

DO YOU FIND THE LEAGUE COMPETITIVE? asks Dave Seed.

Let's look at the stats table below for 2023/24 season .

DIV	TEAMS	No MATCH'S	10-0 TO 8-2 SCORE	No SET'S	3-0 SCORE	No GAMES	11-0 TO 11-6 SCORE
		AVERAGE GRADE		GRADE RANGE			
1	11	108	64(59.26%)	936	480(51.28%)	3439	1493(43.41%)
2	10	90	25(27.78%)	777	332(42.73%)	2975	1199(40.30%)
3	8	84	23(27.38%)	750	310(41.33%)	2874	1090(37.93%)
4	12	132	64(48.48%)	1140	595(52.20%)	4156	1850(44.51%)
5	12	132	60(45.45%)	1182	639(54.06%)	4304	1969(45.79%)

If the league format had been 5 divisions of 8 teams, and 1 division of 13 teams, the effect on average grade and grade range would have been

1	256	334 TO 180 (154)
2	178	232 TO 133 (99)
3	157	225 TO 108 (117)
4	134	194 TO 89 (105)
5	113	161 TO 63 (98)
6	87	163 TO 53 (110)

The above average grade and grade range data is based on players who have played in at least 4 matches.

In all of the calculations, division 3 with 8 teams stands out as having the best (lowest) percentage and lowest grade difference (82) making for a more competitive division.

Are these stats a one off? I will compile the same data for 2024/25 season for comparison.

Should the data for 2024/25 season mirror that of 2023/24 season, perhaps the league could consider having 8 teams in each of the first 5 divisions and the remaining teams forming a division 6 or 7 depending on numbers for 2025/26 season. Teams to be placed in the relevant division based on where they finished in the 2024/25 season. The gulf difference in average gradings between division 1 and 2 is so apparent that maybe only 1 team should be relegated from division 1 and only 1 team promoted from division 2 whilst still retaining the 2 up 2 down for all the other divisions.

This letter to the editor is purely my own thoughts (not Winstanley's). What do YOU think? and what would YOU like, if anything, to happen.

Dave Seeds