

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO MAKE OUR LEAGUE OPEN TO EVERYONE, THREE NEW TEAMS, HESKETH BANK, LONGTON VM B & SCARISBRICK NSC ENTERED & MAWDESLEY WITHDREW FROM THE LEAGUE WHICH WAS FORMED INTO TWO DIVISIONS OF 11 TEAMS FOR THE 2023 SEASON.

IN THE 1ST DIVISION, BANKS ST STEPHENS TOOK THE TITLE FOR THE 5TH TIME WITH ONLY 4 POINTS IN HAND OVER RUNNERS-UP, HESKETH ARMS VULTURES, WITH THIRD PLACE BRETHERTON A, A FURTHER 14 POINTS BEHIND. WHILST, HOLMESWOOD A & ZETLAND B FINISHED IN THE RELEGATION POSITIONS. THE 1ST DIVISION PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD WAS WON BY JOHN GREENWOOD (TARLETON A) FOR THE FIRST TIME WINNING 17 OF HIS 20 GAMES FOLLOWING TAKING THE 2ND & 3RD DIVISION TITLES IN PREVIOUS SEASONS.

THE 2ND DIVISION WAS DOMINATED BY NEWCOMERS, SCARISBRICK NSC, WHO WON 19 OF THEIR 20 MATCHES & HAD 35 POINTS TO SPARE OVER RUNNERS-UP CROSSENS A, WITH THIRD-PLACED CROSTON BLACK HORSE, A FURTHER 11 POINTS BEHIND. THE 2ND DIVISION PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD WAS WON BY ALEC EVERTON (CROSTON BLACK HORSE) FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER PLAYING IN THE LEAGUE FOR MANY YEARS, BY WINNING 17 OF HIS 20 GAMES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK WILDE (HESKETH ARMS) ON WINNING THE LEAGUE'S PRESIDENT DAY BY BEATING HARRY CAUNCE (HOLMESWOOD) 21-14 IN THE FINAL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLIN MOORE (LONDON SPHNYNX) ON BEING CROWNED AS THE STE RIMMER MEMORIAL LEAGUE SINGLES CHAMPION FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING, BY BEATING BRIAN COLEMAN (ZETLAND) 21-15 IN A WELL CONTESTED FINAL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE FENNEY & DAN FINCH (BANKS ST STEPHENS) ON WINNING THE 35TH RUNNING OF THE LEAGUE PAIRS COMPETITION, THRASHING THEIR TEAM MATES CHRIS THOMPSON & ROY WEBSTER 21-9 IN THE FINAL.

THE FINALE OF THE SEASON WAS AS USUAL THE KO TEAM TROPHY, WHICH WAS A REMATCH OF THE 2017 FINAL, & WAS EXPECTED TO BE A CLOSELY FOUGHT MATCH BETWEEN HESKETH ARMS VULTURES & BURSCOUGH RBL A. HOWEVER, THE HESKETH ARMS VULTURES PLAYERS TO A MAN PLAYED THE GREEN EXCEPTIONAL WELL & DOMINATED THE MATCH FROM START TO FINISH TO TAKE THE TITLE WITH A VICTORY MARGIN OF 40.5 CHALKS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR HELP & SUPPORT THROUGHOUT LAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY TO JASON WRIGHT WHO HAS DONE A SUPERB JOB AS CHAIRMAN, JOHN MARRIOTT (VICE-CHAIRMAN), STEPHEN BALL (PRESIDENT) & TO ALL DELEGATES FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS & PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES PROFESSIONALLY, TO TARLETON BOWLING CLUB FOR THE FREE USE OF THEIR ROOM FOR MEETINGS, TO ALL CAPTAINS FOR THEIR HARD WORK, FLEXIBILITY & COMMONSENSE TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE FIXTURES, TO ALL GREENKEEPERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN MAINTAINING THE PLAYING SURFACES TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, TO ALL PLAYERS OF THE LEAGUE FOR THE FRIENDLY & SPORTING MANNER THEY HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES THROUGHOUT THE SEASON IN MAKING THIS LEAGUE THE FRIENDLIEST & MOST COMPETITIVE LEAGUE IN THE AREA.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE EVERYONE WHO WON LEAGUE TROPHIES & PRIZEMONEY LAST SEASON.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RUNNING ANOTHER REWARDING SEASON & I HOPE EVERYONE WILL ENJOY PARTICIPATING IN THE LEAGUE WHETHER THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL OR NOT.