

# HISTORY OF LEAGUE

The East Lancashire Tennis League was formed in 1965 from a merger of the Accrington and District and North East Lancashire Leagues.

Both these leagues were in operation in the pre-war years. The Accrington and District was originally a thriving parks league with private clubs being admitted after the war.

Blackburn Northern (then called Blackburn St. James) was the last pre-war winners of the North East Lancashire League and feeling somewhat embarrassed at holding onto the trophy for so long instigated the revival of the league in 1948.

Both leagues started to dwindle and there was much discussion and no little controversy during the late 50's and early 60's regarding a merger. This was finally agreed at a meeting chaired by Gordon Rae in the Grapes Hotel Blackburn, at the end of 1964.

Mr. Charles Villar was elected the first president with John Whittaker as chairman and Susan Villar as secretary.

The Accrington and District passed onto the new league a fine set of trophies for the individual championships which were played for in 1968 for the first times.