



THE ROSE

VOL 2 NO 2
AUGUST 2025

AARON McKENNA

**STAR BATTER IN
OUT 4 CRICKET
TOURNAMENT**

CHARITY PART-



MAIN SPONSOR:





**MERSEY ROSE RECREATIONALS
CRICKET CLUB**

www.merseyrose.com

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2025

WELCOME

It's been a frustrating season in many respects but we did have a successful tournament in Birmingham in June.



Representing Lancashire, Mersey Rose reached a final where we gave a very good account of ourselves. We played some excellent cricket and everyone made a strong contribution. It's real privilege to play for the county and we're sure our players will be proud of their well-deserved Lancashire caps.

When Pride in Liverpool was initially cancelled, we got in touch with our friends at Whitefield CC about creating a Pride in Cricket festival. It will be a softball event and we look forward to welcoming players from four teams to take part in what will surely be a great day of celebrating diversity and inclusion through the world's greatest sport.

The festival will take place at Court Hey Park on 17th August, but we also have our annual charity match with Frodsham to look forward to on Monday 25th August and a softball game with Wavertree on 29th August. We are once again using the charity game to raise funds for our charitable partner Sahir—Liverpool's foremost LGBTQ+ charity.

It's been great to see new players attending training and we hope we can continue to build and strengthen our squad. There is of course room at our club for many more of you so, if you like what you see, please join us!

Andi and Joe

OUT4CRICKET

LGBTQ+ SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 2025

Out4Cricket, a national organisation promoting LGBTQ+ inclusion in cricket, has held an annual tournament since 2023. This event has both hardball and softball competitions.

Teams representing counties, which are generally supported by their respective county boards, participate in a day of cricket with the aim of fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ people. However, the tournament is also quite competitive and the cricket of a pretty good standard.

Mersey Rose Recreationals were invited to participate in this year's softball tournament, representing Lancashire. It was our first time taking part in this event and we had no expectations of doing well - our main objective was to enjoy ourselves and "play with pride".



This year's tournament was held at Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club in Birmingham on Sunday 15th June. It seemed the ideal location and the host club is clearly supportive of Out4Cricket's ethos and values.

As a club, we have played a fair bit of softball cricket but the quality of the opposition was at higher level than what we are used to and the rules were a bit different to those used in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition. We normally play on reduced-size fields, but for this event we played on full-sized areas with our opening game being played on the main arena - a huge cricket field. This not only meant longer boundaries, but also a lot more ground to cover for a team of eight players. Rules we were unaccustomed to playing under included free hits following no-balls, but we felt this added something to the game.

Semi Final

Lancashire 109-5 (Net Score 284)

Warwickshire 100-9 (Net Score 255)

Lancashire won by 29 runs

We were paired with Warwickshire in the opening game, a team made up largely from players from Birmingham Unicorns. Put in to bat, Rose/Lancashire didn't get off to the best start as the opening pair of David Crossley and Ian Mosquito lost three wickets. However, the team made a recovery as the next pair - Andi Page and Aaron McKenna - scored at a rate of more than a run a ball, playing shots into space and running effectively to turn singles into twos. Amelia Short and Anna Page then shared a partnership of 20 before some big hitting from Joey Harrison, and some sensible batting from his son Zak, took the total to 109 for 5 from 16 overs.

The Rose/Lancashire team felt this was a good score on a field where there would be limited opportunities to hit boundaries. While boundaries were indeed at a premium, Warwickshire got out of the blocks quickly and, despite losing three wickets, after ten overs were well ahead of the run rate with a net score of 265. They needed only 20 runs to win from six overs, while Lancashire need a minor miracle.

What happened next was not exactly miraculous, but was certainly remarkable and testament to the ability within the Mersey Rose squad as well as the team's determination.

Firstly, Joey Harrison bowled a maiden over. Those six dot balls were crucial in stemming the momentum. In the following over Andi Page took two wickets, with Ian Mosquito taking a fine catch, and Warwickshire now needed 28 from four overs - a very different position.

Warwickshire's final pair knew what they needed to do and showed their intentions when they knocked off a couple of boundaries in the 13th over. Joey returned to bowl the 14 over, this time taking a wicket for the loss of just one run. Warwickshire were now feeling scoreboard pressure and needed some positive batting from their final pair, but Andi Page took three wickets in the penultimate over. He finished with barely believable figures of 6 for 8.

The final over became almost academic, with Amelia Short bowling effectively and conceding only two runs. In their first ever tournament, Rose/Lancashire had reached their first final! The final score suggests a comfortable win, but the reality was very different. It was a hard-fought victory against a good side who, until the last few overs, looked totally in control.

