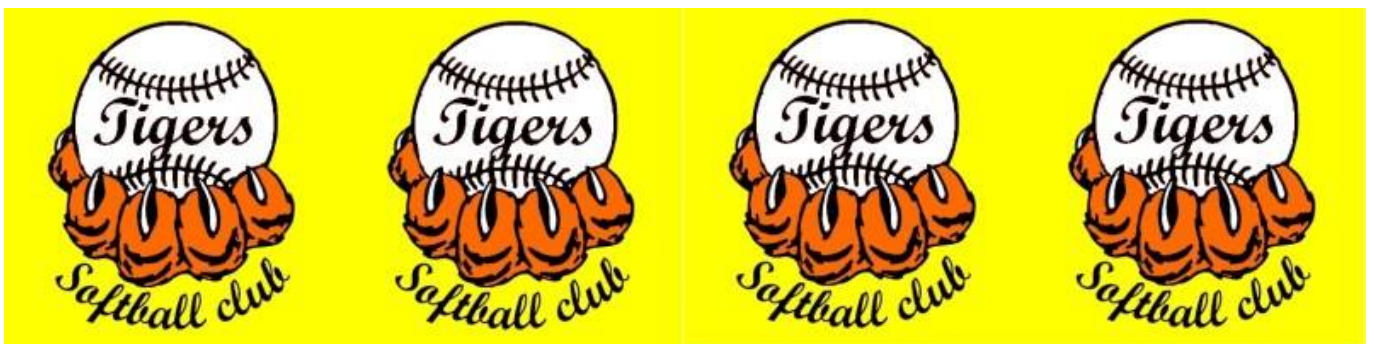




# Tigers Softball Club, 2017 Yearbook



The Year in review

## League Season overview

We had another successful league season in 2017 winning promotion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> successive year. We probably overachieved slightly in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season, then international call ups, injuries and holidays all combined to slow us down in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but over the season as a whole 2<sup>nd</sup> place was a deserved reward for lots of hard work by the whole team.

Mike was the team Home Run Champion with 9 four-baggers closely followed by Dan with 7, JD was the only other male Home Run hitter with 3 whilst Annie and Alyssa claimed one each for the women. Male OBP leaders were Dan, Dave and Sully whilst TK, Jackie and Emma were the female top 3. Over the team as a whole the female OBP was a very respectable 482 and the male OBP a possibly slightly below par 630.

Our male MVP was Dan who was the team's best fielder and also our best batter. TK was the female MVP, hitting for a high average and good in the infield. Jackie was a great addition to the squad, hitting with power and providing another great option in the infield, putting in some great performances at 1<sup>st</sup> in the second half of the season.

Mike was central to the success of the team, putting in lots of hard work both on and off the pitch. He hit with real power, provided lots of options in both infield and outfield and in the last game of the season he showed that he's now a viable option at pitcher. Annie played with a dodgy shoulder all season, postponing her operation so she could complete the year. Emma also played several games with a hand injury, despite that she looked good in field and hit over 500 for the season.

Sandra kicked on this year, hitting the ball hard and being reliable in both infield and outfield. Caroline also started to threaten with the bat and looked promising in the outfield (as well as being the team's best scorer). Jen had a promising 1<sup>st</sup> year and was hitting the ball hard by the end of the season.

JD and Sully both had other commitments that restricted their playing time, but they were both effective when they did get onto the pitch. Alyssa also missed a lot of games but when she did play she hit the ball very hard and was really good in the outfield.

Tony batted lead-off and was a willing utility man in the field. Rob and Steve were the twin pillars of the outfield, working hard all year with almost identical batting stats. Dave was the team's main pitcher and also got on base at a decent pace. Guest Steve Beddows provided invaluable pitching cover when Dave was injured.

## Tournaments

We played in five tournaments in 2017 and had a successful time. We started by having a winning record at Firstball, losing a tight semi-final to the Bobcats. At Sefton we over-achieved by reaching the plate final. At North West Series 2 we won the whole bowl of wax taking home the Gold Cup. We had another winning record at the Manchester tournament before recording a 5&1 record and taking the silver cup at the 3rd North West Series tournament.

## International Call ups

A review of the year wouldn't be complete without mentioning the fact that we supplied 2 players, JD and Dan, to the GB U19 Fastpitch team that played in the European championships in Prague in July.



***Tigers***



*Alyssa Jones*

***Tigers***



*Annie Downes*

***Tigers***



*Caroline Drake*

***Tigers***



*Daniel Downes*

***Tigers***



*Dave Wareham*

***Tigers***



*Emma Pritchard*

***Tigers***



*Jackie Ercin*

***Tigers***



*Jennie Duckworth*

***Tigers***



*Jonathan Downes*

***Tigers***



*Michael Miah*

***Tigers***



*Rob Lawrence*

***Tigers***



*Sulaimaan Ahmed*

***Tigers***



*Steve Girling*

***Tigers***



*Sandra Zlatinska*

***Tigers***



*Tereza Kokocinska*

***Tigers***



*Tony LeFave*

# League Games

## Game 1: 04/05/17 Outlaws

We recorded a fine win to start our 2017 league season in a tight game played in an excellent spirit. The Outlaws were in the lead for the first half of the game, but we shut them out for the last four innings whilst gradually accumulating runs ourselves. Injuries and work commitments meant we had to use 2 guest players, the first guests we have included in the line-up since 2015, both Jonny and Jade played a full part in our victory but there were lots of other fine performances up and down the order.

