



VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 3 - 19TH JUNE 2023

WRITTEN BY CHARLIE WHALLEY

Last Weeks Recap!

It's safe to say that our first game to the season went off with a big bang! (Quite a few actually). Sharks hosted the Trojans in the inaugural game of the season, and after 2 and a half innings, the blu **Alan Green** made the decision to call the game off.

The Sharks managed to get off to a flying start, scoring a maximum score of 5 runs per inning for the first two. After 2 full innings, the sharks were leading 10-3.

There was soon a scramble for all players to collect their belongings and head to their cars, before the torrential rain came battering down.

Once the players were safely in their cars, we all unintentionally started a convoy from the playing field to the Fiveways pub only a minutes drive down the road. A good 20 of us (21 including baby Frankie) took over a room of the pub, and had a good laugh with a drink and some food whilst waiting for the weather to pass.

The fixture will be continued when the Sharks and Trojans next meet.

This Weeks Fixture

The Seagulls are back for the 2023 season and are looking forward to their first game against the Trojans! The Trojans started off well against the Sharks in the first inning and are hoping to continue that against the Seagulls!

Find out more on this weeks upcoming fixture later on!



SEAGULLS

TROJANS

Thunderstruck: Trojans @ Sharks

Sharks Lineup: Yolie Bendall/Estelle Speers (C), Stephen Shearer (P), Gemma Wallace (1B), Kate Shearer (2B), Will Leszki (SS), Chris Jones (3B), Su O'Brien (LF), Charlie Whalley (LC), David Allen (RC), Hollie Glennie (RF).

Trojans Lineup: Chloe (C), Pete Smullen (P), Gina Amos (1B), Mel Byrne (2B), Jermie Tucker (3B), Ian Williams (SS), Karthik Manjunath (LF), Lou Gape (LC), David Martin Baez (RC), Di Martin Baez (RF).

SHARKS : 5 5 PP

TROJANS: 3 0 3 PP

REPLAY FIXTURE: 10th July 2023*

The first game of the season started off with a bang, a side of lightning, and some rain to finish! It wasn't what we had planned, but these things happen! The game started off with the Sharks fielding, letting three trojans players get round the bases before David Allen made a sublime catch in the outfield to get the third out.

The Sharks were next to step up and start striking the ball, scoring 5 runs with only one out. We play with a five run limit in the first 6 innings in Liverpool, with the last inning opening up to unlimited runs. Sharks' shortstop **Will Leszki** got the Sharks started as their top of the order, hitting a hard drilled shot between left field and left centre. He managed to get to second base, and eventually scored their first run. The Sharks went on to score 4 more runs before the rules state they had to take the field due to the score limit.

The Sharks defended brilliantly against the Trojans' hitters, as they got close to scoring when the bases were loaded. The bases loaded play went straight to Sharks pitcher **Stephen Shearer** as he threw it home to get the out on third. The next play featured a great double play by the Sharks shortstop, taking his base at 2 and then throwing hard at 1 for **Gemma Wallace** to make the catch for the third out!

Like lightning, **Will Leszki** doesn't strike in the same place twice. Hitting his next shot between right centre and right field. The Sharks went on to score 5 and then hit the field for their final time fielding, which was unknown to them at the time. They conceded 3 to the trojans out and the game was stopped after 2.5 innings.

The game is scheduled to be continued on the 10th of July.

Thunderstruck: Trojans @ Sharks continued...

With the game being postponed, there was no better option than to go to the pub and socialise with friends! It was great to see some of our new players join us and get nattering with other players!

No matter the score, we are always in the pub after the game, making time to say hello to everyone and talk about all sorts! We love reminding people of our social sessions at the Fiveways as it's great to get to know you all. We are hoping to have a superb turn out again next week!



LIVERPOOL LIVER BIRDS DEBUT

They say that 'A family that eats together stays together'

It was a dark wet Wednesday night and indoor winter training had taken its toll. The BBQ charcoal aroma wafted through the car park air and it was unanimous that the bats should be packed away and we were going for a Kebab! Food was shared, conversation was ripe and the announcement of Single Sex Nationals being held in Manchester silenced the table. It was clear to see the appetite was there and the ladies decided to enter.

Being a development league, the team we built consisted of well seasoned players as well as rookies who had picked up a bat for the first time during indoor training. After a little planning, we merged with a couple of our good friends from Thunder 2 and Hackers. June could not come quick enough.

Day 1

Injuries sadly took our team down to 10 but that was not going to stop us. The first game of the day got off to a flying start with **Gina Amos** starting the batting order with a HOME RUN! The first inning ended with Liver Birds batting 3 against strong contenders United Nations who couldn't quite get their bats going, holding them to 0.

