who can play this week?" messages in the team WhatsApp group.

Looking forward to next season already!

*Chris Radford*

**Titans**

P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	9	7	264	256	.563

26 Apr	Dodgers	A	18-19
3 May	Camels II	A	11-26
10 May	Bats	H	20-14
17 May	Mavericks II	A	8-10
24 May	Freeze	H	19-4
31 May	Thunder II	A	22-25
7 Jun	Tigers	H	4-21
14 Jun	Hackers	H	24-9
28 Jun	Dodgers	H	11-21
5 Jul	Camels II	H	4-25
12 Jul	Bats	A	21-14
19 Jul	Mavericks II	H	21-16
26 Jul	Freeze	A	23-13
2 Aug	Thunder II	H	15-12
9 Aug	Tigers	A	12-11
16 Aug	Hackers	A	31-16



Back row L to R: Laura Howarth, Sarah Douglas, Claire Holden, Hayley-Jane Sims; Front: Mike Cooney, David Dean, Ebby Hassan, Chris Radford, Chris Smith

Name	App	Start	MVP	HR
Sam Baker	15	15	6	12
Isabelle Rendell	15	15	6	1
Karyn Cooper	14	14	0	0
Luke Nelson	14	14	4	2
Zoe Conway	13	13	3	0
Kate Winfield	13	13	5	2
Dan Hocking	12	12	1	4
Daniel O'Brien	11	11	1	1
Nick Baker	10	9	1	0
Claire Simcox	7	7	0	0
Richard Taylor	7	7	2	5
Aimee Dyble	6	6	1	0
Ben Wright	5	5	1	1
Robbie Cowbury	4	4	0	1
Hannah Brown	1	1	0	0
Jamie Coombes	1	1	0	0
Gabby Kenworthy	1	1	1	0
Lucy Smith	1	1	0	0
guests	5	5	0	2

Titans started the season with difficult news, as the star of their offense, Gabby Kenworthy, announced she was moving away to the big smoke. This loss was immediately apparent, as the team struggled through the first rotation, being soundly beaten by a run of mid-table teams, only picking up three unconvincing wins against newly promoted teams. Titans' best performance early in the season was a hard-fought battle against the ultimate champions, almost forcing Dodgers to hit in the 7th inning, falling 19-18.

The LGBT tournament provided some welcome mid-season respite, as Titans made an exciting run to the final, on a glorious day in south Manchester, which included a whirlwind tied game against UCLAN.

Returning to the league at the turn, things did not seem to be getting any better. An understrength side was massacred by the Camels, followed by another spirited but futile effort against the ultimate champs. At 3-7, a struggling Titans team was looking over their shoulders, with Tuesday night softball beckoning.

At that point, everything began to change. A superb run of six straight wins to see out the season, including three with nine players, lifted Titans up to a very respectable 4th place.

From nowhere the team had found consistent pitching through Daniel 'OB' O'Brien, stellar out-

field play from Izzy Rendell and a yet unbroken streak of seven straight games with a home run for Sam Baker. Of note through the stretch was strong small-ball hitting, led by the consistent bat of Karyn Cooper and the less consistent but highly ferocious swing of Kate Winfield, who finished with two home runs on the year.

The season concluded with two big events. Firstly, the Titans awards night, where Luke 'Admiral' Nelson picked up Most Valuable Player, having played in every position bar catcher throughout the sea-

⇒ Continued on page 16



Back row, L to R: Dan Hocking, Jamie Coombes, Daniel O'Brien, Luke Nelson, Sam Baker; Front: Aimee Chesters, Karyn Cooper, Gabby Kenworthy, Zoe Conway, Kate Winfield. Photo Aimee Chesters

**Review of the year***(Continued from page 15)*

son. This was followed by the wedding of former Titans captain Aimee Dyble (now Chesters), with many present and former MSL players in attendance. *Sam Baker*

**A message from Annie Downes**

*Readers will recall that Travelling Dodgers' Annie Downes was involved in a horrendous collision at home plate earlier this season. We received this update just in time for this issue:*

I'm (very) belatedly responding to your article following my injury (*Bases Loaded* 29.9, 20-21 June).

I would like to thank the MSL for flowers and 'get well crystals', Dave Warren for some chocs, and Matt Green for flowers, chocs and Prosecco. A special mention to Sluggababes for their ex-

tremely generous gift card which landed a week later, greatly lifting my spirits following a couple of difficult hospital appointments, one of which confirmed I also had multiple fractures of the eye socket too.

