

BASES LOADED

End of Season Special Issue



MANCHESTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Volume 32 Issue 19

3 October 2026

Number 568

Programme

6.30 Arrival
7.30 Food
8.45 Awards
Followed by
DJ Becky



12.20 Last orders
1.00 Home time

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Welcome to our End-of-Season Ball

A huge welcome to everyone joining us tonight, and especially to those who have completed their first season with the league. We hope you've enjoyed your time with us and that you're ready to celebrate in style tonight!

Our End-of-Season Ball is a chance to come together and celebrate everything that makes softball so special – friendship, family, community, laughter, and plenty of fun.

Congratulations to all of our 2026 award winners! Your achievements deserve to be celebrated.

For those who are new to the league, it looks like your first season has brought you to the less formal ball: we do a formal one in alternate years.

As always a massive thank you to **our team captains**. They give so much of their time and energy to keep their teams running: please

buy your captain a drink to-night.

Although the season has come to an end, that doesn't mean the softball has to stop. We'd love everyone to stay involved during the off-season. Our Indoor Sunday

sessions are a great way to keep playing, and these are now organised by our tournament officer Michael Goff. Plus we have a massive addition this off season

with the launch of a Wednesday indoor league in Sale. This will be organised by Leo Pearn, and I can't wait to see that project develop. You can find more information on the website.

Finally, we say thanks to Jai Bhagdev for organising this event for all of us. Jai is leaving the Exec this season, so if you fancy helping out and being our Social and Events officer next year please get in touch.

Enjoy yourselves and please make sure you all get home safely. *Luis Arreivillagas*



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Outstanding Results

Tues 26th August

Division 3

BARFLIES 2 6 0 3 2 1 0 14

RAIDERS 0 1 0 2 0 2 7 12

Pitch 2, Umpire Mike Davies

HRs **BFL** Jo McCullough, Kuba

Williams 2, Ebrahim Hassan; **RAI**

Mark Crannage, Luke Crannage

MVPs BFL: Jo McCullough, Chris Smith;

RAI: Paul Kirkham, Charlotte Higgins

FREEZE 0 6 2 5 0 0 518

SLUGGABABES 0 5 10 5 0 0 x20

Pitch 7, Umpire Adam Hugill

HRs **FRZ** Owen Salfred-Ingham;

SLG James Tanner

MVPs FRZ: Malyn Wainwright, Owen

Salfred-Ingham; **SLG**: Rachael Wake,

Chris Mannion

LIVER BIRDS 5 1 11 5 0 0 22

BANDIDOS 9 0 2 2 2 0 15

Bad light, Pitch 3, Umpire Mike

Goff

HRs **LVB** Josh Walker 3; **BND** Ja-

cob Arnison

MVPs LVB: Sophie Temple, Rolf

Growth; **BND**: Jenny Morrison, Adam

Morrison

ODDSOX 0 0 3 0 1 4

FIREBALLS 3 2 5 9 x 19

RAR, Pitch 1, Umpire Luis Arrevil-

lagas

HRs **ODX** Jack Heaton; **PFB** *Toni*

Strowger (STG), **Nicky Johnson**

(GS)

MVPs ODX: Katorzyna Fabian, Jack

Heaton; **PFB**: *Toni Strowger (STG)*,

Nicky Johnson

TORAS 4 9 2 0 2 1 18

TIGGERS 0 0 1 0 2 0 3

RAR, Pitch 3, Umpire Simon Sharp

HRs **TOR** Jack Lalor, Arima David

Mathieson

MVPs TOR: Rachel Thorpe, Jack Lalor;

TGG: Holly Tillyard-Smith, Muhammad

Tawheed

Weds 27th August

Division 1

DODGERS 3 13 1 9 26

THUNDER II 3 0 1 0 4

RAR, Pitch D, Umpire Peter Jones

HRs **DOD** David Dyson, Paul Col-

ton 3

MVPs DOD: Alexa Martinez, Paul Col-

ton; TH2: Francisca Leyton, Byron Bux-

MAVERICKS 4 5 7 0 0 0 2 18

CAMELS 3 1 1 0 3 7 2 17

Pitch C, Umpire Mike Davies

HRs **MAV** Pete Nightingale 2; **CAM**

Adam Hugill, Nicola Booth, Maddy

Gresty

MVPs MAV: Sherry Kenyon, Craig

Brooks; **CAM**: Maddy Gresty, Adam

Hugill

MEERKATS 3 3 1 2 1 3 2 15

TITANS 1 2 4 2 1 5 0 15

Bad light, Pitch B

HRs **MKT** Keith Altena 2, James

Stevens, Carlos Dos Ramos 2,

Avery Chung; **TTN** Jamie Coombes

2, Sam Baker 2, Nic McKenna

MVPs MKT: Avery Chung, Keith Altena;

TTN: Nic McKenna, Rohan Johns

SHARKS 0 3 0 1 3 0 1 8

MAYHEM 2 0 0 4 6 1 x 13

Pitch G, Umpire Dan Strayer

HRs **DSH** Anthony Hulme 2, Dan

Downes; **MHM** Amilcar Gomez 2,

Heidi Oestreicher, Benkei Johnson

2

MVPs DSH: Lynsey Taylor, Anthony

Hulme; **MHM**: Charlotte Green, Amilcar

Gomez Lanzon

Division 2

BATS 5 3 3 1 0 3 1 16

CAMELS II 0 4 1 0 3 0 4 12

Pitch H, Umpire Luis Arrevillagas

HRs **BAT** Bryn Davies 2, Cameron

Waddelow;

MVPs BAT: Rebecca Gunter, Bryn Da-

vies; CM2: Felicity Fagan, Daniel Jarman

MAVERICKS II 2 4 0 1 4 2 13

SPEEDERS 2 0 1 9 5 x 17

Bad light, Pitch E, Umpire Nacho

Sánchez

HRs **MV2** David Martin Baez, Ian

Williams; **SPE** **Ethan Money-Muter**

(GS)

MVPs MV2: Charleen Christofi, David

Martin Baez; **SPE**: Carolyn Barratt, Ethan

Money-Muter

THUNDER III 1 0 0 1 2 0 4

STINGERS 0 2 4 5 5 3 19

RAR, Pitch F, Umpire Alan Green

HRs **STG** Nikki Bradshaw, Jack

Barnes, Nic Sims

MVPs TH3: Luna Sanchez, Lewis Le

Fevre; **STG**: Nicola Bradshaw, Nicholas

Sims

TIGERS 6 2 8 2 14 32

HACKERS 1 0 1 0 0 2

RAR, Pitch A, Umpire Paul Fagan

HRs **TIG** Anissa Aghtarafi, Nadia

Aghtarafi, Ed Covington 2, Richard

Goar, Harry Schulte 2

MVPs TIG: Nadia Aghtarafi, Richard

Goar; **HAC**: Grace Mills, Jack Hoban

Weds 2nd September

Division 1

DODGERS 1 0 10 2 2 15

SHARKS 2 0 1 7 5 15

Bad light, Pitch E, Umpire Arthur

Hung

MVPs DOD: Nicola-Jane Dyson, Simon

Hepburn; **DSH**: Rachael Shkurko, Luke

Martin

MAYHEM 2 0 0 4 2 0 0 8

TITANS 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 9

Pitch D, Umpire Paul Fagan

HR **TTN** Nicola McKenna

MVPs MHM: Linni Mitchell, Jordan Col-

ton; **TTN**: Lzzy Rendell, Luke Nelson

THUNDER II 0 1 5 0 6

MEERKATS 2 6 17 1 26

RAR, Pitch F, Umpire Mike Goff

HRs **TH2** Jeivo Gomez; **MKT** Alex

Ingham 2

MVPs TH2: Emma Miller, Jeivo Gomez;

MKT: Avery Chong, Carlos dos Ramos

Transfers

Carolyn Barratt, Speeders to Mayhem

Emma Bennett, Speeders to Mayhem

Annie Downes, Sluggababes to Sharks

Eleanor Harris, Sulggababes to Sharks

Christine Hunter, Speeders to Mayhem

Ryan Oreilly, OddSox to Sharks

Laurie Salfred-Ingham, Freeze to Dodgers

Ellie Sams, Fireballs to Hackers

Lynsey Taylor, Tiggers to Sharks

Final Standings

Guests

Division 1								
	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
Camels (C)	16	14	0	2	338	137	.875	-
Thunder	16	14	0	2	332	127	.875	-
Mavericks	16	11	0	5	269	228	.688	3
Mayhem*	16	9	0	7	216	213	.531	5½
Meerkats	16	6	1	9	232	226	.406	7½
Dodgers	16	6	1	9	308	320	.406	7½
Sharks*	16	6	1	9	189	263	.375	8
Titans (R)	16	4	1	11	212	287	.281	9½
Thunder II (R)	16	0	0	16	124	419	.000	14
* 1pt deducted; Camels above Thunder on head-to-head								
Division 2								
Stingers (C)	16	12	0	4	304	210	.750	-
Screwballs (P)	16	11	0	5	315	269	.688	1
Camels II	16	10	0	6	275	220	.625	2
Bats	16	10	0	6	279	264	.625	2
Tigers	16	10	0	6	344	244	.625	2
Mavericks II	16	8	0	8	242	263	.500	4
Speeders	16	7	0	9	305	319	.438	5
Hackers (R)	16	3	0	1	185	278	.188	9
Thunder III (R)	16	1	0	1	206	388	.063	11
Bats above Tigers on head-to-head								
Division 3								
	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
Sluggababes (C)	17	17	0	0	311	145	1.00	-
Barflies (P)	17	12	0	5	334	266	.706	5
Raiders	17	9	0	8	306	255	.529	8
Freeze	17	9	0	8	309	262	.529	8
Liver Birds	17	9	0	8	344	253	.529	8
Bandidos*	17	9	0	8	242	261	.471	9
Tiggers	17	8	0	9	237	248	.471	9
Fireballs	17	5	0	12	266	335	.294	12
Toras	17	2	0	15	191	333	.118	15
OddSox	9	1	0	8	61	243	.059	16
*2pts deducted Raiders, Freeze and Liver Birds are all 2-2 against each other; based on aggregate scores in head-to-heads Raiders +4, Freeze -1, Liver Birds -3 Bandidos above Tiggers on head-to-head; OddSox Pct. includes eight virtual "losses"								

