

5-a-side Football
Research Report no. 76

*A research study for **sportscotland***

by

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System Three Scotland

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Duncanrig Sports Centre	Ian Campbell, Manager, and his staff
Eddelwood Sports Barn	Hazel Aitken, Manager, and her staff
Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds	“
Hareleeshill Sports Barn	“
Whitehill Sports Barn	“
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This report is the work of Tom Costley and Duncan Stewart in System Three and Kit Campbell in Kit Campbell Associates. Alex Major of **sportscotland** assisted with the creation of an inventory of 5-a-side facilities in Edinburgh.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Objectives of the study

Many local authority sports centre managers have long maintained that they could fill their sports halls with 5-a-side football at peak times and it is undoubtedly the case that it is one of the most popular indoor sports activities. As football is an outdoor game, however, many local authorities have responded by providing outdoor multi-courts used for 5-a-side, as well as other activities such as basketball, netball and tennis, with the intention of easing the pressure on indoor facilities. The commercial sector, too, has seen an opportunity and developed specialist 5-a-side centres, although they are exclusively outdoor. Anchor International Ltd (formerly trading as Pitz Super Soccer centres, but now as Power League) was the first company to develop these centres, but others, such as Fives, Goals, Champions League and Soccaerobics, have since entered the market.

In consequence, in many areas there is now a choice of 5-a-side facilities available to potential players. **sportscotland** (formerly the Scottish Sports Council) therefore saw a need to obtain details of players and establish the role of different types of provision in the market in order to inform its advisory planning work. As a result it commissioned Kit Campbell Associates and System Three to undertake a research study with the following objectives:

- to provide better information for making planning recommendations at the national, regional and local level
- to determine the need, and potential, for the development of 5-a-side pitches
- to provide information which **sportscotland** can use to calibrate its Facilities Planning Model.

This report provides the results of the study; it is in six main sections:

- Methodology
- Levels of provision, including a case study in the South Lanarkshire area
- Bookings analysis
- Players' survey
- Comparisons with Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) research
- Conclusions and policy issues.

In parallel with this study, Kit Campbell Associates also undertook a review of the current state of development of community-based Soccer Sevens in Scotland for **sportscotland** (2000). There are a number of links between the conclusions of these two studies, summarised at appropriate points in each report.

The main survey work for this study was undertaken in late 1999 and it should be noted that there may have been changes in facilities and prices since then which are not included in this analysis.

CHAPTER 2: STUDY METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for the study was as follows:

- **Step 1.** Identify a sample of areas in which to undertake the research. Because of the perceived importance of the commercial sector provision in the market, in agreement with **sportscotland** we decided to concentrate on areas in which 5-a-side players would have ready access to at least one commercial centre. The local authority areas with such centres are currently Aberdeen, East Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Coatbridge and Hamilton. To this list we added West Lothian because there is a reasonably good level of local authority 5-a-side provision and one of the commercial centres in Edinburgh is fairly close to the boundary with West Lothian. With the agreement of **sportscotland**, we decided to review 5-a-side provision in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire.
- **Step 2.** Prepare an inventory of 5-a-side facilities in each of the possible study areas. We did this using a combination of the **sportscotland** facilities database, direct contact with local authority education and leisure services departments, commercial centre operators and site visits. We also drew up a broad estimate of typical levels of use of each facility for 5- or 7-a-side football in the summer and winter months based on information on typical levels of use provided by their staff.
- **Step 3.** Determine the approximate number of 5- and 7-a-side facilities per thousand people in the resident population in each area. This allowed us to identify the area with the highest level of provision in relation to the local population, on the basis that it would be in this area that participation would be least constrained by lack of facilities. As a result of this broad analysis, we agreed to concentrate the research in South Lanarkshire in which there are two commercial 5-a-side centres – Power League in Hamilton and Fives in East Kilbride. As the management of Fives declined to co-operate with the study, however, we added Champions League in Coatbridge. Although this is just outside South Lanarkshire, we concluded that it would be desirable to have more than one commercial centre in the study.
- **Step 4.** Draw up a pro forma on which reception staff at each of the centres could record: the date and time for which players sought 5-a-side or 7-a-side bookings over two periods of two weeks; whether and if so when, a booking was actually made; and the type of players involved (boys or girls, men or women). We subsequently cross-checked these forms against actual booking records where they were available. The phases for which bookings were recorded were 13–26 September and 22 November–5 December 1999. These periods were chosen as broadly representative of the autumn and winter phases when 5-a-side participation can be expected to be highest. However, it was not possible to check that reception staff had recorded all the requests for

bookings they had received, particularly for those they had not been able to meet. Accordingly, the number of bookings which could not be made, or which were made other than at players' first choice of time or date, is likely to be under-estimated. The booking form used is given in Appendix C.

- **Step 5.** during each of the two survey phases, System Three arranged for trained interviewers to be stationed at a selection of centres during peak times. **sportscotland** staff also assisted during the second phase. At the end of play, these interviewers asked players to complete a questionnaire about their visit, the facilities they had used and themselves.

A copy of the questionnaire is given in Appendix E. The same questionnaire was used for both survey phases, except that in the second phase we added an extra question asking respondents where they lived so as to enhance the identification of the catchment areas of the various facilities. We reversed the order of the list of features of 5-a-side facilities which respondents were asked to grade for importance to them, to minimise the potential for bias in the results.

CHAPTER 3: LEVELS OF 5-A-SIDE PROVISION

Initial scoping

Sport 21, the national strategy for Scottish sport, highlights the need for a significant number of sports halls in large parts of Scotland, including some where there are already a number of sports halls. Many of these existing sports halls are used extensively for 5-a-side football. A highly cost-effective way of increasing the availability of sports halls for activities such as badminton, volleyball and basketball will therefore be to transfer this 5-a-side use to specialist or multi-use outdoor facilities. In turn, this should reduce the need for more sports halls. Accordingly a key criterion for the selection of an appropriate study area was that it should contain at least one commercial 5-a-side centre.

Of the various local authority areas containing a commercial 5-a-side centre, Glasgow was excluded because the exceptional popularity of football there meant that it would not provide a representative sample. In addition, in association with **sportscotland**, we decided not to consider Renfrewshire (on the grounds that it would have been difficult to separate Paisley from Glasgow) and Kilmarnock in East Ayrshire (because of the relatively low population). This left Aberdeen, Edinburgh and North and South Lanarkshire as possible study areas. As the commercial 5-a-side centre in Aberdeen preferred not to be involved, however, we omitted Aberdeen from this list.

Through a combination of contact with the various local authorities, facility managers and site visits, we identified the range of 5- and 7-a-side facilities in the City of Edinburgh, North and South Lanarkshire, together with the approximate level of use of each facility for 5-a-side football. In doing so, we included only those outdoor facilities with artificial surfaces and floodlighting which allowed them to be used several nights each week and excluded natural grass areas with only a very limited usage capacity. We also included West Lothian because one of the commercial centres in Edinburgh is fairly close to the western boundary of the city. This provision can be broken down into three broad categories:

- **Floodlit outdoor specialist 5- or 7-a-side courts:** These may be local authority, school or commercially owned. Some – mainly in commercial centres – are designed and used exclusively for football, while multi-purpose facilities – usually owned by a local authority – are used for 5- or 7-a-side football and other activities such as tennis, basketball or netball.
- **Training areas on full size floodlit artificial turf pitches:** The owners or managers of many full size artificial turf pitches (ATPs) allow clubs to book a half, a third or even a quarter of their pitch for training purposes and 7-a-side play.

- **Indoor courts:** Sports halls or sports barns used for a range of activities including 5-a-side football. Indoor courts, most of which are local authority owned, can be sub-divided into:
 - **Sports and leisure or community centres**, with a sports hall, which can accommodate either one or two 5-a-side courts and other facilities but are used for a range of sports activities.
 - **Indoor sports barns**, generally of three badminton court size (around 27 x 17m), and used part of the time for 5-a-side football. They are often of fairly poor quality when compared with typical local authority sports and leisure centres.
 - **Halls in joint use sports centres** on school sites, managed in such a way as to allow use by individuals or community groups on weekday evenings and at the weekend.
 - **Games halls in schools**, generally block booked by clubs for at least a term.

Appendix A gives the results of this process of identifying the inventory of facilities in each area. Unfortunately, it was not possible to identify absolutely the number of bookings available in any given week in any of the areas. There are two main reasons for this:

- **The inclusion of multi-purpose sports halls:** these are used for a range of activities, of which 5-a-side football is only one. In addition, while the managers of some multi-purpose facilities have policies confining 5-a-side bookings to certain days and times, there are occasions when these policies are not implemented. Rather than allow a hall to lie empty, it is obviously better to take a 5-a-side booking, even if in theory it is reserved for some other activity.
- **The inclusion of full size ATPs:** on which the balance between full and partial pitch use can vary according to demand.

As a result, the details in Appendix A should be taken as representing only the broad level of provision in each area. Ignoring the fact that many courts, in particular indoor ones, are used for other sports as well as 5-a-side, the total number of courts available for booking in each of the four local authority areas is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Bookable 5-a-side courts in potential study areas

Area	ATP training areas	Specialist outdoor	Indoor courts	Totals
Edinburgh	15	24	21	60
South Lanarkshire	8	23	23	54
North Lanarkshire	6	12	37	55
West Lothian	12	16	19	47

Note: The above figures exclude school games halls which are not managed on a joint use basis. The dedicated courts are used only for football; the ATP training areas are also booked out as full size pitches; and the indoor halls are all used for a range of indoor sports.

The total number of publicly bookable 5- and 7-a-side provision in each of these areas, compared with the estimated mid-1997 population, is given in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Bookable 5-7-a-side provision in relation to population

	Bookable courts	Population 1997	People/court
City of Edinburgh	60	450,000	7,500
West Lothian	47	152,000	3,235
South Lanarkshire	54	307,000	5,500
North Lanarkshire	55	327,000	5,950

Note: Population estimates are for 30 June 1997

Source: Scottish Abstract of Statistics: HMSO, 1998

Choice of study area

While West Lothian has the lowest population per court, and therefore the highest overall level of provision in relation to population, it has very limited commercial 5-a-side provision – only the four courts at Livingston Football Club. Most of the other outdoor courts are also used for other sports as well, such as tennis and basketball. The highest level of dedicated small-sided courts is in South Lanarkshire, where there are two commercial 5-a-side centres, **Power League** (formerly Pitz) in Hamilton (10 courts) and **Fives** in East Kilbride (six courts), plus a specialist local authority centre, **Hamilton Palace Grounds** (five courts). Of these three specialist centres, however, Fives preferred not to become involved in the study. In order to compensate for this, we sought and obtained agreement from another commercial centre, **Champions League** in Coatbridge (five courts),

to participate. Although Coatbrige is in North rather than South Lanarkshire, Champions League is less than a mile from the boundary between South and North Lanarkshire. The inclusion of a second commercial centre was an important addition, with the main reasons for this being:

- A number of local authorities are considering entering into a partnership with a commercial 5-a-side operator and therefore it is desirable to identify how the profile of public and private sector facilities differs, if at all.
- Commercial 5-a-side operators tend to provide different facilities from local authorities. For example, the Power League and Champions League centres both include a function room and bar and have changing rooms which are smaller than would be required by using the normal planning guideline of one changing space for each player likely to want to change simultaneously. As changing and other ancillary areas are relatively expensive to provide it is clearly desirable to assess their importance to customers as an aid to future planning.
- **sportscotland** will benefit from having additional information on commercial sector provision when offering planning advice. Moreover, as a Lottery distributor, **sportscotland** needs to know the possible impact of Lottery grant aid to public facilities on existing commercial sector provision.

Facilities in the study area

Appendix B gives details of the various facilities and their charges for 5- and 7-a-side football in the study area at the time of the research. A summary is included in Table 3, with details of whether they were included in the bookings analysis.

Table 3: Bookings records for 5-a-side facilities in study area (1999)

	Courts	Bookings records	
		Phase 1	Phase 2
Sports barns			
Eddelwood Sports Barn, Hamilton	1	✓	✓
Hareleeshill Sports Barn, Larkhall	1	✓	✓
Jock Stein Sports Barn, Hamilton	1	✓	✓
Whitehill Sports Barn, Hamilton	1	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		4	4
Joint use centres			
Biggar Sports Centre	1	✓	✓
Carluke Leisure Centre	1	✓	✓
Duncanrig Sports Centre, East Kilbride	1	✓	✓
St Andrew's Sports Centre, East Kilbride	1	✓	✓
Stonelaw Sports Centre	1	✗	✓
Strathaven Leisure Centre	1	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		5	6
Public indoor centres			
Blantyre Sports Centre	1	✓	✓
Burnhill Sports Centre	1	✗	✗
Greenhills Sports Centre, East Kilbride	1	✓	✓
John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride	2	✓	✓
Larkhall Leisure Centre	1	✓	✓
Leisuredome, Kirkmuirhill	1	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		6	6
Community centres			
Fairhill Community Centre, Hamilton	1	✓	✓
Stewartfield Community Centre, East Kilbride	1	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		2	2
School games halls			
<i>Various locations</i>	25	✗	✗
Floodlit courts			
Blantyre Sports Centre	1	✓	✓
St Andrew's Sports Centre, East Kilbride	1	✓	✓
Hamilton Palace, Hamilton	5	✓	✓
Power League, Hamilton	10	✓	✓
Fives, East Kilbride	6	✗	✗
Champions League, Coatbridge	5	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		22	22
Sub-divided ATPs			
Ballerup Stadium, East Kilbride	2	✓	✓
Jock Stein Park, Hamilton	3	✓	✓
Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds	3	✓	✓
<i>Courts included in bookings analysis</i>		8	8

Note: While school games halls are used for football training, mainly by juvenile teams, South Lanarkshire Council does not take bookings for 5-a-side football. Burnhill Sports Centre does not allow its hall to be booked for 5-a-side football as it has no goals.

