

WTL 2016 CM3: Fixture Secretary Notes after Week 16

The ideal situation would be to have no rules and also all results / league positions decided by tennis. However as clarification is required relating to many aspects (eg scoring) and also disputes, rules evolve so everyone knows where they stand and what action to take.

Since I have been fixture secretary (14 years) the rules of the Wirral Tennis League have evolved in an attempt to provide clarity, competitive tennis and to try to ensure fairness for all clubs and teams.

- There has always been a reason for any updates to the league rules.
- I have always tried to apply the rules fairly and unbiased and it does take a considerable amount of my time.
- It is unfair and near impossible to allow one club/team to contravene the rules but not another.
- It is also very unfair that one club may not adhere to the rules where another may ensure they adhere to the same rule even though it may cause them problems or weaken their team.
- As always I quote the fixture secretary report from AGM 1988 minutes: ***“Mr. Lydiate appealed to club representatives to know the rules and therefore avoid problems.”***
- It is not acceptable to say “I didn’t know the rule. I just want to play tennis.”. Someone has to do the admin.
- There is no point having a rule if it is then ignored.
- Tennis has it simple compared with some other sports I play. some examples are:
 - Table tennis: individuals must register online and pay £12 before they can play.
 - Bowls: to switch clubs individual players must resign by 28 Feb from their club and the league. Also fines for late results.
 - Badminton: players must be registered with BE/Cheshire and pay £18.75.

In conclusion: I am not prepared to give the considerable time that I do if rules are contravened and then the penalties simply overturned. I am also not prepared to take any more acrimonious comments that Matt and I have taken in the last couple of years while trying to be fair to all.

Now for the season 2016:

1. Problems: Greatly improved particularly fulfilling fixtures. Hope clubs can maintain the improvement.
2. However there are some problems which need resolving and penalties applied:
 - 2.4. Problem 20: Incorrect appeal
 - 2.5. Problem 28: Neston 1 postponed while all other Neston teams played
 - 2.6. Problem 34: WallaseyM2 Men no show
 - 2.7. Problem not listed: Mens fixture believed to have been played after scheduled date.
3. 3rd set match tiebreak and 6 points per rubber has been successful.
4. Some divisions were close and others were decided quite early:
 - 4.1. Division1: Heswall1 win for 5th time and 1st time since 2000. Prenton1 finish in their highest position ever but only 5points above Neston1 (subject to penalties at CM3). 9 times champions Birkenhead1 are relegated having been resident for 9 years and Thorndale1 go to the playoffs.
 - 4.2. Division2: Having just missed out to Birkenhead1 via the playoffs last year WallaseyM1 sealed their promotion quite early. Heswall2 take on Thorndale1 in the playoffs PSunlight1 are relegated and Upton1 could not catch Neston2 and must playoff.
 - 4.3. Division3: After just failing to gain promotion via the playoffs last year, Oxton1 made sure of automatic promotion with matches to spare. Thorndale2 comfortably take the playoff spot. Prenton3 are relegated and Pinewood1 go to the playoffs.

- 4.4. Division4: Bertram1 just clinched automatic promotion in their final match. Hoylake3 were very close and are in the playoffs for the 3rd year running. Birkenhead2 are relegated and Heswall4 go to the playoffs.
- 4.5. Division5: Thorndale4 comfortably take the title and Hooton2 go to the playoffs to possibly gain promotion 2 years running. Pinewood2 couldn't quite catch Neston5 and go to the playoffs.
- 4.6. Division6: Bertram2 maintained their halfway lead and gain automatic promotion. Thorndale5 just kept their advantage over WallaseyM3 and go to the playoffs. Birkenhead4 withdrew at CM2 and therefore no team needs to seek reelection (assuming Birkenhead4 don't).
- 4.7. Division1 Men: Prenton1 take the title for the 9th consecutive year winning by a considerable margin. Thorndale1 just pipped Helsby1, WallaseyM1 and Neston1 for runners up. Hoylake1 yoyo to Division2 and Hooton1 go to the playoffs but they were not far behind Prenton2.
- 4.8. Division2 Men: After just failing to gain promotion via the playoffs last year, Alderley1 easily gained automatic promotion. Oxton1 finished well to go to the playoffs. Upton2 need to seek reelection. As specified in at CM2:with the same number of teams next year the top 8 will make up Division2 and the bottom 6 will make up Division3.
- 4.9. Division1 Ladies: WallaseyM1 take the title by the small margin of 10points from the holders Thorndale1.
5. Electronic scoring: Still working on it but not progressed much because of other commitments.
6. Playoffs: Some rescheduling because of a request from Thorndale that they have a player playing for Thorndale1 & 2. Please ensure you know the revised schedule, the rules and turn up in plenty of time.

Provisional revised Playoff Schedule

Wirral Tennis League 2016 Playoffs
Saturday 3 September at Alderley & Bertram
Order of Play - Summary

For ALL matches:

**The full team must be given 15 mins before match
 scheduled start time**

At Alderley

09:00	Thorndale2 v Upton1	for 2nd division
11:30	Oxton1 v Hooton1	for Men 1st division
14:00	Hooton2 v Heswall4	for 4th division

At Bertram

09:00	Hoylake3 v Pinewood1	for 3rd division
11:30	Thorndale5 v Pinewood2	for 5th division
14:00	Heswall2 v Thorndale1	for 1st division

Geoff Dewhurst
 Fixture Secretary