

Sept NEWS & UPDATES



Dear Members,

Did you hear? Our uniforms have arrived. At the first Belfast End of Season Tournament (B.E.S.T blitz), the Belfast Brawlers faced their opposition in smart new uniforms sponsored by Schrader Electronics Ltd. We are enormously grateful to Schrader's generosity, which has allowed us to achieve as much as we have done in this first year running.



Belfast Brawlers in their new Jerseys

Back Row: Maarten Blanken, Terry Rosbotham, Diane Kennedy, Conor Dawson, Chris Patterson, Malachy Montgomery. **Front Row:** Nicky Penney, Aisling Keane, Charmaine Blake, Lauren Patterson, Carrie Trundle

Although, it's the end of season it would be a shame to see those nice new jerseys collecting dust over the off season, so the Brawlers are planning to take part in a competition in Waterford on the 3rd & 4th of November. Please let me know if you can make it for this weekend. It'll probably be the last big competition this year!

To prepare for this event we will be training behind the Queen's University PEC every Sun from 2-4pm starting 14th Oct. We are also trying to promote Softball in Queen's and will have training sessions in the same place from 5.30-7 every Wednesday until it gets too dark. Feel free to come join in, in these sessions and help this team develop. We will organise some indoor matches

against the Queen's team later in the winter.

The first ever B.E.S.T blitz was held at the Malone Playing Fields in Belfast on Saturday 29th Sept. The day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all six of the participating teams, despite the threatening rain. In addition to our Belfast Brawlers, our clubs' second team, the Smokin' Aces were present for their softball debut. The other teams that participated were; the Deadly Suspects from Dublin, University College Dublin team, the Galway Tribes, and the University of Limerick team. Thank you all for making an effort to attend the event and making it such an enjoyable day.

The Belfast Brawlers beat their local rivals, the Smokin' Aces in a nail-biting showdown of 11-9. The Smokin' Aces, with some very fresh faces in the game, had a tough slog through the day coming close to a win against the Deadly Suspects and the Belfast Brawlers but finally getting on the scoreboard with an 8-3 win against the University College Dublin team.



Charmaine Blake & Graham Deane watch nervously as the Brawlers inch ahead of the Smokin' Aces

Our two teams were up against some tough competition in this event but every player did their best and it was amazing to see the development in all the players. You've come along way this summer.



The winning UL team

However, the Limerick team defeated all their opponents from Belfast, Dublin and Galway and easily walked away with the shield. Our aim for next year will be to bring that shield back onto Ulster soil.



UL take home the B.E.S.T. trophy!

This day and the whole season was a much bigger success than I had imagined or hoped for. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who've made this work as well as it did. Thanks to Julie Walsh and Steve Trundle for twisting my arm into starting softball in Belfast and for supporting my efforts this summer.

Also thank you to Softball Ireland particularly Hayley, Drew and Gary, to Paddy and the Packers for their support at the different competitions, to Taz and Patrick who umpired the B.E.S.T. blitz keeping things running smoothly, and to Colum and Dave for being honorary Brawlers and Smokin' Aces throughout the B.E.S.T Blitz. And of course a huge

thank you to Liam for taking the great pictures you are seeing in this newsletter and on the webpages and for taking care of things throughout the B.E.S.T blitz letting me play ball!



The Brawlers & Smokin' Aces

All the brawlers have been an enormous help and it couldn't have been as enjoyable without them, in particular are those who I have called on for help in organising the different events, Maarten, Terry, Aisling, Karen, Lauren, Connor, Etain, Damien, and Nicky. Myself and Maarten were particularly touched with your very generous gift, it will be a much enjoyed holiday thanks guys and gals!

That's all for this month, until next season!

Carrie Trundle

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