



**League Survey  
January 2012  
Final Report**

## Background

The January 2012 League survey went live on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 8pm and closed on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 at midday.

All the questions asked in this survey had come from comments made to the League Secretary since the October 2011 League survey.

The League to-date has 862 registered teams  
Registered number of players: 11,015  
Number of website articles since August 2011: 463  
Number of subscribers to the weekly e-newsletter: 854  
Number of Facebook followers: 733  
Number of Twitter followers: 447  
Full Time website hits in the last 60 days: 415,760 (ranked number 1)  
Full Time website hits overall: 11, 350, 301 (ranked number 1)

*Stats correct as at midday 1/2/2012*

### Ideas/themes coming out of the survey to potentially work on (in no particular order):

**Season:** The starting time & end, and if a winter break could be used. During the winter break, a futsal tournament/league could be organised. Needs further discussion. Could just apply to mini-soccer

**Fine levels:** Members need to consider if the fine levels are appropriate.

**Grading:** It is clear that teams starting in the bottom divisions are not helping that team or the teams they are playing against. The survey result has demonstrated that there is change required or at least discussion to be had at the AGM over this. Also the need to make sure U8s (Graded based on region and performance) and U9s are graded into the appropriate divisions.

**Size of divisions:** If divisions in an ideal world are of 10 teams, it would allow capacity for teams who need to be promoted extra divisions to be able to do so (see point above regarding grading). Currently if we have 12 team division capacity to move up divisions is only based on 3 teams in the League below getting promoted.

**Player Development:** The survey showed that the respondents want goal difference to still apply, though you could argue that this puts a demand/pressure on players to score as many as possible against weaker teams. This then leads to a further discussion if this is of benefit to all the players playing, as are they learning or enjoying from this experience. Responses also indicated the need to try to prevent a “win at all cost” mentality and encourage players to play and learn. Disappointing only 2% of respondents to the survey were players – we need to capture what players want

**Match Watchers:** People who are involved in a team and have a spare Sunday. The League could appoint them to watch a game nearby but in a different age-group and ask them to report back on anything they see.

**Youth Committee:** Have a committee made up of players from the clubs, to help aid development. They can then have a direct say in what they want from the League. Maybe members clubs could introduce this within their own clubs?

**Promote Online Resources:** Need to promote more FA Member Services (find a referee facility for example) and the FA Your Game (tools to help clubs) more.  
<http://www.sheffieldfa.com/Governance/membersservices/> & [www.thefa.com/yourgame](http://www.thefa.com/yourgame)

**League Meetings:** Either have to improve the content or have less of them

**New Managers Meeting:** A need to review the content at this meeting. Also to consider if a re-fresher or mid-season meeting is needed in order for managers joining during the season have the benefit of attending such a meeting/workshop.

**Difference between the League and County FA:** This needs to be communicated better, perhaps a description based on roles responsibilities could be included within the handbook.

**Courses:** The demand for more free or subsidised course. Links in with the League business model see below

**Communicate What We Currently Do Better:** The need to communicate sporting marks for teams and spectators and what they mean and what we do with them. The same regarding referees, and what happens with the marks and letters. Also about the partnership work we do with the County FA, especially signposting players at the under 10 – under 11 drop-out area. Also need to explain how the fixture grid references are determined so people can understand why blank weeks exist within even numbered divisions etc and why it is not easy to merge divisions when teams drop out.

**Laws of the Game:** Consideration to be included in next seasons handbook for all formats of the game. The potential problem is that the handbook is going to be very large and do all people read the handbook and refer to it when they have a problem/question!

**League Representative Teams:** Interesting idea and maybe worth further discussion

**League Management System:** See brief was written in November and posted on the League website. The brief is also at the end of this report.

**League Business Model:** As a League will need to look at our business model, to see how we can bring in revenue but not at the cost of member clubs. Clubs continue to incur fines that could have been avoided. It is extremely disappointing that we have not seen a drop in the fines coming in, despite providing guidance in the League handbook and on the website of how to avoid fines. Sadly a number of fines have not been paid on time, and thus in accordance with League rules the fine has doubled for non/late payment. Fine money is the main income to the League, this should not really be the case.

The League is fully aware that pitch fees and other associated costs are going up, and have to be mindful of that. How we achieve bringing in additional income is very difficult. Obviously sponsorship of the League (thanks to Rosehill Press) helps greatly, but sadly we have not been able to attract any sponsorship for the League Cup, League Trophy or the Fair Play awards. The other potential methods to bring in revenue would be a ball deal, with teams forced to purchase approved match balls and use them. The League is not convinced this would help clubs, as most clubs have deals with place with kit providers. The League tries to assist clubs as much as possible by directing them to funding and grants opportunities. We could look at a fee per registered player, but is that just another potential barrier to stopping children playing? As you see, not an easy situation to work on, and whilst the League continues to reduce costs, income still needs to be generated from new methods. Ideas and thoughts on this are most welcome.

## Survey Responses

Total number of respondents: **241** (not every respondent asked every question)

The following groups of people completed the survey.

	Jan 2012 Response	October 2011 Response
Manager	46.96%	42%
Player	2.21%	4%
Parent	16.57%	16%
Club Official	24.31%	36%
Referee	2.76%	0%
League Official	1.10%	0%
Other	6.08%	2%

Question: Winter Break: Should the League have a scheduled winter break (15th December – 15th January)?

Yes	47.86%
No	11.97%
Hard to do, due to we never know when the bad weather will come	40.17%

Question: In your opinion, when should the season start & finish?

Autumn- Spring	72.14%
Winter - Summer	5.97%
Spring - Summer	0.00%
Spring - Autumn	21.89%

Question: Should the League look at running futsal (Fifa 5-a-side)?

Yes for all age-groups	27.27%
Yes for Under 7 & Under 8s only	12.12%
Yes for Under 7 to Under 10s only	5.63%
Yes for under 11s upwards only	0.00%
No	20.78%
No opinion	34.20%

Question: How big should each division be?

7 teams (play each other 3 teams)	0.87%
7 teams (play each other 2 twice)	1.75%
8 teams (play each other 3 times)	1.31%
8 teams (play each other 2 twice)	1.31%
9 teams (play each other 2 twice)	4.80%
10 teams (play each other 2 twice)	40.61%
11 teams (play each other 2 twice)	7.42%
12 teams (play each other 2 twice)	41.92%

Question: Should goal-difference be removed?

Yes	19.09%
No	72.20%
No Opinion	8.71%

Question: Should teams be allowed to be promoted more than one division, if they appear to be too good for the division above?

Yes	54.55%
No	43.72%
No Opinion	1.73%

Question: Should the League look at Saturday only divisions for mini-soccer teams?

Yes	27.62%
No	42.16%
No Opinion	30.13%

Question: End Of Season - Presentations

All players of Winners & Runners-up teams should be given a <b>trophy</b>	42.66%
All players of Winners & Runners-up teams should be given a <b>medal</b>	43.12%
No player should be given a medal or trophy, just each club a cup/shield for winning/runners-up	5.05%
Every player in the League should be given a <b>medal</b> - nothing extra for winning the League	4.59%
Every player in the League should be given a <b>trophy</b> - nothing extra for winning the League	0.00%
No medals or trophies - the money should be used to put on coaching courses	4.59%

Question: Communication: The League website is?

	Jan 2012 Response	October 2011 Response
Excellent	28.21%	26%
Very Good	40.60%	56%
Good	22.65%	0%
Okay	8.55%	16%
Poor	0%	0%
Very Poor	0%	2%

Question: Communication: The League newsletter is?

	Jan 2012 Response	October 2011 Response
Excellent	31.80%	24%
Very Good	39.33%	54%
Good	23.43%	18%
Okay	5.02%	4%
Poor	0.42%	0%
Very Poor	0%	0%

Question: Should the League handbook contain managers contact details?

Yes	56.85%
No details are always out of date. People should use the online spreadsheet	38.59%
No Opinion	4.56%

## What does the League do well?

- Well-organised and communication is good via the website.
- Organisation of the league competitions
- Keeping clubs informed of the latest news and events
- Website
- Using latest technology to assist in the running of the league
- How the league is set up is really good compared to other leagues.
- communication
- presentation nights are excellent
- committee are fair and helpful when I've had to deal with them
- Generally most things
- I think its run extremely well, communication is brill. The new in-put your own results is great. Keep up the excellent work!!
- Organisation
- Tries to focus on the fair play aspects on the game which i think is really important especially with what has happened in our games top leagues at the minute.
- Website for results
- Runs a structured football competition.
- Answer my questions and give advice when needed especially Nathan Batchelor.
- organization and web site
- gives kids a safe environment to play football
- Organisation. Very good overall structure.
- Promotes competitive football over a wide age range but also gives a high priority to fair play and sportsmanship
- organises the leagues well
- Organisation
- Well structured
- Apply fines
- Understand and set the structure of the league.
- Well organised. Appear to be keen to develop and make things better. Plenty of news and funding opportunities on the website and in the newsletter.
- Communication. administration, guidance and help.
- Penalising and fining clubs (without easy to access payment methods).
- SDJSFL Email newsletter is really good way of receiving news.
- U13 League registrar Lynne Smith has been really supportive of my team e.g. fast turn around of registrations and transfers and flexibility.
- Organising!
- keeps all the teams well informed by the newsletter
- Very happy mostly but think some of the fines for filling in match sheet are harsh for voluntary work
- Organisation, respect , & very approachable
- The website runs effectively.
- the league runs well how it is now
- Provides good information.
- Maintains a good web site.
- Communication
- The consistency of the fixtures - results etc
- A very well run league.
- Meetings and fines
- Issue Fines
- The league is excellent.

