

League Match Secretary Report – Season 2021

The Summer League began as scheduled Monday 3rd May, despite our reservations that Covid-19 restrictions might intervene. Unfortunately, the great British weather chose to dictate the first week's matches resulting in all Monday fixtures being abandoned due to an extreme rainstorm. Some Tuesday matches and some rematches were also weather affected, **what a start**. Results were finally completed with 11 match replays, 4 matches sharing points as per rule 23. Sadly 2 matches made no attempt to replay opting for rule 23 straight away, I believe this was not in the 'true spirit' of competitive tennis. I take this opportunity to remind all captains that the blue reschedule button at the bottom of the results page should be used, thus avoiding the need to contact individual clubs creating unnecessary work for all concerned.

Administration – within a few weeks it became apparent several issues were developing, mainly late entry or verification of results on-line and players names could not be added via clubs allowing existing registered players to play up if required. Following an update letter sent mid-June some improvement was seen but late entry re-emerged as the season progressed. Team captains were instructed to enter players names (playing up) in the on-line comment box for record, this worked well. After week 4 a review of 'starring's' was carried out with support from Rob Hemmings. Nine clubs were identified as not complying with 'starring's' as per rule 9 and were requested to make the necessary adjustments. Mid-July it was highlighted that some captains were not completing their team card pre-match as per rule 13, this is not acceptable practice and was dealt with a further update e-mail. The Summer League being a competitive league requires both team cards to be completed prior to start, checked, signed, and kept in case of future dispute.

Complaints – over the weeks I received a few complaints, regarding players position and strength. At my request the LMRSC reviewed these matters and due to difficulty in proving such matters explanations were accepted in all but one case. As the season progressed and due to continuing issues around player eligibility brought to my attention, a review of club players activity was carried out. This highlighted that in several cases Rule 9 was not being followed regarding the regular 4th player in a team also playing for the team below in the same week. Week 13, a further complaint was received regarding a player's on-court behaviour. Following a LMRSC review and a further appeal, both players submitted separate reports. The outcome was a (suspended) three-match ban to commence in season 2022, as both players were deemed to have participated in unsportmanship behaviour.

Summer League Final Positions -see chart below

Division	1st	2 nd
1	Sphynx 1	Ormskirk 1
2	Formby Village TC 1	Sphynx 2
3	Formby 1	Ormskirk 2
4	Formby 2	Blundellsands 2
5	Hillside 2	North Meols 3
6	Formby 3	Formby Village 3
7	Formby 4	Birkdale 4
8	Croston 3	Hightown 2

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Autumn League – introduced new for season 2021 with no promotion or regulation. Interest was positive with ten clubs registering 30 teams to take part. The teams of 4 players (2men and 2 ladies) produced four divisions, 7 teams in div 1 & 2 and 8 teams in div 3 & 4, providing a 14-week fixture list. Matches started Monday 6th September and the weather was favourable well into mid-season. However early on, again issues regarding player eligibility was raised and an update letter circulated to highlight the matter. The Autumn League though not implementing starring's from the summer league listings, teams were expected to play players in order of strength, the S/L starring list was used as a guide reference. Overall matches were enjoyed as intended, friendly games, and early feedback was positive. As the season progressed and winter conditions became the normal, teams showed difficulty in fielding teams, resulting with conceded matches or points being shared as per rule 5 or 20. The final week, 6th of December, saw only 1 match played leaving 13 fixtures conceded or points shared. One club withdraw their 1st team mid-season on the grounds that they were unable to field ladies at the 1st division level.

Autumn League Final Positions – see chart below

Division	1st	2nd
1	Ormskirk 1	Formby Village TC 1
2	Argyle 2	Formby 2
3	Hillside 2	Formby 3
4	Formby 4	Hillside 3

To conclude - I would like to congratulate all the teams winning Summer League promotion and the teams who participated and enjoyed the Autumn League. My thanks go to the all the club match secretaries who helped with many enquiries and for the support I received from the League and LMRSC committees. Touching briefly on some concerns brought to my attention and persistent infringement of certain rules a review of both Summer & Autumn League rules has been carried out by a League Sub-Committee. Their proposed amendments are part of a full rules review and will be voted on by club representatives at the AGM.

Jeanette Heague

S & D League Match Secretary

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