

**Hall Sports:  
Participation and Use of Facilities**

Research Report no. 72

A report for the Scottish Sports Council

by

System Three

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# SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND AND METHOD

## Introduction

Over the years the Scottish Sports Council has commissioned a range of surveys on the use of sports facilities. The survey results have helped to develop information resources and also aid the planning process, a key element of the Council's facilities planning model. To date, the Council's planning work on hall sports has been based on previous studies of sports centres. This has proved to be inadequate, partly because the information has not been current but mainly because provision for hall sports in other types of facilities, such as educational establishments and community halls, has not been included.

To fill this gap, the Council commissioned a study which requested current information on the levels of participation in hall sports and on the main types of facilities used for hall sports. The main objectives of this study carried out by System Three were:

- to provide information to allow the Council to calibrate its facilities planning model for hall sports;
- to understand current patterns of provision for, and participation in, these activities; and
- to gauge public demand for different types of hall sports.

The study was conducted in 1993/94 in what was Tayside Region and included the local authority districts of Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Angus. Tayside was chosen as its mix of city, towns and rural areas provided a reasonable representation of Scotland as a whole.

For the purposes of this study, hall sports included the following activities when practised indoors:

archery	martial arts
badminton	movement and exercise (including dance)
basketball	netball
boxing	roller skating
fencing	short mat bowling
fitness and exercise	table tennis
five-a-side football	tennis
gymnastics	trampolining
handball	volleyball
hockey	weightlifting
judo	wrestling

The study did not include specialised or purpose-built facilities such as tenpin bowling centres, squash courts, ice rinks or indoor tennis centres.

The study comprised the following surveys which are detailed below:

- Users of hall sports facilities
- Households
- Clubs
- Facilities

## **Survey of Users of Hall Sports Facilities**

### **Sampling Points**

The survey of users was conducted at eleven hall sports facilities in Tayside, chosen to reflect the 'mix' of different types of facilities available for hall sports throughout the region:

*Sports Centres:* Gannochy Sports Trust Complex, Perth  
Lynch Sports Centre, Dundee  
Douglas Sports Centre, Dundee  
Atholl Leisure Centre, Pitlochry  
Arbroath High School Sports Complex

*Schools:* Perth Academy  
Harris Academy, Dundee  
Pitlochry High School  
Websters High School, Kirriemuir

*Community Education Centres:* Ardler Community Centre, Dundee  
Menziesshill Community Centre, Dundee

At the outset of this survey, visits were made to each location to establish the facilities available for hall sports and to obtain an indication of the numbers using each centre.

There were, not surprisingly, considerable variations in the facilities available for hall sports at each of the centres, as outlined below.

### **Gannochy Trust Sports Complex**

This was one of the largest centres included in the study, it featured a main domed arena (housing 17 badminton courts) and a multi-purpose coaching hall (with six badminton courts) as well as a dance studio and weights room. The sports centre was used extensively by schools during the day, with casual use in the evenings. A number of local clubs also used the facilities, particularly during the winter months,

although those with closed membership were not allowed to hire the centre's facilities. Clubs such as football and badminton were not allowed exclusive access as this would stop others from making use of the centre. Weekend use of the centre was largely for major events and/or competitions.

### **Lynch Sports Centre**

This centre had two sports halls; the use of which was a mixture of block bookings and casual users. A few of the local schools also used the facilities during the day.

### **Douglas Sports Centre**

This sports centre had one main sports hall, as well as a dance studio and a weights/fitness room. Once again, use was a mixture of casual and block bookings, particularly for five-a-side football and badminton, although there were other uses such as coaching classes for primary schoolchildren and an indoor hockey league. The dance studio was used mainly for aerobics classes (around 14 classes of 20-25 people per week), whilst the weights room attracted around 650 users each week. Generally the sports centre, like some of the others, was busiest after 5 pm.

### **Atholl Leisure Centre**

Atholl Leisure Centre had one sports hall, although some use was also made of the town hall for exercise classes. A varied programme of sports was available and the hall was available for casual use outwith the programme. The programme concentrated on evening activities, the busiest time for the centre which, as its management stated, was very quiet during the day although some of the evening activities were not well attended. School use of the centre appeared to be limited.

### **Arbroath High School Sports Complex**

Although on the same site as, and physically linked to, the secondary school, the complex was a free-standing building with its own management. It comprised both wet and dry facilities with a 25-metre swimming pool with separate baby pool, a large sports hall (six badminton courts size), a smaller gymnasium (one badminton court size), squash courts, a fitness room and sunbeds.

Arbroath, like some of the other centres, had general objectives for its programming:

- to develop a flexible programme of use which offered a wide range of instruction in a number of activities;
- to promote a selection of activities for children during school holiday periods;
- to establish recreational and competitive activities via club bookings within the centre programme;
- to cater, wherever possible, for all age groups and abilities; and
- to cater for special events and competitions.

### **Perth Academy**

Perth Academy had two halls available for hall sports, the games hall (four badminton courts size) and a purpose-built gym (two badminton courts) plus a dining room also used as a gym (two badminton courts). The games hall and the gym were used by clubs on all weekday evenings (except Monday in the case of the gym), with use of the facilities being infrequent at weekends.