- Communication through news letters.
- Generally organising Competitive football for all age groups and all abilities
- It is a well -organised 'open' league
- Promoting Youth Football and Administration
- Manage the number of teams, fixtures etc.
- Most things; just the occasional unavoidable 'blip' in administration!
- Communication through the website is excellent, although I believe the website could be designed better to improve navigation.
- The league does well in general, however there are too many fines. The manager's, coaches etc put pressure on themselves too do well by organising teams, dealing with players & parents, fund raising etc as well as doing there day job but to me there are too many small unnecessary fines that are in the rules
- Organising a vast set-up.
- Administrate the teams and organisation.
- Communication and website
- The newsletter is excellent, very informative. The league secretary is very up to date with all football matters
- Communication.
- Being one of the largest junior football leagues in the country.
- The introduction of entering results online is excellent
- Excellent organisation of leagues and cup/trophy competitions.
- The league is well organised
- collect fines
- Promotes the ethic of sport and football for enjoyment as opposed to winning,
- Communication is pretty good.
- Excellent communication
- Income generation good although the League can be pedantic at times regarding minor mistakes resulting in excessive fines.
- Presentation nights well organised
- Majority of the registrars are extremely helpful and supportive.
- Presentation nights well organised.
- Organisation is good and presentation night is good too.
- communication
- The league does an excellent job and is very well organised.
- League tables and collecting information
- Pleasant Staff
- Make money from fines.
- It is well organised and runs quite smoothly.
- Reasonable communication, organising all the teams and fixtures must be a nightmare!
- After spending our last two seasons in the millennium league the league does everything well. The fact that I have had chance to put my own opinions forward on both this and the 9 v 9 proposals means a lot to me as its nice to have your thoughts heard and considered. Thanks Paul, Wath Stars u10's
- Communication is now very good
- Very well organised
- Arranging fixtures.
- Organisation/paperwork.
- I can't fault this league in the way that its run.
- Excellent communication.
- Very efficient in everything including publication of results/stats
- Website and link to full-time

- Allowing managers to input data
- very well organised
- The weekly emails are helpful and the behind the scenes administration seems to work well.
- communication to teams
- Most things. Organisation is generally good
- very good website, updated quickly
- Good communication, excellent website.
- Surveys
- Being the FA when the FA have gone home for the day/don't work weekends. First port of call, way better than FA
- It is a well run organisation!
- Communication
- Keep us informed
- A fantastic effort to put on football for so many teams/players
- Well done for trying to object to the latest referees fees fiasco. The enforced fees are a joke.
- Sharing of positive behaviours is always good to see on the website.
- Move to get midweek games played in September was positive.
- The news letter is great, and the websites are very interesting.
- The secretary of the league has raised the profile of communication and brought all levels of communications forward with today's technology.
- At the end of the day I appreciate its attempts to improve standards of refereeing, behaviour of managers, parents and players, and try to create a challenging, fair competitive environment for young people. I also appreciate the time the league administrators put in. This means there have to be rules which are generally well enforced, although it can fine people too readily at times and not consider mitigating factors.
- Communications have improved. The newsletter is excellent and the resources and guidance accessible on the website are also very good.
- Excellent website, results published quickly.
- Communicate information via twitter, facebook & newsletters (excellent)
- Result reporting etc is a lot easier also the newsletter is a good source of information
- Organise an exceptionally large league. Communicate with it's members.
- Publicity & Communication
- I like the website and much more could be done with it to make everything electronic (Only you have to get everyone to buy into it who isn't technically minded !!!)
- Give out info
- Promote Respect
- End of season recognition for winning teams
- Communicate information well via different channels facebook, twitter and League website
- It ensures that young children can play football in a safe and organised environment.
- In our opinion the league is run most effectively in all aspects.
- Generally runs things very well and professionally.
- Well organised, open to all teams wanting to join
- Administration and communication, always looking for ways to develop the league for the benefit of all teams
- Communication- weekly newsletter
- It offers a very well organised and structured lay-out of our sport
- The League is always looking to improve – that's why it is an excellent League. Always looking to see how to make things easier and better for everyone involved.

## How can the League improve and develop?

Response	League Secretary Reply
By keeping numbers in teams to what ever you decide u11 9v9 can take on. EG if we can have 14 children on , only let u7 to u10 take that many on so there isn't any unhappy children at the end of u10.	We have kept clubs informed about the changes to youth football nationally. We even surveyed all the clubs asking for their views surrounding the mechanics for 9v9 for next season under 11s. Those teams who will have players left over will be strongly encouraged to sign post them to clubs who are running 2 9v9 teams next season
Clarity about under 10's (current) position for next season	<p>I don't know what more we can do to make it clear. Clubs were told this was happening, when they voted in June 2011. Since then updates have appeared on the website, mentioned at League meetings and in the weekly League newsletter. Clubs had the opportunity to complete a survey on the subject as well.</p> <p>Also the League published two national consultation events that occurred in the area and asked clubs to attend them if they wanted to know more about the national changes proposed by the FA.</p>
Listen more to members views and ideas	This survey is exactly trying to do this. Remember the rules are voted in by the clubs and the League merely enforces them.
Encourage more new faces to be involved in the running of the league	If anyone is interested in joining, please come forward. We recently asked for additional Welfare Officers to join the League. It is not a closed shop and relies on volunteers.
Look to continue to host more courses - coaching/ refereeing/ charter standard etc	As a Charter Standard League we had been given free places on Welfare (5 places), 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid (5 places), Level 1 (5 places) Module 1 (5 places) and a referee course (5 places). The League has paid a cost towards this, but still saved a lot of money. These courses were all booked out after getting advertised within 24 hours.
More needs to be done quickly over players registrations and proving the age of players to qualify in a age group..	<p>The player registration system was updated this season, and the previous survey had the following results:</p> <p>How did you find the player registration system this season? Excellent 30%, Very Good 48%, Okay 18%, Poor 4%.</p> <p>Yes work needs to be done to fine tune it, and as mentioned in the "League Management System" brief produced in November (also at the end of this report) the League is looking at doing registrations online if possible</p>
for under 7's our league could finish in a couple of weeks, the league could run	We are looking at encouraging teams who want extra fixtures in the under 7s to contact Pete

<p>another mini league for the rest of the season on the rankings in each respective league that only you know eg top 2 from each league play in a league, then 3 &amp; 4 and then 5 &amp; 6 would hopefully make even matches</p>	<p>Sockett (U7 registrar) as he will be able to gauge teams.</p> <p>Next season under 8s will be graded and regionalised.</p>
<p>sort out bad managers and parents who are ruining the game with win at all costs attitudes</p>	<p>The League cannot do anything about what the League Secretary calls WAACERS (Win At All Costs - ers). Any misconduct you witness should be reported to the County FA who can deal with it.</p>
<p>The League should start earlier ie. end of July, allowing more games on decent pitches/midweek games, incorporate a winter break and extend the season to May again allowing for more light nights.</p>	<p>The season is determined by Sheffield Parks having the pitches available. At the minute, Sheffield Parks intend to take down the goals on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It would be difficult to play in August due to school holidays.</p>
<p>The idea of changing the season is something we all should look at esp with the new grassroots plans which i believe want to use Jan-Dec rather than Sept-Aug has the age group,this would make it easier for everyone. Having the cup later has helped but all you need is a couple bad weeks weather and the hard work rushing about after work/school to play your fixtures in Sept is un-done. League's should ideally be 8-10 teams playing each other twice is alot fairer and better than say having 6-7 teams and playing each other 3 or even 4 times a season. Teams who run away with their league should be given the chance to move up maybe a extra division this is also fairer no-one wants to see the league winner or a team running away with it before the season is half way through. The idea of indoor futsal is great maybe to run during the colder,wetter and darker months this still leaves plenty of time for clubs who hold tournaments or go away on tours/competitions to fit them in. Changes like this would give the kids option to play as much football as they choose instead of being very restricted from Nov-Feb due to pitches being unplayable,limited floodlight pitches,early evenings,bad weather and more kids being prone to illness ie colds and flu esp the small kids who sometimes are sat waiting to play there game while team A or playing theirs and vice versa. I understand not everyone wants things to change but we have to be more flexible to the kids needs as if we cant give the kids more options to play as much different football (5v5,7v7,9v9,11v11 and futsal) as</p>	<p>Valid points</p> <p>My personal view is that 10 in a division would be ideal. It gives scope for good teams to be promoted more than one division if it was felt that they should. Under current rules, teams can only be promoted one division (someone needs to propose this as a rule change). It also gives scope for a few blank Sundays so teams can postpone fixtures (when done in accordance with League rules) and allows capacity for bad weather etc.</p> <p>The ideal of futsal was/is to fill in the winter months. So the teams would start the season, and when it got colder in Nov-Feb, indoor futsal would be available. Then in Feb-end of the season the players could transfer the futsal skills on to the grass pitches.</p>

