

Banbury Tennis Leagues

Secretary's Report

4th October 2012

The Summer League is now complete so I am pleased to submit my report to the member clubs.

The bad weather put enormous pressure on fixtures and it looked for a while as though they may not be completed. Great credit goes to Team Captains and Match Secretaries for their hard work, persistence and ingenuity in ensuring that we finished on time by the 27th September 2012 .

1. Fixtures

Once again the Summer fixture spread was not sufficiently even for some clubs but I have since found some new software which I used to arrange the Winter 12/13 fixtures. They are much better and I'll use this software when arranging Summer 2013.

The criteria that I proposed last year were:

1. play home matches on your designated home match nights
2. no matches on weekends and Bank Holidays
3. no team should play more than once in any calendar week
4. even spread of fixture dates (home and away)
5. avoid home matches before 12th May for those teams without floodlights

However, I missed an important additional criterion which was to avoid home matches after a specific date for those teams without floodlights. The question is what should that date be? I'll poll the clubs affected and use their responses for future competitions.

There have been some suggestions which may be considered at the AGM in February if they are formally proposed:

1. a shorter home season for those clubs without lights (as above)
2. summer match format the same as for winter i.e. 2 men, 2 women and play one ladies, one men's and one mixed combined with a 6:30 start instead of 6:15
3. less clubs in each division (6 instead of 7) and consequently more divisions

2. Rule Changes

A number of rule changes were discussed and agreed at the February AGM. Whilst these were generally well received, some people did not fully understand them. The changes were intended to benefit teams so please ensure your Team Captains read them properly.

The main improvement that I saw is that (apart from the 48 hour rule) not one match has had to be conceded due to too many rearrangements and no requests for dispute resolution were made.

3. Fixture Arrangement Timetable

A changed timetable for arranging fixtures was proposed and agreed for the 12/13 Winter and Floodlit Competitions and will be used for the 2013 Summer League.

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4. Website

Further detail improvements have been made to the website. I've tried to liven it up a bit by adding topical headers such as the Olympics, the Royal Jubilee, Andy Murray's win etc. and hopefully people like these. In addition I've occasionally used the front page for news and information about the Leagues.

Most match cards are received on time now. I don't have to chase so often, so thanks again to Team Captains for helping me keep the information current.

A 'History' section was added in which previous results and tables can be found.

The 'Help' section is being continually updated.

During the season I had a few incidences of incomplete score cards being received and in trying to track down the root of the problem eventually realised that the senders were 'Mac' users (i.e. not Microsoft). After a lot of work, a solution has been found and it is being tested now.

As mentioned in my last report, the old site was still showing up in Google searches. It also contained personal data but I had not been able to get the information from the previous match secretary to enable me to close it down. I'm pleased to report that I tracked down the previous webhost. They were very cooperative and now it no longer exists.

5. Summer League

Congratulations to Banbury A on regaining their Division 1 title from Brackley A who had held it for the previous two seasons.

Here are the Champions, promoted and relegated teams:

Division 1

Banbury A (Champions)

Brackley A (runners up)

Relegated - Charlbury A and Brackley B

Division 2

Kings Sutton A (winners)

Banbury West End B (runners up)

Relegated - Banbury West End C and Deddington B

Division 3

Middleton Cheney A (winners)

Kings Sutton B (runners up)

Relegated - Middleton Cheney B and Kings Sutton C

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Division 4

Banbury West End E (winners)

Brackley C (runners up)

Relegated - Middleton Cheney C and Charlbury C

Division 5

Harbury (winners)

Deddington C (runners up)

Congratulations to all promoted teams and commiserations to the unfortunate teams that were relegated. The final tables are on the website. Certificates will be presented at the next AGM in February.

6. Acknowledgements

My thanks to League Chairman, Colin Mercer of Harbury and League Treasurer, Trevor Stevens of Deddington who have been invaluable in helping me understand and resolve certain difficulties. Also my wife, Bronwyn, who helps me check the information on the site.

Thanks also to Sue Jelfs of Banbury West End and Adrian Taunton of Brackley who prepared the Floodlit Fixtures.

I hope that you all have a great tennis season.

Regards



Nick Adams

League Secretary - Banbury Tennis Leagues