Final

Surrey 135-3 (Net score 320)

Lancashire 115-4 (Net score 295)

Surrey won by 25 runs

Lancashire won the toss and opted to field. Surrey got off to a positive start with the opening pair sharing a partnership worth 45 runs. This gave Surrey a platform on which to build their innings. Lancashire were able to slow down the run rate and found some belief when Amelia Short and Joey Harrison each picked up a valuable wicket. Ian Mosquito was then brought into the attack; his third ball was smashed towards the boundary for what looked like a certain six - but, somehow, Joey Harrison got underneath it and made a sensational one-handed catch. That was the last success for Lancashire's bowlers, despite some great bowling from Zak Harrison and Heidi Page. Both juniors acquitted themselves well on the field, with Heidi in particular making some excellent stops and covering a lot of ground. She ran about 60 yards to cut off a four and almost succeeded, getting her fingertips to the ball as it crossed the rope.

Surrey finished their innings on 120-3, a very good score in softball. It seemed a total beyond Lancashire's reach, but no-one was going to give up without a fight. Some strong batting from Joey Harrison and Amelia Short ensured that they stayed in contention but the third and fourth pairs weren't able to maintain the same level of aggression and Lancashire had to settle for second place.

Surrey were worthy winners but Lancashire were proud of how they approached the final and their performances against quality opposition.

The real winner was, of course, cricket. Many thanks to Out4Cricket and Sutton Coldfield CC for putting on such a fantastic tournament, and to all the teams and individuals who made it such a positive and enjoyable experience.



Lancashire bowler of the day: If we're being honest, the most effective bowler was Joey Harrison, who could be relied upon to bowl accurately and keep the runs down. However, no-one who takes 6 for 8 isn't going to be the bowler of the day, so it has to go to Andi Page.

Lancashire batter of the day: Aaron McKenna. He didn't score the most runs on the day, but he followed instructions and worked well with his batting partners to keep the scoreboard ticking over. His running between the wickets was good and he didn't lose his wicket in either game. A really positive performance.

Lancashire fielder of the day: Heidi Page. She covered so much ground and made some fantastic stops. Her pace in the field was a real asset in the final.

Catch of the day: No question about this one. Joey Harrison's catch was so stupendous, so outrageous and such an impressive display of skill it will almost certainly also be the catch of the season. A truly dramatic moment!

Shot of the day: Heidi Page's reverse sweep in the final. Too good a shot for just one run.

Lancashire player of the tournament: Amelia Short. Batted well, bowled well and kept wicket. A great all-rounder.





**#HER
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TOO**

**CRICKET IS A
GAME FOR ALL**



#HERGAMETOO | @HGTCRICKET

ABOUT US.

#HerGameToo was founded by a group of passionate football fans aiming to kick sexism out of football. Following on from the success within football, the initiative branched out into the world of cricket and **#HerGameToo Cricket** was formed.

We strongly believe cricket is a game for all, and we have began working closely with clubs at all levels to ensure women are safe and welcome in the game.



Our team have all experienced and/or witnessed sexism within cricket, whether in person or on social media. Across the sport, sexist abuse and attitudes are deep rooted and it is a problem that has been ignored for too long. It leaves many shocked to hear that it is still a huge issue for many women in cricket.

OUR AIMS.

- SPREAD AWARENESS AND PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ALL ON SEXISM WITHIN CRICKET.
- CREATE REGULAR CONTENT TO CHAMPION WOMEN IN THE GAME (PLAYERS, STAFF, OFFICIALS, FANS, ETC.)
- DEVELOP STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLUBS, TRUSTS AND COMMITTEES.
- HAVE A PRESENCE AT CRICKET GROUNDS AND CLUBS TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN.
- CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEXIST ABUSE.

TO REPORT.

Go to www.hergametoo.co.uk/report to report sexist abuse within cricket. This can be done anonymously.



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FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA AND
USE THE HASHTAG:

#HERGAMETOOCRICKET

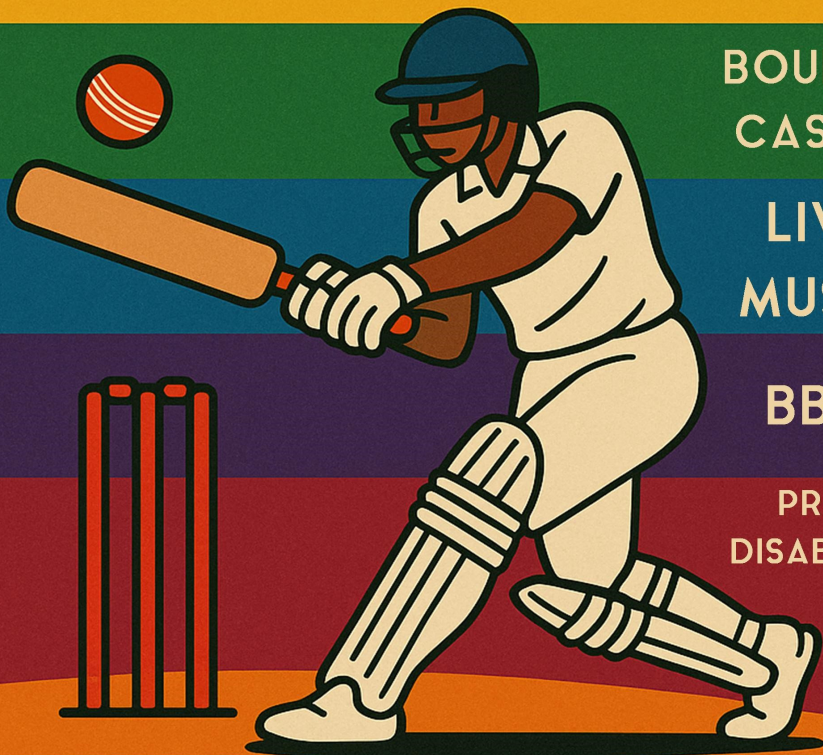


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PRIDE IN CRICKET FESTIVAL



BOUNCY
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CELEBRATING INCLUSION THROUGH CRICKET
WHITEFIELD CC, COURT HEY PARK
SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST 2025

Pride in Cricket LGBTQ Festival

Softball Competition Match Regulations

The laws of cricket will apply with the following exceptions:

1. *Players*

- 1.1. Teams will consist of 8 players
- 1.2. If a player is injured and unable to take any further part in the game substitutes can play a full part in the game, the injured player may not return as a participating player for the remainder of the game.

2. *Match Format*

- 2.1. Each innings will consist of 8 six ball ~~overs~~.
- 2.2. Each game should be completed in 60 minutes, with a 15 minute break between matches

3. *Bowling Restrictions*

- 3.1. A minimum of 4 bowlers must be used.
- 3.2. No bowler will be able to bowl more than 4 ~~overs~~.

4. *Batting Requirements*

- 4.1. Four pairs of batters will bat for two ~~overs~~ each.
- 4.2. No batter can bat in more than one pair (two ~~overs~~).
- 4.3. If a batter is dismissed, the batting side loses five runs, and the batters swap ends.

5. *Fielding Restrictions*

- 5.1. At the point of delivery, at least 2 players must be on either side of the wicket
- 5.2. There are no leg side fielding restrictions

6. *Extras*

- 6.1. No Balls and ~~Wides~~ will count as 2 runs and no extra delivery will be made unless it is the last over of the innings when 6 legal deliveries need to be completed, and will still count as two runs.
- 6.2. There will be no strict interpretation of leg side ~~wides~~.
- 6.3. All no balls in the final over will be followed by a free hit, if the free hit is not a legal delivery then there will be another free hit, until such time a legal delivery is bowled.
- 6.4. A batter can only be dismissed from a free hit under the circumstances that apply for a no ball even if the delivery for the free hit is called a wide.
- 6.5. If the batters do not change ends, no fielding changes will be permissible for the free hit, with the exception of a fielder moving to a safe position 15 yards from the batter, in a direct line backwards from their original position. If the batters change ends, fielding changes will be allowed.

7. *Match Result*

- 7.1. In the event of a tied game the team losing least wickets is the winner
- 7.2. If that game is still tied, the team with the highest actual run rate is the winner
- 7.3. If the game is still tied a super over will be played
 - 7.3.1. One bowler will be chosen from each side who must have bowled in the main part of the game
 - 7.3.2. 6 legal deliveries will need to be bowled
 - 7.3.3. ~~Wides~~ and No balls count as two runs and the subsequent delivery will be a free hit
 - 7.3.4. The bowler chosen may not bat for their team in the super over

FIXTURES 2025

HARDBALL TEAM

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	RESULT	MATCH BALL SPONSOR
11th May	UNIVERSITY OF L'POOL	Wavertree CC	Cancelled	
8th June	FRODSHAM	Moor Lane		Inspire Creatives
22nd June	WAVERTREE VI TEAM	Wavertree CC		
25th August	FRODSHAM	TBC		

