

## A BIG THANK YOU!

BASEBALLSOFTBALLUK STAFF for organising the event

– Jenny Fromer, John Boyd, Tim Stride, Erin Garofano, Sophie Hewitt, Atila Moatazed-Keyvany, Donald Morris-Vincent, Tom Gillespie, Bob Fromer, John Lee, Simon Gordon and Ian Smyth.

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# Baseball • Softball **UK**



## FINAL 4 NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## A-NATIONALS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

3-4 SEPTEMBER 2005 CROYDON  
£4 ENTRY WITH PROGRAMME (£6 WEEKEND PASS)





# WELCOME

## WELCOME TO THE BRITISH SOFTBALL FEDERATION 'A' NATIONALS AND THE BRITISH BASEBALL FINAL 4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five years after softball and baseball first came together as sports under the aegis of BaseballSoftballUK, 2005 will see the softball and baseball national finals played together for the first time. This inaugural combined event will feature the 'A' Nationals Softball Championships and the Final 4 National Baseball Championships for each tier of league baseball (in ascending order, Division One, Premier Division and National League). You are therefore part of the largest ever baseball and softball spectator event staged in the UK!

This weekend will provide an opportunity for spectators to see the highest level of play in both sports, and for participants to see the other sport alongside their own.

2005 has been an interesting year for our sports. It began with the improved funding from Sport England in recognition of our potential to increase participation. Following on from this was the months of working alongside the London 2012 team in order to support London's bid to host the Olympics. Briefly on July 6 there was the euphoria of London's success which turned to devastation two days later when both baseball and softball were removed from the Olympic programme from 2012. The fight to challenge this decision is only just beginning, but right now, that's for a different day...

Instead, this weekend is about celebrating the pinnacle of play in both softball and baseball in this country. Baseball's postseason began last weekend with nationwide playoffs for the qualifiers from each division to battle for a Final 4 place. For softball this event marks the fruition of our intention to enhance the Nationals with the inclusion of backstops, a PA system, a scoreboard and some spectator seating – and of course, a programme.

Looking ahead, there are number of other events coming up to round off the 2005 season: the 'B' and 'C' Softball Nationals in Keele on September 10–11, the Youth Baseball Final 4 in Bracknell on September 17–18 and the Softball World Series at BA's Concorde Ground also on September 17–18.

Finally, a word of thanks to the Croydon Pirates for hosting the event and for providing a venue that allows us to showcase both sports together. We very much hope you enjoy a great weekend of softball and baseball.

# SCHEDULE

## FINAL 4

### SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

#### FIELD ONE

- 10:00 PREM Gm3: Croydon @ Essex (9 innings)  
13:00 NL SEMI 1: Brighton @ London (9 innings)  
16:00 NL FINAL: Game 1 of 3

#### FIELD TWO

- D1 SEMI 1: Sheffield @ Windsor  
NL SEMI 2: Croydon @ Liverpool (9 innings)  
D1 SEMI 2: Marston Green @ Halton

### SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

#### FIELD ONE

- 10:00 D1 THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF  
13:00 NL FINAL: Game 2 of 3  
16:00 NL FINAL: Game 3 of 3 (if necessary)

#### FIELD TWO

- NL THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF  
PREM FINAL: Winner PREM Gm3 @ Cambridge (9 innings)  
D1 FINAL

**NOTE:** All games during the Final 4 weekend will be 7 innings unless otherwise specified on schedule. BSUK reserves the right to move games if play is affected by light or weather. Games scheduled to begin at 18:00 on Saturday may have to be completed on Sunday if affected by loss of light.

The schedule for the A-Nationals Softball Championships was unavailable at time of going to press.

*John Boyd*

John Boyd  
Joint CEO  
BaseballSoftballUK

*Jennifer Fromer*

Jenny Fromer  
Joint CEO  
BaseballSoftballUK



# NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL 4

## REIGNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS FORMED: 1981

The hosts of this year's finals moved to their present ground of Roundshaw Fields in 1990. The Pirates became a top-flight league team in 1999 and were invited to play in the National League when it was formed. Last year the Pirates surprised everyone with their late surge into the Final 4, winning three games over the weekend to become National Champions. In June this year the Pirates represented the UK in the Cup Winners Cup A-Pool in Antwerp, Belgium, attaining fourth place – a record for UK participants. Galvanised by last year's success, they finished in second place in the National League South this season, the club's best ever finish.

