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The Fixtures Pool Report for Season 2012- 13

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 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even Colts XV rugbl also due to the adverse weather we had during the season.

Richard Arney (Webmaster) has yet again responded immediately to my wishes for alterations and also to those of subscribers needing help. 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).

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 steadied this last season, 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 consistently 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 (12-13), counting it as a 35 week one, we averaged **124** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **4,329** teams in total, a slight drop compared to last season (11-12). Last season the figures were 130 per week and 4,559 in total. What is still 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 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:-

	<u>Saturday teams</u>		<u>Sunday teams</u>		<u>Average per week</u>	
	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
August	79	64	9	1	88	65
September	285	326	74	117	90	89
October	343	290	254	189	119	120
November	397	324	269	188	167	128
December	275	343	136	224	82	142
January	340	239	206	183	137	106
February	341	357	261	273	151	158
March	414	388	291	269	141	131
April	271	290	282	232	138	131
May	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>2767</u>	<u>2644</u>	<u>1792</u>	<u>1685</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>124</u>

All registered clubs received an invitation to attend the Fixtures Secretaries' Meeting at Alcester RFC on Thursday June 13th 2013, where a buffet was laid on as usual by Karyl. 31 clubs attended with representatives from those clubs totalling some 60 persons. The Structured Season and League Fixtures for 2013-2014 were confirmed by the RFU and released to clubs via their League Secretary at the beginning of June, so the meeting afforded the filling in of gaps in the fixtures lists of attending clubs.

Next year the meeting will be arranged for Thursday June 12th 2014, as fixtures will be out to League Secretaries on the annual designated June 1st deadline date.

The fees for next season will be the same as last year, in that there will be an all-inclusive, up front fee of £20 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 some advertisers 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 advertisers please contact either Richard Arney (richard@briefclick.com) or me (rogerwrees@sky.com). Have a successful 2013-2014 season.

Roger Rees

Fixtures Pool Secretary.