



The Rules of the Ryde Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

1. The Club shall be called “The Ryde lawn tennis and Croquet Club” and shall have for its objects the provision of lawn tennis, croquet, social and other facilities for its Members.

2. The Trustees

- 2.1 The Trustees of the Club shall be appointed from time to time as necessary by the Club in a General Meeting from among the members who are willing to be so appointed. A Trustee shall hold office during his/her life, or until he/she shall resign by notice in writing given to the Management Committee or until he/she ceases to be a member of the club or until a resolution removing him/her from office shall be passed at a general meeting by a majority comprising two-thirds of the Members present and voting.
- 2.2 All property of the club, including land and investments, shall be held by the Trustees for the time being, in their own names so far as necessary and practicable, for the use and benefit of the Club. If the death, resignation or removal from office of a Trustee should reduce the remaining number to three the Management Committee shall take steps to procure the appointment by the Club in General Meeting of a new Trustee in his/her place; and shall as soon as possible thereafter take lawful and practicable steps to procure the vesting of all Club property into names of the Trustees as constituted after the said appointment. The Trustees shall in all respects act, in regard to any property of the Club held by them, in accordance with the directions of the Management Committee and shall have power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any Club property for the purpose of raising or borrowing money for the benefit of the Club in compliance with the Management Committee’s directions. But no purchase, lessee or mortgage shall be concerned to enquire whether any such direction has been given.
- 2.3 The number of Trustees shall be not less than three or more than six.
- 2.4 Every member of the Management Committee, Trustee, employee or agent of the Club shall be indemnified by the Club out of Club funds against any legal claims made against them in connection with the proper discharge of their duties.

3. The Management Committee

The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee

- 3.1. The elected officials of the Club shall be:

The President

The Club Secretary

The Treasurer

The Publicity Officer

The Membership Secretary

The Chairman and Secretary of the following Sub-Committees, being Tennis Committee, Croquet Committee, Social Committee, Grounds and Equipment Maintenance Committee and Clubhouse and Buildings Maintenance Committee. If there are vacancies on the committee and no nominations are received to fill that vacancy at the time of the AGM then another member of the Management Committee may hold two roles in order that the position is filled.

- 3.2 The Management Committee shall consist of:

- a) The President

- b) The Club Secretary
- c) The Treasurer
- d) The Publicity Officer
- e) The Membership Secretary
- f) The Club Coach
- g) The Chairman of each Sub-Committee
- h) The Safeguarding Officer

3.3 At its first meeting after the AGM the Management Committee shall elect one of its members to be the Committee Chairman and another member to be the Committee Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman may be re-elected for up to four successive years.

3.4 The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly and the quorum for any meeting shall be five, including the Chairman, subject to the exception in Rule 6.

3.5. The Chairman and Secretaries of the Sub-Committees have full powers of co-option.

3.6 When the Chairman of any Sub-Committee is unable to attend a Management meeting, the Secretary may attend.

3.7 The Management Committee may appoint any Member to fill any casual vacancy on the Management Committee until the next Annual General Meeting when that person shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

4. Election of Management Officials

4.1 Any Member seeking election and nominated by two other members, must submit a signed nomination form to the Club Secretary not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting.

4.2 If there is more than one candidate for any particular position there shall be an election at the Annual General Meeting for that position. In the event of a tie, the winner shall (unless the candidates otherwise agree) be determined by lot.

4.3 The Management Officials shall be elected at the Annual general Meeting. Each candidate may be elected for up to four successive years in any one position. This restricted tenure of office does not apply to the positions of President, Treasurer or Club Secretary. If any official remains in post after their four year tenure comes to an end the further period of tenure will be for one year.

4.4 Any existing Management Official wishing to continue in office and not constrained by limit of tenure will be considered as a candidate without having to submit a nomination form.

5. Application for Membership

5.1 Approval for Application of Membership shall be in the hands of the Management Committee

5.2 The Management Committee shall decide on each application for membership or re-application for membership following a lapse in membership by vote. On receipt of an application or re-application for membership the Membership Secretary will circulate details of the application to the Management Committee by email. If any member of the Management Committee is not in favour of accepting the application or re-application for membership a meeting of the Management Committee will be called where a simple majority of those present must be in favour to approve the application.