## CROYDON PIRATES

### KEY PLAYERS

**SAM WHITEHEAD:** The club's envoy player from the States, with British eligibility, Sam has played in every game for the Pirates this season, plus Great Britain. When Sam is not pitching he plays a good defensive infield or shortstop, and has had a great season with the bat.

**WESLEY TIM:** Catcher/infielder. South African Wes can also play excellent infield as well as use his strong arm to pitch in relief.

**BEN PERCY:** Infielder/pitcher. Like Sam and Wes, this Australian is in his first season for Croydon. Gives 100 % to the team in every situation and is a strong motivator to team mates.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH WINNERS FORMED: 1946

The club was formed when baseball on Merseyside was huge, at a time with teams made up of ex-pro or semi-pro ball players. The Trojans have established themselves at the highest level of northern baseball, making their second straight trip to the National League Final 4. The current Trojan team is made up predominantly of young local lads all keen to play apart in Trojans' history.

## LIVERPOOL TROJANS

### KEY PLAYERS

**MARTIN GODSALL:** Pitcher. Solid as ever, always willing to take the ball and get the out.

**MIKE WAISOME:** Pitcher/Outfielder. Outstanding athlete, fantastic range in the outfield, awesome power in the batters box.

**IAN SMITH:** Pitcher/2nd Base. Silky smooth on the infield, knows no fear on the mound, and has unbelievably quick hands in the batters box.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH WINNERS FORMED: 1980

The Warriors are an established part of British baseball and have won a number of National Championships over the years, most recently in 2000. Since the inception of the National League in 2001 the Warriors have competed in the Final 4 in all but the 2003 season. Warriors put a couple of years of frustration behind them by winning the NLS title this year, and will hope to win their first Final 4 trophy.

## LONDON WARRIORS

### KEY PLAYERS

**SIMON POLE:** Perennially a league leader in batting average, Simon is also an outstanding fielder, equally at home in the infield or outfield. He is also considered by many to be one of the best pitchers in the country.

**CODY CAIN:** The 'Volatile American' rejoined the club two seasons ago after a seven-year absence and picked up where he left off. Known as a strong hitter and fielder, he also brings years of pitching expertise to the team. His 1993 season pitching stats are the stuff of legend and are unlikely ever to be equalled – including a 0.000 ERA!

**ALES KEPRTA:** Ales joined the Warriors at the beginning of the 2005 season and has proved to be a valuable asset on the mound. A former Czech national team pitcher, with a strong fastball and nasty curveball, he will lead the Warriors in the Final 4.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH FORMED: 1963

Over the last six years the Bucs have been to five national finals and notched up three national titles. In 2002 one of the club's former players became the first player to have played Brit ball then play in the major leagues – John Foster, current relief pitcher for the Atlanta Braves. Brighton are looking for their first major title for three years. They started the season strongly, sitting top in July, but in recent weeks the team lost some crucial games and enter the F4 needing to put the breaks on a losing skid.

## BRIGHTON BUCCANEERS

### KEY PLAYERS

**RAEF HOBBS-BROWN:** Short stop. A young British passport holder from Australia who joined before this season and has promptly been called to play for GB. Has also pitched relief.

**GEORGE LINTERN:** Third base. Young player who has been with the club for a number of years and has gotten stronger and hit harder every year. He is now one of the major threats in the Brighton line up.

**ALEX MALIHOUDIS:** Outfielder. Rated by coach Craig Savage as the best overall player in Britain. Also plays for GB. A runner would be foolish to test his arm from the outfield.