Jack Barnes (STG) for Liver Birds v Bandidos
Tanya Basu (MAV) for Meerkats v Thunder II
Emma Carruthers (MAV) for Dodgers v Sharks
Michelle Cleator (STG) for Bandidos (2nd time) v Liver Birds
Julie Eden (THU) for Dodgers v Thunder II and (2nd) v Sharks
Robert Fairweather (PFB) for Speeders (3rd) v Mavericks II
Amber Frost (MKT) for Fireballs (2nd) v OddSox
Christian Frost (BAT) for Toras (2nd) v Tiggers
Mitch Gilbert (PFB) for Hackers (2nd) v Tigers
Brad Hadwin (THU) for Mavericks v Camels
Arthur Hung (BAT) for Raiders v Barflies
Hannah Kay (BAT) for Raiders (3rd) v Barflies
Chris Lennon (SPE) for Barflies (2nd) v Raiders
Kate Manzur (BFL) for Sharks v Mayhem and (2nd) v Dodgers
Arima David Mathieson (TOR) for Thunder II v Dodgers
Jo McCullough (BFL) for Bats v Camels II
Millie O'Brien (BND) for Sharks (2nd) v Mayhem
Kieran O'leary (SLG) for Camels v Mavericks
Sebastian Parker (TOR) for Stingers v Thunder III
Sian Payne (THU) for Meerkats v Titans
Demi Rabbette (SLG) for Mavericks II v Speeders
Laurie Salfred-Ingham (FRZ) for Tigers (4th) v Hackers
Lorilei Salfred-Ingham (FRZ) for Mayhem (4th) v Sharks
Evie Sanders (HAC) for Bandidos (3rd) v Liver Birds
Bailey Saunders (TIG) for Titans v Mayhem
Amy Somers (TH3) for OddSox v Fireballs
Toni Strowger (STG) for Fireballs v OddSox
Izzie Wakefield (CM2) for Sharks (2nd) v Dodgers
Dave Warren (TIG) for Thunder III v Stingers
Sam Webb (PFB) for Hackers v Tiggers
Lisa Williams (PFB) for Tigers (4th) v Hackers

Final games round-up

The title was secure before the **Camels'** final game, so their narrow loss to **Mavericks** was of little significance. For what it's worth, it looks like having been an exciting game of two halves, Mavs taking a 16-5 lead over the first three innings, then seeing the Camels fight back to 16-15 going into the final frame. Mavs scored two more then defended that lead to win by the odd run in 35. But still it was the Camels' evening as they celebrated their first ever title (pictured). **Meerkats** and **Titans** also had a close game, sharing 30 runs until, with no neutral umpire, the teams agreed to call it a day after six innings, recording the first of the season's two tied games. **Mayhem** and **Sharks** were closely matched until the Mossley crew scored six in the 5th to take a five-run lead which they held on to.

Dodgers beat **Thunder II** 26-4, scoring exactly half their runs in the 2nd inning. Three homers from Paul Colton took him to the top of the HR list ahead of team-mate Brian Slusarek. Three more games were scheduled to take place in the September gloom, games postponed because of the World Cup. The Dodgers derby between **Manchester Dodgers** and **Dodger Sharks** was called



Camels celebrate the title win.

Picture: Sarah Cassin

for bad light after five innings with the scores tied at 15-15. **Mayhem** and **Titans** managed a full seven, with Titans winning by the odd run in 17. And **Thunder II's** season ended with a run-ahead loss to **Meerkats**, completing a pointless season and taking their losing streak to within one game of the all-time record. Perhaps the Fixtures Secretary can arrange a favourable start to their Div 2 campaign next May!

The Division 2 programme came to a close with the champion **Stingers** "mercying" **Thunder III** in a top-vs-bottom clash. But interest was focussed on the **Bats** vs **Camels II** game, where a Camels win would have seen them promoted to Division 1 ahead of Screwballs, who finished their campaign last week, on the narrowest of margins (one win each, 18-17 on

aggregate). But it was not to be, as Bats won 16-12, and, like Derby County in 1972 (there's an esoteric reference for older readers) Screwballs learned of their success while "on the beach". Elsewhere, **Tigers** had the biggest win, ending **Hackers'** unsuccessful season with a 32-2 mauling in a game most notable for a first-ever sibling home run pair for Anissa and Nadia Aghtarafi.

In Division 3, Sluggababes completed their perfect season with a 20-18 win over **Freeze**, in a game where they were pretty comfortable after taking a seven-run lead in the 3rd, with Freeze scoring five in the 7th to make the scoreline seem much closer than the reality. **Barflies** ended their runners-up campaign with a narrow win against **Raiders**, in which a 17th father-and-son home-run pair for Mark and Luke Crannage was not enough for Mark to secure the Div 3 HR trophy as, elsewhere, Josh Walker hit three dingers for **Liver Birds** against the **Bandidos**. In their second full season, **Toras** matched last year's win total with a convincing run-ahead rule victory over **Tigers**, while **OddSox** closed out their maiden half-season with a loss to **Fireballs**.

Match report

Tribute to Jo in Mav II's season finale

MAVERICKS II 2 4 0 1 4 2 13

SPEEDERS 2 0 1 9 5 x 17

Bad light, Pitch E, Umpire Nacho Sánchez

MAVERICKS II Natalie Dunlop (LF), David Martin Baez (SS), Charleen Christofi (3B), Ian Williams (CR), Diane Martin Baez (RF), Mike Goff (CL), Luca Mulholland (1B), Steve Kellett (2B), *Demi Rabbette* (SLG) (C), Thomas Myatt (P)
HRs David Martin Baez, Williams

SPEEDERS Nick Money (C), Emma Bennett (LF), Adam Faloon (CR), Sian McNeill (RF), Chris Lennon (2B), Carolyn Baratt (3B), Ethan Money-Muter (SS), Maz Yung (P), *Robert Fairweather* (PFB)(CR), Liz Lyon (1B)
HR Money-Muter (GS)

The Mavs played their final game of 2026 with a winning season up for grabs along with the chance of avenging their 23-8 defeat in May to Wednesday's opponents, the Speeders.

Before the first pitch, both teams lined up along the foul lines for a minute's silence for Jo Gardiner, who sadly passed after a long battle with cancer on the previous Friday. Jo had been an inaugural member of Mavs II when they started in 2015 and played a number of seasons with them and other teams in the MSL. Her son Charlie followed in her footsteps and is a current member of Mavs II.

On paper the game prom-

ised to be a run-fest with Speeders' games producing the highest accumulative aggregate run total in the division. In reality Mavs' pitcher, Tom Myatt, on the back of a magnificent rookie season, effectively pumped the brakes on the Speeders' attack in the early innings supported by a couple of timely rally-killing double plays.

The Mavs, in response, built a steady lead to take control of the game, with homeruns from Captain David Martin Baez and the resurgent Ian Williams cementing a 7-3 lead by the middle of the game.

At this point the wheels abruptly came off the Mavs' defence. A fluffed double play and a series of Speeder hits led to a couple of runs to close the lead and to load the bases. A call of "no home runs" and a deep outfield could do little to prevent a monster flyball clearing left field for a no-doubt grand slam from shortstop Ethan Money Muter, and after a nine-run inning, the Speeders had the lead.

The Mavs did well to muster a four-run response to bring them within one run in the 5th inning but the Speeders'

reply was even better to increase their lead to six runs. With failing light, the 6th inning was declared the final inning of the season, and the glowing embers of a Mavs victory were finally extinguished for a Speeders win with a bat in hand, 17-13.

MVPs were Charleen Christofi (2 for 5, 3 RBI) and David Martin Baez (3 for 4, HR, 4 RBI). Nat Dunlop (4 for 5, 2B and 3B, 2 RBI) and Ian Williams (4 for 4, HR) were other star performers.

With another year over, the Mavs can be fairly satisfied with an 8-8 record; there were games that could have been won and equally others that could have been lost, so overall the record was a fair reflection on their season.

A final word on Jo: whilst many present tonight had not known Jo, the few that had, including players on both teams, have been unanimous in saying what a kind and genuinely nice person she was and it was fitting that the final shout in the post-game cheers went to her, "...and one for Jo!"

David Martin Baez

MVPs Christofi, David Martin Baez (MV2); Carolyn Barratt, Money-Muter (SPE)

Review of the season

What a Season!
And just like that, another season is in the books, and what a season it has been!

We have a new name on the Division 1 trophy! Huge congratulations to the Spittin' Camels! They have been running their club in a fantastic and professional way, training hard, socialising together, building their team spirit, and now they have the trophy to show for it. Hard work really does pay off!

Welcome to Division 1, Stingers! The Stingers are coming to play with the "big boys" after being crowned Division 2 champions and earning promotion to Division 1! They are another club putting in the work, with organised training sessions, a great team spirit and some of the most amazing uniforms around. We can't wait to see what they bring to Division 1!

Sluggababes - Unbeaten! What a season for the Sluggababes! They didn't lose a single game all sea-

son, becoming deserved Division 3 champions. Next season brings another exciting change as they move from Tuesday nights to Wednesday nights. New night, new challenges, same determination, exciting times ahead!

Our Rookie Sessions, led by Linni Mitchell (Mayhem) and supported by Steven Kellett (Mavericks II), were another huge success this year. Not only did they bring in loads of new players, they actually helped create a brand-new team that joined the league halfway through the season! Even better, the sessions continued to be popular afterwards, with more and more new players getting involved. This is exactly how we grow our league, new players, new teams and new friendships.

A big welcome to the newly formed OddSox! They've already made an impression with a very exciting uniform design, and they even managed to pick up a win during their first half-season. That's a pretty

good start! We're looking forward to seeing what they can achieve next season.

We managed to get most of our games covered by umpires this year, which is fantastic, but our goal is to have every single game covered. So, if you've ever thought about giving umpiring a go, next season could be your time to step up to the plate! You don't need to be an expert from day one. There will be opportunities to learn and practise, including during the winter sessions. Give it a go, you might discover a whole new part of the game you really enjoy.

We had five fantastic tournaments this season, all made possible by the hard work of Mike Goff (Mavericks II) and our brilliant volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise, run and support them. If you fancy getting involved behind the scenes and helping organise future tournaments, please get in touch with Mike. The more

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

volunteers we have, the more we can do!

The season may be over, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop! To keep everyone active, involved and ready for next season, committee member Leo Pearn of Camels II has been busy setting up an indoor league in Sale. Meanwhile, our tournament office Mike Goff will be running the hugely popular Indoor Sunday sessions at Platt Lane. So there's no excuse to put the glove away just yet!

Finally, I want to encourage every team to keep the momentum going. Organise training sessions during the off-season and pre-season. Get your players together, bring in new people and keep building your clubs. Use social media. Put up old-fashioned flyers. Tell your friends, colleagues and neighbours. Bring someone along to a session and show them why this sport is so much fun. Because if we keep recruiting, keep training, keep supporting each other and keep build-

ing our clubs, there's no reason why we can't continue to be the best league in the UK!

A massive thank you to everyone who has played, coached, umpired, organised, volunteered, supported and generally helped make this another brilliant season. Have a fantastic autumn and winter, and we'll see you back on the diamond in 2027! *Luis Arrevillagas (League Head)*

In the end **Camels** won it on head-to-head, having beaten **Thunder** twice. The last time the title was this close was 2009: Mavericks and Greensox ended up both with 15-3 records. With only six teams in Division 1, teams played each other three times that year and, having lost their first meeting, Mavs beat Greensox twice. Back in 2026, **Mavericks** remained in the picture until the end of July when they slipped behind, ending up three games back. Of the others, only **Mayhem** had a winning season, 9-7, though with one point deducted for failing to provide an umpire. **Dodgers**

may well be happy with their mid-table finish, after a few seasons yo-yoing between Divisions 1 and 2, while last year's runners-up, **Meerkats**, have fallen to 6th with only six wins. **Dodger Sharks** drop to 7th, with a one-point deduction for failing to provide an umpire, and two forfeits along the way. Titans, with four wins and a tie, may nevertheless have enjoyed their brief top flight adventure, while the same can probably not be said of **Thunder II**, who will no doubt look to break their unwanted losing streak dating back to July 2025 on their return to Division 2.