Source: Facilities inventory

The maps below (Maps 1 and 2) show the location of the indoor and outdoor facilities included in the bookings analysis. They are:

Indoor facilities

- 1 Biggar
- 2 Blantyre Sports Centre
- 3 Carluke Leisure Centre
- 4 Duncanrig Sports Centre
- 5 Eddeewood Sports Barn
- 6 Fairhill Community Centre
- 7 Greenhills Sports Centre
- 8 Hareleeshill Sports Barn
- 9 Jock Stein Sports Barn
- 10 John Wright Sports Centre
- 11 Larkhall Leisure Centre
- 12 Leisuredome
- 13 St Andrew's Sports Centre
- 14 Stewartfield Community Centre
- 15 Stonelaw Sports Centre
- 16 Strathaven Leisure Centre
- 17 Whitehill Sports Barn

Outdoor facilities

- 1 Ballerup Stadium ATP
- 2 Blantyre Sports Centre
- 3 Champions League
- 4 Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds
- 5 Jock Stein ATP
- 6 Power League
- 7 St Andrew's Sports Centre

Map 1: Location of the indoor facilities included in the bookings analysis

Copies available from our publications department, tel 0131 317 7200

Map 2: Location of the outdoor facilities included in the bookings analysis

Copies available from our publications department, tel 0131 317 7200

CHAPTER 4: BOOKINGS ANALYSIS

In order to determine the overall size of the market for 5-a-side football, we asked all of the centres in the Hamilton-Larkhall-East Kilbride area to keep a check of bookings requests for two phases of two weeks, one before and one after the clocks changed in autumn 1999:

- First phase Monday 13 to Sunday 26 September 1999
- Second phase Monday 22 November to Sunday 5 December 1999

A copy of the form used to record bookings requests is given in Appendix C. Some of the bookings were for 7-a-side rather than 5-a-side but most of these were for casual play rather than organised Soccer Sevens. Details of bookings are given in Appendix D. During the survey periods, the number of bookings was noticeably lower on nights when there were major matches on television, for example European Cup games involving Scottish or British teams.

Bookings summary

In the first two weeks of the analysis, from 1600 on weekdays and all day at the weekend, the average number of 5- and 7-a-side bookings in each week were:

Table 4: First phase bookings summary

	Weekday evenings	Saturdays	Sundays	Totals	Market shares
Indoor sports barns	30.5	3.5	4.0	38.0	7%
Halls in Joint Use Centres	56.5	4.5	20.0	81.0	14%
Community centres	17.0	0.0	3.0	20.0	4%
Public Sports & Leisure Centres	70.0	5.0	21.0	96.0	17%
Outdoor 5- and 7-a-side courts	179.0	12.0	51.0	242.0	47%
Sub-divided Artificial Turf Pitches	49.0	0.0	2.5	51.5	10%
Totals	375.0	25.0	98.5	498.5	100%
Percentage of all bookings	77%	4%	18%	100%	

Note: Percentages do not sum to 100 because of rounding. The various artificial turf pitches were sub-divided into two or three areas for 5-/7-a-side play. The outdoor 5- and 7-a-side courts category includes all of the commercial facilities plus the outdoor courts at Hamilton Palace and St Andrew's Sports Centre in East Kilbride.

Source: Bookings records

The total number of bookings in the second two weeks, is given in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Second phase bookings summary

	Weekday evenings	Saturdays	Sundays	Totals	Market shares
Indoor sports barns	61.5	3.5	10.5	75.5	9%
Halls in Joint Use Centres	58.5	11.5	26.5	96.5	12%
Community centres	20.0	0.0	4.0	24.0	3%
Public Sports & Leisure Centres	77.0	5.5	24.5	107.0	13%
Outdoor 5- and 7-a-side courts	319.5	12.0	57.0	388.5	49%
Sub-divided Artificial Turf Pitches	95.0	0.0	11.5	106.5	13%
Totals	577.5	32.5	125.0	735.0	100%
Percentage of all bookings	79%	4%	17%	100%	

Note: The various artificial turf pitches were sub-divided into two or three areas for 5-/7-a-side play.

Source: Bookings records

In total at all of the centres, there were only a handful of weekday bookings before 1600 hours. Combining the two sets of bookings gives the following average figures per week:

Table 6: Bookings per week, averaged over four weeks

	Weekday evenings	Saturdays	Sundays	Totals	Market shares
Indoor sports barns	46.0	3.5	7.5	57.0	9%
Halls in Joint Use Centres	47.5	7.0	22.5	77.0	12%
Community centres	18.5	0.0	3.5	22.0	3%
Public Sports & Leisure Centres	78.5	6.0	23.5	108.0	16%
Outdoor 5- and 7-a-side courts	249.0	12.0	54.0	315.0	48%
Sub-divided Artificial Turf Pitches	72.0	0.0	7.0	79.0	12%
Totals	511.5	28.5	118.0	658.0	100%
Percentage of all bookings	78%	4%	18%	100%	

Note: The various artificial turf pitches were sub-divided into two or three areas for 5-/7-a-side play.

Source: Bookings records

Bookings per court

Overall, there was a surprisingly narrow range of bookings per court each week across the various facility types, as illustrated in Table 7. The lowest average number of small-sided bookings each week was in the community centres, although there were only two in the sample, and the highest in halls in joint use centres. This illustrates the way in which the need for cost effective operation of such facilities often leads to very simple programmes with a limited number of groups enjoying long lets. Perhaps surprisingly, this table also highlights the fact that the commercial centres achieved roughly the same level of bookings per court per week as most of the other facility types. This is a consequence of the concentration of demand into relatively limited periods each week, with the result that the commercial centres achieve their high market share by having sufficient courts at peak times to meet demand.

Table 7: Average number of bookings per week, per court

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Average
Indoor sports barns	9.5	18.9	14.2
Halls in Joint Use Centres	16.2	16.1	16.1
Community centres	10.0	11.8	10.9
Public Sports & Leisure Centres	16.0	17.8	16.9
Dedicated outdoor courts	12.1	17.7	14.9
Sub-divided Artificial Turf Pitches	11.3	13.3	12.3

Source: Bookings records

Seasonality

The number of bookings in the second phase (an average of 735 per week) was over 40 per cent higher than in the first (an average of just under 500). However, the 1999/2000 winter was relatively mild and in harsher weather conditions the position may be different. Facility managers have indicated that use tends to be lower in summer than in winter.

Adult and junior demand

The table below summarises the proportions of adult and junior bookings at the different types of facilities and in the two phases of the research:

Table 8: Proportion of bookings at different facility types

	Indoor facilities	Outdoor 5- and 7-a-side courts	Sub-divided ATPs	Overall
Adults – phase 1	72%	94%	71%	79%
Juniors – phase 1	28%	6%	29%	21%
Adults – phase 2	88%	84%	70%	81%
Juniors – phase 2	12%	16%	30%	19%
Adults – overall	80%	89%	71%	84%
Juniors – overall	20%	11%	29%	16%

Base: All bookings where user type was recorded

Note: The total number of bookings by adult women was negligible. Bookings for juniors under the age of 11 may have involved girls as well as boys. There were only four bookings in total made for girls only.

Overall, therefore, it seems clear that the 5-a-side market is dominated by adult bookings. Overall, the proportion of adult to junior bookings was almost exactly 4:1, with the proportion of adult bookings for outdoor facilities slightly higher than for indoor. However, most of the junior bookings in the analysis were probably for coaching and are likely to have involved larger groups of junior players than the ten adults who would normally play 5-a-side football.

Spare capacity

It is not possible to identify accurately the level of spare capacity as some facility managers (for example at indoor sports and leisure centres) may not be willing to take bookings for 5- or 7-a-side football at certain times. However, analysis of the bookings records reveals that there was spare capacity at all of the various centres included in the analysis at some time in both phases, although not necessarily at times when potential users wanted to book. Broadly speaking, demand is highly concentrated into a limited period on midweek evenings. The table below summarises the overall number of bookings in each phase by the starting time. Midweek bookings starting between 1600 and 2130 hours accounted for nearly three quarters of all bookings in the two survey periods. Clearly, therefore, there is either a need for operators to find ways of tapping new markets at off-peak times in order to avoid uneconomic opening or an opportunity for opening hours to be reduced in order to improve viability. One obvious implication of the pattern of use is the desirability of siting 5-a-side centres on or adjacent to schools or higher education institutions and allowing them to use the facilities at off-peak times – a policy already followed by Power League.

Table 9: Start time of bookings

Start time	First phase			Second phase			Totals	
	Indoor	ATPs	Specialist	Indoor	ATPs	Specialist		
Weekdays	1600/1630	23	4	3	33	14	20	97
	1700/1730	44	19	26	67	24	52	232
	1800/1830	66	36	48	75	40	108	373
	1900/1930	60	47	120	80	34	183	524
	2000/2030	56	37	109	69	40	158	469
	2100/2130	57	30	44	77	38	111	357
	2200/2230	22	0	8	32	0	7	69
Saturdays	0900/0930	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	1000/1030	2	0	7	2	0	3	14
	1100/1130	0	0	11	3	0	10	24
	1200/1230	5	1	0	5	0	2	13
	1300/1330	4	0	2	5	0	5	16
	1400/1430	6	0	3	4	0	3	16
	1500/1530	2	0	1	4	0	1	8
	1600/1630	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
	1700/1730	1	0	0	4	0	0	5
	1800/1830	2	0	0	5	0	0	7
	1900/1930	2	0	0	3	0	0	5
	2000/2030	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	2100/2130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2200/2230	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
Sundays	0900/0930	2	1	0	2	4	0	9
	1000/1030	4	1	10	6	6	6	33
	1100/1130	6	1	15	8	4	14	48
	1200/1230	6	1	15	10	0	15	47
	1300/1330	9	4	8	9	4	8	42
	1400/1430	6	0	2	6	1	4	19
	1500/1530	5	0	3	10	0	5	23
	1600/1630	5	0	0	9	1	4	19
	1700/1730	7	0	5	8	1	6	27
	1800/1830	6	0	11	13	1	13	44
	1900/1930	9	0	18	13	0	18	58
	2000/2030	12	0	14	13	1	20	60
	2100/2130	11	0	1	13	0	1	26
	2200/2230	8	0	0	11	0	0	19
Totals	450	182	484	605	213	777	2711	

Note: ATP: Artificial Turf Pitch

Source: Bookings records

The overall distribution of participation through the week is given in Table 10:

Table 10: Overall pattern of participation

Time period	Percentage of bookings	Bookings/ week (average)	Bookings/ hour (average)
On midweek evenings (25 hours per week)	78.2%	530	21.2
On Saturdays (14 hours per week)	4.3%	29	2.1
On Sundays (14 hours per week)	17.5%	119	8.5

Source: Bookings records

Unmet demand

In spite of the wide range of 5- and 7-a-side facilities in South Lanarkshire, there are inevitably occasions when individuals or groups wishing to book a court are unable to do so. Based on the data gathered by individual facility managements, however, there seem to be surprisingly few. This is probably because a high proportion of bookings are either arranged by centres themselves (for example the league programmes at Power League), block bookings for a number of weeks or other regular bookings. A number of teams or groups have an informally established 'time slot' at a particular venue. In addition, some users ask for 'any time on such and such an evening or day' rather than a specific time slot. In summary, the bookings recorded as not being made at the time and/or on the day requested by users were:

Table 11: Bookings not made at requested time or date

	Phase 1	Phase 2
Bookings not available at time/date requested	16	42
Booking made at users' second choice of time/date	13	29
Bookings requested but not made	3	13

Source: Bookings records

South Lanarkshire Council's Community Resources Department believes there is a higher level of unsatisfied demand than Table 11 suggests for two reasons:

- First, it is of the view that a number of 5-a-side groups have given up trying to get bookings for indoor facilities because the competition for space can be quite intense at popular times. It is not possible to say whether these groups have been able to obtain outdoor bookings elsewhere as a second choice alternative. The above figures relate only to those instances where potential users have been unable to book at a specific facility, without knowing whether that facility was their first, second or indeed any other choice.

- Second, the Council recently undertook a survey of bookings at Hamilton Palace which found that potential users were unable to make something like 50 bookings per week. This is a very much higher figure than the one derived from the booking sheets completed by Hamilton Palace reception staff as part of this study. It is of course possible that these potential users will have booked an alternative facility; for example, some will probably have sought a booking at Hamilton Palace before trying to get one at the more expensive Power League, Fives or Champions League specialist centres.

Accuracy of the bookings data

We have checked the recording of bookings requests against actual bookings records for a number of the centres, but not all. The reason for this is that records for several of the centres owned and operated by the former Hamilton District Council are held on a Quota management system which automatically deletes old records after 90 days. As the on-site check was more than 90 days after the end of the first phase, these records no longer existed and could not be checked. As a result the total number of second phase bookings is more accurate than the first and should be used as a more reliable basis for estimating the total market.

Broad conclusions from the bookings analysis

The following broad conclusions can be drawn from the bookings analysis:

- Demand is concentrated on weekday evenings and, to a lesser extent, Sundays. Overall, there is roughly the same amount of demand on each weekday evening from 1600 to 2300 as all day on Sundays. Demand on Saturdays is very low, probably because many 5- or 7-a-side players also play 11-a-side football or have other commitments.
- Outdoor facilities accommodated about three fifths of all demand, with specialist 5- or 7-a-side courts apparently slightly more popular than subdivided artificial turf pitches, although a number of the ATP bookings were almost certainly for football training rather than 5-a-side games. However, as bookings are obviously limited to certain times at multi-purpose facilities (for example, on Saturdays, and to a lesser extent Sundays, full size artificial turf pitches tend to be reserved for hockey), but not at specialist 5- and 7-a-side courts, this may in part be a reflection of bookings policies.
- Junior demand is much lower than adult demand, possibly because of the popularity of Soccer Sevens amongst junior players below the age of 11. Women's demand is very low, at least at present.

- There was some spare capacity at almost all of the study facilities during the survey periods. Notwithstanding the comments of South Lanarkshire Council's Community Resources Department, this suggests that demand is not constrained in any significant way by lack of facilities.

CHAPTER 5: PLAYERS' SURVEY

The self-completion survey

In order to identify the profile of players and details of their visits to 5-a-side football facilities, System Three undertook a self-completion survey of players during the same two phases of two weeks as the bookings analysis. Appendix E contains a copy of the questionnaire. The centres at which the survey was undertaken, and the number of completed questionnaires from each of them, were as shown below.

Table 12: Number of completed questionnaires

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals	%
Ballerup Stadium	41	6.5
Champions League	63	10.0
Fairhill Community Centre	17	2.7
Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds	125	19.8
Jock Stein Park	52	8.2
Jock Stein Sports Barn	36	5.7
John Wright Sports Centre	66	10.4
Power League, Hamilton	102	16.1
Sub-total	605	95.7
Don't know/not stated	27	4.3
Totals	632	100.0

In all, the interviewers managed to obtain a total of some 354 completed questionnaires in the first phase and 278 in the second phase, a total of 632. Respondents completed most of the questionnaires on site, but in a number of instances took a questionnaire away with them from the venue at which they were playing and completed and posted it back later. Some of these respondents did not provide information on which centre they had been at when they collected a questionnaire and this accounts for the 27 questionnaires which cannot be allocated to a particular venue. Accordingly, in the frequency tables below, 'totals' columns are based on the analysis of all 632 questionnaires while cross-tabulations by type of centre are based on a total of 605 questionnaires.

