



2017-18 Mens Competition Secretary - Matt Otridge

This was my first full season as Men's Secretary, though I did take on a number of the roles that was traditionally carried out by the Men's Secretary during the previous two seasons.

Division 1 was the biggest disappointment this season. When the fixtures were drawn up there were eight teams competing, but Lockleaze Mohawks pulled out just before the season was due to start and UWE were expelled from the league due to the amount of games they chose to forfeit. This meant that the teams in League 1 only had 15 recognised games. In the end Hengrove Park won the division.

Division 2 was a really tight league with only 6 points separating the eventual champions, North Somerset Comets (who themselves won the league on their head to head record vs Bristol Knights) and the team that finished bottom. This was possibly the closest league I have seen during the time I have been involved with WEBBA and there was a real sense that any team could beat any other team on their day.

Division 3 had a wider range of team strengths with Bristol Met beating Totterdown Tigers in the division decider in their last games of the season.

The cup was also won by Hengrove Park.

The trophy was won by Braves II (disclaimer - since Braves II are my team - I used the WEBBA tried and tested process of determining handicaps and this was all double checked with John Rubery (the man who created this process) prior to the competitions started). As often is the case in the Trophy Competitions, it tends to benefit the teams who improve most in the second half of the season - Both finalists, Braves II and Speedwell, were bottom of their leagues at the start of the calendar year, but both finished several places higher come the end of the season.

We reintroduced the Plate this season after feedback from a few lower league teams who said they had missed it. Only issue was two division 1 teams ended up entering the competition (after being knocked out of the first round of the cup) and ultimately contested the final with Braves I coming out on top.

Excluding the games UWE cancelled before their expulsion, there were 20 games cancelled across the men's leagues and cup competitions.

This season we introduced google forms for team applications and cancelling / rescheduling games and on the whole these worked well. Next season we are separating the cancelling and rescheduling games forms as often a team would use it to cancel a game and reschedule it via email, which sometimes meant that someone (refs sec, webmaster of competitions sec) missed this happening leading to issues with games.

Next season we will be releasing the fixtures closer to the start of the season to avoid the issues we had this season.

Finally I will not be continuing in the role of Men's Secretary for the 2018 - 2019 season due to a new family addition and a big work project scheduled for the end of this calendar year. I will be helping with the fixtures and will continue on the WEBBA Committee in a less time consuming role with the view of potentially resuming the role for the 2019 - 2020 season (unless my successor is happy to continue!)