

# Tiggers Yearbook

## 2025



# The year in review

## Off season

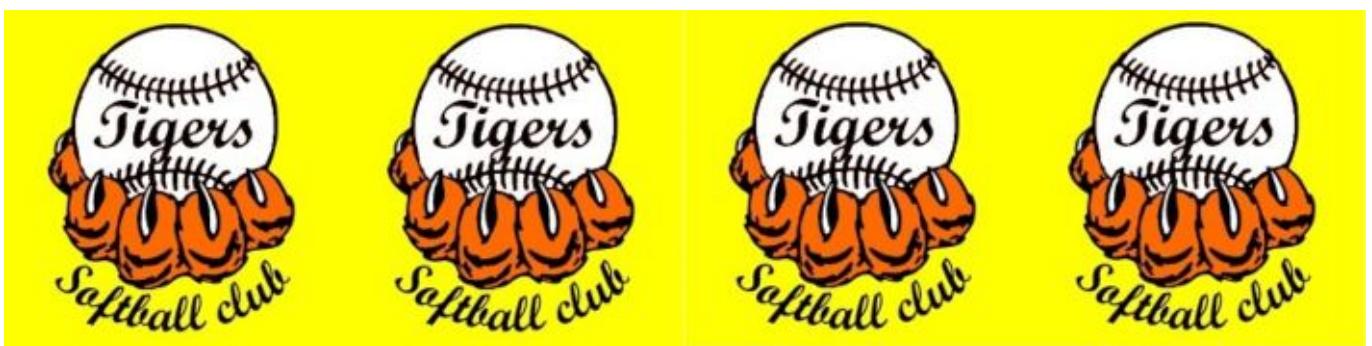
There weren't that many squad changes over the winter. James moved to Thunder, Nayaab's brother Muhammad and Leon's friend Carlos joined up but the squad was very similar to the 2024 version.

## Division 4

The Ever Victorious Army swept through Division 4 and topped off the season by winning the post season Silver cup. There were some close games along the way but we had the self belief and skill needed to keep grinding out the wins. (longer season write up below).

## Tournaments

Tiggers entered Firstball and Manchester Main for the first time. We didn't win that many games but did have a good time and got some valuable experience against higher quality opposition. Tiggers (with a few Tigers) also played in our own Red Rose tournament in September and won 3 of the 6 games on a really enjoyable (and sunny) day. A good way to finish the season.



## The Tiggers' Season Wrap-Up

The 2025 season will forever be remembered as the year the Tiggers roared louder than ever before. For the first time in the team's history, they went UNDEFEATED across the league campaign, becoming only the 10th team in Manchester Softball League history to achieve this remarkable feat. Not only did they lift the Division 4 trophy, but they capped it off with Silver Cup glory, securing their place at League Nationals.

From the very start, it was clear that something special was brewing. Opening games against rookie sides gave the Tiggers confidence, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. Early traffic woes, midges in the summer sun, and the occasional muddy slip added chaos, yet through it all the team held firm. Big bats from Leon, Josh, and Muhammad delivered towering home runs, while the likes of Lynsey, Becky, and Emma chipped in with crucial hits and sharp base-running. One memorable night even saw Muhammad blast a Grand Slam, sending the dugout into raptures.

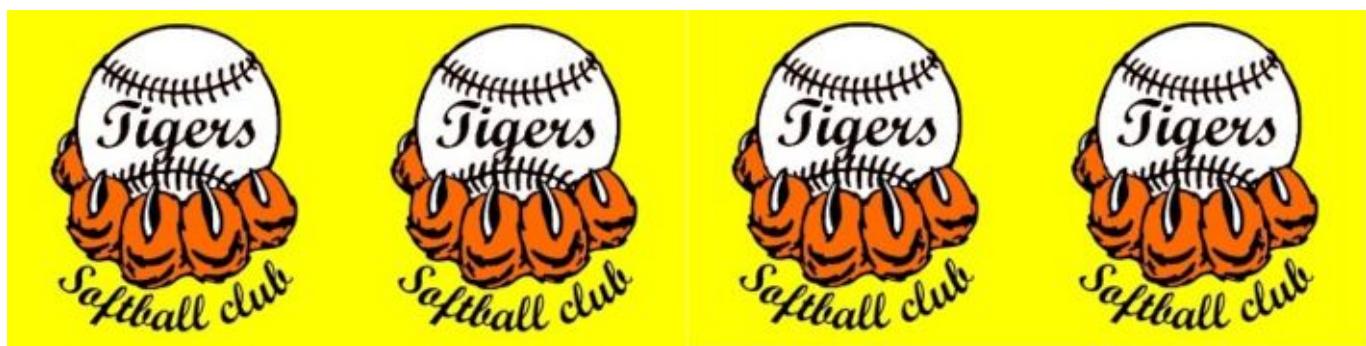
Defensively, the Tiggers were a wall. Steve's consistency on the mound provided calm, while Leon dazzled at shortstop with lightning throws and leaping grabs. Outfielders like Josh, Conor, Nayaab, and Emma pulled off vital catches, often at full stretch, to keep opponents at bay. There were moments of pure theatre too, catches described as 'ballerina-like', sliding stops that left players caked in mud, and even a few comic tumbles that had the side-lines in stitches.

Of course, no Tiggers season would be complete without drama off the field. From birthday balloons at home plate, to heated debates with umpires, to mysterious injuries and substitutions, the entertainment was as strong as the play. The team spirit shone through every week, with players swapping positions mid-game, cheering each other on, and celebrating every small victory as much as the big ones. Even when the bats fell quiet, the defence stood tall, pulling out double plays and last-ditch outs to seal wins.

The season's climax was as dramatic as the journey. The Tiggers swept through the Silver Cup, with Leon smashing three home runs in the semi-final and Lynsey proving unstoppable at first base. In the final, the Sluggababes pushed hard, but the Tiggers responded with big hits from Emma and Lynsey and a defensive shutout when it mattered most. It was the perfect finale to a near-perfect season.

So what defines this year's Tiggers? Heart, humour, and history. They didn't just win, they entertained. They didn't just play, they performed. And as they head into Division 3 and prepare for Nationals, one thing is certain: the stripes have never looked brighter. 🐯✨

Undefeated. Unstoppable. Unforgettable. The 2025 Tiggers.



## Pre season Friendlies

### 22/04/25 Sluggababes Friendly L 13-21

We had a successful first team outing of the year on a pleasant April evening. We didn't win but winning wasn't really the point of the exercise. We all got some useful practice and reminded ourselves that softball can be fun. The Babes took a lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and stayed ahead for the rest of the contest. We threatened a comeback when we got within 4 runs of them in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> but a 6 run top of the 7<sup>th</sup> killed any thoughts of a Tiggers win.

OBP leaders were Josh (4 for 4) and Dave (3 for 3) who each batted 1000. Tiger Caroline (3 for 4) was the best of the rest. In the field Rob put in 6 innings of work in as pitcher and also made some nice fielding plays. Steve did good work at 3<sup>rd</sup> Zoe didn't let anyone down in right field, Amy made some nice plays a 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tigers Simon and Caroline also did good work.

**MVPs were Rob and Caroline**

Babes	1	4	1	2	6	1	6	<b>21</b>
Tiggers	1	2	0	0	3	5	2	<b>13</b>



### 29/04/25 Stingers Friendly L 25-27

It was great to see most people back this week for our 'championship,' 'battle to the death' game against recently demoted to Div 3 team: The Stingers. We played them at the weekend and lost, revenge was going to be sweet. Traffic was a pain in the butt, but we all mostly made it in good time to do some drills before the match. And who was that I saw hobbling towards the pitch? (honestly I didn't see her arrive, I was too engrossed with my new shin pads, an item I will definitely be mentioning again as they very easily were the stars of the night!) A new fair-weather supporter, with a brand new hip (she claims it was only a hip muscle fix, but physios always speak in medical jargon plebs can't understand): Georgia Orton ladies and gentlemen! Georgia quite proudly took over this new position since Benedict, I mean Harry, has moved to Div 1, 'Tigger's who?' I think he said at the weekend... but I digress...

The game started out promising, we held the Stingers in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup>, but then it all sort of went downhill from there. We were down a pitcher as Rob needed to stay home with his youngest. I mean as

a teacher who takes safeguarding very seriously: it is perfectly legal and acceptable to leave a 2 year old at home alone on her own, she's nearly 3 absolutely nothing could go wrong... Softball always comes first, especially for a high-stakes game like this. (Disclaimer: absolutely do NOT leave a child on their own, no persons in the making of this write up actually take anything of what is being said seriously!!! It's all a bunch of bullhockey). Our regular pitcher, Steve, had an 'injury,' physio sessions and massages were happening on the sidelines, he really was loving all the attention. I mean it wasn't all down to the pitching, our fielding could have been a bit better, some more catches in the outfield would have been good, also the catcher had two opportunities to catch some foul balls and let the team down epically by not diving. I always say 'Dive!' but she's not very good at listening to sound advice, Americans, eh? I mean they gave us the great sport of Softball, without Americans being so amazing we all wouldn't be together in such a loving and supportive Softball family.