The original target for the number of questionnaires was much higher, at around 500 in each phase. However, there were two main logistical problems that restricted the maximum number obtainable:

- 5-a-side football players tend to play fairly frequently and at more than one venue. As we did not wish to ask any individual player to complete more than one questionnaire, this significantly reduced the number of players it was possible to survey.
- A significant number of players at each venue wished to depart immediately at the end of their booking and were not willing to take the time needed to complete a questionnaire. Only 27 of these players subsequently returned a completed questionnaire although the number handed out for completion elsewhere was much higher than this.

The full tables from the survey are in three separate volumes, relating to the first and second phases and both phases combined. It is clear from these tables that there are broad similarities in the results from each of the three generic facility types at which interviews were conducted:

- The three large **specialist outdoor centres** of Champions League in Coatbridge, Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds and Power League Super Soccer Centre in Hamilton, plus the **artificially surfaced outdoor area** at St Andrew's Sports Centre in East Kilbride.
- The **full size artificial turf pitches** at Ballerup Stadium in East Kilbride and the Jock Stein Park in Hamilton.
- The **indoor sports halls** at Duncanrig Sports Centre, John Wright Sports Centre and Stewartfield Community Centre (all in East Kilbride) and the Fairhill Community Centre and Jock Stein Sports Barn (both in Hamilton).

For the purposes of summarising the results of the survey, we have aggregated the results into these three categories, which we refer to respectively as 'specialist', 'ATPs' and 'indoor' below, except where there are important conclusions to be drawn from the results at individual facilities.

Players' profile

Table 13 gives demographic details of the total sample of players, compared with the Scottish population:

Table 13: Age, gender and social class of respondents

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

		Sample	Scottish population
Age (years)	16–24	37%	13%
	25–34	30%	19%
	35–44	22%	17%
	45–54	6%	16%
	55+	1%	35%
	Not stated	4%	–
Gender	Male	95%	48%
	Female	3%	52%
	Not stated	3%	–
Social class	AB	15%	19%
	C1	26%	26%
	C2	34%	22%
	DE	12%	33%
	Not stated	13%	–

The vast majority of players in the sample were male (95%) and some two-thirds under 35 (67%). In terms of social class, AB appears to be slightly under-represented and C2 over-represented. Two in five of those players it was possible to classify were in the AB or C1 classes (41%), a third were C2 (34%) and 12 per cent were DE. Compared with the Scottish population, therefore, males aged below 45 in social class C2 are over-represented amongst 5-a-side players. Given that it was not possible to identify the social class of 13 per cent of respondents, however, it is likely that the percentages in each of the groups are slightly under-stated. As a result, it seems likely that the proportion in classes ABC1 probably matches the Scottish population fairly well, with social class C2 significantly over-represented. While the proportion of players in social class DE appears small by comparison with the Scottish population, it is also worth noting that a high proportion of social class DE is actually made up of pensioners. Given, at best, the negligible number of pensioners likely to play 5-a-side football, the game therefore appears to be a sport which attracts an unusually high proportion of people in social groups C2DE when compared with many other sports. It is therefore a good example of a sport which has a wide general appeal amongst men, but not, at least as yet, women, and attracts a broad cross-section of players.

Table 14 sets out the differences in the demographic profile of the sample in relation to the three generic facility types.

Table 14: Demographic profile by facility type

Base: All respondents at identifiable facilities (N = 605)

		Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Age (years)	Under 16	1%	2	2
	16–24	37%	59%	28%
	25–34	38%	22%	24%
	35–44	20%	12%	31%
	45–54	2%	3%	11%
	55+	1%	0%	0%
	Refused/not stated	1%	2%	3%
Gender	Male	97%	95%	95%
	Female	3%	3%	2%
	Refused/not stated	0%	2%	2%
Class	AB	15%	10%	19%
	C1	28%	20%	29%
	C2	34%	30%	37%
	DE	13%	23%	7%
	Refused/not stated	11%	17%	8%

Note: Some respondents did not provide information on which centre they had been at when they collected a questionnaire and this accounts for the 27 questionnaires which cannot be allocated to a particular venue. This comment also applies to most of the tables in this report.

Table 14 highlights some key differences between the three facility types. The specialist facilities and ATPs were used most by players in the 16–34 age group while the social profile of the users of specialist facilities was closest to that of the Scottish population as a whole. The full size ATPs had by far the youngest age profile and attracted the lowest proportion of users in social class AB but the highest in social classes C2DE. Finally, the indoor halls had the oldest overall age profile and, like the specialist facilities, individuals in social classes C1 and C2 dominated their use for 5-a-side football. However, the average age of participants in indoor facilities is slightly misleading. Over half of all the respondents aged 45 and over were interviewed at the Duncanrig and John Wright Sports Centres in East Kilbride. Both of these centres, which opened respectively in 1972 and 1980, have long established 5-a-side user groups which have used the centres almost since they opened and this probably explains their relatively older age profile.

During the second phase of fieldwork, respondents were asked to specify where they lived. Table 15 gives the percentage of respondents from each of the main towns and cities near to the facilities where fieldwork took place:

Table 15: Place of residence

Base: All respondents in the second phase at identifiable centres (N = 259)

	East Kilbride (N = 84)	Hamilton (N = 66)	Glasgow (N = 39)	Coatbridge (N = 14)	Airdrie (N = 14)	Motherwell (N = 8)
Indoor						
Fairhill CC (N = 4)	25%	0%	0%	50%	25%	0%
Duncanrig (N = 44)	73%	0%	7%	0%	2%	7%
Jock Stein Barn (N = 10)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
John Wright SC (N = 28)	68%	14%	22%	0%	0%	0%
Stewartfield CC (N = 6)	83%	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%
Specialist						
Power League (N = 42)	5%	21%	24%	10%	10%	12%
Hamilton Palace (N = 65)	6%	38%	23%	0%	2%	12%
Champions League (N = 22)	5%	9%	0%	32%	32%	9%
ATPs						
Ballerup Stadium (N = 22)	82%	9%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Jock Stein Park (N = 16)	0%	69%	19%	0%	0%	1%

Note: Small sample sizes at these centres mean the results should be treated with caution

From Table 15 it is clear that a significant proportion of users were not at the facility closest to their home when they were interviewed. The specialist facilities, in particular, attracted users from a wide area. Details of respondents' average travel times to each type of centre are given in Table 41.

Participation by 5-a-side players

There are various reasons for players taking part in 5-a-side football, ranging from a casual game to training for 11-a-side play or taking part in a competitive league. These reasons can also relate to how 5-a-side teams are formed and when players take part in 5-a-side football and are explored below.

Table 16: Description of today's game

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals	Specialist	ATPs	Indoor
	(N = 632)	(N = 290)	(N = 93)	(N = 222)
Casual, with friends	76%	72%	75%	83%
League or tournament	9%	16%	2%	1%
Training	6%	4%	17%	4%
Competitive with friends	5%	4%	0%	8%
Other	2%	1%	2%	2%
Don't know/not stated	3%	1%	3%	2%

The vast majority of players at each of the three types of facility were taking part in casual games, although only Power League and Champions League actually offered regular league play. Users of ATPs were significantly more likely than the users of other facilities to be taking part in training.

Table 17: Whether games had a non-playing referee

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals	Specialist	ATPs	Indoor
	(N = 632)	(N = 290)	(N = 93)	(N = 222)
Non-playing referee	16%	20%	14%	11%
No referee	81%	78%	83%	87%
Don't know/not stated	3%	2%	3%	2%

Overall, only about one game in six had a non-playing referee, although all of the centres had some games with a non-playing referee. The proportion of players taking part in a game with a non-playing referee was highest at Power League (33%), Fairhill Community Centre (24%), Ballerup (15%) and Hamilton Palace (14%). Younger players and those from the C2DE social groups were most likely to take part in games with a referee, implying they were playing in a league game. For those games with a referee, overall 29 per cent of players thought the referee was qualified and 20 per cent thought he or she was not; the other 51 per cent did not know. Of the refereed games at Power League and Champions League, however, 59 and 71 per cent of players respectively thought that he or she was qualified. This probably relates to the fact that referees for league games there are provided by the centre management from a pool of SFA qualified officials.

Table 18: How 5-a-side group originally formedBase: All respondents (N = 632); multiple responses possible

	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Friends from outside work	61%	53%	59%	73%
Workmates	30%	42%	16%	21%
Football club members	1%	8%	20%	8%
Other	2%	*	4%	1%
Don't know/not stated	3%	2%	2%	1%

Notes: * = less than 0.5%. As multiple responses to this question were possible the results do not sum to 100%.

About three-fifths of players stated that the group they played with was formed by friends from outside work (61%), 30 per cent by a group of workmates and 10 per cent from an already established football club.

Table 19: Seasons in which respondents played 5-a-side footballBase: All respondents (N = 632)

	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
All year round	88%	90%	90%	89%
Mainly in summer	1%	1%	1%	*
Mainly in winter	1%	1%	1%	1%
Occasionally	7%	8%	5%	6%
Don't know/not stated	3%	*	2%	4%

* = less than 0.5%

Overwhelmingly, 5-a-side football is a year-round sport, with only 1 per cent of players claiming to play mainly in summer or mainly in winter, with practically no variation between different types of centre. However, as both phases of the survey were undertaken during the autumn and winter months, there may be other players who play only in summer.

Table 20: Original reasons for playing 5-a-side footballBase: All respondents (N = 632); multiple responses possible

	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
To keep fit/exercise	48%	46%	52%	53%
For fun/enjoyment	21%	18%	18%	25%
Love football/hobby/always played	20%	22%	17%	18%
Social reasons	19%	23%	6%	21%
Improve skills/training	5%	6%	8%	4%
Not fit enough for 11-a-side	3%	3%	2%	4%
Just a kickabout	2%	2%	4%	2%
Others	7%	8%	9%	6%
Don't know/not stated	9%	7%	10%	6%

The main reasons why individuals decided to participate in 5-a-side football were to keep fit, for enjoyment or social purposes and because they loved football. Other reasons – including practising or training for 11-a-side play – were significantly less important. Using 5-a-side as a means of keeping fit was particularly important to players aged 25–44 (59%) and over 45 (50%) and those who did not also play 11-a-side (55%). Enjoyment and social reasons were given most by older players, those in social groups ABC1 and those who did not also play 11-a-side. Improving their skills and training, not surprisingly, were most likely to be given by those players taking part in non-casual games or who also played 11-a-side.

Table 21: Reasons for stopping or resuming playing

Base: All respondents (N = 632); multiple responses possible

	Total (N = 632)
Reason stopped playing	
Injury	33%
Too busy/no time	24%
Lack of numbers	7%
Lazy/lost interest	3%
End of season	3%
Others	23%
Don't know/not stated	8%
Reason resumed playing	
Injury free/fit again	23%
Put on weight/to get fit	14%
Holidays/more leisure time	11%
Missed playing	7%
Sufficient numbers	6%
Time suited me better	2%
Others	13%
Don't know/not stated	23%

Note: The 'others' category includes all those reasons given by less than 3 per cent of respondents.

It should be noted that the question asked 'if you stopped and started again' so responses are from this group only.

Injury or lack of time were the most common reasons why players had ceased to play 5-a-side football, with injuries most common amongst users of indoor facilities – although it is not possible to say whether these injuries were sustained at indoor or outdoor facilities. Lack of time was most common amongst users of ATPs, older rather than younger players and those who did not also play 11-a-side. Other reasons were generally much less important.

Conversely, it is clear that many players had resumed playing once their injury had healed, with indoor players again most likely to give this reason. A desire to reduce weight or get fitter was also significant, especially amongst those players using specialist facilities and those in social groups ABC1 or aged 25–44, while a significant proportion of ATP users and players over 45 had resumed playing as a result of having more leisure time.

Table 22: 5-a-side Participation in the four weeks before survey

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

Number of outings in four weeks	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
One	4%	5%	3%	2%
Two	7%	8%	3%	7%
Three	4%	4%	2%	5%
Four	28%	28%	24%	30%
Five	7%	7%	11%	5%
Six	8%	8%	10%	9%
Seven	3%	2%	2%	3%
Eight	22%	22%	24%	23%
Nine	2%	1%	4%	0%
Ten or more	16%	14%	17%	17%
Don't know/not stated	*	1%	0%	0%
Mean number of times	6.4	6.0	7.1	6.5

* = less than 0.5%

About one in six players played less than once per week; a quarter once a week; and two fifths more than twice a week. Overall, the average frequency of participation in 5-a-side football was 6.4 times in four weeks, or just over three games every two weeks. This reflects the fact that many of those interviewed were members of teams with one or two weekly block bookings of particular facilities. The highest proportions had played on four (28%) or eight (22%) occasions, suggesting these individuals played once or twice every week. This finding is obviously related to the fact that 5-a-side football is a team game, with many teams having a weekly block booking. Those players belonging to two teams will then have the opportunity to play twice a week. A regular booking at the same time is obviously sensible from the players' point of view as it avoids the need for an organiser to contact each of them before every game to inform them of the time and place of their booking.

The full set of tables identifies that frequency of participation tends to be associated with age, with younger players playing more (an average of 6.6 times in four weeks) and older players less (an average of 5.6 times in four weeks). There was very little difference in frequency of participation by social class, while casual players played less frequently (an average of 6.2 times in four weeks) than those taking part in 'other', most probably organised league, games (an average of 6.9 times in four weeks). Finally, those who also played 11-a-side also played 5-a-side football more frequently (an average of 7.1 times in four weeks) than those who did not (an average of 6.1 times in four weeks). The frequency of participation in 5-a-side football was therefore highest amongst those who were

under 24 and also played 11-a-side football; and lowest amongst older players, those who played 5-a-side football casually and/or did not play 11-a-side football.

Table 23: 5-a-side participation in the four weeks before survey at the centre at which players were surveyed

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

Number of times in four weeks	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
None	3%	3%	4%	1%
One	11%	12%	14%	8%
Two	10%	10%	4%	13%
Three	8%	9%	8%	8%
Four	46%	43%	42%	54%
Five	3%	4%	5%	1%
Six	2%	2%	2%	1%
Seven	1%	1%	0%	2%
Eight	11%	11%	14%	9%
Nine	1%	1%	1%	*
Ten or more	4%	4%	5%	3%
Mean number of times	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.1

* less than 0.5%

The average number of times respondents had played at the facility at which they completed a questionnaire was just over four, or a little over once a week. Clearly this reflects a typical weekly block booking or league commitment plus an occasional additional game. Comparing this table with the last one, therefore, it is clear that a high proportion of players played at more than one venue. There was little variation in overall frequency levels between the different types of facility.

