

Southport and District Junior Tennis League Report 2017

(Issued 11th Feb 2018)

The 2017 junior league produce another well contested season with 4 different clubs winning across the 5 leagues.

Participation was only down slightly despite the league consolidating the number of leagues. There were 254 juniors competing across the 5 leagues (compared to 269 from 2016 season in 8 leagues). The drop was mostly in boys numbers (203 down from 221). Girls participation remains fairly low but saw some growth (51 up from 48).

The 2017 junior tournament did not go ahead this year due to issues related to finding a venue, referee and timing. However I am pleased to confirm that the 2018 tournament has been confirmed as going ahead, at the normal time (1st full week of school holidays) and with approval from the LTA to maintain the Grade 5 grading for the event.

Despite losing our sponsor at the beginning of the season, the junior league finances are also healthy. All the running of the leagues is done on a voluntary basis at very low cost. Registration fees raised £265 (just £5/team for the 53 teams), and this covered the newly reduced LTA League Planner Fees (£76) plus lower costs for medals and trophy engraving (£125) as the tournament did not go ahead. This left a surplus of £64 for the year (2016 season £43 deficit, 2015 season £113 surplus). I am pleased to report we will be holding the team registration and tournament entry fees to £5/team or £5/event for another year. My thanks to the league Treasurer, Jason McLeod, for his support.

The standard of tennis continues to be high across all the leagues, with 'winners' and 'runners up' coming from 7 of the 13 clubs involved. (See below for full list of League winners and runners-up).

Event		Winners	Runners-Up
10 & Under	Mixed	ARGYLE	HILLSIDE
12 & Under	Boys	HILLSIDE A	FORMBY
14 & Under	Boys	SPHYNX	ARGYLE
16 & Under	Boys	FORMBY HT A	CAMPION
16 & Under	Girls	ARGYLE A	MAWDESLEY A

Congratulations to all the players, coaches, team captains and clubs involved. The medals and trophies for the Leagues were presented to all the players at the annual junior awards night in November. Many thanks to Sphynx for hosting the event and to everyone who helped on the night.

The 2018 season will be my 6th and last for me in the Organiser role, and work will be ongoing during this season to find volunteers to help run the league next season and to have a managed handover. I am grateful for the help provided by all the club representatives on the Junior Committee for their support and for volunteering their time in support of their clubs and for their junior members.

The registration process for the 2018 season is well under way, and the numbers of teams looks to have increased Details to be confirmed.

It just leaves me to say a big thank you to all the juniors, their parents, coaches, the junior reps and the Clubs for all for their hard work and support for the Junior Leagues, and we look forward to another successful season of junior tennis in 2018.

Dave Clifford, S&DJTL Organiser