# PREMIER DIVISION FINAL 4

PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH  
FORMED: 1997

## CROYDON PIRATES 2

### KEY PLAYERS

**MAIKEL AZCUYA**: A big bat for the Pirates, hitting many home runs, and not afraid to hustle to the next bag. With Maikel's fielding, and a pitching ERA of 3.55, he proved himself to be an excellent all-rounder.

**JESSIE QUINONES**: Starting catcher with a good strong arm which caught out many would-be base stealers. Jessie hit almost as many home runs as Maikel, including the biggest home run by far, when he slammed a ball out of Roundshaw's open diamond, onto a resident's car that was over 480 feet away!

**TADASHI ZUSHI**: A well-liked player and superb outfielder, who seems to glide across the field to catch a fly ball. Tadashi is another solid batter, with the most Croydon RBIs to his credit this season.

PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH  
FORMED: 2000

Part of the ever-growing Richmond club, the Knights were promoted from Division 1 South in 2003 and qualified for the playoffs this season, despite a 0-5 start to the season. They finished on a 13-3 tear, the turnaround seeing players raise their game each week, with five or six guys in the running for club MVP. The Knights hope to keep the streak going all the way through the finals.

## RICHMOND KNIGHTS

REIGNING PREMIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS

The Cambridge Monarchs have been around since the 1980s, their home field now located at RAF Feltwell as the team consists mainly of American servicemen from airbases.

Cambridge started the season with high expectations after winning the Premier Division Final 4 last year. Again, the Monarchs won the Premier Division South in 2005, with a record of 19-2, meaning that in the past two years Cambridge has gone an unbelievable 39-3 in division play.

## CAMBRIDGE MONARCHS

### KEY PLAYERS

**BOB RUNYON**: Lead the team in batting average with 26 RBIs. While deadly at the plate, Runyon does most of his damage from the mound. Went 8-0 for the season with a 1.81 ERA and 94 strikeouts in 54 2/3 innings.

**KEVIN ROBERTS**: Returning for his second and final year, Roberts is a solid middle infielder. Tied for the team lead with four homeruns on the year, Kevin's timely hitting and superb defense helped the Monarchs return to the top.

**TIM STINE**: Third baseman. In his last season with the club, Stine led the team with 26 runs scored, plus 24 RBIs and tied with Roberts with four HRs this year.

PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH  
FORMED: 1984

With a long involvement in the BBF Leagues, Essex have won titles at every level and have had two very solid seasons in 2004-05. Last year they romped through three playoff games to make the Final 4 and competed against Menwith Hill in a marathon semi-final loss. This season they had a comfortable qualification in second place in the division and hope to "win the next game" all the way to a championship. Though a team effort was an essential component, three "young guns" have been picked out.

## ESSEX ARROWS

### KEY PLAYERS

**TOM HOLLIES**: Second base. Returned from a serious knee injury, which forced a year out in 2004, to lead the team in homeruns and batting average this season.

**TOM BRAY**: Catcher. 'The Hombre' is one of the league's best catchers with excellent blocking skills and powerful arm, plus productive with the bat.

**RICHARD CHESTERTON**: Pitcher. 'Lefty' led the team in wins and strikeouts in 2005, also holding the Arrows record for Ks in one game - 17 in seven innings!



# DIVISION 1 FINAL 4

REIGNING DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS  
FORMED: 1980'S

The Sheffield Bladerunners were formed back in a golden age when Yorkshire boasted eight teams and Barnsley alone had three! After kicking around various school fields for years the Bladerunners have been happily settled at Phoenix Field for the past four years and the ground is continually improving. It was always going to be difficult to equal their undefeated 2005 season, especially after losing three veteran players. Big bats and solid pitching kept them in contention but they lost the divisional decider against Halton in the last game of the season. They say "Success in the Final 4 will come only if we meet teams with an average age older than ours!".

## SHEFFIELD BLADERUNNERS

### KEY PLAYERS

**NICK WILLS:** This quiet Midwest boy stumbled into the chaos that is Sheffield and has been a solid middle infielder all season. It is hoped that Nick can be a regular with the team over the next few years.

