

Information and Notes for the 2021 Southport League AGM and season

2021 AGM

During these difficult times the League Executive Committee have decided that the 2021 AGM will have to be held via Zoom. Due to the practicality of doing this with the numbers involved it has been decided to invite one nominated member from each club to the meeting on their club's behalf, and they will hold all their club's votes. The number of votes will be set according to the number of teams that club had in the league during the 2019 season. The nominated person will be extra to any League Executive Committee members attending who will not get a vote unless they are also their club's nominated representative. A Zoom link will be sent to each Club Match Secretary a few days before the AGM which is on Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm.

2021 Summer Season

The League Executive Committee decided to go ahead and plan the up-and-coming season as normal with the hopes that some/all the restrictions may have been lifted in time. The first day of the season (COVID-19 permitting!) will therefore be Monday 3rd May 2021.

The above will be kept under review by the League Executive Committee and all Clubs will be informed of any changes that may have to be made.

Club Information Sheet

This year, to remove any risk of passing on infection, all your Club information will be requested online instead of on paper. In the coming weeks your clubs Match Secretary will receive a link which will take them directly to the online form that will need filling in with all your club's details including team captains' names and contact numbers etc. Clubs will have a little more time to complete these forms this year as we are not having any handbooks printed, due to the infection risk caused by distributing the books, so the deadline is not as tight but we will be looking for them to be complete by the beginning of April.

The printing of handbooks will be reviewed again at the end of the 2021 season and views on this from clubs are very welcome.

Forms for entering the individual and team tournaments will also be online this season. More details will be sent around once the forms are available.

Vacancies on the League Executive Committee

Due to resignations this year we now have a number of vacancies for general committee members for the coming season. The role does not require the volunteer to do anything other than attend a small number of meetings throughout the year and, as it is likely they will continue via Zoom, there is no need to even leave your house! However, it does give you a real say in the running of the league and it is important that as many clubs as possible are involved. Any nominations for the six available posts are welcome but it would be particularly good to see some from clubs who are not already represented. Please advertise these vacancies around your clubs and try to encourage members to volunteer and get their voices heard. If anyone would like a "no obligation" discussion before making up their mind then they are welcome to contact our Chairman, Rob Hemmings, (rhemmings@rgvk.co.uk or 01704 573210) for more details of what is involved.

Autumn/Winter League

The Autumn/Winter League for 2020 was a big success with 10 of the 14 weeks getting played despite the pandemic and some very positive feedback from those involved. The organisers deserve much appreciation for their efforts. It is with regret that the Executive Committee agreed unanimously to cancel the remaining 4 matches, due to the ongoing restrictions on playing tennis, so final division places will be as they stand to date. Prizes will be awarded to the division winners and runners up at the League Presentation Evening which we hope will be able to take place in October – more details nearer the time.

As the Autumn/Winter League was so well received, the Executive Committee would like to continue to offer it to clubs every year going forward. The intention would be to run it in the same way as in 2020 – 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.

However, this Autumn/Winter League can only go ahead in 2021 if we have a volunteer to be Match Secretary separate from the Summer League Match Secretary. If we do not get a volunteer the Autumn League will not run. So, again, may I ask if you will pass this information around to members of your club and encourage anyone who shows an interest. The work involved is straightforward and lots of help will be given by other members of the executive committee, access to a computer will be needed as most of the job involves monitoring the online League Planner system. As with the other executive committee roles, if anyone would like to know more about what is involved they are welcome to contact our Chairman, Rob Hemmings, (rhemmings@rgvk.co.uk or 01704 573210).