Tigers Softball Club Yearbook 2024

The year in review

Off season

There weren't that many squad changes over the winter. Jenna decided her health problems meant she had to retire. Rachael stepped away from the game, Rob moved from Wednesday to Tuesday with Matt moving the other way. New girls Nayaab and Charlotte were recruited from the winter indoor sessions. Immediately before the start of the season Steph decided to leave and Harry joined Matt in the Wednesday team. Dave stepped down as Tigers captain with Simon eventually emerging as his replacement. Immediately before the start of the season Leon signed up and proved an invaluable addition to the Tiggers roster.

Division 2

We had a fast start to the season, a mid season hiccup where we lost 4 of 5 games and then a strong finish. All culminating in a second place finish and promotion to Division 1. We scored more runs than any other team in the division and were the second best team at preventing runs.

Division 3

We had a much more successful campaign than in 2023. We won 7 games and lost 8. We were a mid table team in the big division that started the season and it was always likely that we would find life tough if (as indeed happened) we were in the top half of the table after the split. We finished bottom of the small post split 3rd division but wins in our last two games showed that we were still able to compete against the top Tuesday teams.

Tournaments

The tournaments we didn't get a chance to enter were perhaps as big a feature of this season as the ones that did take place. With no 2 day Leeds tournament, no North West series and no 2 day Liverpool tournament we had more weekends off than usual this year. Highlight of the tournaments we DID enter was Manchester where we won the Silver Cup with a series of impressive performances.

Division 2

01/05/24 Tigers @ Screwballs

This game was tied after 3 innings but the Tigers ran away with it in the second half, ending via the mercy rule after 6 innings. Defensively we were solid throughout and once the bats came to life we claimed a comfortable win.

OBP leaders were Rich T (6 for 6) and Simon (5 for 5) with each of them also hitting a Grand Slam. Rich also hit for the cycle – going walk, single, double, triple, Home Run and then another single.

In the field TK played well on 1st Simon took some nice catches in the outfield, Ed turned a couple of double plays at short and everyone contributed to an impressive defensive performance.

Tigers	0	6	0	4	10	5	25
Screwballs	2	2	2	0	1	3	10

Tigers MVPs were TK and Rich T

08/05/24 Tigers v Bats

The Bats were ahead early in this game but the Tigers kept it tight. We nudged ahead in the bottom of the 4th and an 8 run bottom of the 6th sealed the win.

OBP leaders was Simon who went 5 for 5 for the 2nd week in succession. Best of the rest were Ed and Anissa , both 4 for 5. Home Run Heroes were Rich G. and guest Karin who each homered in the big 6th inning.

In the field everyone contributed to an efficient defensive performance with Simon energetic at short stop, Caroline efficient at first and Matt taking a couple of good catches late on in right centre.

Bats	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	10
Tigers	2	1	2	4	1	8	X	18

Tigers MVPs were Caroline and Rich G

29/05/24 – Tigers v Mavericks 2

After the customary slow start the Tigers ran away with this one. An eleven run top of the 3rd decided the game with the Mavericks never looked like being able to get back into contention.

Ollie was the OBP leader, going 4 for 4 in his first game of the season. Our only Home Run Hero was Rich T whose 2 run shot in the 3rd started off the scoring in our big inning.

In the field Ollie played well at 3rd, Rich G pitched a good game, Rich T did a good job at short and Simon provided vocal encouragement from the sidelines.

Mavericks 2	2	2	1	0	1	0	3	9
Tigers	0	0	11	4	9	2	X	17

Tigers MVPs were Sara and Ollie

05/06/24 – Tigers @ Stingers

Traffic problems that prevented Sara from getting to the ground meant Tigers had to play with an automatic out in this game but the Stingers weren't able to capitalise on their advantage as they went down to a heavy 5 inning defeat.

An eleven run top of the 1st set the tone with the Stingers never looking likely to come back into contention, though a 7 run rally in the 4th did mean that they managed to take the game into a 5th inning.

In the field Simon pitched a good game, Holly did a fine job at catcher and everyone else played their part in an efficient performance. OBP leaders were Anissa (6 for 6) and guest Lisa (5 for 5), only 1 home run despite the heavy scoring with Ed claiming the prize.

Tigers	11	1	11	4	5	32
Stingers	0	0	2	7	1	10

Tigers MVPs were Holly and Ollie

12/06/24 – Tigers @ Titans

All good things come to an end and after four wins on the bounce to start the season the Tigers were second best in this game. There was plenty of effort and a good 6 run rally in the top of the 4th but overall the Titans were the better team both with the bats and in the field.

OBP leader was Rich T who went 4 for 4, home run hero was Simon with a 2 run shot that started the 4th inning rally. In the field TK did a good job at 1st Tash took a couple of nice catches, Matt did a good job at 2nd and later in right centre helping to start a complicated double play in the 6th involving multiple throws before an eventual tag out at 2nd.

Tigers	1	1	0	6	0	0	1	9
Titans	4	1	4	1	3	2	X	15

Tigers MVPs were TK and Matt

19/06/24 – Tigers v Thunder 2

The first game of the double header was a 6 inning affair. Thunder had a big second inning, we came back in the middle part of the game to come within 2 runs after 4 but Thunder pulled away again in the last two innings courtesy of some impressive hitting coupled with some defensive errors on our part.

Simon was our offensive star batting 1000 (4 for 4) with 3 Home Runs. Defensive stand out was Nadia who had a fine game on first. TK made a nice tag at home.

Thunder 2	4	9	1	1	5	6	26
Tigers	3	6	2	2	3	1	17

Tigers MVPs were Nadia and Simon

19/06/24 – Tigers @ Speeders

Speeders took an early lead in this game, the Tigers bats came to life in the 3rd innings and we scored steadily from there on in but the Speeders bats stayed lively and they kept hold of their lead for the rest of the game.

OBP leader was Rich G who went 4 for 4, In the field it was TK's turn to have a fine game at 1st with Simon making some good plays at short stop and Harry being the stand out in the outfield.

In many ways the two games felt similar, we made some good plays and had our moments but couldn't keep the other team's scoring under control.

Tigers	0	0	4	5	5	0	3	17
Speeders	1	4	4	7	4	1	X	21

Tigers MVPs were TK and Simon

26/06/24 – Tigers @ Bats

Three strike outs in the top of the first didn't bode well for the rest of the game but we settled down after that and from thereon-in the game stayed close throughout with the lead changing hands several times with some impressive defensive plays from both sides. Tied at 10 apiece after 6 we scored 3 in the top of the 7th and that was just enough with the Bats managing only a solo Home Run in reply.

OBP leader was Rich T (3 for 3) with Simon and Ollie (each 3 for 4) not far behind. In the field Ollie did a good job at short stop, Nadia did a fine job at first and the whole team worked well together.

Tigers	0	2	4	0	2	2	3	13
Bats	3	0	1	4	1	1	1	11

Tigers MVPs were TK and Ollie

10/07/24 – Tigers v Speeders

It's not been long since the last game against the Speeders and as in the earlier game the Speeders jumped out to an early lead. Again as in the earlier contest the Tigers fought back and by the end of the 4th we'd reduced the deficit to a single run. That was as close as we got though with the Speeders scoring 4 in the top of the 5th to pull away again and they stayed in front for the rest of the game.

Normally reliable sources report that Bailey batted well. Simon had a lovely catch off the bat that looked like it had escaped him when it came out of his glove but that he then caught with his throwing hand. Harry fielded well in the outfield. and TK had a nice pick up on 1.

OBP leader was Ed (4 for 4) with Simon and Bailey (each 3 for 4) close behind.

Speeders	2	5	0	0	4	3	0	14
Tigers	0	0	3	3	1	3	0	10

Tigers MVPs were Bailey and Simon

17/07/24 G1 – Tigers @ Mavericks 2

This was a game we could have and possibly should have won but instead we lost it. In contrast to the last couple of weeks we took an early lead but then lost our way at bat with a couple of base running errors contributing to a 3 inning stretch in which we only scored 1 run.

In the field we played well for the most part with Holly's excellent left field catch a highlight but the wheels fell off in the bottom of the 5th and that inning left us facing too big a deficit to overcome in the rest of the game.

OBP leader was Simon who went 4 for 4 with Holly, Matt and Tash all going 3 for 4.

