

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE SECRETARY AGM REPORT 2018/19

Season 18/19 ran from 14th of September to the 4th of May, with the Charity Cup Finals and presentations taking place on the 12th of May.

The Change of format and Venue for the Cup Finals and Presentations was well received including the Auction and Raffle. Details of winners, MVP's and awards were published on the GBBA Webpage with live streaming and pictures published on the GBBA Facebook page.

We included a new competition this year by way of the University Challenge Cup, this will be developed further next year.

Two new awards were presented:

The Respect Award, this year going to team Eagles.

The Achievement Award designed to acknowledge development within officiating which went to both Adam Scott and Andy Steckbeck.

And of course, we met the £10,000 raised in four years for children's Charities, as set by Isobel, which was an amazing achievement.

10 teams entered the League and Cup Competition with two additional teams entering the Cup Competition only.

A significant number of games were postponed, and 4 games forfeited.

The two main reasons for postponements appear to have been Hartpury as a new College team having to change playing night after fixtures circulated and also as their first season in the league unable to determine availability of Students over week-end periods and before and after half term. As most of our games are played between Friday and Monday this may be problematic in the future.

The other significant cause was venue cancellation after fixtures published.

The number of games forfeited this season was less than in season 17/18 (11) and the main reasons given was lack of players

It was not always easy for teams to find replacement dates due to court availability and teams finding it difficult to field teams due to the number of games bottlenecked. Few if any games were rescheduled in accordance with the league rules. The affect of this was minimised by the League Secretary taking over responsibility for rescheduling matches in many cases.

That said the season has been more competitive this year than in recent years, and the number of matches available to be played has increased which feedback suggests has been appreciated.

We were able to accommodate all recommendations discussed at the AGM using the Plate Competition as the Handicap event.

Consideration is being given to the viability of the All-Star Game both in terms of date and location but also as a competition MVP nominated players are keen to take part in.

On three occasions only one referee attended, disappointing but not always avoidable and about the same number as last year.

Fixtures and referee appointments were prepared and published well in advance using information provided by team secretaries and officials.

Referees report that the standard of table officiating has been fair to good although disappointing that we were unable to fill places for table officials' courses. We aim to continue to seek to provide qualified table officials.

Four table officials, three junior and one senior supported teams during the Cup Finals. The efficiency and competence of the team was appreciated by players and referees.

The referee pool remains consistent in terms of numbers. We did see two new referees emerge from the Level 2 course and Level 1 referees upgraded to Level 2 in most cases.

A number of teams have still to provide officials for the pool.

Referees have responded positively to requests for cover, and most have engaged with the feedback reports, which have provided an opportunity for shared information and learning. We will continue with this format

We will continue with the Officials Development package and mentoring. 5 referees and 1 coach have been supported through the scheme.

Next season this will be developed further with one to one observation and mentoring for new officials, level 1 officials and those who have identified the desire to have this provided.

Where we have the capacity to do so this will be widened to all officials for at least one game.

We ran two sessions for Referees/Coaches this season facilitated by International Referee Richard Stokes. The first was the pre-season meeting in September, the second was held in January.

The first was to look at the new rules and interpretations and agree a way forward, the second was to review how those had worked in practice and to try to bring some understanding of the roles of both the referee and coach and how they can work together to enhance the game for players and themselves.

50% of referees attended the January session, with no coach attendance.

This format will run again in season 19/20 with the first being schedules for the 3rd of September.

The league offered referees the opportunity to purchase rule and interpretation manuals at a reduced cost, however this was not supported by officials.

The website has been updated in real time and being used more this season as an information point not only about league matches, but events and locally sourced courses, BL matches and school competitions. This has increased Dave's workload (when he stated he wished to reduce it) and we are grateful to him for the additional effort. Additional tabs have been added as well as a Facebook link.

Providing additional games, supporting rescheduling and Cup Competitions is time consuming and requires the support and timely responses from officials and team secretaries. Thank you for your support this season.

Ian.