

# S&D Junior Tennis League

## Review of 2023 Season

The 2023 junior league season was a great success and therefore firstly, and most importantly, thank you to everybody who, in any way, supported the running of the S&D Junior Tennis League 2023, it is because of your input that 11 clubs, 55 teams and 165 junior players were able to compete this year.

Of the 165 participating juniors, Birkdale and Campion had the most unique players participating with 23, Ormskirk were second with 20 and Hillside third with 18.

8 x players had a win percentage of 90% or better so special congratulations to them!

80% of results were entered into the system correctly, with the remaining 20% of matches being walkovers or having to have results updated due to incorrect entry.

This was the first year that teams comprised of 2 x players instead of 4, which was requested by participating Clubs and which seemed to work well. The only issues experienced during the season were in relation to matches being called off and/or rearranged (this will be discussed and the rules updated after the next S&D Junior League meeting) and some minor issues regarding the sportsmanship of one or two parental captains, which were addressed and remedied.

The final league standings were as follows:

| <b>League</b> | <b>First Place</b>       | <b>Second Place</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 & Under    | Aughton                  | Campion             |
| 12 & Under 1  | Sphynx<br>Formby Village | Ormskirk            |
| 12 & Under 2  | Aughton                  | Campion<br>Aughton  |
| 14 & Under    | Aughton                  | Sphynx              |
| 16 & Under 1  | Campion                  | Hillside            |
| 16 & Under 2  | North Meols              | Hillside            |

I elected to award the 12 & Under 1 League to both Sphynx and Formby Village as both finished on the same points with the same number of matches having been played (and the same number of walkovers contributing to the final positions of both teams), likewise with the runner up of the 12 & Under 2 League.

This year's S&D JTL Presentation Evening will take place on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, starting at 7pm**. A venue will be confirmed in due course, however all S&D League Committee Members are welcome to attend.

This year, to enhance the S&D JTL Presentation Evening, a number of additional awards have been created, which are listed below. Clubs are allowed one nomination (which cannot be themselves!) per category (with the exception of the Special Recognition Award).

### Awards

**Hospitality Award** – The Club it is felt were the most hospitable – perhaps giving you a warm welcome, got the nice biscuits out, offered opponents a drink and provided comfortable seating to watch the match!

**Fair Play Award** – The Club who it is felt had the most Sportsman-like players – perhaps offering to replay points when unsure whether a ball was in or out, helping an opponent with scoring and/or offering their opponents a drink at the end the match after a handshake.

**Club of the Year Award** – The Club who it is felt best meet all of the following criteria:

- Had junior players who were fair, enthusiastic and determined
- Were welcoming
- Had excellent amenities (courts were in good condition, car park available, a place to sit (outdoor and in) was available, toilets were clean etc.)
- Had supportive team captains who not only made opponents feel welcome but supported them to complete score cards and knew the scoring formats required
- Promoted juniors enjoying tennis

**Special Recognition Award** – This can be for a junior or adult who supports junior tennis (e.g., volunteer, coach, parent captain etc.) who has gone above and beyond in promoting and supporting junior tennis at their Club and/or the wider Southport and District League.

A maximum of 5 x Special Recognition Awards will be made, with the recipients being decided by a panel comprising The President, Chairman and Junior Coordinator of the S&D Tennis League.

Overall, another successful year and one which we hope to be able to positively build on in 2024.

I am prepared to continue running the league but will ask, at the next S&D Junior League meeting, whether anybody else wishes to do it or support me to do it.

Best wishes

Rob Owens

S&D Junior League Coordinator