### **Harris Academy**

Harris Academy had two gyms (boys and girls) plus an assembly hall which doubled up as a gym. The school's facilities were available to clubs and other groups or organisations, with 15 or more persons attending each session. The school's facilities were used from Monday to Thursday inclusive. The boys' gym was used on each of these evenings; whilst the girls' gym was not in use on Tuesday and use of the assembly hall in the evenings was limited to just two sessions per week.

### **Pitlochry High School**

Facilities at Pitlochry High School were limited to a gym - used for sports training but too small to play, for example, indoor hockey or football - and a multi-purpose hall which was smaller than the gym but could be used as an exercise area. Little use was made of these facilities outwith the school curriculum except for a golf class and a gymnastics club one evening a week.

### **Websters High School**

Though attached to the local secondary school, this operated as a public leisure facility. It comprised both wet and dry facilities; with a 20-metre swimming pool, a portable squash court, a games hall (six badminton courts size), an old school gymnasium and a fitness room.

### **Ardler Community Centre**

With a main sports hall (three badminton courts size), a smaller hall and a weights room/gym; the centre offered a varied programme of activities and sports largely confined to the Monday to Friday period. Generally, the programme tended to concentrate on evening activities. Outwith the programme, casual use of the facilities was available and there were a few private lets. Overall use was variable, as the main hall was available for casual use during the day and some evenings.

### **Menzieshill Community Centre**

The centre had a main sports hall (four badminton courts size), the Grampian Lounge which, with its wooden floor, was used for aerobics, and another room used for dance. This centre also offered a varied programme of activities and events, mainly confined to during the week (Monday-Friday), although not all related to sport. Use for hall sports again tended to be concentrated in the evenings, with programmed activities or use by clubs, and some classes during the day.

## Throughput

The ability to provide details of throughput varied from centre to centre according to its booking system and/or methods of recording the numbers using the facility. Considerable difficulty was encountered in obtaining such information for most of the centres involved in the study.

Although the sports centres in Dundee stated that they were required by the Leisure and Recreation Department of the district council to fill in a weekly return about use of the centre, copies of the form did not appear to be kept by the centres. Whilst the Gannochy Sports Trust had a sophisticated computer system linked to its cash register, the Atholl Leisure Centre calculated its throughput from the cash book. Lets of the school facilities were dealt with by the Department of Education and appeared to require minimal involvement from the schools themselves which meant there were no records of the numbers attending each session. One school reported that there was a requirement to keep a record of the numbers attending, although this appeared to be the responsibility of the janitor on duty in the evenings.

In order to illustrate the differences between the centres in terms of throughput; Table 1 details the number of users of the centres during 1993 as provided by the centres. The figures provided are totals and relate to all activities and not just hall sports.

**Table 1: Throughput figures for the sample facilities**

<b>Centre</b>	<b>No. of Users</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Gannochy Trust Sports Complex	61,404	For 22 Sept 93 to 31 March 94 only
Lynch Sports Centre	70,039	36,587 for hall sports
Douglas Sports Centre	95,390	52,851 for hall sports
Atholl Leisure Centre	16,000	
Arbroath HS Sports Complex	46,889	Total for 'dry side' facilities; 37,977 for hall sports
Perth Academy	n/a	
Harris Academy	5,880	Based on club membership, not actual numbers attending sessions
Pitlochry High School	n/a	
Websters High School	36,244	
Ardler Community Centre	15,297	4,371 excluding weights
Menziesshill Community Centre	48,200	40-week year, based on estimates for one week



## Methodology

As the winter months are the main season for hall sports, the survey was confined to this period. In an attempt to assess any changes in use of facilities and participation patterns, two phases of fieldwork were undertaken. The first was completed before the Christmas holidays in December; and the second in February, once the patterns of use had returned to normal after the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

Due to the mix of facilities included in the research programme and hence their different nature and extent of use, personal interviews were supplemented by the distribution of self-completion questionnaires. Where possible, the interviews were conducted with a random sample of users as they left the facility at the end of their visit. When participants in one class or session left together, self-completion questionnaires were handed out and collected by an interviewer. The mix of interviews and self-completion questionnaires varied at each facility.

During the first phase of this survey (conducted between 24 November and 11 December 1993) a total of 1,019 interviews and questionnaires were completed. The second phase (from 10 to 28 February 1994) produced 710 completed interviews and questionnaires. Although the second phase replicated, as far as possible, the first survey, the sample size was reduced. This was due to factors including the refusal of some users to take part in the survey for a second time and the poor weather experienced at this time. The number of interviews and completed questionnaires obtained during both phases of fieldwork are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Facility interviews obtained**

	Phase 1			Phase 2		
	Face to face	Self completion	Total	Face to face	Self completion	Total
Gannochy Trust SC	86	25	111	60	53	113
Lynch SC	92	77	169	77	119	196
Douglas SC	96	98	194	80	27	107
Arbroath HS	60	59	119	37	33	70
Atholl LC	-	97	97	14	21	35
Perth Academy	-	53	53	-	37	37
Harris Academy	-	68	68	-	47	47
Websters HS	54	-	54	7	35	42
Ardler CC	-	92	92	5	32	37
Menziesshill CC	-	62	62	7	19	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>710</b>

At the analysis stage, the data were weighted by the total number of users at each of the facilities during each of the survey periods.

