

## Southport & District Tennis League Match Secretary Report / Summer 2023

Season 2023 saw the introduction of the different player registration system for the on-line S & D League Planner with clubs no longer needing to send in advance lists of players names for each team, to then be downloaded by the League Planner Manager. Responsibility is now with the individual player to be registered with the LTA and to nominate their club as venue. All clubs were asked to inform players to check their LTA registration details or complete before playing their first match.

However, it quickly became clear there was a problem to add some players names into their club player data base during entry of match results by the home captains. Looking back many of these issues were avoidable for example, incorrect spelling of names, only nick names used, change of names due to marriage etc and ineligible handwriting on the match card. As LMS many minutes were spent communicating with club match secretaries to confirm player details before names could be added-in correctly and I thank them for their co-operation. However not all issues could be resolved inhouse and these were referred to the LTA for assistance. My thanks to Rob who gave excellent guidance through these many challenges, not forgetting the MISSING PERSONS list drawn up to keep track of the many cases outstanding over many weeks.

As the season progressed awareness that certain rules were possibly being abused was noted. Many clubs were using rule 6 to play the same players twice in one week on regular occasions and several players though starred for a lower team were regularly playing up in a higher team. My thanks to John Spurr who volunteered to oversee a list of players playing twice in one week. This showed many clubs were using rule 6 to fulfil their fixtures consistently rather than occasionally. A customary annual review has taken place during the off season by the Executive Committee recommending changes for clarification to several rules and will be circulated to all clubs prior to voting at the League AGM.

### Penalties and LMRSC Outcomes

Rule 16, six teams were penalised for late entry of results, one appeal was considered by the Executive League Committee but not upheld.

Rule 6, three teams were penalised for playing a player twice in one week. When checked the player's playing record showed a consistent record for a higher team and therefore considered playing down to strengthen the lower team. The ineligible player and any pairings below had points awarded to the opposing team.

I also received a small number of complaints regarding player strength, position played or court conduct. These were reviewed by the LMRSC and the executive committee but with different claims by each side and no proof of any rules broken it was difficult to take any action.

Congratulations to the following teams who won their division's trophy and promotion.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd
Division 1	Sphynx 1	Ormskirk 1
Division 2	Blundellsands 1	Hillside 1
Division 3	Argyle 1	Carlton 1
Division 4	Formby 3	Mawdesley 2
Division 5	Town Green	Formby 4
Division 6	Southbank 2	Ormskirk 5
Division 7	N Meols 5	Sphynx 4
Division 8	Sphynx 5	Hillside 4

Before I finish and on a positive note most matches were played in good competitive spirit. Rain delays were few with the need to reschedule kept to a minimum. The total number of matches conceded were 6 and one match shared points.

Thank you.

Jeanette Heague