Anywho, back to the actual game, we gave away a lot of runs, the bottom of the innings really felt quite long with the Stingers scoring double figures in the Second Inning, and others? I'm not sure really, I'll leave that to the actual person who was keeping score most of the time, they would have obviously been actually paying attention to what they were writing down and what the score was at the end of each inning... There were several times the Stingers had 2 outs but still managed to score a good handful of runs before we were able to get the third out.

On a serious note, (I mostly mean it this time!) we played well for our second practice game before the season begins. We did make some great plays in the outfield, Aiden made a beautiful catch in Left Centre. Nayaab made some really good stops in Left Field. Emma, got herself hit in the face with a ricochet off her glove. Zoe, for it only being her second (maybe third, as I think she played in a game last season) game with the Tiggers did really well in Right Field. Our other newbie, Carlos, showed great promise playing in Left Centre, Third and First. Conor in Right Centre (it kills me writing centre this way, Softball is American therefore the positions should be spelt the American way?) played well, making some good stops in outfield. Leon, our ringer, was back on form, throwing some great balls into the diamond. Only overthrowing to the catcher on two occasions that I can recall. Although the new, shiny orange shin pads saved the day by stopping a throw from Leon to Home. Amy did very well again on Second, though we're not going to mention that epic fail of an attempt to make a double play with that throw to first... honestly no one noticed, it was fine, it wasn't like we were losing and needed the double play. It's all cool... Lynsey, our go-to First Basewoman, did well on First and then again on Third, which was a whole new position for her.

Batting-wise, we were alright, lots of pop-ups that were easily caught, but also some home-runs, mostly from Leon (surprise, surprise). The catcher could have done better with her batting. I mean who swings at the ball when the count is 3-0? Bonkers I say! Aiden dazzled us with an unnecessary slide into Second (the season is looking promising for him).

Like I said already, we played well. We were up against a team that was in Div 2 last year. We have some new players, whether experienced or not, it takes time to gel and work together. But I honestly love our Tigger family. I appreciate you all putting up with me and my awful attempt at humour. For some reason, this off-season has felt really long and it was great to be back with you all and playing again. Next week, our first official game of the season. Dave, thank you for arranging these two pre-season games, I'm confident that they will be beneficial to us in the long-run for our overall performance this season. Until next week.

Jenn

OBP leaders were Lynsey (5 for 5) and Nayaab (4 for 4) who each batted 1000. Leon and Emma (4 for 5) were close behind and Leon also hit our two home runs.

Leon was our stand out player in the field with Steve also deserves mention for doing a sterling job pitching through injury.

MVPs were Leon and Lynsey

Tiggers	3	1	4	6	0	11	25
Stingers	0	10	5	5	7	X	27



## Division 4



### 06/05/25 Seagulls W 21-4

The start of the season was finally upon us on Tuesday night! We had a good turnout for practice before the game started. (I say this but I was the last one to arrive and everyone else was already there, so I'm assuming everyone else were good little boys and girls and arrived for practice.) We had another of our new players with us this week, Muhammad, welcome, we are so happy for the new blood. As I arrived (right on time), the Seagulls' team captain approached me, they were short a SB player and unfortunately no subs were available, so the Seagulls played with an automatic out and only 3 outfielders. Furthermore, they had two guests: Kaz from the Screwballs and none other than Mr BASU himself Mr Paul Fagan.

As we were the away team, we were up to bat first and we started out strong and stayed strong throughout. The first inning saw 5 runs for us (as well as another 5 in the second inning), unfortunately for the first 2 innings the catcher couldn't get to second base, then when she did manage to get to third, nearly fell flat on her face tripping over the base. Both Josh and Leon achieved home runs, with Lynsey and Emma getting a 3 base hit each. (My heart goes out to the other team, with only 3 players in the outfield and some looking fairly green, it was tricky fielding-wise.)

In the field this week we were a lot stronger. There was a lot of communication amongst the team and we stuck with the ball, chased it and got it in as soon as possible. There were a few opportunities for some eloquent dives for Nayaab and Emma in the outfield, like I say we dive on this team, its not like football, you get extra points for a beautiful catch. Which brings me to Leon... (because I am completely skipping over the near death experience I had as catcher when a fly ball came straight for my face and I ducked rather than put my glove up) Our male MVP, we won't mention him stepping out of the box again while batting, no, we will focus on the two, yes TWO, eloquent, ballerina like leaps into the air to catch a fly ball. The first one, as reported by Emma, left Rob (playing third) looking shocked and awed by the beauty before his eyes! Was it overkill? I think not, 2 brownie points to Leon!

The game finished at the end of the fifth inning due to our 17 run lead. As we were only playing 5 and 5, Rob and Muhammad did a switcheroo in the third inning. Which caused a little admin controversy

between Mr BASU and Dave. I mean I was on second base at the time, I couldn't quite hear all the juicy gos but again I'm going to swiftly move on and not digress. However, what I am going to have a moan about is our fair-weather fans! Where were you!? First official game of the season and none of you could be bothered to turn up!? What are we? Chopped liver? Harrumph!

All joking and hilarity aside, we did very well this week, a really strong start to the season. I know we were playing with an advantage as the other team were a person down, but I believe even if they had a full team we would have still won, we just would have gone to more innings with a closer score. I feel the pregame practices are working (if you show up on time, especially on the games where we are the home team and I need to bring the bases!). Keep up the good work and camaraderie. And if any feelings have been harmed in the making of this report please tell me, I won't be offended. And as well, if I have missed any exciting plays please tell me next time, I should be writing these reports when the game is still fresh in my head rather than rushing to do it early on a Thursday morning right before the deadline. Until next week Team!

**Jenn**

OBP leaders were Steve, Lynsey (both 5 for 5), Conor (4 for 4) and Muhammad (2 for 2). Leon was the Home Run Hero with three, with Josh also claiming a four bagger. Leon was again our stand out player in the field with Lynsey as reliable as ever on first.



**MVPs were Leon and Lynsey**

<b>Tiggers</b>	5	5	4	5	2	<b>21</b>
<b>Seagulls</b>	0	0	0	1	3	<b>4</b>





## 13/05/25 Base Invaders W 29-2

On Tuesday evening, we had another good turnout for practice. Who was that I could see? Georgia? In her uniform, ready to play for us? Oh no, she just arrived for practice, couldn't even stay to watch... Becky our marathon runner was back in action for her debut game of the year! I would say practice went really well, I feel like the change up is a big improvement for us. The strategies and skills are fresh in our heads ready for the game ahead.

This week we played against a rookie team, the Base Invaders. Unlike the Toras, whom we will play next week, the Base Invaders were still very green. In the field, their pitcher did very well striking several of us out while at the same time allowing several good hits and walks. Their fielding needs lots of improvement as well, but I'm giving them space here because it's not easy being a rookie team and going up against several teams that are much stronger than you. But now back to us and our performance.

We did very well in the field again. Lots of talking to each other. Muhammad played very well for the first time at short stop. With Leon at third, the two made a very good team. Though we had no beautiful ballerina-like leaps in the air to catch the ball this week. Quite disappointing, but I'm sure Muhammad will get there one day... We had a solid 1<sup>st</sup> inning. Could have scored more than 3 runs, and we did allow 1 run through in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup>.

I can't remember much about the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, I didn't make any voice notes about that one. Must not have been very interesting on our part, but we did score 6 or 7 runs in this inning... must not have been good enough... because...

The 3<sup>rd</sup> inning! Epic performance from ourselves! Scoring 21 runs in one inning! Lots of mistakes from the home team (we were the away team, obvs) in the field. We saw several homeruns this week from Leon (who did not step out of the box this week, but I am looking at Muhammad for this one, though to be fair if he hadn't stepped out, I would have when I was up to bat after him) and from Josh. We had some strong hitting from the ladies this week as well, though for the life of me I could not hit the ball! (2 walks and 2 strike outs!! Shocking)

In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the Base Invaders needed a Hail Mary and an abysmal fielding performance from ourselves to get back into the game. Which of course we didn't allow to happen. We are competitive, unlike some performances in the past seasons might contradict. So another 4 inning game for us this week. Two wins on the trot. I perfect performance so far, but we've not had proper competition I would say (in the nicest way possible). Next week will be interesting to see how we do. We need to keep the communication up! Though I feel like I was hindered this week in that performance. Come on Arthur, we need to change the ball with the first base coach, I need to be able to concentrate on talking smack, rather than looking to my pitcher for the ball exchange! Keep coming to practice before the games, it's working! So until next week... JLo out.

### Jenn

OBP leaders were Leon and Dave who both went 4 for 4. Leon was again our Home Run Hero with a pair of homers with Josh also claiming a four bagger.

### MVPs were Josh and Nayaab

Tiggers	3	5	21	0	29
Base Invaders	1	0	0	1	2



Josh

Nayaab

## 20/05/25 Toras W17-2

Another good turnout for practice again this week, though the traffic was awful again and the catcher was skiving again. This week we were up against another rookie team, the Toras. A few familiar faces on this team, the Toras were nearing a subsidiary team of the Tigers/Tiggers clan. They're also another orange jersey wearing team and as we were the home team, the Toras were clad in black. Furthermore, the Toras have been scoring several runs this season so we knew we couldn't let our guard down.

