

**THE MARESFIELD LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

**RULES**

**1 Name and Objects**

The Club, founded prior to 1950, shall be named 'The Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club' and shall have for its objectives the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the inhabitants of Maresfield and the surrounding district by the provision of facilities for playing lawn tennis.

**2 Constitution**

The Club is constituted by these Rules as a Charity and the income and property of the Charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects set out in 1 above. A Trustee may pay out of, or be re-imbursed from, the property of the Charity reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Charity, but none of the income or property of the Charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. Upon dissolution should the Club have any grants outstanding held on condition that unspent amounts must be returned to the donor, repayment may be made to the granting authority. Otherwise, upon dissolution of the club, any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered Charity at the discretion of the Trustees, who shall remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for properly winding up the affairs of the Club, and for notifying the Charity Commission that the Club has been dissolved.

**3 Affiliation**

The Club shall seek affiliation to The Lawn Tennis Association through the appropriate county lawn tennis association and shall adopt and conform to the Rules of these organisations in so far as they can apply.

**4 Classes of Membership**

Membership of the club is open to anyone interested in the sport on application to the Committee via the Membership Secretary and will be considered regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. Applications for membership will be dealt with strictly in chronological order and with no regard to previous experience or playing ability.

The committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or the sport into disrepute.

Appeal against refusal may be made to the members, at the Annual General Meeting

Types of membership within the Club consist of:

Single, Adult, Family, Husband & Wife, Junior

Life Member

Affiliated Member (who has access to courts between 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday – Friday)

Student (i.e. those in full time education)

## **5 Subscription Rates**

The entrance fee (if any) for joining and all categories of subscription for members and junior members shall be fixed yearly at the annual general meeting. In the case of two or more members and/or junior members of the same family residing in the same house the Committee may, at their discretion, make such reduction in the annual subscription as they may think fit.

## **6 Subscriptions – Further Provisions**

- a) In the event of the Club being liable for Value Added Tax (or any other tax) on Members' subscriptions, the subscriptions shall be inclusive thereof.
- b) The subscription year runs from 1st April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- c) A member whose subscription is paid before the due date will be entitled to a rebate sufficient to bring it back to that applying in the previous year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March. A member whose subscription is not paid by the due date will not be entitled to the privileges of membership until he/she has paid, and if it is not paid by 1<sup>st</sup> May he/she will be deemed to have ceased to be a member and, at the discretion of the Committee, any re-election will be subject to the normal procedures, including re-instatement of the entry fee.
- d) The subscription, and entrance fee if applicable, of a new Member shall be due within 7 days of notification of election. Alternatively, it may be paid with the membership application, in which case:
  - i) it will be repaid if election to membership does not take place; and
  - ii) at the discretion of the Honorary Secretary and one other Committee Member, the candidate may be allowed to use the Club pending the Committee's consideration of his application.
- e) For a new Member after the end of August the Committee may, at their discretion, accept a proportionately reduced subscription for the part-year.

## **7 Accountancy Year**

Except for the purposes of subscriptions (see Rule 6c), the Club's financial year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December and the accounts submitted to the Annual General Meeting shall be prepared accordingly.

## **8 Election of Honorary Members**

Honorary Membership (other than temporary in accordance with Rule 12), including Honorary Life Membership, shall be strictly limited and at the discretion of the Committee by way of reward for special services to the Club.

## **9 Resignation**

A Member wishing to withdraw from membership shall notify the Honorary Secretary.

## **10 Suspension or Expulsion**

The Committee shall have power to terminate or suspend the membership of any Member, or to exclude any Member or visitor, only for good cause such as a breach of these Rules or, of misconduct, or offensive behaviour to any other Member, Visitor or Employee, whether on the Club's premises or elsewhere, or conduct or character that may bring the Club or the sport into disrepute.

Appeal against removal of membership may be made to the members at an Annual General or Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **11 Injury, Loss of Property, Etc.**

Members or Visitors leaving unattended vehicles, rackets, clothing or other property at the Club do so at their own risk and the Club shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury resulting from this or any other cause.

