



www.fixturespool.com
The Fixtures Pool Report for Season 2017-2018

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/A, 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 and the use by clubs is slowing too, even though they 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 (17-18), counting it as a 35 week one, we averaged **62** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **2,159** 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	
	16-17	17-18	16-17	17-18	16-17	17-18	16-17	17-18
August	81	56	3	0	84	56	84	56
September	183	202	27	17	210	219	53	44
October	314	172	187	132	501	304	100	76
November	234	194	124	96	358	290	90	73
December	172	160	78	54	250	214	83	54
January	204	178	89	85	293	263	73	66
February	253	210	140	91	393	301	98	75
March	224	174	143	79	367	253	92	51
April	205	139	184	109	389	248	78	62
May	3	6	0	5	3	11	3	11
Totals	1873	1491	975	668	2848	2159	81	62

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 2018-2019 season.

Roger Rees Fixtures Pool Administrator.