In the field Dan was excellent at short stop, Michael impressed at 3. Dave pitched well, Emma recorded a large number of outs at 2nd and Sandra and Caroline both recorded important outs in the outfield. Annie took a nice catch on a pop up, and paid the price as she was cleaned out (accidentally) by the base runner. Guest Jade was impressive on 1st and Jonny Huck recorded an impressive sliding catch in right field.

OBP leaders were Dan and Rob, both 3 for 3, with Emma close behind, unfortunate to only go 2 for 3. Home Run Hero was Jonny with 2 homers, including a Grand Slam in the 4th that gave us the lead we held for the rest of the game.

Jennie made her debut for the team and had a successful time, getting her first hit and also scoring a run!



<b>Outlaws</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tigers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>11</b>

MVPs were Emma and Dan

## Game 2: 11/05/17 Drizzle

Week 2 of the league season and a slightly makeshift and battered Tigers team secured a hard fought victory against a Drizzle side who were unlucky to come out on the wrong end of a see saw game. We took a big lead early on, gave it away, fell behind, snuck back into the lead and just held on at the end with a fine catch by new girl Jackie at 3<sup>rd</sup> giving us the victory.

OBP leader was Dan who went 5 for 5, with Tony and Michael (each 4 for 5) close behind. Home Run Heroes were Michael, with 2, and Annie. In the field, Jackie played well at 3<sup>rd</sup>, Emma was solid at 1<sup>st</sup>, Michael was the standout in the outfield and Dave pitched a good game.

Steve deserves a special mention for playing when he really wasn't fit, and other people went out and did a fine job in unfamiliar positions. We've done it tough on the injury front so far this season but with a rest week coming up we may have more bodies back on board before we play again.



<b>Tigers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Drizzle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>

MVPs were Jackie and Michael





### Game 3: 25/05/17 Storm

A high scoring, and fluctuating game, we were ahead for most of it but could never rest easy until the final run was scored on Michael's walk off Home Run. We conceded 6 Home Runs and only scored 3 of our own but a disciplined batting performance allowed us to keep getting on base and driving the runs in. We had people playing out of position and players who were playing injured but we just did enough to secure the win.

TK (6 for 6), Michael (6 for 6) and Dave (5 for 5) were perfect at the plate, all batting 1000. Home Run heroes were Michael with 2 and Dan with 1. We struggled a bit at times in the outfield against a strong Storm batting line up but we kept our heads up and kept plugging away through the game. Dave pitched well, Dan was good at short and TK defied her bad back to put in a strong performance at 1<sup>st</sup>.



<b>Storm</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Tigers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>

MVPs were TK and Dave

### Game 4: 01/06/17 Rippers

An efficient performance against a Rippers side that never really got going until the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Alyssa and JD made their first league appearances of the season and it was good to see them in action at last. Guest Steve Beddows pitched as Dave was out with a knee injury.

OBP leaders were JD and Caroline who each went 4 for 4 at the plate. Home Run Heroes were Dan and JD with 1 apiece. Everyone else got on base at least once and there were strong performances up and down the order.

Steve B. pitched really well and was perhaps unlucky to miss out on recording a shutout to go with the W. Michael looked good on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alyssa took a couple of nice catches in left including the catch 'em out throw 'em out double play that ended the game. Rob took a good running catch in centre left and everyone else contributed to a good defensive display.



<b>Tigers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Rippers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

MVPs were TK and Dan



### Game 5: 08/06/17 Bats

All good things come to an end and after 4 wins on the bounce at the start of the season we finally tasted defeat in game 5 against an efficient and experienced Bats team. We didn't do a bad job in the field but we struggled when batting, we didn't get enough runners on base and didn't get the hits to drive in the base runners we did get.

In the field there weren't any really stand out performances but despite a few forced errors we performed reasonably effectively as a team. Highlights included a couple of nice catches from JD at shortstop and some good work by Rob in left field. OBP leaders were Dan (3 for 3) and Michael (2 for 2) who each batted 1000. Home Run hero was Dan with 2 solo dingers.

Along the way we chalked up a couple of firsts, Michael showed promise in his league pitching debut when he came on in relief, and Jen took to the field for the first time in what was her 3<sup>rd</sup> league appearance.



<b>Tigers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bats</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>

MVPs were Emma and Dan

### Game 6: 15/06/17 Pirates

We took a big early lead in this game, but the hard hitting Pirates came back well in the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and whilst we never lost the lead we could never really relax until the last out was recorded. The pirates hit half a dozen Home Runs to our two but our patience at the plate and willingness to take a walk won us the game.