Division 2 was close-fought all season, though apparently promotion was not necessarily every team's ambition. **Stingers** put together a six-game winning streak through July and August to take the title, marking back-to-back promotions! As reported elsewhere, the second promotion spot went to the wire, with **Screwballs** finding themselves up there after **Bats** beat **Camels II**, joining **Tigers** on 10-6 records, one

game behind Screwballs. On head-to-heads, Camels and Bats are 1-1, with Camels ahead on aggregate 41-39. Camels and Tigers are also 1-1, each winning by one run. Camels have the smaller overall runs conceded, which is the next tie-break criterion. Bats beat Tigers in both their games, so the order is Camels > Bats > Tigers. **Mavericks II** ended with an 8-8 record, losing their final game to **Speeders**, just behind on 7-9 with the league's highest overall aggregate of 624 runs scored plus conceded (that's 39 per game!). Returning to Division 3 are **Hackers**, who went winless for half the season but eventually managed three wins, as well as a few quite close losses, and **Thunder III**, with just one win under their belts.

Sluggababes cruised to the Division 3 title with a perfect season, with **Barflies** comfortable in 2nd place. The next five teams all had similar seasons, with **Raiders**, **Freeze**, **Liver Birds** and **Bandidos** all on 9-8 records, and **Tiggers** just behind on 8-9. **Bandidos** had a 2-point

deduction for clerical errors in weeks 1 and 2, and are above **Tiggers** having beaten them twice. **Raiders**, **Freeze** and **Liver Birds** are all 2-2 against each other; based on aggregate scores in head-to-heads **Raiders** are +4, **Freeze** -1, **Liver Birds** -3. **Fireballs** won five of their games, while in their third full season, **Toras** continue to develop, enjoyed two wins and even in losing scored on average 11 runs per game. The league's newest team, **OddSox**, also managed one win in their half-season. HS

Spittin' Camels Champions



P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	14	2	338	137	.875
29 Apr	Trav	Dodgers	H	22-2	
6 May	Meerkats	A	21-6		
13 May	Thunder	H	19-5		
20 May	Titans	H	21-13		
27 May	Mayhem	H	19-4		
10 Jun	Thunder II	A	38-3		
17 Jun	Dodgers	H	23-17		
24 Jun	Mavericks	A	12-17		
1 Jul	Sharks	A	20-0		
8 Jul	Meerkats	H	22-7		
22 Jul	Titans	H	22-13		
29 Jul	Mayhem	A	17-2		

4 Aug	Thunder	A	13-10
12 Aug	Thunder II	H	21-1
19 Aug	Dodgers	A	31-19
27 Aug	Mavericks	H	17-18

	App	Start	MVPHR
Hayley Evans	15	15	2 0
Maddy Gresty	15	15	7 8
Adam Hugill	13	12	5 5
Izzie Keeley	13	13	3 1
Simon Sharp	13	13	1 0
Thomas Atkinson	12	12	4 3
Nicoal Booth	12	12	2 3
Sarah Cassin	12	12	0 0
Max Fagan	12	10	1 5
Baljit Ahluwalia	9	8	2 0
Wesley Ng	9	9	0 2
Laricia Bragg	5	4	0 0
Adam Brookbanks	4	4	1 0
Mike MacDowell	3	3	0 3
Gareth Evans	2	2	1 0
Charlotte Green	2	2	1 1
guests	4	4	0 1

19 years in the making!

I'm so incredibly proud of every Camels player. The hard work, commitment and sheer determination this season have finally paid off... **WE'RE CHAMPIONS!**



The numbers give a few clues why! We hit .637 as a team, collecting 399 hits and scoring 314 runs. Of those hits, 167 went for extra bases—including 109 doubles, 27 triples and 31 home runs—so we weren't just getting on base, we were making serious ground. That's more than 40% of our hits taking us beyond 1st base! Just 12 strikeouts across 674 plate appearances meant opposing fielders rarely

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Spittin' Camels. Back row, left to right: Nicola Booth, Sarah Cassin, Lara Bragg, Hayley Evans, Izzy Keeley, Maddy Gresty. Front row: Adam Brookbanks, Max Fagan, Adam Hugill, Simon Sharp, Tom Atkinson. Missing: Gareth Evans, Baljit Ahluwalia

Review of the season (Continued
from page 9)

got an easy breather. With both the big- and small-ball hitters batting over .580, the threat came throughout the lineup, while 18 sac flies showed the value of getting the job done for the team—even without a hit. Consistency, power and a team that kept the pressure on: a pretty good recipe for bringing home the title.

But this title is bigger than one season. Since Camels began in **2007**, countless players and committee members have given their time, passion and probably a few functioning body parts to this club. This one belongs to all of you —

past and present. You built the team we are today. **19 years. One brilliant club. Finally... CHAMPIONS! TEAM C!**

Hayley Evans

Stingers

Division 2 winners
Northwest series winners



P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	12	4	304	210	.750
29 Apr	Maverick II	H	10-22		
6 May	Tigers	A	14-21		
13 May	Screwballs	H	19-17		
20 May	Hackers	A	14-12		
27 May	Speeders	H	21-14		
10 Jun	Camels II	A	12-8		
17 Jun	Bats	H	1-7		

24 Jun	Thunder III	A	24-3
1 Jul	Mavericks II	A	35-19
8 Jul	Tigers	H	13-19
22 Jul	Hackers	H	16-8
29 Jul	Speeders	A	27-18
12 Aug	Camels II	H	23-22
19 Aug	Bats	A	26-13
27 Aug	Thunder III	H	19-4

	App	Start	MVP	HR
Toni Strowger	16	16	7	2
Michelle Cleator	15	14	1	0
Mark Fox	15	15	3	1
Chloe Patient	15	15	2	3
Jack Barnes	14	14	4	12
Dilan Bastiampillai	14	14	4	11
Natasha Wicikowski	13	13	3	0
Jennifer Quinton	12	12	1	0
Jack Rains	12	12	2	3
Nic Sims	11	11	3	8
Nicola Bradshaw	8	8	2	3
William Wall	1	1	0	0
guests	14	14	0	7

Hands on her hips, Hannah Kay looks down at her husband and delivers the damning verdict: "You can't do that, you're not strong enough" before turning and wandering back to her fielding position. Indeed, Jack Barnes is dusty, sore and face down on the floor on a diamond in Leeds as yet another opposing runner scores while his mis-thrown ball (which probably would have participated in an excellent double play in some other universe) rolls listlessly to nobody in particular. It's been a huge season for the ever stellar Barnesey but in the final stages of yet another boiling hot Leeds tournament he's forgiven for starting to feel it at the short stop



Back row, left to right: Dilan Bastiampillai, Mark Fox, Michelle Cleator, Jack Rains, Chloe Patient, Nic Sims. Front row: Jack Barnes, Natasha Wicikowksi, Toni Strowger, Jen Quinton, Nikki Bradshaw

position, a salvo of unfieldable hits just out of his reach proving to be the eventual difference between the two teams as Stingers' valiant efforts leave them as tournament runners up. But for a team whose primary goal this year was "not get relegated", the story of how we even got to a silver final in Leeds whilst sitting at the top of Division 2 back home is remarkable

Stingers' last outing at this level was disastrous, only occasional glimmers of form poking out in between weeks of mercy losses and bad tempered games and a final-night-of-the-season defeat to

Screwballs saw us unceremoniously dumped back to D3. Coming straight back up again a year later as champions was impressive, but 2026 needed a more mature, resilient Stingers team, one which would not go to pieces at the first bad inning and one with enough camaraderie to see us through the rough times. A smaller team, a closer team, a tougher team reassembled and resolved to take on Wednesdays with a new outlook - have each other's backs and have fun.

Firstball was hit and miss for us but served as a useful warm up for the first

few games. Defeats against Mavs II and Tigers followed and a rather general sense of dismay and frustration and "not this again" threatened to settle. And then, it clicked. We won a game. And another. And then went on a bit of a roll, meeting league leaders Camels II with no expectations given we'd never beaten them in any competition on a three-win streak. It was our toughest game of the year so far and it will be remembered as the night the new Stingers truly joined the hive. Toni Strowger killed it at 3rd base, Dilan Bastiampillai stopped a definite home run with an over the shoulder catch at centre left, Jen Quinton's patience at the plate got her on base consistently and Tasha Wicikowski ended the game with the final out, a monstrous left-field hit which seemed to hang forever in the sky, dropping eventually into her outstretched glove to a chorus of cheers from the rest of the team. This was the fight that had been missing two years ago,

(Continued on page 12)

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

the team spirit returned with interest.

And a week later we lost to Bats. Familiar story.

Stingers-Bats games are never short on drama and

this one was noteworthy for being unusually low scoring as we forgot how to hit altogether whilst holding a typically heavy hitting team to just seven runs. Unfortunately we only scored one. However, one thing we

have learned over the years is not to let one bad game drag the rest down, and better service resumed a week later as the team managed to see Thunder III off in the last game of the first round of fixtures, and for the first time beat Mavs II the following week. The defeat against Tigers after that is probably best consigned to the history books and never mentioned again, but we went into the International Break necessitated by England's World Cup journey nearly safe from relegation.

Defeating a resurgent

Hackers took us towards August (a game mainly notable for having five different umpires). By this point a serious battle between Barnesey and Dilan had begun for the BBH Stinger HR hitter, Dilan



hitting three homers in the following week's Speeders game to edge him slightly ahead, and that their increasing urgency to outdo each other often led to violently swinging at absurdly wild pitches was never not entertaining.

A fortnight's rest followed, during which the team followed up their NW Series victory and won Manchester Main's silver before a long and hot weekend at Farnham for the League Nationals really bonded the team to see the league out. Veteran vice skipper Jack Rains took the opportunity at Main to smash his finger to bits, a very

unlucky hop on a ground ball breaking a distal phalanx into six pieces and heartbreakingly taking him out for the rest of the year. Bouncing back once more, and safe from the threat of the drop, we played Camels II under a solar eclipse, a first and last for all of us and a huge moment in the league season. It was very much a Dilan vs Barnesey batting evening until the final inning: four runs needed to win, bases loaded, up

steps Dilan. It was hardly his most sublime hit but this particular at-bat had apparently awakened a primal spirit; despite the desperate screams of 3rd-base coach Rains to STOP, he kept going. And going. Ball fumbled at home. Grand slam scored. Game won. And, against all imaginable odds, Stingers became title contenders.

Clearly riding the crest of the wave Dilan had created the previous night, we swept aside the Screwballs on the following evening to leave us at the top of the pile, the only potential hiccup being our typically dismal head-to-

head record against the Tigers, but going into the Bats game we simply needed to win, and see what Screwballs did against our bogie team on the same night. Leeds Main, our fourth tournament on the bounce, followed that weekend and while the team made a stellar effort the heat and the intensity was just too much as we lost in the final.