## Household Survey

In order to establish the levels of participation in sport in general and hall sports in particular, a survey of households in Tayside was conducted. During the period 10 February to 6 March 1994, a total of 1,827 interviews were conducted in households throughout the region.

The sample was structured to reflect the distribution of households within the region and the composition of each household. Interviews were conducted with those aged ten and over who were present when the interviewer called. Quotas on age and sex were also imposed and at the analysis stage the data were weighted by these demographic variables in line with the population profile for the region.

The sample, in terms of the target and actual number of households and the number of interviews conducted, is detailed in Table 3:

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**Table 3: Household interviews obtained**

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Area	Target no. of Households	Actual no. of Households	No. of Interviews
Dundee	500	510	702
Pitlochry	100	108	210
Kirriemuir	150	155	263
Perth	250	256	430
Arbroath	150	154	222
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,827</b>

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## Survey of Clubs

To complete the picture of use of hall sports facilities in Tayside, a survey of sports clubs in the region was conducted. The Scottish Sports Council provided a list of known clubs in the area which was initially sorted into those involved in hall sports and others whose interests lay outwith these activities. In advance of the main survey, letters were sent to a representative of each club.

An attempt was made by telephone to contact the 276 clubs listed. During 28 February to 26 April 1994, 168 interviews were completed with representatives of

clubs which featured at least one hall sport. This survey had a response rate of 61 per cent. Reasons for failing to contact the remainder included: no reply or the named contact being unavailable after four attempts; telephone numbers being ex-directory or unobtainable from directory enquiries; and clubs which had closed down or disbanded.

## **Survey of Facilities**

In an attempt to assess the supply of facilities for hall sports, a survey of those available in Tayside Region was undertaken. A list was provided by the Scottish Sports Council and a further 45 facilities were identified during the other surveys. Visits were made to 23 larger facilities, including those used as sampling points in the user survey. Interviews were conducted with the manager or another appropriate member of staff, whilst the other facilities were contacted by telephone.

An attempt was made to contact 218 facilities listed and during the period 25 February to 26 April 1994 interviews were completed with 152 (a response rate of 70%). The reasons for not being able to make contact with some of the facilities were similar to those for the sports clubs: telephone numbers were unobtainable from directory enquiries; halls had closed down or were inappropriate for this survey; and no reply to the telephone number given.

## **PARTICIPATION IN HALL SPORTS**

This section highlights the main findings from an analysis of the household and hall sport facility user surveys.

### **Participation in Sport**

To set the context, information was obtained from respondents in both surveys about their participation in sport and physical recreation in general.

#### **General Public**

##### **Other Sports**

From those questioned in the household survey, 69 per cent stated that they had taken part in a range of non-hall sports and physical recreations in the last 12 months. When the popular pastimes of walking, dancing, snooker, billiards and pool were excluded, this figure decreased to 59 per cent. Male participation (68%) was significantly higher than female participation (51%) with age and social class also important discriminating variables.

- Participation decreased with age, being 95 per cent amongst those under 15 years old compared to 35 per cent of those aged over 55
- Participation decreased across the social spectrum with 78 per cent of ABs involved compared to 41 per cent of those in groups D and E

##### **Hall Sports**

Of household survey respondents, 38 per cent stated that they had taken part in hall sports during the last 12 months. Although the age differential varied slightly to 94 per cent of those aged under 15 compared to 18 per cent over 55. The gender variations were less significant with 41 per cent of males involved compared to 36 per cent of females. This improved level of participation amongst women reflected the fact that the fitness activities offered were regarded as the most popular hall sports at 15 per cent overall (21 per cent for women and 9 per cent for men).

#### **Users of Hall Sports Facilities**

##### **Other Sports**

Amongst the users of indoor facilities, sport participation levels (including non-hall sports) were significantly higher. Of those surveyed, 92 per cent had taken part in at least one non-hall sport in the last 12 months. When walking, dancing and snooker/billiards/pool were excluded, the figure dropped by only one per cent.

The influences of gender, age and social class were less important among this sample of users. Female participation in non-hall sports was 90 per cent, compared to 94 per cent for males, and there were no significant variations regarding age. Similarly, the variation in participation by social class was barely significant registering 96 per cent

for groups A and B and 87 per cent for groups D and E.

Factors such as age, sex and, to a lesser extent, social class are key variables in determining the likelihood of participation in sport generally and in a range of individual sports, but are clearly irrelevant in characterising whether those who already take part in hall sports also take part in any other sports.

### Main Sports

Among the users of the indoor sports facilities, a wide variety of activities were identified as their main sports. The most popular are listed in Table 4.

