



BASES LOADED



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Record win, but who really wins?

With all but one of Wednesday's games postponed to allow softballers to watch TV, attention turned to the Tuesday fixtures, of which one result particularly stood out.

Liver Birds equalled the all-time record win with RAR, beating the rookie **OddSox** team 46-3 in 3½ innings. The 43-run margin had been achieved back in 2017 against the unfortunate Meteors, first by Barflies in a shutout, then a few weeks later by Colt 45s. Having belted 21 runs in the 1st inning, you might have thought the

opposition would ease off and turn the evening into a fun learning opportunity for the rookies. But a further 25 were scored in the 2nd inning. It is possible that the opportunity to boost personal home run tallies with the home run trophy in mind might be behind it, and one correspondent wondered whether homers in the game against the rookie team should count. The 13 home runs hit by seven different players did not quite match the record (16) from the notorious Outlaws-Bats game from 2009 (that's a story for another day), but one can

only hope that other opponents who find the OddSox's rookie defence an attractive opportunity don't turn their game into a glorious session of BP. Rant over.

Elsewhere, **Sluggababes** continued their winning ways with a 24-10 win in a 1st-vs-2nd match-up with **Barflies**. The Babes started strongly and scored consistently while restricting the Flies mostly to low-scoring innings. Barflies remain in 2nd place, but now only on head-to-head over **Freeze**, who were trailing

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Correction: Statto's dunce's corner

In last week's round up we stated that we believed it had never happened before that all games in a division had ended in "slaughters". Well, that was pretty poor research by Statto, since

exactly that same thing happened earlier this season, only five weeks ago, and we even had an article all about it (Statto's Corner, *Bases Loaded* 32.6, page 8). Statto—you're losing it, mate.

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Cover photo: Luis Arrevillagas; see page 5 for caption

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Record win, but who really wins?*(Continued from page 2)*

to **Toras** for four innings before hitting six in the 5th to edge into a 13-12 lead, which they were able to extend in the 6th, winning 18-15 in the end.

Tiggers got off to a great start against **Raiders**, and were 10-1 up after three innings, when Raiders had a minor rally, but not enough to halt the Tigger bounce, despite four home runs for Mark Crannage. **Fireballs** were able to keep **Bandidos** in their sights until a 4th-inning bat-around saw the Mexicans pull away. The results leave three mid-table teams tied on .545 win-loss percentages (taking into account the Bandidos' points deduction), all with one win and one loss in games against each other. The standings are based on aggregate scores between the three teams, with Raiders on +12, Liver Birds on +2 and Bandidos on -14.

On Wednesday only one game took place in the end, as two of the remaining three founder member teams met for



The post-match venue was apparently expecting crowds of softballers and had reserved the back room for us and laid on food. No one had remembered to mention that the games were postponed. Oops.

Photo Ian Mills

the 24th time. **Hackers** came back from a 12-4 deficit against **Speeders** after three innings, scoring six in the 3rd and again in the 5th, to win 17-13. Hackers skip Ian Mills at last managed his first round trip of the season:

he is one of only three players who have homered every season since records began.

Birthdays

Monday 20th

Siân Payne (Thunder)

Tuesday 21st

Josh Kehoe (Tiggers)

Wednesday 22nd

Laura Watson (Toras)

Thursday 23rd

Alan Green (umpire), Jo McCullough (Barflies), Muhammad Taweed (Tiggers)

Friday 24th

Holly Tillyard-Smith (Tiggers)

Saturday 25th

Jordan Colton (Mayhem)

Sunday 26th

Annie Downes (Sluggababes), Luca Mulholland (Thunder III)

This week's games

Tuesday 21st**Division 3**

Barflies 1L @ Freeze 3W 3 SS
Fireballs 1L @ Sluggababes 12W 6 PJ
OddSox 3L v Tiggers 1W 1 MG
Raiders 1L @ Bandidos 1W 2 FF
Toras 12L @ Liver Birds 1W 7 MD

Wednesday 22nd**Division 1**

Meerkats 2L @ Dodgers 2W C MD
Thunder 7W @ Thunder II 16L G HS
Sharks 1W @ Mavericks 1L D NS
Titans 5L @ Camels 2W B

Division 2

Hackers @ Stingers 1L A
Mavericks II 3L @ Thunder III 4L H JF/EL
Screwballs 1W @ Camels II 2W E PJ
Tigers 3W @ Bats 5W F PF

MSL well represented at WBSC European Championships

[Farnham Park, 13th July]

The Manchester Softball League is celebrating another proud milestone as several members of our community represent Great Britain at this week's WBSC Europe Coed Slowpitch European Championships, taking place at Farnham Park, Buckinghamshire.

