

# **WILSON SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE**

## **MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2011**

**THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE LEAGUE WEBSITE**

[www.southporttennisleague.org.uk](http://www.southporttennisleague.org.uk)

### **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MATCH SECRETARIES TO BRING COMPLETED CLUB DETAILS FORMS TO THE AGM**

These should contain the club's postcode. Many people now use Satnav when travelling to away matches

The timing of last year's fourteen week season was, as predicted, a problem for many clubs. Final matches in August caused headaches for clubs unable to raise teams leading to relegations in some instances. This was further compounded by rain. There were four concessions and one agreed, unplayed halved match in that week alone.

Easter Monday fell very late ( 25<sup>th</sup> April) which would have been our normal start date. The following week was a Bank Holiday which affected several clubs.

Every year I stress how important it is for clubs to have a clearly defined selection policy under which captains meet a week in advance as a committee and do not act in isolation with no-one knowing what is happening elsewhere in the same club, not knowing who or who is not available, or even who is registered and eligible to play. Before the start of each season Match Secretaries agree with me their lists of registered players, but then some fail to pass on this information to those responsible for team selection. This can result in the appearance of ineligible players whose winning points are forfeited and this can change an overall win into a loss. Information must be more widely shared. It is up to membership officers to check their lists thoroughly against mine and inform me of any changes through marriage, additions, omissions and deletions. I know it is a delicate balancing act between sending me complete membership lists of hundreds of members ( 75% of whom may never be selected) and cutting the list so drastically that difficulties arise later when membership is assumed incorrectly. Every player's appearance is logged weekly – that is 576 names which have to be recorded and this is very time-consuming, if I have to scroll through many pages. I am sure that with a little more care these lists could be more manageable.

These problems are exacerbated when certain clubs simply do not know the rules. Infringements lead to loss of points and on occasion unpleasant correspondence to me which I do not appreciate. Because of this lack of knowledge it can sometimes be difficult to explain how and why the rules have been broken. Neil, as Chairman of the LMRSC dealt with three cases in the year and he will report on these.

## CONCESSIONS

WEEK 3- Southbank 4 conceded to Sphynx 4  
WEEK 5- Sphynx 4 conceded to Southbank 2  
WEEK 7- Sphynx 4 conceded to Hillside 5  
WEEK 10-Hightown 3 conceded to Southbank 3  
WEEK 12-Birkdale 3 conceded to Carlton 1  
WEEK 14- Aughton 2 conceded to Carlton 1  
Ormskirk 5 conceded to Mawdesley 3  
Sphynx 3 conceded to Argyle 3  
Ormskirk 6 conceded to Mawdesley 4  
Formby 1 and Birkdale 1 agreed to halve due to rain and little prospect of replay....there being no advantage to either side.

It is disappointing that there were **9** concessions in total, some without permission or notification to me.

## PLAYER ABSENCES AND IRREGULARITIES

Week 1- Sphynx 3 v. Hoole 1 man and 1 lady short  
Hillside 5 v. Southbank 4 Hillside 2 men short, Southbank 1 lady short  
Result adjusted out of 14.

Week 2- Southbank 4 v. Southbank 3 1 ineligible man

Week 3- North Meols 5 1 unregistered player  
Sphynx 3 v. Croston 2 1 man short, 1 lady short

Week 4- Ormskirk 6 v. North Meols 5 1 man short,  
Sphynx 4 v. Maghull 2 1 man short, 1 lady short  
North Meols 6 Unregistered player

Week 5- Formby 6 4<sup>th</sup> Mixed then played 1<sup>st</sup> Gents and 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies (Rule Bve)

Week 6- Sphynx 4 v. Southbank 3 1 lady short

Week 7- Southbank 4 v. Hightown 3 2 ineligible ladies

Week 8- Sphynx 2 v. Ormskirk 5 1 ineligible lady  
Sphynx 3 v. Hoole 1 unregistered lady  
Sphynx 4 v. Formby HT 6 1 unregistered lady  
North Meols 6 v. Carlton 3 1 man short and 1 man  
played in an ineligible position

Week 9- Sphynx 3 v. Ormskirk 6 1 lady short

Week 10- North Meols 6 1 unregistered man

Week 11- Argyle 3 v. Hoole 2 ineligible ladies  
Sphynx 3 v. Mawdesley 1 ineligible lady  
Hillside 5 v. Hightown 3 1 ineligible man  
Southbank 4 v. Carlton 4 1 ineligible lady

Week 12- Sphynx 3 v. Southbank 2 1 ineligible man  
Southbank were a man short so result out of 14

Campion 2 v. Ormskirk 5 1 unregistered lady  
Week 14- Sphynx 3 v. Blundellsands 1 1 lady short so BS lent one.