## **12 Visitors and Temporary Members**

Visitors may be introduced by any Member. Before a Visitor plays, the Member introducing him must make an appropriate entry in the Visitors' Book and pay the fee, which shall be fixed by the Committee. No Visitor may play more than three times in any year except with the special permission of the Committee.

Every member of a visiting match team shall be an Honorary Member for the day and every competitor in a tournament at the Club (and in the case of a competitor under the age of 18, his parent or guardian) shall be an Honorary Member for the period of the tournament.

Temporary Members may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee at a fee or fees to be fixed by the Committee.

## **13 Clothing**

There is no bar to the wearing of coloured tennis/sports clothing on court but appropriate hard court footwear, with non-marking soles, is required.

## **14 Management**

The management and property of the Club shall be in the entire control of a Committee of not less than 5 and not more than 8 members in addition to the Officers, who shall act in a purely Honorary capacity and shall comprise as a minimum a Chairman, a Treasurer, a Secretary, Membership Secretary and a Junior Co-ordinator together with such other appointments as may be determined by circumstances and approved by the AGM. All shall be elected for the year at the annual general meeting except that the elected Committee shall have power to fill any casual vacancy.

The Committee shall meet at least twice every year and additionally as circumstances may require. The quorum at a Committee meeting shall be 6 and, in the event of equality of Voting, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The Committee shall act as Trustees of the club with regard to its charitable status and in any other matter requiring representation in that role.

The Committee may delegate any part of its duties (except the election of Members) to one or more sub-committees which may be composed of any Members of the Club.

## **15 General Meeting**

An annual general meeting shall be held each year by the month of March.

The Committee shall call an extraordinary general meeting at their discretion or within one month of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a requisition signed by twenty Members or, if the total membership is less than 100, by one-fifth of the Members, stating the business proposed to be transacted.

Any Member wishing to propose a resolution at the annual general meeting must send a copy thereof to the Honorary Secretary three weeks prior to this meeting. The Honorary Secretary

shall send to every Member (other than Temporary Members) at least ten days' notice of any general meeting, together with a copy of the Agenda.

The business of the annual general meeting shall be the confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any subsequent extraordinary general meetings, the consideration of the Committee's report and the Honorary Treasurer's Accounts for the year, the election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year, the appointment of an Honorary Auditor, and any items of which notice has been given and details included in the Agenda. The business of an extraordinary general meeting shall be in accordance with the requisition under which it was summoned and the Agenda issued. At any general meeting further business may be accepted at the discretion of the Chairman provided that it does not call for an alteration of Rules, the winding up of the Club, the transfer of any of the Club's assets, the borrowing of money, or any expenditure not within the immediate financial resources of the Club.

Every Member (other than Temporary Members) shall be entitled to be present and to speak and vote at any general meeting and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

At any general meeting, the quorum shall be 16 Members entitled to vote.

## **16 Borrowing Powers**

If at any time the Club in general meeting shall pass a resolution authorising the Committee to borrow money, the Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purposes of the Club such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as shall be specified in such resolution, and thereupon the trustees shall at the direction of the Committee make all such dispositions of the Club property or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto as the Committee may deem proper for giving security for such loans and interest. All members of the Club, whether voting on such resolution or not, and all persons becoming members of the Club after the passing of such resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.

## **17 Rules and Regulations**

A copy of these Rules and Playing Regulations made by the Committee under Rule 13 shall be prominently displayed at all times in some conspicuous place on the Club premises and all Members shall be deemed conversant therewith. The Rules shall not be altered except at a general meeting after due notice and then only provided that two-thirds of those present and voting are in favour. The Regulations shall be made and periodically revised by the Committee.

## **18 Dissolution**

The Club shall be dissolved on the passing of a resolution to that effect at a general meeting after due notice by at least two-thirds of those present and voting, and wound up in accordance with the provisions in Clause 2 above.