5.3 Any rejected applicant shall have the right to appeal against the decision in writing to the Management Committee.

5.4 The Membership Secretary shall inform each candidate in writing of the result of their application and shall furnish elected candidates with a copy of the Rules of the Club.

5.5 The Management Committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.

6. A book shall be kept by the Treasurer in which the names and addresses of all Debenture Holders shall be entered and in which all transfers of Debentures shall be registered.

7. Honorary Membership

7.1 The Committee shall have power to make Honorary Members

7.2 The Committee shall have power to elect as Honorary Vice-President anyone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Club.

8. Temporary Membership

8.1 The Committee shall have the power to elect temporary Members, in accordance with the Rules relating to the election of Members, for a period not exceeding 7 days.

9. Membership Privileges

9.1 Social Members shall have all the privileges of a Full Member including that of voting. Junior Members and Temporary Members shall not be entitled to vote.

10. Admission

10.1 An interval of at least two clear days must elapse between a person being nominated for membership and their admission to any of the privileges of membership. This restriction applies to all classes of membership, including temporary. Example: A person applying for membership on a Monday cannot be admitted as a Member until Thursday morning.

11. Subscriptions

11.1 Subscriptions, as set out in Appendix A, are payable in advance on the first day of April in each year.

12. Guests

12.1 Any member over the age of 16 years may introduce guests only upon the following conditions:

- A Green Fee be paid by the Member before the guest may go on court to play. The Member introducing the guest is responsible for the strict observance of this rule. Guests of Members may only play six times in a club year after which the non-member will be expected to apply for Membership of the Club. Juniors attending Saturday morning coaching are excluded from this requirement.

Additional visits by guests to the Club at the invitation of another Member are not permitted.

13. Children under 12

13.1 Children under 12 years of age can only play if accompanied by a member on such days and at such hours and on such courts as the Committee may from time to time appoint, but not to the exclusion of any Members.

14. Expulsion of a Club Member

14.1 The Management Committee shall have power to expel a Member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for him/her to remain as a Member. A Member shall not be expelled unless he/she is given at least 14 days' written notice of the meeting of the Management Committee, at which his/her expulsion shall be considered and written details of the complaint made against him/her.

14.2 The Member may make written representation and/or appear before the Management Committee and at any such meeting be accompanied by a representative or friend to answer complaints made against him/her and to cross examine any witnesses. If the Members decides upon this course of action, he/she must notify the Club Secretary as to the name of the representative or friend at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. No members will be expelled from the Club unless at least two-thirds of the Management Committee then present vote in favour of the expulsion.

14.3 The Management Committee may exclude the Member from the Club's premises until the meeting considering his/her expulsion has been held. For the avoidance of doubt, the Member shall be entitled to attend that meeting for the purpose of making his/her representations. Any person ceasing to be a member forfeits all rights to the claim upon the Club, its property and its funds and has no right to the return of any part of his/her subscription. Any person expelled from the Club, resigned as a result of disciplinary procedures, or whose application for membership has been rejected, shall not be admitted as a guest or temporary member.

14.4 Visitors. If a simple majority of the Management Committee decide that the presence of any particular person(s) may be prejudicial to the good order of the Club, such a person will not be admitted to the Club.

15. **Dogs** may be brought onto Club grounds on a lead and kept within the paved and car park area. Dogs may not have access to the grassed areas of the Club grounds and are not permitted within the Clubhouse.

16. **Tennis players** must wear recognised tennis clothing. This clothing may be of any colour. Only recognised tennis footwear, which must be clean, will be allowed on the courts. Studs, spikes, heels or soles are to damage the court surface will not be permitted. White croquet clothing must be worn in competition. Flat soled shoes must be worn on the croquet lawns at all times.

17. When the "NO PLAY" notice is displayed, the grass courts will not be used under any circumstances.

18. **The Annual General Meeting** shall be held before the start of each season as agreed by the Management Committee and the Management Committee can at any time, on its own resolution, call an Extraordinary General Meeting. It shall be the duty of the Management Committee to call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time at the written request of not less than ten members. At least fourteen days' notice of every Annual General Meeting (AGM) and every Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be sent to each Member electronically to the email address held by the Club. At any AGM or EGM 15% of the adult membership listed at the time of the meeting shall form a quorum. The Management Committee reserve the right to hold an AGM or EGM via a virtual platform if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the Members to do so.

