

RULES FOR THE INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 1 **COMPETITION:** All participating teams in the Inter-Club Competitions will be entered in the draws for the Roscoe Trophy (Men), Liebert Rosebowl (Ladies) or Mike McBrien Trophy (Mixed). Four teams (at least) in each event will be seeded. Clubs may enter one men's team, one ladies' team and one mixed team only using a conventional of draw of 16 subject to entries. Those teams which have played and been defeated in either the first or second rounds of each competition will be entered in the unseeded respective Ranson Bowl, Ralph Bint Cup or Ken Nelson Trophy Competitions. Clubs giving walkovers in the premier competitions will not be eligible for the Ranson, Bint or Ken Nelson Trophy competitions.
Teams may be seeded depending on the number of entries.
- 2 **ELIGIBILITY:** The competitions shall be open to any registered tennis clubs in Lancashire.
- 3 **RULES:** The competition shall be conducted under the Rules and Regulations of the LTA and Lancashire Tennis.
- 4 **FEES:** Tennis Lancashire Ltd shall from year to year decide the entrance fees to be charged. These will be shown on and must accompany the entry form otherwise the entry will be rejected.
- 5 **DRAW:** The draw shall be on the basis that the club drawn first in each bracket shall be the home club. In succeeding rounds, clubs which have played more away matches than their opponents shall earn the right to be the home club. Clubs having byes and walkovers in the earlier rounds shall be deemed to have won at home. If both clubs have had an equal number of away matches, the club first in the bracket shall be the home club. In the semi-final and final rounds of each competition, if the same clubs are drawn to meet each other in successive seasons, the venue shall alternate.
- 6 **SURFACE:** Matches may be played on any approved hard or grass courts; the decision as to the type of court to be used being the prerogative of the home club.
- 7 **TENNIS BALLS:** The home club shall provide the balls. Only balls approved by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) may be used and not less than 8 new balls per match supplied. Balls for the finals will be provided by Tennis Lancashire.
- 8 **FIXTURES:** The home club will be responsible for communicating with their opponents and for arranging the match which must be completed not later than the date laid down. No extension of time can be allowed. The home club must offer the away club three dates, two of which must be Saturday or Sunday (not the same weekend), within 72 hours of receipt of the draw and giving a minimum of 72 hours notice. The away club must respond to the offer within 72 hours and will forfeit the match if unable to agree any of the three dates. If for any reason the match is not decided by the date fixed for the completing of the round, the winner shall be decided by coin toss.
- 9 **WALK-OVERS:** In the event of a club team scratching from or failing to play a semi-final or final round, that club's entries in the following season's competition may be refused.
- 10 **WEAK TEAMS:** Clubs suspected of fielding non-representative weak teams in the Roscoe / Liebert/ Mike McBrien Trophy Competitions in order to gain entry to the Ranson / Bint/ Ken Nelson Trophy Competitions may be refused entry to the latter competitions.
- 11 **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** The qualification to play for a club in any match shall be bona fide playing membership of such club on the day of the match and one who has been elected in accordance with the rules of the club. No player shall be allowed to play for more than one club in any Lancashire Tennis Inter-Club Competition in any one season. Any competing club, which includes in its team a player not qualified in accordance with these rules, shall forfeit the offending rubbers 6-0, 6-0 in favour of their opponents. To be eligible to play in the semi-final or final a player must have played (or in the event of a walk over be named on the match card) in an earlier round. To protect player

eligibility for the semi and the final, score cards must be returned after each round with the players names recorded, even in the event of a walk over. **IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE THEN YOU MUST CONTACT THE ORGANISER, WHOSE DECISION WILL BE FINAL.**

12 MATCH:

Men's, Ladies and Mixed

Each competing team shall consist of two pairs ranked one and two. Each pair shall play the best of three sets, first two sets normal tie break to 7, the final set being a Match tie break to 10 points (with 2 point advantage) against each pair of the opposing team. In the event of rubbers and sets being equal matches shall be decided by a match tie break shoot out involving one player from each pair.

The order of play shall be as follows:

1st Round	1 v 1, 2 v 2
2nd Round	1 v 2, 2 v 1

Normally, the away team should remain on the same court for the whole match.

- 13 STARTING TIME:** The starting time for evening matches shall be not later than 6:30 p.m. For weekend matches, the starting time shall be no earlier than 10.30am and no later than 3.00pm. unless otherwise mutually agreed between the team captains. A pair not ready to play within half an hour after the agreed starting time shall forfeit the offending rubbers 6-0, 6-0 in favour of their opponents. In all matches where floodlit play may take place, the Captains shall agree a finish time prior to the start of play.
- 14 BAD WEATHER:** If, on the appointed day, play becomes impossible due to bad weather and no decision is reached nor one round of rubbers completed, the match shall be replayed within the period stipulated. If one rounds of rubbers has been played and completed, the result shall be taken as the score stands, taking into account, if necessary, sets and games in order to achieve a result. **EXCEPT THAT IN THE FINAL, A MATCH CAN ONLY BE DECIDED BY A TEAM WINNING THREE RUBBERS.** In order to complete a round and arrive at a result, the captain of either team may concede games, sets and/or rubbers to the opposing team. In the event of a result not being reached in a semi-final or final, the match shall be resumed at the same venue.
- 15 FINAL:** The date of the final will be fixed and can only be changed if a competing team is involved in the final of a National Competition. In the event of the final having to be postponed, the Committee will decide the date on which the match shall be played. In the event of two clubs meeting in a final in successive years, then the venue shall be reversed.
- 16 RESULTS:** Results shall be sent to the Tournament Referee by the winning clubs within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match, **by email, and by telephone call** to the appropriate referee. **Players names for both teams must be included in the email.** This rule obviously applies to all walkovers. Failure to observe this rule may render the winners liable to disqualification.
- 17 REFEREES:** The referees will be appointed by Tennis Lancashire.
- 18 TENNIS LANCASHIRE LTD BOARD:** The Tennis Lancashire Ltd Board reserves the right to alter or modify the conduct of the Competitions in any way it may think fit, subject to the Rules and Regulations of Lancashire Tennis. No complaint in connection with the Competitions can be entertained by the Council unless made in writing to the referees within 48 hours of the occurrence.

N.B See amendment to rule 14.

N.B See amendment to rule 16. All correspondence between teams and referees by email.

N.B See amendment to rule 12.