

## **Summer League Match Secretary Report – Season 2024**

The season started reasonably well despite opening my lap-top on the first Tuesday morning to see many warning flags, raising concerns that last season's problems were returning. Thankfully most were due to misspellings of players names or minor errors. Corrections were quickly resolved in-house, leaving two cases requiring LTA referral. **Weeks 4 & 5** – I was made aware of a few matches involving unfinished sets due to floodlight curfew cut-off times. This was addressed via the Executive Committee and to raise awareness clubs were asked for floodlight curfew times which are now located on the league website under Our Clubs. **Weeks 6 & 8** – brought to my attention was that some captains were unable to add-in match comments which was reported to the LTA. **Week 8** - a 'starring's' review highlighted several clubs were non-compliant with rule 10. Some players either had a very low playing record or no player activity for the team for which they were starred. These clubs were asked to make adjustment ready for the revised on-line 'starring list' for the start of week 9. However, a further review at the end of season still showed some low 'starring' activity but until the WTN becomes a viable opinion, it is perhaps better than nothing.

**Rule 8** – many clubs played players twice in a week and several players played twice in a week up to three times in the season. Unfortunately, this did lead to nine clubs breaching rule 8 for playing a player down instead of playing up for the extra match and one club breached rule 8 for a player playing twice in a week on 4 separate occasions. Penalties were issued and in one case had a negative result for a team's final league position therefore missing out on promotion. Rule 8 has been reviewed off season which will be considered at the AGM.

The weather stopped play for several matches and replays were rescheduled as expected. Week 12 proved problematic for one 1<sup>st</sup> division fixture owing to the replay day clashing with the Individual Tournament Finals Day. As relegation was at stake for either team this matter was overseen by Rob Hemmings and the Executive Committee and was finally played Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Overall, there were 2 conceded matches, and two teams played with 1 or 2 ladies short.

**New League Planner** – introduced in week 9, brought a new screen layout and fresh challenges for team captains. My role increased due to no visible on-line alert signs and all match results required checking. Weeks 10/11 the problem of adding-in match comments continued, and the on-line score windows no longer showed sets won but completed rubbers only. My thanks to Rob who kept clubs informed and liaised with the LTA for these issues to be resolved. The match scores were eventually returned as sets played but adding-in comments by team captains remains outstanding.

**Complaints, LMRSC Referrals and Executive Committee Appeals** - Week 4 - produced a LMRSC referral concerning the substitution rule for an injured player. Due to conflicting evidence both teams were penalised by having the WD2 event voided. This eventually led to an Executive Committee appeal and after consideration the original penalty was upheld. A second complaint was reviewed by the LMRSC for players refusing to complete a final set due to weather conditions, this was not upheld as per rule 22 covered this situation. The latter half of the season saw several appeals heard by the Executive Committee for penalty points awarded for breach of rule 8, there was no change to the original penalties.

Off season the Executive Committee have reviewed the rules and recommended for clarification changes to certain rules, addressed the match comment issue which will be considered and voted on at the AGM.

Congratulations to the teams who won division trophies and promotion.

<b>Division</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Position</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Position</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sphynx 1	Aughton 1
2nd	Mawdesley 1	Sphynx 2
3rd	Croston 1	Ormskirk 3
4th	Formby Village 2	Hillside 2
5th	Southbank 2	Ormskirk 4
6th	Birkdale 3	Aughton 2
7th	Mawdesley 4	Birkdale 4
8th	Argyle 3	Maghull

With season 2025 fast approaching, I wish all team captains and players an enjoyable tennis season.

Jeanette – LMS