The sun was up with a raging temp of 26 but we kept our cool. United Nations took it up a notch scoring 7 runs in the second inning and holding us to 0 in innings 3 and 4. Taking the win 12-5.

Next up we had the formidable Cardiff, our lovely friends who had recently taken the Liverpool Shield at our annual tournament. We knew this was going to be a tough game and it was. Cardiff hit incredibly well leaving us trailing behind with a whopping score of 33-6.

After some cold drinks from Gina's inspired ice pool we reset and headed out to the field against Readings Bluebirds. We held our own with some excellent plays and outfield catches from **Estelle Speers** and **Grace Mills**. It was clear we were well matched and the game could have gone either way for both teams. A HOME RUN from **Avery Chong** edged us forward but no new innings were called and the game was tied 11-11.



Our final game of the day brought us back to the start with a round Robin against United Nations. We hit well with HOME RUNS from **Bryony James** and **Fran Leyton** giving us a healthy lead of 8-4. The 3rd inning saw us lose our way a touch and United Nations took the inning 6-0 leaving them ahead with an overall score of 8-10. The fourth inning came with Liver Birds scoring 4 changing the score to 12-10 but due to a timed game United Nations declared it and it rolled back to a final score of 8-10 a very narrow defeat.

It was only day 1 but it was clear to see that being part of an all female event showed what fantastic strength and skill women have in the sporting world and it was an honour to be a part of it.

Continued on the next page...

Day 2

After a nights rest we regrouped with some new additions to both the outfield and infield. Our first game was round two against Cardiff who had left us for dust the previous day. However, we knew how they played and we stepped up a gear batting an inning of 13 with home runs from **Meg Bankier** and **Grace Mills** and solid scoring from **Mel Byrne** and **Sophie Temple**.

No new innings were called and we were ready to take a win of 20-6. An outfield fly ball hurled to left centre **Aly Jones**, with Left fielder **Meg Bankier** going for the back up. As the ball dropped towards the glove a misjudgment of footing caused a collision between the two and Meg took to the floor. After a quick check over by softball friend **Rhi Howden**, Meg was walked off the diamond to a round of applause from Cardiff and all who were watching.

Down to only 9 players **Emma Miller** hobbled on her bad knee to grab her boots and sub on. As she got to the plate to play catcher, the Blue decided we couldn't play it out eliminating our 13 runs and rolling back to a very tight score of 7-6 to us. We were delighted for our first win and it was nice to move up the table to 3rd place. - A very dramatic game indeed.

Cleared by the medics, Meg could play and we headed out against Reading Bluebirds for the second time. Another incredibly tight game looked like another draw as we met neck and neck at 7-7. An outfield catch from Right Centre **Grace Mills** and a flyball catch from **Yolie Bendall** on 2nd base looked promising but sadly it wasn't enough and we lost the tie battle to an extremely close score of 8-7.

The Semi Final

Due to another Cardiff upset, the tables turned meaning our semi final was against newly ranked top of the table United Nations- could it be 3rd time lucky? The heat was getting to everyone and understandably **Meg Bankier** sat out due to her injuries. **Emma Miller** stepped up to help, hitting an excellent ground ball in to the outfield securing a place on first base and pushing **Mel Byrne** to 3rd. We dug deep and with some excellent pitching from **Bryony James**, superb takes from **Sophie Temple** on 1st base and **Gemma Wallace** on 3rd we edged ahead holding our own through innings 1 and 3. HOME RUNS from **Bryony James**, **Aly Jones** and **Avery Chong** saw us at a tied game of 7-7.

Time was ticking and with United Nations being the home team we batted for the last time taking a lead of 2 runs making it 9-7. No new was called and as a roll back would declare a tie, we played the inning out and had to defend our marginal lead. Full of faith and high spirit we headed out, knowing a shut out would do it and see us to the final.



An excellent take in Left field from **Aly Jones** secured the first out. United Nations, unwavering, took to the plate hitting well scoring 1. They continued to hit and the bases were loaded. The score was now nail biting close at 8-9.

We stood our ground knowing a double play would end it. The ball was struck to a quick diving **Avery Chong** on Short Stop. Ignoring the runner headed home, she took the out on 2 and aimed a chance throw to one...

Could this be the end for United Nations?

A stretched out arm from first base **Sophie Temple** indicated she was more than ready. The ball slipped at an angle and flew through the air. Waiting with bated breath and intense anticipation we watched as the ball went wide and in to the dead zone, resulting in an advance for the runner who was now on 3. The much needed run to end the game 10-9. It was a painful and narrow defeat but we were proud of how well we had performed.

