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BASES LOADED

MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Dodgers promoted, Div 1 split confirmed

Dodgers confirmed their return to Division 1 with an initially nervy but eventually resounding defeat of the bottom-placed **Bandidos**. Trailing 4-1 after 2½ innings, they then hit 13 to put the game out of reach. **Titans** and **Bats** had an eight-inning "game of two halves" as Bats came back from 4-8 down to tie it up in the 5th. The teams shared six runs over the next two innings, but in the 8th home advantage saw Titans win. The pair then quickly resolved their suspended game from last May which saw Titans poised for a convincing win, which they duly delivered. Only Titans can now pip Dodgers for the title: both still have to have their second rest week, and they meet in a potential title decider on the penultimate week of the season. Elsewhere in Div 2 there was a first ever win for **Hackers** over **Mavericks II** at the seventh attempt. The game saw a first home run of the season at last for Ian 'Millsy' Mills, who is one of only four players (one of whom has yet to play this year) to hit a homer every year since records began. It was half of a father-daughter double, too. Mavs had started well enough, but Hackers got 11 in the 2nd and built steadily as the game headed for the run-ahead threshold. **Speeders** and **Screwballs** took a while to get going, and the cocktailers maintained a strong defence almost throughout to win 13-5.

With Thunder players away on international duty, there were only three

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Uniform rules

As some of our teams prepare to head off for the Nationals at Farnham Park, with their fairly strict uniform rules, it is timely to remind MSL teams (and umpires) of our much less strict but nevertheless useful rules.

"All teams [must] identify at least the main colour of their uniform, and all players, coaches and guests must wear a top of this colour." There is no penalty for

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Dodgers promoted, Div 1 split confirmed *(Continued from page 2)*

games in Division 1. But the results confirmed which teams would make the cut in the top-bottom split. **Dodgy Shark**s' loss to **Mayhem** puts them in the bottom half while **Meerkats**' defeat of **Mavericks** sees them leapfrog the seadogs. **Camels** remain in 3rd place after beating **Tigers**, though this week's make-up game with Mayhem will determine the formality of placings for the fixtures. Thunder can clinch the title with a win the Thunderby this week.

Stingers needed Thunder III not to win to claim the Division 3 title, and can do so with even a tie this week (or a Thunder stumble). Stingers did their bit with a "mercy" win over **Raiders**, whose main consolation was to get a run in the bottom of the 4th inning to force a 5th frame. On the adjacent field, **Thunder III** led off against **Fireballs** with ten runs but were 11-12 down after three innings. The next two innings were cagey affairs, but Thunder sealed the deal—and with it promotion—in the 6th to win 18-14. The defeat confirms Fireballs' relegation to Division 4, though, unless we recruit a new team over the winter, the 11 teams in the bottom two divisions next year are likely to start off with a combined round-robin, making "relegation" and "promotion" moot. Elsewhere, **Freeze** ended their four-game losing streak with a comfortable16-7 win over **Barflies**.

In Division 4 the top three played the bottom three, with all three games going to form. **Tiggers**' perfect season continued with a 30-7 win over **Toras** in the tiger derby, while **Sluggababes** ended their game against **Base Invaders** with a two-RBI hit though only the first run in—the 16th in a 16-1 "mercy" win—counted. **Thunder IV**'s defeat of **Seagulls** was a much closer affair, with the gulls taking an early lead, before Thunder got their noses in front. But in the final two innings the seabirds nearly wrested back control, with two shut-outs and four of the five runs needed to tie the game. The second promotion spot is still up for grabs, even if, as already mentioned, it may turn out to be fairly meaningless.

Birthdays

Monday 4th

Matt Dorey (Camels)

Tuesday 5th

Jordan Wilcock (Fireballs)

Thursday 7th

Jack Hoban (Hackers), Nacho Sánchez (Bandidos), Amy Swiszczowski (Thunder II), Josh Walker (Bats)

Friday 8th

Carolyn Barratt (Speeders)

Saturday 9th

Nicola Jones (Thunder IV)

Sunday 10th

Addison Butler (Base Invaders)

This week's games

Tuesday 5th
Division 3
Fireballs 3L v Barflies 3L (pitch 7, umpire Sharp)
Stingers 3W v Freeze 1W (6, Goff)
Thunder III 4W v Raiders 1L (8, Strayer)
Division 4
Seagulls 1L v Base Invaders 3L (4, Warren)
Thunder IV 1W v Toras 8L (2, Sánchez)
Tiggers 15W v Sluggababes 4W (3, Somers)
Wednesday 6th
Division 1
Mayhem 2W @ Camels 1W (F, Sharp)
Thunder II 2L @ Thunder 2W (E, Creelman)
Division 2
Bats 2L @ Dodgers 5W (H, Davies)
Camels II 1L @ Titans 3W (G, Green)
Mavericks II 4L @ Screwballs 1W (A, Mills)
Speeders 2L @ Bandidos 11L (B, Bastiampillai)
Hackers rest

Uniform rules *(Cont. from page 2)*

flouting this rule, but umpires may request players to put on a shirt of the appropriate colour. Our picture, from last Tuesday, shows the team in white batting against a team in navy, with a base coach standing near 1st base wearing a glove and a navy T-shirt … looking just like a fielder to one of the defending players grabbing the ball and looking up quickly to see where their 1st baseman is. Also, if a batter is wearing the same shirt as the fielders, it can be confusing for umpires if several similarly dressed players converge on a base for a close play. So it is not unreasonable for the umpire to ask a batter/outfielder to take off their warm top just when batting.

Our league is as well run and formalised as any sports league in Manchester. In other sports if you turn up wearing even the wrong socks you don't get to play! When players spend hundreds of pounds on equipment, is it too much to expect them to love and respect their team sufficiently to shell out a few quid for a printed T-shirt? Or, when their team mates are all wearing their expensive baseball-shop bespoke uniforms, can't they at least dig out an appropriately coloured T-shirt from their wardrobe?

