



**In this Issue:** Dates coming up, Firstball line up, Maps for League / Firstball, Book review !

**Coming up:**

Event	Date	Venue	
Practice	Mon 18/04/16	Metrovicks	
Batting Practice	Wed 20/04/16	Metrovicks	<i>**TBC** - on the day</i>
<b>FIRSTBALL</b>	<b>Sat 23/04/16</b>	<b>Parrs Wood</b>	
<b>FIRSTBALL</b>	<b>Sun 24/04/16</b>	<b>Parrs Wood</b>	
Batting Practice	Mon 25/04/16	Metrovicks	<i>**For the super keen</i>
v Drizzle	Tue 26/04/16	Pitch 7	
Practice	Mon 02/05/16	Metrovicks	
@ Rippers	Tue 03/05/16	Pitch 2	

**Team Lineup: Firstball (23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April)**

**M:** Dan, Dave, JD, Rob, Steve G., Tony, TBC

**F:** Annie, Caroline (Sat), Emma, Louise, Luisa, Sandra, TK, (Chloe – Sun)

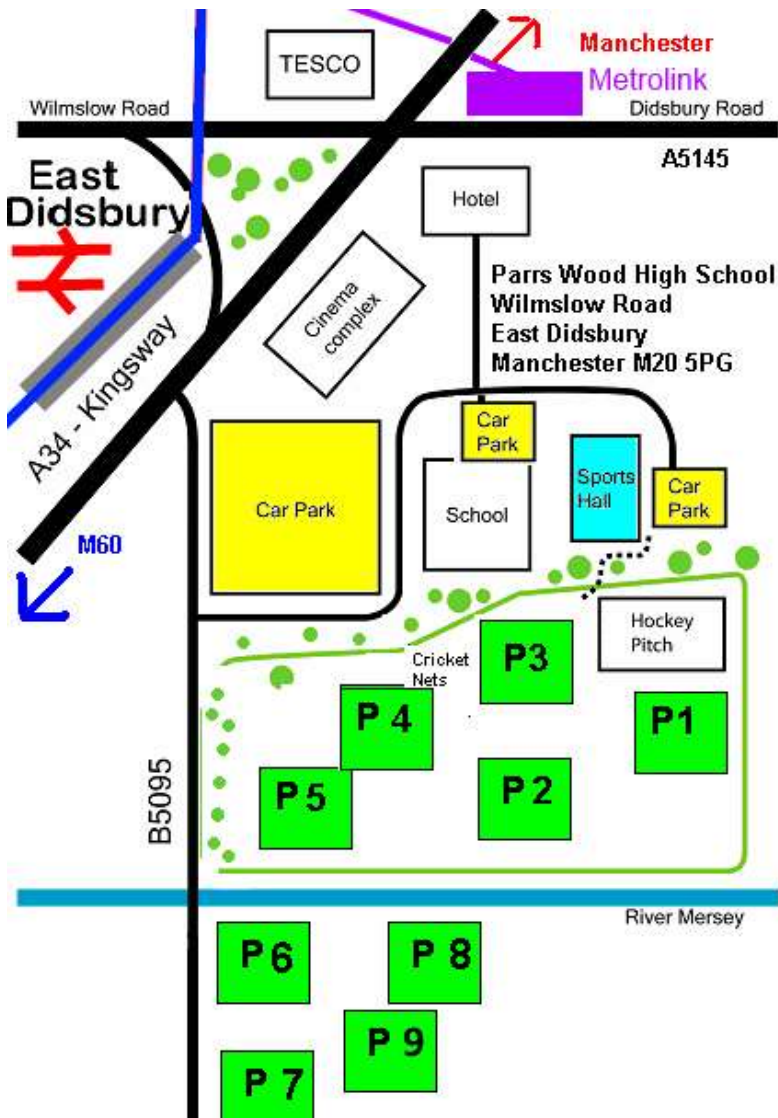
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## Tuesday night (& Firstball) venues: Parrs Wood High School and Cheshire Line Tavern

All our league matches are played on Tuesday evenings at Parrs Wood High School in East Didsbury (see map). The (almost equally important) post match venue is the Cheshire Line Tavern, Manchester Road, Cheadle, SK8 2NZ.