they want and are asking for we'll risk losing the ones who we do all this for. We have a fantastic league why not lead the way in making changes for the better of the kids after all without the kids we dont have a league .....	
More representatives at games to many abusive parents for young refs to deal with	The League try to get round to as many games as they can. Its worth noting that we have on average 275 games every Sunday, and with League committee members either involved as referee's or in clubs it is hard to get round to watch as many games as we would like to.
Not a lot	Thanks for the positive comment. However, we feel that we need to improve because if we stand still we will go backwards.
again focusing on the fair play aspect of the game i would replace the goal difference system with fair play points instead, however the only way this could work is to keep the points in house until the end of the season just in case there is a battle for vital league positions.	We do have a fair play system in place. Each manager marks on their match sheet a score out of 10 for the players and for the management/spectators of the opposition. These are added up at the end of the season. Each divisional winner receives key-rings with the League logo on for each player. The overall age-group winners receive a trophy at the annual presentation nights.
try to keep a regular check with clubs for upto date manager contact details.	It is clubs responsibility to inform the League of any changes to managers or club secretaries. Once we are notified, the managers spreadsheet is updated
Make teams play midweek games for first four weeks = 8 league games played in good conditions . When poor weather arrives not so many games to rearrange.	Interesting idea. We have had responses criticising playing midweek games, so we cannot win here. I think playing midweek in September has clearly helped this season.
Also level 1 one should be paid for by league level 2 subsidised . 1st aid should be free	I have the theory that all fine money should be classed as "bonus money" and that should be used for development. However, it is clear when you see the accounts that fines are one of the major incomes for the League. I am trying hard to reduce that, hence why we have a managers guide and a guide in the handbook and regular reminders in the newsletter. This season currently 515 teams have not received a fine, sadly 349 teams have.  We have managed to put on some courses, which we were given free. These were advertised on the website and were fully booked up within 24 hours. We would like to do more, but we need more funds to do so.
More coaching courses	See above
Don't let the FA/Foreign Countries dictate what we do all the time in the UK!	We are sanctioned by the FA and have to follow the rules of the association.
refereeing	All teams mark referees. All scores below 50 have to be accompanied with a letter explaining the low score. These letters are all sent to the

	<p>County FA for them to deal with. As mentioned before, some referees have been suspended by the County FA this year for poor performance. If people do not report it, nothing can be done.</p>
<p>stop fining teams for trivial things like match card errors this takes vital funds from teams that can be put to better use ie training facilities/equipment kit etc help teams when things like professional games interfere with kids games by allowing postponements later than the 4 week rule as tickets for these games go on general sale after the 4 week rule has passed &amp; teams dont know if they will have a squad more surprise visits to games from league reps to see the win at all cost mentality of some coaches &amp; parents that spoil the enjoyment for others including referees players &amp; coaching staff</p>	<p>I am trying hard to reduce fines, hence why we have a managers guide and a guide in the handbook and regular reminders in the newsletter. This season currently 515 teams have not received a fine, sadly 349 teams have. The rules are set by the member clubs, so the League merely enforces it. Clubs have to take responsibility if the same managers within that club are making the same errors week in – week out.</p> <p>Regarding postponements for the Steel City Derby game. 35 requests were made in accordance with the postponement rule and all were granted. For those teams who did not make a request but realised they had players going to the game, the League said games could kick off outside the normal scheduled kick off times provided both teams agreed.</p> <p>The League try to get around to as many games as they can. Its worth noting that we have on average 275 games every Sunday, and with League committee members either involved as referee's or in clubs it is hard to get around to watch as many games as we would like to. Each team mark their opponents sporting behaviour, both players and spectators. Low scores need to be accompanied with a letter and these letters are sent into the County FA.</p>
<p>Keep under 11s 11a side for next season,as a lot off players will struggle to find another team. If teams have 20 then 6 will have to find another team that's every under 10 s this season, where are they supposed to go.keep kids into football not the other way round keep as 2 teams get more players in .</p>	<p>Member clubs voted in 100% in June 2011 to go to 9v9 next season. I recently read a report that said more Leagues in England will be playing 9v9 at under 11 compared to 11v11. Some clubs are running 2 9v9 teams next season. Those teams who will have players left over will be strongly encouraged to sign post them to clubs who are running 2 9v9 teams next season. If teams have 20 players now as you state – they could run 2 teams, therefore no one has to find another club. If it were 11 a side, you'd still have to lose 4 players.</p>
<p>stop games being called off to watch local teams play. any scheduled local games that are played on sundays anybody wanting to watch these games should apply before the season season starts, then they should be told to play these in midweek at the beginning of the season.</p>	<p>As the League rules stand, teams can postpone fixtures that clash with professional League fixtures as you can strongly argue that you can learn a lot from watching a professional game. Teams were advised of the options available to them, including bring the game forward to play midweek.</p>

<p>Petty fines. For a charity club they hit hard. I am mainly meaning match forms and the omission of odd items. I feel a warning should be given before a fine, especially new teams.</p>	<p>The League have produced a managers guide and a guide in the handbook and regular reminders in the newsletter to try to prevent silly fines. All fines are avoidable. This season currently 515 teams have not received a fine, sadly 349 teams have. The rules are set by the member clubs, so the League merely enforces it. Clubs have to take responsibility if the same managers within that club are making the same errors week in – week out.</p>
<p><b>BY ALLOWING EMERGENCY GOALKEEPING SIGNINGS</b></p>	<p>You will need to submit this as a rule change. Players can be signed up to January 31<sup>st</sup> provided you have room in your squad.</p>
<p>More pitchside inspections</p>	<p>The League try to get around to as many games as they can. Its worth noting that we have on average 275 games every Sunday, and with League committee members either involved as referee's or in clubs it is hard to get around to watch as many games as we would like to. Each team mark their opponents sporting behaviour, both players and spectators. Low scores need to be accompanied with a letter and these letters are sent into the County FA.</p> <p>We simply do not have enough volunteers at the moment. An idea could be to introduce Match Watchers. People who are involved in a team and have a spare Sunday. The League could appoint them to watch a game nearby but in a different age-group and ask them to report back on anything they see.</p>
<p>We need to look at the typical area where football in England lacks behind foreign competition. A winter break of at least 2 months - even if the pitches are playable you do not get German or Dutch children (never mind those from Mediterranean countries and South America) trying to play football on a pitch that is a recreation of the Somme. Encourage more coaching sessions (i.e. more than once per week) with the emphasis on skill and not brute force.</p>	<p>The Winter break question was part of this survey.</p> <p>Regarding training, that is up to individual clubs to decide</p>
<p>"No medals or trophies - the money should be used to put on coaching courses this should have just said No medals or trophies As then the money could be spent on something else not just courses. Again incorrect question</p>	<p>If you have any questions you would like to appear in the next survey, please email them to me.</p>
<p>As for how could the league improve I could rant all day."</p>	<p>This is your chance. As I keep putting in the newsletter, if you have any ideas on how the League can improve please sent them in.</p>
<p>Understand the feelings of players who join</p>	<p>Last season, the League along with the</p>