People up and down the order got on base and whilst no one was perfect at the plate Tony, Emma, TK, Rob and guest Steve B. all went 4 for 5. The Home Run heroes were Dan and Michael with 1 apiece.

In the field Steve pitched well. Dan took some impressive catches at short. TK played well on 1<sup>st</sup> and Michael put in a fine performance in the outfield, though he picked up a rather large bruise along the way !



<b>Pirates</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Tigers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>21</b>

MVPs were TK and Dan

### Game 7: 22/06/17 Drizzle

A game of two halves, Drizzle took a big lead half way through the 3<sup>rd</sup> but after that we came roaring back and won going away, only allowing 2 further runs in the last 4 innings whilst scoring consistently ourselves.

OBP leaders were Dan and Dave who each batted 1000. Home Run hero was Michael with TK having to settle for another triple as she again came oh so close to breaking her duck.

In the field Dave pitched well on his return from injury. TK and Jackie both looked good as they took turns on 1<sup>st</sup>. Michael looked very good at 3<sup>rd</sup> after moving there mid game. Sandra and Caroline both took nice outfield catches.



<b>Drizzle</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Tigers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>17</b>

MVPs were TK and Michael





### Game 8: 29/06/17 Outlaws

A tight, well-played good natured game, in which we didn't quite bat well enough to get the win. The Outlaws took an early lead but with our defence looking good they failed to build on it whilst we clawed our way back into contention and tied things up half way through the 6th. We never managed to get a lead of our own though and paid the price in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> with the winning run coming home with 1 out.

Home Run hero was Michael with a 2 run effort in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup>. OBP leaders were JD and Rob who each went 3 for 3. Tony also batted 1000 recording a pinch hit double in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

In the field Dave pitched well again, TK looked good on 2 and Sandra did a fine job on 1<sup>st</sup> on her return to infield duties. Michael and JD both showed impressive range in taking catches off pop ups. Sully played his first game of the season and Alyssa made a welcome return to the pitch after the end of her college course.



<b>Tigers</b>	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	7
<b>Outlaws</b>	1	2	0	4	0	0	1	8

**MVPs were TK and Dave**

### Game 9: 13/07/17 Storm

Storm took an early lead and we never managed to get back on even terms. We did a decent job in the field but just never really got going at the plate.

One person who didn't have any batting problems was Alyssa who hit a triple as well as her first Home Run of the season, being robbed of a 3<sup>rd</sup> base hit only by a really nice low catch by the short stop. Alyssa also topped the OBP stats, together with Michael and Sully, all 3 of them going 2 for 3. Unfortunately as a team we only went 11 for 31, not a recipe for success.

In the field Dave pitched well, Jackie did a nice job at first and the rest of the infield also looked tidy. Rob, Steve and Tony all took good outfield catches and Alyssa did a fine job in left field. Overall our fielding performance was fine, we just didn't score the runs we needed to be competitive.



<b>Tigers</b>	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	6
<b>Storm</b>	6	0	3	0	1	2	X	12

**MVPs were Alyssa and Michael**

### Game 10: 20/07/17 Bats

We coughed up an early lead, came back to tie after 3, then suffered another big inning which we never really recovered from. Overall we played much better than we did the week before, we scored some runs and there were some real highlights in the field, but in the end the greater experience of the Bats team showed through and we didn't quite do enough to get the win.

Home run heroes were Dan and Mike. OBP leader was Tony who batted 1000 (4 for 4). Base running star was Mike with two memorable charges round the bases. In the field Jackie played really well on first and jet setter Dan returned at short stop and made some nice plays.



<b>Bats</b>	6	3	0	9	1	1	0	20
<b>Tigers</b>	0	8	1	0	4	1	0	14

**MVPs were TK and Dan**





## Game 11: 27/07/17 Pirates

A really good team performance against a dangerous Pirates line up that was strengthened by a couple of Mavericks. International call ups meant that we were without the Downes boys but we showed that we have the strength in depth to win games without them. ☺ We were defensively strong throughout and in the later stages the bats came to life as we built a winning lead.

Michael was the Home Run hero with a spectacular 3 run effort in the 3d inning. OBP leaders were TK, Alyssa and Steve who all went 3 for 4, with Alyssa in particular hitting the ball with real power. Caroline also deserves a special mention for the enormous 2 out double that she hit in the 6<sup>th</sup>.

In the field Mike had his best ever game at shortstop and Alyssa was awesome in left field. All the other outfielders took good catches. Jackie had another strong game at 1<sup>st</sup>, Tony caught a screaming line drive at 3<sup>rd</sup>, TK did sterling work at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Caroline took a nice catch on a pop up at catcher.