**Table 4: Most popular sports played by users of hall sports facilities**

	Percentage of hall sport facility users
Football (11-a-side)	11
Football (five-a-side)(indoor)	10
Fitness activities	9
Badminton	9
Weight training	6
Martial arts	6
Golf	5
Swimming	4
Football (five-a-side)(outdoor)	4
Hockey	3
Athletics	3

Sample number: 1,241

As expected there were significant gender and, in some instances, age differences within this group. Football, weight training and golf were male-orientated whilst badminton, fitness activities, swimming and hockey were more popular with females. Participation in 11-a-side football was weighted towards the under 25 age groups, whilst indoor five-a-side was more likely to be mentioned by those aged 25 and over. The latter age group, albeit primarily women, were the most likely to mention fitness activities.

Amongst those surveyed using indoor sports facilities, there was a marked bias towards males (63%). In comparison, participation rates derived from the household survey indicated that there was no significant gender difference, in terms of participation, within either the last four weeks or 12 months. This would suggest a higher frequency of participation by males in these activities.

In terms of age and social class, Table 5 presents the profiles of users and participants in hall sports from the household survey, based on those who had taken part in the previous 12 months.

**Table 5: Age and social class profile of hall sports participants**

	User survey	Household survey
Age group	Percentage of respondents	
Under 15	18	16
15 to 24	30	25
25 to 34	28	19
35 to 54	20	24
55 and over	4	16
Social group	Percentage of respondents	
AB	19	15
C1	31	30
C2	28	26
DE	15	28
Sample number	1,241	692

Note: 7 per cent of the user survey sample refused to provide adequate details to allow a definition of their social class

This general similarity in demographic profile would suggest that participation in hall sports was characterised as follows:

- just under half the participants were aged under 25 years with a similar proportion aged 25 to 54 years
- around half were in the non-manual social classes (ABC1s)

Reflecting the age group of participants, 52 per cent of users had children living in their household. Their working status is described in Table 6.

Three-quarters of the users did not have any further education qualifications while 13 per cent stated that they had at least one degree. In terms of access to private transport, 47 per cent of users stated that they owned a car and 22 per cent that they had regular access to a car.

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**Table 6: Working status of users of hall sports facilities**

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	Percentage of users
Full time	51
Part time	8
Retired	3
Unemployed	3
Housewife (no work the outside home)	3
Full-time education	30

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Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

## Use of Hall Sports Facilities

### Sports Participation

Although a wide variety of individual activities were mentioned by the facility users when asked which activities they had undertaken on the day of interview, much of this participation was restricted to a handful of the more popular sports (see Table 7). This pattern reflected, to a considerable extent, the programming of activities at the various facilities. In addition, badminton accounted for almost 60 per cent of the use of school facilities with a commensurate decrease in the importance of the other main activities. There was little difference in the pattern of use of sports centres and community centres for these main activities.

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**Table 7: Main sports participated in at hall sports facilities**

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	Percentage of users
Four or five-a-side football	27
Badminton	21
Fitness activities	16
Weightlifting	12
Martial arts	8

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Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

Those surveyed were also asked which (if any) other activities they had taken part in during the previous four weeks. Just under 40 per cent stated that they had undertaken another activity at that facility (see Table 8).

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**Table 8: Other activities participated in at hall sports facilities**

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	Percentage of users
Badminton	11
Fitness activities	10
Four or five-a-side football	8
Basketball	7
Weightlifting	6

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Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

Three sports were dominant, in terms of overall use, in the four weeks prior to the interview with at least a quarter of all users taking part in four or five-a-side football (35%), badminton (32%) and fitness activities (25%).

While football was male-dominated and more females took part in fitness activities, badminton was more evenly split between the two sexes with a slight bias towards females. Badminton was the only one of these three activities with a noticeable swing in terms of social class, with a declining rate of participation amongst the manual occupations.

Turning to the sample of respondents in the household survey, 26 per cent stated that they had taken part in at least one hall sport or physical recreation in the previous four weeks. On average, each participant had joined in just under two activities in this period. The main activities, similar to those outlined above from the users' survey, were:

- fitness activities (9%)
- badminton (6%)
- four or five-a-side football (6%)
- basketball (5%)
- multi-gym/weightlifting (4%)

Over the last 12 months, 38 per cent of household survey respondents stated that they had undertaken a hall sport with the pattern of activities similar to that above.

## Frequency of Participation in Hall Sports

From information obtained from both the users' survey and the household survey, it would appear that the average frequency of participation in individual hall sports in a four-week period was four or five times. Table 9 illustrates the distribution of frequency of participation in the previous four weeks.



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**Table 9: Frequency of participation in hall sports\***

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	Household survey	User survey
	Percentage of users	
Once	12	17
Two to three times	15	23
Four times	32	35
Five to eight times	19	16
More than eight times	11	9

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Sample number: 1,241

\* In last four weeks

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

There appeared to be little variation in frequency by individual sport, with only the various fitness activities (including weightlifting) more likely to have an above average participation rate of around six times in the four-week period.