Tigers	3	4	0	1	0	4	1	13
Mavericks 2	2	2	1	0	10	0	-	15

Tigers MVPs were Caroline and Ed

17/07/24 G2 – Tigers v Screwballs

This was a game we could and possibly should have won but instead we lost it – I seem to have heard that before somewhere! This game followed a similar pattern to the first one, a strong start followed by a period where we went flat and contributed to our own downfall with some horrible base running errors that helped give the Screwballs the confidence to push on and seal the win. Fading light meant the game was called after 5 innings.

OBP leaders in this game were Simon, TK and Matt who all went 3 for 3. Home Run hero was Matt. Fielding highlight in this game was Caroline's fine take in right field.

Screwballs	2	2	6	2	1	13
Tigers	7	3	0	0	2	12

Tigers MVPs were Holly and Matt

24/07/24 Tigers v Stingers

This was the sort of game that does wonders for a team's batting stats. The Tigers took a big lead in the 1st innings, this was followed by a team chat about not get complacent, keeping it tight defensively and an 8 run inning for the Stingers (*ahem*), but after that we kept the pressure on, kept scoring big, were actually pretty decent defensively and finished the game off in fine style. Highlight of the evening was Caroline's first ever Home Run which helped set up the big first inning.

The only bad moment of the night was the Stingers young outfielder Rory taking a ball to the head in the field in the bottom of the 4th. He went down, got up, tried to carry on but had to leave the field. Happily he has since made a full recovery.

OBP leaders were Ed and Ollie who each went 5 for 5. Guest Maddie was also perfect at the plate (4 for 4). Caroline wasn't the only Home Run Hero, Rich G., Rich T and Ollie claimed 1 apiece with Ed getting a pair of 4 baggers. In the field Ollie was the king of the outfield and Tash did some good work at 2nd.

Stingers	**0**	**8**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**13**
Tigers	**9**	**8**	**3**	**9**	**X**	**29**

Tigers MVPs were Caroline and Ollie

31/07/24 Tigers v Titans

This was a close fought affair for the first 3 and ½ innings but the Tigers then seized control with a 10 run bottom of the fourth. The Titans showed a bit of life in the top of 5th but another big batting performance in the bottom of the inning closed the game out.

OBP leader was Oli (4 for 4), best of the rest were Rich G., Anissa and Simon who all went 4 for 5. In the field guest Ben and Tigger Josh both made some nice plays and everyone else contributed to a fine defensive performance that kept a powerful looking Titans offence under control.

Titans	4	0	1	0	3	8
Tigers	4	2	0	10	7	23

Tigers MVPs were Anissa and Ben

07/08/24 Tigers @ Thunder 2

Thunder took an early lead in this game but we came back in the 4th and from the end of the 5th on there was nothing to separate the teams at the end of each successive inning. Two exciting extra innings still didn't supply a winner and darkness meant the game ended in a tie.

OBP leaders were Ed and Rich G. who each went 4 for 5.In the field TK was reliable as ever at first, Rich G pitched a good game and Harry was the pick of the outfield.

Tigers	0	2	0	6	3	0	2	3	1	17
Thunder 2	0	5	0	4	2	0	2	3	1	17

Tigers MVPs were Anissa and Rich G

14/08/24 Tigers v Titans

The Titans took an early lead in this game but a 7 run top of the 4th gave us a healthy advantage we never looked like surrendering. Fading light was getting the Blu twitchy in the 6th but a 10 run top of the inning followed by a quick 3 outs at the cost of only 1 run in the bottom of the inning saved him from having to make a call as the mercy rule kicked in. The second promotion spot in Division 2 is going down to the wire with 3 teams currently tied in 2nd place.

OBP leader was Rich G. (5 for 5) with Simon and TK (each 5 for 5) close behind. There were lots of home runs, Simon, Ed and Sara hit 1 apiece whilst Ollie hit a pair. In the field the bone dry field caused a few interesting bounces but we were generally efficient keeping the Titans to only 2 runs over the last 4 innings of the game.

Tigers	**1**	**2**	**4**	**7**	**1**	**10**	**26**
Titans	**3**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**10**

Tigers MVPs were Sara and Simon

21/08/24 Tigers @ Thunder 2

A high scoring, evenly balanced game that ended in a 1 run Tigers win when bad light brought the action to a close after 5 innings. The second promotion spot is still up for grabs and all will be decided in the final round of games.

OBP leaders were Bailey and Ollie who each went 4 for 4. Home Run heroes were Simon and Rich G with 1 apiece. Everyone worked hard in the field. Nadia deserves special mention for taking a couple of nice catches on pop ups behind home plate.

Tigers	7	5	0	2	4	18
Thunder 2	6	2	4	2	3	17

Tigers MVPs were Bailey and Simon

28/08/24 Tigers v Speeders

The Speeders took an early lead in this game but they found it almost impossible to score any more runs after the first two innings and we gradually overhauled them and then without ever having a big inning we slowly built a decisive lead.

Ollie, Sara, Harry and Bailey were joint OBP leaders, all going 3 for 4. In the field Rich G. pitched a good game, Ollie did nice work at short stop, Nadia impressed at first, Anissa made some good plays at 3rd and all the outfield worked hard. Defensive highlights included 2 double plays, one well turned, one slightly dubious!

The win meant we finished second in Division 2 and won promotion to Division 1. Next year the Tigers will play in Division 1 for the first time, assuming a pandemic doesn't get in the way!

Speeders	5	2	0	1	0	0	2	10
Tigers	2	2	3	2	2	4	X	15

Tiggers MVPs were Sara and Rich G

Tigers Stats (10 pa minimum)

	App	PA	OBP	HR	C	P	1	2	3	SS	LF	LC	RC	RF	EP
Ed	12	54	685	4				3		6	1	1	1		
Harry	11	43	558									5	6		
Matt	8	32	719	1				2	1		1		3	1	
Oli	13	57	719	3					2	5		2	3	1	
Rich G.	14	56	679	3		13		1							
Rich T.	12	53	642	3				4	1	2	1	3			1
Simon	16	71	775	7		4		2		4		4			2
Anissa	10	46	587						8					1	1
Bailey	14	63	603		6		2		5						1
Caroline	12	49	490	1			2				2		2	5	1
Holly	7	31	355		3			1			2	1			
Nadia	9	36	500		2		4	2						1	
Sara	6	25	560								5	1			
Tash	11	45	467		1			1			4		1	4	
TK	13	56	536		4		9								

Others

Ben 3/4 (1 2B)
Josh 2/4 (1 RC)
Karin 2/4 (1 RF)
Lisa 2/3 (1 C, 1 RF)
Maddy 2/7 (1 RF)

Tigers Division 2 results

1st May 2024	Screwballs	W 25-10
8th May 2024	Bats	W 18-10
29th May 2024	Mavericks II	W 17-9
5th Jun 2024	Stingers	W 32-10
12th Jun 2024	Titans	L 9-15
19th Jun 2024 G1	Thunder II	L 17-26
19th Jun 2024 G2	Speeders	L 17-21
3rd Jul 2024	Bats	W 13-11
10th Jul 2024	Speeders	L 10-14
17th Jul 2024 G1	Mavericks II	L 13-15
17th Jul 2024 G2	Screwballs	L 11-12
24th Jul 2024	Stingers	W 29-13
31st Jul 2024	Titans	W 23-8
7th Aug 2024	Thunder II	T 17-17
14th Aug 2024	Titans	W 26-10
21st Aug 2024	Thunder II	W 18-17
28th Aug 2024	Speeders	W 15-10

	W	T	L	RS	RC	%age
Thunder II (C)	11	3	3	302	211	.735
Tigers (P)	**10**	**1**	**6**	**311**	**228**	**.618**
Titans	9	1	7	273	240	.559
Speeders	8	1	8	225	249	.500
Mavericks II	9	0	8	287	254	.529
Didsbury Bats	8	0	9	210	244	.471
Screwballs	6	0	11	270	308	.353
Stingers	4	0	13	193	337	.235

Division 3

30/04/24 Tiggers v Sluggababes (friendly)

The one week delay in the start of the Division 3 season meant that the Tiggers ended up playing Sluggababes in a 5 inning laid back friendly instead. The game gave us the opportunity to shake off a few cobwebs, hit a few balls and try some people in different fielding positions, all under the flightpath for Manchester airport!

