

THE FIXTURES POOL

The Rugby Union Fixtures Exchange

www.fixturespool.com

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Report for Season 2007-2008

The Fixtures Pool website became live at the end of January 2006, and has now completed its second full season of use. Improvements have been made during those two years by Richard Arney (Webmaster) following suggestions by various clients and it is running superbly, with all users (including Graham Scutt of Camp Hill RFC, who was very apprehensive of computers and everything associated with them) commenting as to how user friendly the programme 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).

After the doubling in the activity of the 'Pool' last season **business has continued to increase**, with the bonus of it all going on in the background unnoticed. Thanks to Richard Arney for his work as webmaster **the membership has grown**, as clubs are using a system that means they have instant access. What has been most pleasing is the increased use of the 'Pool' by the **Junior and Mini Sections** within clubs for their Sunday games, but it would be even better if more clubs, who are already members, realised that they can use the facility **totally free of charge**.

This season, we averaged **98** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **4,250** teams in total – last season the figures were 92 per week and 3,218 in total. As you can see, that after the **doubling of business last season**, this season has seen a further increase and all without hanging on to the end of a telephone line waiting to get through. What is exciting about the future is that the more clubs in the Midlands and elsewhere that join, the bigger and better the site will become, still with the bonus of no queuing. In order that this may come about it needs all **users to encourage non users of this facility to become members of this 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:-

	<u>Saturday teams</u>		<u>Sunday teams</u>		<u>Average per week</u>	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
August	8	36	0	0	4	12
September	267	305	15	77	56	76
October	253	273	37	147	72	105
November	256	312	79	153	83	116
December	302	391	86	142	77	106
January	244	356	136	144	95	125
February	262	399	156	207	104	151
March	402	456	261	209	132	133
April	245	374	191	221	109	148
May	<u>10</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>2249</u>	<u>2940</u>	<u>969</u>	<u>1310</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>98</u>

All registered clubs received an invitation to attend the Fixtures Secretaries' Meeting at Alcester RFC on 19th June 2008. where a buffet, paid for out of club subscriptions, was laid on by Karyl as usual. The Structured Season and League Fixtures for 2008-2009 were confirmed by the RFU and released to clubs via their League Secretary in early June. The fees for next season will remain the same i.e. there will be an all-inclusive, up front fee of £25 per club, with no extra charges for entry into the Pool or use by Junior, Mini and Women Sections. We hope this will encourage more clubs to use us, thus giving you more choice of opposition on the site.

If we could find a sponsor for the website, we would be able to reduce the cost further, only requiring a nominal registration fee at the beginning of the season. Potential sponsors please contact either Richard Arney (richard@briefclick.com) or me (rogerrees@dsl.pipex.com). Have a successful 2008-2009 season.

Roger Rees