Match reports

Screwballs defence shines, topples Speeders

SPEEDERS 0 0 2 0 3 0 0 **5**
SCREWBALLS 0 0 4 0 4 5 x **13**
Pitch G, Umpire Fliss Fagan

SPEEDERS Duncan Jones (SS), Emma Bennett (LF), David Grice (CL), Christine Hunter (1B), Chris Lennon (2B), Sian McNeill (RF), Jeremy Fothergill (P; Sub Ethan Money-Muter), Maz Yung (C), Ryan Jones (CR), Carolyn Barratt (3B)
HRs Bennett, Grice; **MVPs** Bennett, Grice

SCREWBALLS Liv Thompson-Westmacott (SS), Ross Maskell (CR), Hatti Greenhow (2B), Oscar Marenco (P), Eliza Thompson-Westmacott (LF), Daniel Strayer (1B), Hannah Tillyard-Smith (C), Zak Morris (3B), *Emma Simpson (CM2)*(RF), Maciek Jurewicz (CL)
HRs Maskell 2, Strayer; **MVPs** Greenhow, Morris

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Lose this week, win next week. Screwballs brilliantly made certain it was "next week" Wednesday night in Wythenshawe against Speeders. The home side rode the stellar right arm of Oscar Marenco, defensive jewels by Zak Morris, a new mum's hot bat and lockdown outfield defence to a 13-5 win, reeling off the game's final nine runs to win going away. Speeders' pitching (including starter Jeremy Fothergill and Ethan Money-Muter) were solid through the night. They were backed up by solid defence, combining to limit the Pink and Blue to just 13 runs, taking a 5-4 lead behind a pair of homers from game MVPs David Grice and Emma Bennett in the 4th inning. Through two innings, in fact, both teams threw up gooseeggs, as Grice and shortstop Duncan Jones stepped up brilliantly for the hard charging side. But the Screwballs responded: Division 2's own resident Cal Raleigh, Ross Maskell, drilled two more homers. His league leading total now sits at 18. Dan Strayer picked himself up off the ground (and

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Match reports *(Cont. from page 4)*

we do mean literally) to drill his fourth homer of the season. Our latest guest player, Emma Simpson from Camels II, made a slick catch in right field and supplied two hits, including a clutch single in the 6th to keep an insurance run rally going. BBH MVP Zak Morris pulled off a wonderful Brooks Robinson imitation at 3rd base. Change his name to Hoover, as Morris snuffed out one Speeder hit after another, spearheading a stingy defence that threw up five goose-eggs in seven innings. One outfielder who shone was team-selected SBH MVP Eliza Thompson-Westmacott, who drilled a triple and used elite positioning in left field to flag down several would-be hits. Speeders-selected SBH MVP and regular 3rd baseman Hatti Greenhow tried a new position Wednesday. Greenhow was so good that she might remain at 2B, drilling two singles and turning a nifty double play on a grounder to Marenco. But new mum Hannah Tillyard-Smith may have outdone them all. In a triumphant return to Screwball pink and blue after giving birth to her second child, Hannah was a perfect 4 for 4 at the plate, and served as a dependable backstop for Marenco. It was as if she'd never been away. With third place in Division 2 still up for grabs, the two sides are back at it Wednesday in Wythenshawe. Screwballs improve to seven wins, five losses and a tie, and play host to Mavericks II on Wednesday at Pitch A. Speeders (5-6 on the season) attempt to even their record and get back on the winning side, visiting against Bandidos at Pitch B. *Dan Strayer*

Hackers' offensive onslaught results in first "mercy-rule" win

MAVERICKS II	5	2	3	1	6	0	**17**
HACKERS	0	11	3	5	9	4	**32**

RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Andrew Bogie

The Hackers put together their most dominant and complete offensive performance of the season last week, triggering the "mercy" rule for the first time in a decisive 32-17 victory over the Mavericks II. It was a brilliant all-round day for the team, marked by an incredible hitting display from every spot in the lineup and punctuated by a memorable "father-daughter" power surge.

After a quiet 1st inning, the floodgates opened in the 2nd as the Hackers erupted for 11 runs and never looked back. The offence was relentless, scoring in every subsequent inning and building an insurmountable lead. The day was defined by two MVP-winning perfect performances from Grace Mills and Ian 'Millsy' Mills. Grace went an incredible 6 for 6, smashing three singles, two dou-

MAVERICKS II Chris Gresty (SS), Rach Gavaghan (1B), Dave Martin Baez (CL), Jane Curley (LF), Paul Waters (3B, Sub Ian Williams), Charleen Christofi (2B), Steve Kellett (P, Sub Mike Goff), Helen Moore (RF), Shane Coyles (CR), Di Martin Baez (C)
HRs Dave Martin Baez 2; **MVPs** Christofi, Dave Martin Baez

HACKERS Ella Mills (1B), Jack Hoban (CL), Grace Mills (LF), Alex Mills (CR), Carmen Arrevillagas (C), Ian Mills (SS), Priti Mehta (2B), Dan Johansson (P), Rachel Naylor (RF), Kyle Johansson (3B)
HRs I Mills, G Mills, D Johansson; **MVPs** G Mills, I Mills

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Match reports *(Continued from page 5)*

bles, and a home run while driving in a team-high seven runs. Not to be outdone, Millsy also went a perfect 6 for 6, hitting two singles, three doubles, and a home run of his own, collecting four RBIs, completing a rare "father-daughter" homerun pair. Unfortunately they did this in a rare week when the son of the family didn't hit a homer! The offensive masterclass extended through the entire lineup. with all players registering a hit percentage of over .500, an incredible team-wide achievement. While the story was written by the bats, the Hackers' defence made its presence felt as well with a total of ten catches in the field. Ella Mills was a wall behind the plate, highlighted by a tough play where she stood her ground on a throw from the 1st base, applying a firm tag that sent the Mavs' runner to the ground and secured a crucial out at home. Ultimately, it was an offensive performance so overwhelming that the game was called after six innings due to the "mercy" rule. It was a fitting conclusion to a day where every player contributed to a powerful, all-around team victory and a significant milestone for the Hackers' season.