<p>football and play to U10 level. At this point every player should be encouraged to continue. At present too many players drop out of football as U11 kicks in because of structure (you feel is best) rather than how do we retain every player.</p>	<p>Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA, introduced a system which signposted under 10 who left clubs during the transition to under 11s. That worked very well, and is something we will keep in place every season. We are again doing it this season. All those teams running 2 9v9 teams will be promoted as doing so, so clubs who are not know where to signpost players who will be leaving their club.</p>
<p>Need more people on the committee. Some of the committee need to change their outlook and think about develop, and not think "we have always done it this way"</p>	<p>Changes have occurred in recent years.  Yes, we always need more people to help and move things forward.</p>
<p>Focus on the coaches - they are generally all unqualified parents who need guidance in coaching and improving the skills of the players. Some kind of drills/warm up/coaching handbook which is age group(s) specific and approved by the league / FA would be of great help (covering the basics. We all probably spend a lot of time &amp; money on books / internet sites looking for stuff to do. This could possibly be a subscription / chargeable service which the league can gain revenue from to help develop the league offering / services even further.</p>	<p>Each team should have a Level 1 coach as part of a Charter Standard club. All existing clubs need to be Charter Standard by the start of next season or they will not be allowed into the League.  Early this season, the Sheffield &amp; Hallamshire CFA promoted the work of the Sheffield &amp; Hallamshire Coaches association, which the League also promoted.  The idea of drill book or subsidised internet subscription service is an interesting idea.</p>
<p>Offer online payments</p>	<p>We are looking at this</p>
<p>Send all fines and comms about a specific team to the team manager and not the club secretary as this can mean delays in getting a response or fine paid due to managers not able to see the club secretary easily (i live 15m from my club secretary). Send emails to the team manager and not via post to the club secretary</p>	<p>All fines are sent by email to Club Secretaries. This is FA regulations. I would have thought your club secretary would have just forwarded on the email to you.  All League communication is sent by email, not in the post.</p>
<p>Provide explanations as to why a disciplinary case has been proven other than just stating it has and if you want to appeal it will cost £50 (which no club obviously has the funds to do)</p>	<p>I think you are getting confused with County FA issues.  All standard fines (match sheet fines) are clearly explained. All decisions made regarding charges can be appealed provided you follow the instructions and the deposit fee is £20.</p>
<p>Enable online player registrations/de-registrations"</p>	<p>This is part "League Management System" brief produced in November - the League is looking at doing registrations online if possible.  A commercial company has offered us a £100 setup fee and then £3 per player to do a credit card system. The League would collect the registrations as normal, send to them, and they return to us, to pass on to the clubs. This seems long winded and expensive and would not help</p>

	those teams wanting a last minute player registration
The introduction of the CFA sponsored cup competition at U13 & U16 causes fixture congestion later in the season. The introduction of smaller divisions would help to alleviate some of the issues.	The County Cup in these two age-groups is not new, and it does cause issues every season regarding fixture congestion.
If a winter break is used the flexibility to use such dates if the weather is good should be permitted."	Valid point
"not sure this is for the league or the local FA? In mini soccer 1) Get rid of goal kicks. 2) Divide the pitch up into quarters 3) remove all attacking players from final quarter when the keeper would normally take a goalkick and allow him to roll / pass out UNPRESSURED to a defender. 4) only allow attackers in last quarter when defender touches the ball. This would promote a passing culture right from the keeper instead of just blasting the ball forward. How many keepers do you see in mini soccer taking goal kicks anyway? its normally the kid with the hardest kick! I am convinced that the above would result in much better player development in all positions."	Those are FA matters as it is regarding the Laws of the game.
Do not allow unqualified refs	Teams are allowed to use a stand-in ref on up to 3 occasions each season. On the fourth occasion they are written to by the County FA and if that person is used again heavy sanctions are taken by the County FA
Monitor more games, with the view at safety at grounds, there is still a lot of teams that as Been using metal dangerous spikes as barriers? I have been with the same team know for 7yrs & followed correct protocol by informing the league & registrar, but every year we turn up to same grounds & they still got these dangerous barriers. This needs to be addressed at the top level.	As a matter of urgency, you must inform me which ground this is at. I am unaware of this.
Try to be more vigilant to ensure fair play from managers and refs.	We simply cannot attend to each game. Each team manager completes a match card to score their opponents and the referee. These scores are used as an indication of who to visit etc.
Midweek games in the first two weeks of the season should be played but only if they are local matches. There should be no travelling involved, no going to Barnsley from Sheffield and vice versa, no travel across Sheffield in rush hour just local games, if this is not possible fine the league has run well before and it should be	The midweek games all had the same grid reference across all divisions. Therefore your midweek game was dependent on your grid letter. Your grid letter was dependent on the 400+ pitch sharing requests. Last season we encouraged teams to play midweek in September but we only had around 30 fixtures played.

optional in any case if distance is involved. Local midweek games however could be compulsory in the first two weeks. As I have mentioned to Nathan Batchelor referees should be given a marking system on teams parents and coaches, this is an idea in progress.	This season we have had over 200.  I am actively looking at the system for qualified and registered referees to be able to mark both sets of teams to add to the Fair Play marks.
Watch matches (un-announced) because there is blatant bias from many referees.	Both teams mark referees. All scores of 50 and below have to be accompanied with a letter, which is sent to the referees officer at the County FA to deal with
neutral refs	We would love to, but sadly we don't have enough referees to do this.
" I consider the cost of the end of season presentation ..for a minority of clubs..would be better spent on subsidising courses for all.	Interesting point. At the minute, clubs pay to attend the presentation nights so in essence they break even. We would love to put on more courses, but we simply do not have the money to do so
Allow some self-seeding at U10s"	Clubs at Under 10s are seeded, based on under 9 results, and currently new teams start in the bottom division as per current League rules
Less about trophies and winning more about development of children particularly age groups 7 to 12s.	I agree, but I am not sure how the League can enforce this apart from having no League tables
Give more leeway for certain things - after all people have families etc	League officials are very busy too, but they have to follow the rules as set out by the membership. All the information that teams are fined for is needed, and without it, the League cannot function.
Stop midweek matches until clocks go forward you struggle with light"	The light for the first two weeks of the season was fine for teams to play in.
Use common sense I.e derby matches allow matches to be played another time or day	The League made it clear that clubs had a number of options available to them: -Bring the game forward (note U11 to U16 cannot play on a Saturday) -Request a postponement, 28 days in advance -Kick off earlier or later on that day
Have league rep teams set up in every age group to play teams from other local leagues. Games could be played at academy venues so likes of Wednesday, United etc could play against them.	Interesting idea. Thank you
Invest in free training courses.	We would love to put on more course, but we simply do not have the money to do so
By checking on teams coming into Sheffield league from other district leagues and starting them in equivalent division to what they have come from ~ Not in Bottom Leagues.	At the minutes, the current league rules, as voted in by the member clubs, states all new teams must start in the bottom division. For this to be changed, a member club needs to submit a rule change. If this was to be a rule change, we then have to make sure that the appropriate division has a space to accommodate them.
I feel the age group for competitive leagues is far too young at under 9s and more appropriate age would be under 12s (like	The idea of when league tables should be used, is part of the current FA Youth Review work.

most other countries, Holland, Germany, Spain??, Brazil)	
Interesting idea for the futsal, would be an idea to have futsal leagues during winter months and outdoor spring to summer.	The ideal of futsal was/is to fill in the winter months. So the teams would start the season, and when it got colder in Nov-Feb, indoor futsal would be available. Then in Feb-end of the season the players could transfer the futsal skills on to the grass pitches. You would probably be looking at the younger age-groups for this.
Ages 8-12 are the golden age for children learning technique.	Interesting point, and one I believe has been picked up in the FA Youth Development Review
Maybe having futsal leagues for this age group 8-12 only, too improve technique and then switch to outdoors at under 12s (like Brazil, and Uruguay)	The ideal of futsal was/is to fill in the winter months. So the teams would start the season, and when it got colder in Nov-Feb, indoor futsal would be available. Then in Feb-end of the season the players could transfer the futsal skills on to the grass pitches. You would probably be looking at the younger age-groups for this.
Being competitive outdoor at under 9s only places training emphasis to win games. i.e. more important to win than develop as a player. This will be more evident for example in Division A. Therefore the young players that stand a good chance of making a good player have too much pressure placed on them to win at an early age.	Interesting point, and one I believe has been picked up in the FA Youth Development Review
Keep lobbying the County and National FAs for better facilities for youth football	We keep trying. We have a good relationship with the Development Team at the County FA.
"Too bureaucratic - particularly for newer clubs.	We have policies and procedures that have to be followed in order to be fair and consistent. If you can think of ways to assist clubs more, please let us know. Hopefully if we can get this League Management System online system in place it will help clubs greatly
Following up complaints - we put in a complaint about the behaviour of another club last year for abusive language by coaches. Nothing was ever done about it or if it was we did not hear. Laughably the same team got an award at the end of season because their paperwork was all in order. Paperwork v foul and abusive language in front of children! No competition in my book!"	That sounds very much like a misconduct issue, in which case the County FA would be dealing with it.  The Fair play award has nothing to do with paperwork, it is the combined scores of the fair play marks allocated to teams during the season from their opposing managers.
By doing what you're already doing. Viz: asking questions of and listening to replies from, member clubs; then trying to act on the results.	Thank you for your kind comments. We want to make this the best League we can. We have 862 teams, so we want as many of them and the players involved to contribute to making this League as best as we can make it.
Develop a online system for clubs to email	This is something we are looking at. A draft