Now in its 16th edition, the championship is one of the premier events on the European slowpitch softball calendar. Running from 13–18 July, the tournament brings together 10 of Europe's top national teams—Great Britain, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Lithuania, Poland and Guernsey—to compete for the continental title. As the reigning European champions, Great Britain will be aiming to defend their crown on home soil in front of a passionate home crowd.

Flying the flag for the MSL on the field are Joe Grantham, Tom Russell and Zoe LeRoux from Thunder, alongside Adam Hu-

gill and Mike MacDowell from Camels, all selected to represent Great Britain against Europe's best.

The league's influence extends well beyond the playing squad. Wesley Ng of Camels is serving as the team's physiotherapist, helping keep the athletes in peak condition throughout the tournament. Luis Arrevillagas from Thunder is one of the Great Britain coaching staff, bringing his knowledge and experience to the national programme, while Beth Jarratt, also from Thunder, is managing the team's social media, ensuring supporters can follow the action from Farnham Park throughout the week.

Their selection is a testament not only to their individual dedication and talent but also to the strength of the MSL. Over the years, the league has consistently developed players, coaches, officials and support staff who have gone on to represent Great Britain at the highest level of European competition.

Luis Arrevillagas

It's something the entire league can be proud of. Every national team selection reflects the commitment of local clubs, teammates and volunteers who help create an environment where players can develop, compete and succeed.

If you've ever wondered what it's like to represent Great Britain, don't be afraid to ask. Our international representatives are always happy to share their experiences, offer advice and inspire the next generation of players. The next MSL player or volunteer to represent GB could be someone currently taking their first steps onto a local diamond.

From everyone at the Manchester Softball League, we wish Team GB—and especially our Manchester representatives—the very best of luck at the 2026 WBSC Europe Coed Slowpitch European Championships.



The GB squad at Farnham. Can you spot the MSL players?

Photo Luis Arrevillagas.

Cover photo shows (left to right) Duncan Waugh (London-based player, photo-bombing), Zoe Le Roux (Thunder), Adam Hugill (Camels), Tom Russell, Joe Grantham (both Thunder), Katie Jessop (Travelling Dodgers, ex-MSL), Mike MacDowell (Camels), Luis Arrevillagas (Thunder).

Stop press: GB clean sweep to retain title

GB retained their European title beating Germany 23-8 in the final having won all their group-stage games, in most cases comfortably.

The campaign began with a 38-0 (3½ inns) defeat of Norway. Joe Grantham pitched an almost perfect game, allowing just one hit. Mike MacDowell got the first of ten home runs.

They then "mercied" Germany 35-6 (4 inns). Again Grantham pitched the whole game, as well as hitting a home run.

The following day, Poland were beaten 36-1 (4 inns). Adam Hugill hit a homer and 4 RBIs. Then in their first real contest against much tougher opposition, they beat Belgium 15-12. Grantham relief-pitched 3 innings. In a third game of the day, and their closest game all week, they beat Czechia 17-16. Grantham pitched 7 innings.

The following day saw run-ahead wins against Lithuania 26-6 and Austria 23-0. Grantham pitched all four innings of the latter game.

On Friday they beat Guernsey 31-5 (5 inns) with a homer for

Tom Russell, then beat Ireland 34-5 (4 inns) with Grantham pitching to complete a perfect 9-0 group stage.

The final on Sunday saw a repeat match-up with Germany, who had won seven of their nine group games. Grantham pitched the 23-8 win in 5 innings.