As we were in the field first, we knew we had to stick with our communication in the field and stay tight with getting the ball into the infield. In the first inning, Leon attempted another ballerina-like leaping catch, but a hole in his glove prevented that from happening. And the catcher dove for the ball in an attempt to get a runner out at home (unsuccessfully). Hold on a minute... what was that? Leon didn't catch the ball... and our catcher dove for the ball...? Shocking times my friends! Therefore, we gave up 2 runs in the first inning. However, when it was our turn to bat we managed to get 4 runs ourselves.

The second inning saw us hold the Toras and score several more runs. However, the highlight of the second inning were the two fumbling catches... Yes, TWO HEART-STOPPING, moments. The first was when the batter hit the ball right to our third baseman, Aiden. The ball went right to his glove and came right back out again. But after a shocking fumbling with the ball, Aiden caught it! Later, maybe the next batter, or two batters after Aiden's catch, the Toras batter hit a beautiful fly ball straight to Left Centre and Muhammad. The ball went straight into his glove and right back out again, however, it went right into his open hand thankfully.

The third and fourth innings saw us hold the Toras again with some excellent batting from ourselves, but not enough to complete another game after 4 innings. However, after stopping the Toras from scoring in the fifth inning we managed to score enough runs in the bottom of the fifth for the umpire to call the ball game. Fantastic work Tiggers. Our perfect record continues... until next week, but we're not going to think negatively. No... instead, when the game finished both teams wanted to carry on. Unfortunately, the umpire only gets paid for the actual league game, not anything extra. So who were we going to get to umpire for us? Steve to the rescue! But Leon needed to go and so Dave was coming in to replace him, so that would leave us a man down... What were we going to do!? The American to the rescue! My dad, who landed at 7:15 that morning stepped up to the plate (literally and figuratively!). My dad, another David, another grumpy old man (*anyone know who the first grumpy old man might be? Ed*), who hasn't umpired in over 15 years, who struggled with our different rules, didn't do that bad of a job to be fair. And so, we played on another couple of innings, allowing players to play in different positions including Rob coming in as pitcher for us.

Overall, another great game. Great communication, great camaraderie, great hitting (A homerun for our Lynsey!) and great fielding! Keep it up Tiggers! We're going to be challenged next week! Until next time, JLo out.

### Jenn

OBP leader was Leon and Dave who went 4 for 4. Leon also racked up his customary pair of Home Runs with Lynsey also claiming a dinger.

### MVPs were Steve and Emma

<b>Toras</b>	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Tiggers</b>	4	4	2	3	4	17



Steve

Emma



## 27/05/25 Sluggababes W 15-9

So the weather has finally changed to the traditional British summer. Cool and rainy. Yay! All that dry ground, ripe and ready to turn into mud causing a slip-hazard for any runners. Not that anyone from our team would slip and fall and roll around on the ground like a dung beetle stuck on their back... but I digress. Another good turnout for practice despite the weather. Though the organization behind was slacking a bit. One drill? And a drill that put Steve in charge of throwing ground balls... What was coach thinking? Wind-up King, given the opportunity to throw ridiculous balls...? I mean I see it every game, Steve 'trying' to be clever and throw some fancy curve balls that are just ridiculously outside the box, requiring him to then have to actually pitch some genuine strikes... The audacity! Again I digress, however, this brings me to a point that I want to address: Haggling. I love to haggle (in case you weren't aware of this fact), however, I only like to haggle good-naturedly. We're in Div 4. We play for the love of the game. Yes, we are competitive, but not to the point of being a jerk-face. We will leave that to the Div 1 and 2 teams, however, if you're a Div 1 player who has come to spectate a Div 4 game... then shut your mouth or actually provide good advice, rather than complete and utter hogwash.

Right, I'm off my soapbox and will actually get to the in-depth, statistical analysis of the game: We won. We're undefeated. The end.

As the away team, we were up to bat first, and with a solid line up, obviously leaving the worst batter to last, we made a strong start, scoring somewhere around 4 runs, I don't know for sure, Dave no longer lets me keep score... Though we all batted... I was the last out and last batter of the line-up (see above comment about the last batter), playing with 10 players we must have gotten closer to 6 runs? Furthermore, in the bottom of the first we held the Sluggababes to a 3 up – 3 down inning. The second inning wasn't as strong for us, batting-wise. And with a fantastic homerun from James the Sluggababes finally got on the score sheet.

Our defence was strong again. Nayaab did very well playing at second base (for the first time?), (*Those of us who were paying attention will have seen Nayaab at 2<sup>nd</sup> last week :)- Ed*) even though I know Becky likes playing at second too, she did very well in left field. In fact, all the way from home plate I could hear players communicating with each other, including Becky, Muhammad, Josh and Emma. Leon was a star at shortstop, again I could hear him guiding and leading the infield players. Lynsey again was solid on first and Aiden did a fine job at third. And I can't believe I'm going to do this... but... our pitcher did very well at the mound. I mean he did get MVP for the second week in a row so I guess I have to finally acknowledge him at some point... if I must... but that's enough. The catcher did another fine performance, I mean honestly she's always on form, if only she could get MVP, catchers are so underappreciated! I mean I'm in my third season and I've only ever gotten MVP once!! Who cares about homeruns or actually making it to first base. No one else on our team has the talent to imitate a dung beetle trapped on their back in the mud!! Where's the MVP for that!?

Another fine performance team. Even though one of our members went and played for the Seagulls on Tuesday... honestly, you just can't get the staff... Anywho, I was expecting a tougher challenge this week, and even though we were tested, it was fun (bar Dan but I'm not mentioning him again), I enjoyed it and I think many others did. Well played, but let's not rest on our laurels. We have to play Thunder next week. A good team. But we're better. Bring It On! Until next week, JLo out.

**Jenn**

OBP leaders were Steve and Josh who each went 5 for 5, they were also our Home Run Heroes claiming one apiece. Leon was the star in the field with Lynsey and Muhammad also impressing.

**MVPs were Steve and Lynsey**

<b>Tiggers</b>	5	3	0	1	3	0	3	<b>15</b>
<b>Sluggababes</b>	0	3	1	1	3	0	1	<b>9</b>



Steve

Lynsey

## 03/06/25 Thunder IV W 19-4

Teacher v Pupil... Another good turnout for practice, although the captain, the coach, turned up late. Honestly what kind of an example is that? (Side note, Dave is never ever going to offer a lift for anyone (or just me) ever again if he gets harassed after he already had put out fires for them earlier in the day.) However, the traffic was not ideal, which is beginning to be a pattern every week it seems. But, the majority of us were all there in time to have a good warm up and to talk through strategies of the game. (See *base running notes below. Ed.*)

Though, our resident PE Teacher and coach in her own right got quite the shock when a current pupil tipped up to play for Thunder. Everyone was promptly given strict orders to behave and keep cursing to a minimum; rules which we all were happy to follow with no shenanigans what-so-ever. Even after much finagling by said teacher, our pitcher (who does not like going easy on any player) threw some easy? strikes? straight down the middle? pitches for Bea allowing her to make good contact with the ball in the fifth inning.

As the two undefeated teams in the division, we were all looking forward to another good, competitive game. Unfortunately, as it grew nearer to the start time, it became abundantly clear that Thunder was going to be playing with a woman down. Unfair circumstances in my opinion. I think you all would agree that we would have preferred an even playing field when it came to this game to see whom would be coming out on top.

The first inning saw another strong performance from ourselves, holding Thunder to a 1 run inning, along with scoring 7 runs ourselves. Including a spectacular collision at home plate between Muhammad and Jamie. All caught on camera of course, therefore, VAR clearly stated that the umpire called the play correctly. (*Safe. Ed.*)

Unfortunately for us, the second and third innings saw us only scoring a single run in each. A strong performance from their pitcher (whom was probably fired up after his collision) showed that their fielders could get the job done. However, we had our own pitcher with the skills to strike out and psych out the other team, while harassing his own catcher in the process... (insert eye roll) Although, it must be stated that our defense again did not let us down. We had some excellent throws from short and third to first, succeeding in several outs for Thunder. As well as a beautiful fly ball catch from our PE teacher on second base. (But, was that really worthy of MVP status? Favouritism or brown-nosing would be my guess).

By the fourth inning, we were able to rally and score a total of 8 runs, bring our score to a whopping 17 runs. Therefore, decisions were made by our esteemed captain to switch around some players and even see Dave have a go at batting in the fifth inning. Unfortunately for Dave, he made the wrong decision to bat after our esteemed home-run king and MVP, Leon, who, as our second batter in the inning, allowed himself and Lynsey to score the two runs we needed to win the game.

Overall, another strong defensive performance from ourselves. Batting is definitely an area of improvement that we need. I mean I finally made it on base this game, but Jeez Louise my batting record is atrocious! Keep it up! We've got the Seagulls again next week (we're starting the next round of games). Though, Dave was having a bit of a panic about whether or not we will have enough girls to play with a full team. So we shall see! Until next time, JLo out!

### Jenn

OBP leaders were Leon (4 for 4) and a hole list of people who went 3 for 3 (Emma, Josh, Muhammad, Becky and Rob) . Leon stretched his lead at the top of the Home Run table with 3 round trippers. The whole team played well in the field.

