RULES AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COLCHESTER AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE

(Organisers of the Colchester Tennis Tournament)

Founded - 1922

Issued March 2017

RULES OF THE LEAGUE

I. CONSTITUTION

I.1

The Competition to be known as the "COLCHESTER & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE", (incorporating the Individual Championships and Team Competitions), Organisers of the Colchester Tennis Tournament. In seasons where the League is sponsored, the sponsors name may be added to the title.

I.2

The competition shall be open to any Club within a twenty mile radius of the Town Hall, Colchester. Applications to be received by the Secretary by a date to be advised and will be considered on their merits by the Executive Committee.

I.3a.

The Competition shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of 1. The Chairman 2. Vice-Chairman 3. Secretary 4. Treasurer 5. Tournament Secretary 6. Match Records Secretary, and three Committee members.

b.

The officers and committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting which shall be held by the end of April. Two representatives of each Club shall be entitled to vote but this does not prevent the attendance of more representatives of a Club.
In the event of any of the Executive committee posts (Rule I.3a) not being filled by election, the post shall be filled by a draw. Each Club will have one number per team, or in the case of clubs affiliated for individual Tournament purposes one number. Those Clubs already providing an Officer shall be exempt from the draw, and any Club having had a serving officer in the preceding year shall be similarly exempt. Any Club not being prepared to accept the responsibility will be ineligible to affiliate to the League.

c.

The Executive shall have the power to co-opt other members for the purpose of arranging the Tournament Finals, if necessary. A quorum shall consist of not fewer than four.

I.4

No alteration shall be made in these Rules except at an Annual General Meeting, or a meeting specially convened for that purpose, notice in writing of any resolution or any proposed alteration of these Rules being forwarded to the League Secretary 28 clear days before such meeting, and the Secretary shall give notice of such resolution at the same time and in the same manner as he/she gives notice of the meeting.

I.5

The Executive Committee shall have full jurisdiction over matters not covered by these Rules, and its decision shall be final.

I.6

Any player reported by his/her Club for non-payment of subscriptions may be banned at the discretion of the Colchester & District Tennis League Committee from entering all Colchester & District League Events until such time as his/her debts are reported by the Club to be settled.

I.7

Clubs must be represented at the AGM. Failure to attend may result in a Club being disqualified from the League or being fined £25.

II. AFFILIATIONS / REGISTRATIONS

II.1a.

The Clubs affiliated to the League for Individual Championships only shall pay an affiliation fee to be decided by the Committee.
Clubs entering Team Competitions shall pay an affiliation fee to be decided by the Committee and no further fee for registration of players will be required.

b.

All players must be registered with the League Match Records Secretary at least one day before any match they participate in (or by email only on the day of the match, before commencement of the match, (to verify time and date))

c.

A Club entering two or more teams in the same Competition must register their players in order of merit, unless by prior approval of the Executive Committee. The Club's registration must be in the hands of the Match Records Secretary by the 1st May for scrutiny by the Committee. Once registered the category cannot be changed. (Also see II.1b.)

A player must be registered for a specific team for each competition, transfer being only from a lower team to a higher team. A player registered for a lower team may play for a higher team on one occasion only, without debarring from continuing to play in the lower team; BUT a player registered for a third team or fourth team may play for any higher team on one occasion only. The second time he/she plays up, he/she will remain in that particular team and will not be permitted to play in any other team for the rest of the season.

III. THE TEAM COMPETITIONS

III.1a

The Team Competitions to comprise one or more divisions of Mixed Doubles, Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles, in each or either of which affiliated Clubs may enter one or more teams.

b.

Such competitions shall be conducted in League form for teams of six players. The League is to be divided into Divisions of each competition, if necessary.

i) The top division in the league for Ladies Mixed and Mens shall be called the Premier Division and thereafter divisions 1 2 3, etc..
ii) Divisions shall consist of a maximum of five teams playing home and away during the season.
iii) Where the total number of teams is not divisible by five, the lowest division shall consist of either a maximum of four teams playing home and away, or, 6 7 or 8 teams playing once a season either home or away as at present.
iv) No more than two teams from the same Club may be in the same division, except for the bottom division.
v) At the end of the season the bottom club shall be eligible to compete in a lower division, being replaced by the top team of that division.
vi) The team winning a division would be guaranteed promotion even in the event of a league restructure.

c.

Any new Club entering the competition not being eligible for the Junior Divisions (if any) shall, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, commence in the lower division of each or either competition.

d.

In the event of a team entitled to promotion not affiliating the following season, the Club next in order for promotion shall be given the opportunity for such promotion.

e.