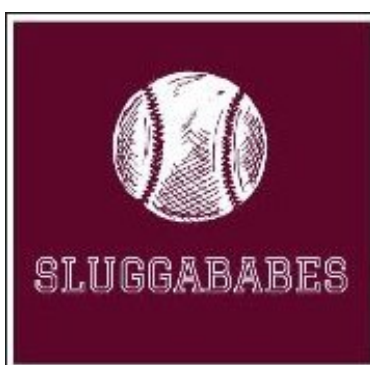
It took five innings to start hitting against Bats who enjoyed a rather listless fielding display from us until we remembered we had another gear there somewhere. As usual, we hadn't made it easy, but Stingers had beaten Bats. Barnes had his victory against his wife's team. And we watched from a distance under a moody sky to see Screwballs beat Tigers, mathematically sealing our title win with a game to spare. Somehow we'd gone from "survive" to "we could win this" to "we won this". And no, Division 1 won't be easy. We'll likely follow in the footsteps of all the promoted teams who haven't stayed up because the

league structure changed and come straight back down. But we'll do so a stronger, wiser team, built on the back of this formative season where we once again evolved. Four major tournament wins and two league titles in just two seasons. Back-to-back promotions. It's a team that, as captain and founder, I'm never not proud of.

Oh, and the BBH HR winner? Barnes got it, just. He'll always have that accolade, even if he doesn't always have any soothing words of support from his wife when he's face down on the baseline in a field in Leeds. *Chloe Patient*

Sluggababes

Division 3 winners



P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
17	17	0	311	145	1.000
28 Apr	Liver Birds	H			18-10
5 May	Toras	A			18-3
12 May	Barflies	H			10-9
19 May	Fireballs	A			21-14
26 May	Raiders	H			21-14
2 Jun	Tiggers	A			19-2

9 Jun	Bandidos	H	20-14
23 Jun	Freeze	A	19-3
30 Jun	Liver Birds	A	13-6
7 Jul	Toras	H	23-8
14 Jul	Barflies	A	24-10
21 Jul	Fireballs	H	15-11
28 Jul	Raiders	A	12-9
4 Aug	Tiggers	H	9-8
11 Aug	Bandidos	A	28-5
18 Aug	OddSox	H	21-1
27 Aug	Freeze	H	20-18

	App	Start	MVP	HR
Annie Downes	17	17	4	0
Eleanor Harris	17	17	3	3
Demi Rabbette	17	17	6	1
Peter Booth	15	15	1	1
Mat Tanner	15	14	3	6
Abbie Thwaite	14	14	2	1
Chris Mannion	13	13	4	14
Rachael Wake	13	13	2	0
Johan Lemmers	12	12	2	5
Kieran O'Leary	12	12	1	5
Stan O'Leary	12	12	5	0
Timothy Roberts	8	8	0	0
Danielle Farthing	7	7	0	0
Jessica Flaherty	6	6	0	0
James Tanner	4	4	0	3
Dale Warrenner	1	1	1	1
guests	4	4	0	0

Try and win the first game. After being promoted out of Division 4 last season as runners up, we just wanted a good start to prove that we belonged there. Against a brand new Liver Birds team with a strong roster but who hadn't really played together before we battled and managed to get that start, and from there it was always just try and win the next game, then the next one. And somehow we did, all the way to the perfect season and back-to-back promotions. There were plenty of very close and tough matches,

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

notably against Barflies, Raiders, and Tiggers, and some where we definitely rode our luck, but the team showed real resilience to come from behind more than once and hold on to slim leads when we got them.

To win every game in a season is an incredible achievement, but in a hitter's game to have an average runs conceded of fewer than 9 per game, and to have conceded over 100 runs fewer than the next best defence is a testament to how the team has grown and how they play for each other.

Having a consistent team was a massive help too. I We used only four guests across the season, which as a captain is a dream, and we've been very lucky to have a roster that can and wants to play each week. Fingers crossed they are all free on Wednesdays now.

We talked in the pub after our games about how every player contributed something to each win, and it would be boring to



Back row, left to right: James Tanner, Peter Booth, Kieran O'Leary, Stan O'Leary, Chris Mannion, Johan Lemmers, Demi Rabbette; front row: Mat Tanner, Annie Downes, Tim Roberts, Rachael Wake, George Greaves, Abbie Thwaite, Jess Flaherty, Eleanor Harris

mention everyone in the team by name, but I do want to make a few honourable mentions.

A special thanks to Annie Downes, whose pitching has been consistently high level all season, which is a huge contributor to those defensive stats, but I also want to mention her drive and desire for us all to improve. From organising pre-season training to being the first there each week making us all warmup properly, Annie makes us want to be better. It's also been invaluable having Dan Downes along to provide some coaching, but mostly vibes.

Stan O'Leary started with us as a very quiet 14-year-old who already had a lot of talent, but this season we can't get him to shut up, and he has become our star defender. His involvement with GB U16s has undoubtedly helped his confidence and skills, but he's put in so much hard work himself to improve too, practicing whenever he can. He's developed a cannon of an arm and whether at short stop or in the outfield he regularly makes great plays that win games. Honestly, it's a good job we got promoted, otherwise I think we could have lost him to a higher level

team.

Football people say that goalkeepers are a different breed, enjoying having balls hit hard at them, and so it was perhaps inevitable that Demi Rabbette would find a home at the hot corner this season.

Putting her body on the line to stop extra bases and making diving catches for fun, Demi also enjoys ripping the ball down the 3rd base line in retaliation.

I hope I've told the rest of the team in person during the season how valuable they've been each week too. Everyone had moments they can be proud of – from insane outfield catches, first home runs, and double plays under pressure, to small personal bests that contributed to a win.

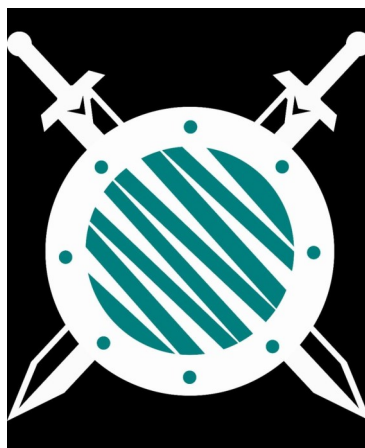
Next season will be a tough challenge but it's one we're looking forward to, and for now we're just still enjoying what's been a hell of a season. Slagz on 3.

Mat Tanner

Titans

P W T L RS RC Pct
16 4 1 11 212 287 .281

29 Apr Thunder H 4-22
13 May Mayhem A 11-16



20 May Camels	H	13-21
27 May Thunder II	A	29-14
2 Jun Dodgers	H	22-37
10 Jun Mavericks	A	5-20
17 Jun Sharks	H	7-12
24 Jun Meerkats	A F	0-20
1 Jul Thunder	A	9-18
22 Jul Camels	A	13-22
29 Jul Thunder II	H	17-2
5 Aug Dodgers	A	23-32
12 Aug Mavericks	H	11-18
19 Aug Sharks	A	24-10
27 Aug Meerkats	H	15-15
2 Sep Mayhem	H	9-8

Titans find their feet, but all too late

Titans entered the season on an adventure into the unknown, embarking on the club's first-ever Division 1 campaign.

The news was not encouraging from the outset. Star shortstop Luke Nel-

son suffered an injury that would rule him out for the season. Fortunately, the squad was bolstered by several new recruits. Rohan Johns and Maya McGregor arrived from the Leeds League to strengthen the infield, while big-hitting Nic McKenna returned to the sport after time away from the game.

The Titans were immediately thrown into the fire, opening their season against defending champions Thunder. The experienced title holders efficiently dispatched their shell-shocked opposition within four innings.

After an early rest week to lick their wounds, the Titans produced improved performances against Camels and Mayhem, tak-

(Continued on page 16)

Batting stats (Minimum 10 games - includes friendly vs Meerkats)

	G	AB	H	Ave	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI
Sam Baker	16	65	51	.785	.779	1.677	13	47
Rohan Johns	14	64	46	.719	.719	1.500	9	32
Jamie Coombes	11	40	24	.600	.622	1.150	4	14
Jai Bhagdev	13	48	31	.646	.660	0.792	2	18
Carl Emsley	14	58	31	.534	.525	0.741	3	15
Kate Winfield	11	42	24	.571	.578	0.929	2	20
Izzy Rendell	12	48	25	.521	.521	0.729	1	11
Nic McKenna	15	61	31	.508	.516	0.787	2	17
Maya McGregor	13	53	23	.434	.464	0.566	1	12
Zoe Coombes	14	56	24	.429	.459	0.571	1	13

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

ing both games the full seven innings, although without causing too many scares for their established Division 1 opponents. New recruit Johns quickly demonstrated his quality, while the club's first-ever Division 1 home run arrived from the unlikely source of pitcher Jai Bhagdev.

Week 5 brought another exciting addition as Amy Miller joined the team. She arrived in time for a comfortable five-inning victory over Thunder II, where Zoe Coombes and Izzy Rendell both hit their first Division 1 home runs. Miller spent the next three weeks trying to convince her new teammates that she wasn't particularly posh, only to fall off her horse, ruling herself out for the remainder of the season.

The powerful bats of Manchester Dodgers and the canny operators at Mavericks dismantled the Titans over the following two games. A much-improved performance against Dodger Sharks saw the game tied heading into the



Back row, left to right: Carl Emsley, Rohan Johns, Jai Bhagdev, Jamie Coombes, Sam Baker, Luke Nelson ; front row: Zoe Coombes, Izzy Rendell, Kate Winfield, Nic McKenna Photo: Bailey Saunders

7th inning, but victory remained elusive.

Matters worsened the following week when only six registered players were available, forcing a concession against Meerkats. A friendly game took place instead, featuring numerous guest players. Kate Winfield chose this crucial encounter to have the game of her life, going 5-for-5, with a home run, eight RBIs and a host of superb picks at 1st base.

At the halfway point, it was decided that a change of direction was required, with Bhagdev taking over as captain. Improved performances quickly followed. The Titans pushed

both Thunder and Camels much harder, with both opponents eventually resorting to their starting pitchers to avoid any late drama.

Another solid victory against Thunder II followed. Former captain Sam Baker, freed from leadership responsibilities, celebrated by launching two home runs and vacuuming up countless fly balls in centre field.

Competitive performances against Mavericks and Dodgers came next. A thrilling 5th inning against the Dodgers saw Baker, Winfield, Bhagdev and Johns all homer, but it still wasn't enough to over-

Review of the season *(Continued from page 16)*

come the relentless hitting of Brian Slusarek and Paul Cotton.

By now, relegation was inevitable. The Leeds Tournament therefore provided some welcome relief. Calling on their national network, the Titans competed under their tournament alias "Famille Casling". After a strong 4-2 round-robin record, the bats caught fire in the knockout stages and carried the team all the way to the final, where they defeated Stingers to lift the trophy.

The tournament success, combined with the remarkable rise in form of outfielder Jamie Coombes, inspired a terrific, albeit ultimately futile, finish to the league season.

An excellent victory over a somewhat hamstrung Dodger Sharks side was followed by one of the games of the year against Meerkats. With the light fading in the bottom of the 7th inning, a slick Amber Frost-Avery Chong double play prevented a Titans

walk-off and secured a dramatic 15-15 tie.