**BJON CHRISTENSEN:** The best all around athlete on the team despite his 30-a-day habit. Although he missed several games through injury Bjon bounced back to Hoover up everything in centerfield and secure his well-earned cleanup slot.

**JIM ELLIS:** As assistant coach and catcher, Jim's contribution this year has helped keep the Bladerunners performing their best. He's one of the team's most experienced players and sets the tone with a solid bat and a level head.

DIVISION 1 NORTH WINNERS  
FORMED: 2000

Halton Jaguars grew out of the junior section of what is now Halton Baseball Club. The Jags joined the BBF Leagues in 2000 playing in various formats of the northern divisions then reaching the final of last year's Division 1 Final 4 which the team hosted at their new baseball and softball facility in Runcorn. They lost to Sheffield Bladerunners but, having beaten Sheffield to the 2005 Division 1 North title, they will look to avenge that defeat and become National Champions.

## HALTON JAGUARS

### KEY PLAYERS

**NICK BUSTIN:** Centre fielder. Nick has fast legs around the base paths and in the outfield where he loves to play. He leads the Jags in hitting at the moment. Nick is a coach / manager with the club's Pony League team.

**HARRY MILLS:** Catcher. Harry spent the 2004 F4 as the team's bullpen catcher. This season he has matured, become faster, stronger and just loves to gun down at second or third. He takes pride in leading the team and making his pitchers look good!

**CHRIS TAGGART:** Pitcher. Chris started his pitching career in Bronco league and has been a leading pitcher in Pony league also. This is his first full season as a Jags starter and has a record of 8-2. The final game against Sheffield was his first senior complete game.

# A-NATIONALS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This composite team is mainly made up of Bristol players, including a number of past and present GB players, and they are going out of their way NOT to wear blue socks! This is the team's first season in A-grade competition in which they were Plate trophy winners at GrandSlam3.

## BLUE SOX

**MIKE BATTIE:** Shortstop. Aka 'The Cat', has played for Baker Tomkins and GB.

**GARETH PREECE:** Pitcher/outfielder. Aka 'Legs'.

**POLLY HUSSEY:** First base/outfielder. Ex-baker Tomkins and GB player, strong hitter and solid outfielder.

FORMED: 1988

The Meteors are one of London's longest-running softball teams. Having won the London league, the GLMSL, 13 years in succession from 1982-1994, they have been somewhat struggling this season, their best result this season was winning the GLMSL Superball tournament. The last national championship for the Meteors was in 1991.

## THE METEORS

### KEY PLAYERS

**MARTIN LESLIE:** Pitcher. Fields the mound with quick reactions and is also one of Meteors' best batters.

**CLAIRE SIMPSON:** Right fielder. Hardest hitting female on the team.

**GIR CHOKSI:** Short stop. Unfortunately absent for much of this season, having just started a family. Gir is a cool and calm short stop, with lightening-quick speed running the bases.



**DIVISION 1 MIDLANDS WINNERS  
FORMED: 2003**

The Leafs were formed in July 2003 by David Hughes, following a tradition of Birmingham baseball which dates back to 1938. The original Marston Green team of Canadian servicemen swung their bats during World War II on the very same ground the Leafs run on today. The current Maple Leafs joined the third tier of the BBF Leagues in 2004, going on to win the new Midlands division this season.

**MARSTON GREEN  
MAPLE LEAFS**

**KEY PLAYERS**

**ALF SWART:** Pitcher. South African who leads the team with five wins and a 4.32 ERA. Alf also sits in the heart of the Maple Leafs batting order.

**MICHAEL RODGER:** Catcher/pitcher. This 22-year-old Canadian-born is the heart of the Maple Leafs defense, whether it be from behind the plate or on the mound. Offensively, he is the team's stolen base leader with 32 steals.

**DAVID HUGHES:** Shortstop. British 33-year-old who can be found in the heart of the Maple Leafs batting order, providing power and frequent contact that makes him the team's RBI Leader with 22 RBIs.

