

## Banbury Tennis Leagues – 2014 AGM Proposals

### 1. Difficulties in rearranging matches proposed by League Secretary (after consultation with all Clubs)

**Problem:** At the last AGM in February 2013, Deddington proposed that a rule should be made to clarify the position when having to re-arrange matches.

After a discussion, it was decided that guidelines needed to be re-established and it was agreed that I poll members then make proposals based on their responses.

I have circulated a discussion document which condensed the suggestions down to two options.

#### Proposals:

- a. The home team to offer (2 or 3?) dates giving a period of 10 days for the opposition to agree one of those dates.  
  
Captains must first check the website for available free dates avoiding clashes, consecutive nights or two matches in same week.  
  
The rearranged date should be as soon as possible to avoid a build-up of fixtures at the end of the season and all parties, including the League Secretary, should be advised of the new date within 14 days after cancellation of original date.  
  
If the two parties are unable to reach agreement, then the match is declared void and a notice to that effect is posted on the League website.
- b. A new date within the period covered by the League fixtures should be agreed and notified to the League Secretary as soon as possible via the appropriate webform. If the two parties are unable to reach agreement, then the match is declared void and a notice to that effect is posted on the League website.

**Impact of the proposal:** The prospect of the match being declared void should encourage both parties to cooperate and find a suitable date.

### 2. Teams conceding matches proposed by League Secretary

**Problem:** When teams concede their opponent currently take all the points. Overcompensating the opponent can adversely impact other teams in the League and affect promotion and relegation positions. It is felt that sometimes teams concede too easily without exploring all other options for playing a match.

**Proposal:** If a team concedes a match they will be penalised 4 points and their opponent will receive 4 points (5 in summer). No games will be awarded to either team. If a team concedes more than once in a season, they will be deemed to have withdrawn and all matches will be awarded to opponents, even those already played.

A match is also deemed to be conceded if claimed by an opponent under rules 3 or 7.

**Impact of the proposal:** At the moment there is no penalty for conceding. All teams lose except the team awarded the match and they are overcompensated. If there is a significant penalty for conceding, teams will be less likely to do so.

**3. Teams playing players down  
proposed by Middleton Cheney**

**Problem:** The current "Playing Down" rule is too rigid and we have had to limit the number of teams we can enter thus reducing the league numbers and the ability for people to play tennis.

**Proposal:** To have an Exception Process that allows a Club to request a player to play in a match to fulfil the fixture without having to concede the games he or she plays in when it's clear that no competitive gain is being sought (e.g. when a normally C team player has to play up to a higher team temporarily and then tied from being to play for his or her normal team).The opposing team then either accepts or declines the request after reviewing the facts and having match data on the website etc.,

If for whatever reason this is still disputed a final decision would be made by the League Secretary. We would expect the process to be rarely used so would recommend a limit of say max. 2 per club per season.

**Impact of the proposal:** This will ensure that Clubs have the confidence to enter more Teams and so more people can play tennis.

**4. Illness or Injuries  
proposed by League Secretary**

**Problem:** there is no existing procedure to cover what happens if a player is unable to continue playing during a match due to Illness or Injury.

**Proposal:** the following rule be added "If a player is unable to continue due to illness or injury, uncompleted games in the rubber being played shall be forfeited. Should the player not recover in time to play a subsequent rubber, it shall be forfeited entirely".

**Impact of the proposal:** an issue not covered by existing rules is now covered.

**5. Limit rearranged matches  
proposed by Charlbury**

**Problem:** The problem is that in the winter many matches have to be rearranged because the weather is bad and if we then have to rearrange matches because someone can't get a team we run out of weekends to play

**Proposal:** During the winter once the season has started clubs should only be allowed to rearrange one match (i.e. if they can't get a team) unless there is bad weather.

**Impact of the proposal:** there will be dates available for rearranging matches due to bad weather.

**Note:** Although this was initially proposed for Winter League, it was decided to extend the discussion to cover all three Leagues.

It would affect the existing rule which states: "After the deadline date each team is allowed to change two fixtures which should be agreed with the opposing team and notified to the League Secretary as soon as possible via the appropriate webform."