It's been a slow recovery road and I still potentially have a nose operation and potential tooth damage to consider, plus investigations as to why I'm getting pins and needles across my body.

However, it could have been worse and life is good!

My current focus is that I'm due to pitch for a Spanish team at the Women's Euro Cup tournament in Regensburg (Germany) 13-15 October, having not set foot on a pitch since June. That said, I've been practicing my pitching regularly on the local field and I'll just have to get into my zone quickly so I don't let the team down (especially as I don't speak Spanish and they don't speak much English). Besides that, I regret missing the MSL End-of-season ball.

After everything, my two takeaways are these.

1. I beseech everyone to remember the 'etiquette

expectations' of the game: to run around a player or slide, effectively avoiding any collision that would endanger an opponent.

2. The BSF rules and guidance about reporting such incidents) are clear: reports should be submitted asap after the incident/game. Perhaps captains would be advised to have copies of the form to hand to ensure the correct process is followed in a timely fashion ... to everyone's benefit.

*Ed's note: Everyone at MSL wishes Annie a speedy continued recovery. It is great to hear you are back in action, and we all look forward to seeing you back playing in MSL next season.*

### Dates for your diary

Nov 1 AGM and Captains' Meeting (Wythenshawe Cricket Club, M22 4JF, 7.30pm)

Apr 5 (TBC) deadline for team registration

Apr 27-28 Firstball

Apr 30/May 1 season starts

Aug 3-4 Manchester Main tournament

Aug 27/28 Season ends

## Lifetime achievement: Andy Shephard

Many people associated with Manchester Softball League assume that the Mavericks were one of the founder member teams. In fact, they joined the league in year 3, immediately winning the title, launching a 16-year sequence of 1st- or 2nd-place finishes. Tonight we celebrate the lifetime achievement of a key member of that team which set the bar so high and at the same time made a lasting contribution to make the league the thing that we enjoy today.

Besides dominating the Manchester league, the Mavericks were the first Manchester team to make an impact at tournaments up and down the country, and even overseas (well, the Irish Sea). They were also the first team to represent Manchester nationally.

And all this while MSL were literally using jumpers for bases and shared equipment between competing teams in local parks.

A relatively unsung hero (until now that is) from that era absolutely deserves to be honoured in that pantheon and that is



the man who, for me, goes down as the singularly most focussed and intense character to play the game: the littlest left-fielder. Andy 'Shep DoG' Shephard excelled not only on the pitch but also served the league as both Umpire-in-chief (2000) and then League Head (2001-02).

One of the very few Bra-

zilian-born players to have graced the MSL, Andy was a Maverick stalwart throughout their most successful period, until a change in career path (he quit IT and became a teacher) coincided with a change of team—he formed and lead the Phoenix (the

first of now three unrelated teams to take this name)—before eventually finishing playing to concentrate on umpiring. Here too he was a trend setter, among the first BASU-qualified umpires, and the first MSL um-

pire to blu in European competition (in Ljubljana, 2010).

We are delighted tonight to recognise and honour a genuine A-list role model who we hope will inspire everyone in the Manchester Softball League: the giant that is Andy Shephard.

*Mark Sanders*

*Additional material HS*

## Prize Quiz

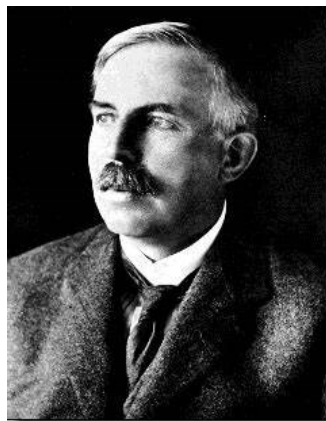
*As usual we present our prize quiz with questions by Tim Roberts and Harry Somers. One entry per table please: submit your answers by the*

*end of the award ceremony to Tim or Harry. We offer £40 off next season's registration fee for the winning entry. You are allowed to use*

*the internet to research your answers, apart from the second tie-break question (if needed).*

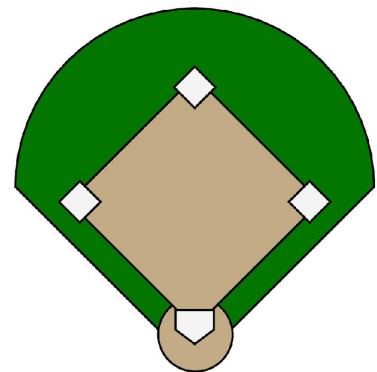
### Where we live ...