the appropriate league registrar with match results	paper was written in November on this very subject.
"It would be beneficial if a list of all the referees could be placed online, similar to the managers contacts. Finding referees is currently very difficult.	The FA have a system called "member services" which allows club secretaries to do this. All referees need to be registered with the County FA, so it makes sense for people to use this online tool. Go to <a href="http://www.sheffieldfa.com/Governance/membersservices/">http://www.sheffieldfa.com/Governance/membersservices/</a> for more details
Regionalising teams at the non-competitive age groups would also be beneficial.	This has already happened this season at under 7 and under 8s
Online registration and team sheets would be beneficial.	This is something we are looking at. A draft paper was written in November on this very subject.
Season starting March time and finish November Time	A question in this survey asked when people think the season should start and finish.
take into account the standard of new teams against those already established. also we need more games and cup tournaments.	A question was asked in this survey if teams should be promoted more than one division.  Regarding more games and cup competitions we struggle to get all the games played as it is.
league officials, especially the chairman should respond to e-mails, and not ignore them	I would hope that emails are not ignored. If they are, please inform either myself (League Secretary) or a senior League official
having cup/trophy rounds during summer, to relieve pressure off the league fixtures at other times...	This year we had the extra preliminary rounds in the summer to help ease the situation. The extra preliminary round was played midweek
League meetings are just a roll call. The weekly news sheet is ideal so do we need to have as many meetings?	Agree about the meetings. We are looking at having guest speakers or presentations i.e mock County FA discipline hearings
remember to put the children first, just because an administration error has occurred why punish the children with points deductions and walkovers. fine the club but not the players they are not at fault ."	No one has been punished with points deduction or walkovers for administration errors. The League discipline committee have awarded games when they felt the game should have been played. A lot of the time that is down to parents not informing managers of holidays/school trips etc
Since my son has been u11 (now under 15) the A division has been won by worst behaved team who give nothing to the world of football. penalties need to be introduced to stop these "park" football managers succeeding and football coming 2nd.	If you spot poor behaviour, you need to report it to the County FA
Play the league through the spring / summer month's. Even if it's just the U8,9,10,11 and 12's because it's horrible for parents, coaches and young players to be stood there in the freezing cold, especially if the young players are substitutes. Summer months would provide better playing surfaces and a better overall game. European countries have benefited from playing on good surfaces all the time	A question in this survey asked when people think the season should start and finish.  This League and most Leagues in England will be playing 9v9 at under 11s next season (2012/2013) and then at under 12 (2013/2014) with 11-a-side getting played at under 13 level upwards from 2015/16.

<p>and I think our game would to by having the young kids play in good weather and on a good surface. Also the age at which kids move into 11 a side seriously needs to be looked at. Take note at what age kids from other countries move to 11 a side</p>	
<p>Take the lead in developing Futsal in Doncaster together with disability football. possibly these could go hand in hand.</p>	<p>This is looking at Futsal (see the question in this survey).</p>
<p>give teams and parents more notice of cup and trophy dates and even league dates as i get this brought up at our parents meeting all the time so parents can arrange holidays or sort out siblings etc</p>	<p>The cup dates have been publicised since late August for the first 2 rounds.</p>
<p>"The league is too weak at challenging and taking positive action against badly behaved teams and managers.</p>	<p>The League is limited to what it can do. The League cannot suspend players, only the County FA can do that.</p>
<p>More spot checks needed by League officials at games - accepting capacity may be an issue."</p>	<p>We simply cannot around to each game. Each team manager completes a match card to score their opponents and the referee. These scores are used as an indication of who to visit etc.</p>
<p>Greater investment needed in developing more coaches and referees - invest more of the income in developing the infrastructure of local football.</p>	<p>As a League will need to look at our business model, to see how we can bring in revenue but not at the cost of member clubs. Clubs continue to incur fines that could have been avoided. It is extremely disappointing that we have not seen a drop in the fines coming in, despite providing guidance in the League handbook and on the website of how to avoid fines. Sadly a number of fines have not been paid on time, and thus in accordance with League rules the fine has doubled for non/late payment. Fine money is the main income to the League, this should not really be the case.</p> <p>The League is fully aware that pitch fees and other associated costs are going up, and have to be mindful of that. How we achieve bringing in additional income is very difficult. Obviously sponsorship of the League (thanks to Rosehill Press) helps greatly, but sadly we have not been able to attract any sponsorship for the League Cup, League Trophy or the Fair Play awards. The other potential methods to bring in revenue would be a ball deal, with teams forced to purchase approved match balls and use them. The League is not convinced this would help clubs, as most clubs have deals with place with kit providers. As you see, not an easy situation to work on, and whilst the League continues to reduce costs, income still needs to be generated from new methods.</p> <p>The League tries to assist clubs as much as possible by directing them to funding and grants opportunities.</p>

"The league need to remember that all people working in childrens football are all volunteers when trying to implement new procedures and some are computer illiterate.	League officials are very busy too. Most clubs will have someone who is able to assist with computer tasks.
supply a pool of referees and start allocating them to certain teams/matches.	We would like too, but unfortunately we do not have enough referees to be able to do this
I think regular checks should be done on behaviour of teams and standard of refereeing to ensure everything is fair. Also some of the league money should be invested into developing new coaches and referees.	<p>Each manager scores their opponents players and spectators with a Fair play mark. Those who give a low mark have to give a written explanation which is passed on to the County FA to deal with.</p> <p>Each manager marks the referee, and any mark below 50 requires a written explanation and this letter is passed on to the County FA for them to deal with.</p> <p>We do put on free course, that we are given help by the County FA but the course do not go very far and are often fully booked within 24hours</p>
Insist each team is able to provide referees and assistants with at least a basic level of training and/or competence.	The home teams are asked to provide qualified and registered referees.
I believe each team should pay more in affiliation fees to allow 'spies' from the fa to attend all games to give an independent view on the behaviour of spectators as I feel the respect campaign isnt policed well enough	Or alternatively we could ask people with no games on a Sunday to make themselves known and we could have "Match Helpers" who go and watch games on the League behalf to observe and report back
"HELP WITH GETTING TEAMS REFEREES ROOT OUT THE BIASED REFS (EMBARRASING)"	<p>Each manager marks the referee, and any mark below 50 requires a written explanation and this letter is passed on to the County FA for them to deal with.</p> <p>The County FA do deal with poor referee's but sadly many score the referee's 51 so as to avoid writing a report</p>
Improve the way fines are dealt with. don't give a fine without fully investigating the allegations made or allow for an appeal and consider this appeal seriously. this would then help clean up the current image of league fines as just a money making exercise for a privileged few that is held by many managers currently	<p>All match cards fines are fully explained, and the benefit of the new match sheet is that each manager has a copy of what they submitted so that they can check for themselves.</p> <p>With all charges, clubs have the opportunity to write in full their observations regarding the charge.</p> <p>Clubs do have the right of appeal, see rule 16. An appeal is heard by the County FA and thus independent from the League</p> <p>All fine money is reinvested back in the</p>

	League.
Be more supportive and re-invest any monies received from fines into coaching courses.	<p>The League is supportive, in that we actively promote funding opportunities for clubs and the newsletter/website highlights common themes.</p> <p>I have the theory that all fine money should be classed as “bonus money” and that should be used for development. However, it is clear when you see the accounts that fines are one of the major incomes for the League. I am trying hard to reduce that, hence why we have a managers guide and a guide in the handbook and regular reminders in the newsletter. This season currently 515 teams have not received a fine, sadly 349 teams have.</p> <p>We have managed to put on some course, which we were given free. These were advertised on the website and were fully booked up within 24 hours. We would like to do more, but we need more funds to do so.</p>
web pages could be better and embrace the electronic mail more for communication.	<p>Valid point about the website design.</p> <p>We do use email an awful lot. We have a weekly newsletter sent out by email to around 800 people. It is free to subscribe to – see the website for details</p>
It must remember this is grass root football and most teams struggle for funding as it is without fines for small discrepancies.	<p>We do appreciate that but we have made it clear how to avoid fines. Remember member clubs set the fine levels.</p> <p>We actively promote funding/grant opportunities that clubs can tap into</p>
The league should stop fining teams as much for minor elements. This is monies taken away from the children to which we are all giving our time and efforts for!!!	<p>Alternatively, clubs should stop making the same mistakes! All fines are avoidable</p> <p>We are all giving our valuable time to make this League and clubs within it the best we can</p>
Most teams need helping not penalising.	The League does help clubs. Regular news items on the website and a weekly newsletter on club development, funding etc
allocate referees to matches, there are certain teams who use the same refs every game and they are too familiar with the home team. this causes resentment, all managers will accept poor decisions but no one likes to feel cheated We all mark the refs, are these marks reviewed and anything done about repeat poor marks?"	<p>All referee scores at the end of the season are given to the County FA.</p> <p>All poor referee performances i.e. those marked 50 or less are sent to the County FA for them to deal with.</p>
Treat people less like idiots. I'm new to the organisational side of our Junior team and come from a professional background and the tone of voice used is very patronising at	It is not anyones intention that this happens. Are you talking about phone conversations or at League meetings? People come from a variety of backgrounds and we have to make sure that