Cheshire Line Tavern  
Manchester Road  
Cheadle, SK8 2NZ



## Book Review: "The complete guide to Slowpitch Softball"

This book is a great read for the enthusiastic softball player. It is indeed a complete guide and has lots of useful information about batting (for both average and for power) fielding and pitching. It covers a wide range of topics, and I particularly enjoyed the pitching information. Slow pitch pitching tends to be overlooked in more general guides so it's nice to see a few different pitches being demonstrated.

Overall it's the best modern one volume guide to the sport that I have come across and well worth buying if you want to learn more about the game.

A couple of caveats:

- 1) The DVD is Region 1 which wasn't a problem for me but might come as a nasty surprise to others. Also despite being in a sealed case it wouldn't play at all until I'd cleaned it.
- 2) The book advises the batter to stand at the front of the batters box. I assume this is because the writers play in a league where they use a strike mat and the plate is part of the strike zone. Do that in this country and good pitchers will kill you by throwing high deep strikes that you won't be able to hit. Don't do it!

The book was published in 2011 and is still available from Amazon, though you'll save a lot of money if you buy it from one of the other sellers they list rather than from Amazon themselves.

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Complete-Slowpitch-Softball-Rainer-Martens/dp/0736094067/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1460453843&sr=8-1&keywords=complete+guide+to+slowpitch+softball](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Complete-Slowpitch-Softball-Rainer-Martens/dp/0736094067/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1460453843&sr=8-1&keywords=complete+guide+to+slowpitch+softball)

## How things work (mainly for rookies):

### Evening practice

From next Monday (28/03) we will have our main weekly practice session at Metrovicks each Monday evening. As some people come straight from work (so turn up early) with others joining in later on there will be batting practice for the early birds with the formal practice session starting c.6.30 – if you can't make it until later don't worry just come along when you can. The session will finish by 8 (or earlier if get gets dark !), though if people want to we may have additional betting practice after the main session for those that want it once the days get long enough.

*Each week until the season starts there will also be a secondary session on the Wednesday evening – if you can only do one session try to make it the Monday one, but the Wednesday session will be there for the ultra-keen and those who can't make the Monday sessions.*

### League games

League games take place on Tuesdays at Parrs Wood High School, (see the team website for directions). The first weekly league game is on 26th April, and the season carries on until the end of August. Games start at 7, you should aim to be there on the pitch by **6.30** so we can warm up. If you are already aware of weeks when you won't be able to play, or other restrictions on your availability – let me know. Games will cost £5 (£3 for Juniors), you can pay either in advance or on the night. Emma has volunteered to collect the money on the night.

### The weather and cancellations

**ALWAYS** assume that practices and games are **ON** until you specifically hear otherwise – it doesn't take long for the weather to change, it can be hammering down at 6 and fine at 7. This is especially true for league games, if the other team turn up and we don't they get the points and we have to pay both team's match fees – so it's important to turn up.

### What you need to do about availability:

For **league games** I assume that you **are** available unless you let me know otherwise. For **tournaments** I assume that you are **not** playing unless you tell me that you are. Every week I will write round showing everyone's availability for the next 2 weeks. **YOU** need to check your own availability and let me know of any mistakes or updates. For ALL team games, if you realise you won't be able to play, or find you are running late or realise that you may be delayed then you **MUST** let me know **ASAP**.

Dave

### Tournament Dates for your diary:

<b>23 &amp; 24 April</b>	<b>Firstball</b>
<b>25 &amp; 26 June</b>	<b>Leeds</b>
<b>30 &amp; 31 July</b>	<b>Manchester</b>
<b>24 &amp; 25 Sep</b>	<b>Sefton</b>