Table 24: Participation elsewhere in the four weeks before interview

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Total (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Had played elsewhere	55%	54%	58%	55%
Had not played elsewhere	45%	46%	46%	45%

Overall, 55 per cent of respondents had played 5-side football in the previous four weeks at a different facility from the one at which they completed a questionnaire, again suggesting that many players belonged to more than one team. There was little variation by type of facility, but younger players were significantly more likely

than older ones and 11-a-side players more likely than those who do not also play 11-a-side football to have used more than one facility. The detailed tables also show that of those respondents who had used other facilities, 66 per cent had used one, 23 per cent two, 7 per cent three and the remaining 3 per cent more than three. The average number of other facilities used by those respondents who had used at least one other facility than the one at which they were surveyed was 1.5.

The other facilities which had been used by respondents in the four weeks before the survey are given in Table 25:

Table 25: Other facilities used by respondents in the previous four weeks

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

Indoor Facilities	Outdoor facilities
Airdrie Leisure Centre	Ballerup Stadium, East Kilbride
Bells Sports Centre, Perth	Champions League
Brancumhall	Goals, Shawlands
Duncanrig Sports Centre	Jock Stein Sports Park, Hamilton
Eddelwood Sports Barn	Power League (unspecified location)
Esporta, Hamilton	Saughton, Edinburgh
Fairhill Sports Barn	St Andrew's Sports Centre, E Kilbride
Greenhills Sports Centre	Sunnyside, Falkirk
John Wright Sports Centre	
Monklands Sports Centre	
Nerston, East Kilbride	
Rawyards Sports Centre, Airdrie	
Scotstoun Sports Centre	
Shotts Leisure Centre	
St Andrew's Sports Centre, E Kilbride	
Stewartfield Community Centre	
Viewpark Community Hall	
Larkhall Leisure Centre	
Wishaw Sports Centre	

Note: Responses to this question are likely to be affected by interview locations.

Table 26: Regular participation in 11-a-side football

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Total	Specialist	ATPs	Indoor
	(N = 632)	(N = 290)	(N = 93)	(N = 222)
Plays 11-a-side regularly	26%	29%	39%	17%
Does not play 11-a-side regularly	69%	68%	59%	78%
Don't know/not stated	5%	3%	2%	5%

As well as 5-a-side football, 26 per cent of respondents also played 11-a-side football regularly. Those respondents using ATPs were most likely to do so, as were those players aged under 24, in social groups C2DE or playing a non-casual game of 5-a-side when surveyed.

Players' preference for playing indoors or outdoors

Table 27: Preference for playing indoors or outdoors at this time of year

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Total	Specialist	ATPs	Indoor
	(N = 632)	(N = 290)	(N = 99)	(N = 222)
Will only play outdoor	9%	14%	14%	2%
Strong preference to play outdoor	19%	31%	20%	5%
Slight preference to play outdoor	6%	7%	6%	4%
Don't mind	41%	42%	52%	34%
Slight preference to play indoors	7%	3%	2%	14%
Strong preference to play indoors	10%	2%	3%	24%
Will only play indoor	5%	0%	0%	13%
Don't know/not stated	3%	1%	2%	4%
Prefer outdoors – sub-totals	34%	52%	40%	11%
Prefer indoor – sub-totals	22%	5%	5%	51%

The two survey phases were both undertaken in the autumn/winter season. Overall, about a third of respondents had a preference to play outdoors and a little over a fifth to play indoors, with about two fifths stating they had no preference. This suggests that there is a real opportunity to move a significant proportion of indoor play to outdoors. On the other hand, outdoor 5-a-side participation also seems to be slightly weather dependent, although not as much as might be expected.

Comparison of the responses of different groups of respondents reveals that those aged between 25 and 44 were more likely to have a preference to play outdoors than those aged 45 or over (36% and 24% respectively). Conversely, players aged 45 or over were more likely to prefer to play indoors (56%) while those aged under 24 were the age group most likely to have no preference (53%). South Lanarkshire Council's Community Resources Department believes that older players prefer the added comfort of indoor courts.

Choice of facility

Table 28: Reasons for using a particular facility most often

Base: All respondents (N = 632); respondents could give multiple answers

	Total	Specialist	ATPs	Indoor
Easy to get to	33%	35%	32%	33%
Best facility	14%	16%	19%	11%
Convenient for home/work	12%	13%	15%	9%
Cheapest/price	11%	16%	14%	4%
Take block bookings/easiest to book	10%	9%	5%	13%
Play in a league	6%	9%	3%	4%
Habit/always played there	4%	3%	2%	5%
Good surface	3%	4%	6%	2%
Size of hall/park	3%	1%	1%	6%
Lighting/pitch	1%	*	4%	*
Other	0%	10%	6%	9%
Don't know/not stated	16%	13%	14%	18%

* = less than 0.5%

The main reason for using a particular facility most often was its location, followed by the nature of the facility and price. There was relatively little variation between different types of facilities, although the ATPs were rated the best facility by a higher proportion of respondents than those at other facilities. The specialist facilities rated relatively highly for price; indoor halls for block bookings; and specialist facilities for league play. Interestingly, indoor halls were rated more highly for their size than the outdoor facilities, although smaller.

Table 29: Reasons for choosing to play *only* at a particular venue

Base: Respondents who had not played at another venue in the four weeks before the survey (N = 283); respondents could give multiple answers

	Total (N = 283)	Specialist (N = 134)	ATPs (N = 39)	Indoor (N = 101)
Handy/local/convenient	26%	28%	26%	24%
Best facility	23%	27%	21%	19%
Close to home/work	16%	15%	26%	15%
Reasonable price	12%	16%	23%	1%
Team manager chooses facility	11%	11%	10%	11%
Block booking/easy to book	10%	7%	8%	17%
The one my friends go to	2%	1%	0%	3%
Not many alternatives	1%	1%	0%	1%
Others	12%	13%	5%	16%
No reason	5%	5%	3%	4%
Don't know/not stated	7%	8%	8%	4%

About a quarter of those respondents who played at only one facility gave their reason as the facility's location and/or that it was the best. Price was also significant in relation to the users of ATPs; bookings of partial ATPs tend to be relatively cheap.

Factors affecting players' choice of facility

For planning purposes, and to maximise both participation and customer satisfaction, it is obviously important to know the factors that attract players to one facility rather than another. This section therefore explores respondents' ratings of the importance of a number of the key aspects of the centres at which they completed questionnaires.

In order to avoid biasing the results of this question, the order in which the various features was given on the Phase 1 questionnaire was reversed for Phase 2. A positive mean score indicates that a particular feature was rated as important by respondents, and therefore likely to affect their choice of playing facility, while a negative mean score indicates something which was relatively unimportant and therefore unlikely to have affected a players' choice of venue.

Table 30: Importance of key features when choosing a 5-a-side facility

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Very important	Quite important	Neither	Not very important	Not at all important	Mean score
	(+2)	(+1)	(0)	(-1)	(-2)	
Type of surface	57%	31%	5%	2%	*	1.49
Lighting	56%	32%	4%	2%	1%	1.49
Convenient location	48%	39%	6%	1%	*	1.42
The size of pitch	50%	36%	5%	3%	*	1.40
Ease of booking facility	45%	37%	7%	2%	1%	1.35
Cost of hiring facility	45%	39%	5%	4%	1%	1.31
Changing facilities	31%	43%	9%	8%	3%	0.97
That facility is outdoors	16%	19%	27%	15%	12%	0.15
That facility is indoors	15%	13%	28%	19%	14%	-0.06
Bar and refreshments	11%	21%	18%	25%	18%	-0.21
Facilities for food	6%	12%	19%	29%	26%	-0.64

* = less than 0.5%

On this basis, the key factors appear to be lighting, the type of surface, location, the size of the pitch or court, the ease of booking, cost and changing facilities. Whether the facility is indoors or outdoors, and the availability of a bar or facilities for food, however, are relatively unimportant. In terms of particular aspects of 5-a-side facilities:

- Outdoor facilities appealed more than indoor facilities to players in the under 24 and 25–44 age groups, all social class groups, casual players and players of 11-a-side football; conversely, indoor facilities appealed more to players over the age of 45.
- Ease of booking, convenience of location, cost, changing facilities, lighting, the type of surface and the size of court were important to the majority of players of all ages, in all social groups and players of all kinds.
- Lighting was important in relation to players' choice of all types of facility, although slightly more significant in relation to outdoor than indoor ones. There was little variation amongst respondents by age, type of game or whether they also played 11-a-side football, but there were indications that the lower socio-economic groups rated lighting as more important than those in the higher groups. Against this, only 1 per cent of respondents gave lighting as their reason for choosing to play at a particular facility most often.

- The importance of the type of surface mirrored the findings for lighting: significantly more important to the outdoor respondents than the indoor. Respondents from social groups C2DE rated lighting as significantly more important than those from groups ABC1 but there was little variation by the other characteristics of players. More information on players' opinions on types of surface are presented below. Table 31 gives information on the importance of type of surface to users of different types of facility.

Table 31: Importance of type of surface

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Very important	57%	65%	63%	46%
Quite important	31%	28%	27%	36%
Neither	5%	2%	2%	9%
Not very important	2%	2%	4%	3%
Not at all important	*	1%	*	*
Don't know/not stated	5%	2%	3%	6%
Mean scores	1.49	1.59	1.54	1.34

* = less than 0.5%

- There was little variation in the importance of a convenient location by type of facility or demographic factors.
- There was considerable consistency among players at the different outdoor centres in relation to the importance of pitch or court size. Those who played 11-a-side football tended to rate court or pitch size as slightly more important than those who did not, but there was little variation by demographic factors.
- There was very little variation in the importance of the ease of booking by facility type, by demographic factors or whether players also played 11-a-side football.
- Cost was slightly more important to the users of the specialist than the other facilities. It was also more important to younger than older users, those from social groups C2DE and those who also played 11-a-side football.
- Access to facilities for food was of little importance to most users, with little difference between specialist and ATP users. Indoor users were least likely of all to regard access to food as important when choosing where to play.
- Changing was significantly more important to the users of specialist centres and indoor halls than ATPs. This may have related to the age profile of users,

with ATPs attracting younger players who may be more likely to arrive ready changed. Certainly, older players rated changing more important than younger; but there was little difference by other demographic factors or whether players also played 11-a-side football. However, a fairly high (but unknown) proportion of respondents did not use the changing accommodation at all.

- Facilities for food and bar and refreshment facilities were more important for younger players than older, those in social groups C2DE, those who played organised games and those who also played 11-a-side.

Table 32: Importance of changing

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Very important	31%	37%	22%	30%
Quite important	43%	46%	34%	45%
Neither	9%	7%	15%	10%
Not very important	8%	6%	17%	5%
Not at all important	3%	2%	6%	2%
Don't know/not stated	6%	1%	5%	8%
Mean scores	0.97	1.12	0.50	1.02

Table 33 shows preferred surfaces for outdoor 5-a-side football broken down by type of facility.

Table 33: Players' favourite surface for outdoor 5-a-side football

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Artificial grass	55%	64%	67%	39%
Sand-filled artificial grass	22%	27%	24%	17%
Rubber crumb	3	2%	1%	6%
Tarmac	*	0%	0%	1%
Porous concrete	1%	*	0%	1%
Natural grass	3%	2%	2%	5%
Wood	1%	0%	0%	2%
Others	*	*	0%	1%
Don't know/not stated	14%	3%	6%	28%

* = less than 0.5%

Just over half (55%) the respondents nominated artificial grass and about a fifth (22%) sand-filled artificial grass as their preferred surface for outdoor 5-a-side football. Some may not have differentiated between these two types of surface as sand-filled artificial grass can also be described, generically, as artificial grass. Accordingly it seems clear that some form of artificial grass was the preferred outdoor surface for about three quarters of players. This overall figure, however, was lowered by the inclusion of the preferences of indoor players, some of whom may not have played outdoors – as evidenced by the high proportion of ‘don’t knows’. For the users of both the specialist centres and ATPs over 90 per cent preferred some form of artificial grass. Other outdoor surfaces, such as tarmac, porous concrete and even natural grass, were preferred by only a negligible proportion of players. There was relatively little variation between the views of respondents from different age or social groups, but it is interesting that players of 11-a-side football rated artificial grass higher as a surface for 5-a-side than non-players – although this result was affected by a fairly high ‘don’t know’ response from those who do not play 11-a-side.

Attitudes to the facilities used on the day of survey

Table 34 below summarises the mean satisfaction scores from respondents in relation to various aspects of the centres at which they were surveyed:

Table 34: Mean satisfaction scores with specific aspects of centres

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Ranking in Table 30	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Type of surface	1	1.28	1.31	1.47	1.17
Lighting	2	1.30	1.38	1.49	1.10
Convenience of location	3	1.44	1.32	1.41	1.45
Size of court/pitch	4	1.36	1.38	1.67	1.20
Ease of booking facility	5	1.42	1.47	1.24	1.43
Cost of hiring facility	6	0.92	0.66	1.38	1.13
Changing facilities	7	0.92	1.18	0.98	0.53
Bar and refreshments	8	0.16	0.66	-0.34	-0.39
Facilities for food	9	-0.26	-0.05	-0.49	-0.47

Table 34 identifies some interesting differences in player satisfaction at different types of centre:

- **Surface:** although this was considered by players to be the most important factor in their choice of facility, many did not rate the surface highly at the centre they were using when surveyed. ATP users rated the surface on which

they had just played most highly; yet those who had used one of the specialist centres – generally the same surface, a sand filled artificial turf – rated it lower.

- **Lighting:** lighting at the indoor facilities was rated much lower than at the outdoor. The anecdotal evidence from South Lanarkshire Council's Community Resources Department is that many of the indoor players had long standing bookings for particular facilities. If these users really rated the lighting at the venue they used most often as fairly poor, but rated the importance of lighting when choosing a venue as the second most important factor, it is surprising they had not moved to an alternative one.
- **Location:** the indoor facilities received the highest overall rating and the specialist the lowest. However, even the specialist centres were rated between quite and very good. The high rating given to the convenience of the indoor facilities is not surprising given that users were surveyed at five centres (half of the total sample). However, the rating of the convenience of location of the two ATPs was only marginally lower, but this may relate mainly to the level of provision, with only three ATPs in the study area, rather than their location.
- **Pitch or court size:** respondents' mean satisfaction rating related directly to the actual size of the court they will have used. One third of an ATP is larger than the specialist outdoor courts, which in turn are larger than the indoor courts. Similarly, the floodlighting of the ATPs will have provided a higher illumination level than at the smaller specialist courts and this was reflected in the satisfaction scores.
- **Ease of booking:** only the rating given to the ATPs varied significantly from the average, probably because of the limited times when their owners were willing to allow small-sided use.
- **Cost:** the ATPs and indoor facilities were rated significantly higher than the specialist centres. However, the overall figure masked considerable variation between the three specialist centres, with Hamilton Palace, Champions League and Power League having mean satisfaction scores of 1.50, 0.29 and -0.14 respectively. The high satisfaction rating for Hamilton Palace was second only to Fairhill Community Centre (with a rating of 1.75) among the ten centres included in the survey. Power League was the only centre with an overall dissatisfaction (minus) score.
- **Changing:** there was also considerable variation within facility types. Overall, the three specialist facilities were all rated something between quite and very good, with a narrow range of average scores from 1.08 (Champions League) to 1.25 (Hamilton Palace) – in spite of the fairly limited changing at the two commercial centres. Conversely, the indoor centres were given the lowest overall satisfaction rating, with a range from 0.18 (Jock Stein Sports Barn) to 1.00 (Fairhill Community Centre). Accordingly the highest mean rating given to one of the five indoor centres was only 'quite good'.

