

BOURNE AND DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Abbey Lawn, Bourne, Lincolnshire

CONSTITUTION (“the Constitution”)

Name

1. The Club shall be called **Bourne and District Lawn Tennis Club** (“the Club”).

Objects

2. The Club shall have for its objects:

(a) the provision of lawn tennis (“tennis”), social and other facilities for its members without any discrimination of any kind, including in particular the encouragement of participation in the game of tennis at all levels by players of all ages, standards, abilities, capacities and incapacities, and the provision or availability of coaching, practice facilities, matchplay and social tennis for all members.

(b) the provision, maintenance, repair and renewal of tennis courts, the tennis clubhouse and such other buildings equipment and facilities necessary and proper for the carrying out of the objects in clause 2(a) above

(c) the ability by its Trustees on behalf of the Club to buy sell take on lease surrender exchange or otherwise deal in such freehold and leasehold property, and to borrow take on loan apply for or receive as a grant or loan such sums from such bodies on such terms, and to mortgage or charge such freehold or leasehold property to secure such sums on such terms, as are approved by a Resolution of the Committee in a Committee Meeting.

Membership

3 (a) Subject to the contents of the Constitution and to the Regulations of the Club defined below, membership of the Club shall be open to all without discrimination. The Club may refuse membership or expel from membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club’s members and decided by a majority vote.

3 (b) Prospective new members of the Club are entitled to use the Club facilities and equipment for four sessions, the cost of which shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) each year and such fees shall be deducted from their subscription should they become Club members.

3 (c) Subject as aforesaid, written application for membership must be made to the Membership Secretary and the subscription paid before a person is entitled to use the Club facilities and equipment.

3 (d) The categories of member, subscription rates and the subscription year or relevant part thereof, together with visitors’ fees mentioned in clause 3 (g) below, shall be fixed at the AGM each year. Any member who has failed to renew his or her membership within one month of the start of the subscription year shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club, and any member who wishes to represent the Club in tennis matches or otherwise must have paid the current annual subscription beforehand.

3 (e) Honorary Membership including Life Honorary Membership shall be strictly limited and at the discretion of the Committee by way of reward for special services to the Club.

3 (f) Valid membership identification must be worn. The Committee reserves the right to request those not complying to leave the courts.

3 (g) Visitors to the town may use the Club facilities on payment of a fee for each session. The fee will be displayed on the notice boards. Visitors will be expected to conform to the contents of this Constitution and to the Regulations of the Club.

Club Management

4 (a)(i) The management of the Club shall be in the entire control of a Committee of at least twelve members being made up as follows: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Match Secretary, Men's Captain, Ladies' Captain and at least four other members. In the event of anyone holding two or more offices, extra persons shall be elected to bring the total to at least twelve. All Committee members shall be elected for the year at the AGM except that in the event of a vacancy occurring during the year or if they so wish the elected Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members.

4 (a)(ii) In addition, the Club shall have a President and such Vice-Presidents as may be proposed and approved from time to time at its AGM (such offices to be held during the lifetime or until the resignation of the office-holder) but who shall not (unless they wish to be so co-opted) be members of the Committee.

4 (b) The Committee shall meet at least six times in every year and additionally as circumstances may require. The quorum at a Committee Meeting shall be five members, and in the event of equality of voting the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The Committee may delegate any part of its duties to one or more sub-committees which may be composed of any members of the Club.

4(c) The Committee shall from time to time make and revise the Club's Regulations ("the Regulations") and shall have power to decide any matter unprovided for by the Constitution and the current Regulations.

4(d) The Committee shall have general control of the courts, shall fix the times of opening and closing of the grounds and provide for the closing of the courts to enable matches and tournaments to be played. Coaching may only take place on the courts with the express authority of the Committee.

4(e)(i) The Committee shall ask for an explanation from any member or visitor about whom a complaint is made that he or she is believed to have damaged the Club courts or grounds, Club equipment or property or clubhouse, or to have misused the facilities, or to have been in breach of the terms of the Constitution or Regulations, or whose conduct to any other member, visitor or employee, whether on the Club's premises or elsewhere, gives any cause for complaint. If no explanation is forthcoming or if the explanation is deemed unsatisfactory, the Committee shall have the power to terminate or suspend the membership of such Member or to exclude such member or visitor whom it considers guilty of the subject of the complaint without (in the case of a member) repayment of the whole or any part of any subscription paid by any such member.

4 (e) (ii). Anyone who considers that he or she has valid cause for complaint should first advise any Committee member. Anyone has the right to refer a serious complaint to the Committee by sending it in writing to the Secretary for consideration by the Committee at the next Committee Meeting.

General Meetings

5 (a) The AGM shall be held in the month of February in each year.

5 (b) An Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) may be called either by the Committee at their discretion or within one month of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition signed by no less than 25 adult paid-up members stating the business proposed to be transacted.

5(c) Any Member wishing to propose a resolution at the AGM must send a copy thereof to the Secretary before 24th January so that provision may be made on the Agenda.

5(d) The Secretary shall at least seven days before the AGM or EGM forward to each member written notice of such meeting, together with a copy of the Agenda.

