

Biddenden Lawn Tennis Club

Constitution

1. Name

The club, which was founded in 1981, will be called “Biddenden Lawn Tennis Club” (the Club) and will be affiliated to the LTA.

2. Aims and objectives

The Club has been created and is managed to provide facilities and promote the sport of tennis on an amateur basis. The club is committed to promoting the widest possible participation in tennis, on a fully inclusive and non-discriminatory basis.

The aims and objectives of the Club will be:

- to manage the tennis courts at the Gordon Jones Playing field in Biddenden, in co-operation with the landlords who are currently the Biddenden Village Hall Sports Committee (BVHSC);
- to make the tennis facilities available to its members for the purposes of playing tennis;
- to enable and promote access to the tennis facilities to the wider public on reasonable terms for the purposes of playing tennis;
- to promote the sport of tennis in Biddenden and the surrounding areas, including through growing the membership of the Club;
- to provide tennis activities at the courts, including, but not limited to, coaching, competitive matches and social tennis;
- to co-operate with the BVHSC and other sports clubs in Biddenden for the promotion of sport, health and well-being more generally for the residents of Biddenden.

The Club will meet these aims and objectives in a manner that promotes the principles of inclusivity, equality and fair treatment. Consistent with its affiliation to the LTA, it will adhere to high standards of safeguarding, particularly in relation to children and vulnerable adults.

3. Membership

Membership should consist of the officers and members of the Club.

Any person wishing to become a member of the Club shall apply to the Secretary in writing or via the Club's website. Subject to Section 6 of these Regulations, the Management Committee shall have discretion to refuse any candidate for membership.

Such refusal shall not be on grounds that are inconsistent with the principles of equality, inclusivity and non-discrimination.

The Secretary shall provide a successful applicant for membership with a Member's Pack comprising a copy of this Constitution together with any Code of Practice and relevant current policies, including the safeguarding and diversity and inclusion policy.

All members will be subject to the regulations of this Constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and any code of conduct that the Club may from time to time adopt.

Individual members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- annual adult membership;
- monthly membership;
- junior membership;
- children's membership.

or any other category of membership that the Management Committee may create.

4. Rights of members

Each category of membership will have different entitlements which will include their ability to book courts and their entitlement to vote at the AGM. These entitlements are set out in the Club's policies and its member's pack.

Specifically, only full adult members will have the right to vote at the AGM and to become officers of the Club.

5. Equal opportunities

The Club is committed to promoting equal opportunity and access to its facilities and in the manner in which the Club is organised and managed.

6. Membership fees/subscriptions

Membership fees or subscriptions will be set annually and determined by the Management Committee.

Fees for annual adult members will be paid by annual subscription, although the Club will provide facilities for this to be paid by monthly instalments.

Fees for monthly members will be paid by monthly subscription.

The Management Committee may, in its discretion, create new classes of membership, discounted subscriptions, or otherwise promote new membership offers as circumstances may require.

The subscription year shall run from 1st April to 31st March in each year, or on a rolling twelve-month basis, at the Management Committee's discretion.

The due date for the payments of membership subscriptions for existing members is 28 days after the previous membership expires. A member's subscription, which is not paid by the due date, will not be entitled to the privileges of membership. If no payment is received after the expiry of three (3) months from the due date membership shall cease.

The Management Committee shall have the power, at its discretion, to refund part, or all of a member's subscription as the circumstances may require.

7. Injury or loss of property

Members leaving unattended vehicles, rackets, clothing or other property at or near to the Club's premises do so at their own risk and the Club will not be responsible for any loss or damage resulting from this or any other causes outside its control.

8. Officers of the club

The officers of the Club will be:

- Chair;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer; and
- Welfare officer.

Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Management Committee

The Club will be managed through the Management Committee consisting of:

- the four officers of the Club; and
- no more than three co-opted members, of which one must be a resident of Biddenden.

Only these will have the right to attend and vote at meetings of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee will be convened by the Secretary and held no less than three times a year.

The quorum required for business to be conducted at Management Committee meetings will be three (3) of which at least one (1) shall be one of the officers of the Club.

The Management Committee will be responsible for running the Club and adopting new policies, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the Club.

The Management Committee will have powers to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Management Committee as may be needed to fulfil its business.

10. Finance

All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the Club.

The financial year of the Club will end on 31st March.

A statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

Any cheques drawn against Club funds should hold the signatures of the Treasurer plus up to one other officer.

Any surplus income or gains are required to be reinvested in the Club.

No distribution of the Club's assets in cash, or in kind, is to be made to the members or to any third parties, unless the Club is dissolved in which case the terms of Clause 13 will apply.

11. Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings

Not less than 21 clear days' notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be given by the Secretary to all members.

The business of the AGM will be:

- to approve the previous minutes;
- to receive a report from officers of the Club and a statement of the accounts;
- the election of officers for the next year; and
- the consideration of any items of which the required notice has been given.

Nominations for officers of the Club will be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM.

All members over the age of 18 have the right to vote at the AGM. Voting will be conducted by simple majority and in the event of an equality of votes the Chair will have a casting vote.

The quorum for AGMs will be the lesser of twenty per cent (20%) of the full adult membership of the Club at the date of the AGM or ten (10) members whichever is the least.

The Management Committee shall be entitled to call an Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) at its discretion, or be required to do so within one month of receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by no less than twenty per cent (20%) of the then current full adult membership stating the business that it is proposed to be transacted.

Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

12. Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the Club can only be passed at an AGM, or an EGM, by a majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, the net assets of the club, after the settlement of all debts and liabilities, will be transferred to another club with the same or similar objects.

13. Amendments to the constitution

This constitution can only be changed with the agreement by majority vote of the membership present and entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM.

Declaration

Pursuant to a resolution of the membership of the Club, Biddenden Lawn Tennis Club hereby adopts this constitution.

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2021

SIGNED: *CLIVE THOMAS*

NAME: CLIVE THOMAS

POSITION: Club Chair

SIGNED: *JUDITH WRIGHT*

NAME: JUDITH WRIGHT

POSITION: Club Secretary