Three-quarters of users stated that they were able to play their hall sport(s) as often as they liked, while 22 per cent stated that they were not able to do so, with tennis and badminton cited as the culprits in this context. However, personal barriers such as no time or other commitments, were just as likely to be the reasons for their failure to play as availability of facilities.

## Membership of a Club for Hall Sports

With regard to the various hall sports undertaken by individuals in the four weeks prior to the interview, 32 per cent of users stated that they were members of a club for that activity. In contrast, 24 per cent of household survey participants in hall sports stated that they were members of a club. Activities for which those surveyed were more likely to be members included athletics, hockey, martial arts and volleyball.

## Type of Facility Used for Hall Sports

It is evident from the two surveys that participation in the various hall sports is concentrated into two main types of facilities, namely; sports/leisure centres and educational establishments. On the basis of those respondents in the household survey who had taken part in hall sports in the previous four weeks, around 35 to 40 per cent of this activity had taken place in both sports/leisure centres and in educational establishments. The exact percentage is dependent, to a considerable extent, on how establishments such as Websters High School and Arbroath High School are defined. Church halls represent the other facility used for hall sports to any extent (8%).

The main reasons for using particular halls for individual sports (excluding curriculum sessions organised by schools) included; convenience; being a member of the club or playing matches there; having the best facilities or it being the only one available. The cost of the facility appeared to be of secondary importance to the majority of participants.

Of those household survey respondents who had taken part in hall sports in the previous four weeks, 42 per cent stated that the latest occasion had been a casual session. For 22 per cent, their last session was with a club/association or team while 11 per cent reported that it was a coaching session; 6 per cent were part of a community education class and 17 per cent had joined in some other type of class.

## Catchment Area of Facilities

One measurement of a facility's catchment area is the time taken to travel to the location. Table 10 illustrates the overall journey time for the users of the various facilities.

**Table 10: Travel time to hall sports facilities**

	Percentage of users
Five minutes or less	24
Six to ten minutes	24
11 to 15 minutes	22
16 to 20 minutes	9
21 to 30 minutes	13
Over 30 minutes	7

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

The overall mean was just over 20 minutes though the mode of travel had some influence on this figure. For those who travelled by private transport it was 20 minutes compared to 29 minutes for those using public transport. Travel time varied depending on the type of facility; with sports/leisure centres clocking up 21 minutes; educational establishments at 17 minutes and community centres rating 14 minutes.

The vast majority of facility users (81%) travelled directly from their home with a further 4 per cent coming from a friend's home; 9 per cent going directly from work and 2 per cent from school or college. Similarly, the majority (77%) were planning to travel straight home after their session at the facility with a further 6 per cent intending to go to a friend's home. A minority were planning to go to a pub/cafe (7%) or to the shops (4%) on leaving the facility.

Three-quarters of users travelled there by car; 47 per cent as drivers and 28 per cent as passengers. Travel by car was particularly important for those aged 25 years and over. Overall, 16 per cent walked all the way to the facility, including 27 per cent of those aged under 15 years. Public bus was also relatively important for this younger age group with 5 per cent overall but double that for those under 15.

In terms of distance travelled, the overall mean was just under four miles. However, as is evident from Table 11, almost 60 per cent of users travelled two miles or less to the facility.

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**Table 11: Distance travelled to hall sports facilities**

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	Percentage of users
One mile	34
Two miles	23
Three miles	15
Four to five miles	12
Six to nine miles	5
Ten miles or more	9

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Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

The variation by facility was relatively limited, ranging from just under two miles for Menzieshill Community Centre to just over five miles for Harris Academy.

## Users of Hall Sports Facilities

### Characteristics of a Visit

While 44 per cent of users travelled to the facility on their own, a further 26 per cent were accompanied by one other person. Not surprisingly, those participants aged under 15 were more likely to travel with at least one other person. Around a fifth of users were accompanied on their journey by someone who did not enter the facility, a figure which increased to around 40 per cent amongst those aged under 15 years.

Of those users who were accompanied to the facility, 16 per cent stated that their companion(s) took part in different activities from them. This was more likely to be the case where adults had brought children aged under 15 years.

The average size of each party was 2.9 persons and Table 12 outlines the proportion of adults to children.

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**Table 12: Composition of groups using the facilities**

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<b>Number</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
Percentage of respondents		
One	43	13
Two	17	6
Three	6	2
Four	6	2
Five or over	13	*
None	14	75

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Sample number: 1,241

\* less than 0.5%

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

It would appear that educational establishments differed from the other facilities with an average party size of nearer six as opposed to between two and three for sports centres and community centres. The main combinations of party members are shown in Table 13.

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**Table 13: Combinations of party members**

---

	Percentage of users
One adult, no children	38
Three or more adults, no children	23
Two adults, no children	15
One child, no adults	7
Two or more children, no adults	6

---

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

The vast majority of users (93%) revealed that they had been at the facility to play a particular sport as opposed to coaching (4%) or officiating (1%). In this context, the breakdown of the type of activity is set out in Table 14.