The final game of the season brought a surprisingly tense defensive battle against Mayhem, with a fierce wind blowing straight into home plate. Nelson finally hobbled back into the batter's box for his only appearance of the season. One sharp line drive single into left-centre was enough to make Titans fans wonder what might have been had injuries not intervened. McKenna managed to defeat both the wind and the outfield, clearing right-centre field for the game's only home run. At 8-8 in the bottom of the 7th, the Titans were experiencing flashbacks to the previous week's drama. This time, however, there would be no deadlock. Rendell, after producing a defensive masterclass in left field, drove in the winning run with a walk-off single to seal the club's finest result of the season.

Ultimately, the Titans' Division 1 adventure ended in relegation. Yet while results may suggest a difficult campaign, the

story is perhaps better told by the team's trajectory. What began with heavy defeats and uncertainty ended with competitive performances against the division's strongest sides, and a squad that was starting to look at home at the higher level.

Sadly for the Titans, they found their feet just a little too late. *Sam Baker*

Didsbury Bats

P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
16	10	6	279	264	.625



6 May Thunder III	A	23-7
13 May Mavericks II	H	5-6
20 May Tigers	A	14-7
27 May Screwballs	H	26-28
3 Jun Hackers	A	16-13
10 Jun Speeders	H	21-18
17 Jun Stingers	A	7-1
24 Jun Camels II	H	23-9
8 Jul Thunder III	H	17-16
22 Jul Tigers	H	23-22
29 Jul Screwballs	A	27-28
5 Aug Hackers	H	19-18
12 Aug Speeders	A	25-34
13 Aug Mavericks II	A	4-19
19 Aug Stingers	H	13-26
26 Aug Camels II	A	16-12

	App	Start	MVP	HR
Bryn Davies	15	15	4	14
Beryl Lannin-Jones	15	15	1	0
Shawn Khwaja	13	13	5	7
Cris Newhall	13	13	2	3
Donald Chung Hang Siu	12	12	1	4
Arthur Hung	12	12	0	0
Hannah Kay	12	12	2	0
Grace Khwaja	12	12	1	0
Christian Frost	11	11	2	1

(Continued on page 18)

Review of the season (Continued
from page 17)

Carla Zuill	11	11	5	1
Diana Lewis	10	10	0	0
Hannah Magee	10	10	2	0
Rebecca Gunter	9	9	5	0
Cameron Waddelow	6	6	2	7
guests	5	5	0	0

The season kicked off with some big changes, with places to be filled for both big and small ball hitters. The returning Bats welcomed us newbies in with open arms and a healthy dose of competitive spirit. After some solid preseason training - and a shiny new kit (thanks Frosty!) - we headed into the season feeling positive and ready to defend our position in Division 2.

Games began with a steady win-loss ratio - with a particularly memorable hitting spree for both teams in the first head-to-head with Screwballs, with a huge 54 runs scored in total. That battling bonanza clearly warmed us up as by our fifth game, the Bats were truly swinging.

With consecutive wins accumulating, we were pushed up the table and before long found ourselves sitting at the top

with everything to play for, even managing to clip the wings of the eventual champions Stingers in an uncharacteristically low-scoring game of 7-1.

Despite the flurry of wins, we couldn't quite hold on to the top spot. With injuries hitting hard, our winning streak unfortunately began to falter as the season drew to a close. Most notably Hannah Magee, who was sorely missed from the outfield flanks after failing to take tips from our captain on how to fall over a base elegantly and took herself out in a tournament, ending the season relegated to the position of cheerleader with her one functional arm.

Despite it all, we end the season as a team proud of

our strengths, determined to improve our weaker spots and motivated to play some competitive games and top up those wins next year.

Special mentions for this season's SBHs go out to our queens Carla Zuill and Rebecca Gunter, who share the top spot in MVP votes. Carla, one of the safest catches on a base, always ensuring even the outfield are kept in the loop with her iconic shouts of "Yes baby!" before a play at one; and Rebecca who fires bullets with her throws and made her debut as Bats short-stop look absolutely effortless.

Finally, a huge thank you to our captain and vice-captain for steering us through another season -



OddSox, MSL's newest team

constantly working hard to ensure the team was not only well organised but also maintained a positive team spirit: making sure we celebrated our wins and kept us optimistic when challenges arose. We look forward to the next season. Goooo Bats!

Hannah Kay

Liver Birds



Debut: Taking flight to Manchester

	P	W	L	RS	RC	Pct
	17	9	8	344	253	.529
28 Apr	Sluggababes	A				10-18
5 May	Freeze	H				10-13
19 May	Toras	A				16-5
26 May	Barflies	H				22-19
2 Jun	Fireballs	A				21-6
9 Jun	Raiders	H				27-24
16 Jun	Tiggers	A				34-5
23 Jun	Bandidos	H				11-12
30 Jun	Sluggababes	H				6-13
7 Jul	Freeze	A				13-20
14 Jul	OddSox	H				46-3
21 Jul	Toras	H				22-2
28 Jul	Barflies	A				23-30
4 Aug	Fireballs	H				22-25
11 Aug	Raiders	A				31-27
18 Aug	Sluggababes	A				1-21
27 Aug	Bandidos	A				22-15

	App	Start	MVP	HR
Alyssa Jones	15	15	3	1
Sophie Temple	15	15	5	3
Ben Acton	13	13	1	2
Joshua Walker	14	14	3	18
Jamie Acton	13	13	2	1
Estelle Speers	13	13	0	0
Raymond Walker	13	13	5	10
Rolf Growth	12	12	1	0
Grace Williams	12	12	4	2

Neil McIntyre	12	11	2	5
Cindy Chong	10	9	1	0
William Lazicki	9	8	2	5
Gemma Wallace	9	8	0	0
Yolanda Bendall	8	8	2	0
Louise Chatburn-Gape	8	7	0	0
Carmen Arrevillagas	4	4	1	4
Liam Harris	2	2	1	3
Ross Jones	1	1	0	0
guests	7	7	1	2

While many of us were already familiar with playing alongside each other, the Birds were formed from the remnants of the Liverpool League, which sadly folded at the end of last season. So, flocking to Manchester each week has been a journey – but one that's been well worth taking!

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved in our first season, and there's been plenty to celebrate. A particular shout-out goes to our very own junior superstar Joshua Walker, who clinched the Division 3 home run lead for BBH!

A huge thank you to everyone in the Manchester league for having us. We've loved every minute and very much look forward to returning next season!

Yolie Bendall



Liver Birds: post-match drinks celebrating their last win of the season. Left to right: Ben Acton, Carmen Arrevillagas, Jamie Acton, Joshua Walker, Yolie Bendall, Sophie Temple, Aly Jones, Lou Chatburn-Gape, Cindy Chong, Grace Williams, Estelle Speers, Ray Walker

Jo Gardiner

Our dear friend Jo Gardiner passed away on 21 August 2026.

Plenty of you will have played on a team with Jo or spent an hour or two in her company in the pub after softball.

Jo started her MSL career in 2003 with the Bats, and played league games and tournaments with lots of different teams, notably Growlers, Camels, Greensox, Mavericks and Minx.



Picture credit Handout

Jo's MSL appearance record

Year	Team	Apps	MVP
2003	Bats		
2004	Bats		
2005	Growlers		
2006	Growlers		
2007	Camels		
2008	Camels		
2009	Camels		
2010	Camels		
2011	Camels		
2012	Camels	16	11
	Camels II*	11	6
2013	Lightning	16	4
	Thunder*	3	
2014	Mavericks	10	
2015	Mavericks II	13	
	Mavericks*	10	
2016	Mavericks II	11	5
	Mavericks*	7	
	Camels II*	3	
2017	Mavericks II	8	
2018	Mavericks II	2	
2019	Hackers	8	1
	others*	2	
2021	Hackers	0	
2022	Greensox	1	

No appearance/MVP records before 2012.

* as guest

2021 rostered but did not play
2022 single appearance in last game of the season

Jo jointly ran the Alex Hall Tournament in the early years, raising vital funds for the Christie who treated and supported her through her long battle with lymphoma.

Jo will be missed by all of her family, close friends, extended softball mates and those she touched world wide. In case you didn't already know, she took part in series 2 of BBC's *Race Across the World*. I recommend you check it out - it's the best season of the programme!

Her son Charlie summed up Jo more eloquently than I could ever do: "She

was an intrepid adventurer, brave, kind, witty and extremely loving. She had the rare ability to make everyone around her feel that little bit more alive. She lived fully and never seemed to do anything by halves." That's the Jo most of us will remember and miss.

If you are able, please donate a few pounds to Jo's chosen charity, Diabetes UK. You can do this by following this link: www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-gardiner-2.

Rest easy darling Jo.

Vicky Green

MSL players representing GB squads in 2026

Zoe Le Roux (Thunder) - GB Coed slowpitch



I started playing in the Manchester league with Mayhem in my second year of uni, playing in a Division 2 team with my mates and we got promoted. As I began working away in Scotland a lot, it tied to step away but obviously I was roped back in and ended up with Thunder, honestly the best thing that happened! I started playing positions I wouldn't have played before. I now love the outfield. The league has really helped me as player, I've made some of my best friends playing softball and I never would have met them without this sport. I trialled for GB twice: the first time I didn't get in, then I ended up changing positions and was selected, and since then I've

won two European gold medals and made a game-changing catch. I don't think the Manchester League gets the credit it deserves in developing the players that play at a higher level and play in the wider GB squad and programme.

Tom Russell (Thunder) - GB Coed slowpitch / GB Men's slowpitch



I started playing at school at 14 years old then joined the league through Chloe Llewelyn who was my teacher at school. She brought me along to join Thunder 12 years ago and I've been in the league ever since! The league has been a great support for me and my softball journey and has allowed me to improve and continue my development in the sport. I

then joined GB a few years ago and the league has helped support me to four European championships across both Men's and Coed. I wouldn't have got to where I am without the Manchester league.

Joe Grantham (Thunder) GB Coed slowpitch / GB Men's slowpitch

My softball journey started thanks to my girlfriend, who introduced me to the sport and encouraged me to give it a go. I began my career with Aarmavarx, where I quickly fell in love with the game, before moving on to the Mutineers and eventually Thun-



der. Each club played an important part in my development, giving me the experience, opportunities and confidence to progress as a

(Continued on page 22)

MSL players representing GB*(Continued from page 21)*

player. My time in the MSL ultimately opened the door for me to achieve one of my biggest goals – representing Great Britain. To be given the opportunity to play for GB is something I'm incredibly proud of, and I know it would not have been possible without the pathway and opportunities that the MSL has provided. I will always be grateful to the MSL for helping shape my career and giving me the platform to reach the highest level of the sport.

*Kris Hadwin (Thunder)
GB Men's Slowpitch*



Growing up playing football, tennis and cricket, I moved into baseball as my dad also played softball, then I gradually moved into softball. I played for the Hackers, the Mutineers and the Lions, before travelling after universi-

ty and also playing in Australia and Canada. Back to the UK I turned out for MI6 in London, and now back in Manchester I play for Thunder. Twenty-five years and several GB appearances later, I trace all of it back to the Manchester Softball League with regular training, the indoor leagues and Sunday pickup games to keep you sharp year-round, and it's that community, everyone pushing each other into tournaments beyond Manchester, that makes it what it is. From a local title to a GB shirt, it all comes back to that community.