1. Before the Etihad
2. Greek god in Ardwick
3. Railwaymen who became devils
4. Where musicians learn
5. Spanish estate of Factory Records
6. Founder of the Women's Social & Political Union
7. Jaws at the AJ Bell
8. Old sports venue(s)
9. Kiwi Nobel chemist at U of M
10. Home of the Curry Mile
11. What were your initial findings for questions 1-10?



### ... and what we do

12. How *Cool for Cats* gains an extra base
13. Three make a half inning
14. Recorded as 20-0
15. LA team on tour to MSL
16. Four make a diamond



17. Usually bats first
18. No. 7
19. First batter
20. Questions 12-19 in the first place

**TIE BREAK:** How many different teams have won MSL's Division 3?

## Statto's corner

### *we don't need another hero*

**576** players registered to play, 25 more than last year, of which 536 actually played, about the same as last year. **Camels** used the fewest players—just 14. **Swingers** used the most, 24, plus 21 guest appearances.

### *steamy windows*

**205** guest appearances were made by 105 different players, fractionally down on last year. **Swingers** (21) and **Greensox** (20) used the most guests. **Screwballs** were the only team not to need any guests at all.

### *acid queen*

**Abbie de Zwart** made 13 guest appearances for eight different teams—one short of the record. Must try harder.

### *i can't stand the rain*

**243** games were played, 11 more than last year; just two were forfeited in advance. Wednesday teams had 16 fixtures, Tuesday teams 17.

### *don't turn around*

**7,766** runs were scored, excluding forfeits, nearly a thousand more than last year, at an average of 32 per game.

### *river deep mountain high*

**91** runs shared by Sluggababes and Tiggers

in June broke several long-standing records: highest aggregate score (previously 88, Outlaws v Bats, 2009), highest losing score and closest game (Greensox 36 Pirates 35, 1996).

### *nutbush city limits*

**1,062** home runs were hit, 240 more than last year, by 258 different batters, plus 21 guests. 47 of them were grand slams. 26.2 runs per game, on average, were scored by **Barflies** excluding their three forfeit wins, making them the league's top scorers. But **Thunder** had the meanest defence, conceding just 9.6 runs per game.

### *proud mary*

The following stars played in every game for their team (16 games unless stated):

Sarah Cassin (Camels)  
Katie Flanagan (Camels)  
Mitch Gilbert (Fireballs, 15)  
Matthew Green (Greensox)  
Brad Hadwin (Thunder)\*  
Kris Hadwin (Thunder)\*  
Sonia Hine (Meerkats)  
Anthony Hulme (Sharks)  
Hayley Hulme (Sharks)  
Mike Hulme (Sharks)  
Katie Jessop (Trav Dodgers)  
Hayley McTear (Camels)  
Emma Miller (Thunder II)\*  
Chloe Patient (Stingers, 17)\*  
Leo Pearn (Camels II)  
Joiicey Roasara (Sharks)  
Brian Slusarek (Dodgers)  
Kris Stokwicz (Stingers, 17)  
Lisa Williams (Fireballs, 15)  
Natalie Wood (Raiders, 17)  
\* Players who were also ever-present last year.

Emma Miller has played every game since July 2019, a streak of 54 games.

### *back where you started*

**17** transfers were recorded this season, one less than last year, and half the total of two years ago.

### *when i was young*

**13** registered players were under 18 when the season began, while 65 players (12%) were born this century, and a third of all players were not yet born when our league started. 36¾ is the average age of all players, pretty much the same as the last few years. Our oldest player is 76, and two others are over 70. **Bats** have regained the "oldest team" accolade (average age 45.5) while **Sharks** (31.8) are the youngsters.

### *what's love got to do with it*

**95%** Regarding umpiring, we have slipped back, as 11 games had no umpire (and several others relied on resting players to step up). That's much worse than last year. 25 different people officially umpired, three of them (Paul Fagan, Mike Goff, Arthur Hung) covering all four divisions (plus at least one inter-divisional game).

