

WSRA League Secretary's Report 2019

Winter League 2018 to 2019

The first half saw a reduction of teams from 18 in September 2017 to 15 teams with one less team from Marlborough (3 to 2), Devizes (3 to 2) and the Army (2 to 1). We also lost the team playing from Oasis but gained a team playing from Chippenham (who eventually moved to Corsham). This was despite extensive recruitment and the incentive of a reduced entry fee for new teams. Division 1 matches were compulsorily set to Thursdays.

Additionally, new for this year was the insistence of players playing in the leagues to be members of England Squash. Many thanks to Neil Marshman for providing the admin support to check eligibility of players and provide support to teams encountering any issues.

The first half was therefore spilt into two divisions; 7 teams in division 1 and 8 in division 2. Shriv1 Exiles won division 1 and Trowbridge 1 won division 2. The schedule was tight trying to play all matches before Christmas with the increased number of teams per division and the Handicap Cup fixtures.

In the second half, Shrivenham Exiles returned to the Defence Academy after a successful spell at Wessex Squash Club and entered an additional team. Unfortunately, Cricklade pulled out its first team but we gained a third team at Marlborough which compromised mainly of Junior players. With 16 teams, I decided to revert to 3 divisions: 6 teams in Division 1 and 5 each in divisions 2 and 3. Defence Academy 1 won division 1, Wessex 1 won division 2 and Marlborough 3 won division 3.

There was no requirement to play the division 1 playoff as Defence Academy 1 essentially won both halves. The division 2 playoff was between Trowbridge 1 and Wessex 1 but unfortunately this has yet to be played.

Summer League 2018

Unfortunately, there was difficulty in recruiting teams for the summer league with 6 teams entering but this quickly reduced to 5 with the withdrawal of Wessex B. Costs continued to be shared despite fixtures being home and away which may need to be looked at in the future. The format continued to be four singles (one match could optionally be racketball) and one doubles match. Cricklade were the winners.

Handicap Cup 2018-2019

Entry is automatic into the Handicap Cup unless a team opts out. Twelve teams entered the competition. Handicaps are set by committee, but overall responsibility was with Dean Watkins with options to review as the competition went on.

All games were played with Defence Academy 1 beating Defence Academy 2 in the final.

Racketball league 2019

An attempt was made to start a racketball league consisting of teams of three, playing on Monday nights with no requirement to provide food afterwards. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest this year.

Proposals for Winter leagues 2019-2020

There are no proposals to change the current format but increased participation remains a priority. Early interest has been received from a team in Salisbury and a team from Lansdown Club, Bath which is welcome.

Hope you all continue to enjoy your squash and racketball!

Kind regards

Neville Buckle
WSRA League Secretary.