



EXTRA INNINGS
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WRITTEN BY CHARLIE WHALLEY

Introduction to the League

Welcome to Liverpool Softball League! Our league features three slow-pitch teams that compete in exciting games every Monday night at Childwall Sports and Science Academy.

Whether you're an experienced player or a beginner, our league offers a friendly and competitive environment for all skill levels.

So what do you say? Come and join us for a night of fun!

Our Teams

Our League consists of three teams competing to finish the season at the top of the table.

Stephen Shearer's Sefton Sharks came top of the table last year and will be starting the season with the aim to defend their crown! They won the majority of their games in the last season, however this year competition is looking a lot closer than the last!

Coming in second are the Southport Seagulls, captained by Sophie Temple. The seagulls had a great season in 2022, earning crucial points against their main competition, Sefton Sharks. In the off season, The Seagulls gained a small handful of talented players and are looking a stronger contender for the 2023 season.

The third and final team in Merseyside's only softball league are The Liverpool Trojans. The Trojans are a newly formed team who are about to start their third season of softball. Captain David Martin Baez formed the club from Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club in 2021 and his team are on the hunt for glory in the 2023 season after recruiting some players during indoor training over the winter.



LIVERPOOL SHIELD 2023

Liverpool Softball League got off to a flying start before the season had even begun with the start of the Liverpool Shield Tournament, which is following on from the previous years tournaments.

The tournament was a huge success, with teams from all over the UK competing for the Shield, Plate and Spoon. The weather was hot and sunny, providing a perfect backdrop for a weekend of exciting softball action. The scorching tournament went down well in Widnes. The players didn't let the heat get to them, as they were too busy trying to hit home-runs and catch fly-balls. With the help of a few pints, the players kept their cool, and started to play their game. The weekend was one to remember, even if we had too many sunburns to show for it!

The tournament featured some strong teams from all over Britains mainland, all vying for the top prize. The competition was fierce, with each team playing their hearts out to win. In the end, Cardiff took the Shield back to South Wales as the tournaments winners! They put up an extremely strong performance on the first day, winning all 5 of their games against the Bombers, Seagulls, Bolts, Dales and Drizzle. On the second day they dominated in the final against a talented runner up, Swindon Bombers. The game finished 28-5 to Cardiff, with Sian and Jamie getting the MVP award in the final. Well done Cardiff!

In the plate final we saw Yorkshire Dales emerge as winners against The Kelpies in their game that closely finished 18-12. A great game between two very different teams brought entertainment to both the players and spectators. The game was a back and forth affair, with both teams trading runs throughout the game. Pinpoint pitching from Yorkshires' Fletch helped bring his team to victory, as he also won MVP in the game too. An amazing MVP performance from Jane who plays for the Dales also helped her team secure the win in the tightly scored final. Although the Kelpies came close to winning The Plate, its worth mentioning their dedication to tournament as they travelled down from Scotland for the weekend.

Finally, in the Spoon final we saw a local derby, with Liverpool Trojans facing Southport Seagulls. It's safe to say that the Liverpool Trojans put in a dominant display in the spoon final, thrashing the Seagulls 28-6. The Trojans came out swinging, scoring early and commanding the lead. The Seagulls fought hard to get back into the game, but the Trojans' defence was too strong. It was a great win for the Trojans, who played with skill and determination throughout the game. A shoutout is needed for Karthik and Kate for winning the MVP award in the final, and congratulations to the Trojans for winning the Spoon Final!

Trojans' Late Late Show at Liverpool Shield

"Better late than never" ...the Trojans certainly put that saying to the test at the Liverpool Shield last weekend. The Trojans, who were the defending Rec champions having won in 2022, were considered amongst the favourites for the Shield this year...at least certainly by me. A good mix of young, old and slightly older teammates with baseball players and seasoned softballers.

The line-up looked to have plenty of runs in it. Trojan Ash, Di, Gina, Pete, Karthik and Rolf were supplemented by Sharks Jo, Kate and Meg with Trojan baseball player Terry and two-sport Bleasy completing the team.

Initial optimism was replaced by crushing realism early on Saturday morning when an impressive Kelpies team took a no-nonsense, disciplined approach to despatch the champs 11-1. Pete had taken the on the pitching duties but was always going to struggle to get the win as we managed only 3 hits in the last 3 innings.

The Bobcats were next and our bats woke from their Saturday slumber with 12 runs. This was not quite enough, losing 13-12, despite a late last inning rally. Determined to maintain our momentum from this game, our next opponents, the Stingers, felt the full Trojan wrath. A 15-run second inning gave pitcher Bleasy a big lead to defend and he did so comfortably allowing only 5 runs for a final 20-5 score. A new dawn for the Trojans, the machine was now well and truly oiled and ready to defeat all in its path on the way to retaining the title, right?

Sadly no. For the next 5 games we fell frustratingly short with narrow defeats and runs that came a bit too late. There were narrow 1-run losses to Bats and Dales despite 7 and 5 last inning runs respectively. Comprehensive defeats followed against Bam, Drizzle and Bolts although our combined 17 last inning runs made the scorelines look slightly more competitive. If this had been league play with 7 inning games, things could have been different but the nature of tournament play was that we had to strike early in time-limited games and this we did not.

Pessimism now prevailed; any glimmers of hope had been well and truly dashed by the time of the Spoon semi-final. We were playing the Bam again who had swept passed us 15-11 in the round-robin stage. A 13-run top of the first inning as we batted round, meant that the game was all but over as a contest with any pessimism now transferred to the shell-shocked Bams. An 8-run second inning showed that the first inning had not been a fluke, with the rest of the game proving a formality finishing 25-5.