MVPs were Leon and Becky

Thunder IV	0	2	0	0	2	4
Tiggers	7	1	1	8	2	19



## 10/06/25 Tiggers v Seagulls W 27-12

A much brighter and warmer day for softball this week. I would say we were all feeling quite optimistic with our undefeated status, though we only had exactly 5 girls available to play. The last time we met the Seagulls, we easily took the lead and were able to finish the game in 4 innings. This week we were hoping for a bit more of a challenge, which we got and our fielding was a little rocky at times; however, we held strong and were able to defeat them in 5 innings. Oh yes, that's right, we're STILL undefeated.

The first inning saw us steady in the field with an okay performance at batting. However, the second inning showcased the inexperience of their pitcher. It was quite clear that a couple of the BBHs on Seagulls have played baseball or fast-pitch softball and just haven't quite gotten the hang of the British slow-pitch approach. Furthermore, Jonathan was quite surprised when we were 2 outs down and he intentionally walked our homerun-leader Leon, that Nayaab could and would automatically go onto 1<sup>st</sup> base. He didn't do that again. The Seagulls's frustration became quite apparent after the second inning and we took full advantage of this by having another high scoring inning in the third.

However, the homerun hero award (yes you get prizes after each game, did you not know this?) of this game has to go to Muhammad who not only got a homerun in the second inning, but got a Grand Slam in the third. I mean its not that big of a deal, I've gotten a Grand Slam before when we played the one-day tournament in Leeds last season... (I had to use a joker to make my double out play actually benefit us, but we're not going to mention that!)

We all played really well! Kudos to Zoe for being at Alton Towers all day with Year 9s and then rushing to the game so we could have a full team. Emma, whom I forgot to mention made a stellar catch in outfield last week, could have done the same this week but...

Nayaab and Amy were good at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, especially with all the nerves Amy had she did a brilliant job. Leon and Carlos made a dynamic duo at shortstop and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hermanos del alma. Steve, as always, was solid at pitching! Conner did well in Right Center and Muhammad... What can we say about Muhammad...? I'm supposed to be the loud one on the team... but this week I would have to say our biggest and loudest and cheekiest cheerleader was Muhammad!

Great game everyone keep it up. We play the two rookie teams over the next two weeks but no slacking for us! Oh no! Go big or go home! Until next week. JLo out!

### Jenn

OBP leaders were Leon and Conor (each 5 for 5). Home Run heroes were Leon with one and Muhammad with a pair including a grand slam. Carlos made his league debut and Zoe played her first game of the season.

### MVPs were Muhammad and Jenn

<b>Seagulls</b>	2	3	0	3	4	<b>12</b>
<b>Tiggers</b>	3	11	9	1	3	<b>27</b>



## 17/06/25 Tiggers v DBI W 20-0

This week saw us meeting the Base Invaders for a second time; however, this time we didn't let any runs get past us whereas the last time we met, the Base Invaders managed to score 2 runs against us. Dave said it in the group chat but it bears repeating again, we did not slack off, we did not show off and then mess up passes. Rob did well in this respect playing at third base as well as Steve who threw the ball to the base coach last week rather than first base. Becky did very well on second base and with batting, hitting a three-base hit in the second inning, as well as being our only girl going 3/3 in batting! Leon as always did well at short stop.

Our outfield rotated around as we were batting 6 and 6. And look who we have here: Georgia. Georgia? Yes, our Georgia, returning from her surgery (hip replacement?), played her first league game for the Tiggers. Furthermore, we also had two extra players (our dynamic brother and sister duo) who subbed for Thunder IV. (Muhammad didn't feel put out at all that he was MVP and had a Grand Slam last week but taken off the roster for this game.)

The weather could have been better, though I think I prefer playing in misty rain rather than the 30 degree weather we had today. Other highlights from the game was Aiden and his running/sliding skills. In the fourth inning he was so focused on getting to first he could have gotten to second if he curved towards second rather than speeding through the orange on first. Then in the same inning slid into second (Necessary? Unnecessary? It's still up for debate). I'm sure I'm missing other highlights so I do apologise as I'm frantically writing this on Thursday evening. Do I mention the Blue...? It might just go to his head if I do as he is a recipient of Tiger Talk and we don't want his head getting any bigger than it already is. But come on, some of those calls that he made...? I mean dude, those strikes were too low... (You know I'm only messing I wouldn't dare actually argue with the Blue, I wouldn't want to be kicked out of the club or league)

To conclude, a bloody good job done team (was that British enough for you? Accurate?)! Keep it up! We're playing the Toras next week, they are the home team, so we are wearing white tops! Don't forget!!! Until next time, JLo out!

### Jenn

OBP leaders were Leon (4 for 4) and Becky (3 for 3). Home Run heroes were Leon, Josh and Emma with one apiece. Rob made some nice plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Becky took a good catch at second.

### MVPs were Leon and Emma

DBI	0	0	0	0	0
Tiggers	6	8	3	3	20



## 24/06/25 Tiggers @ Toras – back in black W 20-1

Who are these people all in black? As the away team, we needed to wear a different colour. In the week leading up to this game there was much debate on what colour we would wear. In the end, black was the overall winner, although, it was suggested at one point that we wear rainbow and I was all for that; however, that was kiboshed.

Practice as ever was good. We had a very good session of batting which is something that I have always commented on that needs improving.

The first inning started out very well. The top of the order did very well. They got on base and took calculated risks scoring 5 runs. In the bottom of the first, our defense (which is still our best quality this season) held strong. The Toras might have had some fast runners to get onto first, but we were able to field and hold them to a zero run inning. In fact, the Toras only managed to score 1 run which was in the fifth inning when their guest, Jack from the Stingers hit a homerun.

In the top of the second, we were starting are batting at the bottom of the order who had a rocky start to their batting. In my case, I get in my freaking head and their catcher made me jealous by catching my foul ball... (insert meme of someone disappointed). Therefore, we had a scoreless inning (insert same disappointed meme).

However, we were back in the third inning!! Which saw us score 8 runs. Furthermore, in the fourth inning, we saw a beautiful squeeze moment for Becky and Nayaab (on second and the batter respectably) who managed to get their defense to make a mistake allowing Becky to score and Nayaab to get a two base hit. Additionally, Leon hit his standard 2 homeruns a game. However, they were the only homeruns for us this game. I will say they had a strong left field defense. Their left field player caught 2 beautiful fly balls, as well as left centre catching one too.

Defensively, we also saw a gorgeous double play in which the ball was hit to Steve who fielded it to second getting the out and then Becky fielded it to first for the second out creating the double play. It was beautiful! Defensively, keep it up! Keep talking to each other and sticking with the ball. Batting-wise, the bottom of the order needs to get out of her freaking head and just hit the flipping ball!!!

As ever, if I missed something: Apologies (particularly Emma whom I seem to ignore every week! :P). In the next two weeks, we will be facing two well established teams, so keep the defense going and get on to base! Until next time, JLo out!

### Jenn

OBP leaders was Leon who went 4 for 4 with a number of people (Lynsey, Emma, Josh and Muhammad) close behind on 3 for 4. The only Home Run hero was Leon with a pair.

### MVPs were Leon and Lynsey

<b>Tiggers</b>	5	0	8	4	3	<b>20</b>
<b>Toras</b>	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>





## 01/07/25 Tiggers v Babes W 17-10

Another beautiful Tuesday, which meant the midges were out. A good turnout for practice again, it's working I think! Emma was definitely there, though she was late... We knew we had a challenge on our hands this game as the Sluggababes put up a gallant fight the last time we met. As the home team, we were in the field first and our defense held strong allowing only 1 run to get past. However, we only managed to get 2 runs in the bottom of the first. Emma (Leon) had an infield fly, though it allowed for our players to move round.

In the second inning, we had a beautiful defensive performance of 3 up and 3 down; including a gorgeous double play in which the batter hit the ball to our pitcher, Emma (Steve), getting the out and then threw it to Emma (Lynsey) on first as the runner had made a break for second without waiting. In the bottom of the second, we managed to get another run. A good performance by Emma (Muhammad) with an assist from Emma (Carlos) who did a cheeky stumble slide in to second, allowing Emma (Muhammad) to get home.

The third inning saw our homerun hero, Emma (Leon), get the first homerun of the game. Unfortunately for us, the defense of the Sluggababes in the fourth proved too much for us and we ourselves had a 3 up, 3 down inning.

But did we allow that to shake us!? Oh no!!

We came back from that and gave them another 0 run scoring inning. And what did we do in response!? We dazzled them with a Grand Slam and another homerun by Emma and Emma (Muhammad and Carlos) respectively. Kudos must also be given to Emma (Carlos) who pulled a hamstring, and still managed to (barely) get round the bases. Amazing dedication from our team, though injuring yourself for the glory of the win is not necessary! The Grand Slam caused a bit of ruckus, as their catcher was blocking the way for Emma (Becky) who had to stop, causing some congestion in which Emma (Muhammad) had to run round the obstruction and arrived home before Emma (Becky). I'm sure there will be detailed video coverage of the event with our trust commentator detailing the ins and outs of the rules.

Needless to say, the Sluggababes couldn't come back from our 10 run inning. It was another fantastic defensive performance from us and 1 wow performance at batting. And if you have been able to follow this write up I commend you as I myself have gone cross-eyed from it. However, Emma has not been forgotten this week. You're welcome. Until next time, JLo out!