All info from www.wbsceurope.org/

	G	HR	RBI	Avg
Grantham	8	1	14	.850
Hugill	9	1	11	.850
Le Roux	7	0	5	.563
MacDowell	8	10	33	.815
Russell	8	1	11	.682

Selected batting stats for MSL players

Home runs

Division 1 SBH

5 – Maddy Gresty (CAM)
 3 – Avery Chong (MKT), Zoe Le Roux (THU)
 2 – Jessica Hastings (DOD)
 1 – Nicola Booth (CAM), Melissa Byrne (DSH), Zoe Coombes (TTN), Leanne Cracknell (THU), Lauren Crouse (MAV), Charlotte Green (CAM), Kim Hannessen (THU), Izzie Keeley (CAM), Alexa Martinez (DOD), Linni Mitchell (MHM), Izzy Rendell (TTN), Rachel Shkurko (DSH)

Division 1 BBH

8 – Brian Slusarek (DOD)
 7 – Pete Nightingale* (MAV)
 6 – Paul Colton (DOD), Tom Russell (THU)
 5 – Keith Altena (MKT), Sam Baker (TTN), Stephane Karayannis (DSH), Jake Roberts (DOD)
 4 – Carlos dos Ramos (MKT), Rohan Johns (TTN)
 3 – Luis Arrevillagas (THU), Tom Atkinson (CAM), Nathan Barratt* (MHM), Max Fagan (CAM), Jeivo Gomez (TH2), Joe Grantham (THU), Adam Hugill (CAM), Benkei Johnson (MHM), Mike MacDowell (CAM), Jack Scholes (MHM), Jon Taylor* (TH2)
 2 – Craig Brooks (MAV), David Dyson (DOD), Carl Emsley (TTN), Matthew Green (MHM), Brad Hadwin (THU), Kris Hadwin (THU), Stephen Howard (DOD), Alex Ingham (MKT), Mike Lott (DSH)
 1 – Luis Allan Arrevillagas (THU), Jai Bhagdev (TTN), Andrew Bogie* (TH2), Charles Coffey (MAV), Elieser Dorronsoro (DOD), Daniel Downes (DSH), Chris Fulton (MAV), Anthony Garcia Reyes (MHM), Amilcar Gomes (MHM), Simon Hepburn (DOD), Phil Kirby (TH2), Luke Martin (DSH), Matt Narain* (MKT), Wes Ng (CAM), Laurence Pearmain (MAV)

MVPs

HACKERS Emma Cosgrove (C), Ian Mills (SS)
SPEEDERS Maz Yung (P), Adam Faloona (CL)
BANDIDOS Chloe Llewellyn (LF), Ian McCann (P)
BARFLIES Kate Shearer (C), Christopher Smith (P)
FIREBALLS Lisa Williams (2B), Samuel Webb (3B)
FREEZE Rebecca Cowley (C), Owen Salfred-Ingham (SS)
LIVER BIRDS Cindy Chong (C), William Lazicki (SS)
ODDSOX Kasia Fa (C), Jack Heaton (SS)
RAIDERS Nat Wood (2B), Mark Crannage (CL)
SLUGGABABES Annie Downes (P), Stanley Oleary (SS)
TIGGERS Abbie Arnold (EP), Rob Lawrence (P)
TORAS George McLaren (2B), Jack Lalor (SS)

All names appear as submitted

Division 2 SBH

2 – Anissa Aghtarafi (TIG), Chloe Patient (STG), Olivia Thompson-Westmacott (SCR)
 1 – Carmen Arrevillagas (HAC), Emma Bennett (SPE), Ella Mills (HAC), Alia Paschali (CM2), Evie Sanders (HAC), Toni Strowger (STG)

Division 2 BBH

12 – James Wooderson* (CM2)
 10 – Oscar Marenco (SCR)
 7 – Bryn Davies (BAT), Cameron Waddelow (BAT), James Wright (TH3)
 5 – Jack Barnes (STG), Adam Faloona* (SPE), Duncan Jones (SPE), Ross Maskell (SCR)
 4 – Ant Boffey (CM2), Shawn Khwaja* (BAT), Mike Mia (TH3), Ethan Money-Muter* (SPE), Nic Sims (STG)
 3 – Dilan Bastiampillai* (STG), Donald Ching Hang Siu (BAT), Ed Covington (TIG), Richard Goar (TIG), Chris Gresty (MV2), Jack Hoban (HAC), AJ Hoysted (TH3), Josh Kehoe* (TIG), Christopher Marenco* (SCR), David Martin Baez* (MV2), Zak Morris (SCR), Oliver Sharpe (TIG)
 2 – Chris Drayton (CM2), Alastair Hallsworth (SPE), Joe Mills (HAC), Nick Money (SPE), Sean Rafter (HAC), Jack Rains (STG), Artem Rastrepaev (SCR), Dan

Strayer (SCR)

