

Welcome to ROUND THE BASES

Softball Leinster's monthly newsletter

Welcome to April's edition of Round The Bases, in this edition we cover National Trials, Pitching and Batting Clinics, umpires, Rules, what happened in March and what's coming up in April and much more

The Softball Leinster Committee

What Happened in March

- Issue two of Round The Bases released
- Registration of the 2022 Season Opened 14th of March
- National Team Trials took place 5th & 26th of March
- HitTrax League came to a close



What's Coming up in April

- Pitching Clinic 2nd of April
- Batting Clinic 9th of April
- Brian Walshe Cup 23rd of April
- 2022 Season Kicks off 25th of April

Mens and Co-Ed national teams Trials

Trials for the Irish national slow pitch teams were held recently in Castleknock College. Weather was good and turn-out was excellent. 18 players attended the first trial and 23 toggled out for the second trial. It was great to see some new faces putting themselves up for the challenge. Trials began with some warm up exercises with S&C coach Karen Brady, with players warming up their arms, and fielding groundballs. Coaches took into account players' techniques, fielding and batting techniques, and we hope to announce the squads within the next few weeks. Thanks to all who attended, to Castleknock College and Colum Lavery who attended both trials.



Pitching Clinic

Following on from last year's inaugural pitching clinic, we are delighted to run another clinic this year on Saturday 2nd April 2022 in Castleknock College.

The clinic is aimed at new and existing pitchers, the goal of which is to increase the number of pitchers across the league, and further develop the skills introduced in last year's event.

Our thanks to Jonathan Speilberg, Ken McCarthy, Simon Lewis, Paul Peake, Paul McGrath and Austin Purtin for giving up their time to ensure the success of the event.

Once completed, SL will review the clinics and assess whether a development program can be put together to progress standards in our pitchers right across the leagues. If you've missed it, get in touch with Alan Rafferty to check for availability.



Batting Clinic

The intro to hitting skills clinic is batting for beginners, (or those just getting to grips for better technique). It will teach the participants how to hit the ball with power and precision, in a fun, friendly, positive coaching afternoon. The course is structured by Melanie Lavery, Ireland Fast Pitch coach and executed by a star studded line up of coaches, Steve and Tam Lyons from the Suspects, Brian Connolly and Ken McCarthy, with years of playing both domestically and internationally.

All the attendees should all take away better hitting techniques, an ability to work with batting tees and learn new skills which will inspire the players to hit with confidence every time they approach the plate. The how, why and when to hit, making the right decision at the right time are all part of the afternoon's skill coaching..

The course is taking place at the mariners baseball ground in Shanganagh park. We look forward to seeing you there.

Final HitTrax League Table

Team	PLAYED	W	D	L	POINTS
DYNAMOES	12	9	1	2	28
BATPAK	12	8	2	2	26
ASHBOURNE ANTLERS	12	1	6	5	9
HYPNOTISTS	12	0	4	8	4

3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss

Congratulations to Dynamos on winning the inaugural HitTrax League. Batpak were table toppers going into the last week with Dynamos needing to win their last two games to take the title. They took the first game over the Hypnotists 6-2 but had to go to extra innings to win the last game 4-3 with a single from Adam McCarthy to drive in Ken for the winning run. Thanks to all 4 teams that participated in this league, and contributed to a hugely enjoyable experience for all. Looking forward to the next one already!!

Umpires Corner

Whats the Rule :

Managing the Game.

So, in a regular game, what is it your umpire does exactly?

- Have full charge of, and be responsible for, the proper conduct of the game.
- Calls:
- Plays
- Fair/foul hit balls
- Balls, strikes, illegal pitches
- Caught balls
- In-field fly
- Files all the paperwork and scores.
- Records important information in the game.
- Makes sure everyone enjoys the game!!

Umpire Judgment Calls.

Umpires make judgment calls right through every game. These are made in good faith during the course of play and cannot be appealed by teams. Examples are:

- A batted ball was fair or foul
- A runner safe or out
- A ball or strike
- Or any play involving accuracy of judgement

if there's a rule you'd like us to explain send us an email at roundthebases@softballleinster.ie

Interested in umpiring this year ? get in touch with Niall at

Niall@Softballleinster.ie



Meet the Umpire



Name: Derek Harnett

How Long have you been Umpiring ? 12 or 13 years, about half as long as I've been playing (yikes, that's be about 25 years then!).

What do you like best about umpiring? Not only do I get to be involved in so many more games per season, some of those games will be real zingers and it's great to have a central role in those.

What's the most challenging thing about Umpiring? There's a great quote that "You're expected to be perfect from day one, and only get better from there!". A huge challenge for me is staying calm when things get confrontational, if I'm being shouted at I very quickly want to shout back and that never helps the situation.

