

League Secretary's Report - Season 2014/2015

1. League Results

Thanks to all clubs and teams for participating in the leagues. This season, the leagues once again ran very smoothly with no significant issues to report. Thanks to all team contacts and those updating the results on Squash Matrix.

We had 48 teams in the Open Leagues this year (1 less than last season) and this allowed for three divisions of 10 teams and two of 9. Unfortunately, Colinton Castle 2 pulled out at the start of the season, so Division 2 only had 9 teams. The results were:

Division	Winner	Points	Runner-up	Points
1	Edinburgh University 1	302	Watsonians 1	268
2	Grange 1	269	Colinton Castle 2	263
3	Colinton Castle 4	286	Dalgety Bay 3	278
4	David Lloyd	302	Edinburgh Sports Club 6	282
5	Dean 2	266	Edinburgh Sports Club 7	250

Congratulations to Edinburgh University on winning the First Division and to all other promoted teams. With 3 teams promoted from Divisions 2 – 5, the additional teams gaining promotion were Edinburgh Sports Club 4, Edinburgh Sports Club 5, Watsonians 3 and Grange 4.

In the Ladies leagues, we unfortunately dropped from 12 to 10 teams and continued with a format of two halves, with two divisions of 5 playing home and away in each half of the season. Abercorn 2 unfortunately dropped out at Christmas, luckily David Lloyd were ready to come back in and take their place. The two sets of results were:

First Half

Division	Winner	Points	Runner-up	Points
1	Edinburgh Sports Club 1	118	Waverley 1	91
2	Abercorn 1	134	Edinburgh University	130

Second Half

Division	Winner	Points	Runner-up	Points
1	Edinburgh Sports Club 1	135	Waverley 1	103
2	Dalgety Bay	121	Edinburgh University	102

A very similar pattern at the top of Division 1, with no play-off required and ESC 1 again being the overall season winner.

Congratulations to all winners and teams gaining promotion. Our new trophies were presented at the highly successful end-of-season dinner.

2. Squash Matrix

It was a good season for system reliability and no significant issues arose. We continued to run the National Leagues and East Junior Leagues on the system and also added the new East Team Cup. Previous SSRL plans to replace the system came to nothing, but moves are afoot again to move to a more modern platform which could be adopted across Scotland. A fairly new web-based system has been trialled with promising results, though some significant gaps have been identified for East requirements. The developers claim they can make these changes quite quickly, so we'll see how this progresses. It is too early to say whether, if it goes ahead, it will be introduced next season or the one after.

The player re-rating exercise carried out with SSRL before last season was successful in correcting some of the biggest anomalies, mainly relating to fast improving juniors. A similar exercise will be carried out this summer.

3. Referee Points

As in previous seasons we continued to operate 2 bonus points for teams who have at least one grade 3 qualified referee in their line-up. As there is a proposal to drop this bonus scheme, I thought I would show some stats on the percentage of possible ref points earned :

Open	% Ref	% change	Ladies	% Ref	%change
1	96%	+4%	1	71%	+3%
2	77%	-5%	2	69%	-6%
3	83%	-4%			
4	84%	-4%			
5	57%	-6%			

These figures show a slight decline since last year except in the top divisions.

Ref points did make a difference to relegations, Heriot Watt 3 would have comfortably remained in Division 4 had bonus points been excluded (they earned none). Heriot Watt 2 avoided relegation by 1 point from Division 2 (they also earned none). Four of the six University teams in the Open Leagues earned no points at all.

The number of new referees qualifying was down on the previous year, I will try to get an accurate figure in time for the meeting.

I am always open to any suggestion that clubs might have to improve the leagues and increase participation rates.

Thanks for all your cooperation and good luck for next season!

Dougie Brown