

# WILSON SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

## MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2009

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, as many people now use SATNAV when travelling to away matches.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH carried the headline "2009 LIKELY TO BE THE FIFTH HOTTEST YEAR SINCE RECORDS BEGAN". With the exception of one week in June, not on the tennis courts of our clubs, it wasn't ! The promised barbecue summer was a damp squib in more ways than one, with several matches rained off.

Once again there was a problem with a couple of unregistered players being selected for teams but the main cause of concern this year was the use of players made ineligible by already having played for higher teams in that week, or starred players being selected for teams lower than the team for which they were starred. It seems still a fact that some club's teams are selected without reference to other captains by people who are unaware of who is registered and who are starred players. More sharing of information is required within clubs.

It also seemed to be a trend this year of fielding and declaring ineligible players to fulfil fixtures despite an extensive list of registered players who never get a league game.

I would stress how important it is to have a selection committee in place for clubs with several teams, and that all captains have a list of registered and starred players, for reference.

It is up to Membership Officers to CHECK my lists THOROUGHLY against yours and to inform me of any changes through marriage or additions, omissions and deletions.

## CONCESSIONS

### **WEEK 2**

Hightown 2 - conceded to Southbank 2...without permission.

### **WEEK 4**

Ormskirk 4 v. Town Green – rained off – TG couldn't raise a team for the replay.

### **WEEK 9**

Maghull 1 v. Ormskirk 5 – match awarded to O5...(see complaints)

### **WEEK 14**

Maghull 2 v Argyle 4 - Maghull couldn't raise a team.

## MATCHES HALVED

### **WEEK 8**

Ormskirk 5 v. Formby HT 3 – after several attempts to play

### **WEEK 12**

Blundellsands 2 v. Ormskirk 4 – no weekend replay possible after two attempts

### **WEEK 14**

North Meols 3 v. Formby 3 – agreed halved mutually

## PLAYER ABSENCES OR PENALTIES

### **WEEK 2**

Ormskirk 6 played a 5<sup>th</sup> team starred player – sets removed and awarded to the opposition

### **WEEK 5**

Sphynx 4 played an ineligible player who had played for a higher team that week –sets removed and awarded to the opposition

### **WEEK 6**

Blundellsands played a player starred for a higher team -- sets removed and awarded to the opposition

### **WEEK 10**

Southbank played a lady at 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies and 4<sup>th</sup> Mixed. In an interesting situation her set won was removed but could not be awarded to her opponent who was also ineligible. George was consulted and he adjusted the results to reflect a 14 set match.

### **WEEK 13**

A gent played for Blundellsands 2 on Monday and again for Blundellsands 3 on Tuesday (not a replay). Even if captains are unaware, do players themselves not realise they cannot do this?

## **WEEK 14**

Again we had to doctor the program to record a 14 set match when Formby HT 6 fielded an ineligible player against another ineligible player and neither could concede nor receive points.

Ormskirk 6 fielded TWO unregistered young players.

## **STARRED PLAYERS.**

Yet again there was considerable alteration in starrings for one reason or another. However there are a few clubs who do not inform me of long term injuries or absences which may give them undue leeway in selection. Remember to refer to the website for starrings lists and check each team sheet for home and away players, as it is apparent that some captains are unaware of who is starred for which team.

Please consider your starrings very carefully and try to reduce the number of alterations as it can cause confusion in cup matches towards the end of competitions. No alterations can be made after 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Starrings will appear on the website and it is incumbent upon all captains ( regular and stand-in) to check their own and opposing teams for eligibility.

## **COMPLAINTS**

No formal complaints were made this year which is very pleasing. There were a couple of queries which had to be addressed. I refer in particular to the problems experienced by Maghull. At the beginning of the season the local council resurfaced their courts rendering them unavailable for the first two weeks. I circulated those clubs concerned as I did not want concessions claimed for circumstances beyond Maghull's control. They were able to arrange or defer, or play away those matches affected. However there was a problem in Week 9 when the courts melted. Ormskirk 5 had not been contacted beforehand and arrived to play in good faith. Despite hours of watering the courts remained unplayable by 8 pm. Having got his team there the Ormskirk captain cited Rule B (ix) and was unwilling to rearrange in these circumstances. I was contacted about my decision to ratify the concession long after the expiry time for appeals. Had promotion prospects been damaged by this I would have called a league committee meeting to hear a retrospective appeal, but in the event this was not necessary.

I would remind clubs that if they disagree with my decisions there is a right to appeal under 7 Miscellaneous C by writing formally to the General Secretary. I can do little about informal complaints.

## SCORECARDS

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>LATE</u>	<u>NOT RECEIVED AT ALL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Argyle	6	1	7
Aughton	4		4
Birkdale	1		1
Blundellsands	1	1	2
Campion	2		2
Carlton	4	1	4
Croston	0	1	0
D Lloyd	0		0
Formby	9		9
FHT	3	1	4
Hightown	3	1	3
Hillside	9		9
Hoole	0		0
Maghull	1	1	2
Mawdesley	1		1
North Meols	2		2
Ormskirk	1		1
Southbank	5	3	5
Sphynx	2		2
Town Green	0		0
Waterloo	1		1
			59

This is an improvement of one on last year, with 4 clubs having clean sheets. I live in hopes that Carlton will this year fill in BOTH first and second names as requested.

This year the Royal Mail refused to deliver four cards which had no stamps or insufficient postage. This entailed trips to the sorting office and a charge of £1.30 each time. This is a pain!

Home and away boxes are rarely ticked SEVEN years after their introduction. I again ask that captains CHECK their cards before signing, as discrepancies occur if this is not done.

## **LISTS OF REGISTERED PLAYERS**

Please be sure to give the email address on the details form of the club match secretary or membership officer, to whom I shall be again sending out the lists of players registered by your club in 2009 on my computer in MICROSOFT EXCEL 2003.

Please check this list thoroughly for errors/omissions/additions/deletions and return to me IN THE SAME FORMAT ( MS Excel 2003, please NOT 2007] well before the start of the season. Any subsequent updating can be done by email as before.

N.B. New registrations can be added before Week 4 without charge. After that and before 30<sup>th</sup> June new registrations must be accompanied by a cheque for the amount proposed by the Treasurer and ratified by the membership which should be made out to THE WILSON SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE.

## **PRESENTATION EVENING**

Again this proved a great success with the League's thanks to Ormskirk Tennis Club and Janet Crompton in particular for another great quiz. Ormskirk Tennis Club has hosted this event for several years. An offer has been received from Campion T.C. to be the venue in 2010.

## **FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS.**

Birkdale 1 improved from 2<sup>nd</sup> place last year to leaders of Division 1 by just one point from Argyle 1, although both finished on 156 sets won/68 lost. Mawdesley finished a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> in their first year in Div 1. Campion 1 have been promoted every season since joining in 2002 and with a 100% record join the top division with Sphynx 1 who will return after just one year away. Mawdesley 2,3 and 5 are promoted. Formby HT were also successful with promotion for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> teams. Campion 2 continue their progress through the divisions. Newcomers Waterloo registered a 100% record season so well done to them.

My thanks to Barry, John, George, Committee members and club match secretaries for their support.

Hilary Bell  
Honorary Match Secretary