The Executive Committee may, if the circumstances warrant, decide upon the number of Clubs liable for promotion and relegation, and the initial position of any new Club.

f.

If two or more teams from one Club are in the same division of the League competition, the match or matches between these teams must take place before any matches are played with other Clubs, but, in the event of bad weather, it should be played by June 1st. UNLESS prior permission from the Executive Committee has been obtained, Club teams not complying with this Rule shall be awarded nil points for the match(es) in question.

III.2

The team competitions are listed in Appendix A

Match Regulations

III.3

All matches to be played under Lawn Tennis Association Rules. Each couple of one team must play the three opposing couples for one Professional set. A professional set is the first to eight games, by two clear games, with a tie-break at seven-all if necessary. The teams to be awarded points on the basis of sets won. Nine points are available but for the match to be decided at least two rounds of the match must be completed (See III.6c). In the event of a drawn match after two rounds the points should be apportioned as four and a half to each team. An additional three points are available for a win, and one point for a draw

III.4

Clubs shall be placed in order of points awarded, and in the event of a tie on points the position shall be determined according to the Club with the highest difference between sets won and sets lost, and if still a tie, the highest number of sets won, then it would be decided on games won and games lost.

III.5

Players belonging to more than one Club may register and play for more than one Club, provided they only play for each Club in a different competition.

III.6a.

All matches must be played by August 31st on a date mutually agreed by both Club Secretaries. If a match is not played on this date, 2 points will be deducted from each of the teams in question subject to the discretion of the Committee. Any claims may be considered under III.8b or III.8c.

b.

The Captain of the home team shall be responsible for completing the result card in detail (INCLUDING FIRST NAME and SURNAME) which must be countersigned by the Captain of the visiting team. Result cards can be scanned and emailed, but should be received by the Match Records Secretary within *five* days of the match being played.

c.

The order of play shall be decided by draw. If play is stopped by bad light or weather conditions before the second round has been completed, the whole match shall be rearranged. The score at the end of the second round will count as the result in the event of none of the third round being completed. Any third round results will count. The Captain of either side may concede sets to the opposition for the purpose of completing any round. Any unfinished sets not conceded will be considered halved. If poor light is envisaged, or in the event of poor light, and <u>for the third round only</u>, the captains may agree to play a 'Championship tie break' in all or any of the third round sets to try and finish the match.

d.

Matches must be played on the original date agreed at the Annual General (Fixture) Meeting, (or on a date agreed before 'date of AGM + 7 days'). After the AGM, fixture changes should be routed through each Club's Match Secretary.

e.

The League Match Records Secretary must be advised in writing of all fixture dates so agreed, by 'date of AGM + 14 days'

f.

Acceptable reasons for non-playing of a match on the agreed date are bad weather, or non-availability of courts (**<u>NOT</u>** NON-AVAILABILITY OF PLAYERS). The new date must be advised to the Match Records Secretary <u>within 14 days</u> of the original match date. The home side must offer a minimum of three dates of which only one can be a weekend or Bank Holiday. **<u>If the new date (without any further correspondence) is not received within these 14 days a penalty of one point per day deduction will be incurred, by both the home and away teams, until the new date is received.</u>**

g.

All match claims should be received by the League Secretary in writing within two weeks of the match concerned. No claims however, will be considered after 1st September.

III.7

Clubs may make their own arrangements for playing off matches on courts mutually agreed upon.

III.8a.

Evening matches shall start at 6.30pm. An earlier start time may be mutually agreed upon. In all cases, any couple not ready to play within *fifteen* minutes of 6.30pm. (or other time agreed) shall forfeit the set. Any Club, where their facilities do not permit a 6.30 pm start, must apply to the Committee for permission for an earlier or later start. If the Committee agrees, the HOME Club must, at the beginning of each Season, inform all opponents in writing of the time of start of play of their home matches.

b.

The Executive shall have power to deal with the following:-

i) Any unfulfilled engagement
ii) Non-compliance with agreed time of starting
iii) Concession of points

c.

No Club shall concede points or be asked to concede points without previously having obtained the consent of the Executive.

d.

Concession of points; if a team concedes a walkover, it will be debited with 4 points, whilst a team that wins a match by default shall receive a score equal to the best score achieved by another team against that

defaulting team, with the proviso that the score must be at least the minimum for winning the match (ie 8 points for a 5-4 win). **<u>However if a team concedes two walkovers in a season, it's record will be expunged and it will be deemed to be bottom of its division and relegated accordingly.</u>**

III.9

New balls must be provided by the home side. Non observance of this Rule will incur a penalty of a 4 points deduction.