### *the best*

Section titles from the late great Tina Turner

*Tina*

## Rookie of the Year Nominations

**Kerry Brown** (Raiders) 15 apps, 8 MVP, 1 HR

Raiders were a rookie team in 2022 and 2023 was like a do-over with nine (!) small-ball rookies suiting up for the red and black heroes this season. There were some stellar performances from the newbies but in terms of a standout look no further than Kerry Brown, or “MVP” as she is affectionately known to her teammates, having been given that honour in eight games this season. Our top recruiter Nat Wood brought the rookie sensation into the team and after starting off with a couple of winter indoor sessions at Platt Lane, Kerry made her Raiders debut in week 1 against the mighty Barflies. Undaunted Kerry scored a couple of runs and held a brilliant catch. A stellar debut softball season had started with a bang. Kerry confided with me after week 3 that she was scared of fly balls being hit anywhere in her direction. Not ideal when you are playing left field! If you are a winner, you



don't let things like that hold you back and Kerry threw herself into getting better. Loads of practice helped build confidence and now Kerry is an absolute rock under the high ball. Couple that with an incredible throw and you hit the ball into left field at your peril. OK so our MVP is a monster in the field but what about batting? Hmmm . . . pretty damn awesome at that too: 26 runs scored this season including the first ever homer by a Raiders small baller. Newbies to the game often keep their heads down and focus on their own game – not this one! Kerry is the loudest player on the squad. Her constant screams of encouragement have helped us all this season. I simply can't say enough about Kerry as a player and a teammate. She is our MVP and I have no doubt she is also our Rookie of the Year. (RV)

**Josh Kehoe** (Tiggers) 10 apps, 2 MVP, 2 HRs

Josh started playing at the indoor sessions in February and March.

From the start he's



been eager to learn and has developed into an effective hitter and outfielder. When he's played against higher level opposition at tournaments he's not looked out of place and he topped the Tigers' batting averages at the Manchester tournament.

Whilst having no formal admin role within the club he's made a valuable contribution off the pitch helping with the transportation of team equipment and has been a regular and enthusiastic attendee at practice sessions. (DW)

**Daisy Lord** (Barflies) 5 apps, 2 MVP, 3 HRs

Despite having never swung a softball bat before this season, Daisy



quickly hit the ground running for the Barflies and made a huge impact in a short space of time. She made her first appearance on the opening day of the season and by her own admission thought it might take a bit of time to get up to speed with the rules... and catching a ball with a glove!

But it didn't take long for

Daisy to quickly become a key part of the team with some key hits, smart base running, a willingness to put her body on the line in the field (see the next paragraph!) and a desire to improve.

Unfortunately Daisy's season was ultimately cut short after breaking her finger whilst fielding a line drive in the outfield in game week 9. Her reaction to her finger pointing in a different direction? "It'll be alright, I'll drive myself to A&E." Without that injury, who knows just how much of an impact she would've continued to make.

Despite that injury, Daisy still managed to hit three home runs in her six appearances to finish joint top of the Div 4 home run charts with fellow Barfly Jade Shaw. Only three small-ball hitters across all four divisions managed to hit more home runs than Daisy, and that shows how quickly she has taken to the game. Not a bad effort for a new player with only a handful of games under her belt!

Off the field, she's fitted in brilliantly with the rest of the team and even supplied us with a new bag for our bases.

Thanks for all that you've done for us this year, Daisy—we can't wait to see

what next year brings! (CR)

**Priti Mehta** (Bats) 8 apps (+ 6 guest)

Priti was introduced to softball by her friend and long-time MSL



player Dawn Yates in 2022. Dawn brought Priti along to Sunday training with the Bats in the spring of 2022 and she trained at every opportunity with us learning the basics of catching and throwing and batting. She would arrive early for extra Sunday morning training with the one and only Jerry Seabridge.

Priti signed up for the Bats for the summer 2023 season with a goal of improving her skills and fitness and learning the rules and game tactics. She was diligent in attending our Bats Sunday training come rain or shine, as well attending MSL rookie training sessions. She was in the Bats starting line up on several occasions for our 2023 season in Div2 and she guested for lower division teams to maximise her game time.

