

HBA
SENIOR COUNTY SEASON REVIEW
2019/20

For obvious reasons, it's been a somewhat unusual season to report on for the County teams.

The final round of games in the SCC (Senior County Championships) was due to take place at end of March, so obviously this was postponed.

Currently the plan is still to complete the season – by playing these in November, delaying the start to the '2020-21' season. But obviously this remains uncertain at the moment.

The first couple of rounds of games proved tough for most teams, and current positioning in the tables is as follows:

1st Team: 9th in Premiership – in relegation places but level on points with 8th place and safety, only 2 points behind 7th.

2nd Team: 10th (bottom) in Championship – having been promoted to this new 2nd tier last year, it has proved tough going

3rd Team: 6th in Division 2 – only 2 points of 3rd place, but also only 3 points above relegation – so all to play for!

4th Team: 2nd in Division 3 – having been promoted last year, this is a great performance so far, being in line for promotion

A few injuries and unavailability of players for the second weekend of games had a big impact, especially on the 1st and 2nd teams. In truth, we expected a really tough season for our 2nds - having been promoted to the new Championship, meaning being within the Top 20 County teams in the country.

Overall, the results for this season reflect the tight knit standards of our county players. We hope, and expect, our 1st team to remain in the Premiership, but aside from that we could well have our 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams all within Divisions 1-2 next season, reflecting the strength in depth we have as a county.

With the full competitive season not yet being completed we haven't presented our usual Player of the Year awards this season.

We made some progress in reducing the cost to the county of running the Senior teams - despite court costs being more expensive following the move from Birchwood. We increased both session fees and match fees, and ran fewer county sessions for our players during the season.

Unfortunately, attendance at the sessions has still been disappointing beyond November, which is something we will consider in our planning for next season.

Although still up for change, our current plan is to delay the start to playing next season. If the SCC matches go ahead early November we will run some sessions in advance to give our players some court time before then. But then we will kick off the new season from that point – with the normal 'open sessions' and hopefully still a County Restricted tournament (assuming we can find a suitable date), before the '2020/21' season round of matches start in January.

As always, thanks to everyone involved. And we hope we can all get back to playing before too long.

Andy, Kelly, Ben
Senior County Selectors