



INDOOR LEAGUE – UPDATE BY ANDY EDWARDS

Both the men's and ladies' leagues ran with 6 teams entered for the 15/16 season, with teams playing each other twice and 30 matches scheduled in each league. If anything, the match schedule seemed to be loaded "late" in the season, with a lot of date conflicts for the teams meaning that over half the matches were scheduled between February and May.

The ladies' league was a resounding success. In general, matches stayed on schedule, and the league ran well. Eight matches were forfeited in total, with the majority of these being at the end of the season due to a couple of teams being unable to fulfil their scheduled matches (exam conflicts and player availability).

The league was won by 'Team Southampton', beating 'Forza Solent' on points difference with both teams going on to represent Hampshire at the SEVA tournament. There was a question over how a tied result would be handled, as there doesn't appear to be any published position on resolution rules, so we assumed the same rules as NVL division 1 downwards. The general feedback from the teams has been positive.

The men's league was a different affair. There were a number of match cancellations at the start of the season, particularly with one of the University teams. This had a knock on effect later in the season, where a number of matches were rearranged from the original schedule, and there was a general confusion amongst the teams over what the schedule was and which matches were from the original schedule and which were rearrangements. Overall, there were 12 forfeited matches, and Wednesday night matches were also introduced in an attempt to complete the schedule backlog.

The league was won by South Hants, with Salisbury finishing 2nd. Salisbury was unable to field a team for SEVA, so Team Southampton took their spot at the SEVA finals. The general feedback from the teams was one of frustration and confusion.

Specific concerns from this year are:

- There was little information about the SEVA tournament until right at the end of the season, with at least two teams being unaware that they had qualified until two weeks (or less) beforehand. Maybe this should be included in some sort of information pack for teams on entering the league;
- The switch to having teams referee themselves (rather than having referees provided) hasn't had much impact, although consistency has been affected;
- An idea suggested for next year is to change to a model similar to NVL, where a schedule is arranged and teams are instructed to provide the venues (and possibly specific dates). This may encourage the teams to increase a commitment to the original schedule;
- This has been suggested at the same time as matches being played on the host's training night. Some teams have agreed with this while others haven't.