Gemini Hackerbot

Dodgers' big inning wins top v bottom clash

BANDIDOS	1	2	1	0	0	**4**
DODGERS	1	0	13	3	2	**19**

RAR, Pitch A, Umpire Ian Caird

BANDIDOS Jacob Arnison (LF), Tanya Lochery (3B), Mark Sanders (SS), Evie Sanders (CL), Nacho Sánchez (P), Carol Ann Costello (RF), Harry Somers (1B), Jane Langford (2B), *Jack Lalor (TOR)* (CR), *Kerry Ann Gill (STG)*(C)
MVPs Lochery, Arnison

DODGERS David Dyson (LF), Keely Congleton (3B), Stéphane Karayannis (SS), Alyssa Jones (RF), Dave Warren (P), Alexa Martinez (CL), Simon Hepburn (2B), Sophie Temple (1B), Brian Slusarek (CR), Criselle de Jesus (C)
HRs Karayannis, Jones, Slusarek; **MVPs** Jones, Slusarek

With a few players away, Bandidos had to make adjustments. We were delighted to welcome back Carol Ann Costello for her first game of the season—so excited in fact that we forgot to get her to register, so the League Secretary had to issue a points deduction (fortunately suspended) to his own team. Bandidos made a decent start, so decent in fact that, trailing 4-1, Dodgers went into a pitchside huddle … and came out of it to hit 13 runs. The avalanche began with a *very* close line call, but this was top v bottom, and frankly it showed. There weren't too many errors in defence, just Dodgers finding the gaps or hitting beyond our back line. So that was that really. Mark Sanders stepped in to pitch to the last few batters, but any hope of a save was pretty forlorn. Well-deserved MVP awards went to Jacob Arnison for running like the wind and also commanding left field. He and Tanya Lochery shared the best batting average (.667) and she took a great catch at 3rd base to be the small-ball MVP. Division 4 Toras guest Jack Lalor did not look out of place at all in the higher division, with some great outfield work. At bat, lots of folk got on base but often at the expense of a previous batter, with eight FCs a measure of the Dodgers' infield.

(Stand-in capitano) El Niño

Manchester teams sweep BeeBall tournamnet

All three finals at last weekend's Manchester Main tournament—now rebranded as Manchester BeeBall—were won by local teams, with Camels taking Gold, Titans Silver and Stingers Bronze.

The tournament, run with her usual efficiency by NJ Dyson, was blessed with great weather on the Saturday while the Sunday started with a proper Mancunian downpour, though it cleared up later.

Camels at BeeBall: Walk-off drama, and a well-earned win

The Camels arrived at BeeBall with a squad that increasingly makes our captains feel their age, as youthful exuberance was on full display. With the sun shining, the team played some lovely softball through the morning, adjusting well to blustery conditions with wins over Mavs (12-2), Dodgers (15-9), and Coos (12-6).

The bats cooled in the afternoon, but a tense walk-off home run win (great hit, questionable bat flip) against Meerkats (6-5) kept spirits high. That was followed by a narrow walk-off loss to Mavs (10-11).

Reports are still trickling in about Saturday night's antics, with some players' hangovers matching the dreary Sunday morning weather. The more experienced heads enjoyed a quieter start, and the team pulled through with a 16-10 win over an equally worse-for-wear Dodgers.

Next up were the Coos. With everything drenched, both teams struggled to hit until the final inning. Coos led 9-3 going into the bottom of the last, but with the sun finally making an appearance, the Camels responded with a bat-around to score the seven needed to win—culminating in a second (less convincing) walk-off from Nathan Barratt. The round robin wrapped up with an 8-5 win over Meerkats, securing top spot with seven wins and just one loss.

Semi-final showdown

The semi-final against Heilan Coos started with a flurry—five straight hits from Coos—but the Camels adjusted quickly, limiting them to four runs and replying with seven of their own. From there, it was a tight contest with great defence on both sides. The Camels conceded the lead in the top of the last inning and needed two runs to win. With just one out left, consecutive singles from Max Fagan and Laura Simpson set the stage for Baljit Singh Ahluwalia to blast a triple to right field, sending us to

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Adam Hugill receives the BeeBall trophy from tournament organizer NJ Dyson. Photo David Dyson

Manchester teams sweep BeeBall tournament *(Continued from page 7)*

the final.

Final redemption

Looking to avenge the earlier loss to Mavs, the Camels fell behind early despite some outstanding defence, Charlotte Green's full-length pick at 1st base being a standout moment. A Mavs bat-around in the 2nd inning left us trailing 6-2. But the Camels found another gear, restricting Mavs to just two more runs while the bats came alive. A pinch-hit, bases-clearing shot from Ben Tomlin in the 5th and a two-run bomb from Izzie Keeley in the 6th gave Laura Simpson the chance to seal the win with a walk-off homer, completing an 18-8 victory.

It was a well-deserved reward for a fantastic team performance over the weekend. For the stat lovers: 11 different players hit homers, 118 runs scored at an average of 2.56 per inning, and a team batting average of .586, led by SBH Zoe Le Roux (.667) and BBH Adam Hugill (.750).