Jen made her pitching debut, Georgia had some time at first, Josh did some good work at short stop, Dave pitched a couple of innings and Aiden sat on the sidelines wondering why we were all waving at him, that is Aiden played at catcher and (after a short delay) third.

OBP leaders were Josh (4 for 4), Georgia and Aiden (both 3 for 3). Our one Home Run Hero was Josh, leading off the 3rd with a 4 bagger.

Nayaab played her first outdoor game and Holly got a sneaky bit of pre season practice before the Division 2 opening day game.

No box score or MVPs because it wasn't that sort of game.

07/05/24 Tiggers v Phoenix Fireballs

As per usual, the Tiggers had a rocky start to the game but then pull it together in the end to come through with a win. It didn't help that I was late turning up (don't book vet appointments at 5:30 on a Tuesday), thus missing the top of the 1st inning. Fortunately, we had two newcomers to the team, Charlotte and Leon, as well as our new signer, Nayaab, join us for the game, so we have enough people to field, unfortunately, allowing 2 runs to the Fireballs before we could get the 3rd out. And then when it was our turn to bat, we could get on the board. In fact, we were unlucky in scoring runs until the bottom of the 4th, giving away two more runs to the Fireballs, although they had a young buck up to bat who smash a beautiful hit in the centre field creating a 2-run homerun for the Fireballs. However, Josh did not allow for the young buck to get past him a second time when the young blud came up to bat in the 6th inning. However, that is not to say that the fielding wasn't great because it was! Our new guy, Leon on short stop was awesome, along with a sure-fire throw to 1st base nearly every time, he also provided us with our first run of the game in the 4th inning. Also, we had a proficient 3rd basewoman who caught a foul ball as well as missed an opportunity to dive spectacularly for another foul ball. As before mentioned we had Josh catch a lovely fly ball in outfield, and if any of our fielders were unlucky to catch the batter out, they valiantly stuck with the ball to prevent excessive runs against us.

However, the big turnaround came in the 5th inning. James replaced Dave at 1st and when he came up to bat, we were already two down with two runners on base when James hit a beautiful homerun, bringing us level with the Fireballs. Subsequently, each batter came up to the plate and produced base hit after base hit, including myself. It was while I was on first base, Josh came up to bat, he hit a beautiful ball into left field, when I got to second, I had a look to see that an error was made by the fielders, and I thought I had time to carry on to third. So, I ran. And I nearly made it, but the fielders we're quick to get the ball to the third baseman, but as I was approaching, I again began to lose my footing, causing another slow-motion fall to the ground narrowly avoiding the third baseman and crawling to the base for the umpire to declare me safe on third. My first ever base steal and we later went on to score 6 runs in the 5th inning.

In the 6th inning, we managed to keep the Fireballs to a maximum 2-run inning. And then striking back with 4 runs of our own, cementing our lead. This time, we had Charlotte up to bat, with Nayaab and James on base. She hit a beautiful ball into the outfield, and again due to some errors by the fireballs and some speedy legs from Nayaab and James, Charlotte's one base hit allowed a 2-run score for our team. We were able to shut down the Fireballs with a 1-run inning in the top of the 7th, allowing for ballgame to be called without having to bat in the bottom of the 7th.

Overall, a great official start to the season. Unfortunately, we are following the pattern of a rocky beginning to a game and then bringing it together towards the end which has often bitten us in the butt in the past, not allowing us enough time to catch the other team and supersede them. Therefore, we need to stay consistent. Attend practice as much as we can, if that isn't possible, practice when and where you can. I'm not saying we're looking to build ourselves up to Div. 1 or 2 level but stay consistent and have a hell of a lot of fun doing it. It was a great game. Keep it going Tiggers.

Jenn

OBP leaders were Amy, Charlotte and James. Our Home Run Hero was James with a 3 run shot that turned the game around in our favour in the 5th.

Fireballs	**2**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**7**
Tiggers	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**4**	**X**	**11**

Tiggers MVPs were Becky and Leon

14/05/24 – Tiggers @ Seagulls

So, we shall begin with our hard-won victory, our undefeated record continues. I've also been reliably informed that we have matched our winning record of last season with the first two games this season Theonlywayisup! A very promising start to the season which (touch wood) looks to continue for the foreseeable future… Although, we have a deserter in our ranks, another one moving to the dark side… BenedictArnold

Unfortunately, I didn't steal any bases, I didn't even get on base (their SS was too good for my batting); therefore, I can't just talk about me in this edition, I'll have to mention the others on this team, ugh I know, I know, it's as disappointing for me as it is for you.

As the away team, we were up to bat first which we found was not that easy and it was only Harry (who will forever be known as Benedict) who scored a run for us. Then, in the bottom of the 1st, we were rusty in getting started and allowed 4 runs to go by before we could get the third out. However, we persevered and gave as good as we got. We performed brilliantly in our fielding. Again, out short stop Leon was quick to the short balls and his accurate throwing was spot on again. Lynsey did brilliantly at 1st, with Amy showing more confidence on 2nd. Hats off to Josh on 3rd who was unlucky in a few plays but honestly, the ball wasn't sticking to the gloves on several occasions. In fact, in the bottom of the second inning, Carl from the Seagulls came up to bat with Gemma on 1st. He hit a corker over the top of James's head in Right Centre, however, James's speedy legs and killer arm got the ball to Leon and then Leon threw a beautifully accurate ball to me at home from the outfield in which I nearly got Carl out if the ball had just stuck to the glove. Although two runners later Leon and Lynsey were able to perform a brilliant double play ending the inning.

James, Connor and Benedict worked well in the outfield on a rotation. Charlotte and Nayaab did well in Right Field and Becky held up in Left Field considering it's been a hot minute since she's played in the outfield. We all fielded very well in this game. We held them the whole game causing a final inning showdown in the 7th inning. We were tied 12-12 at the top of the 7th, and our homerun hero, Leon, came up to bat with 2 outs already preceding him with Josh on base. Leon hit a beautiful ball into the Right Centre and the Seagulls did not have the talent in fielding as we did, and so Leon and Josh were able to easily get home scoring our 2 and only runs the 7th. So, we had one job to do in the bottom of the 7th, hold the Seagulls.

Gemma was up first and hit a beautiful ball right into Leon's glove, boosting us with confidence. Unfortunately, their home run hero, Carl, came up to bat and stuck again, close the gap on our lead. However, we kept our heads and were able to shut them down with a narrow victory.

Special mention needs to be made to our (honorary?) el capitan. In the top of the 5th, as Steve was running to 1st the ball thrown from SS hit him right in the Achilles heel, injuring him. Fortunately, Dave subbed as pitcher

for him in the bottom of the 5th. However, the mighty el capitan was not going to allow some measly injury keep him down and he gallantly came back in the top of the 6th to finish out the game.

I'm so proud of the Tiggers and the perseverance we have shown so far in this season. Keep it up, and as it was mentioned in the pub, after the game surrounded by our free chip butties, we must remember these good times for when it does get tough (because it will) to keep our head in the game and never get up! Well done this week team!! And Benedict, you better show baby face at most of our games, and bring your bat, Lynsey needs it…

Jenn

OBP leaders were Steve and Josh, who each went 4 for 4. Home Run Hero was Leon with his all important 2 run shot in the top of the 7th, and special mention should be made of Conor's mighty hit that ended up oin the pitch 3 diamond but was unfortunately foul.

Tiggers	**1**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**14**
Seagulls	**4**	**3**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**13**

Tiggers MVPs were Lynsey and Leon

21/05/24 – Tiggers @ Thunder IV

After a gloriously sunny, warm afternoon, we arrived at Parrs Wood to a nice overcast cool evening: "perfect softball weather". While sizing up the competition, we knew we needed to keep our heads about us because they did have some experienced players mixed in with some rookies, therefore we could be in for a sneaky surprise.

As the away team, we were up to bat in the top of the 1st. We showed great promise with our batting against a new pitcher. We scored 3 runs with no dramatics and held the opposition beautifully to a 0-3 inning.

Despite this, we brought the drama in the 2nd inning. Nayaab had an unlucky out at first base, but Aiden thankfully brought the dramatics by hitting the ball to their pitcher who easily fielded it to first. But his body couldn't keep up with his speedy little legs and instead of a slide (which he is infamously known for), Aiden did a beautiful head over heels roll about a yard short of the base. Two batters up and two batters down, it was not looking good for us.

