

Banbury Tennis Leagues – 2016 AGM Proposals

1. **Removal of Rule 14 proposed by Byfield**

Problem: Rule 14 states that 'No player who has played in senior county matches in the previous three years will be eligible to play in the Banbury Town Leagues. (A Senior County Player is one who has played in the hardcourt singles or taken part in County Week.)'

The precise definition has been subject of much debate, discussion and disagreement.

Rule 14 is a bad rule. It is both unnecessary and arbitrary. Good players who happen to have played tennis at some form of county level should not be discouraged from playing in the league if the league is competitive for them. It's arbitrary because it does not 'catch' players who are County standard but just choose not to play County tennis. It doesn't seem fair to preclude a lesser "County" player but allow in a better player that simply chooses not to play County tennis.

Proposal: Scrap Rule 14

Impact of the proposal: Less confusion, more tennis.

2. **Reduce number of promoted and relegated teams for divisions with smaller numbers of teams proposed by Byfield**

Problem: If there are less than seven teams in a division, 'two up, two down' means teams that would normally have remained in that division are incorrectly promoted or relegated.

Proposal: Only one team be promoted and one relegated If there are less than seven teams in a division.

Impact of the proposal: More stable divisions with teams of similar standards.

3. **Teams to declare their number one and number two players before the start of the match proposed by Priors Marston**

Problem: Teams sometimes wait to see who is playing with whom in the mixed then tactically deciding who to play as one and two

Proposal: Teams to declare their number one and number two players before the start of the match

Impact of the Proposal: Fairer play

4. **Some clubs are not supplying names of all players on score cards proposed by Brackley**

Problem: When a team is unable to field a player the opposing team does not always provide a name on the score sheet of their player who would have played the missing player. This means that:

- a. There is no proof that the opposing team actually had a complete team.
- b. The opposing team are claiming points for a rubber without having to name the player. This would only be a problem if in order to have been able to field a team the opposing team had to use a player from a lower squad. Without the player being named, the opposing team have been able to claim points whilst not potentially "tying" a player to a higher team, therefore allowing this "unnamed player" to still play for a lower team.

Proposal: Add to Rule 12 that all names must be completed for the team claiming the rubber, even if rubber is not actually played.

Impact of the proposal: Names are available for Team Captains to check eligible players (if they wish to do so). Bring Banbury Tennis Leagues in line with other leagues (Thames Valley, Northamptonshire).