<b>Tigers</b>	0	0	3	0	0	4	2	9
<b>Pirates</b>	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	5

**MVPs were Alyssa and Mike**

## Game 12: 03/08/17 Rippers

We produced a wobbly start in this game against an under strength Rippers team that played with great spirit but we settled down after that and won comfortably in the end. 12-4 down half way through the 4<sup>th</sup> we started to perform. We outscored the Rippers 25-2 in the remainder of the game and recorded a 6 inning mercy rule win.

Home Run hero was Dan who was also the OBP king, batting 5 for 5. He was closely followed by Tony, Jackie, TK and Sully who all went 4 for 5. Everyone in the line-up got on base at least 3 times.

In the field Dan impressed at short stop, Dave pitched a strong game, Jackie put in another impressive performance at 1<sup>st</sup>, Sandra took a nice catch in right and Rob made another nice grab in centre field.



<b>Rippers</b>	7	0	0	5	2	0	14
<b>Tigers</b>	2	0	2	8	8	9	29

**MVPs were Dan and Sandra.**

## Game 13: 10/07/17 Outlaws

A night to forget for the Tigers on International Lion Day as we put in a very tired looking performance after our exertions over the weekend. In the field multiple errors let the Outlaws rack up the runs and at the plate we were equally off the pace.

There were a few bright spots amongst the gloom, Sandra put in a decent performance at 2nd, Steve Beddows pitched well and JD made a fine play to get a force out on 2nd with a pin point throw from the outfield. At the plate Emma went 3 for 3 and Mike, Sandra and Rob also batted 1000.



<b>Tigers</b>	0	1	1	3	0	5
<b>Outlaws</b>	7	7	2	1	3	20

**MVPs were JD and Sandra.**



## Game 14: 17/08/17 Storm

Traffic problems meant that it was touch and go whether we would have a team ready to play at 7pm, but we (just about) managed it, unlike Storm, who only had 3 guys at game time – and the others never showed up. Reluctant just to turn round and go home after all the trouble we had taken to get there we played an entertaining friendly game that fittingly ended in a tie. **The forfeit means that we are PROMOTED and will play in Division 2 next year.**

## Game 15: 24/08/17 Bats

We put in a good performance in our last game of the season but it wasn't quite enough to get the win against an impressive Bats team. We knew that the game wouldn't affect our league position whoever won so we took the opportunity to give all the squad some playing time. We kept things tight until the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> when a 7 run inning gave the Bats some breathing room.

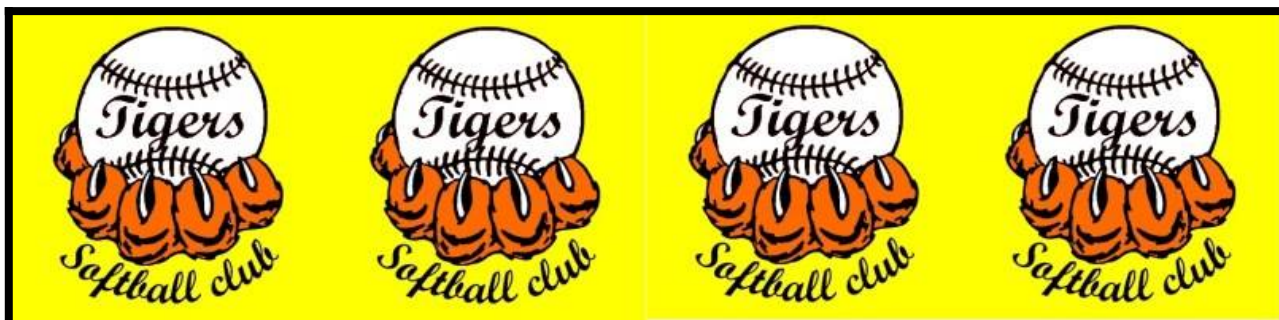
Batting star was JD who batted 1000 (3 for 3) and also hit 2 Home Runs. Alyssa led the way for the women going 2 for 3. In the field Mike put in another encouraging pitching performance, Alyssa took some nice catches in left field, TK looked good at both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dan and JD made some nice plays at short & 3<sup>rd</sup>



**Alyssa JD**

<b>Tigers</b>	0	2	0	2	1	3	1	<b>9</b>
<b>Bats</b>	2	1	2	3	7	0	X	<b>15</b>

MVPs were JD and Alyssa





<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Pitch</b>	<b>H/A</b>	<b>Score</b>
May 4	Outlaws	7	H	W. 11-5
May 11	Drizzle	6	A	W. 18-17
May 18	Rest	n/a	n/a	n/a
May 25	Storm	8	H	W. 23-22
June 1	Rippers	8	A	W. 21-2
June 8	Bats	7	A	L. 2-17
June 15	Pirates	6	H	W. 21-15
June 22	Drizzle	8	H	W. 17-11
June 29	Outlaws	8	A	L. 7-8
July 6	Rest	n/a	n/a	n/a
July 13	Storm	7	A	L. 6-12
July 20	Bats	6	H	L. 14-20
July 27	Pirates	7	A	W. 9-5
August 3	Rippers	7	H	W. 29-14
August 10	Outlaws	8	A	L. 5-20
August 17	Storm	8	n/a	W. 20-0
August 24	Bats	7	A	L. 9-15



