

**WIRRAL TENNIS LEAGUE (West Cheshire) – WINTER 2016-2017**  
**Fixture Secretary Report for WTL CM1 2017**

**History:**

First I would like to congratulate Norman Nelson who ran the league from 1981 to 2016. A tremendous stint! Possibly without Norman we would not have been able to enjoy competitive tennis throughout the winter months. Norman thought the league was started in the early 1970's. If anyone knows the origin please let me know.

**2016-2017:**

Congratulations to the division winners:

- Division 1 – Prenton A
- Division 2 – Hoole A
- Division 3 – Mersey Bowmen A
- Division 4 – Mersey Bowmen B
- Ladies Division 1 – Wallasey Manor A
- Ladies Division 2 – Hooton A
- Ladies Division 3 – Hoylake B

I was pleased to be able to accommodate all the fixture requirements as listed below even though it took quite a while to design the structured fixture list and then the fixtures:

Restrictions/requests by clubs:

- Glan Aber: 4 teams but only 1 team at home
- Helsby: 4 teams but only 1 team at home
- Thorndale: 4 teams but only 1 team at home
- Upton 4 teams but only 1 team at home
- Tarvin: 4 teams but prefer 1 team at home
- Hoylake: 7 teams but prefer only 2 teams at home
- Hoole: 3 teams but prefer only 1 team at home
- North Cheshire: 1 team but prefer all home matches to be played at away venue
- Mersey Bowmen: 2 teams (trial year) but all home matches to be played at away venue for this season (a condition we specified). Possibly next year play over the water.
- Wallasey Manor: Main A+B not same day. Ladies A+B not on same day
- Neston Main A+Ladies A on same day. Main B+Ladies B on same day
- Bertram: Main A+B at home together
- Alderley: 4 teams with maximum of 2 at home
- Cheshire Oaks: 3 teams with maximum of 2 at home
- Chester: 4 teams with a maximum of 2 at home
- Glan Aber: A team on 2nd weeks until end of year
- Oxton: 3 teams with a maximum of 2 at home
- Port Sunlight: 5 teams with a maximum of 3 at home
- Prenton: 6 team with a maximum of 3 at home
- A few clubs: No ladies matches week before Xmas, Mother's day and Easter
- Heswall: prefer maximum 2 teams at home

Restriction I added:

- Ladies Division 3: Only 7 teams so play each other home and away

Thank you to all the teams that played their matches on time and sent in acceptable result cards (either electronically or on card) on time. The WTL software is not able to cater for WTL scoring system and unfortunately the standard of result cards has been extremely disappointing for many different reasons. In the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 matches there were 121 "things to improve" ie not in accordance with what is expected. There was some improvement in that there were 13 for match 06 of which half related to emailed cards. The most common faults were:

No Team Letter	No Team Name	No Date	No Division
Wrong or No Match Number		Extremely large (some >6Mb)	
Hardly readable			

- There are over 40 matches per match number so quite a number to process.
- Many of the emailed cards were not to the standard required ie A5, landscape, reasonable size (ideally less than 300k) and colour. There is also a proforma card both for Main & Ladies on front website page (it highlights details to complete, there are drop down menus to help and total sets is automatic).
- The card can be posted if standard can't be adhere to. Have a look at result cards via website.
- As I said at AGM: Please let me know if you find anything difficult to complete correctly on the result card.

I consider it extremely rude that players cannot be bothered to produce a result card of acceptable standard.

Some of the rules introduced have had a positive effect:

- Matches must be played as scheduled (or earlier) has led to fewer matches not being played.
- No need to telephone opponents to confirm fixture.
- Result cards must be received within 5 days (combined with the above) has made it possible to publish up to date league tables.
- Rearranged dates (postponed because of conditions) to be resolved within 3 days has also had a positive effect on matches being played.
- 6 points per rubber (as in summer league) meant it was better to win 2-0 rather than 2-1 and if the rubber ended 2-1 the losing pair gained some league points.

Matches:

- There were 539 fixtures (average 20 per week or 41 every match number)
- 165 (31%) results (or concedes) were 24-0
- 42 matches were either conceded or no result card
- Considering it was winter there were few postponed matches (because of weather)
- There are 8 matches for which there has been no result card received and therefore the result has been declared 0-0.
- Remember that if both teams agree, then a match can be played EARLIER than scheduled. Just ensure the correct MATCH NUMBER is entered on the card.

Results / Tables:

- Unfortunately often by the time I receive ALL the result cards for a match number I then haven't enough time (I do have other things to do) to produce the tables before the next set of results start coming in. So please send the cards as soon as possible.
- Please let me know if you think I have entered a result incorrectly.
- Initially result cards should have been received within 2 days. It was changed to 5 days to allow for resolving any rearrangements as a consequence of postponement.

**2017-2018:**

- Divisions will consist of 8 teams playing each other home & away. It is a fairer system because:
  - Closer competition (result in about 1/3 matches was 24-0)
  - All teams will have a home advantage
  - Balanced travelling
- Normal 2 up 2 down will be applied and then top 8 will form division 1, next 8 division 2 etc.
- Teams can request to play in a higher/lower division than allocated and the league will do it's best to accommodate.

- For most divisions there will be 14 matches (1 more than 2016-2017) and therefore the season will need to start earlier (probably mid September).
- The same teams with the same contacts will be entered unless advised otherwise by 14 August 2017.
- Any special requirements (starting with a clean slate) must also be advised by 14 August 2017.
- The main difficulty will be for teams that played all home matches at away venue in 2016-2017. It may not be possible to accommodate that requirement and therefore those teams will probably need to find a home venue for some or all their home fixtures.
- Mersey Bowmen entered 2016-2017 on a trial basis (playing all their home matches at away venue) which seemed to be successful (certainly for them from the results point of view).
- Suggestions required to ensure completed result cards are received on time and of an acceptable standard (eg use proforma).
- Result cards to be received within 48 hours (not 5 days).

Geoff Dewhurst  
Fixture Secretary  
Wirral Tennis League