5 (e)(i) The business of the AGM shall be the confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM and of any subsequent EGMs, the consideration of the Chairman’s and Men’s and Ladies’ Captains’ reports, and of the Treasurer’s accounts for the previous 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.

5 (e) (ii) The business of an EGM shall be in accordance with the requisition under which it was summoned and the Agenda issued.

5 (e)(iii) 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 the Constitution, 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.

5(e) (iv) Every member shall be entitled to be present and to speak at any general meeting , and, if aged 19 years or over, to vote thereat. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

5(f) Except for the purposes of subscriptions, the Club’s financial year shall run from 1st February to 31st January. The accounts of the Club shall be kept, and audited and submitted to the AGM for approval, and the year end for the accounts shall be 31st January.

Constitution and Regulations

6 (a) A copy of the Constitution and of the Regulations shall be prominently displayed at all times on the Club noticeboards. All members shall be bound by them and shall be deemed conversant therewith. The Constitution 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.

6 (b) The Club shall affiliate to the Lincolnshire Lawn Tennis Association (“ the LLTA”) and in doing so is automatically indirectly affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association (“the LTA”). The Club shall adopt and conform to the Rules of both of the LLTA and the LTA in so far as they apply and do not conflict with the Constitution and the Regulations and in the case of conflict the Constitution and the Regulations shall prevail.

6 (c) The Club is constituted by the Constitution as a non profit-making Members’ Club. In no circumstances during the continuance of the Club, nor at nor after its dissolution, shall any assets or surplus funds be distributed to any Member or other person nor to any organisation which is not itself either registered as a charity, but may on dissolution be distributed to an organisation which is itself either registered as a charity or a Community Amateur Sports Club with similar objects to those of the Club or to the LLTA, or to the LTA, as the Committee, or failing them, the LLTA shall direct. The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards promoting the Club’s objects as set forth in this Constitution.

6 (d) The Club shall be dissolved on the passing of a resolution to that effect at an AGM or EGM after due notice, by at least two-thirds of those present and voting. Such meeting shall appoint a committee to wind up the affairs of the Club and shall give general directions as to the disposal of any assets within the scope of clause 6(c) above.

Injury, loss of property

7. Members or visitors leaving unattended vehicles, racquets, clothing or other property at or in the vicinity of the Club premises 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.

REGULATIONS (as at 18.06.2018)

1. No playing of tennis or other ball games shall be permitted outside the courts in the Monks Garden nor outside (and in the immediate vicinity of) the all-weather courts 6, 7 and 8 on Abbey Lawn.

2. The Committee will decide on the dates when the grass courts will be opened and closed at the beginning and end of the summer season and notice of these dates will be placed on the Club noticeboards. No play shall take place on the grass courts before the opening date and after the closing date for the summer season in each year. The Committee will decide when any of the grass courts is to be rested by placing an appropriate notice on such court or by removing the centre net, and no play shall take place on such court at that time.

3. No play is permitted on the three all-weather courts 6, 7 and 8 after 10 p.m. each evening.

4. The general timetable for play on the courts will be shown in the Membership Card each year. Members are encouraged to use the courts at other times when courts are not required for coaching, matches, tournaments, organised floodlit play or other events authorised by the Committee, and to enter tournaments and join in social play as appropriate. In the winter, members may apply to be included in the floodlit tennis rota. Floodlighting tokens may be purchased by Club members only from Sam's shop in Abbey Road.

5. Recognised white or coloured tennis clothing and lawn tennis shoes, ie without raised heels, spikes, studs, cleats, bars or deep ribbing, must be worn whilst on court.

6. No long sets shall be played by members or visitors successively when other members or visitors are waiting to play.

7. No doubles shall be played successively by the same members or visitors when other members or visitors are waiting to play.

8. Singles shall not be played by members or visitors when members or visitors are available to play doubles.

9. Players, both members and visitors, must give up the court on completion of a set and combine with others waiting to play.

10. Adults and juniors (8 and over) who are BTM members and full Bourne members, both at the date of the ballot and on the Wimbledon ticket dates, are eligible to enter the ballot for Wimbledon tickets.

11. No dogs are permitted on Abbey Lawn or on any area of or in the vicinity of the tennis courts. Bicycles are not permitted to be ridden on Abbey Lawn or on or in the vicinity of the tennis courts, but may be wheeled in an orderly manner to the outside of the perimeter netting of the hard courts or to the outside of the clubhouse where they will be at the owner's risk. Perambulators, skateboards or other wheeled vehicles or appliances are not permitted on the court surfaces. Cars and other motorised vehicles are not permitted on Abbey Lawn.

12. The last person or persons to leave the court or courts at the end of play must ensure that the net is lowered, tennis balls are put away, lights are switched off, any water taps are turned off, and, as appropriate, the clubhouse, gates and floodlighting meter boxes are locked, and, where applicable, keys are returned to Sam's shop or otherwise to the authorised keyholder. Any difficulty in complying with or non-observance of this regulation should be reported to a Committee member at the earliest opportunity.

13. If a fully paid up adult member incurs an injury or illness before the end of June, which prevents him or her from playing for the rest of the year, then that member can apply to the committee for a refund of 50% of their subscription. The final decision will be at the discretion of the committee.