Next up was our own rookie, Jess, debuting for the Tiggers and she didn't disappoint with a beautiful base hit. Now we were back to the top of the order with our pitcher, Steve, moaning (as per usual :P) about being up to bat with two outs and awful this and awful that, yada yada yada… and gets walked to first… men (insert eye roll)! By this time our fair-weathered fan decided to turn up (luckily the weather was adequate for him…), again, another eye roll and another exasperated sigh! Men!

Next up, our trusty female batter, and often OBP winner for the Tigger females (yes, I put that out there after just 3 games, no pressure Lyns!), who again did not disappoint with a base hit. Now for the second dramatic performance of this inning, Leon, our golden boy rookie of the season, comes up to bat and hits a fantastic ball into outfield giving us a lovely grand slam home run. Which just goes to show you (Steve), being two down and coming up to bat don't mean a thing! However, our glory didn't last long, and it was soon the bottom of the 2nd. Thunder put up a gallant fight with a lovely home run from Jamie, putting them on the scoreboard. But our fielding held strong, and we were able to move the game swiftly into the 3rd inning.

Now the top of 3rd saw our biggest scoring inning. We were consistent with our base hits. Patient for the right pitch. We scored 9 runs and managed to go through the complete batting order. Kudos to Thunder for keeping their heads up and only giving up 9 runs, I can remember last season giving up double figure runs in an inning

and the utter defeat you can feel when the 3 outs are finally attained, and they still managed to score two more runs against us in the bottom of the 3rd. This inning also saw some controversy in a possible tag made by the Thunder shortstop on a Tigger as well as not controversially our teammate Emma come to support us, giving us an extra boost to the morale.

The 4th inning saw 2 beautiful homeruns for the Tiggers. Not to take away from the glory of Josh's homerun, the first of the inning, but it somehow managed to roll from outfield through the opened gate onto the football pitches guaranteeing enough time to run the bases. Our second homerun of the inning was made by our mighty pitcher, his first homerun in three years, a beauty even though he again was coming up to bat with two outs already…don't think he should be moaning about the pressure now… just saying. Then a walk for Lyns and an unfortunate out for Leon who accidentality stepped out of the batting box, he was well on his way to third base by the time the news set in.

Editors note: Leon didn't step out of the box until well after hitting the ball, not the only "interesting" call made during this game.

The 5th and final inning was short and sweet with zero runs for either side as the score was now 5-20. Therefore, game was called high-fives commenced, and the highlight of the night: pub and chip butties!

Well done Tiggers another great game. Another great team effort. Thank you to Jess for joining us this week, we hope to see you around more. Becky and Leon made a great team on third and shortstop, with Becky catching 3 fly balls catching the eye of Thunder in appointing her MVP. Lyns made a beautiful catch on first. In fact, many of our successes were down to great catching in the infield and outfield. Some great pitching by Steve getting the batters to swing under the ball allowing these catches to be possible, a great asset to the team. Nayaab played really well in right field and Conner did well on second even if he did drop the ball after tagging a runner…

Tiggers, we have already superseded our wins from last season, so we can relax now, coast for the rest of the season, no need to put in so much effort… KIDDING!! Stay positive, keep going to practice (no Dave, do not give me the side eye! I see you!) and just keep having fun and being respectful. Well done team!

Jenn

OBP leaders were Steve and Lynsey (each 4 for 4). Home run Heroes were Steve, Josh and Grand Slam hitting Leon with 1 apiece.

Tiggers	**3**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**0**	**20**
Thunder IV	**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**5**

Tiggers MVPs were Becky and Josh

04/06/24 – Tiggers @ Raiders

We came in a bit wobbly as we were down our pitcher (who was on his holidays, insert eye roll!), and Lyns on her hols as well (I'm assuming…?) The weather wasn't helpful either as it was torrential showers on and off all day thus leaving the ground wet and slippy. Furthermore, this ensured that our fair-weather fan wasn't going to join (I mean support!) us, and we lost our first game of the season… coincidence? I'll let you decide…

However, this should not in the slightest take away from the maiden game of our Emma returning from injury and Rob L who has joined the light side and was a superstar on first base. Furthermore, we had a beautiful inspirational pep talk from Becky… it was something to do with basketball and goals and patience and yada yada yada… was anyone listening? I'm kidding!! Our PE teacher took the awkward silence bull by the horns and ran with it!

The 1st inning didn't see anything inspirational, the raiders held us and we very likely could have held them at zero too if the ground wasn't so slippy. (That's my story and I'm sticking to it!)

The 2nd inning saw us fielding better with a beautiful play from Leon, our shortstop, to first base and a glorious sliding catch from Leon just behind second base. To be fair we didn't do too bad fielding-wise we held them well the first 3 innings only giving away 5 runs.

Then the top of the 4th saw us finally get on the scoreboard, but not just with one or two runs, a whopping 6 run inning, putting us in the lead for the first time. Unfortunately, the Raiders were just the better team at the end of the day. We also managed to give away 11 runs in the bottom of the 5th inning, thus sealing our defeat for the evening… But like I said, we did do some good fielding, including yours truly getting a bunted ball (*we will not mention the girl who only bunted the whole game, Dave might insert an editor's note here about the awful umpiring…?)* and throwing it to first for an out, as well as making a couple of good outs at home plate, including preventing Richard from a homerun, I couldn't manage to get the runners in front of him, but I stopped him from getting home (insert a proud smirk). I know I'm mostly patting my own back, but we have been working well as a team, the key is consistency and confidence. We have some great players who have what it takes, don't be afraid to get in there and make plays happen.

Nevertheless, as Dave put it: "there's no shame in being beaten by a better team, onwards and upwards." Keep going to practice, and again, we've already beaten our winning record from last season (the bright side), so just enjoy yourselves. Although the pub did not have chip butties this week!! Very disappointing… Oh well, bring on next week!

Jenn

OBP leader was Dave (2 for 2)and our sole Home Run hero was Josh who hit a four bagger in the 6th.

Tiggers	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**7**
Raiders	**3**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**11**	**2**	**22**

Tiggers MVPs were Jennifer and Leon

11/06/24 – Tiggers v Barflies

This week we walked into a very unusual situation where we had too many ladies and only five guys (no not the burger joint, though really good burgers, highly recommend). Our mighty pitcher, Steve, has been ill for a week or more and we all wish him a safe and speedy, not just because we want our pitcher… okay no that's not true, we really, really want our pitcher back! We thankfully had trusty Dave to step in for us, and surprise! surprise! Rob came in in the bottom of the sixth to pitch for us, doing a stellar job I might add!!

However, again Barflies were the better team on the day, they had many cracking (pun intended) hitters and with an eight run second inning for them, and the fact that we couldn't respond in the third and fourth inning sealed our fate.

We had some good plays, Emma doing well in right field, even with the poo debacle. Leon doing very well at shortstop, diving for a fly ball, slamming into the ground that I even felt from the side lines! Becky played well

at 3rd, catching a couple of fly balls, though no dives from her for those foul balls (shaking my head in disappointment). Amy and Josh were kept very busy in left field. Conor and Lyns did very well at second, and Charlotte was good as catcher.

Overall, we played well, we were down by 13 runs at one point and managed to come back to a respectable (?) 9 run loss. Furthermore, kudos to the cheering squad, our fair-weather fan turned up and the scorer nearly froze to death, but man was she loud! Keep your heads up team and we'll see you next week!

Jenn

OBP leader this week was Josh who batted 1000 (5 for 5), Home Run Heroes were Josh and Leon with 1 apiece.

Barflies	**2**	**8**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**25**
Tiggers	**3**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**3**	**16**

Tiggers MVPs were Becky and Leon

18/06/24 – Tiggers @ Freeze

Now that Summer has finally (?) arrived we play a team called Freeze… A Div 2 team that potentially could have given us a run for our money and by the end of the 3rd inning it wasn't looking so good for us. And where was our fair-weather fan!?

