



www.fixturespool.com

The Fixtures Pool Report for Season 2016-2017

The Fixtures Pool website is still providing clubs with a facility to pick up games at the last minute. However with the increase in Merit Tables and Reserve Leagues for other teams, the use of the pool is today not as heavy as it used to be. Also partly due to adverse weather/pitch conditions and the need for rest weekends when available, late games have not been required as much as in past seasons. The Juniors and Minis use of the Pool has steadied, but even this section is now slowing down somewhat. It seems as if the enthusiasm for playing the game as often as one did in the past is on the decline, especially at the senior level. Social media is also being used as an alternative.

Richard Arney (Webmaster) has yet again been very supportive and has responded very quickly to add or amend to the program. Clients are still commenting as to how user friendly the program is and how much easier it now is to find out who is looking for games on either a Saturday (Senior) or a Sunday (Junior and Mini).

The site now also provides information and downloads for the Midlands Leagues (ECRUC) so that MDOC Officers & League Secretaries details, MDAI/R, League Fixtures, Midlands Structured Season and Midlands Leagues Structure (Leagues Tree) are easily available.

It is still a tremendous bonus for Karyl and me that all this work, thankfully, is going on in the background unnoticed. The growth in membership of the Fixtures Pool has slowed, but clubs are using a system that they all feel very comfortable with and all report that it makes the life of the Fixtures Secretary / Match Secretary so much easier than it used to be. The Junior and Mini Sections within clubs are now regularly using the Pool for their Sunday games, but it would be even better if more clubs, who are already members, realised that their Junior and Mini Sections can use the facility totally free of charge.

This season (16-17), counting it as a 35 week one, we averaged **81** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **2,848** teams in total. We still need more clubs in the Midlands and elsewhere to join, in order to make the site bigger and better, still with the bonus of no queuing with immediate entry provided. In order that this may come about **it needs all subscribers to encourage non users of this facility to become members of The Fixtures Pool**, in addition to any other that they may use. They would very quickly find out which one was the easier to use and which gave them the better service.

The monthly breakdown, showing the last two seasons for comparison purposes, was as follows:-

	Saturday teams		Sunday teams		Total per month		Ave per week	
	15-16	16-17	15-16	16-17	15-16	16-17	15-16	16-17
August	119	81	6	3	125	84	125	84
September	205	183	60	27	265	210	66	53
October	312	314	186	187	498	501	100	100
November	261	234	188	124	449	358	112	90
December	188	172	109	78	297	250	99	83
January	263	204	180	89	443	293	89	73
February	265	253	172	140	437	393	109	98
March	273	224	194	143	467	367	117	92
April	258	205	196	184	454	389	91	78
May	5	3	8	0	13	3	13	3
Totals	2149	1873	1299	975	3448	2848	99	81

The Fixtures Secretaries' Meeting in June each year has now been dispensed with. Clubs are able to use the website so easily that the arranging of fixtures to fill gaps in a club's fixtures list is easier than doing it at a meeting. The only thing that is missed is putting a face to a fixtures secretary and the social atmosphere of the night of the meeting itself. The fees for next season will be the same as for the last eight years i.e. an all inclusive fee of £20 per club. This will need to be paid either by cheque or by BACS, directly to the Fixtures Pool Administrator.

If we could find some advertisers for the website, we would be able to reduce the cost, thereby only requiring a nominal registration fee at the beginning of the season. Potential advertisers please contact either Richard Arney (richard@briefclick.com) or me (rogerwrees@sky.com). Have a successful 2017-2018 season.

Roger Rees Fixtures Pool Administrator.