Thanks and shoutouts

Huge thanks to the organisers, umpires, and all the teams for a weekend played in great spirits. Special shoutouts to Adam Brookbanks for organising the squad and to Lara Bragg for scoring all day Sunday, when there were definitely drier places to be! *Adam Hugill*

Camels, winners (Gold) Back row, left to right: Nathan Barratt, Adam Brookbanks, Laura Simpson, Sarah Cassin, Nicola Booth, Charlotte Green; Front row, sitting: Baljit Singh Ahluwalia, Max Fagan, Ben Tomlin, Izzie Keeley, Adam Hugill, Brad Hadwin; Front, lying: Zoe Le Roux. Photo: Lara Bragg

Titans' bats lead the way to Silver title

An unfortunate ladder incident has left Titans leaderless for the second half of the MSL season. However, with a bit of help from their wider network (Famille Casling) and the Mills Clan, a crack team was assembled for Manchester BeeBall tournament

The 1st inning of the first game set the tone for the weekend, with great team base hitting, piling the pressure on the Screwballs' defence, who, possibly still waking up, were unable to support the wily pitching of Bryony James. Sufficient defence followed with the steady hand of pitcher Jai Bhagdev ably supported by Carl

(Continued opposite)

Emsley mopping up anything straying into right field.

The second game saw the Titans undone at the hands of "one woman army" Karin Tange, who was there to swoop on anything so much as fractionally elevated over the infield. The left fielder's brilliance kept the Titans at bay and allowed Maelstrom to take a deserved 11-8 win.

Titans found a reaction in their next game against Speeders, with four Luke Nelson triples and an exhibition of opposite field hitting from Catherine Oversby. Captain Sam Baker then pinch hit himself in the last inning, swinging the bat with only his non-broken hand, somehow lining a single straight up the middle. Such idiotic behaviour was not repeated, leaving Baker having hit 1.000 for the weekend.

Good hitting followed against the Fockers and Camels II, throughout which the consistent, silent and deadly work of Jack Hoban rumbled on. Two Gabby Kenworthy home runs completed a very satisfying 4-1 day.

Titans, Silver winners. Back row left to right: Jack Hoban, Jai Bhagdev, Carl Emsley, Ian Mills, Sam Baker, Luke Nelson, Ben Casling; Front row: Catherine Oversby, Ella Mills, Kate Winfield, Zoe Coombes, Izzy Rendall, Gabby Kenworthy. Not shown: Jamie Coombes. Photo: Grace Mills

With Bhagdev off to a wedding, pitching duties were handed over to Ian Mills on the Sunday. He battled well against a strong Tigers lineup, including the stikeout of daughter Grace. However, the Titans bats were still in bed as they struggled to get base runners, once again thwarted in left field, this time by Sara Alwagfi. Ultimately, Mills's stubborn resistance was ended by a three-run moonshot from The Mighty Jimbo™ as Tigers took the game 10-6.

Titans refired the bats against the Bobcats, spearheaded by Ben Casling, whose phenomenal Sunday hitting elevated his tournament batting average to .920 with an on-base plus slugging average of 2.885. The only moment of concern for Titans was when a wild throw clattered into the kneecap of Zoe Coombes, leading to her infamous Highland war cry of "OH NOOOO".

The Titans entered the semifinal against Maelstrom with one mission: this time to hit it away

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Manchester teams sweep BeeBall tournament *(Continued from page 9)*

from Tange. The plan was executed with reasonable success as the runs again piled up. While a Maelstrom grand slam in the 3rd threatened to signal a comeback, the Titans' relentless hitting was too much. Kate Winfield smashed a mighty blow over right centre off her Tempest II teammate, but at least Dave Warren could still manage a smile as she circled the bases for the third time in the tournament.

The final saw a showdown with Screwballs and at this point the offence was firing on all cylinders, with the weary Screwballs' defenders having little riposte. The Titans' defence at last joined the party with Izzie Rendall and Jamie Coombes patrolling the skies while the Casling/Ella Mills infield combo worked seamlessly. Titans' Guive Shafie, turning up only to walk his dog, was subbed into the game for a pinch hit home run, sealing a comprehensive victory. There was a lovely moment for the Screwballs as Christopher Marenco hit a laser shot into left field for his first ever home run.

A big thank you to NJ Dyson for organising the tournament and a massive congratulations to our friends at the Stingers, who took the Bronze title.

Sam Baker

Stingers buzz their way to bronze

For a tournament named "Beeball" for the first time it's fitting that Stingers have (at the fourth time of asking) managed to take home a title. Coming into the tournament with a strong league team there was an air of positivity from the start despite the forecasted tempests and

the double 9am ames. DISCLAIMER: If I am completely honest, the whole tournament is

rather a blur of flying softballs and flurries of rain punctuated by snacks, so from a diminished memory, here we go.

Liverbirds were first, a tough fixture settled in the 1st inning with a solid base hitting display that compensated for some later misfires at the bat but a 16-11 win was a good foundation for the rest of the day.

Demons put up a lot of resistance, forcing us to grind out a 9-7 victory, and then everything went downhill fast when we were taken apart by the lovely Bolts, comprised of Edinburgh-based players who know us all too well from previous tournaments together.

Refreshed after lunch, we took to the field against Dam, picked up our game massively and really started to let rip with the homers; Div 3 HR leaders Nikki Bradshaw and Nic Sims were in typically vicious form dropping bombs on right and left field respectively and this was enough to see our way to an 18-13 win.

Tiggers ended the day and in a repeat of her feat from our pre-season friendly, Michelle Cleator hit a home run she probably would have preferred to have got done earlier in the day with fresher legs but I suppose we take the wins where we can! Victory in this game saw us into

(Continued opposite)

day two in second position in the table.