If the catcher hadn't of gone for the tag with bases loaded in the bottom of the 1st, we could have held them further back. But over all we did some very good fielding. Third base coaching could have gone a bit better; I unknowingly instigated an injury for James by making him go home for a close but successful homerun in the top of 2nd. Another third base coach, whom shall not be named (Con), told Georgia to go home and she barely squeaked by because the catcher dropped the ball, then told Steve to go three batters later causing a tag and third out in the top of the 4th. However, the 4th inning was also the start of our road to victory. Our batting improved, we continued our strong defence and landed our fourth victory. We're on our way back to the top of the division!

We had a beautiful home run from Josh in the top of the 5th and another 4-run scoring inning in the 6th. Great work team, keep it up!

Jenn

OBP leader this week was Steve who batted 800 (4 for 5)), Home Run Heroes were Josh and James with 1 apiece. In the field Becky did good work at 3rd, substitute James had a fine game at short stop and Lynsey had a good game at 1st.

Tiggers	**0**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**10**
Freeze	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**

Tiggers MVPs were Lynsey and James

25/06/24 Tiggers @ Hackers

We knew this would be a tough game when arriving tonight as the Hackers were in Div 2 last year and currently top of the league. Furthermore, they had two ringers with Div 2 and Div 1 guests. But that didn't stop us from keeping our heads and scoring well in the top of the 1st. Unfortunately, we were up against some very big hitters who could place the ball well into our gaps in the outfield. However, saying that, kudos to our outfield who stuck with the ball and managed to do some good fielding.

Regrettably, our umpire was consistently good at making bad calls. His strike zone appeared to change from one pitch to the next and he ill-advisably called Aiden out at second when the second-base woman was clearly a foot away the base. In my opinion, if I was the second-base woman I would have admitted to the error, we're in Div 3 (!), I would hope we would all agree we come to have fun, and yes it does get competitive, and I'll be the first to admit that I'm one of the people who gets emotionally involved, but let's be fair and honest about these things. Then the umpire reprimanded Leon for leaving his bat in the batter's box (which isn't illegal) but threatened to call him out for it. I could rant on and on about this but that would make for a boring Tiger Talk.

We made some good plays, Aiden nearly gave us all a heart attack when he caught a fly ball at third, then nearly dropped it. Amy played well at second, making a great recovery when she dropped a fly ball, but still managed to get the batter out at first! Lyns did very well at first, making some great plays as well as backing up the catcher when needed. Our outfield rotated out as we were batting 6 and 6; and did well covering the field. Leon was fab at shortstop, catching a few fly balls and getting the ball to where it needed to be. And the catcher did all right, no major plays were made at home, though she did catch a beautiful fly ball off the bat, but it was the 3rd strike any way and not necessary to catch, but she did it!!

I must make a special note here to our pitcher as I regrettably did not give him a mention last week after returning from two weeks off (faking illness?). Up until today, we had won every game he pitched in. Steve is reliable and consistent in his pitching, and definitely gives us an edge that other teams in the league do not have. We missed you a great deal Steve and are very glad to have you back. You are not the invisible man. (If I've missed anyone this week it was not intentional!! :P) (*I do love the way Jenn keeps implying my pitching is rubbish :-) - Ed*)

In true Tigger form, we made a very impressive comeback in the top of the 7th. I was first up to bat and jokingly said we only need 9 runs to tie, easy. And we did make it look easy. We managed to go right the way around the batting order and scored an impressive 10 run inning. Unfortunately though, we were unable to hold them in the bottom of the 7th and they beat us by 2 runs. But man was it exciting, and it felt good to make the team at the top of the league sweat!

We had a lovely cheering squad as well. Apparently, 27C was agreeable enough weather for our fair-weathered fan to come out. As well as James' girlfriend coming out to cheer us on, although she might not want to come back since every game she's watched, we've lost… Please come back! It's not you, we promise!

Great work tonight team. You should be proud of yourselves. Focus on the positives and learn from the negatives. Bring on the next game!

Jenn

Tiggers	**6**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**2**	**10**	**24**
Hackers	**4**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**3**	**6**	**2**	**25**

Tiggers MVPs were Amy and Leon

02/07/24 Tiggers @ Thunder 3

After a few weeks of having too many girls for each game, this week we were down to batting 5 and 5 with no spare girls. We knew we were up against some big hitters even though we were ahead of them in the league. As the away team, we were up to bat first and showed a promising start with our batting skills scoring 3 runs and then holding Thunder with a 0-run start. Awkwardly, the battle well and truly began after the 1st inning. We held the lead up until the 3rd inning, regrettably due to some slow fielding and a 3-run scoring home run from the opposition set us behind and we couldn't seem to comeback from, despite James having 2 homeruns this game.

Going into the top of the 7th inning we were only 5 runs behind and had a golden opportunity to have another epic comeback like last week. So, we were going to play cautious. Play for the base runs. Ineffectually, our esteemed pitcher decided to take it upon himself to steal third base with 2 outs already, thus ending any attempt at a comeback, but he sure as hell enjoyed himself.

Overall, we played well and without a few fielding errors, we could have had a closer loss or even have won the game. But well played all the same Tiggers!

Jenn

OBP leader was Josh (4 for 4) closely followed by Lynsey and Steve (each 4 for 5). James was our Home Run Hero with a pair, one of which went about 250' further than the other! In the field James looked good at short and Lynsey at 1st and Becky at 3rd also stood out.

Tiggers	**3**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**10**
Thunder 3	**0**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**X**	**15**

Tiggers MVPs were Becky and James

09/07/24 Tiggers v Bandidos

Our trusty pitcher Steve stepped up to the plate as Captain tonight for us because Dave has the Covid (or just skiving?). (*Hmm, Ed*) Steve came in with a strategy: a tight and strong outfield and orange socks. As the home team we stormed it in the first inning, holding the opposition to 0 runs as well as gaining 2 runs of our own in the bottom of the first. We were feeling confident and holding our own, getting 2 outs in the top of the second in short succession. Unfortunately, our fielding became shaky, and we let 8 runs through before getting the third and final out. Then our batting let us down with yours truly sending the ball to shortstop allowing a double play and it appeared to just go downhill from there.

Fortunately, we stayed in the game and didn't allow the deficit to get to us, even if there was a dispute to the score during the fourth inning. Even though there was a beautiful slide into third by Becky and a lovely 2-run homerun from James. I think we were able to shake the confidence of the opposition by the fifth inning when their fielding bumbled the ball allowing a home run for Steve, who isn't doing too shabby in the home run department this season.

Our fielding improved by the sixth inning; we were able to hold the Bandidos to tie the game up in the seventh inning. For agreeing to start the game early because of the football, we sure do know how to drag things out. But just saying, Nacho, who was eager to catch the Spanish game, could have dropped the ball in the seventh, allowing me to get to third and eventually home. They just extended the inevitable and only have themselves to blame!! :P

The eighth inning saw us allowing only 1 run through for the opposition and with a sensational second home run from James, which doesn't count in the end, but enabled Charlotte to get home, sealing our victory over the Bandidos.

We had some good fielding this game, good strategy from the pitcher, walking some big hitters in the fourth inning. We made it count when we needed it to count, our fielding improved when it needed to improve, our batting was good and consistent, Emma had some belters, Charlotte made it count in the end when we needed it with scoring the winning run. Aiden did well at third, nearly catching a beautiful fly ball, an unlucky drop. James did very well at shortstop. Lynsey and Amy made a great team at first and second, with Amy making a beautiful fly ball catch in the first inning. And our outfield was strong up against some heavy hitters. A great game and boost to the moral! Well done team! Keep it going!

Jenn

OBP leader was Josh (4 for 4) closely followed by Lynsey (4 for 5). Home Run Heroes were James and Steve with 1 apiece.

Bandidos	**0**	**8**	**0**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**17**
Tiggers	**2**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**18**

Tiggers MVPs were Emma and James

16/07/24 Tiggers v Sluggababes

A fairly cold, blustery evening for softball, but we were pumped and ready to take on the Sluggababes with a guaranteed (according to Bases Loaded) place in Div 3. However, Steve regaled us with a one in a million scenario in which we could finish in Div 4. All very conspiracy theorist if you ask me… Furthermore, before the game started there was also a bit of controversy over the line-up and positions as we were down to only 4 girls with Bailey coming in as our knight-in-shining-armor (she's American, I'm American, I can spell it that way :P).