---

**Table 14: Type of activity undertaken**

---

	Percentage of users
Casual session	38
Club/association	18
Team	11
Coaching session	8
Community education class	2
Some other type of class	4

---

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

This pattern was fairly consistent across the different types of users, with the following exceptions:

- those aged under 15 years were just as likely to be with a club/association as at a casual session
- club members were just as likely to be attending a casual session as their club
- those attending school facilities were more likely to be with a team or a club/association than at a casual session

It would appear that the facilities were used equally each day (see Table 15) with the exception of schools where, almost exclusively, activities were confined to weekdays, particularly from Monday to Thursday.

---

**Table 15: Days user normally attends facility**

---

	Percentage of users
Monday	27
Tuesday	34
Wednesday	29
Thursday	34
Friday	21
Saturday	14
Sunday	20

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

## Expenditure at the Facility

Table 16 outlines average user expenditure on various items within the facility. The mean amount presented **excludes** those users who claimed to spend nothing on that particular category.

**Table 16: User expenditure at the facility**

Category	Mean amount (£) *	Percentage of users who spent nothing
Entrance/booking fee	1.29	27
Fee for activity	1.60	71
Hire of equipment	1.07	96
Purchase of equipment	1.07	99
Locker hire (non-returnable)	0.19	96
Food and drink	0.65	71
Other items	2.35	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>9</b>

\* the mean is only of users who spent anything on that category

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

As is evident from the table above the admission fee and, to a lesser extent, the cost of taking part in the activity along with food and drink bought at the facility, represent the main items of expenditure. Excluding entrance fees the mean amount spent decreases to £1.38 with 47 per cent of users spending nothing at the facility.

## Choice of the Facility

Most of those surveyed were established participants with 80 per cent having used their facility for over a year (see Table 17). (This analysis was based on those respondents interviewed directly and excluded those who returned the self-completion questionnaire).

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**Table 17: When first started using the facility**

---

	Percentage of users
Within the last 12 months	20
One to two years ago	21
Three to five years ago	28
Six to ten years ago	18
More than ten years ago	10

---

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

Those surveyed who had begun to use the establishment within the last six months (sample: 828) cited a variety of reasons for choosing their particular facility including the start of a club or class (21%); to keep/get fit or lose weight (19%); accompanying friends (18%); convenience (13%) or that it was cheap (7%).

## Quality and Value for Money of the Facility

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**Table 18: Users' views on quality of the facility**

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	Percentage of users
Very good	53
Quite good	40
Neither good nor poor	3
Quite poor	3
Very poor	1

---

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

Overall, the quality of the facilities was rated highly (see Table 18). Of the three types of facilities surveyed, educational establishments attracted the lowest rating, although 49 per cent still rated them as very good and 37 per cent as quite good. It would appear that criticisms of the quality of the facility were related to problems with the building or with the equipment.

In a similar vein, value for money revealed an equally high level of satisfaction (Table 19). Here, educational establishments received the highest ratings. Sports centres, however, were criticised for being too expensive by a minority of younger users.

**Table 19: Users' views on value for money**

	Percentage of users
Very good	56
Quite good	33
Neither good nor poor	6
Quite poor	2
Very poor	1

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

## Recent Trends in Hall Sports

Amongst those respondents in the household survey who had undertaken a hall sport in the previous four weeks, around a third (32%) claimed that they were taking part in hall sports more often now than 12 months ago. The majority (55%) stated that there was no significant difference in their participation and 11 per cent revealed that they were taking part in hall sports less often now than 12 months ago. Main reasons for the increased participation included having taken up/restarted an activity (22%); it being part of the school curriculum (14%); wanting to get fit (12%); having more time available (10%) or previous lack of access (9%).

Work commitments and a general lack of time were the two main reasons for taking part in hall sports less often than 12 months ago.

Numerous explanations were given by those who said that they had not taken part in hall sports in the previous four weeks (sample 1,348) including: lack of time (31%); disinterest in sport (26%); viewing themselves as too old (15%); and ill health (14%). A minority (3%) stated that their lack of participation was due to the absence of suitable local facilities.

When asked to expand on their reasons, those who said that they had no time to take part in hall sports cited the fact that they worked long hours (52%); had family commitments (37%); or claimed they had other hobbies or interests (24%).

Of those who had not taken part in hall sports over the last 12 months (sample 1,126), 39 per cent revealed that they had, however, participated previously (sample 436) in pursuits such as badminton (36%), fitness activities (29%), table tennis (22%), four or five-a-side football (20%), netball (18%), indoor hockey (10%) and basketball (10%).



Their reasons for giving up hall sports included leaving school (19%), getting too old (15%); disinterest/dislike (11%); ill health or injury (11%); work (8%) or family commitments (7%). Once more, a minority of respondents mentioned the absence of facilities as a reason for stopping.

Respondents were then asked on their likelihood of taking up a hall sport in the future, the results of which can be seen in Table 20.

