



Discussion document – creating fixtures with multiple team venues

I found setting the fixtures harder this year (2023) with 5 venues fielding 4 teams and began to wonder what would have happened if we'd had a sixth venue with 4 teams.

Background

The match matrix that we use is shown below – also used by Abingdon. There are other variants.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
10 v 1 9 v 2 8 v 3 7 v 4 6 v 5	2 v 10 3 v 9 4 v 8 5 v 7 1 v 6	10 v 3 9 v 4 8 v 5 7 v 6 2 v 1	4 v 10 5 v 9 6 v 8 3 v 2 1 v 7	10 v 5 9 v 6 8 v 7 2 v 4 3 v 1	6 v 10 7 v 9 4 v 3 5 v 2 1 v 8	10 v 7 9 v 8 3 v 5 2 v 6 4 v 1	8 v 10 5 v 4 6 v 3 7 v 2 1 v 9	10 v 9 4 v 6 3 v 7 2 v 8 5 v 1
Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18
1 v 10 2 v 9 3 v 8 4 v 7 5 v 6	10 v 2 9 v 3 8 v 4 7 v 5 6 v 1	3 v 10 4 v 9 5 v 8 6 v 7 1 v 2	10 v 4 9 v 5 8 v 6 2 v 3 7 v 1	5 v 10 6 v 9 7 v 8 4 v 2 1 v 3	10 v 6 9 v 7 3 v 4 2 v 5 8 v 1	7 v 10 8 v 9 5 v 3 6 v 2 1 v 4	10 v 8 4 v 5 3 v 6 2 v 7 9 v 1	9 v 10 6 v 4 7 v 3 8 v 2 1 v 5

This has been constructed so that the following 5 pairs of numbers are never 'home' at the same time:

1 & 10 2 & 6 3 & 7 4 & 8 5 & 9

These 'pairs can then be used to accommodate multiple team venues.

Compiling Fixtures

I've never had guidance how best to do this, but have always started with the venues fielding the most teams, working down through single team venues and finally filling in the remaining blanks with byes.

Working through the fixtures – in 2023, there were 5 venues each having 4 teams: -

- Morris Clown : Morris Clowns; Morris Marauders; Morris Midgets; Morris Minors
- Griffin : Curbridge Griffins; Grifters; Griffindors; H&OB Griffins
- Bell : Bell A; Bell B; Bell C; Bell D
- Rush : Jockey Club; Rush; Rush 2; Pink Every Time
- West Witney : West Witney Wangers; West Witney SSC; Six Inches; Wombles

If we allocate a number pair to each of the above venues and fill in the sections, it flows like this.



Allocate 1 & 10 to Morris Clown

Premier * & Section A		
1	Morris Marauders*	6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section B		
1	Morris Clowns	6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section E		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section F		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Allocate 2 & 6 to Griffin.

Premier * & Section A		
1	Morris Marauders*	6
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section B		
1	Morris Clowns	6
2	Grifters	7
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D		
1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section E		
1		6 Griffindors
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section F		
1		6 H&OB Griffin
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10



Allocate 3 & 7 to Bell

Premier * & Section A

1	Morris Marauders*	6
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3	Bell B*	8
4		9
5		10

Section B

1	Morris Clowns	6
2	Grifters	7
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C

1		6
2		7 Bell A
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D

1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section E

1		6 Griffindors
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section F

1		6 H&OB Griffin
2		7 Bell C
3	Bell D	8
4		9
5		10

Allocate 4 & 8 to Rush

Premier * & Section A

1	Morris Marauders*	6
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3	Bell B*	8
4	Jockey Club	9
5		10

Section B

1	Morris Clowns	6
2	Grifters	7
3		8 Rush
4		9
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C

1		6
2		7 Bell A
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D

1		6
2		7
3		8
4	Rush 2	9
5		10

Section E

1		6 Griffindors
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

Section F

1		6 H&OB Griffin
2		7 Bell C
3	Bell D	8 Pink Every Time
4		9
5		10



Finally allocate 5 & 9 to West Witney

Premier * & Section A

1	Morris Marauders*	6
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3	Bell B*	8
4	Jockey Club	9
5	West Witney Wangers	10

Section B

1	Morris Clowns	6
2	Grifters	7
3		8 Rush
4		9 West Witney SSC
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C

1		6
2		7 Bell A
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D

1		6
2		7
3		8
4	Rush 2	9
5	Six Inches	10

Section E

1		6 Griffindors
2		7
3		8
4		9 Wombles
5		10

Section F

1		6 H&OB Griffin
2		7 Bell C
3	Bell D	8 Pink Every Time
4		9
5		10

Next take the 3 team venues and do the same -

Premier * & Section A

1	Morris Marauders*	6 Athletico Talbot*
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3	Bell B*	8
4	Jockey Club	9
5	West Witney Wangers	10

Section B

1	Morris Clowns	6
2	Grifters	7
3		8 Rush
4		9 West Witney SSC
5		10 Morris Midgets

Section C

1		6 Talbot Alternates
2		7 Bell A
3		8
4		9
5		10 Morris Minors

Section D

1		6
2	Talbot Utd	7
3		8
4	Rush 2	9
5	Six Inches	10

Section E

1		6 Griffindors
2		7
3		8
4		9 Wombles
5		10

Section F

1		6 H&OB Griffin
2		7 Bell C
3	Bell D	8 Pink Every Time
4		9
5		10

If we put Athletico at 6, and Talbot Utd at 2 (by request), then Talbot Alternates can go at either 2 or 6 in C. And so on...



Potential problems

Now consider some variables.

Imagine that the Horseshoe closed and the Bampton Ducks cross the road to become the fourth Talbot team - the Talbot Ducks.

Premier * & Section A		
1	Morris Marauders*	6 Athletico Talbot*
2	Curbridge Griffins*	7
3	Bell B*	8
4	Jockey Club	9
5	West Witney Wangers	10

Talbot Ducks*

Their correct section is Prem/A, but there is no corresponding 2/6 slot available to avoid home conflict with Athletico. At minimum, there would be 2 home conflicts if Ducks were allocated positions 9 or 10.

Other possible circumstances: -

Imagine that Morris Minors won their section last year and are entitled to promotion into Section B. (Maximum of two teams per venue in any one section to avoid home conflicts)

With the trend for fewer venues -

White Hart ML and Lamb & Flag both have an unused throw and therefore the potential for 4 teams each. Suppose they fill those slots, or existing teams migrate.

So,

Q1. Have I got it wrong/missing something?

Q2. Thinking caps on for some solutions.



First thoughts: -

Cheapest simplest solution

Compile the sections to minimise 'home conflicts', but then create a 'second' fixture list for conflicting teams that utilise any free throws on those dates –

Three team venues

Two team; two throw venues

Single team venues on 'away nights'

Off the top of my head, this could probably be done without any changes to the software – just create a PDF file for affected teams – a bit like this year's 'Friendlies List'.

Obviously, this concept would need to be sold to the venue, but extra customers every other Thursday has appeal.

We may have to re-visit the food issue though.

Twelve team sections

Changing the number of teams from 10 to 12 will create a sixth number pair, which will accommodate one more 4 team venue. This will necessitate a re-write of the software and isn't future proof for additional 4 team venues coming along.

Two Match nights

Splitting matches across two nights could solve the problem. Software again needs to be re-written, but once done is probably future proof.

There would be sufficient spare capacity to use 'spare' Thursday nights for competitions.

So, have a think & we'll discuss.