*Adam Hugill (Spittin' Camels)
- GB Coed slowpitch / GB Men's slowpitch*

I'd always been a cricketer and then in 2017 a friend invited me to a softball taster session for staff at the University of Manchester. We formed a team in the Man-



chester indoor league helped out by several players from Camels and I was hooked.

I joined the summer league in 2017 with Camels in Division 2, we were promoted that year and haven't looked back. Over time the softball has become more serious with GB and our NSL team but the community in Manchester really stands out for the level of friendly competition and support.

*Luis Allan Arrevillagas
(Thunder) - GB Men's slowpitch / GB U18 Men's fastpitch*



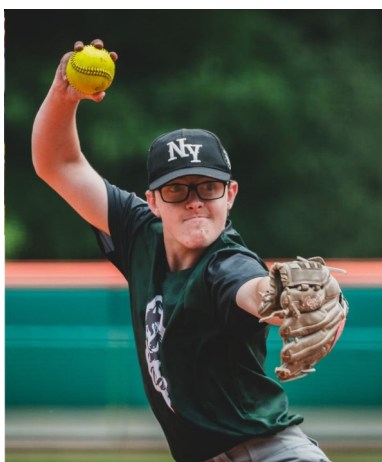
I started playing slowpitch in the MSL Division 3 when I was 14, and at 17 I made the GB men's squad. I now play for Thunder. The MSL has been a big part of my jour-

(Continued on page 23)

MSL players representing GB*(Continued from page 22)*

ney, giving me the chance to improve, play with some great people and really enjoy the sport. I'm very thankful to everyone in the MSL and especially my parents for supporting me and helping me get to where I am today.

Ben Acton (Liver Birds) - GB U18 Men's fastpitch



At 13 years of age I discovered softball with Linni Mitchell and Luis Allan Arre-villagas softball training at Urmston sports club. I now love the sport playing for many teams and have become a pitcher for the Stags. I have played in two European championships for GB and enjoy the MSL. Long may this continue.

Josh Walker (Liver Birds) - GB U18 Men's fastpitch

I joined the MSL after gaining experience in the Liverpool league. I have since played two seasons with Bats and



currently play for the Liver Birds. The MSL has provided me with the opportunity to develop and refine my skills, helping me progress on my journey to representing Great Britain at U18 level. Throughout my time in the league, I have found players and coaches alike to be supportive and always willing to help. The MSL is an outstanding league that provides young athletes with the foundation, experience and encouragement needed to begin their pathway towards Great Britain representation.

Stan O'Learly (Slugga-babes) - GB U16 Men's fastpitch



Stan started his journey throwing at home from a

young age. He then attended the BSUK sessions with Linni Mitchell, and Jamie Upton in Urmston.

When Stan turned 14, he joined Mat Tanner and the Sluggababes in MSL, where he had the opportunity to play infield and outfield. He continued to play slowpitch and fastpitch side by side.

Stan attended the try-out for the GB U16s and he was selected to represent them in the European championships in Czechia in 2026.

Stan was part of the invincible Sluggababes team in 25/26 winning every game and securing a spot in next years Division 2. [Kieran O'Leary]

Carmen Arrevillagas (Hackers/Liver Birds) - GB U15 Women's Fastpitch



I started playing in the Manchester league when I was 14 with Hackers in Division 2, and even though I was still learning a lot, they provided a very supportive and em-

(Continued on page 24)

MSL players representing GB*(Continued from page 23)*

powering environment for me to play in. No matter the outcome of the games, it gave me the opportunity to play with and against other experienced adults, developing my knowledge and skills in the sport.

I went on to play with GB U15 Fastpitch at the European Championships, where I received lots of support from the Manchester softball community. As softball is still a growing sport in the UK, playing on a Wednesday night and throughout the winter in the Indoor League

allowed me to gain valuable game experience without having to travel hours to a different city. It also ensured that I was getting enough training and game time before travelling away to compete.

Contributions compiled and edited by Luis Arrevillagas

MVPs team by team

CAMELS	Maddy Gresty, Adam Hugill
DODGERS	Katie Flanagan, Paul Colton
MAVERICKS	Sherry Kenyon, Pete Nightingale
MAYHEM	Nathan Barratt, Linni Mitchell
MEERKATS	Avery Chong, Carlos dos Ramos
SHARKS	Rachael Shkurko, Mike Lott
THUNDER	Zoe Le Roux, Luis Allan Arrevillagas
THUNDER II	Ashley Swaby, Jeivo Gomez/Benjamin Pearce
TITANS	Nicola McKenna, Sam Baker
BATS	Rebecca Gunter/Carla Zuill, Shawn Khwaja
CAMELS II	Izzie Wakefield, Chris Drayton/James Wooderson
HACKERS	Grace Mills, Jack Hoban/Ian Mills
MAVERICKS II	Nat Dunlop, Chris Gresty
SCREWBALLS	Olivia Thompson-Westmacott, Oscar Marengo
SPEEDERS	Christine Hunter, Chris Lennon
STINGERS	Toni Strowger, Jack Barnes/Dilan Bastiampillai
THUNDER III	Luna Sanchez, James Wright
TIGERS	Anissa Aghtarafi, Oliver Sharpe
BANDIDOS	Chloe Llewellyn, Liam Morrison
BARFLIES	Jo McCullough, Ibby Hassan/Chris Smith
FIREBALLS	Lisa Williams, Sam Webb
FREEZE	Malyn Wainwright, Owen Salfred-Ingham
LIVER BIRDS	Sophie Temple, Ray Walker
ODDSOX	Katarzyna Fabian, Jack Heaton
RAIDERS	Natalie Wood, Jake Collins/Luke Crannage/Mark Crannage
SLUGGABABES	Demi Rabbette, Stan O'leary
TIGGERS	Beccy Crawford/Holly Tillyard Smith, Carlos Torres
TORAS	Jemma Crosby/Rachel Thorpe, Jack Lalor/Ben Lock

MVPs leading candidates

Division 1 SBH: Avery Chong (MKT), Maddy Gresty (CAM), Sherry Kenyon (MAV), Nicola McKenna (TTN)

Division 1 BBH: Sam Baker (TTN), Paul Colton (DOD)

Division 2 SBH: Nat Dunlop (MV2), Toni Strowger (STG), Izzie Wakefield (CM2)

Division 2 BBH: Chris Gresty (MV2), James Wright (TH3)

Division 3 SBH: Chloe Llewellyn (BND), Jo McCullough (BFL), Lisa Williams (PFB)

Division 3 BBH: Liam Morrison (BND), Owen Salfred-Ingham (FRZ)

Rookie of the Year nominations

Jake Collins (Raiders)



Jake is just 17 and came into this season having never played softball or baseball before. He started by attending every one of the winter indoor rookie sessions to get a feel for the game and learn the basics, and since the outdoor season began he has thrown himself into it completely, missing just one game all season. His performances have been pretty remarkable for someone in their first year. He is currently batting .794, has scored 28 runs, hit 2 home runs and picked up 4 MVP awards – the most of any big baller on our team this season.

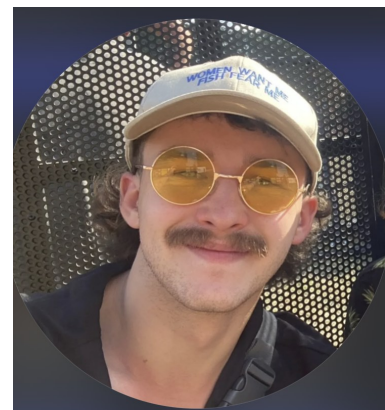
For me, though, what makes Jake particularly deserving of the nomination is everything else he brings to the team. Despite being our youngest player and playing alongside people considerably older and more experienced than him, he is probably one of the most enthusiastic and supportive players we have. I pitch, Jake mostly plays right centre, yet after every pitch I throw I can hear him calling encouragement from the outfield. If we hit a home run, he'll invariably be one of the first people waiting to give them a high five when they get back. He genuinely seems to get as much enjoyment from seeing his teammates do well as he does from his own performances.

He also helps set up the equipment at every home game and has started getting involved with scoring and learning that side of the game.

Perhaps the best example of how much he has embraced softball came

when we were struggling for players. Jake persuaded his mum to come along and play for us, and even took her down to the park beforehand to teach her how to bat and help her get ready for the game! For a 17-year-old in his first ever season, I think he has made a fantastic contribution both on and off the field. He's not only become a very good softball player, quickly, but has also become a great teammate and a key member of the Raiders. [RV]

Joseph Dodson (Thunder III)



Joseph joined Thunder III mid-season this year after being recommended by Linni, and with Thunder III

(Continued on page 26)

Rookie of the Year nominations*(Continued from page 25)*

desperately needing new BBHs.

He came to one of our matches to see what the vibe was and from then on became an integral part of the team.

The transition from being a rookie to playing in Division 2 was seamless, he has taken it in his stride, being calm and confident and showing real talent. His batting has come on in leaps and bounds and his fielding has been excellent with more and more confidence. He even got his first home run during his rookie season.

He's been a great asset to the team and definitely deserves some recognition.

We look forward to seeing what he can do next year. [LS]

Robert Fairweather*(Fireballs, Meerkats)*

Having turned 14 just before the season started, Robert has made an outstanding impression in his first season of softball through his enthusiasm, commitment, improve-



ment and team-first attitude. He threw himself into the team straight away, coming along to our pre-season socials despite not knowing any of us beforehand.

On the field, Robert started strongly, taking a few catches in the outfield and earning MVP in our very first game against Raiders. Since then, he has continued to develop and grow visibly in confidence, particularly with his batting. His speed around the bases and willingness to slide have helped us score important runs. Although he prefers playing outfield, Robert has been happy to move infield when the team has needed him. He has also gained confidence in base coaching, and it was an added bonus that he arrived at

Fireballs already knowing how to score, having previously scored for his dad's team.

Robert's dedication has been clear throughout the season - he turned up twice on Tuesdays despite only returning from holiday a few hours beforehand. He has also guested for a number of Wednesday teams, looking for every opportunity to improve his game, and played in both Manchester tournaments. Just as importantly, Robert is a positive and encouraging presence in the team. He is quick to congratulate his teammates on good plays and hits, and he brings exactly the kind of supportive spirit that makes a team stronger. Robert has had an excellent first season showing real confidence, maturity and team spirit. [LW]

James Flint (OddSox)

James has been an outstanding member of OddSox this year. Having started at rookie sessions in April having never pitched, he played on the mound for our final six games. His already consistent location in the



zone contributed hugely to our first team victory in a tight 12-11 thriller and shut out a number of established teams' batting innings.

Off the field, James regularly shows up to training and is an encouraging team mate to others. For further team bonding he worked with his partner to create handmade team wristbands with each of our names on for our very first match.

James is already highly respected across Div 3 for his efforts, earning several MVP nominations in his first few games.

