

Southport & District Tennis League

Chairman's Report 2020 Season

Well, what a strange year! Let's hope that 2021 is much more normal and we can all get back to enjoying our tennis as soon as possible.

The pandemic had a huge impact on the Southport & District League in 2020. Sadly, we had to cancel both the individual and team tournaments. However, we did at least manage a partial Summer League even though it had half size teams and didn't start until August! I'm very grateful to all those clubs who took part and it has been great to get some very positive feedback on how enjoyable it was despite the unprecedented circumstances. For 2021 we are hoping that we will be able to run a normal Summer League, starting on 3rd May. Of course, this will very much depend on the national situation at the time.

Following the success of the "Autumn" league last year we would like to make that a regular fixture in future. As for 2020, this would be with half size teams and more flexibility with players than in the Summer League. The division structure would be set up each year based on the final positions of teams in the Summer League and results in the Autumn/Winter League would have no impact on promotions or relegations for the following Summer League. Clubs would be able to enter as many of their Summer League teams as they wished. Prizes, instead of trophies, would be given to the winners and runners up. We can only do this if we have a volunteer Autumn League Match Secretary so if you would like this to happen then please encourage somebody from your club to volunteer. I'd be very happy to discuss what is involved in more detail if anyone would like to know more.

While mentioning Match Secretaries, I'd like to thank our League Match Secretary, Jeanette Heague and our League Planner Manager, Christian Bryan. They both coped well with all the upheaval and changes in this most peculiar of years! I'd also like to thank all the other members of the League Executive Committee for all their work this year, sometimes at short notice when sudden changes were announced and we had to take quick decisions! In particular, I'd like to thank Heather Chambers, Pru Makin, Tracy Smith and Val Ormerod who are stepping down from the Executive this year. They have all made valuable contributions to the running of the league over several years and will be missed.

As a result of the resignations there are some vacancies on the League Executive Committee so please consider whether you could help the League by giving only a small amount of your time. Most of the roles do not require a huge time commitment but are important in keeping the League running well and enable you to have some influence over the future direction of the League.

As I said at the beginning of this report let's hope for a more normal 2021 with lots of tennis!

Rob Hemmings

Chairman, Southport & District Tennis League

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