Clashes between Stingers and Bats (apologies Arthur; Firebats) are never not entertaining, and this theme continued into our first Sunday fixture which saw Jack Barnes face off against his own wife Hannah Kay, who continued to heckle lovingly from the baseline long after he caught her out in the 2nd inning. A closely fought game was ultimately concluded by a right-field hit from the captain to bring Sims home from 2nd base.

It wouldn't be a true Stinger tournament without at least one chaotic collapse for each day, and this occurred as the heavens opened at 11am for the Bangers game. Our fielding was stretched about as haphazardly as the sawdust on the home plate and as the rain fell so did our moods.

However, the strongest steel is forged in the fire of a dumpster as they say, and if we learned nothing else from last season it's how to pick up after a fall and it was at this point we stepped up a gear. The Nottingham Tigers put up little resistance against a renewed batting effort and we managed to win ourselves some extra rest by finishing top of the group and earning a rematch against Dam for the final, and we just weren't stopping, running out 22-11 winners and earning probably my favourite tournament medal ever.

Stingers, Bronze winners. Back row left to right: Jack Barnes, Chloe Patient, Michelle Cleator, Mark Fox, Nikki Bradshaw, Jack Rains; Front row: Kristian Stokwisz, Kerry Ann Gill, Ellie Hotchkiss, Nic Sims

So here's to all of my players; to Barnesy for never letting a tennis injury get in the way of a good softball final, to Rainsy for being so determined to ruin a home run by showboating on 3rd base, to The Ellie for being able to take a running outfield catch while bent double, to Nikki for hitting right field until the cows come home, to Kristian for being the definitive utility player, to Kerry for being willing to wholeheartedly throw herself to the ground, to Nic for always striving for the perfect double play, to Chelle for never knowing where Nic's double plays will end up but always ready anyway, and to Bagpuss for still being the best batteryman ever.

And to NJ, umpires and all involved in the running of the tournament, thank you.

Buzz buzz, Beeball.

Chloe Patient

Transfers and transfer deadline

Transfer

Holly Tillyard-Smith, Tigers to Tigger

Correction

Peter Booth transferred to the Sluggababes, not to Screwballs as stated last week.

Transfer deadline

Just a reminder that the transfer deadline is *this Wednesday*! Specifically, the MSL Handbook says "Starting from a date three weeks before the scheduled end of the official season no transfers are permitted of any player, except where that player is transferring to a higher division than the one they are currently rostered in, or where the transfer is triggered by a fifth guest appearance The official transfer deadline this year is at 7p.m. **Wednesday August 8th** for all divisions." That is evidently a typo, and should read "August 6th", since that is three weeks before the end of the season.

After that date, players may only transfer "up", unless obliged to transfer by the five-appearances guest rules.

Any player transferring for a second time must miss the next scheduled game.

Next week's fixtures (August 12/13)

Division 1

Next week is the first week of the final half-rotation. All games are "no home team"

Thunder v Meerkats (pitch H, umpire Davies) Last meeting 18th June, Thunder won 20-8. Thunder also won their first meeting this year, on opening day, 14-12. So coincidentally this fixture has been the first in each of the three rounds. Meerkats have lost all 12 meetings historically.

2nd v 3rd (G, Fagan) Mayhem and Camels will be 2nd and 3rd, though the order is to be determined … by this week's rearranged game between the two! Mayhem won their first meeting 18-13, back in May.

Dodgy Sharks v Tigers (A, TBA) Last meeting 22nd July. Tigers registered so far their only win of the campaign 14-13. In their first meeting they had also done well until a last-inning onslaught by the Sharks snatched the victory. As Tigers had never played the Sharks

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Next week's fixtures *(Continued from page 12)*

before this year, and Travelling Dodgers were originally the Tigers, it's 1-1 in all meetings.

Mavericks v Thunder II (B, TBA) Last meeting 22nd July, Mavs won 27-7 to complete the double in the pairs' first ever meetings.

Division 2

Games in Division 2 are the return fixtures from week 7, June 11th

Bats @ Speeders (D, Bastiampillai) The scheduled game was postponed. Last meeting 24 July 2024, Bats won 19-7. Since their first meeting in 1995, Speeders have won 25 times, Bats 10, with one tied game.

Camels II @ Dodgers (C, TBA) Dodgers won 39-23, Camels posting this season's record highest losing score in a run-ahead rule loss (only two runs short of the all-time record, set in 2017 by the Colt 45s). Dodgers have won four of their five meetings.

Hackers @ Screwballs (F, Green) Hackers won a thrilling first-ever meeting 14-13.

Mavericks II @ Bandidos (E, Baker) Mavs won 22-14 and have won all three meetings of these two.

Titans rest

In Divisions 3 and 4, next week sees the final games of the regular season, a third staging of the pairings seen in week 6, 3rd June, and week 11, 8th July.

Division 3

Barflies v Raiders (3, Hung) Raiders won their first meeting 32-12, with a 20-run 4th inning securing the "slaughter". But Barflies got their revenge in the second game, winning 29-18. Raiders currently lead the all-time series 4-3.

Fireballs v Freeze (4, TBA) Fireballs won the first game comfortably, 32-15, but the return was much closer, Fireballs winning with a walk-off run in the bottom of the 7th: 14-13. Those two wins have given them a 7-6 lead in all meetings.

Thunder III v Stingers (2, Sharp) Stingers won the first game 21-15, but Thunder hit back in the return, recovering from a ten-run deficit in the 6th inning, then sharing 14 runs in the final inning to win 25-24. The pair are also inseparable in the all-time record, with four wins each.

Division 4

Base Invaders v Toras (6, Narain) The rookie derbies have been shared this year, with Toras winning the first 26-11, but Invaders getting their first ever win against any opposition in the return, 20-14. Toras lead 2-1 in all meetings.

