



www.fixturespool.com

Report for Season 2009-2010

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 etc., XV rugby, demand for picking up these last minute games has taken a slight drop. I am sure that the severe weather we had this last winter also had a great deal to do with the fall in numbers.

Improvements have, yet again, been made to the Website for this coming season by Richard Arney (Webmaster) following suggestions by various clients and it is running superbly, with all users 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).

The bonus for Karyl and me though, is that all this work, thankfully, is going on in the background unnoticed. Thanks to Richard Arney for his work as webmaster, the time that I have to devote to administering the facility has diminished considerably, enabling me to branch out into other administrative duties with the North Midlands and the Midlands Leagues Organising Committee, of which I am now the Secretary. **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. 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 their Junior and Mini Sections can use the facility **totally free of charge**.

This season (09-10), we averaged **127** teams per week in the 'Pool', dealing with **4,439** teams in total – last season (08-09) the figures were 134 per week and 4,812 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 **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>	
	08-09	09-10	08-09	09-10	08-09	09-10
August	73	81	75	1	148	82
September	276	312	245	87	130	100
October	293	394	166	211	115	121
November	408	360	245	326	131	171
December	320	262	138	152	115	138
January	412	294	155	169	113	116
February	383	378	196	209	145	147
March	361	373	379	275	185	162
April	387	324	246	185	158	127
May	<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>46</u>
	<u>2945</u>	<u>2800</u>	<u>1867</u>	<u>1639</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>127</u>

All registered clubs received an invitation to attend the Fixtures Secretaries' Meeting at Alcester RFC on Wednesday June 16th 2010, where a buffet, paid for out of club subscriptions, was laid on by Karyl as usual. 38 clubs attended. The Structured Season and League Fixtures for 2010-2011 were confirmed by the RFU and released to clubs via their League Secretary at the beginning of June.

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 2010-2011 season.

Roger Rees Fixtures Pool Secretary.