

Tigers Softball Club Yearbook 2020



The Year in review

The winter

After the end of the 2019 season Dave stepped back as first team captain. It then soon became obvious there was no agreement amongst the first team players about what should happen in 2020. Most of the team wanted Jackie as captain but some of the guys wanted Jonny to take over and remodel the team recruiting new blood and getting rid of several established players. In the end the rebel guys walked out, this had an impact on the indoor season and meant we had a recruitment job to do before the 2020 season. Happily we managed to sign a number of both new and experienced players and if the outdoor season had happened we would have had 2 viable teams ready to go BUT it wasn't to be.

Indoor league 2019 - 2020

We entered two teams into the 2019-20 Indoor Softball League, Tigers in Division 1 and Tiggers in Division 2. After the first 3 weeks of the campaign the departure of some of the Tigers guys (see above) meant we had to have a bit of a rethink about what we were looking to achieve over the winter and for the rest of the campaign we concentrated on a combination of recruiting some players and also giving game time at a higher level to some of the Tiggers guys.

The change meant that neither team won as many games as we might have hoped at the start of the season but that wasn't really the point of the exercise. We recruited some exciting new players, the Tiggers got lots of experience, some of the guys got to play against top class opposition in Division 1, we got to play Softball every week, had a successful Christmas do including some intra-squad friendlies and took part in two weekend tournaments!







Covid

We were just beginning to think about the summer and starting outdoor activities when the Covid pandemic threw all our plans into chaos. The last week of indoor games never happened and it soon became obvious that there wasn't going to be a meaningful outdoor season. We still tried to keep the club going by organising a number of activities, weekly quiz and on-line gaming sessions and as lockdown eased we did manage some practice sessions, though we never managed to play an actual game...

Quiz

Our new online existence started with a weekly quiz session on Sunday afternoons. This was initially well supported but as the weather improved, the days got longer and lockdown eased numbers fell away and we decided to take a summer break.

Games

Just after the start of the quizzes we started a weekly online gaming session. Numbers never got as high as for the quizzes at their peak but the sessions have proved more durable and are still running. Numbers have sometimes been low for these sessions but the number and variety of games on offer means we can have an enjoyable session pretty much regardless of the number of participants. Hanabi, 6 Nimmt! And Solo have proved perennial favourites and Suchi Go, Carcassonne and Saboteur all have their fans (and possibly detractors!).

Practices

As lockdown eased we were able to start (socially) distanced outdoor practices. Initially we could only operate in groups of up to 6 and that plus the need to stay 2 metres apart did limit what we could do. Later in the summer the restrictions eased further but just when it looked as if we might get to play an actual (modified) game we then lost a few weeks as Dave had to attend to a family crisis. We never did play a game but we did then manage a few more weeks of practice before the end of the summer. Let's hope that things will be better in 2021.



