

Banbury Tennis Leagues

Secretary's Report

5th February 2015

Thank you everybody for coming to our 2015 AGM. I'm pleased to present my annual report.

Congratulations to all Winners and Runners Up. Banbury A are Summer League Champions for the third successive season so sincere congratulations once again. Hook Norton had a successful season, winning Divisions 2 and 3. Slightly belated, but well done to Warwick for getting three teams in the Winter League Division 1.

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

Summer League 2014

	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Banbury A	Byfield A
Division 2	Hook Norton A	Deddington A
Division 3	Hook Norton B	Charlbury B
Division 4	Banbury West End D	Middleton Cheney B
Division 5	Harbury	Tysoe A
Division 6	Tysoe B	Charlbury C

Winter League 2013/14

	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Byfield A	Warwick A
Division 2	Warwick C	Warwick B
Division 3	Deddington	Kings Sutton
Division 4	Harbury	Middleton Cheney B

Floodlit League 2013/14

	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Byfield A	Deddington A
Division 2	Hook Norton A	Hook Norton B
Division 3	Deddington B	Kings Sutton B
Division 4	Middleton Cheney B	Harbury

Not much has changed since my mid-year report so I'll just summarise some of the key points:

Firstly the change from 5 to 6 Divisions worked well and made fixture arranging easier.

The changed format of rule proposals at the AGM meant that we had better structured discussions.

The impact of rule changes has also been positive. Rule 2 (one allowed rearrangement instead of two) was universally accepted as an improvement. Team Captains interpreted this rule sensibly and no team incurred a rule 8 penalty of 9 points deducted.

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When I wrote my September report there had been no instances of teams being penalised due to Rule 8 (deduction of 9 points as a result of conceding, cancelling in less than 48 hours or disallowed/second rearrangement).

However, there have now been two – one because a Team Captain had not familiarised himself with the new rules and the other because of a last minute cancellation due to illness. In the second example the match would have been cancelled anyway because of bad weather. Fortunately, it seems that most Team Captains take a reasonable and flexible view and most times they do not penalise the opposition. I leave you all to make your own judgements.

I'm not so sure about Rules 3 and 5 (protocol for rearranging matches) as I am still aware of some background discontent. My opinion is that you can't write a rule for this kind of thing – people just need to be flexible and reasonable, apply common sense and most of all to be sporting.

Rule 9 (illness or injury during a match) and Rule 12 (players who play up should not necessarily be tied to the higher team) just seem to have worked.

We are going to discuss other competition formats and Rule 14 later.

There are still complaints about Playing Down. Some clubs are manipulating this rule by deliberately playing higher team players in lower teams early in the season before they become tied - in some cases playing more than two teams down. A proposal was discussed last year but rejected so the status quo will remain.

The problem is that whilst people may be complying with the letter of the law they are certainly not following the spirit of the League. Should we form a sub-committee to investigate and make recommendations?

That's it folks.

It just remains for me thank to our Chairman, Colin Mercer and Treasurer, Trevor Stevens, Sue Jelfs and Adrian Taunton for arranging the Floodlit fixtures and 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