Generally, opponents are informed at the outset that ineligible players are used to fulfil the fixture and points conceded.

Despite having the largest ever list of registered players ( 163 men and 124 ladies) one club managed to field unregistered players on three separate occasions. This indicates that there is no clear selection policy or cascading of information to captains who seem to operate in a vacuum without reference to the list of registered players.

## COMPLAINTS

Please refer to the report from Neil Leadbetter, Chairman of the LMRSC

## SCORECARDS

<b>Club</b>	<b>late</b>	<b>never</b>
Argyle	4	1
Aughton	2	
Birkdale	1	
Blundellsands	4	
Campion	3	
Carlton	6	
Croston	5	
D Lloyd	0	
Formby	4	1
Formby HT	5	
Hightown	7	3
Hillside	5	1
Hoole	0	
Maghull	1	
Mawdesley	1	
North Meols	11	4
Ormskirk	4	
Southbank	3	4
Sphynx	7	1
Town Green	0	
Waterloo	<u>2</u>	
	75 < totals >	15

TWO unstamped cards needed collection at a cost of £1.36 each  
A disappointingly LARGE increase up to 90 from 64 last year.  
Again David Lloyd, Hoole and Town Green managed no late cards.

**Please remember to tick the HOME or AWAY box and check cards before signing.  
Post by 1<sup>st</sup> class mail within 72 hours of the match.**

### STARRED PLAYERS

Some alterations were requested this year before the cut-off date of 30<sup>th</sup> June. Two were at my request as “ghost players”.

### REGISTERED PLAYERS

I ask that your lists of players registered with me are studied carefully to see if they can be shortened. As you know, all appearances are logged weekly, club by club, showing the divisions in which all 576 participants have played. It makes for a very onerous task if I have to scroll through page after page of names of members who have never played, nor ever will be selected for that club.

Last year I proposed that to help small clubs who struggle to fulfil their fixtures towards the end of the season we should abolish the late registration rule. The meeting agreed. However this year I was unhappy to see a number of clubs with extensive membership lists registering players for just one or two appearances in the higher teams. I have asked that the representatives at the AGM look again at this question.

### FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

Div 1: Mawdesley 1 and Birkdale1 had an identical record of wins, losses, draws and points in week 13 but at the last Mawdesley pulled clear with an emphatic win to clinch the title..

Div 2;: Ormskirk 1 will return to the 1<sup>st</sup> Div after just one year's absence.. North Meols 2 and Formby 2 will return to Div 2.

Maghull and David Lloyd have done really well to take top spots in Div 4 having just been promoted. Champion 2 and Waterloo continue their relentless progress through their respective divisions. Hoole had Div 6 sewn up. On the minus side it was a disappointing year for Ormskirk with relegation for 4 of their 6 teams, and for Formby with 3 teams going down. Southbank 4 and Hillside 5 having finished at the bottom of Div 9 are invited to apply for re-instatement. However one or two clubs might wish to consider whether they really can support the number of teams they have entered, and whether they are able to field a full complement of players each week.

## **PRESENTATION EVENING**

For the second year Campion kindly hosted this event and again it was a tremendous success due to the hard work of Jane and Neil Leadbetter. All clubs and individuals who won cups attended and thoroughly enjoyed the venue, food and quiz. This has become a real high point of the year, thanks to Jane, Neil and Campion TC.

## **FINALLY**

I have now held the office of Hon Match Secretary for ten years, a job which I could not do without the support of Barry, John, George, Neil and all the Committee. George, in particular, is my right hand man and I thank him for all his help in running and managing the program which delivers our weekly update of results, tables and Masterlist for competitions. I am very sorry he has stepped down from his position as Tournament Secretary but I hope he will continue to give me all the advice and support I need to do the job. Many week by week problems could be averted if club officers were more conversant with the rules or if I were kept informed of difficulties. I am always willing to advise or clarify rules if asked but am disappointed if I have to take action after breaches of the rules which could have been avoided.