times.	everyone understands everything.
The fine systems seems to be a bit excessive.	Member clubs set the fine limits.
Many people around the league have said 'they fine for everything, don't worry about it!'	This is a long culture that needs to be changed. All fines are avoidable.
The 'spreadsheet' could be easily made into an online page rather than hoping people have Excel on their pc's."	True point. However our current website design/setup does not allow for anything else
Just keep asking the opinions of the people involved in the running of the teams and acting on their ideas	Thanks
Not fine team for late fine payments. If any fines do not get paid, then as per rules already laid down, clubs would not be able to join for the following season until such debts are cleared. After all the money is what the players pay in subs and so you are only taking more money that could benefit them in the long term.	The question is why should the teams who have been fined not pay on time. If those teams paid on time, then they would not be re-fined for late payment. It is the club who are at fault here I am afraid.
Set up a loan system where by clubs could access funds to send coaches on Level 1 courses and these could be repaid over a set period of time.	Interesting point and something to discuss.
Having 10 team in each division would allow for the winter break	Noted
The leagues must be graded at Under 8's and Under 9's which would drastically reduce the 31-0 results which are no good to no one.	Last season we were not allowed to collect results at under 7 and under 8 level, so no grading could take place. This season we are, so teams will be graded at next seasons under 8 (semi-graded within regions) and at under 9
Teams should not be allowed to play home games on Saturdays	Only mini-soccer teams can play on Saturdays. The League rules allow this, you would need to put forward a rule change to change this
Carrying on at the level we are on now. Finding more teams/players. Also helping with finance.	We have actively promoted the Football foundation "grow the game" to helps clubs increase the number of teams they have.
I travel rather a long way to attend League meetings and often I find them a waste of time. Maybe a newsletter sent instead with any relevant information?	Valid point. We are trying to look at how we can improve League meetings. We email our a weekly newsletter.
Allow managers contact details to be inputted	This is a part of the proposed League management system if we can get that system in place.
crack down on un qualified referees and 'stand in parents' should not be allowed as too many are abusing position	We are doing this in partnership with the County FA. Approx 35 letters were sent out last season and around 10 this season so far. They must have done 4 matches before they are classed as regularly doing it.
Over bearing and complex admin and	We need more specifics to tackle this problem.

<p>rules/regulations. As a new manager at U8's, I have spent as much time trying to fathom out the paperwork and punishments as I have getting to grips with coaching the kids. Support for new managers is poor - the 'new managers meeting' was rubbish and I only got guidance on how to run a matchday from other managers at my club (and the fact my eldest son plays and have watched them). At this point in the season it would help if the rules/guidelines for next years football were made available to the current U8's managers - I think I'll be going to 7-a-side but have no confirmation.</p>	<p>What additional information would you like in the handbook to assist you? Regarding the new managers meeting, what would you like to be covered in that meeting, that was not? Regarding next season, this has been clearly communicated on the website and newsletter and again was shown on the "tick box return" sent to Club Secretaries in January. Under 7 = 5v5, Under 8= 6v6, U9 &amp; U10 = 7v7, U11 = 9v9 U12+ = 11v11 The rules stay the same unless they are changed by the FA nationally (Standard Code of Rules) or the member clubs change the domestic rules at the AGM in June</p>
<p>run coaching and ref courses for the kids to participate in.</p>	<p>We have put on some free courses, but unfortunately they book out very fast and we don't the resources to put on more. We do actively promote the courses that are put on by the County FA</p>
<p>Provide a pool of referees that referee different games. Too many referees are too familiar with the teams they ref week in week out. Keep control of referee scores and put the higher scoring referees in charge of crucial games. I believe this would go a long way to help the respect campaign. its no surprise that all the top teams in all divisions have the best home record... food for thought.</p>	<p>Unfortunately we do not have a pool of referees and many clubs struggle to get hold of a qualified and registered referee. We would love to do this. All referees are marked by both managers and low scores are reported to the County FA. Those scoring high are awarded with cup/trophy semi-finals and finals</p>
<p>Linesmen in 11 a side. Some refs like to play with them and some without and they can't keep up with play. Refs need to be monitored. Giving them a score of 51 is becoming the norm when they have been poor to avoid more paperwork. Some are not up to the job or may be biased.</p>	<p>Its down to each referee if they want linesman or not. All referees are marked by both managers and low scores are reported to the County FA. Scoring the referee 51 is not helping the referee nor your fellow member clubs.</p>
<p>1. We have been in the league for 3 seasons now and every season because of teams dropping out we have very small divisions, appreciate it is difficult but surely if this happens leagues can be merged.  2. This is a Sunday league and teams should play on a Sunday end of. We have a team in a Saturday league as well, why should we have to cancel Saturday fixtures to play Sheffield league fixtures.  3. Managers contact information is not up to date, half of the managers have not supplied an email address.</p>	<p>1. Unfortunately it is not that easy. Each club provides their pitch sharing requirements when they join. Sheila then spends a lot of time (many thanks to Sheila for doing this) working out who can play when are where to avoid pitch clashes. Basically it means which teams are allocated which grid reference. Thus merging divisions, unless the grid references fall correctly is an impossible task without having major knock-on effects on other divisions and age-groups 2. The current rules allow mini-soccer teams to play on both a Saturday and Sunday, with the home team choosing. If you want to remove this, then your club will have to propose a rule</p>

<p>4. In 11 aside referees should not be allowed to officiate without linesman, the league operates in a wide regional area and there is nothing worse than travelling 20 miles and have a game ruined by this, how can a referee know a player is on or offside.</p> <p>5. Under 8's and 9's graded either at the start of the season or half way through.</p> <p>6. End of season presentation - should be in Sheffield and at a weekend.</p>	<p>change.</p> <p>3. We can only publish the information that we are given. We do not have the resources to do any data cleansing on currently 804 managers/match arrangers</p> <p>4. Using Linesman is down to the individual referee. Even if linesman are used, it is down to the referee if he goes with the flag or not</p> <p>5. In previous season we were not allowed to collect results for U7 &amp; U8 thus we had nothing to grade teams with. This season we have been allowed to collect results. Therefore next season U8 &amp; U9 can be graded. Under 8s will be graded and regionalised</p> <p>6. We enquired about a couple of Sheffield venues earlier in the season and the cost of holding one single presentation (for one age-group) night was the same as staging all 8 at the Barnsley Metrodome. As for holding them at a weekend, the cost would increase even further. Please come forward if you can help with this.</p>
<p>More electronic forms, 2012, not 1970. Reply to emails (not Nathan, he always does), tell the FA to work as well as the League does - only one professional set up in South Yorkshire and it isn't based at Clegg House!</p>	<p>We are looking at making things easier with a new designed system. Unfortunately it is harder said then done to get the system we want designed</p>
<p>a) Every match should have a neutral referee - not someone's dad/sister/brother.</p> <p>b) Serious foul play should be dealt with much more strictly, as should abuse of referees.</p> <p>c) Copy of a legally correct birth certificate should be provided to the age group registrar PRIOR to signing for any team. No birth certificate no play.</p> <p>d) Either divisions should be smaller in size or the season should be extended to end of April - this avoids re-arranging postponed fixtures in midweek (when they cannot be played in daylight) then re-arranging again when the League do decide to let us play in April.</p>	<p>A) We would like to, but there are not enough qualified and registered referees to do this</p> <p>B) This is not a League issue – this is a County FA issue</p> <p>C) At present, the League ask Club Secretaries to check birth certificates. Random spot checks are made during the season</p> <p>D) Extension to the season are not a given.</p>
<p>There should be much stricter control over pitch and goal size - at Under 11's to Under 13's the rule should be that ALL matches are played on 3/4 size pitches with 3/4 size goals - the fact that this is not adhered to encourages teams to have big lads who can boot the ball a long way! The League should encourage proper passing football - I am a big believer in the national teams fa</p>	<p>The FA Standard Code Of Rules, which are the same for all youth leagues in England makes no reference to goal sizes. You could propose a domestic rule to cover this</p>