- **Bar:** of the specialist centres, both Champions League (with a mean rating of 1.13) and Power League (with a mean rating of 1.07) have licensed bars, while Hamilton Palace (with a mean rating of 0.04) has only vending machines. All of the other centres, with the exception of Fairhill Community Centre (with a score of 0.62), were given a mean negative score.
- **Facilities for food:** all of the centres, other than Fairhill Community Centre (with a mean score of 0.38) and Champions League (with a mean score of zero) were given a negative score, indicating that users rated them fairly poorly.

In terms of the key features of each of the specific facilities at which the survey was undertaken, respondents gave:

- Hamilton Palace the highest rating for playing surface and Champions League the lowest
- Fairhill the highest rating for indoor lighting and Hamilton Palace and Jock Stein Park the highest for outdoor lighting, while Duncanrig was rated as having the worst indoor lighting and Power League the worst outdoor
- Fairhill and Hamilton Palace the highest rating for convenient location and Ballerup Stadium the lowest
- Jock Stein Park and Ballerup (the two ATPs) the highest rating for the size of the outdoor court/pitch and John Wright for the size of the indoor court
- Fairhill, Hamilton Palace and Stewartfield the highest rating for ease of booking and Jock Stein Park the lowest
- Fairhill the highest rating for the cost of hiring and Power League and Champions League the lowest
- Hamilton Palace and Power League the highest ratings for changing facilities and the Jock Stein Sports Barn the lowest
- Power League and Champions League the highest ratings for bar and refreshments
- all the facilities a low rating in relation to facilities for food.

Expenditure and value for money

Players' expenditure on their visit

The average amount spent by players can be calculated in two ways; including or excluding those who spent nothing in the course of their visit. Tables 35 and 36 give both of these calculations. Table 37 gives players' total expenditure.

Table 35: Players' average expenditure, including those who spent nothing

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Travel	£0.65	£0.92	£0.31	£0.39
Fees for playing	£3.07	£3.85	£1.86	£2.53
Food at the venue	£0.05	£0.06	£0.04	£0.03
Drink at the venue	£0.61	£1.03	£0.08	£0.16
Total expenditure	£4.46	£5.91	£2.37	£3.26

Note: Figures do not sum because of variation in the number of players who spent nothing in each category.

Table 36: Players' average expenditure, excluding those who spent nothing

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Travel	£1.69	£2.11	£1.00	£1.13
Fees for playing	£3.30	£4.17	£2.05	£2.68
Food at the venue	£0.74	£0.74	£0.60	£0.86
Drink at the venue	£1.75	£2.75	£0.23	£0.52
Total expenditure	£4.65	£6.11	£2.49	£3.42

Note: Figures do not sum because of variation in the players who spent nothing in different categories.

Table 37: Players' total expenditure

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Including those who spent nothing	£4.46	£5.91	£2.37	£3.26
Excluding those who spent nothing	£4.65	£6.11	£2.49	£3.42

Note: Figures do not sum because of variation in the players who spent nothing in different categories.

Expenditure per player was therefore highest at the specialist centres and lowest at the ATPs, with the expenditure at ATPs reflecting the lower average age of users.

In terms of **travel**, players spent most on travelling to Power League and Hamilton Palace, a finding that obviously reflected the relatively large catchment areas of these centres. There was little variation in the amount spent by players of different ages, but those from social groups C2DE spent more than those from the ABC1 groups, as did those playing a league rather than casual game and those who also played 11-a-side football. This suggests that some players, especially those who also played 11-a-side, were willing to spend more on travel in order to take part in competitive leagues.

The amount spent on **playing fees** was obviously a direct consequence of the charges at the different venues, with the users of the specialist facilities paying most. Those aged 25–44 spent nothing on **food**, while younger players spent more than older ones, as did those from social groups C2DE and those who also play 11-a-side. The users of Power League and Champions League spent most on drinks and this obviously reflects the fact that these two centres have a bar. The amount spent on drinks also reflected the age of players, with the younger players spending least and older players most. Players from social groups C2DE also spent more than those from groups ABC1.

Overall, those who spent least in total were the players over 45, those from social groups ABC1, infrequent players and those involved in casual games. Conversely, those who spent most were aged 25–44, from social groups C2DE and playing non-casual (league or tournament) games.

Value for money

Players were asked how satisfied they were with the value for money of their booking.

Table 38: Satisfaction with value for money

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Very satisfied (+2)	34%	29%	55%	32%
Quite satisfied (+1)	46%	42%	34%	58%
Neither (0)	6%	9%	4%	4%
Not very satisfied (-1)	8%	12%	1%	4%
Not at all satisfied (-2)	3%	5%	0%	*
Don't know/not stated	3%	2%	5%	3%
Mean scores	1.05	0.80	1.51	1.20

* = less than 0.5%

Approximately a third of all respondents (34%) were 'very satisfied' with value for money and nearly half (46%) 'quite satisfied'. The mean scores show that respondents rated the ATPs the best value for money, followed by the indoor facilities and then the specialist centres. The two ATPs were given broadly the same value for money rating by respondents but there was considerable variation amongst the specialist centres and indoor facilities:

Table 39: Satisfaction with value for money: Specialist centres

Base: All respondents using specialist centres (N = 290)

	Hamilton Palace (N = 125)	Power League (N = 102)	Champions League (N = 63)
Peak hour price (adults)	£21.90	£36.25	£36.50
Very satisfied (+2)	50%	13%	14%
Quite satisfied (+1)	43%	40%	44%
Neither (0)	3%	14%	13%
Not very satisfied (-1)	2%	22%	16%
Not at all satisfied (-2)	0%	11%	6%
Don't know/not stated	1%	1%	6%
Mean scores	1.43	0.23	0.47

Among the specialist centres, Hamilton Palace, with the lowest price, was rated the best value for money: only 2 per cent of respondents were not satisfied. At Power League and Champions League, on the other hand, 33 and 22 per cent respectively claimed to be dissatisfied.

Table 40: Satisfaction with value for money: Indoor facilities

Base: All respondents using indoor facilities (N = 222)

	Jock Stein Barn (N = 36)	Fairhill (N = 17)	John Wright (N = 66)	Duncanrig (N = 76)	Stewartfield (N = 27)
Price per hour (adults)	£11.80	£15.00	£24.40	£22.20	£22.20
Very satisfied (+2)	33%	76%	27%	24%	37%
Quite satisfied (+1)	47%	12%	67%	64%	59%
Neither (0)	6%	0%	5%	4%	0%
Not very satisfied (-1)	11%	12%	0%	3%	0%
Not at all satisfied (-2)	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know/not stated	0%	0%	1%	5%	1%
Mean scores	0.97	1.53	1.23	1.15	1.38

* = less than 0.5%

Amongst the indoor facilities, the Jock Stein Sports Barn – one of the three badminton court size halls – was given the lowest overall value for money rating and Fairhill – another of the three badminton court halls – the highest.

Visit characteristics

Table 41: Average travel time to different facility types

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
0–5 minutes	33%	24%	43%	42%
6–10 minutes	28%	26%	31%	32%
11–15 minutes	15%	20%	11%	11%
16–20 minutes	12%	16%	10%	7%
21–30 minutes	7%	11%	2%	3%
31 minutes or more	3%	3%	3%	3%
Don't know/not stated	1%	*	*	2%
Average (minutes)	12.6	14.5	10.5	10.6

* = less than 0.5%

The average time taken to travel to a 5-a-side facility was a little under 13 minutes. One third (33%) of respondents had taken 5 minutes or less to reach the facility while a slightly lower proportion (28%) had taken between 6 and 10 minutes. The specialist facilities had the longest travel time, suggesting that a significant number of users must have passed other facilities to get to them. The facilities with the longest average travel times were Power League in Hamilton (approximately 16 minutes) and Hamilton Palace (just under 15 minutes) and the shortest Stewartfield Community Centre (just under 8 minutes) and the Jock Stein Park ATP (just over 8 minutes). This does not necessarily mean that players preferred these centres to others closer to home – especially as players generally rated the availability of a bar as not particularly important and the commercial specialist centres had the highest prices – but can be explained in a number of ways, including:

- Teams will probably have arranged to play at a venue which suited one or more team members best or which particular team members preferred.
- Teams may have been composed of workmates or 11-a-side team members from a fairly wide area.
- Teams may have wished to play, or be committed to playing, in a particular league.

- Players may have given up trying to get a booking at the closest centre.
- Users of specialist facilities are more likely to have come from work (see Table 43).

Table 42: Mode of travel to the venue

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Car/motorcycle (driver)	63%	68%	40%	67%
Car/motorcycle (passenger)	20%	23%	27%	14%
Walked	12%	7%	23%	14%
Public bus	2%	1%	9%	1%
Private coach	*	0%	*	*
Bicycle	1%	0%	1%	1%
Taxi	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other	*	*	*	0%
Don't know/not stated	1%	*	*	1%

* = less than 0.5%*

The highest proportion of players travelled to the 5-a-side venue by car – either driving themselves (63%) or as a passenger (20%). A surprisingly high proportion walked or took a bus to the two ATPs (23 and 9 per cent respectively, possibly reflecting the younger age profile of users) but overall only 12 and 2 per cent respectively did so.

Overall, younger players were most likely to walk (22%) or use a bus (5%) while the respondents most likely to travel by car were those aged between 25 and 44 (93%) and ABC1s (88%).

Table 43: Origin of journey to the venue

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Home	81%	75%	91%	87%
Friend's home	3%	3%	2%	4%
Work	12%	18%	3%	6%
School/college	*	1%	0%	*
Pub/club	1%	1%	0%	1%
Other	1%	1%	2%	*
Don't know/not stated	2%	1%	1%	1%

* = less than 0.5%

Most players travelled to the venue from home before playing (81%) and about 12 per cent travelled from work. However, these averages mask a significant difference between, on the one hand, the specialist centres, which attracted only 75 per cent of their users from home and around 18 per cent from work; and, on the other, the ATPs and indoor facilities which attracted around 90 per cent of their users from home.

Table 44: Destination after playing

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Home	83%	83%	88%	81%
Friend's home	3%	3%	3%	3%
Work	1%	*	1%	1%
School/college	*	*	0%	0%
Pub/club	12%	13%	6%	15%
Other	*	1%	0%	0%
Don't know/not stated	1%	0%	1%	1%

* = less than 0.5%

The majority of players travelled home after playing (83%) while nearly an eighth (12%) went to a pub or club afterwards. Those using the specialist centres and indoor facilities were most likely to go to a pub or club after playing and those using an ATP the least, again no doubt reflecting the age profile of ATP users. The proportions of respondents going to a pub or club from the two specialist centres with a bar (Power League and Champions League) were 13 and 10 per

cent respectively, compared with 15 per cent from Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds. As a result it seems that the existence of an on-site bar had little impact on what most players did after finishing their game.

Bookings

Seventeen per cent of respondents claimed to have been responsible for making that day's booking. As only one in every ten 5-a-side players is actually likely to have made a booking, this suggests that those responsible for making bookings were also the most likely to complete a questionnaire. It is probable they were also the players most likely to enter the ancillary accommodation, for example in order to make or check the team's next booking, and therefore (depending on the layout of centres) possibly the most likely to encounter an interviewer while their team-mates departed.

Overall about four-fifths of respondents (79%) stated that they and their group 'regularly' made bookings for 5-a-side facilities. The individuals most likely to make regular bookings included those respondents aged 45+ (85%). 15 per cent of all respondents claimed to book only 'occasionally' or 'very infrequently', while a further 2 per cent stated that their booking was a 'one-off'.

Over four fifths of bookings were made at the time, on the day and at the venue wanted by respondents, with very little variation by generic facility type:

Table 45: Proportion of bookings at preferred time, day and venue

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Totals (N = 632)	Specialist (N = 290)	ATPs (N = 93)	Indoor (N = 222)
Preferred time of day	87%	89%	89%	86%
Preferred day	84%	85%	84%	85%
Preferred place	80%	81%	82%	80%

It may not be possible to take Table 45 at face value because it is possible that where and when teams decided to play was decided by the majority. If so, one or two players might have preferred another venue or time but agreed to go along with the other players in their team. Even so, it is clear that the vast majority of bookings were made at the venue, on the day and at the time wanted by players.

South Lanarkshire Council market research

Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds first opened in November 1998 with the artificially surfaced areas and temporary changing in a number of connected Portakabins. The grass pitches opened sometime later and a permanent changing pavilion became available in November 1999. Prior to this, in July and

August 1999, South Lanarkshire Council undertook a self-completion survey of a random sample of users, which yielded 80 completed questionnaires. The survey covered all of the facilities at the Grounds, which, in addition to 5-/7-a-side football, can also be used for 11-a-side football, hockey, rugby, tennis, street hockey, basketball, baseball and netball. Key findings from this survey included:

- **Gender of customers:** 93 per cent male, 7 per cent female.
- **Age of customers:** 11 per cent were aged 16 and under; 37 per cent were aged 17–25; 39 per cent were aged 26–39; and 13 per cent were aged 40 or over. Overall, 43 per cent of respondents were aged over 30.
- **Customers' employment:** 80 per cent worked full time, 4 per cent part-time, 7 per cent on shifts and 9 per cent only at weekends.
- **Customer expectations:** 8 per cent classed their first visit as 'below expectations' and approximately 50 per cent as 'better than expected'. Most of the initial criticisms (for example of changing) will have been resolved by the opening of the new facilities since the survey. The reasons why customers rated their first visit as 'better than expected' included the quality of the playing surfaces (7 responses), staff attitude/helpfulness (6 responses), cost (5 responses), size of facilities (4 responses) and cleanliness (3 responses).
- **Value for money:** 74 per cent of customers considered the facilities to be value for money.
- **Frequency of use:** the vast majority of respondents used the facilities once a week. The only customers who used the facilities more than once a week played 7-a-side football.
- **Demand:** 65 per cent of customers stated that other commitments prevented them from booking more often, while 25 per cent said they would book more often if the times they wanted were available.
- **Attitude to facilities:** customers' ranking of the relative importance of different aspects of the Grounds were pitch quality (27%), price (17%), changing (14%), customer service (also 14%), cleanliness (13%) and speed of booking (9%).
- **Additional services:** customers indicated a desire for leagues (46% of responses), competitions (22% of responses), coaching (15% of responses), kids' clubs (11% of responses), and a crèche (7% of responses).
- **Customer awareness:** 63 per cent of customers heard about the Grounds by word of mouth and 10 per cent from newspaper advertising.