Thank you James for your fantastic effort and contribution this season. [BA]

James has been invaluable to our new team that has needed reliable players to develop in their

roles. He took the mound every week to pitch with enthusiasm and a determination to play well and get better every outing. James had no prior experience with pitching but took to it like a

natural. He worked very hard during his own time, throwing balls in his garden to practice in the evenings, whilst also receiving advice from Steven Kellett during games, putting all that advice into practice to get better. James is also developing very well as a hitter, frequently getting on base with singles and sometimes doubles, whilst also being a fast runner with a very high softball IQ.

James appeared in every game this season and his loyalty to the team has never been in doubt. He attended every additional practice we hosted on Sundays, and would always show up to games an hour early to help me set up and get extra practice in. He is incredibly friendly, supportive of his team

regardless of performance, and a genuine pleasure to have around as a person and as a player. I'm not sure how our season would have gone without James pitching for us every week. He was instrumental during our win against the Toras, which did wonders for our morale as a brand new team that was still searching for some success! As a bonus, James is always up for a drink after the game, truly embodying the softball spirit! [LB]

Nicky Johnson (Fireballs)



We would like to nominate Nicky Johnson for Rookie of the Year. He has fully embraced softball from indoor sessions to the league and additionally played in many of the

(Continued on page 28)

Rookie of the Year nominations*(Continued from page 27)*

weekend tournaments too. He has been keen to arrange training sessions for his team and engaging in other teams training wherever he has been able to. Considering he hasn't played any softball-adjacent sports before, he has really taken to it well playing a key role in outfield and has done a great job improving his batting across the season, getting on base plenty and getting some key home runs. [DW (Toras)]

Nicky came to softball looking for a new sporting challenge and has made an immediate and impressive impact. After attending indoor sessions throughout winter 2025/26, he joined Fireballs shortly before the start of the 2026 season and, despite having only taken up the sport a few months earlier, he hit the ground running.

Early in the season Nicky hit his first home run and went on to finish as Fireballs' leading home-run hitter. He saved one of his best moments until last, delivering a grand slam in our final game of the season. In the outfield, Nicky

has developed quickly into a reliable and intelligent player. He has learnt how to position himself based on the hitters, tracks the ball well and has become a safe pair of hands. His throws into the bases and to short stop are accurate, and he works hard to back up the infield and cover his fellow outfielders. As his confidence has grown, Nicky has also stepped up to help with base coaching.

Nicky's commitment to improving has been clear in the way he has maximised every opportunity to play. He has taken part in First Ball and the North West Series, where he was the top big ball hitter for Tiggers, gaining valuable experience and continuing to develop his game.

Keen to learn, eager to improve and motivated not only to develop his own game, but to help the whole team get better, Nicky has had a superb first season. [LW]

Chris Marenco (Screwballs)

It's no easy task in the Manchester Softball League to follow in your dad's footsteps, especially if you're stepping directly into Division 2. But Christopher Marenco never seemed to



mind the burden during a stellar 2026 campaign.

The statistics bore out his contribution: despite recording just 38 at bats for the Manchester Screwballs due to academic commitments to his A-levels, Chris batted .632, scored 21 runs, drove in 16 runs, and drilled four home runs, including a grand slam. Opponents and teammates took notice of Chris's excellence on the diamond: the Screwballs voted him the team's most valuable BBH in three games, while opponents selected him four different times.

It was an impressive season for the 16-year-old dynamo. The Screwballs benefitted in several different ways from our Rookie of the Year nominee. A right-handed hitter, Chris's training with his father and noted MSL/NSL stalwart Oscar Marengo made him invaluable to the Screwballs' promotion to Division 1. Chris immediately supplied a combination of speed and power that belied his rookie status. Defensively as an outfielder, his remarkable throwing arm passed the test, as baserunners were repeatedly cut down to snuff out rallies in clutch situations.

What was most impressive about Chris was that big situations didn't faze him at all. Needing a win to earn a chance at promotion in our final game, Chris took home MVP honours with a homer and several big defensive plays in the outfield—even after the lineup shrank from ten to nine players due to injury, forcing the pink and blue to use just three outfielders.

Other impressive elements owe to the family dynamic Chris inhabits. In turn, it extended to the entire Screwball family. Chris and

Oscar fed off each other throughout the season, fuelling each other (and their teammates) with encouragement and banter that immediately made him a seamless member of the team. Sometimes when the going got tough in 2026, the Marengo spirit found a way to fuel the Screwball spirit.

Thus begins the team's journey into the great unknown of Division 1 in 2027, with a new generation of Marengo spirit and talent setting the tone on and off the field.

For this and so much more, we gladly nominate Christopher Marengo for MSL Rookie of the Year in 2026. The nomination is made without hesitation. [DS]

Honour roll

Previous ROTY winners

- 2025 Sebastian Parker (Toras)
- 2024 Jenny Quinton (Base Invaders)
- 2023 Kerry Brown (Raiders)
- 2022 Hollie Glennie (Seagulls)
- 2021 Ashley Swaby (Seagulls/Thunder II), James Warren (Thunder II)
- 2019 Hannah Wint (Base Invaders)
- 2018 Chris Norton (Base Invaders), Holly Smith (Rebels/Tigers), Kirsty Dowling (Drizzle)
- 2017 Phil Kirby (Mets), Bryony James (Mets)

- 2016 Laura Somers (Drizzle), Dave Warren (Rippers)
- 2015 Faye Dunlop (Pirates), Andrew Bogie (Drizzle)
- 2014 Charlotte Green (Storm), Amy Torkington (Phoenix), Laurence Pearmain (Mavericks)
- 2013 Becky Jones-Moore (Mayhem II), Brendan Gately (Speeders)
- 2012 Emma Carruthers (Camels)
- 2011 ???
- 2010 Paula Watson (Dodgers), Chris Drayton (Camels II)
- 2009 Clare Heathcote (More Lions), Matt Richards (Camels II)
- 2008 Emma Waterhouse (Thunder), Dean Redfearn (More Lions)
- 2007 Rachel Jones (Thunder), Ali Hallsworth (Mets AAA)

Young player(s) of the year

- 2025 Carmen Arrevillagas (Hackers), Ben Acton (Thunder IV)
- 2024 Lorlei Salfred-Ingham (Freeze), Josh Walker (Bats)
- 2023 Lorlei Salfred-Ingham (Freeze), Danny Casey-Wright (Stingers)
- 2022 Amber Frost (Bats), Antoon Lemmers (Sluggababes)
- 2021 Elliot Boydell (Thunder IV)
- 2019 Sophie Addison (Base Invaders), Dan Downes (Tigers)
- 2018 Grace Mills (Hackers), Dan Downes (Lions)
- 2017 Charlotte Green (Greensox), Tom Russell (Thunder)
- 2016 Dan Downes (Tigers)

If anyone spots any errors, or can provide the missing information (including earlier years) please let us know.

End-of-season survey

As we say goodbye to another memorable season, we'd love to hear about your experience playing in the Manchester Softball League this year.

Your feedback helps us understand what's working, what isn't, and what we can do better for next season. If that's around tournament organisation, communication, the so-

cial side of things, or anything else that affects your experience playing in the league, please let us know.

The survey should only take a few minutes to complete. It covers:

- Any challenges you faced this season
- What you enjoyed most
- What you'd like to see more of next season

We'd really appreciate you taking the time to fill it out, whatever team or club you play for. The more responses we get, the better picture we'll have of what the league needs going forward.

Thanks for a great season, and we hope to see you all back next year!

Many thanks,
Izzie Keeley

Indoor softball

Indoor softball returns for the winter. Registration for the Indoor League, organized by Leo Pearn is already closed, but there are also weekly sessions at Platt Lane Sports Complex (M14 7UU) between 2 and 4 on Sunday afternoons, organized by Mike Goff. Not every date before Christmas is available so we'll play between 11/10 and 6/12 except for: 25/10, 08/11 and 29/11

After Christmas it's every Sunday from 17th January to 21st March. Cost is £7 per player per session: players can join from the Spound app using the code

iBGZFP, or can pay by contactless on the day. Unfortunately we cannot accept cash payment.

See you there!



Prize quiz

As usual at the End-of-Season awards we offer a quiz, for which the prize is £40 off next year's registration fee.

This year's quiz is in two parts, the first set by Umpire-in-Chief Simon Sharp, the second a test of how well you know your MSL logos.

Part 1 Simon says ...

This year, mainly because of the rule requiring resting teams to provide umpires, a record 42 different people have umpired games. All but four of them are also rostered as players. **Simon asks you to list in order the top five teams providing umpires** (counting each occasion separately).

Part 2 What a load of balls

Perhaps unsurprisingly, many of the logos used in MSL include a depiction of a softball ball. Here you will see a selection of MSL logos. All you have to do is identify which logo each one is taken from. Your answer should be a list of 15 names.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)



(j)



(k)



(l)



(m)



(n)



(o)

One entry per team/table please. Hand it to Simon before 10pm.

Statto's corner

POTENTIAL NEW BOY-FRIEND

486 players registered this year (31 less than last year), of which 427 actually played (27 less than last year), 52 of them just once. The league shrunk slightly, losing two teams but gaining a new one half way through. Toras had the **smallest roster** (13) but Thunder II, used the **fewest players** (17 including guests) in total. Bandidos had the **biggest roster** (26) and, including guests, **used the most players** (41).

Nearly half of those rostered players played just once or twice.

141 players who were rostered last year did not play this year, but there were 78 new players (compared to 108 last year).

COAT OF MANY COLORS

298 guest appearances (a 12% increase) were made by 122 players (a 31% decrease).

Every team used at least two **guests**, with Tiggers

(like last year) using the fewest. Meerkats led the way with guests used, 20 times, with 19 different players.

Laurie Salfred-Ingham was far ahead of the field with 14 **guest appearances** though shared with Christian Frost the most **different teams** served (six).

17 teams **played 6&6** at least once, five of which did so fairly regularly: Freeze and Tiggers 9 times, Liver Birds 8, Sluggababes 7 and Hackers 5 times.

221 games were played—21 fewer than last year, due to shrinkage and a different structure (no cup games). Four games were **forfeited** (compared to just one cup game last year). Wednesday teams got 16 games, while Div 3 teams got 17 with the arrival of the OddSox in July. There were no double header nights, though one set of Wednesday games was rescheduled because of the World Cup. Tuesday teams played every week.

MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM

7,097 runs were scored, at an average of **32 per game**, a slight decrease compared to last year. Camels had the **best offence** with 21.1 runs scored per game, but Thunder had the **best defence**, conceding 7.9 per game. OddSox set a new record for the **worst defence** (27 runs per game) but from only a half-season. As mentioned elsewhere, Speeders' games were the place to see the **most runs scored by both sides** combined, a total of 624, at 39 runs per game. Statto will research this new stat over the winter.

MY TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN HOME

871 home runs were scored, a 17% decrease on last year. 225 **different players** got dingers, not counting the 49 hit by guests. There were 37 **grand slams**, also down on last year, with Liam Morrison (Bandidos) the leading

Statto's corner (Cont. from page 32)
slammer with three, including two in one game.

