

AC Leagues Manager's Report 2019

The three established SCF AC Leagues ran largely unchanged in 2019. Detailed results are available on the SCF Website.

Advanced A Level League

This year's entry increased to four teams with new entrant Basingstoke. The last match of the league was effectively the final with Aldermaston going down to High Wycombe. Blewbury, who held High Wycombe to a draw, have been the strongest team in the past. But this is the first time High Wycombe have won the A Level since its inception in 2010.

Winner: High Wycombe

AC Advanced A-Level League 2019

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TPs	Games	Points
1	 High Wycombe	3	2	1	0	0	5.0	5
2	Aldermaston	3	2	0	1	0	4.0	4
3	 Blewbury	3	1	1	1	0	3.0	3
4	 Basingstoke	3	0	0	3	0	0.0	0

Advanced B Level League

This year's entry remained stable at five teams. High Wycombe made top spot by simply winning all their matches. This is the third consecutive year High Wycombe have been victorious at B Level.

Winner: High Wycombe

AC Advanced B-Level League 2019

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TPs	Games	Points
1	 High Wycombe	4	4	0	0	0	9.0	8
2	 Hamptworth	4	3	0	1	0	9.0	6
3	 Winchester	4	2	0	2	0	6.0	4
4	 Blewbury	4	1	0	3	0	4.0	2
5	Aldermaston	4	0	0	4	0	2.0	0

Handicap League

With 12 clubs entering, this league was again split into North and South divisions.

In the South, with all matches concluded, two teams were tied on seven points gained: **Hamptworth & Winchester**. At this stage rule book had to be consulted:

- The number of points gained were seven each
- The total number of games won by both teams was identical – i.e. 13
- The next criteria is “who beat whom” – in this case the score of their tie was two games apiece!
- Net hoop tally during the head to head match had then to be calculated with Winchester winning the day by 16 hoop points!!

Winner: Winchester was declared the winner for the South.

AC Handicap League South 2019

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TPs	Games	Points
1	 Hamptworth	5	2	3	0	0	13.0	7
1	 Winchester	5	3	1	1	0	13.0	7
3	 Caversham	5	2	2	1	0	11.0	6
3	 Ryde	5	2	2	1	0	11.0	6
5	Aldermaston	5	1	1	3	0	6.0	3
6	 Littleton	5	0	1	4	0	6.0	1

Meanwhile, up North, with the majority of matches played, the late summer inclement weather intervened to delay the concluding key matches of the league.

An afternoon downpour led to flooding and postponement of one of the key matches: Harwell vs Phyllis Court. Harwell by this stage had no chance of winning the league. A win for Phyllis Court however meant they would beat Oxford University due to the “Who beat Whom” rule. An extension was granted to allow this match to take place in September resulting in a loss for Phyllis Court. Oxford University & Blewbury were tied on six points, but OU had beaten Blewbury...

Winner: Oxford University was therefore declared the winner for the **North**.

AC Handicap League North 2019

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TPs	Games	Points
1	 Oxford University	5	2	2	1	0	11.0	6
2	 Blewbury	5	2	2	1	0	10.0	6
3	 High Wycombe	5	1	3	1	0	11.0	5
4	 Eynsham	5	1	3	1	0	10.0	5
5	 Phyllis Court	5	1	2	2	0	10.0	4
6	Harwell	5	1	2	2	0	7.0	4

A date for the final between Winchester and OUCC was agreed early October. The weather gods again conspired to make this unplayable and at the time of writing a winter date is still being sought.

Proposed changes for 2020

All Leagues

I am grateful to club AC captains for their determination and support in scheduling and reporting league results during 2019. There are a couple of areas of change I'd like to see in 2020:

1. Match planning

A match schedule should be agreed before the main season begins. Last year less than 10% of matches had been played by the beginning of June. Match dates were still being agreed as late as August leading to little or no contingency in getting the matches played before the league deadline of end of August.

Request: Club AC captains agree match dates at latest by 15th April 2020

2. Match reporting

An alternative means of reporting results is being investigated over the winter. The aim is to move away from the use of paper forms but still retaining the sign offs to validate the results. Whichever system we end up with, in 2020 only complete match results will be accepted e.g. where a match takes place over two dates or legs, **team captains should report the complete result after only after both legs have been played.**

Advanced A Level League

With only two players per team, an unsatisfactory aspect of this league is the likelihood of drawn matches. Raising the number of players to three would address this, however, this may some clubs may not be able to field sufficient "A class" players. Another option would be to increase the number of games played by having both home and away ties making drawn matches less likely. A further option would be to stage all matches over a pre-agreed weekend.

Clubs will be consulted on these aspects as part of the 2020 Advanced A league entry.

Advanced B Level League

This league is working well and no specific changes are proposed.

Handicap League

The final of the Handicap League **will** take place next year on a predetermined date in September 2020. This date shall be set and published at the start of the season. Teams are expected to commit to this date as a condition of entry. Note the location of the final will alternate North/South as per the published SCF tournament regulations.