



League Organiser's Report – 2019/20

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 virus, the last few weeks of the season had to be suspended with effect from 16th March, since when it has not been possible to play any squash or racketball. While my original preference would have been to conclude the remaining fixtures before starting the new season, this looks to be increasingly impractical as time passes, given we do not currently know when it will be possible to go back on court let alone resume team fixtures.

Generally, most teams had no more than three matches still to play and, with a few exceptions, the champions of most divisions were already fairly clear-cut across the board and can be reasonably declared as follows:

	Men	Ladies	Vets	Racketball
Premier	Winchester 1	SD Fitness 1	Winchester 1	Nuffield Knicks
Championship	Abshot 1 / Trojans 2	Winchester 2	Alton Academy	Abshot Amateurs / Nuffield Nobles
Division 1	Trojans 4		<i>(one of four)</i>	
Division 2	Trojans 5		Trojans 4	
Division 3	Alverstoke			
Division 4	Five Rivers 3			
Division 5	Trojans 7			

Congratulations to all concerned.

Promotion and relegation are also pretty apparent in most (not all) cases. However, how the next leagues look will depend on when we are able to restart. For example, a later-than-usual start to the season may necessitate smaller divisions for one season (or the extending of the winter league into the summer).

It is in any case normal during the close season for a few new teams to be added and/or others to be removed, and this may of course be exacerbated by a lengthy break.

I am preparing a draft of how next season's leagues could look and, once we know when league play can resume, will be in touch with all clubs to confirm the number of teams they wish to enter and any significant changes to playing strengths. I will then work with Silkwebs (who run the LMS software) to allow us to get back to playing team squash as soon as reasonably practical.

England Squash (ES) Numbers

The requirement for all participating clubs and players to be affiliated to England Squash was mandated at the start of the season through the introduction of a one-point penalty for any players not having a valid ES number. This all seems a long time ago now but required a considerable clean-up effort across the board. Although inevitably there were a few teething troubles early on, the new process ran relatively smoothly and I'm grateful to all clubs for their support in bringing this in, as a result of which we are now able to claim an enhanced rebate from ES for full compliance.