**DIVISION 1 SOUTH  
(SOUTHERN) WINNERS  
FORMED: 1990**

Until this season, the club was sitting on top of the National League, winning the triple crown in 2003 and the NL South last year. This season, the club has refocused its aims in a lower division with a team made up almost entirely of current, or graduated, members of its youth programme. With a postseason place and a chance of promotion, the climb up the leagues could begin here.

**WINDSOR BEARS**

**KEY PLAYERS**

**PATRICK MATIAS:** Pitcher. One of the many players who have come through the youth ranks of Windsor, his pitching has excelled to a new level, picking up a career best 7-1 record in 2005. At the age of 18, his mental and tactical approach to the game is second to none.

**LARRY SELLECK:** Right fielder. A senior player on the team, his expertise and understanding of the game is a huge asset, especially to the younger players. His bat has provided a key spark to the offence many times this past year.

**XAVIER CLIFT:** Left fielder. Xavy has always had the tools to be a leading member of the team, but not until this year has he reached his full potential. His bat in the middle of the line-up has been a constant threat and his work on the training ground on improving his glove and his arm have reaped dividends.

One of London's long-standing teams, the Slammers enter this tournament as runners-up in the 2004 Nationals, having won the championship twice in the last ten years. The team has undergone a slight personnel make-over during the last season and has fared well. The team finished second at GrandSlam1 and fourth at GrandSlam3.

**SLAMMERS**

**KEY PLAYERS**

**FIONA HUNTER:** Always a strong threat in the outfield, but an even bigger threat in the batter's box this season. Named B-Comp Women's MVP at the Single Sex Nationals.

**TOM KELLY:** Sorry Tom, but Slammers had to mention your age...57 at last count and still "the best defensive outfielder in the UK. An Icon in British softball."

**KAREN-ANNE COLE:** Mean, moody, and brilliant. Got the clutch hit that won the GB Women the match against Russia in the European Fastpitch Championships.

**BRETT GIBBENS:** The GB home run king – if Slammers played with fences he'd be in a different class. Unfortunately they don't so he's still a mortal.

Thames Valley Mavericks are a combined league and tournament team. For many years the team has only competed in league competition and have won the Windsor League five years in succession, including this season. During the 2005 season Thames Valley entered an A-Grade team to tournaments and proved to be formidable competition. The team had some very good results including second place in the British Airways tournament.

**THAMES VALLEY  
MAVERICKS**

**KEY PLAYERS**

**LESLEY HEWLETT:** Even though she broke her finger at the GB Open Tournament she came back before the season was over and carried on playing even though it had not fully healed and was pointing away from her hand at a strange angle.

**CLAIRE GREEN:** Aka Psycho, every game, every tournament, she was there throwing herself round in the field collecting balls and consistently getting on base.

**RICK CALDWELL:** Never did find his best place in the line up but he consistently hits line drives both left and right field and is incredibly quick on his feet when he wants to be. Sadly he is returning to the states in October and will be greatly missed by the team.



FORMED: 1996

The team plays grade 'A'/Comp 1' at eight or nine weekend tournaments a season in London and the south. Occasionally they travel further afield to play, and have entered tournaments in Jersey, Dublin and Amsterdam. This year the Dragons finished third at GrandSlam3 and third at the Bristol Tournament. Several members of the team play with the Great Britain Slowpitch Squad.

## THE DRAGONS

### KEY PLAYERS

**MARK SAUNDERS:** Pitcher. Although injured this season Mark has battled back to remain a strong fielder and hitter in the line-up.

**DANI SNYDERS:** First base. Her sure glove on first is always an asset to the team but her bat this season has really come to life.

**STEVE PATTERSON:** Short stop. Always a reliable player to have on the field, not much gets past this guy.

## BAKER TOMKINS B'S AND T'S

This has been Baker Tomkins' first year of having a full club set up with two Comp 1 teams in tournaments – the B's and T's. B's have won five of seven tournaments this year including the overall GrandSlam title, but T's are threatening to come good for the Nationals. BT is no stranger to the Nationals having won titles in four consecutive years from 1998-2001. "So many individuals have done so well in different tournaments that it would be unfair to single out three players. The team feels the club is only as strong as the sum of its members and we have a lot of fantastic people."