We started out strong taking the lead in the 2nd inning. And to be fair our fielding was very good just a bit slow in getting the ball in. we were within 1-2 runs at the end of each inning. We played really well. Steve was brilliant n his pitching, as per usual (you're not allowed to retire… I will hunt you down, at least not until you train a protégé!) Lynsey was great at first. Charlotte did well as catcher. Connor and James made a great team at second and short respectively. Our outfield was very good, with Josh catching 2 of Joe's belters into right centre, Emma was awesome in left field, Bailey (our saviour (*One American spelling was enough ta, Ed*)) did well in right field and Rob was aces at left centre. And yours truly, was on third. The last time I played third, I don't think I was all that great at it. But on Tuesday I think I did alright, stopped a few balls, threw a couple of outs to second base and really should have had the tag on third, but hey ho, not all the calls could go my way.

We did very well, you should be proud of yourselves. Kate, who has now become our most dedicated fan (Harry-who?), was in attendance, it was probably more to do with James, but I won't take it personally. :P

Dave was back and a special appearance from Rich G, I think just trying to poach more of our players, but we'll take it. Our cheer-squad is getting bigger! Even though it was a loss, we should be proud of our performance. We're in Div 3!!!

Jenn

OBP leader was Lynsey (5 for 5). Steve and Emma (4 for 5) were best of the rest.

Sluggababes	**2**	**2**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**14**
Tiggers	**2**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**12**

Tiggers MVPs were Lynsey and Steve

23/07/24 Tiggers v Hackers

We were pumped and ready Tuesday night since our elevation (?) (promotion?) to Div 3. As we sat around shooting the breeze, the competition was warming up, doing laps, practising batting… we were clearly the more prepped team of the two. I feel like it all started out quite casual, the blue wasn't pushing us to start on dot, we weren't itching to know the line-up, just all very chill. Furthermore, we had a new cheer squad this week, Rob's son and Emma's fiancé, no offence to Zoe, Matt was way cutter and much more vocal, which in my opinion is needed in the game of softball… but what do I know…? :P

We started off strong as the fielding team coming up against some heavy batters, only allowing 3 runs past us and the scoring an impressive 4 runs in the bottom of the first. Unfortunately, I wasn't fast enough getting to 3rd base allowing the double play… I know I've mentioned bleep tests before but who has the time!?

Then we just stagnated for four innings in a row. I think (but I don't know, we'll have to ask the editor for his opinion (*not scoring any runs in 5 of the 7 innings is not normally a recipe for success - Ed*)), however, our batting let us down this game. Even though we seemed a bit shaky with our fielding (must shout for the ball louder) we shut them out in four separate innings, which is outstanding work team! The Hackers just managed to get that one extra inning of runs against us. We had an opportunity in the bottom of the seventh for a comeback in typical Tigger style, but too many of our balls went straight in the glove of Darren in Left Centre (*Good spelling there! Ed*), or Alex at Shortstop.

I'm so proud of this team, the camaraderie and solidarity we have is great to see. I'm sorry I'm going to miss out on the rest of the season, but I know you'll do great without me. It will be a lot less quiet (*I think that should be noisy – Ed*) that's for sure and you probably won't give away as many double plays without me… :P

Great work everyone and I'll see you all again soon. I want updates!!

Jenn

OBP leader was James (3 for 3). Best of the rest were Jenn, Rob and Dave who all went 2 for 3. James was also our only Home Run hero with a 2 run blast in the 6th. Defensive star was Rob who made a series of impressive plays on 1st. Amy deserves a special mention, returned from Italy at 5 am, on the pitch in time to play. Also Conor's ever present record this season bit the dust as he missed the game to attend the birth of his baby daughter Faidh, congratulations Conor, mother and daughter are both doing well!

Hackers	**3**	**0**	**5**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12**
Tiggers	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**8**

Tiggers MVPs were Becky and Rob

30/07/24 Tiggers @ Bandidos

With almost half the team ducking out of this game with a variety of excuses the brave few that were left struggled to cope with the powerful hitting of a Bandidos team strengthened by a couple of big hitting Division 2 guests. Several people had to play in unfamiliar positions but we did chalk up a few positives: despite all the absentees we fulfilled the fixture, no one died, no one got injured and we got to the pub early!

OBP leaders were the ever consistent Lynsey (2 for 2) accompanied by Nayaab and our own guest Simon (each 1 for 1). Lynsey also did some good work at the unfamiliar position of 3rd base, Amy was impressive at 2nd in the face of some strong left handed batting and Steve took the chance to get some exercise chasing the ball around in the outfield.

Tiggers	1	0	1	0	2
Bandidos	4	4	12	2	22

Tiggers MVPs were Amy and Steve

06/08/24 Tiggers v Raiders

We started and ended this game brightly but a 4 inning span in-between where we only scored 1 run, coupled with some near catches in the outfield that got away, consigned us to defeat against a heavy hitting Raiders team for whom guest AJ shone in the outfield. Leon made a welcome return after a 5 week gap and Zoe made a promising debut including a nice hit in the 4th.

OBP leaders were Leon, James (both 4 for 4) and Nayaab (3 for 3) who all hit 1000. Home Run Heroes were Josh and James with James hitting a pair, including a grand slam. In the field Aiden started brightly on 3rd, Leon was impressive as ever at short, Amy did good work at 2nd and Lynsey was reliable at 1st. Steve pitched a good game with Dave coming in in relief in the 7th and all the outfield worked hard with Becky paying the price for a committed display when she took a ball to the foot late on. Two defensive highlights were Amy's catch of a screaming line drive in the 5th and Leon's even more spectacular take of another line drive in the 7th

Raiders	0	6	1	5	0	5	3	20
Tiggers	3	4	0	0	1	0	5	13

Tiggers MVPs were Amy and James

13/08/24 Tiggers v Thunder 3

Softball in the wet this week, coupled with a pitcher who'd never pitched a league game before and the outcome was… a welcome win, based in large part on James's strong pitching performance coupled with some impressive hitting and, as we have come to expect, fine defensive displays by both Leon and Lynsey.

Things looked ominous when Thunder took a 6 run lead in the top of the third but we answered with a 7 run inning of our own, Thunder clawed their way back to parity in their next couple of innings but in the bottom of the 5th we batted round the order for a 2nd time to take another large lead. In the gathering gloom a 7th inning was not on the cards and Thunder couldn't do anything in the top of the 6th, the game ending with a catch 'em out, throw 'em out double play.

The batting leader board was a crowded place with Josh, James, Leon, Rob, Emma and Georgia all going 4 for 4. No home runs this week but they weren't needed. Thanks need to be given to Zoe who stepped up again to help us in our hour of need and good luck with the wedding to her and Emma.

Thunder 3	**0**	**6**	**7**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**19**
Tiggers	**3**	**4**	**7**	**2**	**8**	**X**	**24**

Tiggers MVPs were Lynsey and James

20/08/24 Tiggers @ Sluggababes

A nip and tuck game where the lead changed hands several times and the result was in doubt until the final play. A five run top of the 7th gave us a 3 run lead that proved just enough to give us the victory and end the season with a 2nd consecutive win. As it was the last game of the season everyone who was available to play got game time and everyone contributed to the win.

OBP leaders were Steve and Lynsey who each went 3 for 4. Our only Home Run was Josh's 2 run blast in the top of the 7th that started the big inning. Nayaab got 2 good hits and made a nice throw to 1st on a mishit to get the out. Leon was his normal impressive self at short stop and Lynsey did some good work at 2nd.