**Jenn**

OBP leaders were Steve and Lynsey who each went 3 for 4. Home Run Heroes were Leon, Carlos and (slightly controversially) Muhammad with his Grand Slam (see also note below).

**MVPs were Muhammad and Lynsey**

<b>Babes</b>	1	0	1	3	0	4	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Tiggers</b>	2	1	3	0	10	1	X	<b>17</b>





## 08/07/25 Tiggers @ Thunder 4 W 30-21

A quick write up from my phone... 😊

A highly anticipated game as it was the final game of the second round robin (is that even the right phrase?). We will play every team in Division 4 three times and Tuesday's game was the last of the twice played games and as we were coming into the game undefeated there was a bit of pressure to continue our winning streak although I have been informed (by Steve who loves to give me all the stats about margins, percentages, etc but it all just goes over my head) that it wouldn't be the end of the world if we lost but obviously it was better to win. However, we were short a couple of our infield players; but we had cake waiting for us so we weren't worried about losing or winning.

Oh yes, that brings me to why we had cake and a very obtrusive balloon: it was Georgia's birthday!!! The dedication and strength of someone to leave their young family at home to come all the way to the lovely Parrs Wood to play softball is the stuff of true heroes! Besides the traffic was appalling, so anyone who made it is a hero in my eyes! Especially considering Thunder was playing with a woman down because she broke down on the motorway trying to get to the game.

Anywho, onto the game. We started out shaky. As the away team, we were up first to bat and our performance wasn't anything to write home about... especially considering our first two batters got out (caught out and foul balled (?) out). They'll for sure be moving down in the lineup (insert smirk here). Furthermore, our defence was shaky in the bottom of the first and went into the second inning 3 runs down.

However, we were able to pull it together and produce two high scoring inning in the second and third. The third inning saw the first two home runs of the game for the Tiggers (we're not going to mention Chris from Thunder who scored 4 home runs in the game with two very close calls at home against yours truly and the fact that he's caught up with our own home run hero, Leon, on the division leaderboard).

The first home run was produced by our dear Lynsey (Emma H and Emma P) and Josh scored a second home run for the Tiggers that same inning. Muhammad claimed his first of two home runs for the game in the fourth and dear old Conor even bagged a home run in the fifth.

In fact, Conor did well in right centre considering Chris kept smacking the ball right over his head. Birthday Girl and Amy did well in right field as the opposition could smack it in that direction. Josh and Emma did well in the two left field positions. Becky was great on second stopping Chris at one point with a single base hit. Aiden did well on third stopping the ball several times, just needs an arm like Leon to get that ball to first in time. Muhammad and Nayaab were a great duo on short and first (respectively). Our pitcher pitched well and the catcher... what a star. She really put in the effort to get attempt getting the runners out at home. She never once succeeded in this endeavour but she's still a star in my eyes, MVP material in my opinion...

After the third high-scoring inning Thunder just couldn't get the runs on the board like we could and so it was another successful outcome. Also good news: Dave finally got some game time. So Tiggers, we are still undefeated after 10 games. I've been told (by my stats guy) that if we win an another game we are guaranteed promotion. However if we win 2 more games we are guaranteed which will then entitled to champs of Division 4.

Overall, another cracking performance and game. Keep it up. Dave and Steve are itching to go to Farnham next year to play in the champions cup. (League nationals - Ed)

Right. Take care everyone. I haven't proof read this so there may be lists of errors. ~~But Tigger time is short and sweet. Written on my phone has I'm so not I've written if you. I've quickly rushed that, I'm half asleep.~~ Until next time Jlo out

**Jenn**

OBP leader was Muhammad who went 5 for 5 with Steve and Josh close behind on 4 for 5. Home Run Heroes were Muhammad and Josh with a pair each whilst Emma and Conor also each hit a round tripper.

**MVPs were Josh and Nayaab**

<b>Tiggers</b>	2	9	8	5	2	4	0	<b>30</b>
<b>T4</b>	5	5	5	1	0	1	4	<b>21</b>



## 15/07/25 Tiggers @ Seagulls W 20-10

After a couple of weeks of scorching hot weather, the rain was back! Yay! Though to be fair, the ground needs softening up, the ball bouncing ridiculously on the ground is a pain in the backside.

The game was a bit of a dud, there was a delay before the actual game started as the Seagulls only had 8 players and that was a push as a retired player has come back to help them out, debuting last week; therefore, we began to doubt that there would actually be a bona-fide league game. This was probably our first mistake of the game as we got off to a very rocky start, definitely the worst start of the season. Fortunately for the Seagulls, Holly managed to snag two rookies from the rookies session to play their debut game for them. However, I think this mentality of whether we were going to have a real game, therefore, we don't need to put much effort into it along with the fact that they needed to get two rookies, we weren't prepared for a well-seasoned, though previously retired, pitcher and the fact that they have some heavy hitters on their team and a shortstop who can get the ball to first base quickly and a left centre with a glove like a magnet. Therefore we only scored 4 runs in the first 3 innings and gave away 9 runs. Pretty shaky Tiggers.

Regardless, we are not undefeated without reason and we can pull our heads out of our bums. Which is exactly what we did. We pulled out a 7 run inning in the top of the fourth, with Leon getting a disputed home run. Because we were on Pitch 7, there is a pesky tree with lots of tall grass around it in left field. The rule is, as Muhammad (or was it Leon?, I can't remember who (and no I'm not writing this on a Thursday night half asleep) hit the ball to the tree) discovered, it is not a homerun but a two base hit. However, after getting his ball caught by left centre twice, Leon hit the ball into right field and it went into the tall grass there and the Blue called a two base hit. But our trusty leader was quick out of his chair and contested the call. I'm not sure what was all said and what the rules are, though Dave has recently been reading up on the rule book due to several plays this season that were controversial, Dave was there to point out the Blue's mistake and Leon was given the homerun he deserved. (*The blue thought the ball had bounced into the grass, both teams agreed that it had gone in on the full, she therefore changed her call. Ed*)

Then as we were beginning the bottom of the fourth, our trusty leader called a huddle and rallied the troops to pull their crap together and play softball the way we know we can play softball. Further, Becky boosted the atmosphere by impersonating Tony the Tiger and raising the hypothetical roof within that huddle. And low and behold, we got our crap together and pulled a win out of the bag! We had another good scoring inning in the fifth which saw Emma H/P (Lynsey) get a homerun (she honestly was giggling with glee over it Emma, poor decision to go on your honeymoon during the softball season).

Steve pitched a good game again, Lynsey, Becky and Leon were smashing on first, second and third, respectively. Rob and Carlos played well on third and right centre. Muhammad was brilliant in left field, catching many a fly ball, even if he pushed his sister out of the way once or twice. Amy and Georgia were ace in right field, and it must be commented on how well those two batted this game, particularly Georgia. Really the catcher is a crap batter, but these two ladies are really benefiting from the extra batter coaching, maybe the catcher should join in on that sesh. (We're not going to mention batting percentages and what not, we don't need to know who's at the top, do we? Really, Dave, we don't...)

Well done team! A bit shaky, but a very enjoyable game. I will need my stats guy to confirm this but we should definitely be promoted to Div 3 next season even if we lose every subsequent game. **HOWEVER**, that is not going to happen! Don't even think about it! Don't even put that thought into your head. Well done on another win, team! Keep it up! Until next week, JLo out!

**Jenn**

OBP leader was Dave who went 4 for 4 with Becky and Lynsey close behind on 4 for 5. Home Run Heroes were Leon and Lynsey with one apiece.



**MVPs were Carlos and Lynsey**

<b>Tiggers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Seagulls</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>



## 22/07/25 Tiggers v Base Invaders W 20-5

[Cue dramatic music] 🎤

Narrator (with that classic Big Brother tone – (whatever that is. Ed)):

It's Day 56 in the Big Brother Softball House, and tensions are running high. The sun is blazing (not!), the air is muggy, and the Tiggers are sweating more than just from the heat.

Tonight, we saw a full house — yes, most of the housemates were present and accounted for — and with that, came a twist. Captain Dave, clearly feeling mischievous (or perhaps overconfident?), decided to shake up the fielding positions. Bold move, Dave. But was it the downfall of the Tiggers... or just bad luck?

According to Captain Dave — and we quote — "This was the worst performance of the season."

SHOCK. HORROR. GASPS AROUND THE HOUSE. 😱

Although, our resident sass-queen and behind-the-plate oracle — JLo — wasn't buying it. "Worst performance?" she said. "I've got some ocean front property in Arizona if you believe that one."

Spicy commentary, as always.

*(It was the batting that was not very good, the fielding was fine. Ed)*

[Cut to Diary Room] 🎤

JLo: "Also, I'm on holiday for the next two games, so if the team falls apart, I just want it on record... I'm the glue."

Back on the field (or, in this house, the garden):

The Tiggers started with promise. The Base Invaders snuck 2 runs past in the first inning — cheeky — but the Tiggers responded with a respectable 4-run haul. Hope was alive.

But then... inning two. The cracks started to show. Another 2 runs conceded. A soft, collective groan rippled through the house.

Now let's talk about Simon. Unfortunately for the Tiggers, he was the umpire tonight.