Continued on the next page

The Trojans Late Late Show at the Liverpool Shield Continued...

TROJANS: Ash, Di, Gina, Pete, Karthik, Rolf, Jo, Kate, Meg, Terry, Bleasy, David.

SEAGULLS: Yolie, Estelle, Gemma, Carl, David, Charlie, Matthew, Mel, Ray, Joshua, Joicey

TROJANS : 10 11 7

SEAGULLS : 0 4 2

MVPs: Kate, Karthik.

The Spoon final was an all-Merseyside affair with the Seagulls. The Seasiders had struggled in the Shield group stage on Sunday but had managed to turn it around in their semi-final, overcoming Drizzle. Both Merseyside teams had been supporting their local league-mates throughout the tournament so it was both a pleasure to play against Yolie's Seagulls and also a shame that one of us had to lose. It was the Trojans who continued their superb hitting form, scoring consistently whilst the Seagulls seemed to run out of steam a little after a long weekend. The Trojan defence stood strong with not a wooden horse in sight to win 28-6.

A thoroughly enjoyable competition despite the slightly baffling overall performance from us. A lot of the time we only seemed to get going when the scoreline was gone and we were within the last ten minutes. A couple of games we queried whether we could play out the last innings to hopefully complete unlikely comebacks. When our hitters were on form we seemed unstoppable although we were not able to maintain this for the most part as the 3-7 win-loss record showed. Our MVPs were Karthik who seemed to hit homeruns most of the time he came up to bat and Kate who pulled out a 5-for-5 performance in the final. Mentions too for our relatively rookie pitchers, Pete, Ian and Terry, who all gave it their best on the rubber. Thanks to the Sharks for helping us out with players and finally thanks to all the Trojans and the Shearers for a truly memorable weekend!

Written by David Martin Baez



Many thanks to all the teams who competed! Bolts, Bombers, Cardiff, Dales, Drizzle, Seagulls, Bam, Bats, Bobcats Kelpies, Stingers and Trojans for participating and well done again to our winners!

See below a handful of the teams who played at our tournament!

Cardiff & Bombers

Yorkshire Dales

Liverpool Trojans

Didsbury Bats

Glasgow Kelpies

Southport Seagulls

Bristol Bam

Bobcats

Drizzle



THIS SEASONS FIXTURES

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY
5th JUNE	7PM	TRAINING	
12th JUNE	7PM	SHARKS	TROJANS
19th JUNE	7PM	TROJANS	SEAGULLS
26th JUNE	7PM	SEAGULLS	SHARKS
3rd JULY	7PM	TRAINING	
10th JULY	7PM	TROJANS	SHARKS
17th JULY	7PM	SEAGULLS	TROJANS
24th JULY	7PM	SHARKS	SEAGULLS
31st JULY	7PM	SHARKS	TROJANS
7th AUGUST	7PM	TROJANS	SEAGULLS
14th AUGUST	7PM	SEAGULLS	SHARKS
21st AUGUST	7PM	END OF SEASON PARTY	

2023 TABLE

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DRAW	LOST	POINTS	R/S	R/C	%
SEAGULLS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHARKS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROJANS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

This Week

We are excited to announce that this weeks training session went down a blast. This was the last one before the season officially starts on the 12th of June, where the Sharks host the Trojans for an action packed game of softball! We are still encouraging new players to come and join us in our training, and those who want to get involved in the league are more than welcome to! Training sessions will take place alongside weekly matches!

We are looking forward to seeing some new faces, led by our experienced captains, who will teach you the fundamentals of the game, and help you improve your skills. We will aim to cover everything from catching and throwing to batting and base running. We want to make sure everyone who comes to the training session feels comfortable and confident on the field.

It was lovely to see some new faces at our training session this week, and we look forward to seeing you again next Monday!

Don't forget we will be having post match drinks after the game/training at the Fiveways Wetherspoons pub down the road. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow softball players off the field and build friendships that last a lifetime.

We can't wait to see you all on the field and show you what Liverpool Softball League is all about. So bring yourself down to Childwall Sports and Science Academy this Monday night at 6:30pm and let's play ball!

See below how to find us!



The Pitch

Parking

Entrance

Exit

JOIN US! COME AND PLAY SOFTBALL



SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL IS A FUN, FRIENDLY CO-ED SPORT.
COME ALONG, MEET NEW PEOPLE AND LEARN THE GAME

ALL LEVELS WELCOME
FIRST THREE SESSIONS FREE FOR NEWCOMERS

**TRAINING AND COACHING
ON MONDAY'S AT 6:30PM**
CHILDWALL SPORTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY
QUEENS DR, LIVERPOOL L15 6XZ.
PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE

TO JOIN CONTACT: LSLSOFTBALL@GMAIL.COM OR DM US ON INSTAGRAM OR FACEBOOK @LSLSOFTBALL

Did you know...

Slow-pitch softball has been played for over 125 years! The first ever recorded game of slow-pitch softball was played in Chicago in 1895, making it one of the oldest organised sports in the USA. Since then, the sport has grown in popularity and is now played by millions of people around the world.

It was created as a variation to baseball, which was physically easier and less demanding, making it more accessible to people of all ages and skill levels. Slow-pitch softball is played with a larger ball than baseball, making it easier to hit and catch.

Next Week

Get ready for an epic showdown in next weeks issue, as we look ahead to Sharks vs Trojans in the first game of the 2023 season. Find information about the two teams and their history, last years results and their 2023 roster.

Until next week, give our social media a follow, take a look at our website and get yourself down to our sessions every Monday night at Childwall Sports and Science academy from 7pm onwards.

For further information please contact lssoftball@gmail.com