CHAPTER 6: COMPARISON WITH ATP RESEARCH

During 1992, the same study team of KCA and System Three undertook research on the use of artificial turf pitches for the Scottish Sports Council (now **sportscotland**), including both an analysis of the use of a sample of full size Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) and a questionnaire survey of users. One of the pitches included in this earlier research was the Hamilton pitch, subsequently renamed Jock Stein Park, and also included in this 5-a-side study. The results of the two studies contrast in a number of ways and suggest there may have been a change in the use of full size ATPs in the intervening period, possibly as a consequence of the development of specialist 5-a-side facilities.

The use of full size ATPs

In 1992, the overall peak time occupancy rate (that is, the proportion of available hours booked on weekday evenings or at the weekend) and the percentage of partial pitch bookings (5- or 7-a-side on part of the pitch) for the Hamilton pitch in different months were:

Table 46: ATP peak occupancy rates, 1992

	Peak hours available/week	Peak occupancy rate	Peak partial bookings	Hours of partial bookings /week
February	36	87%	90%	28 hours
April	36	81%	86%	25 hours
June	36	55%	93%	18 hours
August	36	52%	91%	17 hours
October	36	84%	84%	25 hours

Source: System Three and Kit Campbell Associates, Synthetic Pitches Study, 1992

The 1992 analysis was based on pitch-hours; so, for example, a booking of one third of the pitch (the typical partial pitch booking for Hamilton, which sub-divided into three equally sized areas) for one hour counted as 0.33 pitch x 1 hour = 0.33 pitch-hour. Accordingly, the 17–28 hours of partial pitch bookings per week represented between 51 and 84 one hour bookings of a third of the pitch.

It seems clear that there has been a significant reduction in the number of partial pitch bookings in Hamilton from 1992–1999. Indeed, in 1992 there were **more** partial pitch bookings on the **single** ATP than on the two that now exist. As this period has also seen the development of the specialist 5-a-side football facilities at Power League, Fives and Champions League, this suggests that a particular impact of the creation of these 5-a-side football facilities has been to make full size ATPs much less attractive for small-sided games. There may also be other

factors, such as a growth in demand for weekday 11-a-side play on artificial surfaces. Nevertheless, where there is sufficient demand, it seems that the construction of specialist outdoor 5-a-side facilities can have a significant impact on the demand for full size artificial turf pitches for football. This is not particularly surprising for two related reasons:

- The only way of sub-dividing a full size pitch in such a way as to prevent adjacent games interfering with one another, especially when there is a strong wind along the length of the pitch, is to use netting. However, this also requires wire cables across the pitch and has implications for both staffing and 11-a-side play.
- 5-a-side football requires a rebound surface all round the pitch and this cannot easily be provided on a full size pitch.

The profile of players

In 1992, the profile of football players on full size ATPs, compared with the profile of outdoor 5-a-side players in the present study, was:

Table 47: Profile of ATP users, 1992

	Full size ATPs (1992) (N = 692)		Outdoor 5-a-side (1999) (N = 632)	
Age (years)	18 or under	21%		
	19–24	29%	Under 24	43%
	25–34	34%	25–34	34%
	35+	12%	35–44	19%
			45+	5%
Gender	Male	93%		98%
	Female	7%		2%
Social class	AB	11%		14%
	C1	24%		26%
	C2	25%		33%
	DE	10%		15%
	Not stated	31%		12%

Source: Synthetic Pitch Research (System Three and Kit Campbell Associates, 1992)

Accordingly, it seems that the profile of outdoor 5-a-side players, when compared to the 1992 profile of full size ATP users, is

- more biased towards older age groups (possibly because 5-a-side involves shorter distances to run)

- slightly more biased towards social groups C2DE.

If a significant number of former full size ATP football users have moved to become users of smaller 5-a-side facilities, however, it may be that that the profile of full size ATP users is now younger and with a higher proportion in social groups ABC1 than in 1992.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY ISSUES

Introduction

This final section summarises the main conclusions and policy issues arising from this study. They relate to:

- Planning 5-/7-a-side football facilities
- Planning sports halls
- Planning ATPs
- Maximising usage of 5-a-side facilities
- Players' perception of value for money
- Social inclusion.

Planning 5-/7-a-side football facilities

Demand

Demand can be considered as being split into three main components:

- **Satisfied demand:** that is, demand from players who wish participate and are able to do so by accessing suitable facilities.
- **Frustrated demand:** that is, demand from potential players who want to play and would use any suitably accessible and affordable facilities, but are currently unable to do so for some reason and therefore do not participate.
- **Latent demand:** that is, demand which could be generated by the provision of additional suitably located and priced facilities.

The evidence from this study is that there is a high level of **satisfied demand** and a relatively low level of **frustrated demand** in South Lanarkshire although, as noted in Chapter 5, a separate survey undertaken by South Lanarkshire Council at Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds identified a frustrated demand at that centre for around 50 5-a-side bookings per week. The Council is also of the view that some potential players have 'given up' trying to obtain a regular booking. However, some of these potential users *may* have been able to book an alternative facility, although there is no hard evidence to say whether this was indeed the case. It also assumes that the price of a more expensive facility – for example, one of the commercial centres – would have been acceptable to them.

Some will probably have sought a booking at Hamilton Palace before trying to get one at the more expensive Power League, Fives or Champions League specialist centres, for example; and some may even have been the same group trying to book more than once.

There is also evidence that some **latent demand** still exists in South Lanarkshire, although this is unlikely to be evenly spread across the whole of the local authority area but concentrated in areas where access to facilities is poorest. When South Lanarkshire Council provided a new sports hall in Forth, for example, a number of local 5-a-side groups formed and obtained regular bookings.

Frequency of participation

It is clear that 5-a-side players have high average frequencies of participation which seems to vary comparatively little with age. The average frequencies of participation for each of the identified age groups were:

- Under 24 6.38 times/4 weeks, equivalent to about 1.59 times/week
- 25–44 6.57 times/4 weeks, equivalent to about 1.64 times/week
- Over 45 5.63 times/4 weeks, equivalent to about 1.41 times/week.

Length of visit

Almost all of the visits identified in the study were for one hour, with a handful – mainly training sessions on full size ATPs – for longer. For planning purposes it will be appropriate to standardise on a one-hour length visit.

Catchment areas

The average journey times to each of the 5-a-side facilities at which players completed questionnaires, and the effective catchments (the journey time for approximately 75–80 per cent of users) was:

Table 48: Catchment areasBase: All respondents

		Average	Effective catchment
Outdoor facilities	Hamilton Palace	14.5 minutes	20 minutes
	Jock Stein Park	8.2 minutes	10 minutes
	Ballerup	13.5 minutes	15 minutes
	Power League Hamilton	16.1 minutes	20 minutes
	Champions League	11.7 minutes	15 minutes
	<i>Weighted average</i>	<i>13.5 minutes</i>	<i>16.9 minutes</i>
Indoor facilities	Jock Stein Sports Barn	8.75 minutes	15 minutes
	Fairhill CC	10.8 minutes	20 minutes
	John Wright SC	10.9 minutes	15 minutes
	Duncanrig SC	12.0 minutes	15 minutes
	Stewartfield SC	7.9 minutes	10 minutes
	<i>Weighted average</i>	<i>10.6 minutes</i>	<i>13.9 minutes</i>

There therefore seems to be some limited correlation between the amount of use of an outdoor facility and its catchment area, with the most popular outdoor facilities (Hamilton Palace and Power League) having the longest average journey times. This is less obvious in relation to the indoor facilities. The fact that average journey times for outdoor facilities are longer than for indoor suggests that many players may find outdoor facilities more attractive than indoor ones; certainly it seems likely that a significant number of outdoor players must have passed at least one indoor facility in the course of their journey to the facility they used – although possible that they were unable to book at their preferred time. There is also limited evidence to suggest that specialist 5-a-side facilities have a larger catchment than full size ATPs, at least for small-sided games.

Customer loyalty

The fact that a significant proportion of 5-a-side participants regularly use more than one venue can be interpreted in a number of ways, including:

- Particular teams or groups of players have relatively little loyalty to a particular facility and may use more than one.
- Players are simultaneously members of more than one team or 5-a-side group.
- Groups cannot always book their first choice of time or venue.

- Players may be members of teams which play other teams on a home and away basis.

This study disproves the third of these hypotheses as relatively few bookings, at any of the venues, could not be made when requested by groups. Close examination of the bookings records reveals that the same names cropped up at more than one venue and this therefore supports the first two hypotheses. As for the fourth, facility managers are of the view that most teams play at the same venue most of the time, although this study provides no evidence either supporting or contradicting their view.

There is anecdotal evidence from Power League that the opening of the Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds resulted in a noticeable loss of custom and the creation of spare capacity, presumably because some players were attracted to move by the lower charges at Hamilton Palace. This confirms that participation in South Lanarkshire has not been constrained significantly by a lack of facilities, although price might be a factor for some users at the more expensive facilities. However, it is not possible to identify from the results of this study whether the lower prices at Hamilton Palace have brought more players into the market. There is clearly an important issue for **sportscotland** here in relation to Lottery funding for public facilities close to and possibly in competition with commercial ones.

Facility requirements

In declining order of importance, the things players most want at 5-a-side facilities are:

- 1 Good lighting and a good playing surface
- 2 A convenient location
- 3 A suitably sized pitch
- 4 An easily booked facility
- 5 An affordable facility
- 6 Changing.

Interestingly, affordability comes only fifth on this list and changing sixth. Many local authorities, however, would tend to regard price as very important for a sport which successfully attracts significant numbers of players in social groups C2DE. Players, however, rated factors relating directly to their enjoyment of their game as much more important. The message to be taken from this, therefore, is that getting the playing facility right is more important than anything else. Moreover, those things which apparently make little difference to players' choice of facility are opportunities to eat and drink after a game and whether a facility is indoors or outdoors.

The question of the appropriate level of ancillary facilities is an interesting one. The main reason for the relatively low number of completed questionnaires was that many players arrived already changed and left their chosen venue immediately after playing, without either changing or socialising at it. A significant proportion did not enter any part of the ancillary accommodation at any time during their visit. Moreover, anecdotal evidence from the commercial sector facility operators is that their main 'social' income derives from functions and special tournaments rather than their regular users.

This suggests that ancillary accommodation can be fairly limited – and, in the context of public sector provision, changing may not be particularly important. Most local authorities considering the provision of 5-a-side facilities would also seek to provide changing accommodation on the basis of ten spaces for each court – although if there are several courts, booking times can be split into those 'on the hour' and those 'on the half hour' so as to minimise the total amount of changing required at any time. However, if only a relatively small proportion of players use changing accommodation, it should be possible to add some 5-a-side courts to existing sports and leisure centres without increasing the amount of changing. This clearly minimises the capital cost of providing for outdoor 5-a-side football. On the other hand, the evidence from this study is that larger, specialist facilities attract a disproportionately large market share. There are likely to be several reasons for this, including the promotion of competitive leagues, the larger size of specialist 5-a-side courts than typical multi-courts and the greater likelihood of being able to book a court when required.

There is also evidence from the parallel study of Soccer Sevens that some community-based Soccer Sevens associations use specialist facilities (for example, in West Dunbartonshire) while SFA Community Coaches are finding some of the newer artificial surfaces more acceptable for football than earlier types. This could lead to a growth in the use of artificial surfaces for small-sided football by U-12 players. Moreover, as a typical Soccer Sevens pitch is roughly twice the size of an adult 5-a-side court, there could be scope to develop a form of artificially surfaced Soccer Sevens pitch that can be sub-divided for adult 5-a-side use. As Soccer Sevens is normally concentrated into a limited number of hours each week, generally separate from the peak times for adult 5-a-side games, this could result in a cost-effective way of providing for both forms of small-sided play. This is confirmed by the fact that the dedicated 7-a-side artificial pitches at Hamilton Palace – which are reserved for players under the age of 16 – are well used.

Planning sports halls

Sport England (formerly the English Sports Council) has recently undertaken a major research study on the use of sports and leisure centres throughout England, one of the findings of which was that approximately 17 per cent of programme time in sports halls, on average, was used for 5-a-side football (Sport England, 1999). Sport 21, the strategy for Scottish sport co-ordinated by

sportscotland, has identified a need for a significant number of additional sports halls. Some of these are obviously in areas where there is no indoor hall provision, but in many urban areas there is a need either for greater access to existing halls or the construction of new ones. However, if something like a little under one fifth of all sports hall use is for 5-a-side football, the construction of outdoor 5-a-side facilities could lead to a significant reduction in the need for new halls in many areas. Accordingly the provision of a commercial 5-a-side centre could help to reduce the need for sports halls in some areas.

Planning ATPs

sportscotland currently assumes that a population of 90,000 within a 20 minute drive time will generate sufficient demand to take up all the available bookings of a full size ATP at peak times. The results of this study suggest that the provision of specialist outdoor 5-a-side football facilities may lead to a reduction in the use of existing full size ATPs for small-sided football. Accordingly, the planning of ATPs should probably take into account the availability of 5-a-side courts in the area. It may be desirable to undertake a further analysis of the booking records of those full size ATPs included in the earlier study in order to test this hypothesis.

Maximising usage of 5-a-side facilities

The evidence from this study is that the key factors in maximising usage of outdoor 5-a-side football facilities – and therefore maximising either income at 5-a-side facilities, or the impact of 5-a-side facilities in terms of making more indoor sports hall or full size ATP time available for other sports – are likely to include:

- good playing facilities and lighting which meet players' expectations
- a well-organised league programme – this encourages regular play by teams and evens out the peaks and troughs of casual demand
- providing a referee for matches.

The importance of the playing facilities emphasises the importance of good maintenance and re-investment in ensuring that playing surfaces are always in good condition.