Although the score didn't go our way and our chance at a final was gone, we knew that this wasn't the end for Liverpool's Liver Birds but just the beginning. Thus Proving that what they say, is in fact true. We ate together and stayed together, we were no longer a team, we were a family!

Written by Yolie Bendall.



We can't go without saying a huge thank you to our team mascot Frankie! She ensured she cheered us on when we needed it the most! (With some tears and plenty of cuddles along the way!). Check her out in the photo above in her very own Liver Birds outfit! Thanks Frankie!

PLAYER FOCUS!

Name: Gina Amos

Current team: Liverpool Trojans

Previous Team: N/A

Experience: 4 years

Position played: C, 1B, 3B.

How I got into softball: Long story! I graduated in costume design and went to work for a sports manufacturer doing basketball backboards, team kits and balls for the educational sector. In the same office there was also a team who did baseball and softball and from a design point of view I just always loved 'the stuff'. The bat acrylics, the glove embroidery and the way the button down MLB shirts lined up so perfectly was so interesting to me.

When I moved back to Liverpool after a 18 year hiatus I literally didn't know anyone and just as I signed up to a rounders team COVID 19 happened.

Over COVID I started getting involved in softball. And even though there wasn't an actual league going on I made some really good friends and attended a Rookie training camp which gave me a lot of confidence.

Favourite Moment:

I'd say my favourite moment was being awarded Managers Player of the year, as I didn't even know there was such an award and I kept Dave's speech and framed it! I also assist with the blind Trojans who are a visually impaired baseball team!



Best thing about softball: My favourite thing about softball is that there's such a mixture of people that play, and it's a sport for life. I was good at netball and rounders when I was at school but I found it hard to access as an adult, whereas softball is like the army! There's a position for everyone regardless of age, fitness or experience. You just need to have the right attitude and have the Wetherspoons app downloaded for when we go the pub afterwards!

MLB team: Without wanting to be controversial, I don't really follow MLB. For me there's so many super plays going on with the talented people I know in Liverpool league and Manchester league that I don't need to tune in. With being into fashion and costume I'd say my favourite team is "Fighters" a college team from Japan.

Seagulls @ Trojans Preview

2022 Final League Position: Seagulls 2nd, Trojans 3rd

Captains: Seagulls - Sophie Temple, Trojans - David Martin Baez

Players: Seagulls 16 (9 BBH, 7 SBH), Trojans 12 (8 BBH, 4 SBH)

Last Meeting: Seagulls 17 - 11 Trojans

Last season we saw the Seagulls take 3 wins out of 4 against the trojans. With the total score of all 4 of those games added up being 64-44 to the seagulls. The closest game was 15-14 to the Seagulls which was quite entertaining to watch! **Pete** and **Ashley** being MVPs for trojans, while **Gabby** and **Jay** were MVPs for the Gulls.

The game with the largest score line was when the Seagulls dominated the Trojans, beating them 21-6. It's all to play for in their first meeting, with the Trojans looking for their first win!

IMPORTANT INFO: 6:30pm arrival | 7pm First Pitch | 8:30pm No new innings | 9pm Site cleared

Pitch space is available for the resting team to train and any newcomers. Don't forget after the game we will be having our usual drinks at the Fiveways Pub! Come and join us for a drink!



SEAGULLS

TROJANS

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



The Pitch

Parking

Entrance

Exit

FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	RESULTS
5th JUNE	7PM	TRAINING		N/A
12th JUNE	7PM	SHARKS	TROJANS	10-6, PP @ 2.5
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

Did you know...

The sport wasn't always called softball. Other names such as kitten ball, mush ball, diamond ball and even indoor baseball were used before it was officially named softball in 1926. Since then, it's grown to be played by millions of people worldwide, with there being over 40 million people in America alone!

We would love to continue to grow our league and get the 4th team we've been dreaming of for a while! So what do you say? Come and try softball out next Monday at Childwall Sports and Science Academy!

Next Week

In next weeks issue we will look review Seagulls @ Trojans and see who has come out on top! We're predicting a close game, but you never know what might happen! Stay tuned next week to find out our first lot of MVPs, any home run hitters, and the first official result in our league table.

Sefton Sharks are resting so are therefore holding their training session. We welcome any new players to test their skills next Monday from 6:30pm onwards!

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.

Contact

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Instagram - lslsoftball

Facebook - Liverpool Softball

www.liverpoolsoftball.co.uk