	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>RS</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>%age</b>	
Bats	15	0	0	294	142	1000	C



<b>Tigers</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>P</b>
Outlaws	8	7	0	192	162	533	
Storm	6	7	2	189	249	400	
Pirates	7	7	0	218	223	500	
Drizzle	4	10	0	234	261	286	
Rippers	2	12	0	158	277	143	







# Tournaments

## Firstball

New shirts and new bats took centre stage as we played our first competitive weekend of Softball in 2017. Overall we batted really well up and down the order. Defensively it was more of a mixed bag, a mix of everything from really good to err, not quite so good.....

We played 3 games in our initial group, winning 2 of them and running out of time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the middle of a great come back inning. In many ways our best performance was in the first game, a 5-4 win against a very strong Sharks line up that featured our best defensive play of the weekend; two strong throws on a relay from the outfield that cut down what had looked like a certain Home Run at the plate.

That put us in another 4 team group and again we won 2 of our 3 games with the stand out performance a 19-2 win against the Rippers, 19 runs that we scored without a single homer.

That meant we faced the Leeds Bobcats in the semi, a controversial game we lost narrowly (7-6) ending with the winning run stranded on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

We scored lots of runs throughout the weekend and there were fine batting performances up and down the order. Male OBP leader was Tony who batted 800, with TK (625) leading the way for the women. Home Run heroes were JD (2), Dan (4) and Michael (4).

In the field both the Downes boys performed well both at short stop and in the outfield, though it was Alyssa whose outfield performance shone brightest. Sandra also took some important catches in right field. Michael looked really good when moved across to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Emma put in a very promising display at 1st. Dave pitched most of the weekend with Tony putting in 2 winning performances in relief.

**Tournament MVPs were TK and Dan**

Opponent	Score
Sharks	W. 5-4
Basehunters	W. 12-8
Camels	L. 9-6
Bats	W. 11-7
Rebels	L. 9-14
Rippers	W19-2
Bobcats	L. 6-7









## Sefton



We played really well at the Sefton tournament, with strong performances from players up and down the line-up. We played 10 games over the weekend, in the 8 round robin games we achieved a 4 and 2 record within our group and were 4 and 4 overall, a record that put us 4<sup>th</sup> in our group and into the plate semi final.

On the Saturday we started with a comfortable win against the Firecrackers. That was followed by a tight win against the Vikings and then perhaps our best result of the weekend, a fine batting performance that gave us us a 14-8 victory over the Meerkats. The last 2 games, against Mavericks and Dodgers, were both defeats but, despite our relative our lack of experience, (and lack of NSL players!) we didn't look out of place competing against either opponent. On Sunday morning we registered an easy win against the Fish, followed by close fought defeats to the MK team and the Camels to end the round robin.

We went behind early in our plate semi-final against a hard hitting Trojans team, whose stand out player was former Tiger Mike Gaskell, but a disciplined batting performance, helped by a tag out at home by Annie and some canny pitching by Steve Beddows hauled us back into the game and eventually gave us a narrow win. That took us into a final against a Meerkats team looking for revenge for their defeat on Saturday.

The final was a tight, well-played game. The Meerkats took a 9-5 lead after 3 innings but we didn't let our heads drop. Two runs behind after 6 we tied things up at 13 all half way through the 7<sup>th</sup>, but a walk off Home Run from Joe Grantham gave the Meerkats the win.

Home Run heroes over the weekend were Dan (7), JD (5) and Michael (3). OBP leaders were Dave (929) and Annie (684). In the field everyone worked hard, stand outs included guest pitcher Steve Beddows who looked good all weekend, Dan and JD who both performed well both at shortstop and in the outfield and Alyssa who made a promising pitching debut as well as doing fine work in

Opponent	Score
Firecrackers	W. 9-2
Vikings	W. 7-6
Meerkats	W. 14-8
* Mavericks	L. 9-13
Dodgers	L. 8-15
Fish	W. 12-4
MK Seagulls	L. 12-13
* Camels	L. 9-14
Trojans	W. 8-7
Meerkats	L. 13-14

\* = cross group game



the outfield. There were lots of other good performances, and a few bumps and bruises as well,, but in the end the biggest plus we can take away from the weekend was the way the whole team kept battling, and often winning, against opponents who were much more experienced and highly ranked than ourselves.

**Tournament MVPs were Dan and Alyssa**





## NW Series 2

We had a very successful time at the 2<sup>nd</sup> North West Series tournament, coming out top of the pile, winning 5 out of 6 games to grab the trophy, beer and cake !

In the first part of the day we played 4 group games, comfortable wins over the Sabres and Typhoons were followed by a loss to the Leeds Bobcats in a game we controlled until the last few minutes when a coupled of fielding errors gave the Bobcats a chance for the win which they seized with both hands. In our final group game we returned to form with another comfortable win over the Rippers.

