

Banbury Tennis Leagues

Secretary's Report

6th February 2014

Welcome to our 2014 AGM and thank you for coming.

It's the start of my fourth year as League Secretary so here's my annual report.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up.

Particular congratulations to Banbury A on retaining their Summer Championship title and winning the Winter League. They are worthy Champions and very friendly and professional to deal with.

The new Summer League structure agreed last year means that the promotion and relegations are different but we're back to 'two up, two down' next year.

Two teams from 2013 didn't enter but thanks to extra entries from Brackley and Tysoe we will start with a full house; 6 divisions with 6 teams in each.

A full list of Winners and Runners Up are here in this report. Summer League Certificates will be presented later. Teams in the Winter and Floodlit Leagues have already received theirs.

Summer League 2013		
	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Banbury A	Byfield A
Division 2	Charlbury A	Banbury B
Division 3	Charlbury B	Hook Norton B
Division 4	Kings Sutton C	Deddington C
Division 5	Banbury West End E	Byfield B
Winter League 2012/13		
	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Banbury A	Warwick A
Division 2	Charlbury A	Hook Norton A
Division 3	Middleton Cheney A	Priors Marston A
Division 4	Kings Sutton	Priors Marston B
Floodlit League 2012/13		
	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Brackley A	Byfield A
Division 2	Kings Sutton A	Banbury West End B
Division 3	Hook Norton B	Brackley C
Division 4	Deddington C	Banbury

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1. Issues

Three main issues cropped up over the season and will be discussed this evening. They are:

- a. difficulties in rearranging matches
- b. teams conceding matches
- c. teams playing players down

I've thought a lot about rules and rule changes and ask that you consider the following during our discussions. Just my opinions but I hope you agree:

- The League is primarily a friendly and sporting competition; it would be great if it could be self-regulating.
- Basic common sense and sportsmanship should prevail.
- Having said that, there does have to be a minimal framework of rules (but the fewer the better).
- Rules need to be clear and unambiguous and it must be possible to determine compliance (otherwise they can only be guidelines).
- We should beware of a knee jerk response to an individual or unique set of circumstances.

Whilst it's tempting to introduce new rules and tweak existing ones we should ask how important or relevant the changes are, what impact they will have and will they get used at all?

Do we really need more rules? When do we say enough is enough? And when do we all agree to stop tweaking (and re-tweaking) existing rules?

2. Floodlit and Winter League Entries

There was a disappointment for the Floodlit and Winter Leagues with just 6 teams in Div. 4 of the Winter League and 4 teams in Div. 4 of the Floodlit League.

Ideally there would be 7 and 6 respectively. I hope that this doesn't imply that League tennis is becoming less popular. If there is anything that we as a committee can do to make the League more attractive to participants I hope that you tell us.

3. Computers/Website

The interactive Match Card has proved pretty popular as it's quick and easy to use and looks good on the website. It's easy to use on Windows PCs and laptops but users of iPads and Apple have had difficulties. Cards can be read but not everybody can create them.

I've put a temporary solution in place but it means that the key features such as auto completion of players' names and adding up scores have been disabled. Tablets and smartphones are becoming very popular with an estimated 25% of web visits in Q1/13 – doubled from 12 months before – so I need to search for an alternative.

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4. Buckingham

Nick Osgerby has informed me that Buckingham will no longer be participating in the Banbury Floodlit League as they have decided to enter only the Milton Keynes League. He asked me to tell everybody that they had a great time over the years and thank the other teams for their friendship and competition.

5. Acknowledgements

Thanks to our Chairman, Colin Mercer and Treasurer, Trevor Stevens. Thanks also to Sue Jelfs and Adrian Taunton for arranging the Floodlit fixtures. Finally, Bronwyn, who has organised this AGM and helps me maintain the accuracy of the information on the website.

Please let me know if you have comments or suggestions about the administration of your league – they are always welcome!

Regards



Nick Adams
League Secretary - Banbury Tennis Leagues