<u>IV. INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</u>

IV.1

The Individual Championships shall be governed by the same Rules in principle as the Team Competition.

IV.2

No substitution of one player for another can be made under any circumstances.

IV.3

No competition shall be held unless there are at least four entries. The Individual events shall be restricted to members of affiliated Clubs only.

IV.4a.

In the Individual Championships a tie-break will be played at 6 games all in all sets. The Finals to be played on approved grounds.

b.

Competitors unable to play in the Finals must retire from the Competition immediately this fact becomes known

c.

The top named player in the top half, and the bottom named player in the bottom half of the draw, is responsible for arranging the match, and shall have the choice of venue which must be on affiliated club courts unless mutually agreed, They should offer within *five* days of knowing their opponents at least two dates to play the match, <u>BUT</u> ALL PLAYERS SHALL BE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLAYING THE MATCH BY THE SPECIFIED DATE (of the Round). If a round is not played by the specified date and no reason reported to the Tournament Secretary by the date, the players may be scratched from that particular competition.

IV.5

Tournament Extensions - **No** extensions except under exceptional circumstances. Players should ensure that <u>matches are arranged as soon as possible</u>, to allow time for rearrangements because of inclement weather. All requests for extensions must be in writing and received by the Tournament Secretary within 48 hours of the closing date of the round at the latest. The request will be considered by the Executive Committee. The Tournament Secretary has <u>no power</u> to grant extensions.

IV.6

PROTESTS - Protests in writing must reach the League Secretary within 48 hours of a match (Sundays excepted) and shall be dealt with by the Executive.

IV.7a.

Trophies shall be held by the winners for one year only, shall remain the property of the League, and shall be returned to the League Secretary when requested.

b.

All Team and Individual Cups/Trophies <u>MUST</u> be returned in pristine condition. Anyone returning a Cup/Trophy which is deemed to require further cleaning will incur a fine of between £5 and £10.

c.

The cost of engraving trophies shall be borne by the winners in each case.

d.

Insurance of trophies shall not be the responsibility of winners.

IV.8

Entrance fees in respect of the Individual Championships shall be decided by the Committee.

IV.9

<u>Individual Championships - Senior Open Individual Events</u>

These events are listed in Appendix B a-e

<u>Individual Championships - Individual Events</u>

These events are listed in Appendix B f-x

Individual Championships - The League Open Restricted Competition

This shall be open to members of affiliated Clubs: winners of an Event in this competition shall not be debarred from entering other Restricted events in successive seasons, but will not be permitted to enter an event which they have already won, other than by default or walkover, until 15 years have elapsed from the date of winning. Winners of any of the Senior Open Competitions are ineligible for entry into any of the Restricted Competitions.

These competitions are listed in Appendix C.

Appendix A

The Team Competitions are as follows:-

a) Mixed Doubles
   Premier Division
   Winners: Holders of the Crowther Challenge Cup *presented by Alfred Crowther Esq in 1922*
   Division 1
   Winners: Holders of the Lawrence Challenge Cup
   presented by Messrs Lawrence & Co pre 1987
   Division 2
   Winners: Holders of the Hill Challenge Cup *presented by CR Hill Esq in 1927*
   Division 3
   Winners: Holders of the Colchester and District Tennis League Mixed Division 4 Cup
   Division 4
   Winners: Holders of the Andrew Knights Shield *presented by Andrew Knights in 1999*
   Division 5
   Winners: Holders of the Peter Digby Cup *presented by Peter Digby in 2000*
b) Men's Doubles
   Premier Division
   Winners: Holders of the Oswald Lewis Challenge Cup *presented in 1929*
   Division 1
   Winners: Holders of the Bonner Mens Doubles Team Challenge Cup
   presented by AG Bonner in 1929
   Division 2
   Winners: Holders of the Alex Kay Cup
   Division 3
   Winners: Holders of the Kent Blaxill Shield
   Division 4
   Winners: Holders of the Colchester & District Tennis League Shield (Mens Division 4
   Presented by the Colchester & District Tennis League in 2000
   Division 5
   Winners: Holders of the Goodys Cup *presented by Goodys Solicitors Colchester in 2005*
c) Ladies Doubles
   Premier Division
   Winners: Holders of the Heasman Challenge Cup *presented by A Heasman & Son in 1933*
   Division 1
   Winners: Holders of the Marion Craig Challenge Cup *presented in 1955*
   Division 2
   Winners: Holders of the Jill Turner Cup (lost but replaced by a Shield) inscribed Ladies Div 2
   Division 3
   Winners: Holders of the Andrew Simpson Shield *presented by Andrew Simpson in 1999*
   Division 4
   Winners: Holders of the Graham Hicks Challenge Cup *presented by Graham Hicks in 2001*
   Division 5
   Winners: Holders of the Andrew Simpson Shield *presented by Andrew Simpson in 2009*
d) Junior League
   Under 16 Girls - Winners: Holders of the Owen Cup
   Under 16 Boys - Winners: Holders of the Jones Cup
   Presented by David Jones in 1993