Tiggers	**0**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**5**	**12**
Sluggababes	**0**	**0**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**11**

Tiggers MVPs were Nayaab and Leon

Tiggers Stats (10 PA minimum)

Name	App	PA	OBP	HR	C	SP	1	2	3	SS	OF	EP	RP	Sub
Aiden	10	30	400						4		6			
Conor	10	40	700					4		1	5			
Dave	10	17	529			2	4					2	2	
James	12	45	800	10		1				4	4			3
Josh	14	51	667	6					1	1	11			1
Leon	9	37	757	5						9				
Rob	11	42	619				2				9			
Steve	12	51	725	2		11					1			
Amy	12	44	295					9			3			
Becky	12	47	362						8		4			
Charlotte	6	22	409		3						3			
Emma	9	36	556								8	1		
Georgia	10	34	412		1						8	1		
Jennifer	10	38	316		9				1					
Lynsey	12	51	706				9	2	1					
Nayaab	9	26	462		3						5	1		

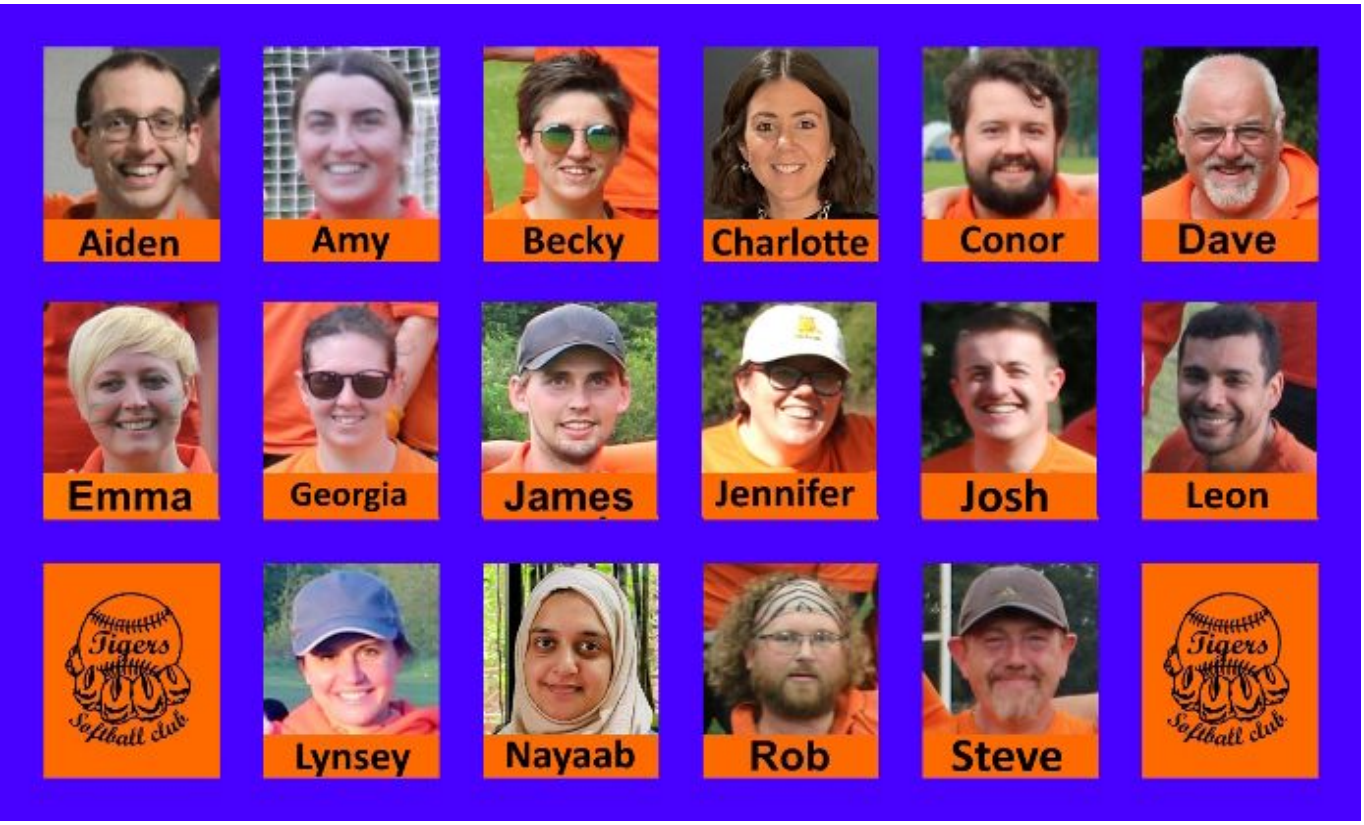
Fielding positions reflect the players initial position during the game SP = Starting pitcher RP = Relief pitcher, Sub = sub other than pitchers. (OF includes players who started at EP but rotated in and out of the outfield during the game)

Others

Harry 1/4 (1 OF)
Simon 1/1 (1 SP)
Bailey 2/4 (1 OF)
Jess 2/3 (1 EP)
Zoe 2/7 (2 EP)

Tiggers league results

7th May 2024	Phoenix Fireballs	W 17-11
14th May 2024	Seagulls	W 14-13
21st May 2024	Thunder IV	W 20-5
4th Jun 2024	Raiders	L 7-22
11th Jun 2024	Barflies	L 16-25
18th Jun 2024	Freeze	W 10-3
25th Jun 2024	Hackers	L 24-25
2nd Jul 2024	Thunder III	L 10-15
9th Jul 2024	Bandidos	W 18-17
16th Jul 2024	Sluggababes	L 12-14
23rd Jul 2024	Hackers	L 8-12
30th Jul 2024	Bandidos	L 2-22
6th Aug 2024	Raiders	L 13-20
13th Aug 2024	Thunder III	W 24-19
20th Aug 2024	Sluggababes	W 12-11



Tournaments

Firstball

Thunder	W. 12-10
Bats	L. 8-14
Bobcats	L. 10-14
Mavericks	L. 4-6
Stingers	W. 9-6
Speeders	W. 9-8
Camels	L. 9-14

Firstball wasn't an ordinary tournament for our team. Sara's bereavement meant we had other, more important. things in the back of our minds on the Sunday but the action on the pitch continued and here's the write up of that on field stuff.

It was a tournament of two halves We looked very rusty on Saturday with some sloppy play contributing to a 1 and 3 record. Our one win came in the first game, in the remaining 3 we did well to keep them close whilst being far from our best.

On Sunday we looked better for having a few games under our belts. We had wins against Stingers and the Speeders followed by a close fought game against Camels, with injury denying us the tying run on what would have been a homer for Steph if he hadn't collapsed with an ankle injury as he approached home plate. When the game resumed after a delay we had to reorganise in the field and the Camels cemented their win with a 4 run last inning.

We should then have played a (pretty meaningless) placing game but with Tash accompanying Steph to hospital and Ed and Bailey carrying knocks we only had 6 fit players remaining, so we decided to forfeit that game to preserve the players we still did have.

Male OBP leader was Ed (813) with Simon close behind. Female lead was Bailey (688) with Anissa (667) in 2nd place. Home Run leaders were Steph and Simon with 2 apiece. Bailey and Rich also homered.

Tiggers Jennifer and Georgia had an enjoyable weekend playing foe the Hackers and also helped us out in the early game against Stingers on the Sunday. The Stingers also deserve a mention for providing us with some impressive guests for the other Sunday games.

04/05/24 Leeds 1 day tournament

I'd like to just put a disclaimer out there about this tournament write up All jokes and jabs are meant in jest and not to offend anyone. I love you all, love being on this team and we had such a great time on Saturday that honestly our captain Steve puts it best: "Even though we didn't win a game, we played with an amazing spirit noones (sic) head went down we had some laughs". So please take everything I say with a grain of salt. – **Jenn**

Now for the highlights (or monologue):

Bobcats	**L. 7-15**
Notts Tigers	**L. 7-10**
York Wall	**L. 3-17**
B-Sides	**L. 1-19**

An unusual tournament for us, not just because of the weird and interesting Star Wars costumes (and terrible puns) involved, but in that Jokers were involved for this charity event and I believe 9 out of 10 of us had never played with Jokers before.

First of all, we were already struggling for a full team but managed to get 6-6 with a last minute sub recruit (Asim) by our top Head-hunter (Bailey), unfortunately due to illnesses we had two last minute drop-outs, so our Hodge-Podge team consisted of Caroline, Georgia, Lynsey, Jenn and Rhi (Fireballs but really an honorary Tiger, who had brought Teddy Grahams and so will forever be in my American heart!!) with Steve (our CAPTAIN and mighty leader!), Matt (our Ride or Die Tigger who has gone to the Dark Side, but we still love him), Bryn (another Fireball with a killer arm and the baby of our team this weekend), Hector (from the Stingers, and this is where SOMEONE ELSE would insert jokes about bushes and sexual innuendos but NOT ME! Gosh guys grow up!) and last but certainly not least ASIM!!! (a Coyote who saved us from having to forfeit)

Our first game was against the Bobcats, a team we have met before and a team with some heavy hitters. We knew it was going to be tough, but we could give them a run for their money if we fielded well and made some good base hits. We did good fielding with a beautiful (input a chef's kiss) catch from Georgia in right field. Great teamwork from Asim and Bryn in centre field. I won't mention the three errors from our short stop, Hector, but the Blue was keeping count… In the second inning we were 1 out down with me coming up to bat for the first time that day with bases loaded. It was currently 2-6 to the Bobcats, me, using my new fully legal bat, hia corker straight to the short stop allowing a beautiful double play for the Bobcats at 2nd and 1st. But low

and behold a Joker was played and my pitiful double play turned into a PB Grand Slam Home run. Probably the only home run I will ever have…. However, that was our only good inning with 6 points scored. The Bobcats shut us down every other inning bar Hector's beautiful 1 run home run in the 4th inning.