Seagulls v Sluggababes (8, TBA) Sluggababes have won both meetings this season, 14-7 and 24-16. In all SLG-SGL meetings it's 3-1 to the Slugs.

Thunder IV v Tiggers (7, Goff) Tiggers have won both meetings on their march to the title, confirmed already two weeks ago. The first game was 19-4, while Thunder did better in the return, scoring 21 to Tiggers' 30. Tiggers have won seven of their nine meetings.

Pitchers' masks?

Keep your eyes peeled this week on socials for a questionnaire about pitchers wearing face masks. SS

Points deduction

Bandidos used an unrostered player last week and therefore incur a Type C penalty: one point deduction suspended.

Guests

UP

Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3) for Titans (2 games, 2nd and 3rd) v Bats

Conor Battersby (CM2) for Mayhem v Dodgy Sharks

Jen Douglas (CM2) for Dodgy Sharks v Mayhem

Annie Downes (SLG) for Titans v Bats (2 games)

Kerry Ann Gill (STG) for Bandidos v Dodgers

Jo Griffin (TH3) for Mavericks (2nd) v Meerkats

Jack Lalor (TOR) for bandidos v Dodgers

Daisy May Lord (BFL) for Dodgy Sharks v Mayhem

SAME

April Hutchen (THU) for Tigers v Camels

Ashley Swaby (TH2) for Mayhem v Dodgy Sharks

Emma Simpson (CM2) for Screwballs v Speeders

DOWN

Carmen Arrevillagas (HAC) for Thunder IV (3rd) v Seagulls

Amber Frost (BAT) for Fireballs v Thunder III

Sonia Hine (MKT) for Raiders (3rd) v Stingers

Martine Knight (MHM) for Fireballs v Thunder III

Priti Mehta (HAC) for Thunder IV (2nd) v Seagulls

Abbie Overington (HAC) for Seagulls (2nd) v Thunder IV

Leo Pearn (CM2) for Seagulls v Thunder IV

Lisa Williams (PFB) for Tigers (4th) v Camels

MVPs

CAMELS	Charlotte Green (RF), Wes Ng (SS)
D SHARKS	*Daisy May Lord (BFL)*(CL), Karthik Manjunath (CR)
MAVERICKS	Ellie Buckley (1B), Ian Blease (2B)
MAYHEM	Emma Agostini (3B), Jack Scholes (2B)
MEERKATS	Jess Wooden (3B), Alex Ingham (CR)
TIGERS	Anissa Actarafi (3B), Oli Sharpe (SS)
BANDIDOS	Tanya Lochery (3B), Jacob Arnison (LF)
BATS	Toni Strowger (RF), Chris Frost (P)
DODGERS	Alyssa Jones (RF), Brian Slusarek (CR)
HACKERS	Grace Mills (LF), Ian Mills (SS)
MAVERICKS II	Charleen Christofi (2B), Dave Martin Baez (CL)
SCREWBALLS	Hatti Greenhow (3B), Zak Morris)
SPEEDERS	Emma Bennett (LF), David Grice (CL)
TITANS	*Annie Downes (SLG)*(P), Peter Brocklehurst (CL)
BARFLIES	Jo McCullough (2B), Henry Smith (EP)
FIREBALLS	Hannah Kay (3B, Criostai Newhall (SS)
FREEZE	Lorlei Salfred-Ingham (EP), Mark Hayward (P)
RAIDERS	Sam Merry (C), Luke Crannage (SS)
STINGERS	Chloe Patient (P), AJ Hoysted (CL)
THUNDER III	Farrah Bennett (2B), Michael Mia (P)
BASE INVADERS	Ruth Gordon (1B), Dan Robinson (EP)
SEAGULLS	Iain McCann (P), Charlotte Daniel (2B)
SLUGGABABES	Annie Downes (P), Mike Young (C)
THUNDER IV	*Priti Mehti (HAC)*(C), Jaime Acton (P)
TIGGERS	Amy Parmiter (LF), Muhammad Tawheed (SS)
TORAS	Rachel Thorpe (2B), Ben Lock (1B)

(All names appear as submitted)

Home runs

Division 1 SBH

8 – Maddie Gresty (CAM)
6 – Christa Reed-Thomas (DSH)
5 – Avery Chong (MKT)
4 – Izzie Keeley (CAM)
3 – Katie Jessop* (DSH), Sherry Kenyon (MAV), Linni Mitchell (MHM), Laura Simpson (THU)
2 – Jess Wooden (MKT)
1 – Emma Agostini (MHM), Mel Byrne (DSH), Leanne Cracknell (MAV), Charlotte Green (CAM), Kim Hannessen (THU), April Hutchen (THU), Fran Leyton (TH2), Amy Miller (MHM), Su O'Brien (DSH), Sian Payne (THU), Amy Swiszczowski (TH2), Deb Wilson (MKT)

Division 1 BBH

22 – Dan Downes**** (DSH)
10 – Keith Altena (MKT), Joe Grantham (THU), Tom Russell (THU)
8 – Max Fagan* (CAM), Rich Goar (TIG), Matthew Green* (MHM)
7 – Tom Atkinson* (CAM), Adam Hugill* (CAM), Trent Nash* (MHM), Pete Nightingale* (MAV),
6 – Carlos dos Ramos * (MKT), Jeivo Gomez* (TH2), Kris Hadwin (THU), Wes Ng (CAM), Jon Taylor (TH2)
5 – Jordan Colton (MHM)
4 – Lubo Durisin (MAV), Chris Fulton (MAV), Brad Hadwin (THU), Alex Ingham (MKT), Jack Scholes (MHM), Ollie Sharpe (TIG)

(Continued on page 15)