Her Bats team-mates admire Priti for her determination to learn and im-

prove and her positive spirit. It's not easy starting a new sport from scratch with a team of experienced players, and we think Priti is a great example of how softball is an inclusive sport that welcomes players of all ages and abilities. Priti's had fun in her first season, and made lots of new friends. She's had her fair share of bruises, she's had some solid hits and no doubt will be first to arrive at training next March in prep for the 2024 MSL summer softball season. (SD)

**Freya Parmar** (Thunder III) 14 apps, 1 MVP

Freya has been a brilliant addition to our team this year and at only 15 has



shown real dedication to the sport. She has played almost every game and has improved massively in during the season. She has thrown herself into the softball scene by attending tournaments in Manchester and Liverpool. It has been lovely to watch her confidence grow and her skill improve over the summer season. (LS) (Photo used with permission)

## Home runs

### Division 1

#### SBH

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



1—Tanya Burton (GRX), Sarah Cassin (CAM), Miranda Currie (TDS), Rebecca Ebo (SHA), Celine Frederic (GRX), Beth Jarratt (THU), Katie Jessop (TDS), Sherry Kenyon (MAV), Martine Knight (MHM), Linni Mitchell (MHM), Jacqueline Ng (CAM), Su O'Brien (SHA), Rachel Shkurko (TDS)

#### LBH

13—**Adam Hugill**

(CAM) ⇒

12—Keith Al-  
tena (MKT),  
Kris Hadwin\*  
(THU), Tom  
Russell (THU)

11—Dan Downes (TDS), Joe Grantham (THU)

8—Tom Atkinson (CAM), Oscar Marenco (TDS)

7—Carlos dos Ramos (MKT), Anthony Garcia

\* grand slam



Reyes (MHM), Andy Lott (CAM)  
6—Karthik Manjunath (SHA), George Stamets (SHA), Igor von Orel Bron-  
te\* (MKT)

5—Luis Arrevillagas (THU), Gurarjun Grewal (GRX), Chris Lennon\* (SPE), Mario Rueda (TDS), Darren Shaw (MKT)

4—Jordan Colton (MHM), Max Fagan (CAM), Danny Gunn\* (MAV), Tatsuyoshi Hikawa (GRX), Luke Martin\* (TDS), Pete Nightingale (MAV)

3—Nathan Barratt (MHM), Craig Brooks\* (MAV), Brad Hadwin (THU), Paul Kidley (GRX), Dave Leverton (THU), Mike Lott (THU), Colin McKie (CAM), Laurence Pearmain\* (MAV), Andy Rawson (GRX), Stephen Shearer (SHA)

2—Baljit Ahluwalia\* (MAV), Ian Blease (MAV), Benkei Johnson (MHM), Tom Munro (MHM), Jack Scholes (CAM), James Stevens (MKT)

1—Matty Bell\* (TDS), Alex Claridge-Ingham\* (SPE), Lubo Durisin (MAV), Michael Elsy (MHM), Gareth Evans (CAM), Matt Fairweather (MKT), Amilcar Gomez (MHM), Matthew Green (GRX), Jonny Huck (TDS), Mike Hulme (SHA), Hector Martinez (GRX), Sam Steele (TDS), Chris Thompson (SPE)

### Division 2

#### SBH

5—**Keely Congleton** (DOD) ⇒, **Grace Mills** (HAC) ⇒⇒

3—Lisa Jepson (DOD)

2—Faye Dunlop (MV2), Bryony James (TH2), Kate Winfield (TTN)

1—Sara Alwagfi (TIG), Nicola Booth (CM2), Suzanne Donovan (BAT), Lindsay O'Farrell (MV2), Isabelle Rendell (TTN), Laurie Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Carla Zuill (BAT)

#### LBH

16—

**James Wooderson\*\***

(CM2) ⇒

13—Stéphane Karayannis\*\* (TIG)

12—Sam Baker (TTN)

11—Cameron Waddelow\* (BAT)

10—Chris Mannion\* (DOD)

9—Conor Battersby\* (CM2)

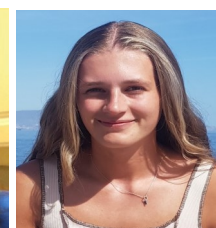
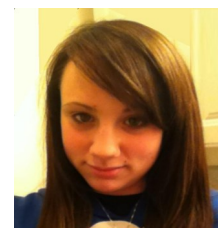
8—Elieser Doronsoro\* (DOD), David Dyson (DOD), Dave Martin Baez (MV2), Luis Rodriguez (DOD), Brian Slusarek (DOD)

7—Andrew Bogie\* (TH2), Alex Mills\* (HAC), Wes Ng (MV2), Simon Sharp (TIG)

6—Harry Bell (HAC), Jeivo Gomez (TH2), Chris Gresty\* (MV2), Drew Stanton (FRZ), Ian Williams (MV2)

5—Steve Bartlett (TH2), Dan Jarman (CM2), Richard Taylor (TTN)