What's your favorite rule? What's really interesting reading the rulebook is the number of obscure rules that you think well that would never happen, and yet if you do a season or two umpiring you'll see a lot of them crop up at some stage. I haven't yet got to apply the detached equipment rule, where someone throws a glove at a ball passing over them and they actually make contact. One of these days ...

What advice would you give to new umpires? It takes work and is different from playing or spectating (where of course everyone has the best view!). You have new skills that will take practice. Not only have you to read the rules and be ready to apply them instantly during plays, you also have to work on the mechanics designed to give you a consistent/accurate strike zone and positioning on the field for the best place to see a play and make a call.

Meet The Players



Name : Kayley Hannon
Occupation : Hairdresser
Originally from : Dublin
Team: Reapers

I've been playing softball for: 1 Year

Favourite Position (Softball position): 3rd base

Softball Achievements: Won the league for 2021/got my first home run after only playing 1year!! & MVP a few times

Favourite Music: anything in particular, just once you can have a sing and dance to

Favourite Food: Chinese/ anything spicy

Why I love softball: It is a great sport to play!

Everyone is so welcoming and easy to get along with

If I won the lotto: I would buy a big house, buy my own salon, treat family and friends to a holiday

Best advice you ever got: Don't step outside the box !



Name : Caroline Burrell
Occupation : Business Development Manager
Originally from : Bray, Co Wicklow
Team: Wicklow Wolves

I've been playing softball for: 2 Months

Favourite Position (Softball position): Fielding

Softball Achievements: None Yet

Favourite Music: Rock

Favourite Food: Pasta

Why I love softball: I love ball sports and wanted to try a new sport. I liked the fact that both Male & Female members can participate and play together. I like my team mates, all very easy going. So the top reason is that it's FUN!

If I won the lotto: I would tell no one!

Best advice you ever got: "It's not what you say but the way you say it!"



Name : Eve Kearney
Occupation : English Lecturer at University College Dublin
Originally from : Dublin
Team: Chuggers

I've been playing softball for: 12 years. Oh Christ...

Favourite Position (Softball position): 2nd Base, or hype-man on the sidelines.

Softball Achievements: Playing a team of 9 girls and 1 guy in IOST 2017 and beating Galway.

Favourite Music: Both kinds: country and western.

Favourite Food: Is beer a food?

Why I love softball: I've met nearly all the people in my life who are most important to me on the diamond.

If I won the lotto: A 1966 powder blue Lotus Elan S3 – the same car Dame Diana Rigg drove as Emma Peel in The Avengers. I'd also buy Shelbourne FC – save Tolka Park!

Best advice you ever got: "That's the way the world goes round" – John Prine.



Name : Wynton Moore
Occupation : Data Scientist, Telecoms
Originally from : New Zealand
Team: Reapers

I've been playing softball for: 10ish years, on and off

Favourite Position (Softball position): Outfield

Softball Achievements: Met great friends and had loads of fun Also a few titles with my grad school social team in Chicago

Favourite Music: I play Irish Traditional Music, so that's a huge part of my life. Also love classic rock, jazz and blues.

Favourite Food: Mexican (Tacos and horchata)

Why I love softball: For me, the people are the best thing about softball. The game strikes a perfect balance between social and competitive. And I love being outside in the sun (when we get it!)

If I won the lotto: Buy a house, and split each year between Ireland and New Zealand

Best advice you ever got: Relax the hands. Life: Don't overthink it (still working on that one!)



Name : Adam Wong
Occupation : Actuary
Originally from : Toronto, Canada
Team: Wicklow Wolves

I've been playing softball for: Since the 1980's, but resumed playing in 2020 after a 12 year break.

Favourite Position (Softball position): Wherever the coach puts me, but if I had to pick one it's 1st base.

Softball Achievements: Having at least one injury in each of the past two seasons (I need to keep reminding myself that I am not as young and quick as I used to be!)

Favourite Music: Sarah McLachlan, Billy Joel and the 80's.

Favourite Food: Sushi, lobster and a medium rare fillet steak.

Why I love softball: To encourage my boys to play baseball, the social aspect and to meet new people.

If I won the lotto: Bake care of my family, move back to Bermuda for the summer months, and build a proper volleyball facility in Ireland.

Best advice you ever got: Whatever you do always have fun.



Name : Katie Flynn
Occupation : Graphic Designer
Originally from : USA
Team: Chuggers

I've been playing softball for: 16 years with SL

Favourite Position (Softball position): 1st Base

Softball Achievements: Hitting an over the fence home run in the all-stars game in the Pav

Favourite Music: Alternative

Favourite Food: Anything Mexican

Why I love softball: It's like a sport, but not really

If I won the lotto: I'd retire early and travel the world

Best advice you ever got: "it all comes out in the wash"

Have your say - if there's anything you'd like to hear or see more of please let us know at roundthebases@softballleinster.ie

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