1 – Dean Cull (TH3), Liam Deegan (CM2), Jonathan Foldi* (CM2), Mark Fox (STG), Chris Frost (BAT), Mohamad Irfan Haziz (TIG), Daniel Johansson (HAC), Maciek Juriewicz (SCR), Chris Lennon (SPE), Chris Newhall* (BAT), Rich Thompson (TIG), Ian Williams (MV2)

Division 3 SBH

4 – Jo McCullough (BFL)
 3 – Sophie Temple (LVB)
 2 – Carmen Arrevillagas (LVB)
 1 – Abbie Arnold (TGG), Jessamine Belfield* (RAI), Eleanor Harris (SLG), Aly Jones (LVB), Chloe Llewellyn (BND), Lisa Morrissey (RAI), Lorilei Salfred-Ingham (FRZ), Rebecca Stevens (PFB), Abbie Thwaite (SLG), Grace Williams (LVB), Nat Wood (RAI)

Division 3 BBH

10 – Mark Crannage* (RAI)
 9 – Leon Arismendi* (TGG), Luke Crannage (RAI), Chris Mannion (SLG), Ray Walker (LVB)
 8 – Liam Morrison*** (BND)
 7 – Joshua Walker (LVB)
 5 – Ebrahim Hassan (BFL), Jack Lalor (TOR), Johan Lemmers (SLG), Kieran O'Leary* (SLG),

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Home runs (Continued from page 6)

Richard Valentine (RAI)
 4 – William Lazicki (LVB), Neil McIntyre (LVB), Josh Normie* (TGG), John Pearson* (RAI), Chris Radford (BFL), Owen Sal-fred-Ingham* (FRZ)
 3 – Jack Heaton (ODX), Mat Tan-ner (SLG)
 2 – Ben Acton (LVB), Jacob Ar-nison* (BND), Jake Collins (RAI), Nicky Johnson (PFB), Lee Kendrick-Walker (BFL), Ben Lock* (TOR), Chris Smith (BFL), Carlos Torres (TGG), Sam Webb (PFB), Jono Wrigley* (FRZ)
 1 – Jamie Acton (LVB), Jack Baldwin (PFB), Pete Boyne (BND), Nino Calo (FRZ), David Dean (BFL), Ross Jubber (FRZ), Conor O'Sullivan (TGG), Kris Stokwicz (RAI), Kuba Williams (BFL)

* grand slam

Guests

Robert Fairweather (Fireballs) for Speeders (2nd time) v Hackers
 AJ Hoysted (TH3) for Speed-ers v Hackers
 Hannah Kay (BAT) for Fire-balls v Bandidos
 Steve Kellett (MV2) for OddSox v Liver Birds
 Jennifer Quinton (STG) for Toras (2nd) v Freeze
 Bailey Saunders (TIG) for Bandidos v Fireballs

Transfer

Carmen Arrevillagas, Hackers to Liver Birds

Next week's fixtures (July 28/29)

Next week's games are the return fixtures from Week 5, 26/27 May. Notably, all four Div 1 games were run-ahead rule wins (see page 2)

Division 1

Camels @ Mayhem (Pitch D)
 Camels won 19-4 in 6 innings to lead 12-7 in all meetings.

Dodgers @ Thunder (B) Thun-der won 27-8 in five innings and lead 20-9 in all meetings.

Mavericks @ Meerkats (B)
 Mavs won 24-9 in five innings, and lead 9-4 in all meetings.

Thunder II @ Titans (C) Titans won 29-14 in five innings, only their third win in 15 meetings, one of which was tied.

Sharks rest

Division 2

Stingers @ Speeders (H)
 Stingers won 21-14 to take a 2-1 lead in all meetings.

Thunder III @ Tigers (A) Ti-gers won 24-2 to make it three out of three all-time.

Camels II @ Hackers (F)
 Camels won 18-9 to tie up the

all-time record at 7-7.

Bats @ Screwballs (E)
 Screwballs won an exciting encounter 28-26, holding off a Bats rally in the bottom of the 7th, as the home team, needing 11 to tie, managed to score nine of them. Bats lead 3½-2½ all time.

Mavericks II rest

Division 3

Bandidos @ Tiggers (7) Ban-didos snagged a 7th-inning win, shutting out the Tiggers then scoring three to win 11-10. It was their fifth win in six meetings.