London New Zealand has undergone a few personnel changes over the past few years and boasts one of the strongest female sides in the GLSML and the country. Recent additions of Mark Kerr, Mike Stewart and Matt Ayling have also boosted the speed and strength of the men on the squad. This team is comprised of well over 100 years of combined experience! The team threatened in the semi-finals of the Nationals last year and hope to improve their standings this year. The last National Championship for the team was in 1988.

## LONDON NEW ZEALAND (LNZ)

The Pioneers tournament team have competed in all three GrandSlam tournaments this year, finishing fourth overall. After a couple of early set backs with injuries etc the team has performed well in 2005 and recruitment of some key players to the middle infield and outfield has really helped defense play. The improvements also created a very good team spirit. The two key factors assisting with team performance are - Pie's cooler keeping the team adequately refreshed and the team boom box banging out some classic tunes! The Pioneers were last National Champions in 2002.

## PIONEERS

### KEY PLAYERS

**MICHAEL LEE:** Aka Pie, has been become a more versatile player moving from third base to outfield and strengthening Pioneers' defense. A good strategic softball mind.

**LIZ KEAVENEY:** Is one of the team's most solid hitters and is a very cool head in pressure situations.

**DAN SPINKS:** Keeps the opposition thinking with his varied pitching sequences and is a consistent power hitter.

### KEY PLAYERS

**TANYA PRICE:** Any team would be happy to have Ms Price on their squad. She is a valuable player on and off the field.

**MIKE STEWART:** Short stop. This hard-hitting Aussie is no slouch in the infield. Many an innings have been squashed by unassisted double-plays.

**DEANO WELLINGTON :** Pitcher. A long-time member of the team Deano remains one of the toughest pitchers at this level. His bat has also become a threat this season.



This is only the second year of playing A-grade ball for the Mariners and as always the team feel they are still learning. The loss of the most influential player from the team at the end of last season was a blow, but the squad pulled together and again put in a lot of effort with winter training to try and close the gap between themselves and the remaining A-grade teams. The team's highest finish was second place at the Windsor Tournament this year along with a third place finish at the GB Open. The Mariners attribute their success to team spirit.

## SOLENT MARINERS

### KEY PLAYERS

**GLEN BARBER:** Pitcher. You will never find a more dedicated and focused individual playing the game.

**MANDY SLADE:** Third base. Proved again this year that she is one of their strongest female players and keeps the boys on their toes in the infield.

**JOHNNY HEATHER:** Left field. First year with the team, although a long-time member of the Solent League. Added speed and a great arm to the Mariners' outfield plus a reliable bat.

### FORMED: AROUND 1990

Formerly the 69ers, the team started in the Design League, playing recreationally, then over time progressed to a more competitive point. About six years ago the newly-named Niners took form and became an A-grade team.

The Niners have reached plenty of Nationals events but have yet to win the thing, in 2005 they "want to be the bride not the bridesmaid!".

## NINERS

Following the success of the EMSL Childsplay/Under-25's in the Windsor 'A' Tournament, and to celebrate the League's 10th anniversary, they are entering a composite team in the A-Nationals. The team has been put together by Roger Grooms and Nigel Peters, captain. The team consists of Sheriffs, Pyros and Swingers players.

## EAST MIDLANDS

### KEY PLAYERS

The youth of the league certainly lead the way and Jenny Ball 3B, Helen Ball CF, Steve Hazard SS and Chris Nash 2B were all invited to play for the Chromies in GrandSlam3 after seeing them play at Windsor.

## THE CHROMIES

The Chromies, who last won a National title in 1997, clawed back from a 10-5 deficit going into the last inning to take the 2004 A-Nationals Championship in extra innings. On the way to the final the Chromies beat teams that were expected to be there instead. In 2005, Chromies secured the GrandSlam3 title.

### FORMED: 2005

A Manchester League composite team in their first season of existence, the Marvels fancied giving the A-Nationals a whirl. They hope to learn something from this experience and are looking forward to competing at the top level.

## MANCHESTER MARVELS