Home runs *(Continued from page 14)*

3 – Gareth Evans (CAM), Ant Hulme (DSH), Benkei Johnson (MHM), Dave Leverton (THU), Simon Sharp* (TIG)
2 – Baljit Ahluwalia (CAM), Luis Arrevillagas (THU), Luis Allan Arrevillagas (THU), Craig Brooks (MAV), Ed Covington (TIG), Matt Fairweather (MKT), Mike Lott (DSH), Laurence Pearmain* (MAV), Darren Shaw (MKT), Rich Thompson (TIG), Charlie Whalley (DSH)
1– Nathan Barratt (MHM), Ian Blease (MAV), Andrew Bogie (TH2), Danny Casey-Wright (CAM), Gino Cavali (DSH), Phil Kirby (TH2), Mike Mia (TIG), Benji Pearce (TH2), Stephen Shearer (DSH), James Stevens* (MKT), Jimmy Warren (TH2)

Division 2 SBH
8 – Izzy Rendell (TTN)
4 – Emma Bennett (SPE), Jessica Hastings (DOD), Olivia Thompson-Westmacott (SCR)
3 – Grace Mills (HAC), Kate Winfield (TTN)
2 – Tanya Lochery (BND)
1 – Zoe Coombes (TTN), Hatti Greenhow (SCR), Alyssa Jones (DOD), Hannah Magee (BAT), Emma Simpson (CM2)

Division 2 BBH
18 – Ross Maskell (SCR)
13 – Sam Baker (TTN)
11 – Carl Emsley (TTN)
10 – Paul Colton (DOD), Brian Slusarek** (DOD)
9 – James Wooderson (CM2)
8 – Stéphane Karayannis* (DOD), David Martin Baez (MV2), Liam Morrison (BND), Ray Walker (BAT), Cameron Waddelow (BAT)
6 – Conor Battersby (CM2), Maciek Jurewicz (SCR), Ollie Potts (CM2)
5 – David Dyson (DOD), David Grice* (SPE), Dan Johansson (HAC), Alex Mills (HAC), Sean Rafter* (HAC), Ian Williams (MV2)
4 – Jai Bhagdev (TTN), Darren Corner (HAC), Chris Frost (BAT), Simon Hepburn (DOD), Oscar Marenco (SCR), Luke Nelson (TTN), Mark Sanders* (BND), Dan Strayer (SCR)
3 – Naveed Ahmed (SCR), Bryn Davies (BAT), Chris Gresty (MV2), Jack Hoban (HAC), Jake Roberts (DOD)
2 – Ant Boffey (CM2), Jeremy Fothergill (SPE), Dan Jarman (CM2), Chris Lennon (SPE), Nick Money (SPE), Zak Morris (SCR), Adam Morrison (BND), Josh Walker (BAT)
1 – Jacob Arnison (BND), Jamie Coombes (TTN), Chris Drayton* (CM2), Andy Grose (BND), Stephen Howard (DOD), Duncan Jones (SPE), Steve Kellett (MV2), Malachy Lynch (MV2), Ian Mills (HAC), Leo Pearn (CM2), Dave Warren (DOD)

Division 3 SBH
6 – Nicola Bradshaw (STGI)
3 – Laurie Salfred-Ingham (FRZ)
2 – Kerry Brown (RAI), Jo McCullough* (BFL), Chloe Patient (STG), Laura Somers (TH3)
1 – Anna Berry* (BFL), Kerry Ann Gill (STG), Ellie Hotchkiss (STG), Amy Jerdin (RAI)

Division 3 BBH
11 – Nic Sims (STG)
9 – Ben Acton (TH3)
8 – Luke Crannage (RAI), Michael Mia (TH3), Josh Normie (STG)
7 – Kristian Stokwisz (RAI)
6 – Dean Cull* (TH3), Lee Kendrick-Walker (BFL)
5 – Ebbie Hassan (BFL), Jono Wrigley (FRZ)
4 – Jack Barnes (STG), Rory Casey-Wright* (STG), Mark Hayward (FRZ), Chris Radford* (BFL)
3 – Dilan Bastiampillai (TH3), Criostai Newhall (PFB), Jonathan Pearson (RAI), Jack Rains (STG), Kuba Jacob Williams (BFL), James Wright (TH3)
2 – Jack Baldwin (PFB), Tomm Childs (TH3), Mark Crannage (RAI), Mitch Gilbert (PFB), Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), AJ Hoysted (STG), Chris Smith (BFL), Richard Valentine (RAI)
1 – Mark Fox (STG), Ant Garcia (FRZ), Kelby Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Owen Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Callum Schora (RAI), Andy Whatmore (PFB)

Division 4 SBH
3 – Annie Downes (SLG)
2 – Emma Hawke (TGG), Edie Lemmers (SLG), Lynsey Taylor (TGG), Abbie Thwaite* (TH4)

Division 4 BBH
21 – Chris Mannion**** (TH4)
19 – Leon Arismendi (TGG),
10 – Antoon Lemmers (SLG)
9 – Jamie Acton (TH4)
8 – Josh Kehoe (TGG)
7 – James Tanner (SLG)
6 – Dave Gittins (SGL), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Ben Lock (TOR), Muhammad Taweed** (TGG)
5 – Jack Lalor (TOR), Sam Webb (SGL)
4 – Jonathan Foldi (SGL), Kieran O'Leary (SLG), Stan O'Leary (SLG)
3 – Adrian Kwong (TH4), Josh Matthews (SGL)
2 – Ian McCann (SGL), Seb Parker (TOR), Dan Robinson (DBI), Gary Sugden* (TH4)
1 – Steve Beddows (TGG), Guillermo d'Alessio (TOR), Kieran Farrell (DBI), Anthony Henderson (SGL), Conor O'Sullivan (TGG), Roger Pedley (TH4), Dan Simpson (TH4), Carlos Torres (TGG), Dan Waterman* (DBI), Mike Young (SLG)