---

**Table 20: Likelihood of taking up hall sports in the future**

---

	Percentage of respondents
Very likely	4
Quite likely	17
Not very likely	24
Not at all likely	51

---

Sample number: 1,241

Source: *Hall Sport Facility User Survey*

Most interest was expressed by those who had played hall sports previously, but had not taken part in the last 12 months (49%). Similarly, those who currently take part in the activities but are not members of a club stated that they would be likely to do so (40%). Favoured pursuits for being taken up included fitness activities (34%), badminton (19%) and multi-gym/weight training (13%).

The survey showed that the primary purpose of taking up one of the hall sports was to keep fit (28%) or because the individual was attracted to the sport (18%).

## CLUBS AND FACILITIES FOR HALL SPORTS

### Sports Clubs

A total of thirty different sports and physical recreations emerged as main activities and Table 21 shows the most popular sports, by the number of clubs playing them.

**Table 21: Most popular activities in sports clubs**

	Number of clubs
Football	20
Table tennis	20
Badminton	18
Gymnastics	13
Hockey	12
Basketball	11
Volleyball	9
Boxing	8
Karate	8
Tea/social dancing	6

A breakdown of the sports played indoors by these clubs appears in Table 22 which highlights the favourites, as shown by the percentage of clubs which had them on offer.

**Table 22: Most popular indoor sports in clubs**

	Percentage of clubs
Table tennis	15
Football	14
Badminton	13
Fitness activities	10
Basketball	8
Gymnastics	8
Hockey	7
Tennis/short tennis	7
Volleyball	6
Boxing	5

Altogether 99 halls were used regularly by these clubs during the winter, with the majority used by a single club. The distribution, by type of facility, is seen in Table 23.

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**Table 23: Types of facility used by clubs**

---

	Percentage of clubs
Sports/leisure centre	40
School/educational establishment	33
Community (education) centre	23
Gymnasium	6
Church hall	5
Club/union hall	5
Private company	4
Local authority hall	1
Other	2

---

The main reasons cited for using the particular hall(s) were: that it was the only facility in the area (14%); it was convenient (12%); it was the only one available (11%); it was connected to a school (8%); it had the required equipment (8%) and was the cheapest (7%).

In the last four weeks, as per the survey, the hall(s) had been used, on average, just over six times by the club(s). A third of the clubs admitted that they would like to use the halls more often in winter, while 70 per cent disagreed. The main reasons for the latter were difficulties with booking or availability (50%) and that the facilities were too expensive (28%).

Table 24 outlines the distribution of the number of members in each club.

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**Table 24: Distribution of number of club members**

---

	Percentage of members
Under ten	10
11 to 15	8
16 to 20	16
21 to 25	10
26 to 30	11
31 to 40	14
41 to 50	7
Over 50	23

---

The mean number of members was just over 60 and the split between males and females and adults and juniors is outlined in Table 25.

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**Table 25: Membership composition of clubs**

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	<b>Mean</b>	<b>No such members</b>
	Number of clubs	Percentage of clubs
Male adults	17	24
Male juniors	12	40
Males	28	8
Female adults	9	45
Female juniors	9	55
Females	19	27
All adults	26	17
All juniors	21	31

---

A quarter of clubs revealed that their membership was full, with 28 per cent of them stating that they had a waiting list of, on average, just under 30 people. Of the majority, whose membership was not full, 86 per cent stated that they were actively seeking new members.

## **Facilities**

The profile of the 152 facilities included within this sample is outlined in Table 26.

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**Table 26: Profile of facilities included in sample**

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Local authority district	Percentage of facilities
Perth and Kinross	32
Angus	24
Dundee	44
Type of facility	Percentage of facilities
Sports centre	10
Church hall	15
School	40
Community/education centre	11
Public hall	16
University/college	3
Other	5

---

A variety of sports and recreational activities were enjoyed at these facilities, with almost 50 mentioned. The sports which were undertaken at 10 per cent or more of the facilities were as follows:

- badminton (51%)
- football (29%)
- carpet bowls/bowls (19%)
- basketball (18%)
- keep-fit (16%)
- volleyball (15%)
- hockey (15%)
- gymnastics (14%)
- karate (13%)
- five-a-side football (13%)
- aerobics (13%)
- netball (12%)
- table tennis (12%)
- step aerobics (12%)
- scottish country dancing (11%)
- short tennis (11%)
- weight training/multi-gym (10%)

Although the mean number of sessions per week at each facility was around 28, Table 27 presents a more accurate picture of the distribution.

---

**Table 27: Number of sessions at each facility per week**

---

	Percentage of facilities
One to two	23
Three to four	21
Five to ten	21
Eleven to twenty	9
More than twenty	14

---

This inflated mean reflected the fact that sports centres had, on average, over 200 sessions per week, compared to four for church halls and just under eight in schools.

Three sports accounted for 57 per cent of all sessions and two-thirds of sessions in sports centres, namely; weight training/multi-gym (24% all, 29% sports centres), badminton (22% and 24%) and five-a-side football (11% and 13%).

Three-quarters of the sessions took place on weekdays with half scheduled for weekday evenings after 5pm. The quarter which were held at the weekend were more likely to be spread throughout the day with some bias towards the afternoon and evening. Table 28 identifies the time allocation by the main activities.