<p>ilure being down to the fact we encourage big strong athletes rather than good footballers at these age groups, and the habit is not easy to change when the players are 15/16 years old.</p>	
<p>Reduce divisions to 10 teams - this would reduce fixture cogestion - and allow winter break - or better still play spring/summer - especially mini soccer</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>U7/8 should have specified match length 15mins each way - currently not specified - just a max given</p>	<p>This is a Standard Code of Rule</p>
<p>Most parents find the registration process for U8s and below far too officious. Rugby union survives with NO registration until U18.</p>	<p>We need registrations as insurers and the County FAs needs to know who is registered</p>
<p>If U8s and below are not allowed to play in leagues, why bother with them at all? Just publish the contact details of the managers concerned who could then organise weekly friendlies on an ad hoc basis</p>	<p>Interesting point. Some prefer to have organised scheduled fixtures so they can map-out the season ahead.</p>
<p>Undertake more assessments of games e.g. come to games and assess (mark) performance and behaviour of team managers/ coaches, players and referees. Every team should be viewed if possible once per season, failing that every team with low feedback ratings should be assessed/viewed.</p>	<p>We simply do not have enough volunteers at the moment. An idea could be to introduce Match Watchers. People who are involved in a team and have a spare Sunday. The League could appoint them to watch a game nearby but in a different age-group and ask them to report back on anything they see.</p>
<p>I think the idea of a Christmas break would be real positive and I would achieve this by reducing leagues down to groups of 10 or 11. This would allow a couple of free weekends for a Christmas break. Having operated in a 11 team league before I would also say this is worth considering as it gives you a couple of free weekends to plan in breaks etc.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Its is developing all the time - keep up the good work. A Massive improvement in the last three years under the new secretary</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It would help if they did not insist on playing a mid week fixture at the beginning of the season.</p>	<p>The midweek games all had the same grid reference across all divisions. Therefore your midweek game was dependent on your grid letter. Your grid letter was dependent on the 400+ pitch sharing requests. Last season we encouraged teams to play midweek in September but we only had around 30 fixtures played.</p>

	<p>This season we have had over 200.</p> <p>Lets not forget that a lot of midweek games took place at the back end of last season and we had very little moans then.</p> <p>Clubs can either have big division (11 or 12 teams) and play more matches including midweek, or have smaller division (10 or less) and play less and not to worry about midweek games.</p> <p>There are not enough Sundays in the season to have lots of games and not play midweek.</p>
<p>Look at the new 9v9 set up - there is a lot of work involved in going from 2 x 7v7 teams (max 20 players) to the new set up (max 14 players) you have to either sign a load more players to run 2 teams a new management team has to be brought in to run the second team, or you have to release a lot of players to find new teams or find an alternative sport. It would be a lot easier to start 9v9 at a U8's level with 1 team and carry that through to the start of a 11v11 set up.</p>	<p>The FA Youth Review makes it that the playing size increases 2 players each two years. This makes perfect sense and is natural development.</p> <p>Some clubs are running 2 9v9 teams next season, so will require extra players. The League and the County FA are working together, like we did last season, to provide a sort of "clearing house" to sign post players without teams to teams that require players. Lets not forget a lot of advertising for players takes place on the League website.</p> <p>Granted it would be perhaps easier if all teams were single teams and one result from under 7s upwards.</p>
<p>Continue to use latest technology for clubs to enter details of registrations etc.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There are times when simple common sense would sort problems out quickly and without fuss, and there are times when there doesn't seem to be a lot of understanding about the problems encountered by managers and volunteers at match/team end. E.G. expectations of playing midweek games early season where it gets dark early against teams miles away, and where many of the volunteers and parents work. So if these games are essential may be the league could look at local games on these dates or understand they cannot be played. Also problems of playing 2 cup competitions and a league at U13's and U16's is extremely hard and puts added stress on volunteers.</p>	<p>The midweek games all had the same grid reference across all divisions. Therefore your midweek game was dependent on your grid letter. Your grid letter was dependent on the 400+ pitch sharing requests. Last season we encouraged teams to play midweek in September but we only had around 30 fixtures played. This season we have had over 200.</p> <p>Lets not forget that a lot of midweek games took place at the back end of last season and we had very little moans then.</p> <p>Clubs can either have big division (11 or 12 teams) and play more matches including midweek, or have smaller division (10 or less) and play less and not to worry about midweek games.</p>

	<p>There are not enough Sundays in the season to have lots of games and not play midweek.</p> <p>Some of the League committee are actively involved in clubs so are aware of the issues.</p> <p>Granted the County Cup do cause problems.</p>
<p>The match reporting could all be done online, including referee and opposition scores. This would allow the managers time to reflect on the opposition players and spectators and also the referee. The away manager should sign the home managers pad, and receive a copy but the registrar should only request it if there is a dispute or discrepancy with the score (which should be settled by the referee). Teams at U8s/U9s should be seeded, perhaps by entering the league after playing in league sponsored summer tournaments. This would help to avoid the mis-match at this age group.</p>	<p>The online issue is something we are looking at.</p> <p>In previous season we were not allowed to collect results for U7 &amp; U8 thus we had nothing to grade teams with. This season we have been allowed to collect results. Therefore next season U8 &amp; U9 can be graded. Under 8s will be graded and regionalised</p>
<p>Create incentives for students to qualify as referees through stronger links with colleges and universities.</p>	<p>The FA nationally do have incentives schemes in place for referee recruitment and retention</p>
<p>Offer more help and guidance to new clubs joining the league</p>	<p>I hope that we do. We direct them to online resources such as the FA Your Game (<a href="http://www.thefa.com/yourgame">www.thefa.com/yourgame</a>) and they automatically subscribe to the newsletter which gives advice during the season. Don't forget the County FA are there to support clubs</p>
<p>If there was a change to a more summer based season I would like to see a futsal competition introduced.</p>	<p>Futsal in the winter months is on the radar and is something we are looking at.</p>
<p>to give managers input into the structure at an early stage i.e. the 9v9 scenario where some teams only have 3-4 game left and nothing yet has been finalised with very little open communication</p>	<p>I disagree strongly over this. Clubs voted this in on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Clubs also received a questionnaire that was done in partnership between the League and the County FA. Regular items have appeared on the website and in the newsletter. What else can/could we have done to be more open?</p>
<p>More time to submit match sheets. It is difficult to remember to submit the papers on a Sunday for those in shift work. I often have to get leave to manage my team and then race back to work after the match. As a result the submission is often over looked until training on Wednesday. The Royal Mail then deliver after the deadline and a fine is imposed. I feel that submission by Saturday would</p>	<p>The deadline date is set by the member clubs. Hopefully the online League management system if we can get it in place will help clubs</p> <p>The League does have deadlines to meet regarding various factors including letting clubs know outcome of League charges etc</p>

<p>be fairer, to cover such eventualities. I appreciate the assistant could submit the papers, however when a responsibility is shared it in turn becomes forgotten entirely. In general most of the leagues deadlines are tight, yet there is no such rules for the league responding late, to situations.</p>	
<p>Presently doing well</p>	<p>Thanks</p>
<p>Clearer guidelines for Mini Soccer, as currently most teams have different stances on various rules.</p>	<p>The Handbook does make reference to the Laws of the Game for mini-soccer.  We will look to include the Laws of the Game for mini-soccer in next seasons handbook</p>
<p>Single team leagues at mini-soccer  Make each game in League match count as 1 game so that teams stop having superstar teams and play for fun teams. If both counted then they would have to make the teams better balanced which in my opinion would improve the playing standard of more players.</p>	<p>Interesting point. This would require a rule change.  We are looking at setting up single team divisions at under 7 to under 10 to help clubs. However we will need a minimum of 6 teams to get it started for each age-group.</p>
<p>Too many fines, to high for volunteer community/charity organisations. Need to use technology - match card submission via web. Look more at being a community organisation - the Sheffield and Hallamshire is not organising the world cup Get younger members involved - why do the senior people running the leagues all seem to be seniors (apart from 1)? Use technology to best advantage. Don't rely on the post and text messages, these are not guaranteed delivery methods of communications (you cannot guarantee the delivery to the recipient without extra service, i.e. recorded delivery) Ensure cards are given for serious infringement's – lots are not given and the ref says its only kids football – the kids need to know the rules and be punished if not adhering, they learn nothing by been able to get away with it. "Respect" needs serious enforcement – players, staff and supporters. Work with local schools to promote football at all levels and abilities for players, coaches, referees and club positions. Promote children's involvement with coaching and refereeing. Get older children (13 – 18) to referee and/or help coaching the mini soccer after attending initial training. Promote coaching training for children (under 16's)</p>	<p>The fine levels are set by the member clubs, the League merely enforces the rules.  The League is looking at match card submission via the internet. Either linked in with the current Full Time system or a new system.  The League is always looking for new members. We may even look at having a youth committee made up of players from the clubs, to help aid development.  All League communication is sent out via email.  Issues surrounding match officials issuing yellow or refs cards is an FA issue. The League is not involved in that at all.  Schools are arguable a club issue. Clubs should be looking at having school-club links in place as a method of attracting new players. Also the County FA do a lot of work with Schools.  Getting old players involved again could be deemed a club issue. The club I am involved in encourages players at 14 to take the referee course, and at 16 we pay for the players to go on a Level 1 course. In return we expect these players to help out at our club tournaments and when we create our under 7s the following</p>