4—Alex Bates (BAT), Rich-



ard Goar (TIG), Dan Hocking (TTN), Craig Lawson (CM2), Leo Pearn (CM2), Oliver Potts (CM2), Ed Woodcock (TH2)  
 3—Ed Covington (TIG), Benji Pearce (TH2), Sean Rafter (HAC), Jon Taylor (TH2)  
 2—Darren Corner (HAC), Jeff Fong (MV2), Mark Hayward (FRZ), Luke Nelson (TTN), Ollie Sharpe (TIG), Richard Thompson (TIG)  
 1—Anthony Boffey (CM2), Robbie Cowbury (TTN), Chris Drayton (CM2), Chris Frost (BAT), Steve Howard (DOD), Steve Kellett (MV2), Lee Kendrick-Walker (DOD), Shawn Khwaja (BAT), Phil Kirby (TH2), Ian Mills (HAC), Daniel O'Brien (TTN), Kelby Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Jerry Seabridge\* (BAT), Ben Wright (TTN)

### Division 3

#### SBH

6—**Nikki Bradshaw**

(STG) ⇒  
 3—Loz Birch (BND), Nicola McKenna (SCR)

2—Samiya Rahman (SGL), Amy Sykes\* (STG), Natasha Wicikowski\* (TGG)  
 1—Gina Amos (SGL), Emma Beall (SLG), Jo Griffin (SGL), Ellie Hotchkiss (STG), Tanya Lochery (BND), Amy Somers (TH3), Lynsey Taylor (TGG), Hannah Tillyard (SCR), Rachael Wake (SLG)

#### LBH

27—**Ross Birch\***  
 (BND) ⇒



22—Mike Mia (TH3)  
 21—Liam Morrison (BND)  
 14—Carl Emsley (SGL)  
 13—AJ Hoysted (SCR), Kristian Stokwicz (STG), Dan Strayer (SCR)  
 12—James Tanner (SLG), Charlie Whalley\* (SGL)  
 11—Nick Sims\* (STG), Joe Wright\* (SLG)  
 7—Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3), David Grice (SGL), Anthony Henderson (SGL)  
 6—Danny Casey-Wright (STG), Jason Kneen\* (BND), Milan Nechvátal (SCR), James Wright (TGG)  
 5—Harry Schulte (TGG)  
 4—Dean Cull (TH3), Isaac Howard (SCR), Josh Normie (STG), Alex Wardle\* (SLG), Jimmy Warren (TH3)  
 3—Naveed Ahmed (SCR), Luis Allan Arrevillagas (TH3), Tom Childs (TH3), Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), Zac Morris\* (SCR), Mat Tanner (SLG)  
 2—Jacob Arnison (BND), Rory Casey-Wright (STG), Mark Fox (STG), Josh Kehoe (TGG), Antoon Lemmers (SLG), Adam Morrison (BND), Jack Rains (STG)  
 1—Noah Arnison (BND), Jai Bhagdev\* (SGL), Ian Caird (SGL), Kevin Cramer (TH3), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Matt Lyons\* (TGG), Conor O'Sullivan (TGG), John Reeves (SCR), Tim Roberts\* (SLG), Nacho Sánchez (BND), Tom Walker (SGL)

### 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-Ngang (PFB), Claire Holden (BFL)

#### LBH

12—**Aleck Aspinall\*** (BFL) ✗, **Luke Cran-nage** (RAI) ✗



10—Ben Leeks (SWI)  
 9—Ebby Hassan\* (BFL)  
 7—Chris Radford (BFL), Simon Ronksley (TH4), Chris Smith\* (BFL), Jordan Wilcock (ENF/PFB)  
 6—Bryn Davies (ENF/PFB)  
 5—Dave Dean (BFL), Chris Newhall (ENF/PFB)  
 4—Jon Pearson (RAI)  
 3—Phil Cosgrove (TH4), Mark Crannage\* (RAI), Alex Hartley (SWI), Ross Jubber (RAI), Ade Ngang\* (PFB), Ben Rocca (SWI), Mike Spiers (RAI), Sam Webb (SWI)  
 2—Ben Acton (TH4), Mike Cooney (BFL), Pete Gordon (SWI), Simon Grainger\* (ENF), Kalpesh Makanji (BFL), Richard Valentine\* (RAI)  
 1—Jamie Acton (TH4), Ed Roberts (SWI), Andy Whatmore (ENF), Chris Webb (SWI)