**Table 28: Time allocation of sports sessions**

	Up to 1pm		1pm to 5pm		After 5pm	
	Percentage of time period weekday (weekend)					
Weight training/ multi-gym	38	(16)	17	(29)	18	(38)
Badminton	22	(15)	25	(27)	22	(29)
Carpet bowls/bowls	5	(6)	9	(6)	2	(5)
Step aerobics/aerobics	7	(2)	2	(1)	6	(2)
Five-a-side football	3	(17)	6	(11)	10	(15)
Table tennis	2	(13)	6	(5)	6	(2)
Gymnastics	3	(4)	6	(1)	2	(1)
Basketball	3	(11)	3	(3)	5	(1)
Tennis/short tennis	5	(6)	3	(6)	3	(3)

The table above provides an overview of the pattern of activity, in terms of sessions allocated at various times of the day. The variation across the day (especially for football) is evident, but badminton and weight training/multi-gym remain the dominant activities. Once again, despite some deviation, three activities remain dominant namely; weight training/multi-gym, badminton and five-a-side football.

Forty per cent of sessions lasted one hour with a further 10 per cent shorter than that. Almost a quarter were two hours in length and 18 per cent went on more than two hours, making the mean length of session just over one and a half hours. This ranged from just over one hour at sports centres to over two hours at public halls. There was also some variation depending on the sport being played. For example, badminton and bowls lasted, on average, around two hours compared to just over one hour for five-a-side football, aerobics and hockey.

**Table 29: Number of people per session**

Percentage of participants	
Ten or less	25
11 to 15	21
16 to 20	23
21 to 30	19
Over 30	13

There was little variation in the number of people attending the sessions by type of facility. However, as would be expected, there was some variation by activity type.

Around 60 per cent of sessions were for both genders with the remainder evenly split between the sexes. Around a third of sessions were for adults and juniors (31%), with 37 per cent for adults and 28 per cent for juniors.

Over 70 per cent of facilities claimed that they had unused time available for sport during the winter. Schools and community centres were the two main facilities where there appeared to be less opportunity to absorb additional activity. However, in both cases, over 60 per cent of these establishments stated that they had unused time available. On average, there were more than five hours free on a weekday evening and seven hours at the weekends. Interestingly, the largest number of hours available tended to be in schools and community centres.

At these facilities, the breakdown of use for hall sports by different types of customers is shown in Table 30.

**Table 30: Type of hall sports users at facilities**

	Types at facility	Types not at facility
	Percentage of facilities	
Individual users	7	80
Clubs/ teams	47	21
Classes	33	36

As expected, these proportions varied significantly depending on the type of facility. For example, a third of sports centre use was by individuals compared to a quarter at all other types of facility.

Generally, the sessions were split evenly between organised training and coaching (42%) and recreational or casual use (48%) with a tiny proportion (2%) used for competitions. Once again, there was considerable variation by the type of facility with schools more likely to be used for training and coaching.

A minority of facilities (13%) revealed that they regularly turned people away in the winter because the facilities were fully booked though this was almost exclusively confined to sports centres due to the higher proportion of recreational use. Five-a-side football and badminton were the main activities where demand appeared to outstrip supply on occasions, though this problem was concentrated at certain times of the week, namely weekday evenings.

Just over a fifth (33) of the facilities stated that they had specialist facilities. The main ones being a fitness room (48%), weights room (42%), dance studio (12%), squash courts (9%), solarium and sauna (9%), health suite (3%) and multi-gym (3%).

Nearly three quarters (72%) of the facilities stated that they had the necessary equipment for at least one hall sport with the main ones (available at more than a fifth of facilities) being badminton (37%), volleyball (26%), basketball (24%), table tennis (21%) and gymnastics (21%).

Practically every sports centre and school had equipment for hall sports, but less than 40 per cent of church and public halls were in a similar position.

Some facilities (18%) stated that they imposed certain restrictions on who could hire the hall for sport; including 40 per cent of church halls where the Board or Kirk Session made the relevant decisions.

Over 40 per cent of those surveyed replied that they operated a policy whereby certain groups had priority when hiring a facility for sport. This was particularly the case for school groups hiring school facilities. Similarly, just under half the facilities stated that they offered discounts to certain groups or clubs using the facility.

Whereas nine per cent of facilities stated that they had organised a crèche for users of the hall, 60 per cent of sports centres did so, though hardly any of the other facilities made this provision.

Almost 60 per cent of these facilities had no full-time members of staff, while 30 per cent employed between one and five people in this capacity, 42 per cent employed no part-time staff and 44 per cent employed between one and five part-timers. Just under a third (29%) of facilities employed no staff and 51 per cent employed between one and five people. Overall the average was three members of staff ranging from 16 at sports centres (six full time and ten part time) to one or two at the other facilities.

Finally, a fifth of the facilities stated that they advertised the availability of the hall for sports use, that is two-thirds of sports centres and just under half the public halls. This publicity was done mainly through leaflets, advertisements in the local press and posters.