

Hampshire Squash and Racketball

AGM Report 2019

The Hampshire Racketball leagues completed the 2018 / 2019 winter season in April. This was the first season with the leagues running within the LMS. There has been some teething issue mainly caused due to the format and scoring of racketball games being different to squash. We managed to overcome these with some adjustments. There will be a further process of integration for 2019/20 season.

14 teams from 8 clubs competed in two leagues of 7 teams playing home and away fixtures. That's a total of 84 competitive fixtures for Hampshire Racketball Teams.

Ringwood Rogues were the eventual winners of Division One narrowly beating Fair Oak Pharaohs by 2 points.

Previous league winners Nuffield Knicks were unable to field as strong a team this season due to injury and player availability.

The top division was very tight this year however Fair Oak Funsters who were promoted last season found the division a bit too tough and are relegated back into Division 2.

Division 2 winners were Fair Oak Racketeers who will change places with Fair Oak Funsters for the new season.

In the last 2-3 years it has been encouraging to welcome new sides Lee on Solent (Racketeers) and Avenue All Stars into the leagues, there is always the capacity to welcome more teams into the leagues. Sadly LOS are struggling to field a team this season due to no volunteers to run a team.

We have sent out requests to all club contacts requesting that the racketball leagues are promoted with their players in the hope that we can expand the number of teams, but to date we have not had one reply, not even to acknowledge receiving the request. This is very disappointing, but it does reinforce our perception that although racketball has enjoyed rapid growth in most clubs, it remains very much a social sport and the desire for playing competitive team matches is not evident. Our fear is that the number of teams will now fall further with the LMS management of the leagues, but only time will tell us if that is the case.

Attempts to develop a summer competitive premiership racketball league (involving our stronger players) has failed on previous attempts.

We will canvas players to see what support there is for a county singles and doubles events later this year and if there is support we will run these at Fair Oak.

Both Stewart and myself have been trying to find someone to take over our duties of administering Hampshire Racketball after nearly 10 years of running it, however to date nobody has come forward.

Regards Dave Moore

Racketball Committee Rep.