Now our second game against the Nottingham Tigers, caused a lot of confusion for each team in cheering and I even at one point turned to an opponent in orange to talk strategy to only realise he wasn't a Manchester Tiger. Now we would all agree that we were robbed in this game by well-played Jokers from Nottingham and the fact that we waited too long to use ours and therefore ran out of time to use them. I shall point no fingers, but there might be a guilty party in the shape of our mighty captain, but I can't be sure. Going into the bottom of the second inning we were 2-6 down. When Hector came up to bat it was 4-6 and there were two outs with Caroline and Bryn on base. Hector hit a beautiful (insert another chef's kiss) home run scoring 3 runs for us and taking us into the lead by one. Unfortunately, the Nottingham Tigers played a joker making Hector replay the last hit which resulted in Hector hitting the ball straight into the glove of their centre right fielder. Then in the 4th inning the score was now 6-10 with two runners on base and one of our heavy hitters (Bryn) came up to bat, but Nottingham had cotton-on to this and decided to play a Joker at this point requiring all the runners to leave the field. Meaning, Byrn's beautiful (enter another chef's kiss) home run only scored us 1 run versus the 3 we could've had. Needless to say, the 6 runs we were denied, and the lack of Jokers played on our part led to a defeat. But we didn't care we were already winners by that point because we'd won 2 tosses in a row!

For our final game in the round robin, we faced a young Uni teamed called the York Wall. A short but not sweet recap of this game. We were slaughtered by a young heavy hitting team. End of no need to talk about anything else that happened in this game…

Although the highlight for most of the team (except me) would be my epic slow-motion fall/roll attempting to get to 1st in the 2nd inning. Honestly, I mean if there is a hole in the ground, on any pitch, I will find it and I will fall over. Simples. No twisted ankle but I did bang up my good thumb. So, after our first epic defeat, and coming last in our group, most of the team headed to the clubhouse for a well-deserved drink.

And so, our

Semi-final game was against the 3rd seated team from group A which pitted us against another young, heavy hitting university team, the B-Sides. We started off well, we had some well-played Jokers, however we also did some good fielding. A beautiful fly ball caught by Rhi in left field and a stunning (insert ANOTHER chef's kiss) sliding roll attempt to catch a fly ball that went right over 1st base. And we also fielded and amazing double play in the 3rd inning that was denied to us by a well-played Joker from the B-Sides. We played some strategic moves with our Jokers (even pissing off the Frenchman) but it was never going to be enough with them shutting us down in every inning. Only Lynsey managed to score our one and only run of the game.

Overall, it was a fabulously fun day. Slight misty and wet in the morning for our first game, but it soon brightened up and Caroline managed to remove one of the TWO hoodies she was wearing throughout the day. And a shout out to Asim who stepped in and pitched in the last innings of our 1st and final games. He is new to pitching and really did a fantastic job under the pressure.

I am so proud of our team. We were put together, first major tournament for some of us and having never played as a team together we did damn good. Our outfield was very good, they did a heck of a lot of running. Bryn was awesome. As for our infield, Lynsey was solid at 1. Hector and Matt at Short stop and 3rd, respectively, played well together. Matt made some excellent catches as did Hector (did they outweigh his errors…? I wouldn't want to be the judge of that but…) no I'm kidding. A great group all around! Furthermore, if you've lasted this long and appreciated the humour*, thank you, if it was too much of an essay for you, all complaints can be made to Dave… and Georgia made me do it!!!

The Captain's MVPs are Bryn and Rhi. And Steve would also like to say thanks to everyone for making it a fun day!

Red Rose Tournament, 22/06/24

After a slow start the Tigers had a largely successful day in the sun at a Red Rose tournament that was back after eight years in hibernation. The team also seemed to be in hibernation during the first game where we couldn't compete with a hard hitting Titans team. Things got better after that though with a come from behind win against Bandidos (courtesy of Josh's 3re Home Run of the game) being followed by a comfortable victory over an out of sorts Screwballs outfit. Our final round robin game against the Stingers was another heavy loss but we did put in a more creditable performance than in the first game of the day.

Titans	L. 4-24
Bandidos	W. 10-9
Screwballs	W. 14-2
Stingers	L. 6-15
Screwballs (p/o)	W. 11-9

Our two and two record put us into the 3rd v 4th play off game against Screwballs, with our poor overall run difference meaning that they were the home team. They were tougher opposition in this game than they had been earlier in the day but a couple of nice outfield catches in the final inning by Aiden and Amy helped nail down a deserved come from behind win.

In the field Steve did a fine job at pitcher, Ed did good work at short, TK and Lynsey were both impressive at both 1st and 2nd and everyone in the outfield worked hard.

Josh was the stand out batter with multiple home runs as well as leading the OBP rankings, Amy was the female leader. Ed (2) and Ollie (1) also hit four baggers.

Tigers

Tigers

Tigers

10

Tigers

Manchester Tournament

Simon had to make use extensive use of his contacts list in the build up to this tournament with guests Jeff and G joining the team and then Geraint joining them as a last minute replacement for the injured Ollie. Caroline also had to drop out at short notice for work reasons meaning Becky stepped up to help out.

Perhaps as a result this was a tournament of 2 halves, the first 3 games, where the Tigers looked disjointed, and then the last six games where we suddenly looked like a team and were too strong for the opposition. After the double round robin we had a 5 & 3 record and our superior run difference put us ahead of Thunder in 2nd place.

Screwballs	L. 9-10
Speeders	L. 5-10
Thunder	L. 5-14
Bobcats	W. 13-2
Screwballs	W. 20-2
Thunder	W. 21-0
Speeders	W. 9-8
Bobcats	W.18-5
F: Screwballs	W. 16-7

No semis had been scheduled so that meant we faced the Screwballs in the final. After 2 innings the teams were tied at 4 all but a 7 run top of the 3rd, including Home Runs by Jeff and Simon, decided the game. The Screwballs replied with 3 runs of their own in the bottom of the 3rd but were shut out after that (despite the best efforts of the traitor Smith) whilst the Tigers continued to add to the lead in the 4th and 5th.

Tournament OBP leader was Simon (955) who was only 1 hit away from a perfect weekend with the bat. There were lots of Home Runs, Geraint led the way with 6, Jeff and G hit 2 apiece and Rich G., Simon and TK all also hit a 4 bagger.

Tigers	1	3	7	3	2	16
Screwballs	0	4	3	0	0	7

Tournament MVPs were G and TK

98

98

Tigers

Tiger

Tigers
Tigers

07/09/24 Tigers v Stingers / Hackers combo Double Header (Friendlies)

A laid back pair of friendlies against a Stingers / Hackers combined team brought the season to a close on the new astroturf on pitch 7 at Parrs Wood. We ran the opposition close in the first game but then never really got our bats going in the second. With a big squad there was a lot of mixing and matching in the field and with an excess of men we used a sophisticated (?) system to decide who batted when.

OBP leaders were Ollie (7/7) and Harry (6/6) . Best of the rest were Ed and Caroline who each went 5 for 7, our Home Run hero was Josh who led off the 1st inning of game 1 with a four bagger. Everyone had fun and we finished the day in the pub, with several people vowing to become regulars at indoor this winter!

End of season awards

	Male	Female
Tigers batting champion		
Tigers home run champion		
Tiggers batting champion		
Tiggers home run champion		
Tournament batting champion		
Tournament home run champion		
Tigers players' player		
Tiggers players' player		
Tigers captain's player		
Tiggers captain's player		

Tigers

Softball club