Opponent	Score
Sabres	W. 12-2
Typhoons	W. 17-2
Bobcats	L. 5-8
Rippers	W. 12-2
Rippers	W. 7-5
Lightning	W. 21-2

The 3 and 1 record gave us a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the round robin stages and a place in the Gold (top 3) play-offs. First up we got our revenge against the Bobcats in a game that was pretty much a mirror image of our first game against them. We looked well off the pace for most of the game, suffering from the heat perhaps, but kept it close defensively, then seized the initiative in the last inning, scoring 5 runs and we were still batting when time ran out. The final game was a less stressful affair, an easy win against a Lightning team that had perhaps over achieved in the group stages.

There were loads of highlights. TK finally got her 1<sup>st</sup> Home Run of the season after all her triples. Sully got his first career Homer. Annie tried to catch the ball with her head. Emma did make several successful and game changing catches in the outfield (with her glove). Sandra hit the ball hard and fielded with fierce determination. Mike did a fine job at short stop. Jackie made some excellent throws to first, where Dave and Tony both looked tidy. Jen worked an all-important walk in the decisive game against the Bobcats, Steve did a fine job at pitcher, Sully looked good in his first tournament, Alyssa was impressive in the 2 games she played in short everyone contributed to a fine team performance.

Home Run heroes were TK, Michael and Sully with 1 apiece. Male OBP leaders were Dave, Tony and Sully. Female leaders were Annie, TK and Sandra. Thanks to the various guys who guested for us during the day, allowing us to bat 6&6 in every game and contributing well with the bats.



**Tournament MVPs were TK and Michael**









## Manchester Tournament

We had a fine time at the Manchester tournament, give or take an injury or two. We started with 2 wins and a tie in our 3 initial group games, finishing top of the group and putting us into the Silver competition. We found life a bit tougher in with the big boys but put in a series of creditable performances with the highlights being wins against the Outlaws and our old rivals Mayhem. We finished with a placing game against the Detonators in which we took the opportunity to swap things round in the field and in the batting order and in which Mike pitched a complete competitive game for the first time.

Home Run Leader over the weekend was Mike with 5, followed by Dan and JD with 3 apiece and then Sandra who hit her first 2 Home Runs ever in consecutive at bats against the Sharks on Sunday afternoon. The male OBP top 3 were Dave (832), JD (682) and Dan (636). Female OBP leaders were Sandra (667), Annie (also 667) and Emma (545).

New girl Leila played Softball for the first time ever on the Sunday and looked very promising. Another first was that Caroline's parents finally watched us win a game for the first time after witnessing several Sunday afternoon defeats over the last couple of years.

On the injury front Jackie ended up with a sore thumb and seam marks embedded in her skin after being hit by a hard line drive on Saturday which made it hard for her to throw and bat for the rest of the weekend, and JD shed blood for the team sliding into 3rd on the Sunday.

**Tournament MVPs were Sandra and JD**

Opponent	Score
Pirates	W. 9-7
Rippers	T. 13-13
Detonators	W. 16-8
Bobcats	L. 5-10
Outlaws	W. 14-9
Speeders	L. 5-12
Bats	L. 5-8
Sharks	L. 7-15
Mayhem	W. 6-2
Detonators	L. 9-14









## NW Series 3

We had another successful time at the 3rd North West Series tournament, winning 5 out of 6 games to grab a trophy, beer and chocolates !

In the first part of the day we played 4 group games, comfortable wins over the Baserunners and Leeds Lightning were followed by a much closer affair against the Meteors, a game we were lucky to win. In our final group game we were wupped by the Bobcats, a bad injury to Steve B. didn't help as we were shut out having only 2 base runners to our name in the whole game.

Opponent	Score
Basehunters	W. 24-4
Lightning	W. 9-3
Meteors	W. 13-12
Bobcats	L. 0-13
Sabres	W. 9-5
Rippers	W. 5-4

The 3 and 1 record gave us a 4th place finish in the round robin stages and a place in the Silver (middle 3) play-offs. We put in perhaps our best performance of the day in beating the Sabres before just getting over the line, despite a tired looking performance, against the Rippers in our last game of the day to claim the Silver Cup.

Home Run heroes were Steve G., Michael and Dan with 1 apiece. Male OBP leaders were Dan and Dave. Female leaders were Alyssa and TK.

Many thanks to Danielle and Tania for playing for us. Both played well even though Danielle had never played a competitive game before and Tania came out of retirement after a few years gap to help us out in our hour of need. The traditional post tournament meal in the Gateway was a satisfying end to both a successful day and a successful season. Steve B. ended up with a broken toe nail but happily his injury isn't as bad as first feared.