Freeze @ Fireballs (6) Ice overcame heat as Freeze won 21-6, tying up the all-time se-ries at 8-8.

Liver Birds @ Barflies (2) Liv-er Birds won this first ever meeting 22-19.

OddSox v Toras (1) First ever meeting.

Sluggababes @ Raiders (3)
 Sluggababes won 21-14 with a second-half rally, and lead 5-1 in all meetings.



Results 14/15 July

Division 1

All games postponed—replay dates as follows:
Camels @ Thunder Tues 4 August,
Mayhem @ Titans, Dodgers @ Sharks, Thunder II @ Meerkats
Thurs 13 August

Division 2

SPEEDERS 5 5 2 1 0 0 0 13
HACKERS 4 0 6 0 6 1 x 17
Pitch F, Umpire Mike Goff
HRs **SPE** Adam Faloona, **AJ**
Hoysted (TH3); **HAC** Ian Mills

Bats @ Mavericks II, Stingers @ Screwballs, Camels II @ Tigers to be played Thurs 13 August

Division 3

FIREBALLS 1 1 0 2 1 0 3 8
BANDIDOS 2 1 2 7 5 0 x 17
Pitch 3, Umpire Fliss Fagan; home team batted first
HR **BND** Liam Morrison

FREEZE 1 1 4 1 6 4 1 18
TORAS 3 2 3 4 0 1 2 15
Pitch 2, Umpire Mike Goff
HRs **FRZ** Ross Jubber; **TOR** Jack Lalor

ODDSOX 2 0 1 0 3
LIVER BIRDS 21 25 0 x 46
RAR, Pitch 1, Umpire Fliss Fagan
HRs **ODX** Jack Heaton; **LVB** Sophie Temple 2, Ray Walker, Grace Williams, Carmen Arrevillagas 2, Josh Walker 2, Neil McIntyre, William Lazicki 4

SLUGGABABES 4 5 2 4 4 0 5 24
BARFLIES 0 2 0 5 2 1 0 10
Pitch 6, Umpire Arthur Hung
HRs **SLG** Mat Tanner, Chris Mannion 2, Johan Lemmers

TIGGERS 7 2 1 0 4 0 1 15
RAIDERS 0 1 0 4 5 0 1 11
Pitch 7, Umpire Simon Sharp
HRs **TGG** Leon Arismendi 2, Abbie Arnold; **RAI** Mark Crannage 4

Standings

Division 1

	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
Camels	10	9	0	1	217	74	.900	-
Thunder	10	9	0	1	199	75	.900	-
Mavericks	10	8	0	2	178	125	.800	1
Mayhem	10	5	0	5	126	127	.500	4
Dodgers	9	4	0	5	181	177	.444	4½
Meerkats	10	4	0	6	136	146	.400	5
Sharks*	10	4	0	6	126	171	.350	5½
Titans	9	1	0	8	100	180	.111	7½
Thunder II	10	0	0	10	89	277	.000	9

* 1pt deducted

Division 2

► Bats	9	7	0	2	152	105	.778	-
► Screwballs	10	7	0	3	199	153	.700	½
► Camels II	10	7	0	3	176	142	.700	½
► Tigers	10	6	0	4	174	123	.600	1½
► Stingers	10	6	0	4	163	142	.600	1½
► Mavericks II	10	5	0	5	128	161	.500	2½
► Speeders	11	4	0	7	195	215	.364	4
► Hackers	10	2	0	8	132	168	.200	5½
► Thunder III	10	1	0	9	117	227	.100	6½

Screwballs above Camels II and Tigers above Stingers on head-to-heads

Division 3

	P	W	T	L	RS	RC	Pct	GB
► Sluggababes	11	11	0	0	206	93	1.00	-
► Barflies	11	7	0	4	201	149	.636	4
▲ Freeze	11	7	0	4	196	146	.636	4
▼ Raiders	11	6	0	5	199	158	.545	5
▲ Liver Birds	11	6	0	5	216	138	.545	5
▼ Bandidos*	11	7	0	4	158	161	.545	5
► Tiggers	11	5	0	6	150	181	.455	6
► Fireballs	11	2	0	9	141	228	.182	9
► Toras	11	0	0	11	90	222	.000	11
► OddSox	3	0	0	3	23	104	.000	

*2pts deducted

Barflies above Freeze on head-to-head

Raiders > Liver Birds > Bandidos on aggregate scores in head-to-heads