<p>Spend money on existing teams – do we need a big new complex?</p>	<p>season.</p> <p>I think you are getting confused. The new complex – Westfield – is a County FA project and nothing to do with the League. My own view, after visiting other County FAs is that scheme is much needed.</p>
<p>Possibly look at lower ages ie small sided playing in Spring/Summer to help with enjoyment of the players (no-one likes seeing 7 year old children stood wet and cold waiting to play in the second game in the middle of winter).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The league can improve by having its own team of referee / parent and player assessors.. The level of parental abuse towards the referees and even volunteer linesmen is disgraceful. I would be happy to discuss how this would / could be implemented..I would be happy to get involved and create a steering Committee. I would gladly volunteer to be part of a steering group to help make this happen.</p>	<p>All managers give the referee a score out of 100. All scores of 50 or lower have to be accompanied by a letter. This letter is then passed on to the County FA</p> <p>All team manager score their opposing manager and opposing spectators out of 10. Likewise their opposing players. All low scores require a letter, which is investigated by the League welfare officers and again passed on to the County FA. All sporting points are added up, and each divisional winner player receives a keyring with the overall age-group winners receiving a very special trophy each.</p>
<p>Maybe by doing more on line</p>	<p>We are looking at doing more online.</p>
<p>Random leagues in lower age groups can lead to very unequal teams playing each other. I think that while too young to be graded teams with similar records throughout the age groups should have their younger teams in similar divisions, ie SWYO, Geenhill, Handsworth etc in A and so on. While it is not a perfect system it could remove the 35-0 scorelines we sometime see. Also, it would be nice to have a forum facility on the website.</p>	<p>In the past we were not able to grade the Under 8 or Under 9s. Next season we can do, and this will hopefully help reduce the “cricket scores” we sometimes see.</p> <p>Regarding a forum, at this minute in time we have no plans to do so. It would just be something else to police.</p>
<p>Support and understanding new teams joining the league. Maybe hold a meeting/workshop just for new teams to go through processes inviting new players along so they and parents can understand league structure</p>	<p>We do have a new managers meeting that all new managers and new club secretaries are invited to at the start of the season. Maybe we need to hold re-fresher or a session half way through the season to pick up new managers who join mid-season. Saying that all League officials are more than willing to offer support if people have questions.</p>
<p>I think sometimes it has to remember its about the players and not the organisations. Discipline should follow the same format as football league and suspensions need to be on games not days.</p>	<p>The issue regarding suspensions is a FA issue and not a League issue. The League does not suspend players – the County FA does.</p>
<p>Need to relieve some of the pressure on the League Secretary. It's clear he is doing a lot of work, and probably more than any of us expect from him. It's clear he cares and have a passion for the game. I fear he will</p>	<p>Noted</p>

burn himself out.	
<p>In respect of the Saturday only division for mini soccer - teams that wish to play Saturdays could enter this league. If they choose not to then they should be made to play Sundays, it is unfair that we enter a Sunday league and are forced to play Saturdays, a lot of my players play Saturday football as well and it causes major issues when teams randomly decide to play on a Saturday and not the Sunday ( I suspect some teams are 'cheating' by playing Saturdays to cause problems against better sides)- it should either be made a rule that no Saturday games are allowed or they have to play in a Saturday only division. Also no midweek games to be enforced in September.</p>	<p>The current League rules allow the home team for mini-soccer to play on a Saturday. Note, under 11s upwards cannot play on a Saturday. You will need to propose a rule change if you want that rule removing.</p> <p>We are currently seeing the benefit of the midweek games played in September due to the recent cold snap. Yes, you can argue that works needs to try to make sure the midweek games are local, but I do believe we still need them.</p>

**Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League**  
**Author: Nathan Batchelor (League Secretary)**  
**November 2011**

**League Management System Brief**

A League management system is required to assist with the day-to-day running of the League to help both League officials and also member clubs.

Note: optional trial for member clubs for at least a season before it was mandatory. It would be hoped that most clubs could see the benefit the system was trying to achieve

**Aims:**

- To have a single secure database to create and maintain data about league clubs and teams.
- To be accessible by Senior League officials, League registrars, Club Secretaries and team managers with different access levels for each group of users.
- To quickly find missing information from a club and/or team that is required by the league.
- To produce reports for meetings.
- To allow registrars to create fines.
- To reduce avoidable fines incurred by Clubs
- To ease administration for clubs.
- To be able to integrate information into the FA Full Time system - though the FA Full Time system may not be used if this system can generate League tables, results etc

**Requirements**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
Manage player registrations electronically (creating player ID cards for team managers to download)	Allows clubs to access duplicate cards if needed. Photos can be uploaded electronically and have a 2 year life span (for example).  Records can be accessed by Senior League officials
Manage fines and charges	Easier for League Secretary. Hopefully allow alerts to be sent to clubs to say fine/charge issued and an automatic alert to be sent reminding of return in 5 and 2 days.  Penalty notices automatically sent out for non/late payment
Match sheets to be printed off in advance with team information already on it	Cost saving to the League. Helps teams as the information on the sheet to hand to opponents will have a lot of information already on it
Manage teams inputting match sheets directly on to the system, flagging up mandatory	This would avoid clubs paying fines for incomplete match cards as the card would not

fields and the point of enter the data.	<p>be able to be saved unless all fields are completed.</p> <p>Alert to be sent out to remind clubs they have 1 day left to complete the form or receive a fine.</p> <p>Information inputted directly on to the system – so saves the League work</p> <p>No need for clubs to post cards in, so saves them money on postage as well as fines (see top point)</p>
Email reminders sent to clubs to remind them to complete match sheets / pay fines / respond to charges	Makes it easier for clubs
All low score reports for referees / sporting points automatically emailed to the correct person in order for the issue to be dealt with.	Makes it easier for the League
Allow clubs to input postponement requests on to the system.	<p>Easier for clubs.</p> <p>Shows a log of events</p> <p>One click approval system to inform club of acceptance/refusal, and to notify opponents and registrar.</p> <p>Automatically refuses requests made outside the timescale</p>
Reminder system for clubs	<p>Email alerts automatically sent to remind clubs that they need to re-arrange postponed fixtures, with reminder alerts at 5 and 2 days. Fine to be issued automatically on the 15<sup>th</sup> day.</p> <p>To remind teams to submit match cards</p> <p>To remind clubs about fines and charges</p>

### **Data:**

Data is entered onto the system that comes back from the clubs and teams entering the league. The data comes from the application form and the manager and team details form. Club data is required to fully complete team information.

### **Description of tables....**

*League details* – Information on current league chairperson; secretary; treasurer and fine administrator. The address for the disciplinary meeting, cheques made payable, administration fee and the number of days for replying to a fine are also required. This data is used throughout the system when printed off fines and reports etc.

*League rules* – Details on the league rules along with the amount to be charged. Used for creating fine records.

*Registrars* – List of registrars and/or officers details. Used for creating fine records.

*Charter Status* – List of charter status. Used when creating club records.

*Age Categories* – List of age categories within a league. Used to identify the age category of a team when creating a fine record.

*Salutations* – List of salutations. Used for creating the titles of chairperson; treasurers, welfare officer, managers and assistant managers.

*Divisions* – List of divisions within the league. Used when creating team records.

*Club Responses* – List of club responses. Used to monitor a response from a club when a fine has been issued.

*Club*- List of details about that club, including secretary, chairman, treasurer, welfare officer, Charter Standard level, website

*Team* - List of details about that team, including manager, assistant manager, pitch venues,

*Venues* – list of pitch venues. Helps deals with any potential pitch clashes

*Players* – players details. Club registered with, contact details, ICE (In case of Emergency), illness etc. Player Photo

*Referee* – name and county FA affiliation number

### **Fine/Disciplinary Record**

It is intended that a registrar will log onto the system and have access to the ‘Create Fine/Disciplinary Record’ only. Other officers will have full access.

When created, an administrator can edit the record to update and/or to print off a fine letter, disciplinary letter or a penalty letter. An Alert will then be sent to the club Secretary and team manager to inform them of the fine/charge.

The information from the fine record will be used to produce the letters.

### **Reports**

- Club Reports
- Team Reports
- Fine Reports.
- Referee reports
- Payment Reports

When clicked a user will be presented with a list of criteria that can be used to fined specific information.

### **Additional Information**

Creating information required for the handbook

### **Other considerations**

- Methods to accept payments – is cheque/postal order / cash the most efficient method?
- Integration with FA Full Time or can we design this system to use the good bits of Full Time and have one single point of call.