Players' perception of value for money

Compared with many sports, 5-a-side football – especially at commercially operated facilities – is relatively expensive. The table below summarises the average cost for each element of players' participation by social group, excluding those who spent nothing. It shows that, in most categories of expenditure, those in social groups C2DE spent more on their participation than those in groups ABC1.

Table 49: Average spend on 5-a-side football participation, by social group

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	ABC1	C2DE	Difference %
Average spent on travel	£1.55	£1.74	+12.2%
Average spent on playing fees	£3.46	£3.42	-1.2%
Average spent on food at the venue	£0.63	£0.65	+3.2%
Average spent on drink at the venue	£1.39	£1.89	+36.0%
Total spent	£4.49	£4.91	+9.4%
Overall value for money rating	1.04	1.06	+0.02

The greatest difference lay in the amount spent on drinks at the venue: those in groups C2DE spent almost 36 per cent more than those in groups ABC1. In spite of this, players from groups C2DE rated value for money as marginally higher than those in groups ABC1, although the difference is not statistically significant. Players scored venues for 'value for money' on a 5-point scale from 'not at all satisfied' (score -2) to 'very satisfied' (score +2). A score of over 1.00 therefore indicates that the average view of all players was that their level of satisfaction in relation to value for money was just over 'quite satisfied'.

It is interesting to compare the amount spent on playing fees with the cost of participating in other sports, especially in view of the way in which many local authorities regard concessionary pricing schemes as essential if their facilities are to be accessible to those on low incomes. Moreover, individuals in social groups C2DE often highlight the cost of admission to local authority sports and leisure centres as a significant constraint on their use of them. Table 50 gives the normal per person adult admission charges for three public sports facilities in South Lanarkshire:

Table 50: Sports admission charges per participant in South Lanarkshire Council sports facilities, 1999/2000

	Carluk Leisure Centre	John Wright Sports Centre	Larkhall Leisure Centre
Swimming	£1.95	n/a	£1.85
Badminton – singles	£2.50/hour	£3.15/hour	£2.70/hour
Badminton – doubles	£1.25/hour	£1.60/hour	£1.35/hour
Fitness	£3.20	£3.60	£3.60

Note: Each centre also offers concessionary prices with a discount of approximately 50 per cent.

Clearly, therefore, the amount players spent on 'playing fees' was significantly higher for 5-a-side football than other activities at local authority facilities in the area. Comparison with Tables 35 and 36 above suggests that 5-a-side football is

inherently more expensive, at least in terms of playing fees, than some other sports. In spite of this, the relatively high charges do not appear to have acted as a significant deterrent to social groups C2DE. This suggests that it is not price but players' preferences and possibly their perceptions of value for money which are the key determinant of their choice of activity. Participation in 5-a-side football is clearly 'worth' much more to many individuals than at least some other sports activities. There is also anecdotal evidence from one of the commercial centres in this study that it is quite common for players to ask if they can play this week but pay next. This could have significant implications for the marketing of other activities – and ultimately the net cost of local authority facilities. The key issue for the future is perhaps not keeping prices low, in the belief that this encourages participation, so much as driving up players' enthusiasm and perception of value in order both to attract participants and be able to increase charges. This is an approach which commercial operators have been able to adopt much more successfully than public sector facility managers.

Table 51: Average spend on 5-a-side football participation, by age of players

Base: All respondents (N = 632)

	Under 24	25–44	Over 45
Average spent on travel			
Including those who spent nothing	£0.60	£0.67	£0.67
Excluding those who spent nothing	£1.87	£1.61	£1.37
Average spent on playing fees			
Including those who spent nothing	£2.92	£3.26	£2.72
Excluding those who spent nothing	£3.27	£3.42	£2.72
Average spent on food at the venue			
Including those who spent nothing	£0.11	£0.00	£0.05
Excluding those who spent nothing	£0.96	£0.00	£0.67
Average spent on drink at the venue			
Including those who spent nothing	£0.73	£0.50	£0.77
Excluding those who spent nothing	£1.62	£1.76	£2.50
Total spent			
Including those who spent nothing	£4.38	£4.56	£4.28
Excluding those who spent nothing	£4.59	£4.72	£4.51
Overall value for money rating	0.97	1.07	1.20

Note: The zero amounts for 25–44 year olds for food at the venue arise from the fact that 93 per cent of respondents in this age group spent nothing and 5 per cent didn't know what they had spent. The remaining 2 per cent spent less than £1 which, when averaged over the total number of respondents, gives £0.00.

There was relatively little variation by age in amounts paid by players and their assessment of value for money.

It is clear that the youngest players spent the second highest overall, but rated value for money lowest; while the oldest players spent least and rated value for money highest.

Social inclusion

5-a-side football appears to have a wide appeal, with the social profile of players significantly biased towards social class C2 (skilled manual workers) when compared with many other sports. In addition, there are few other sports in which the proportion of participants in the DE social groups (semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, casual workers and pensioners and widowers) is broadly comparable with the proportion of participants in the AB groups (higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional). While one third of the Scottish population is in the DE social group, it is unrealistic to use the proportion of participants in this group as an indicator of either equal opportunities or social inclusion because it includes people over retirement age. Most of these people will have been in social groups ABC1C2 before their retirement.

The final word

The popularity of 5-a-side football is well known and amply confirmed by this study. Moreover, without the specialist outdoor facilities it is clear that there would be a need for significantly more sports halls in South Lanarkshire than exist at present. As such, the specialist outdoor facilities are contributing not only to the expansion of participation in 5-a-side football but also, indirectly, to other indoor sports by reducing the competition for time and space in indoor halls. There also seems to be a clear message that many players actually prefer to play outdoors. The reasons for this are likely to include:

- The larger playing area: many indoor 5-a-side courts, taking up the equivalent of four badminton courts, are around 33 x 18 m while outdoor ones are typically around 36 x 24 m – some 45% larger. The difference is even greater with the smaller indoor courts in three badminton court halls. In Table 34 above, players' satisfaction with the size of the court they had used before being surveyed reflected its size, with the largest courts receiving the highest approval rating and the smallest the lowest.
- The more suitable playing surfaces that can be provided outdoors – with sand-filled artificial turf being the current norm. This may of course change with the creation of new artificial surfaces which more closely match the playing characteristics of natural turf.

- The fact that 11-a-side football is an outdoor game with 5-a-side being seen by a significant proportion of players as a means of practising and developing their skills.

There are perhaps two surprising findings from this research: the low level of participation in 5-a-side football by junior and women players. Junior players – at least those under the age of 12 – have their own form of the game in Soccer Sevens, which tends to be organised on Saturday or Sunday mornings. For example, the Sunday morning junior bookings of the Ballerup ATP were for organised Soccer Sevens. There is something of a presumption amongst many of those who organise Soccer Sevens that artificial surfaces can be undesirable for young players and, ideally, the Scottish Football Association would prefer all football to be played on grass – although it accepts pragmatically that this will not always be possible. In addition, young players may not find it easy to fit in further games of small-sided football at other times, and many will be dependent on parents (who may be playing 5-a-side themselves) for transport to playing facilities and this will obviously limit their availability.

The lack of women players is more difficult to explain, given the rapid growth of women's participation in the game recently, albeit from a very low base. However, there would seem to be significant potential for growth in women's 5-a-side football – a conclusion obviously shared by the commercial operators, who normally provide women's changing in their centres.

Finally, social inclusion seems to be more of a reality in 5-a-side football than many other sports – even those in which it is generally cheaper and easier to organise such as badminton. Against this, there are probably many more Scottish males with reasonably good football skills than badminton skills. Clearly the relatively high cost of 5-a-side football has not deterred at least some players with limited financial resources. For them, paying the 'going rate' for access to specialist 5-a-side football facilities is clearly preferable to using cheaper alternatives, although this might also be related either to social factors or a lack of first choice time slots in cheaper facilities. There may be a lesson here for all sports facility operators – or at least those in urban conurbations where users have a choice of facilities.

APPENDIX A: FACILITIES IN POTENTIAL STUDY AREAS

Introduction

This appendix provides a summary of the 5- and 7-a-side provision in each of the potential study areas – the City of Edinburgh, North and South Lanarkshire and West Lothian. To aid comparison, each summary uses the same format, giving details of training areas on sub-divided Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs); specialist 5- and 7-a-side courts; and indoor courts. In addition, there is an estimate of the maximum potential 5- or 7-a-side bookings each week in both the peak and off-peak periods. The calculations and assumptions on which these maximum potential capacities are based are:

- Each court, or sub-divided ATP, is available for 5- or 7-a-side use whenever open, except on Saturdays, when sub-divided ATPs are assumed to be reserved exclusively for hockey.
- Off-peak times are taken as weekdays from opening time until 1700 hours and peak periods weekdays after 1700 hours to closing time and all day on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Courts which cannot be booked (for example, unsupervised outdoor areas) are ignored.

City of Edinburgh

7- and 5-a-side provision

Note: Off-peak = weekdays from opening to 1700; peak = weekdays after 1700 and weekends

		Courts	Approximate maximum number of off-peak bookings possible per week	Approximate maximum number of peak bookings possible per week
ATP training areas				
Currie High School	Currie	3	0	102
Edinburgh University (Peffermill)	Edinburgh	3	120	123
Jack Kane Centre	Edinburgh	4	160	164
Meadowbank Sports Centre	Edinburgh	3	120	225
Saughton Sports Complex	Edinburgh	2	40	94
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>708</i>
Specialist 5-a-side courts				
Commercial outdoor facilities				
Power League, Portobello	Edinburgh	8	320	392
Power League, Bankhead Drive	Edinburgh	10	400	580
Sports and Leisure Centres				
Kirkliston Leisure Centre	Kirkliston	2	80	74
Saughton Sports Complex	Edinburgh	2	40	94
Queensferry Recreation Centre	S Queensferry	4	20	164
School Facilities				
Drummond High School	Edinburgh	1	0	16
Community Centres				
Craigroyston Community Centre	Edinburgh	1	40	40
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>28</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>1360</i>

Indoor courts

Sports/leisure centres

Academy Sports Centre	Edinburgh	1	0	45
Ainslie Park Leisure Centre	Edinburgh	2	80	88
Drumbrae Leisure Centre	Edinburgh	2	90	90
Gracemount Leisure Centre	Edinburgh	2	35	24
Jack Kane Centre	Edinburgh	2	36	26
Kirkliston Leisure Centre	Edinburgh	1	40	39
Meadowbank Sports Centre	Edinburgh	2	80	106
<i>Sub-totals</i>		12	361	418

School games halls

Queensferry High	S Queensferry	1	0	40
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Further/Higher Education

Edinburgh University Sports Centre	Edinburgh	2	80	72
Jewel and Esk College	Edinburgh	1	40	34

Summary

ATP training areas		15	440	708
Specialist outdoor 5-a-side courts		28	900	1,360
Indoor facilities		16	481	564
Totals		59	1,821	2,632

South Lanarkshire

7- and 5-a-side provision

Note: Off-peak = weekdays from opening to 1700; peak = weekdays after 1700 and weekends

		Courts	Approximate maximum number of off-peak bookings possible per week	Approximate maximum number of peak bookings possible per week
ATP training areas				
Ballerup Stadium	East Kilbride	2	70	66
Jock Stein Park	Hamilton	3	120	93
Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds	Hamilton	3	120	111
Stonelaw Sports Centre	Stonelaw	3	120	93
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>430</i>	<i>363</i>
Specialist 5-a-side courts				
Public outdoor facilities				
Blantyre Sports Centre	Blantyre	1	40	47
Hamilton Palace Grounds	Hamilton	3	120	87
St Andrew's Sports Centre	East Kilbride	2	0	48
Commercial outdoor facilities				
Fives	East Kilbride	6	240	348
Power League	Hamilton	10	400	510
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>22</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>858</i>
Indoor courts				
Sports/leisure centres				
Biggar Sports Centre	Biggar	1	0	39
Blantyre Sports Centre	Blantyre	1	40	47
Carluke Leisure Centre	Carluke	1	0	46

Duncanrig Sports Centre	East Kilbride	1	0	46
Greenhills Sports Centre	East Kilbride	1	0	24
John Wright Sports Centre	East Kilbride	2	70	112
St Andrew's Sports Centre	East Kilbride	1	0	48
Eddelwood Sports Barn	Hamilton	1	35	43
Jock Stein Sports Barn	Hamilton	1	35	43
Whitehill Sports Barn	Hamilton	1	0	32
Leisuredome	Kirkmuirhill	1	35	46
Hareleeshill Sports Barn	Larkhall	1	35	43
Larkhall Leisure Centre	Larkhall	1	40	46
Burnhill Sports Centre	Rutherglen	1	0	0
Stonelaw Sports Centre	Stonelaw	1	0	35
Strathaven Leisure Centre	Strathaven	1	0	53
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>17</i>	<i>290</i>	<i>703</i>
School games halls				
Lanark Grammar School	Lanark	1	0	15
Lesmahagow High School	Lesmahagow	1	0	15
Claremont High School	East Kilbride	1	0	15
St Bride's High School	East Kilbride	1	0	15
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>60</i>
Community education centres				
Stewartfield Community Centre	East Kilbride	1	40	51
Fairhill Community Centre	East Kilbride	1	5	35
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>86</i>
Summary				
ATP training areas		11	430	363
Specialist outdoor 5-a-side courts		22	800	1,040
Indoor facilities		23	335	849
Totals		56	1,565	2,252

North Lanarkshire

7- and 5-a-side provision

Note: Off-peak = weekdays from opening to 1700; peak = weekdays after 1700 and weekends

		Courts	Approximate maximum number of off-peak bookings possible per week	Approximate maximum number of peak bookings possible per week
ATP training areas				
Airdrie Leisure Centre	Airdrie	3	105	111
Broadwood Stadium	Cumbernauld	3	120	105
<i>Sub-totals</i>		6	225	216
Specialist 5-a-side courts				
Public outdoor facilities				
Wishaw Sports Centre	Wishaw	3	120	139
Commercial outdoor facilities				
Champions League	Coatbridge	5	175	245
Broadwood Stadium	Cumbernauld	4	160	192
<i>Sub-totals</i>		12	455	576
Indoor courts				
Sports/leisure centres				
Airdrie Leisure Centre	Airdrie	2	45	124
Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex	Bellshill	1	55	71
Columba Sports Hall	Coatbridge	1	0	69
Kirkwood Sports Barn	Coatbridge	1	55	57
Time Capsule	Coatbridge	1	45	62
Tryst Sports Centre	Cumbernauld	2	24	102
Keir Hardie Sports Barn	Holytown	1	45	57
Ian Nicolson Recreation Centre	Moodiesburn	1	11	40