Narrator: "Simon, Simon, Simon... what are we going to do with you?"

JLo, never shy in the Diary Room, had this to say:

"He opens his mouth and absolute nonsense falls out. BASU — are you listening? I'm lodging a formal complaint."



Meanwhile, in the Pitcher's Corner...

Dave took the mound and, well... let's say it was a performance. JLo was not feeling calm.

"Every time I throw it back to him, I panic," she confided. "Steve doesn't complain when I lob it into orbit. Dave? I can't risk having two Grumpy Davids in my life."

Cut to confessional flashback: JLo referencing the Tigger Time incident from May 20th... the tea was 🍵 HOT back then too.

Now, onto the real drama: Where. Were. The. Homeruns?!

No bombs from Lynsey. None from Emma. The competition has gone quiet.

BUT — Emma did become the main character of a fielding frenzy, when she charged home surrounded by nearly the entire Base Invader team, setting up Josh's homerun.

Narrator: "Emma — icon. Chaos agent. Risk taker. We love to see it."

Josh himself bagged two homeruns, while Leon — the silent slayer — stepped up and crushed another two, deflating Base Invader spirits with every swing.

Let's give some flowers to the supporting cast:

- Nayaab held it down on 1st base like a seasoned pro.
- Lynsey adapted to the outfield.
- Rob made an aerial stretch on 3rd that defied gravity (and possibly his hamstrings).
- Leon owned shortstop.
- Amy and Georgia are on an upward batting trajectory — 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively.
- Emma? A queen. 3 for 4.
- JLo? "1 for 3, stuck in my head, bottom of the line-up, and I'm okay with it... maybe."

And let's not forget Steve — our calm, catching, pitching zen-master. Flawless as ever. Almost.

There were some golden fielding moments too — mystery relay plays involving Right Field, Amy, and maybe Leon? The tapes are being reviewed. Stay tuned for the highlights reel...

But tucked between the innings and errors was a play so slick, it had the whole house leaning in.

[Rewind the tape. Slow motion. Suspenseful music begins.] 🎥

Narrator:

Bottom of the inning. A soft, tricky little hit drops just in front of home plate. The batter takes off like they've stolen something.

Catcher JLo — part-time sassmaster, full-time defensive queen — reacts instantly. She scoops the ball and, with the elegance of someone who definitely practised this in their garden, flicks it backwards to pitcher Steve.

Steve — cool as you like — barehands the ball and, without missing a beat, fires it to first base.

The throw was sharp. The play was clean. The effort? Chef's kiss.

The crowd holds its collective breath... 

Was it in time?

Sadly, no.

But did it deserve a standing ovation and a slow clap? Absolutely.

Lo (once again in the Diary Room): 

"We didn't get the out, but let's be real — that play was straight-up cinematic. One flick, one barehand, one perfectly timed throw. We're just a few milliseconds away from being legends. Honestly? That's our villain origin story. Watch this space."

BUT WAIT — TWIST! 

The Tiggers only went and WON DIVISION 4!

That's right, people — the housemates are champions. Cue confetti. Cue Queen's "We Are the Champions." Cue slow motion hugs in the dugout.

Narrator: "It's official. The Tiggers are off to League Nationals next summer. August 8–9. Pack your tents, clear your calendars, and prepare to camp in a field. Softball stardom awaits."

Final confessional from JLo: 

"This one was a long one, but I'm off for the next two weeks, so you're welcome. And let's face it — we're champions now. I'll see you in three weeks. JLo... OUT."

[Roll credits. Fade to black. End of episode.] 

**Jenn**

OBP leaders were Leon, Josh and Conor who all went 4 for 4. Home Run Heroes were Leon and Josh who each claimed a pair of 4 baggers.

### **MVPs were Josh and Emma**

<b>DBI</b>	2	2	0	0	0	1	5
<b>Tiggers</b>	4	1	5	0	4	6	20



## 29/07/25 Tiggers @ Toras W 30-7

Where's the match report then Jenn? What do you mean you weren't there? Oh bugger....

Here we go... This was a pretty routine win against a Toras team that have struggled with injuries and absentees over the last few weeks but there was some good stuff in there....

Carlos pitched his first league game and after a slightly shaky start did a good job including a couple of strikeouts, Steve came into the game in the final inning to close the game out but Carlos did enough to suggest he could prove an able deputy to Mr Beddows.

Georgia 2.0 continued to hit the ball hard, a truly impressive transformation. Aiden joined in the fun with his best hitting performance of the season. Overall after a(nother) slow start the whole team put in a really impressive hitting display. We did get some help from some wild throws from Toras but we also showed that we could take full advantage of their sloppiness – we just need to remember that against better opposition we need to be a bit more circumspect on the bases.

Apart from the impressive Ben who hit two home runs Toras didn't put our defence under much pressure but for the most part we looked tidy defensively. Nayaab took a nice pop catch at catcher, Amy looked the part in left field, Muhammad was energetic at short stop and Steve enjoyed a game without (much) pitching.

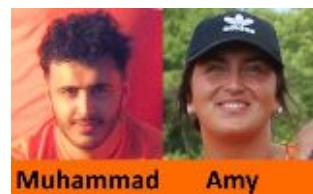
OBP leaders were Aiden, Emma, Muhammad and Steve who all went 4 for 4. Home Run Heroes were Leon and Muhammad who each claimed 4 bagger.

Much of the evenings drama took place after the game with Becky injuring her finger in a 3 way fight with the base bag and the trolley and then Carlos discovering his car exhaust had decided to collapse when we returned to the car park, the latter leading to much messing around with string and then a quick diversion through the (no) exit and along the wrong side of the access road to avoid the speed bumps with accompanying Tiggers performing the traffic police role as Carlos nursed his car back to the open road.

P.S. A quick glance at the video reminds me – the post match cheering was terrible – we need to try harder!

**MVPs were Muhammad and Amy**

<b>Tiggers</b>	3	2	14	11	<b>30</b>
<b>Toras</b>	1	1	3	2	<b>7</b>





## 05/08/25 Tiggers @ Sluggababes W 26-15

Still no Jenn, 2 weeks on the trot, hmm...

This was a much tougher game than most we have played in the league this year (tournaments are a different story!). It was also longer with the floodlights very bright by the time we finished and one of the video cameras running out of puff before the end.

It was also the game of the home run, Conor hit one, Leon hit two but Carlos was the star of the show hitting 3 including a grand slam. The Babes also brought their bats along and the contest was a bit too close for comfort for a long time. Post tournament fatigue may also have contributed to some errors in the early going but we got better as the game went on and in the last two innings we shut them down and we ran out comfortable winners in the end.

In the field Steve was his normal reliable self on the mound (how will we cope next week???). Leon put on an exhibition at short stop (possibly inspired by the presence of sparring partner Dan on the sidelines). Josh took some nice catches in the outfield with Conor also joining in. Becky battled through pain to give her all for the team and everyone else contributed to a gutsy team performance.

OBP leaders were Emma, Becky (both 5 for 5) and Conor (4 for 4) with a number of others close behind on 4 for 5.

**MVPs were Carlos and Emma**

<b>Tiggers</b>	7	7	0	6	0	3	3	<b>26</b>
<b>Babes</b>	6	0	2	5	2	0	0	<b>15</b>



## 12/08/25 Tiggers @ Thunder 4 W 15-12

🎤 [In Eminem's voice, bass-heavy backing beat]

Guess who's back... back again... Jenn is back... tell a friend.

Guess who's back, guess who's back, guess who's back...

🎤 [Abrupt fade into calm David Attenborough tones]

And here, in the heart of the diamond, the elusive Tigger returns from her migration abroad (Yorkshire is abroad! *(Too right Ed)*). Her absence has been keenly felt, and the herd gathers around in an unusual mix of relief, celebration, and—though they will not admit it—mild anxiety over what might unfold today.

We join them at the close of the season, where victory has been a constant companion. Yet, as with all great dynasties, there are days when the mighty stumble... and my, was this one of those days. By some accounts, this may have been the worst performance of the season. Whether this was due to the absence of the Tiggers' regular pitcher, we shall never know. (We do know, but we won't tell him. It will only go to his head.)

This game saw not one, not two, but three distinct pitching creatures emerge from the herd. First came Carlos—sprightly, determined, but perhaps cursed by the wind conditions of the day. Then Leon—ever reliable, yet when he left his usual post, the delicate balance of the outfield collapsed like a startled meerkat colony. And finally, from the shadows, Dave. Yes, the same Dave who swore—on record—that he would never pitch again. Necessity, dear viewers, can make even the most stubborn creatures change their ways.

Now, observe closely... Leon, while on the mound, seizes a ground ball and instinctively tags out a runner thundering towards home. Later, with Dave at the helm, a long-practised ritual between Leon and Jenn finally bears fruit—Leon to Jenn, tag at home. A manoeuvre they have attempted all season, finally executed in the dying light of the final game. Such is the beauty of persistence in the wild.

And here come the females of the herd—each stepping to the plate, not necessarily in search of grand slams or towering home runs... or are they? Their form today: magnificent. Their hitting: sharp, decisive, consistent. The same, I regret to inform you, cannot be said for the males, who floundered like penguins in a desert.