**Tournament MVPs were Alyssa and Dan**



**Alyssa Dan**



## Overall Batting Leader board

<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(M)</u>	<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(F)</u>	<u>Home Runs (M)</u>	<u>Home Runs (F)</u>
Dan	773	TK	620	Michael / Dan	22
Dave	710	Annie	550	JD	12
Tony	702	Sandra	524	Sully / Steve	2

## MSL Batting Leader board

<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(M)</u>	<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(F)</u>	<u>Home Runs</u>	<u>(M)</u>	<u>Home Runs</u>	<u>(F)</u>
Dan	795	TK	610	Michael	9	Annie, Alyssa	1
Dave	677	Jackie	545	Dan	7		
Sully	647	Emma	511	JD	3		
				Jonny Huck*	2		

OBP = On Base Percentage = hits + walks / plate appearances. (It's not a hit if another runner is **FORCED** out on the play). Minimum of 10 plate appearances needed to feature in the OBP figures .You also need to have played in 1 or more of the last 4 games.

\*=Guest

## Tournament Batting Leader board

<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(M)</u>	<u>On base percentage</u>	<u>(F)</u>	<u>Home Runs</u>	<u>(M)</u>	<u>Home Runs</u>	<u>(F)</u>
Dan	761	Annie	632	Dan	15	Sandra	2
Dave	725	TK	627	Michael	13	TK	1
JD	619	Alyssa	578	JD	9		
				Sully	2		
				Steve G.	1		

Players need to have played at least 3 tournaments to feature in the OBP figures .

## Squad batting stats (League and Tournaments)

	MSL			Tournaments				Overall			
	PA	OBP	HR	PA	OBP	HR	PA	OBP	HR		
Dan	44	795	7	Dan	88	761	15	Dan	132	773	22
Dave	31	677		Dave	69	725		Dave	100	710	
JD	19	526	3	JD	63	619	9	JD	82	598	3
Michael	48	583	9	Michael	90	533	13	Michael	138	551	22
Rob	36	556		Rob	15	800		Rob	51	627	
Steve	39	564		Steve	58	534	1	Steve	97	546	1
Sully	17	647		Sully	38	605	2	Sully	55	618	2
Tony	47	638		Tony	37	811		Tony	84	714	
Alyssa	39	433	1	Alyssa	64	578		Alyssa	103	532	1
Annie	32	375	1	Annie	68	632		Annie	100	550	1
Caroline	35	429		Caroline	28	321		Caroline	63	381	
Emma	45	511		Emma	106	500		Emma	151	503	
Jackie	44	545		Jackie	50	380		Jackie	94	457	
Jen	17	353		Jen	20	350		Jen	37	451	
Sandra	38	474		Sandra	67	552	2	Sandra	105	524	2
TK	41	610		TK	67	627	1	TK	108	620	1



