

## Report to AGM 2016

### League

68 teams entered the league and were placed in 7 divisions, the 7th being the smallest with 8 teams.

The downward trend in numbers continues

2014 - 71 teams

2013 - 75 teams

2012 - 83 teams

Withdrawals are mostly from teams who are relegated or feel too old to continue.

### Cup

48 teams entered the cup. Free entry to Divisions 6 & 7 meant more teams, although some teams then declined the offer.

Trying to make sure every team except those in Division 1 played at least 2 matches, this was the formula I decided upon with the placings based on the previous standing in the League table

**PRELIM ROUND** 1-8 and 9-16 byes, other 32 play

**FIRST ROUND** 1-8 byes, 9-16 join 16 winners and 16 losers play off

**SECOND ROUND** 1-8 byes, a round of 24, 9-16 and the 16 winners, and a round of the 16 losers

**3RD ROUND** 1-8 join 12 winners of round of 24 and 12 losers of 24 join 8 winners of 16, 8 losers of 16 have lost twice, so exit the competition.

**3RD ROUND** 2 x 20 playing and each set of 10 winners go into a final

HOWEVER: In spite of the best laid plan, unexpectedly Five Division 2 teams lost in Cup Round 1 but qualified via repechage for Cup Round 2.

I could have organised a play off for 2/3 places but because of a late match, it was too near the Cup Final date to arrange this.

Then 2 teams in the Plate Final dropped out so now 8 with a team beaten by Manchester A back in.

Eventually there was a CUP final of 10 teams and a PLATE final of 9 teams.

Thanks to Jeff Smith & Joan Lewis for running the finals so efficiently and for Jeff Smith for calculating the Master Points for all the finals and knock out matches.

The Finals take a large chunk of money from the MCBA funds. Rather than increase the charge overall I have suggested that we initiate a charge for the teams which reach the Finals but this seems to have little support.

The League has been relatively problem free this year.

Most captains are now used to the online entry form with only a couple of team captains pleading with me to do their entry for them as it was "*far too complicated...*"

The 2016 entry form will appear again on the League page around July.

The EBU has also improved their online results program and once captains found the "**MY EBU**" page where they entered the result, it proved a great success. It's also easier to check the results so I put a link onto the League page.

Because it's all online the Master Points are all now calculated by the EBU - a great bonus - This is the reason team captains must tick their players (although some captains still have to be nagged about this)

**NEW:** The EBU has a new online program for Knock-Out events so I will try it next season for the Cup & Plate.

I anticipate difficulties here and have already extracted a promise of help from our technical guru, Jeff Smith

Back to the League where, as April approached, the inevitable happened, with illness and holidays causing matches to be cancelled or unplayed.

Now the headache of assigning scores to the unplayed matches and trying to be fair to all - an almost impossible task!

Enter Alan Mould, our mathematical genius, to the rescue .  
Here is his formula which I hope to use in the future.

### **The “Mould” Formula**

In an unplayed match both teams will receive 0 VPs

However, when one team is at fault the non-offending side receives:-

15 + (difference in averages between the two teams) subject to a maximum of 30 and a minimum of 15.

The offending side will receive 0 VPs

In extenuating circumstances the offending team *might* receive the lowest of either:

- 10
- the team's average,
- 15 + the team's average minus the opposition's average.

*That's easy, isn't it...*

Let's hope that the penalty of 0 for an unplayed match will encourage teams to play their matches early in the season when, if they have to postpone a match, they can rearrange their match in good time.

The Council has approved a price rise for the coming season:

League - up from £25 to £35

Cup - to remain the same: £15 and free for Div 6/7

***Kath Nelson*** April 2016