From the skies of the outfield, Muhammad, Josh, and Conor soared to intercept stray hits, with Muhammad even taking up the role of shortstop for a spell. In a surprising show of power, Muhammad, Conor, and Leon each sent a single ball over the boundaries for home runs.

Aiden, stationed on third, displayed impeccable reflexes, saving the ball at least once—until he was abruptly removed to make space for Dave on the mound. His dignity remained intact... mostly. Lynsey and Amy, meanwhile, performed a defensive ballet on on first and second, achieving a double play that sent ripples of excitement through the team.

Even with the other herd—the opposition—a creature short in their ranks, the Tiggers only just eked out a win. Dave was spotted pacing, muttering, and in the fourth or fifth inning, administering what zoologists refer to as “a swift kick up the arse” to awaken his herd from their sluggish state.

Holly, making only her second Tigger appearance of the season after time away recovering from knee injuries, was nothing short of brilliant. Moving with confidence and determination, she slotted back into the herd as though she'd never been away, reminding everyone why she's such an asset to the team.

Georgia and Nayaab also contributed well in the ever-shifting outfield rotation, proving themselves adaptable and unflappable.

And so, as the sun set on this game, the Tiggers stood... undefeated. Their season—glorious. Their future—bright.

The next two weeks will bring strange and mysterious “cup games.” Dave, the alpha male, attempted to explain the mechanics of this competition, but his message was—sadly—lost in the undergrowth. All that is known is that the Fireballs await next week, their place at the bottom of Division 3 making them both vulnerable and unpredictable prey.

For now, the herd rests. They have weathered storms, migrations, and questionable umpiring to stand unbeaten. It is, indeed, good to be back among them. Until next week—this is JLo... out.

OBP leaders were Lwon (4 for 4) and Conor (3 for 3) Home Run Heroes were Leon, Muhammad and Conor with 1 apiece.

### MVPs were Muhammad and Nayaab

<b>Tiggers</b>	5	2	2	2	2	0	2	<b>15</b>
<b>T4</b>	5	3	2	<b>0</b>	1	1	0	<b>12</b>



Muhammad Nayaab



# Tiggers League Stats 2025 (10 PA minimum)

Name	App	PA	OBP	HR	C	SP	1	2	3	SS	OF	EP	RP	Sub
Aiden	8	28	607							6	2			
Carlos	7	28	714	4		2			2		3			
Conor	10	38	816	1							10			
Dave	5	13	923									3	2	
Josh	11	44	795	8										
Leon	14	60	817	22					1	13			1	
Muhammad	12	46	761	7						2	9			
Rob	8	26	769							6	2			
Steve	14	62	806	1		13								
Amy	12	44	409				1	4			7			
Becky	10	40	675					8			2			
Emma	13	54	675	2							13			
Georgia	9	33	455								9			
Jennifer	12	44	364		12									
Lynsey	12	51	647	2				11			1			
Nayaab	14	56	446		2									

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

Holly 7/9 (1 C, 1 OF)

Zoe 1/4 (1 OF)

Kay 2/3 (1 OF)



## Post Season Silver Cup

### 19/08/25 Tiggers @ Fireballs W 14-13

After completing the season undefeated — and becoming only the **10th team in Manchester Softball League history** to do so (cue crowd eruption!!) — the mighty Tiggers assembled at WSG for the Silver Cup semi-final.

Our opponents? The Fireballs — a team we know well and love, not least because our very own Bailey captained them last season to help keep their club alive. Familiarity, though, doesn't mean safety. We knew we had to stay sharp.

With summer holidays biting again, we just squeaked by with five guys (no, not the burger joint  ) and seven girls. Becky sat out through injury and Emma nobly assumed scorekeeper/cheerleader duties. Emma also, allegedly, saved a stranded puppy from certain doom while on holiday — though this tale may or may not have been embellished. 

The first three innings went smoothly with strong defence, including two spectacular tag outs at home plate by yours truly. (Definitely MVP-worthy... even if it ended with me falling on my backside on later attempts. Worth it for the drama!) Batting also picked up nicely, though I'm happy to reveal our MVPs early: Leon (three home run hero!) and Lynsey — whose batting, speed, and sheer brilliance at first base meant she outshone us all. Am I jealous? Oh, absolutely. But c'est la vie!

Fielding told its own story. On the mound, our OG (old guy!) returned, much to our relief — though let's just say the strike zone wasn't his best friend this time around. Dave began on first before switching to second (a much better fit), moving Lynsey into the infield. Amy put in solid work on second before swapping out, while Georgia made a stunning debut on third base — rainbow mask and all. After a near-miss early on, she pulled off a crucial catch late in the game that helped turn the tide.

At shortstop, Leon was on fire as always, and even when he ignored my calls (as did Steve later — apparently the catcher knows nothing!  ), we somehow ended up with outs at home. Out in left field, Josh was kept busy all game, chasing down line drives — including the *final play in the 7th*: a pressure catch and lightning throw that combined with Leon and Lynsey for a sensational double play that took the game into extra innings. Nayaab in left centre had plenty to do as well, with Fireballs sending balls her way repeatedly, while Carlos (our other home run hitter of the night!) covered right centre beautifully. Lynsey started in right field before swapping back into the infield, with Amy rotating out there later too.

Hitting overall was strong, with plenty of contact. The Fireballs, though, were frustratingly sharp with the glove and cutting down many of our attempts at first base. The game stayed close throughout, with the Fireballs even grabbing the lead in the fourth, but the Tiggers fought back — as we always do — and pulled off a hard-fought win.

Next week? The Silver Cup final, likely against the Sluggababes. We've beaten them before, but they're a quality side and will punish any slip-ups. We'll need sharp bats, steady gloves, and maybe a little bit of that late-game magic we seem to thrive on.

Unbeaten still. Proud always. Bring on the final.

Until next week — JLo out!

OBP leaders were Leon and Lynsey who each went 4 for 5. Home Run Heroes were Leon with 3 and Carlos with 1.

**MVPs were Leon and Lynsey**



<b>Tiggers</b>	2	1	2	0	2	0	4	3	<b>14</b>
<b>Fireballs</b>	2	1	0	5	0	1	2	2	<b>13</b>

## 26/08/25 Tiggers v Sluggababes W 14-13

*This week in Albert Square (well... the Silver Cup Final)...*

The Tiggers found themselves face-to-face once more with their old rivals, the Sluggababes. Three encounters this season, three victories for us. But this wasn't just any old Sunday night down the Queen Vic — this was the *final*. The Silver Cup. High stakes, high drama... and absolutely no way we were letting *them* have the last laugh.

Or so we thought.

Because down the market (or was it the dugout?), a shocking rumour spread — our noble Captain, our steady Dave, supposedly didn't care if we won or lost. Didn't care! In a cup final! Say it ain't so, Dave. Please. Tell us you've been stitched up, 'cause that's the sort of line that gets a character written out.

The drama started with a bang. Emma and Lynsey, our leading ladies, smashed a home run each in the very first inning. Cue gasps, cheers, and a few pints spilled in the Vic. Meanwhile Leon, usually our golden boy, got caught out by the Sluggababes' sneaky Division 2 guest lurking in left field. But like a true soap hardman, he avoided that corner for the rest of the night — no more dodgy dealings there.

We were flying high after two innings, but then it all went quiet. Our bats dried up, and the Sluggababes rolled out their big hitters. On that unforgiving ground, the ball bounced past us like gossip spreading down Bridge Street. Run after run, the tension built, until the fifth inning when — BANG! — the Tiggers turned it round. Big hits, big scores, and finally holding them back. (We won't mention the mysterious trip that stopped us getting more. Let's just say: *someone* had a fall, but don't expect the cameras to show you the whole scene.)

Then, as always, it came down to the wire. Could the Tiggers hold their nerve? Could the Sluggababes claw their way back? No chance. We shut them down in the seventh, didn't even need to bat again. Roll credits. Cue dramatic music.

And what a finale it was — an epic win, a trip to the pub, and a season to remember. To my castmates: thank you for letting me play narrator all season. Yes, this episode's a bit late, but you can't have a soap without a dramatic pause.

And Steve — don't you dare talk retirement. You're not leaving the Square. We've still got storylines for you, mate.

Until next season...

**JLo out.**

*DUFF-DUFF... DUFF-DUFF... DUFF-DUFF!*

OBP leaders were Josh, Becky and Lynsey who all went 3 for 3. Home Run Heroes were Leon, Emma and Lynsey with 1 apiece.

**MVPs were Steve and Lynsey**

<b>Tiggers</b>	2	1	2	0	2	0	4	3	<b>14</b>
<b>Fireballs</b>	2	1	0	5	0	1	2	2	<b>13</b>



Steve      Lynsey



## Cup Stats Leaders

OBP leader was **Lynsey** (875).

Home Run Leader was **Leon** with 3.



