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The Fixtures Pool Report for Season 2015-2016

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 rugby, 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.

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 (15-16), counting it as a 35 week one, we averaged **99** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **3,448** teams in total. We still need more clubs in the Midlands and elsewhere to join, as 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:-

	Saturday teams		Sunday teams		Total per month		Ave per week	
	14-15	15-16	14-15	15-16	14-15	15-16	14-15	15-16
August	107	119	2	6	109	125	109	125
September	190	205	63	60	253	265	63	66
October	253	312	205	186	458	498	115	100
November	352	261	259	188	611	449	122	112
December	180	188	143	109	323	297	81	99
January	344	263	164	180	508	443	102	89
February	283	265	214	172	497	437	124	109
March	300	273	284	194	584	467	146	117
April	245	258	150	196	395	454	99	91
May	24	5	4	8	28	13	28	13
Totals	2278	2149	1488	1299	3766	3448	108	99

The Fixtures Secretaries' Meeting at Alcester RFC on Thursday June 9th 2016 was cancelled. We only had 6 responses from clubs confirming their attendance and only 3 further responses from clubs expressing their disappointment at missing the meeting following the cancellation. This confirms my belief that the meeting is now not really necessary. The fees for next season will, as usual, be an all inclusive fee of £20 per club, and 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 2016-2017 season.

Roger Rees

Fixtures Pool Administrator.