

FEDERATION OF EAST MIDLANDS CROQUET CLUBS

LEAGUE MANAGER'S REPORT – 2022 SEASON

Figures in brackets are the same data from 2021.

PART A

14 (13) of the 22 (21) clubs in the Federation took part involving 23 (22) teams over 77 (70) matches with 165 (132) different players participating.

The season did start with 24 teams but Nottingham A withdrew after matches had started. This changed the dynamics for some clubs from a 4:3 split between home and away matches to 4:2, not really satisfactory. Clubs should be sure when entering that this situation does not repeat as it is unfair on the remaining teams eg home advantage etc etc. If I had known prior to play starting I could have adjusted the fixtures programme.

Division 1

Ashby A top the division with 5 wins and a draw

Division 2

Ashby B won the division with 5 wins, a draw and a loss

Division 3

Bakewell B won the division with 5 wins and 2 losses.

Southwell played in the league for the first time and came second in Division 3, a very good outcome for a new team.

Promotions/relegations

If next season the number of teams is 24 or less, then we will continue on a three division basis with promotions and relegations from this year's results in the usual way. If there are 25 or more teams, the previous decision to move to four divisions will come into effect which will mean a more significant adjustment to division allocations – this will become clear at our next meeting.

Other Facts

8 Clubs, provided teams, relate to (roughly) the A6 'corridor' and 5 clubs from Lincs plus Southwell somewhere in-between.

At the date of closure of entries 15 Teams relate to the A6 'corridor' and 8 from Lincs - +Southwell. (Div 1: 6/2 ; Div 2: 5/3 ; Div 3: 4/3 + Southwell).

No team this year only used three players, the lowest was 4 (Darley Dale A) whereas two teams (Ashby C and Nottingham C) utilised 11 different players (last season the highest was 9 different players).

Out of the 77 matches, 21 finished 7:5. There were 42 home wins, 24 away wins and 11 draws..

Out of the 924 games 281 (ie 30%) finished with only one hoop differential (eg 7:6, 6:5 etc). Two matches had 8 such games (interestingly both involving Woodhall Spa) and a further 9 matches had half or more of their games finishing this way.

About 15% of matches were won by teams with a poorer handicap than their opponents.

There were 4 (9) players with a handicap better than zero.

Two games only managed to score 3 points, both in Division 3. The results were 0:3 and 1:2

Reserves

I strongly urge that when selecting a team a reserve is appointed and available to stand in right up to the morning of the match to stop late cancellations due to illness or otherwise non availability of one of the scheduled players.

Result sheet submission

There has been a marked improvement on accuracy of content of forms submitted. There are though two ongoing issues – poor visual quality of the forms (probably due to using phone pics) and shorten names as against full forenames. Correct addition does help as on, perhaps too many, occasions, I have mistyped results into the database and the addition therefore does not equate. This acts as a simple cross checking system.

The meeting is invited to accept Part A of the report.

PART B

This part highlights where the meeting needs to make a decision

League rules

A situation arose in a match I was managing whereby my team had already played a substitute in Division 3, for competitive experience reasons, when we were faced with another player, whose normally controlled illness was that day causing unexpected issues, so we had to play a second substitute for the last two rounds. The opposing team were happy, as it was the obvious practical solution, but I suggest we add for future clarity -

B04e – Normally only one substitute per match is allowed but in exceptional and mainly unpredictable situations a second is allowed, provided the opposing captain agrees and a report of the circumstances is issued to the League manager, YES/NO

Handicap levels

I have raised this issue before relating to the level of handicap of individual players.

Is it fair and reasonable, under present league rules that a team, in Division 3, could play a 10, 10 and a minus 2, and in Division 2, an 8, 8 and a minus 4?

With the opposing team playing the more normal spread of handicaps, they are likely to become dejected when they realise. The minus player should easily win all 5 of their games thus leading to an almost certain win for their team. If you agree that this needs adjustment, I will come forward with proposals at the next meeting. Do you wish me to do this? **YES/NO**

As background; the average handicap in Division 1 is 3.83 and with a spread 9 of minus 1 to plus 9,

Division 2 is 6.45 and with a spread of minus 4 to plus 14 and

Division 3 is 9.15 and with a spread of plus 5 to plus 16

Advantage GC

We should consider that all league matches be played in this format, perhaps after the system has settled down and clubs gain more experience. In order to gain opinion I would suggest that in 2023 clubs should use this system within their own (non league) competitive matches and we introduce this into the league in 2024 thus reducing uneven handicap issues. **YES/NO**

David Gregory

1st October 2022