



www.fixturespool.com
The Fixtures Pool Report for Season 2018-2019

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 to using the Pool.

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, 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 has slowed down considerably, 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 still 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. However it is my belief that the Game is suffering badly and grass roots senior rugby in particular withering away. It is quite a worrying trend.

This season (18-19), counting it as a 35 week one, we averaged **43** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **1514** 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	
	17-18	18-19	17-18	18-19	17-18	18-19	17-18	18-19
August	56	52	0	0	56	52	56	52
September	202	163	17	13	219	176	44	35
October	172	150	132	53	304	203	76	51
November	194	146	96	46	290	192	73	48
December	160	111	54	33	214	144	54	29
January	178	151	85	37	263	188	66	47
February	210	140	91	53	301	193	75	48
March	174	160	79	62	253	222	51	44
April	139	94	109	43	248	137	62	34
May	6	6	5	1	11	7	11	7
Totals	1491	1173	668	341	2159	1514	62	43

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 nine 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 (r.arney@psl-law.co.uk) or me (rogerwrees@sky.com). Have a successful 2019-2020 season.

Roger Rees Fixtures Pool Administrator.