HEARTBREAKER

43 was the biggest **winning margin** (Liver Birds 46-3 OddSox), equalling the all-time record margin of victory with RAR, 46 also being the **highest individual score**. Tigers 45 Mavericks II 35 provided the **highest aggregate score** (80) and also the **highest losing score** while Bats 7 Stingers 1 was the **lowest aggregate**. Mavs II 6 Bats 5 was the **lowest winning score**. Liver Birds' 25-run inning against the OddSox was the **highest scoring single inning**.

Screwballs' 28-27 win over Bats was the **narrowest win**, though the two 15-15 ties in the final weeks of the season were the **closest games**. There were two **shutouts**, with Barflies and Camels II the beneficiaries.

Two games went to **extra innings**, both involving the Bats, in consecutive weeks.

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM

18 games is the Sluggababes' continuing **winning streak**,

while Thunder II's **consecutive losses** number 21, one short of the record. Josh Walker (Liver Birds) has **hit a homer** for the last 8 games, but the most impressive streak is Emma Miller's 104 **consecutive games** for Camels II and Thunder II since July 2019, which continues. This brings us to ...

HERE YOU COME AGAIN

19 people played every game for their teams (totals as indicated), as follows:

Sam Baker (TTN)(15)
Carolyn Barratt (SPE)(16)
Lucy Britton (ODX)(9)
Zoe Coombes (TTN)(15)
Carlos dos Ramos (MKT)(15)
Annie Downes (SLG)(17)*
Hayley Evans (CAM)(15)
Mitch Gilbert (PFB)(17)*
Maddy Gresty (CAM)(15)
Kris Hadwin (THU)(15)*
Eleanor Harris (SLG)(17)
Ebrahim Hassan (BFL)(17)
Emma Miller (TH2)(16)*
Pete Nightingale (MAV)(16)
Demi Rabbette (SLG)(17)
Kristian Stokwicz (RAI)(17)*
Toni Strowger (STG)(16)
Izzie Wakefield (CM2)(16)
Lisa Williams (PFB)(17)
Players marked * were ever present last year.

OLD FLAMES

37y10m is the average age of MSL

players, just 4 months older than last year. This figure has been creeping up, but never by much. Speeders have regained the **oldest team** label (average age 42½). Titans have taken over the coveted **youngest team** slot, average age 31¼

17 rostered players were under 18 at the start of the season, three less than last year.

MY BLUE TEARS

42 different people umpired, this number of course boosted by the requirement for resting teams to provide an umpire. Two teams failed to do so and were docked a league point. All but four games this season had neutral umpires (one less than last year) but coverage overall was again 98% ... rising to 100% on Tuesday. **Paul Fagan** again umpired the most (27) games.

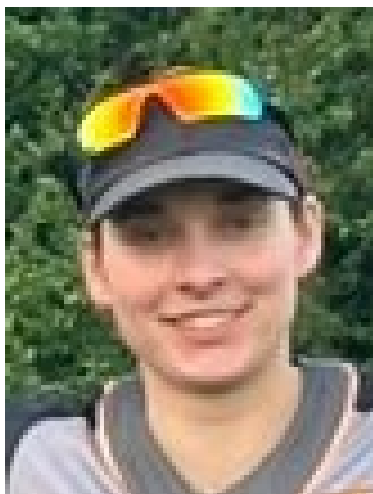
9 TO 5

Thanks to Dolly Parton for the section titles. I couldn't think which section to use this one for, so just popped it in here.



Home runs

Division 1 SBH



8 – Maddy Gresty (CAM) (pictured)
 5 – Avery Chong (MKT)
 3 – Nicola Booth (CAM), Zoe Le Roux (THU)
 2 – Julie Eden (THU), Kim Hannessen (THU), Jessica Hastings (DOD), Alexa Martinez (DOD), Nic McKenna (TTN)
 1 – Melissa Byrne (DSH), Zoe Coombes (TTN), Leanne Cracknell (MAV), Lauren Crouse (MAV), Katie Flanagan (DOD), Charlotte Green (CAM), Izzie Keeley (CAM), Maya McGreggor (TTN), Linni Mitchell (MHM), Heidi Oestreicher (MHM), Izzy Rendell (TTN), Rachel Shkurko (DSH), Kate Winfield (TTN)

Division 1 BBH

14 – Paul Colton* (DOD) (pictured right)
 12 – Sam Baker* (TTN), Brian Slusarek (DOD)
 11 – Pete Nightingale* (MAV)
 9 – Keith Altena (MKT), Rohan Johns (TTN)
 8 – Joe Grantham (THU), Tom Russell (THU)
 7 – Carlos dos Ramos (MKT)

6 – Nathan Barratt* (MHM), Daniel Downes (DSH), Brad Hadwin (THU), Stephane Karayannis (DSH), Jake Roberts (DOD)

5 – Max Fagan (CAM), Adam Hugill (CAM), Alex Ingham (MKT), Benkei Johnson (MHM)

4 – Luis Arrevillagas (THU), Craig Brooks (MAV), Jeivo Gomez (TH2), Mike Lott (DSH), Jon Taylor* (TH2)

3 – Luis Allan Arrevillagas (THU), Tom Atkinson (CAM), Jamie Coombes (TTN), David Dyson (DOD), Carl Emsley (TTN), Amilcar Gomes (MHM), Mike MacDowell (CAM), Jack Scholes (MHM)

2 – Jai Bhagdev (TTN), Jordan Colton (MHM), Anthony Garcia Reyes (MHM), Matthew Green (MHM), David Grice (DOD), Kris Hadwin (THU), Stephen Howard (DOD), Anthony Hulme (DSH), Matt Narain* (MKT), Wes Ng (CAM)

1 – Andrew Bogie* (TH2), Charles Coffey (MAV), Elieser Dorronsoro (DOD), Chris Fulton (MAV), Danny Gunn (MAV), Simon Hepburn (DOD), Phil Kirby (TH2), Dave Leverton



(THU), Ben March (THU), Luke Martin (DSH), Laurence Pearmain (MAV), James Stevens (MKT)

Division 2 SBH



7 – Anissa Aghtarafi (TIG) (pictured)

3 – Nikki Bradshaw (STG), Chloe Patient (STG), Olivia Thompson-Westmacott (SCR)

2 – Nadia Aghtarafi (TIG), Grace Mills (HAC), Toni Strowger (STG)

1 – Carmen Arrevillagas (HAC), Emma Bennett (SPE), Charleen Christofi (MV2), Nat Dunlop (MV2), Ella Mills (HAC), Alia Paschali (CM2), Evie Sanders (HAC), Bailey Saunders (TIG), Isobel Wakefield (CM2), Carla Zuill (BAT)

Division 2 BBH

17 – James Wooderson* (CM2) (pictured opposite)

14 – Bryn Davies (BAT), James Wright (TH3)

12 – Jack Barnes* (STG), Oscar Marenco (SCR)

11 – Dilan Bastiampillai** (STG)

(Continued on page 35)

Home runs (Continued from page 34)

9 - David Martin Baez* (MV2)
 8 - Ethan Money-Muter** (SPE), Nic Sims (STG)
 7 - Ed Covington (TIG), Shawn Khwaja* (BAT), Mike Mia* (TH3), Cameron Waddelow (BAT)
 6 - Adam Faloona* (SPE), Duncan Jones* (SPE)
 5 - Ant Boffey (CM2), Richard Goar (TIG), Josh Kehoe* (TIG), Ross Maskell (SCR), Dan Strayer* (SCR)
 4 - Donald Ching Hang Siu (BAT), AJ Hoysted (TH3), Chris Lennon (SPE), Christopher Marenco* (SCR), Zak Morris (SCR), Oliver Sharpe (TIG), Ian Williams (MV2)
 3 - Liam Deegan (CM2), Chris Drayton (CM2), Chris Gresty (MV2), Jack Hoban (HAC), Cris Newhall* (BAT), Jack Rains (STG), Artem Rastrepaev (SCR), Rich Thompson (TIG)
 2 - Joseph Dodson (TH3), Alastair Hallsworth (SPE), Johnny Huck (TH3), Dan Jarman (CM2), Maciek Juriewicz (SCR), Joe Mills (HAC), Nick Money (SPE), Sean Rafter (HAC), Harry Schulte (TIG), David Warren (TIG)
 1 - Ian Caird (TH3), Dean Cull (TH3), Jonathan Foldi* (CM2), Mark Fox (STG), Chris Frost (BAT), Mike Goff (MV2), Mo-



hamad Irfan Haziz (TIG), Daniel Johansson (HAC), Ryan Jones (SPE), Lewis Le Fevre (TH3), Ian Mills (HAC), Tom Myatt (MV2)

Division 3 SBH

8 - Jo McCullough (BFL) (pictured)
 4 - Carmen Arrevillagas (LVB)
 3 - Eleanor Harris (SLG), Emma Hawke (TGG), Chloe Llewellyn (BND), Sophie Temple (LVB)
 2 - Grace Williams (LVB)
 1 - Abbie Arnold (TGG), Jesamine Belfield* (RAI), Kerry Brown (RAI), Jacqueline Choudhury Sinnot (FRZ), Alyssa Jones (LVB), Lisa Morrissey (RAI), Demi Rabbette (SLG), Laurie Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Lorilei Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Rebecca Stevens (PFB), Lynsey Taylor (TGG), Rachel Thorpe (TOR), Abbie Thwaite (SLG), Lisa Williams (PFB), Nat Wood (RAI)

Division 3 BBH

18 - Joshua Walker (LVB) (pictured right)
 15 - Mark Crannage* (RAI)
 14 - Chris Mannion (SLG)
 12 - Leon Arismendi* (TGG), Luke Crannage (RAI), Ebrahim Hassan (BFL)
 11 - Jack Lalor (TOR)

10 - Ray Walker (LVB)
 9 - Liam Morrison*** (BND), Owen Salfred-Ingham* (FRZ)
 8 - Richard Valentine (RAI)
 7 - Jack Heaton (ODX), Ben Lock* (TOR)
 6 - Mat Tanner (SLG)
 5 - Jacob Arnison* (BND), William Lazicki (LVB), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Neil McIntyre (LVB), Josh Normie* (TGG), Kieran O'Leary* (SLG), Chris Radford (BFL)
 4 - Nicky Johnson* (PFB), John Pearson* (RAI), Nacho Sánchez (BND), Kuba Williams (BFL)
 3 - Liam Harris (LVB), James Tanner (SLG), Carlos Torres (TGG), Sam Webb (PFB)
 2 - Ben Acton (LVB), Nino Calo (FRZ), Jake Collins (RAI), David Dean (BFL), Lee Kendrick-Walker (BFL), Ari-ma Mathiesen (TOR), Conor O'Sullivan (TGG), Kelby Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Chris Smith (BFL), Kris Stokwicz (RAI), Andy Whatmore (PFB), Jono Wrigley* (FRZ)
 1 - Jamie Acton (LVB), Jack Baldwin (PFB), Peter Booth (SLG), Pete Boyne (BND), Mitch Gilbert (PFB), Mark Hayward (FRZ), Ross Jubber (FRZ), Harry Marsh (PFB), Ian McCann (BND), Sebastian Parker (TOR), Dale Warrenner* (SLG), Dan Waterman (TOR), Rocco Wrigley (FRZ)
 * grand slam