19. Any question not provided for by these rules shall be decided by the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final, until the next AGM or EGM, when the Management Committee's action shall be confirmed or amended.

20. Alterations to the Rules of the Club can only be made at an AGM or an EGM, notice whereof must be given to the Club Secretary at least three days prior to the summoning of the meeting.
21. The Management Committee are empowered to make or alter such byelaws as they may consider necessary for the well-being of the Club, which shall have effect until the next AGM or EGM when the Management Committee's action shall be confirmed or amended.
22. All suggestions shall be made in writing in a book kept for the purpose in the Clubhouse. If the Club Secretary shall be unable to deal with them personally, he/she shall submit them to the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final. In no way shall a servant of the Club be reprimanded directly by any Member.
23. Members shall pay every expense incurred by them or for any guests introduced by them, before leaving the Club grounds.
24. Members shall be responsible for any damage done to the Grounds or to the property of the Club by themselves or by any person introduced by them.

25. The permitted licensing hours of the Club shall be:

- a) Weekdays 10.00 to 23.00 inclusive
- b) Sundays 12.00 to 22.30 hours inclusive
- c) Christmas Day 12.00 to 15.00 hours inclusive
- d) Good Friday 12.00 to 22.30 hours inclusive

Intoxicating drinks may not be sold to persons under the age of 18 years

26. Sale of Alcohol

26a. Members, Officials and Supporters from other Clubs invited to participate in organised games and tournaments may at the absolute discretion of the Management Committee be admitted to the premises and intoxicating liquor may be sold to them by or on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises.

26b. Intoxicating liquor may only be sold to non-members at events which have been authorised by the Management Committee and according to the current licensing requirements.

27. Borrowing

27.1 The Trustees may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, borrow on behalf of the Club for the purposes of the Club.

27.2 If the sum to be borrowed is greater than £5,000 or the borrowing is to be secured by a charge on all or part of the Club property, the borrowing must be approved by members at a General Meeting.

28 Dissolution of the Club

28.1 A resolution to dissolve the Club shall be proposed only at an EGM and shall be passed only if carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the Members present and voting.

28.2 The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Management Committee shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the Club.

28.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be equitably paid to or distributed to the LTA and CA for use in developing both tennis and croquet within local communities.

29 Persons of either sex are eligible for membership of the Club. No person shall be denied membership of the Club on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, age, disability, sex, occupation, sexual orientation, religion, political or other beliefs.

30 Smoking of any type is not allowed anywhere within the grounds of the Club

31 The LTA Disciplinary Code

31.1 “Disciplinary Code” means the disciplinary code of the LTA in force from time to time; “LTA” means, LTA CLG and its subsidiaries or such successor entity or entities as become(s) the governing body of the game of lawn tennis from time to time; “member” means for the purposes of RLTC Rule 34 a tennis playing members of the RLTC who is affiliated to the LTA; “Rules” means the rules of the LTA as in force from time to time.

31.2a Each member agrees as a condition of membership to be bound by and subject to these rules as in force from time to time to be bound by and subject to the Rules and Disciplinary Code.

31.2b Rule 2(1) confers a benefit on the LTA and, subject to the remaining provisions of this rule, is intended to be enforceable by the LTA by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999. For the avoidance of doubt, the members do not intend that any term of these rules, apart from rule 2(1), should be enforceable, by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999, by any person who is not a party to this agreement.

The Management Committee may terminate the Membership of any person, or impose any other sanction they determine to be appropriate, in connection with the breach of any condition of membership set out in this rule.

31.3 The Management Committee

The Ryde Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club agrees that each member of the Management Committee will be required, as a condition of election or appointment, to agree to be bound by and subject to these rules, the Rules and the Disciplinary Code, such agreement to contain an express acknowledgement that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 applies and that the LTA and RLTC enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion.

31.4 Coaches and Players

The RLTC agrees that all unlicensed and unregistered coaches and, so far as is reasonably practicable, players and other persons using the facilities will be required, as a condition of such use, to agree to be bound by and subject to these rules, the Rules and the Disciplinary Code, such agreement to contain an express acknowledgement that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 applies and that the LTA and RLTC can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion.

The amended Rules of the Ryde Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club were adopted for a second year by the Management Committee and will be submitted to the members at the next quorate AGM or EGM for approval.

The Management Committee

May 2024