## 2025 Tuesday Night Fixtures

Date	Vs	Result
<b>Pre-Season</b>		
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Sluggababes	L 13-21
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Stingers	L 25-27
<b>League</b>		
6th May	Seagulls	W 21-4
13th May	Base Invaders	W 29-2
20th May	Toras	W 17-2
27th May	Babes	W 15-9
3rd Jun	Thunder IV	W 19-4
10th Jun	Seagulls	W 27-12
17th Jun	Base Invaders	W 20-0
24th Jun	Toras	W 20-1
1st Jul	Babes	W 17-10
8th Jul	Thunder IV	W 30-21
15th Jul	Seagulls	W 23-10
22nd Jul	Base Invaders	W 20-5
29th Jul	Toras	W 30-7
5th Aug	Babes	W 26-15
12th Aug	Thunder IV	W 15-12
<b>Cup</b>		
19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Fireballs	W 14-13
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Sluggababes	W 14-13

## Tournaments

### Firstball



We had fun in the sun at Firstball and won some games of Softball along the way. As the only Division 4 team in the tournament it was hard not to have a few qualms about how we'd get on over the weekend but in the end we finished in a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place (out of 8) in the round robin and were looking on course for a place in the plate final until a freak event in the shape of Mat's back spasm disrupted the team part way through the semi final and we fell to an unfortunate loss against a team we'd easily defeated in the previous game.

We had a slow start on the Saturday with a number of fielding errors making it rather too easy for Thunder to chalk up a big score in our first game. We were much better in the two games after that and chalked up impressive wins against higher division opponents in the shape of the Hackers and an out of sorts Speeders team. The last two games of the day were against opponents from across the pennines who had too much power and experience for us, though we made some nice plays in both games.

Opponent	Result
T3	L 3-18
Hackers	W 14-8
Speeders	W 17-5
Bobcats	L 7-17
Dales	L 5-16
Stingers	L 8-9
Liver Birds	W 14-3
Liver Birds	L 6-9

Another day, another slow start as again fielding errors played a large role in us losing a tight game against the Stingers. In a similar way to Saturday we were much better in our second game and comprehensively defeated the Liver Birds.

Our fifth place finish then meant a post lunch rematch against the Birds. Things looked promising in the early stages but Mat's untimely injury cost us both an important bat and our only short stop and our weekend came to an unfortunate end. We still managed a smile for the cameras though!

There were lots of good performances in the field over the two days, guests Mat and Rachael were excellent on short stop and second. Josh was king of the outfield. Our other ringer Steve Kellett proved a dependable replacement for his name sake Mr Beddows. Lynsey and returning old girl Sandra were each

excellent at first base. Rob got some more pitching practice and looked impressive on third and everyone else chipped in and worked hard.

With the bats OBP leaders were Mat and Emma with Steve Sandra and Nayaab close behind. Home Run hero was Mat with a pair, with Steve, Conor, Lynsey and Emma claiming one four bagger apiece.

**Tournament MVPs were Mat and Emma.**



## Manchester Tournament



The Tiggers second two day tournament was hard work on the pitch but really worthwhile. We had two good wins, a couple of near misses and we got to a final so there was a lot to be proud of.

Six games on sunny Saturday was a big ask but we kept plugging away and saved the best till last. We had three pairs of games, we started with two close defeats in games that could have gone either way. In the afternoon we had two tough games against (very) experienced opposition, then in the final pair Stingers showed us why they are off to Division 2 next year before we stunned a strong Dales / Bam! combined team by ending the game, and the day, with a walk off homer.

<b>Bats</b>	<b>L 7-9</b>
<b>Bangers</b>	<b>L 11-13</b>
<b>Notts Tigers</b>	<b>L 5-16</b>
<b>Demons</b>	<b>L 2-10</b>
<b>Stingers</b>	<b>L 4-17</b>
<b>Dam</b>	<b>W 13-12</b>
<b>Liverbirds</b>	<b>L 6-10</b>
<b>Bolts</b>	<b>L 4-10</b>
<b>SF: Liverbirds</b>	<b>W 10-5</b>
<b>F: Notts Tigers</b>	<b>L 2-16</b>

Sunday morning was miserable and wet and we slipped to another close defeat against a Liverbirds team that included some familiar faces (Steve K, Tash and regular Tigers guest Lisa). After a long wet interval we then played another veteran outfit in the shape of the Bolts and slipped to another defeat BUT the weather was improving.

In the spoon semi finals we faced the Liverbirds again and the better weather brought out a better Tiggers performance as we downed them 10-5. Our reward in the final was another rematch, facing the East Midlands Tigers. This was our tenth game of the weekend and fatigue was beginning to show as our opponents put on an impressive hitting display, powering their way to a one sided win.

Over the weekend Male OBP leader was Muhammad who batted 800, female leader was Lynsey (577). Home Run heroes were Muhammad and Carlos who hit two apiece and guests Seb and Kieran with one each. in the field stand outs were Steve who pitched well throughout the weekend and Lynsey who was excellent on first base. Many thanks to all the guests who played their part over the weekend.(Han, Seb, Kieran, Mat and Dani).

**Tournament MVPs were Steve and Lynsey**



## 06/09/25 Tiggers @ Red Rose

*Due to a slight misunderstanding at the commissioning agent's about who was doing what we have here two different write ups of this season finale, enjoy them both...*

Bandits	L 5-15
Hackers	L 4-15
Liverbirds	W 14-9
Sluggababes	W 7-6
Stingers	L 11-17
Liverbirds	W 19-4

### Version 1...

#### Tiggers Battle Through Tough Tournament to End Season on a High

The weather was glorious, the field... slightly less so. Six teams gathered for a brilliantly organised day of softball, and the Tiggers came ready to fight—even if the early Saturday start left us a little sluggish.

Game one saw the Batdidos come out swinging, handing us our first loss. Then came the Hackers, a team known for big bats and sharp fielding, and points-wise... well, let's just call it a “learning experience.”

But the Tiggers don't stay down for long. We roared back with a win over the Liverbirds before facing our old rivals, the Sluggababes. They've been a thorn in our side all season, but once again, we kept our winning streak alive and sent them packing!

With two wins and two losses, everything rested on the Stingers game to reach the Silver Cup final. We started strong with Rob commanding the mound—until a Stingers' line drive cracked straight into his shin, derailing our momentum. A pitching reshuffle couldn't save the game, and we were headed to the Bronze Cup final.

It was brilliant having some Tiger players join us too—our clubmates and friends from another division who always bring the same energy and fighting spirit.

And in the final? The Tiggers crushed it—17–1 over the Liverbirds after just one inning. Meanwhile, the Stingers took the Silver Cup, and the Hackers claimed the Championship title after defeating the Sluggababes.

A huge shout-out to Dave for organising a fantastic day of softball. A perfect end to the season for the Tiggers. Winter may be coming, but we'll be back next year, ready to play harder than ever.

JLo out!

### Version 2...

The Tiggers, with a bit of help from a few Tigers, enjoyed a day in the sun at our own Red Rose Tournament. We had a bit of a slow start, too early in the morning perhaps (?) and lost heavily in the first game to the team off many names. They'd been Bats and then Bandidos in the build up, played as Batdidos against us but were Bandits by the end of the day. Whatever they were called they caught us cold and were deserved winners. Simon and Ed recorded solo home runs but otherwise our bats were almost completely dead. We were still a bit sleepy in the second game against a Hackers team that had

had a good season in Division 2. Josh hit this game's solo homer but again we failed to score anything like enough runs.

Things got better after the first break in play. We faced a Liverbirds team that have become familiar opponents this season and recorded a comfortable win. They had a few pitching problems, we took full advantage. We were better in the field as well with the highlight play a fine tag play by Georgia at 3<sup>rd</sup> base on a batter who was surprised to learn he hadn't hit a triple after all. Lynsey hit this game's home run, and this one with someone on base!

The fourth game was the highlight of the day, a close fought win against a guest heavy Sluggababes team including an NSL1 player who shouldn't really have been playing at all. Five times Sluggababes have faced the Tiggers five times this season in league, cup and tournament play and five times they've come up short. Lynsey hit another homer, this one another solo shot.

After another break (the toilets were a LONG way away) our final group game was against the Stingers, another team we've seen a few times this year despite playing in different divisions (and arguably OUR bogie team). This was another nip and tuck game for most of it's length before an unfortunate injury to Rob disrupted his pitching rhythm. He tried to carry on but a sore leg messed up his delivery and a couple of walks gave the Stingers an opportunity they seized with both hands as they scored heavily in what turned out to be the final inning.

That loss put us in the bronze final and gave us a rematch against the Liverbirds. We saved our best batting performance for this game and a seventeen run top of the first meant the rest of the game was a bit of a formality. Harry, Oli, Ed and Carlos all claimed a four bagger.

OBP leader was Han, who went 4 for 4 in her 2 games, close behind were Harry (889 – 8 for 9) and Holly (857 – 6 for 7). Home Run leaders were Ed and Lynsey with two apiece, Josh, Oli, Carlos and Simon having one each.

In the field Lynsey was excellent at first, Simon both pitched well and looked good at short. Harry was the pick of the outfield and Georgia again showed promise at 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tournament MVPs were Lynsey and Simon.**





# End of season awards

## Batting champions

Male



Leon

Female

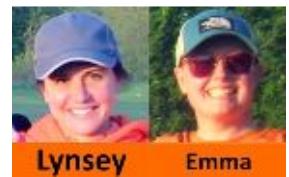


Emma

## Home run champions



Leon



Lynsey

Emma

## Tournament batting champions



Rob



Holly

## Tournament home run champions



Carlos



Lynsey

## Players' players



Leon



Lynsey

## Captain's players



Steve



Jennifer

