

S&D Tennis League

Chairman's Report for 2024

I'm glad to say that the Southport & District Tennis League remains healthy with a total of 64 teams playing every week of the summer season and 37 teams entering the autumn league.

Our biggest challenge in 2024 was when the LTA forced us to change to a new version of the League Planner software half way through the summer season. Fortunately, with a lot of work from our League Executive Committee members, from club Match Secretaries and Team Captains the changeover was managed with only a few minor, but annoying, issues in the software that we are still trying to progress with the LTA. Unfortunately, the LTA support team seem to take a long time to respond to any issues! Once we are all used to the new system it should be more flexible and easier to use, particularly for team captains when recording results on mobile phones.

I must particularly thank Jeanette Heague (League Match Secretary), Christian Bryan (League Planner Manager) and Pauline Pope (League Secretary) for all their hard work during the changeover to the new League Planner. Thanks are also due to Tim Carey who had to use the new system for the first time when running the Autumn League and cup matches. (It is unfortunate that the new system does not cope with handicap events and so could not be used for the Spartans matches.)

While I'm on the subject of LTA software, it is very frustrating that the World Tennis Number has not always been updated properly from results as this means it is not yet accurate enough to use for our leagues. (We had hoped that by 2025 we would be able to use it to replace the "starring" system.) Again, we have raised the issues with the LTA but their responses have been very slow.

As a league we are very fortunate to have a strong Executive Committee who all put in a lot of work to make the League run so well. I'm not going to name them all here but they all contribute a great deal and running the league without them would be impossible. I will however mention our League President, John Spurr, who, despite some serious ill health in 2024, still provides invaluable experience to the league from his many years of involvement. I very much hope 2025 is a much better year for him. There are still some vacancies on the league General Committee and it would be particularly welcome if those clubs not currently represented on the League Executive could put somebody forward as we want to reflect the views of all clubs as much as possible.

Finally, I was very pleased to see that hospitality from clubs hosting Finals improved significantly in 2024 with some excellent refreshments at the events that I attended.

Rob Hemmings
Chairman, S&D League
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