SOFTBALL TEAM

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	RESULT	MATCH BALL SPONSOR
4th May	NEWSHAM PARK	Newsham Park		Inspire Creatives
23rd May	BOOTLE	Wadham Road		Inspire Creatives
13th June	WHITEFIELD	Court Hey Park		
15th June	WARWICKSHIRE	Sutton Coldfield		Out 4 Cricket
15th June	SURREY	Sutton Coldfield		Out 4 Cricket
17th August	WHITEFIELD	Court Hey Park		Pride in Cricket
17th August	LORD ROCKINGHAM'S XI	Court Hey Park		Pride in Cricket
17th August	WIDNES / WHITEFIELD W	Court Hey Park		Pride in Cricket
29th August	WAVERTREE	Court Hey Park		Inspire Creatives
TBA	LORD ROCKINGHAM'S XI	TBC		



National **Diversity** Awards **2025**
www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk

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HSBC UK

Congratulations

Mersey Rose Recreationals CC

You have been nominated for the 2025

Community Organisation Award for Multi-Strand: Sponsor - Auto Trader UK

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IN BLACK AND WHITE



XANTHE PAGE

Edited by Krystyna Zielinska

My World in Black and White is available at good bookshops
(and some pretty dismal ones too). It can also be purchased
online at

www.inspirepublishing.co.uk

HALTON & ST HELENS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ACTION

SPORTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2025



ANNA PAGE

Mersey Rose Recreationals' club secretary, Anna Page, was recognised for her outstanding work last night at the Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action awards.

The event took place at St Helens RLFC's Totally Wicked Stadium and was attended by 300 volunteers from across the region, all of whom had been shortlisted on account of the contributions they have made to the area through voluntary work.

Awards were made in seven categories:

- Team Volunteering Award
- Biggest Heart Award
- Long Service Award
- Personal Achievement Award
- Outstanding Contribution Award
- Sports & Physical Activity Award
- Jean Mulford Award for Special Achievement

Winners received a glass trophy while all shortlisted organisations and individuals received certificates.

Seven individuals and one team were shortlisted in the sports and physical activity category. All of them would have been worthy winners for their respective efforts in promoting local sport and/or physical activity.

When announcing the winner, the host referred to Anna's "inspirational leadership" in "making cricket accessible to everyone". She also noted Anna's efforts in "providing a space where everyone is welcome" and her "energy and commitment to inclusion"

Anna had been nominated by club chair Joe Crossley, who attended the event with her. Everyone at Mersey Rose Recreationals is very pleased for Anna and proud that her work for our club has gained the recognition it deserves.



#HER
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TOO

KEEP OUR **CRICKET** COMMUNITY **SAFE** FROM **DISCRIMINATION**

It's important to log incidents of sexism & misogyny, whether it's online or in person.



REPORT IT

www.hergametoo.co.uk/report



OUT CRICKET ET

www.out4cricket.org.uk

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KIT SPONSORS



Hardball kit



Softball kit

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS



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0151 673 1972
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Pride In Prescott 2025

On 19th July, Sahir proudly delivered our first ever Pride in Prescott event – a new community-led Pride event created to empower LGBTQ+ people and allies across Knowsley to celebrate in a way that was inclusive, authentic, and grounded in connection.

Over the course of an afternoon, the Shakespeare North Playhouse was transformed into a warm, welcoming space where around sixty people gathered to take part in a series of workshops designed to encourage participation at all comfort levels, showcase their talents in improv performances, and surround themselves in community solidarity.

Many participants described it as their first time attending a Pride event in Knowsley that felt truly “for them.”

The day concluded with Pride in Action, a symbolic standing demo in the Ken Dodd Performance Garden. This space became a vibrant stage for creative spoken word, dramatic performance, and public declarations of queer joy and resistance – culminating in a walkout into the courtyard space to close the day.

More than just a standalone event, Pride in Prescott formed part of a wider constellation of Knowsley Pride celebrations. Working in collaboration with local organisers and partners, the event helped to grow a festival that spanned several locations and audiences, each with its own flare and focus.

We would like to thank all who got involved, supported and celebrated Pride with us in Prescott! Let's see what 2026 brings!

Proud As Knowsley – Sahir's Monthly LGBTQ+ Peer Support Group

On the 1st Thursday of the month from 2pm-4pm, we host our LGBTQ+ Peer Support Group, Proud As Knowsley in Prescott Town Centre.

This group is open to folk aged 18 and over, who identify as LGBTQ+ whom happen to reside, work or socialise in Knowsley.

You can get more information and secure your space via Eventbrite, link here; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/827164921547?aff=oddtcreator>

MERSEY ROSE RECREATIONALS CRICKET CLUB



A GRAND FIXTURE

VS,

FRODSHAM

MONDAY, 25TH AUGUST,

2025

*In aid of the most respected and worthy of charities,
Sahir of Liverpool.*