* grand slam

Results *(Continued from page 16)*

STINGERS	14 0 6 6 3	**29**
RAIDERS	1 5 0 1 2	**9**

RAR, Pitch 4, Umpire Harry Somers
HRs **STG** Nic Sims 2, Nikki Bradshaw, AJ Hoysted

FIREBALLS	1 4 7 1 0 0 1	**14**
THUNDER III	10 1 0 1 1 5 x	**18**

Pitch 3, Umpire Mike Goff
HRs **PFB** Mitch Gilbert; **TH3** James Wright, Ben Acton, Michael Mia

Division 4

B INVADERS	0 1 0 0 0	**1**
SLUGGABABES	0 8 1 6 1	**16**

RAR, Pitch 7, Umpire Arthur Hung
HRs **SLG** Stan O'Leary, Mike Young

THUNDER IV	3 0 4 4 2 0 0	**13**
SEAGULLS	4 1 0 1 2 3 1	**12**

Pitch 8, Umpire Simon Sharp
HRs **TH4** Chris Mannion, Jamie Acton; **SGL** Ian McCann

TIGGERS	3 2 14 11	**30**
TORAS	1 1 3 2	**7**

RAR, Pitch 6, Umpire Paul Fagan
HRs **TGG** Leon Arismendi, Muhammad Taweed; **TOT** Ben Lock 2

Results 29/30 July

Division 1

D SHARKS 0 0 4 0 2 2 1 **9**
MAYHEM 0 4 2 5 0 7 x **18**
Pitch F, Umpire Mike Davies
HRs **DSH** Dan Downes; **MHM** Jack Scholes, Trent Nash, Emma Agostini, *Conor Battersby (CM2)*

MEERKATS 5 0 1 3 0 4 4 **17**
MAVERICKS 0 0 0 0 1 5 3 **9**
Pitch D, Umpire Jonny Creelman
HRs **MKT** Alex Ingham 2

TIGERS 1 2 0 0 0 **3**
CAMELS 4 9 1 2 2 **18**
Pitch C, Umpire Al Green
HRs

Division 2

BANDIDOS 1 2 1 0 0 **4**
DODGERS 1 0 13 3 2 **19**
RAR, Pitch A, Umpire Ian Caird
HRs **DOD** Stéphane Karayannis, Alyssa Jones, Brian Slusarek

BATS 1 0 3 0 4 3 0 1 **12**
TITANS 2 1 4 1 0 0 3 2 **13**
Pitch B, Umpire Leo Pearn (CM2)
HR **BAT** Bryn Davies

MAVERICKS II 5 2 3 1 6 0 **17**
HACKERS 0 11 3 5 9 4 **32**
RAR, Pitch H, Umpire Andrew Bogie
HRs **MV2** Dave Martin Baez 2; **HAC** Ian Mills, Grace Mills, Dan Johansson

SPEEDERS 0 0 2 0 3 0 0 **5**
SCREWBALLS 0 0 4 0 4 5 x **13**
Pitch G, Umpire Fliss Fagan (CM2)
HRs **SPE** Emma Bennett, David Grice; **SCR** Ross Maskell 2, Dan Strayer

TITANS 2 8 5 6 1 **22**
BATS 2 3 0 0 1 **6**
RAR, Pitch F/B, Umpire Leo Pearn
Completion of game from 28 May
HRs **TTN** Izzy Rendall 2, Luke Nelson

Division 3

BARFLIES 0 1 0 0 0 1 5 **7**
FREEZE 0 6 0 4 1 5 x **16**
Pitch 2, Umpire Fliss Fagan
HRs **BFL** Chris Smith; **FRZ** Jono Wrigley, Mark Hayward

(Continued on page 15)

Standings

Division 1

	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
▶Thunder	13	12	0	1	252	149	.923	-
▶Mayhem	13	9	0	4	285	205	.692	3
▶Camels	13	9	0	4	247	160	.692	3
▲Meerkats	14	8	0	6	257	225	.571	4½
▼D Sharks	14	7	0	7	293	245	.500	5½
▶Mavericks	14	6	0	8	264	245	.429	6½
▶Thunder II	13	2	0	11	185	352	.154	10
▶Tigers	14	1	0	13	163	365	.071	11½

Mayhem above Camels on head-to-heads

Division 2

	P	R	W	T/U	L	RS	RC	Pct
▶Dodgers (P)	13	1	12	1	1	319	156	.926
▶Titans	13	1	10	1	3	287	204	.778
▶Screwballs	13	1	7	2	5	245	231	.593
▲Hackers	13	1	7	1	6	240	225	.556
▶Speeders	11	2	5	2	6	186	192	.500
▲Mavericks II	12	2	5	2	7	194	272	.462
▼Bats	11	2	4	3	6	168	191	.458
▶Camels II	12	2	3	2	9	209	259	.308
▶Bandidos	12	2	1	2	11	128	246	.154

Division 3

	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
▶Stingers (P)	13	11	0	2	310	155	.846	-
▶Thunder III (P)	13	9	0	4	273	237	.692	2
▲Freeze	13	6	0	7	196	238	.462	5
▼Raiders	13	5	0	8	242	257	.385	6
▶Barflies	13	5	0	8	227	277	.385	6
▶Fireballs (R)	13	3	0	10	193	277	.231	8

Division 4

	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
▶Tiggers (C)	13	13	0	0	288	87	.000	-
▶Slugg'babes	13	10	0	3	260	141	.769	3
▶Thunder IV	13	9	0	4	254	190	.692	4
▶Seagulls	13	5	0	8	187	222	.385	7
▶Toras	13	1	0	12	138	279	.077	11
▶B Invaders	13	1	0	12	103	311	.077	11