Appendix B

The Open Individual Events are as follows:-

a) Men's Singles
Winner: Holder of The Jeffrey Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup *presented by DW Jeffrey in 1923*

b) Ladies Singles
Winner: Holder of The Waterman Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup *presented by AJ Waterman Esq in 1923*

c) Men's Doubles
Winners: Holder of The Herring Cup *presented by WH Herring Esq in 1925*

d) Ladies Doubles
Winners: Holders of The Heasman Cup *presented by A Heasman & Son Colchester*

e) Mixed Doubles
Winners: Holders of the Fellowship of Freedom & Reform Cup *presented in 1927*

f) Men's Doubles (Over 40)
Winners: Holder of the Capt. T Carr-Ellison Cup *presented in 1938*

g) Ladies Doubles (Over 40)
Winners: Holders of Colchester and District Tennis League Ladies Doubles (over 40's) Cup

h) Men's Singles (Over 40)
Winner: Holder of The Morgan Law Challenge Trophy (formerly the Minet Cup)

i) Ladies Singles (Over 40)
Winner: Holder of the Nash Trophy *presented by Jill Crown in 2001*

j) Mixed Doubles (Over 40)
Winners: Holders of the David Rice Cup *presented by David Rice*

k) Mens Doubles (Over 55)
Winners: Holders of the Sam Mansfield Tankard *presented by Kay Mansfield 2012*

l) Ladies Doubles (Over 55)
Winners: Holders of The Vince Cup *presented by Steven Vince in 2010*

m) Mixed Doubles (Over 55)
Winners: Holders of The Sexton Cup *presented by Richard and Julie Sexton in 2010*

n) Married Couples
Winners: Holders of the John Shippey Cup *Presented by John Shippey in 1972*

o) Girls' Singles (Under 18 at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Crocket Cup *(details – 1931 Junior Challenge Bowl Ladies Singles)*

p) Boys' Singles (Under 18 at 1st January of the current season)
Winners: Holder of The Piper Cup *presented by His Worship the Mayor Councillor AW Piper in 1926 (orig. awarded for Gents Dbles)*

q) Girls' Doubles (Under 18 at 1st January of the current season)
Winners: Holders of the Zwolle Cup *presented by the Zwolle Tennis League in 1948*

r) Boys' Doubles (Under 18 at 1st January of the current season)
Winners: Holders of the 'Stringers' World' Shield *presented by Stringers' World in 2016*
(formerly Essex Newspaper Press Fund Challenge Cup *presented in 1938)*

s) Junior Mixed Doubles (Under 18 at 1st January of the current season)
Winners: Holder of the Jacklin Cup *presented by FA Jacklin in 1923*

t) Girls' Singles (Under 14 at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Scott Cup *presented in 1979*

u) Boys' Singles (Under 14 as at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Jill Dyer Cup *presented by Jill Dyer in 1978*

v) Girls' Singles (Under 12 at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Colchester and District Tennis League Cup *presented in 1992*

w) Boys' Singles (Under 12 as at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Cubitt and Clark Trophy *presented in 1988*

x) Girls' Singles (Under 16 at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Lancaster Group Trophy *presented in 1988*

y) Boys' Singles (Under 16 as at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Cliff Richard Trophy *presented in 1988*

z) Boys' Doubles (Under 14 as at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Whybrow Cup *presented in 2003*

aa) Girls' Doubles (Under 14 as at 1st January of the current season)
Winner: Holder of the Whybrow Cup *presented in 2003*

Appendix C

The League Restricted events are as follows:-

a. Men's Singles
Winner: Holder of The Harper Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup *presented in*

b. Ladies Singles
Winner: Holder of The Hearsum Cup *presented by Mrs HD Hearsum in 1925*

c. Mixed Doubles
Winner: Holder of The Bonner Cup *presented by AG Bonner in 1930*

d. Men's Doubles
Winners: Holder of The Piper Cup (Gents Doubles) *presented by His Worship the Mayor Councillor AW Piper in July 1926*

e. Ladies Doubles
Winners: Holder of the Fieldgate Cup *presented by FH Fieldgate in July 1926*