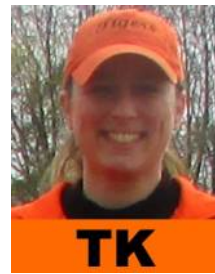


## AWARD WINNERS

Male

Female

### Batting Champion



### Home Run Champion



### Captains' Player of the Year



### Players' Player of the Year



# Post-season Mayhem Friendly



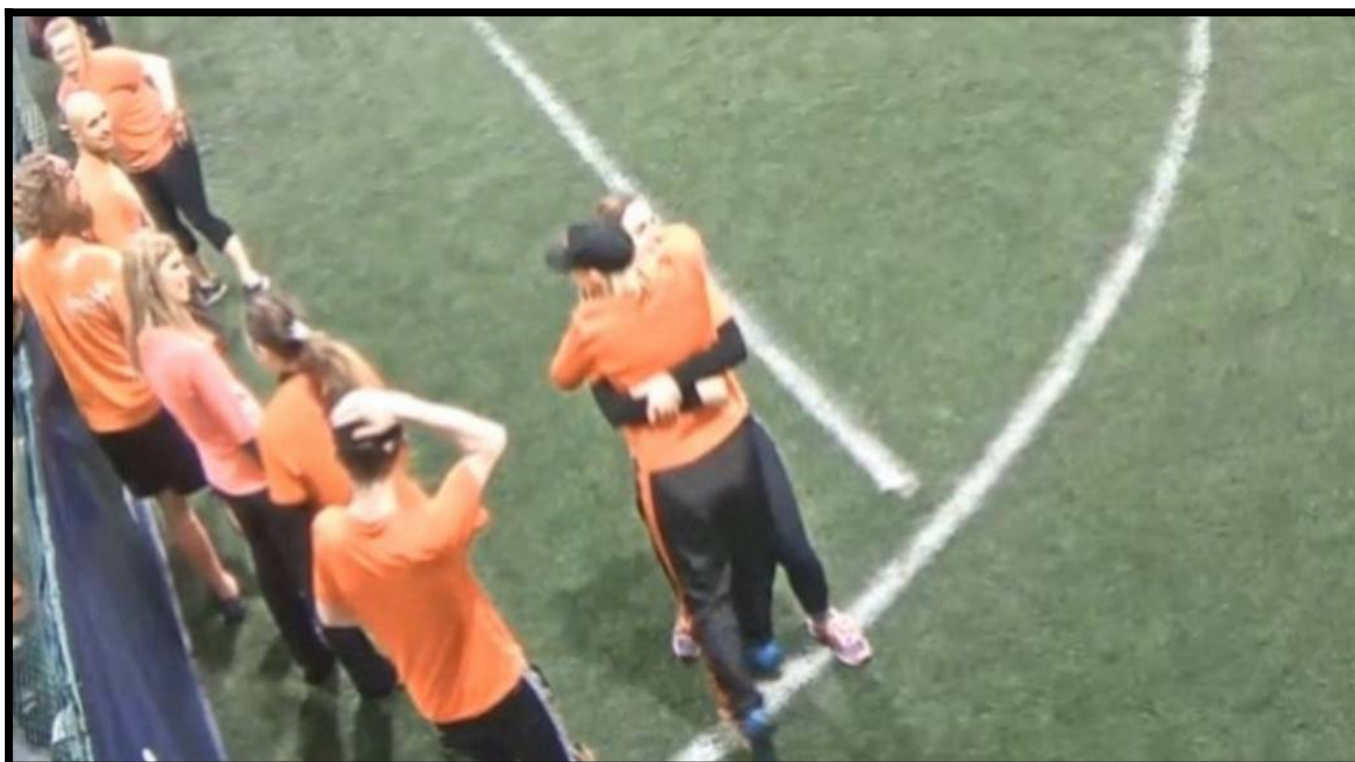




### **Tuesday night Indoor League (2016/17)**

The winter indoor league was split into 2 halves and we had a winning record both before and after Christmas. In the 2016 league we won 17 and lost 13 (3 ties) finishing 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams, in 2017 we won 22 and lost 17 (3 ties) and finished a more than respectable 4<sup>th</sup> out of 15 teams. Every male player on the team hit at least 1 Home Run, Dan lead the way with 12, Dave was best of the rest with 8. TK was the female Home Run leader with 4, followed by Emma with 2.

In the field Sandra, Alyssa and Caroline all did good work at first base and elsewhere. TK did good work at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dan was excellent at short stop. Rob and Michael both showed impressive form in the field and Rob got some valuable pitching experience. Mike Lott added a lot to the team with both bat and glove and we bloodied rookies Jennie and Claire. Everybody got valuable experience both running the bases and fielding in a restricted space where you need to make decisions faster than you do outside. Apologies if I've missed anyone, but the most important thing was our collective performance, we all played well together AS A TEAM and finished far higher in the table than anyone would have predicted before the season began. Well done US !







# Flixton brothers get Team GB softball pick

TWO Flixton brothers have been selected for the Great Britain Under-19 men's Fastpitch softball team for next month's European Championships in Prague.

Eighteen-year-old Jonathan Downes, or JD, is joined in the squad by younger sibling Dan, aged 15, and will head to the Czech Republic at the end of July.

JD is doing his A-levels at Urmston Grammar School while Dan is studying for his GCSEs at Wellacre Academy and both play in the Manchester (Slowpitch) Softball League for the Tigers Softball Club – as well as also playing football, cricket and hockey from a young age.

Dave Wareham from the Manchester Softball League, who has Dan and JD in his Tigers team, told the British Softball League website: "The selection of Dan, JD and others from Manchester for the GB Under-19 Men's Fastpitch squad is a tribute both to their own talents and also to all the hard work they have put in over the last few months."

"It's doubly hard for people based in the north of England to get selected because of the lack of any opportunity to play fastpitch softball locally."

"The travelling backwards and forwards they have to do to attend training and GBFL games is hard on them and on their parents and it's great that the effort has paid off and so many of the guys will get the opportunity to represent their country."

Softball is played with either Fastpitch or Slowpitch and is similar to baseball.



Softball stars Dan, left, and Jonathan Downes are set to represent Team GB

Currently, the majority of Fastpitch is played in other countries, with Slowpitch the most common in Britain.

With a healthy presence of Slowpitch softball in the Manchester area for a number of years, teams across four divisions play at Parrs Wood and the Manchester University grounds (Wythenshawe) on set evenings each week with players from all over the North West travelling to participate.

Luis Arrevillagas, North West development manager for BSUK,

said: "It is great news for me in two ways."

"Professionally, we have had a push for the last two years to try to get Fastpitch started here in the North West and it has proven challenging."

"We wanted to bring a team to the GBFL last year but Slowpitch seemed to get in the way."

"However, since last year, when we set up a few indoor sessions and brought the academy to Manchester, we have had so many people helping out."

"We had a determination to make

It work from the likes of Annie Downes, the mother of the Downes brothers, and the person who really pushed for the academy and from Paul Cooper and Ian Tomlin – the coaches who travelled to Manchester to help out.

"Jo Malusani, BSUK's Fastpitch development officer, organised and delivered the academy here and Dave Wareham was always willing to help, as were the parents of many of the boys."

"We can't wait to see these boys play for GB and pave the way for Fastpitch in the North West."





