

TENNIS OXFORDSHIRE AGM

18th March 2024

Leagues Report

Introduction

I'd like to start by thanking the other members of the Leagues Committee for all that they do; not least sorting out the disputes that occasionally occur between teams and clubs. They do a great job, guided by the League Rules and an underlying objective to get as much tennis played as possible.

So please give a round of applause to Anne, Kevin, Martin and Sarah and not forgetting Alex Wingent who handles the LTA Tournament software for us and answers the difficult technical questions.

Results round-up

This report touches on three seasons; Winter 22/23, Summer 23 and Winter 23/24. Winter 22/23 was completed shortly after last year's AGM and, as ever, there was a sense of relief that we'd made it. In a new departure, glass trophies were handed out to Division winners at the autumn club forum. No longer framed paper certificates!

The Summer 2023 season started in April, supported by our sponsor Dunlop and was completed in September. The Ladies league had 81 teams playing in 10 Divisions with Oxford City emerging as the winner of Division 1. The men's league had 94 teams playing in 12 Divisions and here Blewbury topped Division 1, just one point ahead of the winter 2022/23 winner Bicester. In the mixed league 72 teams played in nine Divisions with Witney again winning Division 1, this time dropping just seven sets across the whole summer.

Turning to the Winter 2023/24 season, it is almost completed despite the best efforts of a very wet winter. The Ladies League has 85 teams playing across seven Divisions and Oxford City have maintained their dominant position winning the Premier Division by a margin of at least 16 points. In the case of the men's league, 93 teams are entered and with just one match to play Bicester and North Oxford are tied on 56 points. Everything to play for over the final weekends.

We would normally be handing trophies to the teams that won their Division in Summer 2023 at this meeting. However, for the first time for

many years, we are holding an awards dinner (Saturday May 11th at the Voco Oxford Spires Hotel) and this is where the presentations will be made to both the Summer 2023 and Winter 2023/24 winners. See you there!

Looking forward

The Dunlop Leagues are in excellent health with over 250 teams having entered for the Summer 2024 season. Pretty well all the new teams that joined us across 2022 and 2023 have stayed, reflecting the increased membership that many clubs are enjoying and a strong interest in playing matches. The fixtures were published in early February and changes agreed by the end of the month.

The Midweek Leagues are also in good shape but we are always looking for a few extra teams. If you're interested have a word with Anne who looks after the two ladies Divisions or Martin who takes care of the men's and mixed. Entry forms have gone out, but there's still time to sign up. OK, today's the deadline but I'm sure a few days grace can be granted.

Steve Winyard

09/03/2024