Shotts Leisure Centre	Shotts	1	55	71
Birkenshaw Sports Hall	Tannochside	1	31	31
Wishaw Sports Centre	Wishaw	2	55	55
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>14</i>	<i>421</i>	<i>739</i>
School games halls				
Airdrie Academy	Airdrie	1	0	25
Caldervale High School	Airdrie	1	0	25
St Margaret's High School	Airdrie	1	0	25
Bellshill Academy	Bellshill	1	0	25
Chryston High school	Chryston	1	0	25
Coatbridge High School	Coatbridge	1	0	25
Rosehall High School	Coatbridge	1	0	25
St Ambrose High School	Coatbridge	1	0	25
St Patrick's High School	Coatbridge	1	0	25
Abronhill High School	Cumbernauld	1	0	25
Greenfaulds High School	Cumbernauld	1	0	25
Our Lady's High School	Cumbernauld	1	0	25
St Maurice's High School	Cumbernauld	1	0	25
Kilsyth Academy	Kilsyth	1	0	25
Braidhurst Sports Barn	Motherwell	1	0	20
Dalziel High School	Motherwell	1	0	20
Coltness High School	Wishaw	1	0	25
St Aiden's High School	Wishaw	1	0	5
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>420</i>
Community education centres				
Abronhill CEC	Abronhill	1	0	25
Link CEC	Cumbernauld	1	0	25
Garrell Vale CEC	Kilsyth	1	0	25
Pivot CEC	Moodiesburn	1	0	25
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>100</i>
Voluntary sector facilities				
YMCA	Bellshill	1	40	38
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>38</i>

North Lanarkshire Summary

ATP training areas	6	225	216
Specialist outdoor 5-a-side courts	12	455	576
Indoor facilities	37	461	1,297
Totals	55	1,141	2,089

West Lothian

7- and 5-a-side provision

Note: Off-peak = weekdays from opening to 1700; peak = weekdays after 1700 and weekends

		Courts	Approximate maximum number of off-peak bookings possible per week	Approximate maximum number of peak bookings possible per week
ATP training areas				
Bankton Mains	Livingston	3	120	132
Bathgate Sports Centre	Bathgate	3	120	132
Livingston Football Club	Livingston	3	120	153
St Margaret's RC Academy	Livingston	3	30	21
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>438</i>
Specialist 5-a-side courts				
Sports/leisure centres				
Broxburn Sports Centre	Broxburn	1	29	42
Craigswood Sports Centre	Livingston	1	40	44
East Calder Sports Centre	East Calder	1	40	46
Linlithgow Leisure Centre	Linlithgow	2	80	92
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>224</i>

School facilities

Inveralmond HS	Livingston	1	2	34
Whitburn Academy	Whitburn	1	40	46
<i>Sub-totals</i>		2	42	80

Community education centres

Fauldhouse CEC	Fauldhouse	1	0	20
Stoneyburn CEC	Stoneyburn	1	0	0
Whitburn CEC	Whitburn	3	0	108
<i>Sub-totals</i>		5	0	128

Commercial outdoor facilities

Livingston Football Club	Livingston	4	160	204
<i>Sub-totals</i>		4	160	204

Indoor courts**Sports and leisure centres**

Bathgate Sports Centre	Bathgate	3	120	174
Broxburn Sports Centre	Broxburn	1	29	42
Craigswood Sports Centre	Livingston	1	31	44
East Calder Sports Centre	East Calder	1	40	46
Linlithgow Sports Centre	Linlithgow	1	40	46
<i>Sub-totals</i>		7	260	352

School games halls

Broxburn Academy	Broxburn	1	0	9
Deans Community High School	Livingston	1	3	34
Inveralmond High School	Livingston	1	2	39
James Young High school	Livingston	1	0	12
St Kentigern's RC Academy	Blackburn	1	0	20
St Margaret's Academy	Livingston	1	0	22
Whitburn Academy	Whitburn	1	0	20
<i>Sub-totals</i>		7	5	156

Community education centres

Armadale CEC	Armadale	1	0	38
Blackburn CEC	Blackburn	1	35	28
Fauldhouse CEC	Fauldhouse	1	0	41
Stoneyburn CEC	Stoneyburn	1	35	26
Whitburn CEC	Whitburn	1	0	41
<i>Sub-totals</i>		5	70	174

West Lothian Summary

ATP training areas	12	390	438
Specialist outdoor courts	16	391	682
Indoor facilities	19	335	673
Totals	47	996	1,756

There are also the following unsupervised kickabout areas:

Blackridge Primary School	Blackridge	3
Craigshill	Livingston	2
Deans	Livingston	1
Football Pitch	Seafield	1
KGV Park	Whitburn	2
Lower Boghall	Bathgate	1
St Mary's RC Primary School	Polbeth	1
Uphall Boys Club	Uphall	1
West Calder Community Centre	West Calder	2
<i>Sub-totals</i>		<i>14</i>

APPENDIX B: DETAILS OF 5-A-SIDE FACILITIES IN THE SELECTED STUDY AREA

Public outdoor facilities

- **Ballerup Stadium**, East Kilbride: this full size ATP is normally divided into two areas for football practice or 7-a-side play.
- **Jock Stein Park, Hamilton**: this full size ATP is normally divided into three areas for football practice or 7-a-side play.
- **Hamilton Palace Sports Ground**: this complex, on the south-eastern edge of Hamilton with excellent motorway access, was part funded by a capital grant from the **sportscotland** Lottery Fund. The first phase – the artificially surfaced areas, with office and changing accommodation in a Portakabin building – opened in November 1998 and the second phase – a pavilion to replace the Portakabin building – in November 1999. The grass pitches opened in the first half of 1999. It is billed as ‘Scotland’s largest outdoor sports complex’ and consists of a full size floodlit artificial turf pitch which can be booked for 11-a-side football or three 7-a-side football games as well as for hockey; two floodlit artificial turf 7-a-side courts, also used for tennis; three floodlit artificial turf 5-a-side courts; two grass 7-a-side pitches; and bowling greens. The dedicated 7-a-side courts are reserved for youth football and tennis as a result of a condition of the Lottery grant. The charges for 5- and 7-a-side football are:

5-a-side (per hour)	Multi-courts	Adults £21.00
		Juniors £10.50
7-a-side (per hour)	Full size ATP	Adults £15.50
		Juniors £7.75
	7-a-side courts	Juniors £10.30

All of the facilities can be booked seven days in advance by individuals giving an address in South Lanarkshire and six days in advance for people from other areas.

- **St Andrew’s Sports Centre**, East Kilbride: this joint use (school and community) centre includes a floodlit artificial turf area approximately the size of two tennis courts.
- **Blantyre Sports Centre**: this local authority public sports centre includes a floodlit outdoor synthetic multi-court.

Commercial outdoor facilities

There are three commercial facilities in the study area:

- **Power League Soccer Centre** (formerly Pitz), Hamilton: owned and operated by Anchor International Ltd. This centre, on the north side of Hamilton, is located on the main road into the town from the north and opposite the racecourse main entrance. It consists of ten floodlit courts each approximately 36 x 24 m with a sand-filled artificial turf surface; male and female changing; and bar and function room. There are three main types of bookings: a casual or one-off booking; a 'Loyalty Card' booking; and a League game. The cost of casual bookings, including VAT, is:

Off-peak (before 1600 hours, Monday-Friday) £21.00 per court-hour

Student off-peak £13.50 per court-hour

Peak £36.25 per court-hour

Teams or groups wishing to make Loyalty Card bookings can obtain either a blue card, which is free and allows bookings to be made up to three days in advance, or a silver card which costs £36.25 per year and allows bookings to be made up to seven days in advance. Loyalty Card members undertake to play ten games over a period of not more than 20 weeks and receive either a free football for each game or a £10 bar voucher but pay normal charges. Such bookings are exempt from VAT and so the 'free' football or £10 bar voucher are actually quite expensive; over ten peak time bookings users pay a total of some £54 for them – the VAT included in ten normal peak time court fees of £36.25.

League bookings make up a major part of the use of the facilities and are arranged by the centre. They operate by teams entering a particular league and taking part in weekly matches over 14 weeks against other teams in their league. Entering a team into a league costs £15 for adults and £10 for juniors, per season. There are adult leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and junior leagues on Sundays.

All matches are refereed and Power League has a 'pool' of local referees who officiate at matches. At the end of each season Power League arranges an awards ceremony at which prizes are presented to the winning teams in each division.

As well as the above bookings, Power League also promotes occasional tournaments (for example, for teams from local supermarkets or garages); corporate packages; and children's parties.

- **Fives, East Kilbride:** Fives is located on an industrial estate in the northern part of East Kilbride and consists of four floodlit sand-filled artificial grass 5-a-side courts and two floodlit sand-filled artificial grass 7-a-side courts with changing accommodation and a bar and function room.
- **Champions League** in Coatbridge consists of five floodlit sand-filled artificial turf courts, each approximately 36 x 24 m, a fitness gym, changing and a function room and bar. The complex is located on an industrial estate to the south of Coatbridge, just off the M8 motorway.

Public indoor sports and leisure centres

The following sports and leisure centres in the study area are used for 5-a-side football:

- **Biggar Sports Centre:** this joint use centre contains a four badminton court sports hall (note: 'joint use' means that the facility is located on a school site and shared by the school and community).
- **Blantyre Sports Centre:** this public centre contains a sports hall, swimming pool and other facilities as well as a floodlit outdoor multi-court with an artificial grass surface.
- **Carlisle Leisure Centre:** this joint use centre contains a sports hall and swimming pool.
- **Duncanrig Sports Centre, East Kilbride:** this joint use centre at Duncanrig High School is available for 5-a-side football only on Monday–Friday evenings and at the weekend.
- **Greenhills Sports Centre:** this public centre contains a four badminton court sports hall.
- **John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride:** the main hall in this multi-sport centre has two 5-a-side courts. Management policy is to allow weekday evening 5-a-side bookings only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1700–2300. At the weekend, Saturdays tend to be used for tournaments and other sports but on Sundays one half of the hall is reserved for 'ball games', with 5-a-side the most popular.
- **St Andrew's Sports Centre, East Kilbride:** this joint use centre to the rear of St Andrew's High School contains a four badminton court sports hall and is adjacent to the floodlit artificial turf area above.
- **Eddelwood Sports Barn, Hamilton; Hareleeshill Sports Barn, Larkhall; Jock Stein Sports Barn, Hamilton and Whitehill Sports Barn, Hamilton:** these public facilities each consists of a three badminton court size hall with changing accommodation and a small social area. Hareleeshill is also

complemented by three tarmac multi-courts intended for 5-a-side football and other sports but they have been neglected and vandalised and as a result are not used.

- **Leisuredome**, Kirkmuirhill: this facility consists of a four badminton court hall in a framed fabric structure, complemented by a fitness gym and changing accommodation.
- **Larkhall Leisure Centre**: this major public centre includes a four badminton court sports hall as well as a pool and other facilities.
- **Stonelaw Sports Centre**: this joint use centre has a four badminton court sports hall, fitness gym and dance studio.
- **Strathaven Leisure Centre**: this joint use centre contains a four badminton court sports hall and swimming pool (part funded by a **sportscotland** Lottery award).

School games halls

Although school halls in South Lanarkshire cannot officially be booked for 5-a-side football, a number of school halls are used regularly by football groups (mainly junior ones) for 'training'. This may include 5-a-side play. They are:

Name of School	Indoor football bookings/week
Blacklaw Primary	Claremont AFC
Cairns Primary	Halfway Colts FC
Chatelherault Primary	School Board
Halfmerk Primary	Calderwood Blue Star FC
Maxwelton Primary	East Kilbride Boys Club
St Anthony's Primary	Cathkin United FC
	Dunfermline Boys Club
St Blanes	Blantyre Boys Club
St Brides	St Brides football team
St Columkille's	St Columkille's football team
St Hilary	St Hilary's FC
St Joseph's	Blantyre Boys Club
	Newcastle Boys Club
Townhill Primary	Earnock Under 10s
	Earnock Under 13s

Wester Overton Primary	Paddock Football Club
Blantyre High	Blantyre Cally Thistle FC
	Newcastle Boys Club
	Blantyre Thistle FC
	T-Crew Boys Club
Cathkin High	AFC Celtic
	Hoover FC
	Brackme Boys Club
	Legate AFC
	Cambuslang Boys Club
	Cambuslang College
	Rutherglen Rovers (3 bookings)
Hunter High	Ba Ka Football Club
St Brides High	Calderwood Blue Star
Trinity High	Wolves Boys Club
	Clyde Boys Club
	Kings Park FC
	St Ronans FC
Uddingston Grammar	North Lanark Boys Club
	Uddingston Grammar School FC
	Uddingston United Boys Club (2 bookings)
	Aston Villa FC (3 bookings)
	Anvil AFC
	Lanarkshire Soccer Sevens
Earnock High	Hamilton Accies Ladies FC
Hamilton Grammar	Hamilton Boys Club (2 bookings)
Holy Cross High	Dundee United FC
	Staff
	Hamilton Boys Club
	Holy Cross Parents Association FC
Lanark Grammar	Kirkfield United FC
	Crown 5-a-side
	Girls Football (2 bookings)

	M Stoddart
	Woodpecker Football Club
	Kildare FC
Larkhall Academy	Royal Albert FC
Lesmahagow High	Lesmahagow Farmers
	M Stoddart
	Lesmahagow Juniors FC
Total	63 bookings/week

Source: South Lanarkshire Council, Community Resources Department

Of these bookings, most are school groups, boys clubs or youth teams and not more than about five or six are likely to be 5-a-side bookings.

Community centres

- **Fairhill Community Centre**, Hamilton: this centre contains a three badminton court hall which is used for 5-a-side and other sports and social activities.
- **Stewartfield Community Centre**, East Kilbride: this centre contains a three badminton court hall which is used for 5-a-side and other sports and social activities.

APPENDIX C: BOOKINGS RECORD FORM

Introduction

This appendix consists of an example of the form used to record bookings requests. A similar form was used at each of the centres.

The booking form is not available in the electronic version of the report but is available in the hard copy or as a photocopy from sportscotland publications department.

APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF BOOKINGS RECORDS

The summary of bookings records is not available in the electronic version of the report but is contained in the hard copy or is available as a photocopy from the sportscotland publications department.

Introduction

This appendix consists of a summary of the results of the bookings analysis. It gives details of the average number of bookings of each facility on weekday evenings from 1600 hours to closing time; and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. Based on this information, it also provides details of the proportion of bookings in each of these periods by facility type.

There were almost no bookings at any of the facilities at off-peak times outside these periods.

Appendix E: Players' Questionnaire

The questionnaire is available here

Introduction

Please click below for an example of the questionnaire used for the survey of players.

<http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/pdfdocuments/5asidequestionnaire.pdf>

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