

Barkston Ash Rules

1. The League

- a. The League shall be called the Barkston Ash Lawn Tennis League
- b. The League shall be administered by the Chairperson, Secretary, Match Secretary and Treasurer.
- c. The committee roles of Chairperson and Match secretary will be offered bi-annually prior to the AGM. On the alternate years the roles of Secretary and Treasurer will be offered. If anyone wants to put themselves forward. If there are no volunteers then in alphabetical order clubs will be required to fill the committee roles. This will be decided at the AGM.
- d. The committee member has the obligation to stay in the role for a two year period at which point the roles will be offered again.
- e. The members of the League shall be the clubs participating in the League's championship. Each Club will nominate a representative to attend and vote at the AGM. There shall be one vote per Club and per committee member. In the event of a tie the Chairperson has the casting vote. Each club will nominate a contact per team entered who will be responsible in maintaining contact between their team and the League and also the other Clubs for match arrangements.
- f. Clubs may become Associate members if they do not wish to participate in the main league events. They shall not have the right to vote but may enter the Knockout Competition.
- g. The purpose of the League is to promote and administer competitive inter-club matches between tennis clubs in the district.

2. The Competitions

- a. The League shall take the form of a Championship, consisting of home and away matches. Divisions One and Two will consist of 3 mixed couples and Division Three 2 mixed couples. The Men's Division 2 couples and these can be adjusted at the A.G.M. Teams will be promoted and relegated in each Division as relevant. The number of Divisions and the number of promotions and relegations may need to be adjusted for any year in the light of the number of Club teams entering the Championship. Such adjustments can be made only after discussion between members and by agreement at the AGM.
- b. A Ladies' and a Men's Division will also be run on the same lines as the Mixed Divisions or as decided at each AGM.

- c. A Knock Out Competition and Individual Tournaments for Ladies', Men's and Mixed Doubles and Mixed Over 55's Doubles will be held under the rules laid out below or as decided at each AGM.
- d. Trophies will be presented to winners of the competitions and in some cases to the runners-up. Among the trophies are cups presented to the League by the late W. Riley-Smith (Division One and League Champions), Mr and Mrs J.Pasquill (Division Two), Sherburn Tennis Club unfortunately mislaid but replaced by the League (Third Division). A cup presented by Mr and Mrs T.Owen is presented to the Fourth Division winners as and when that operates. All these are held by the Clubs concerned for one year and returned in time for presentation to the new winners. Team member's trophies are retained by the members. In the event of the League's dissolution the cups shall be returned to the Secretary who will return them to the donors.

3. Subscriptions and Entry Fees

- a. Subscriptions shall be decided at the AGM
- b. Entry fees for the Knockout competitions shall be decided at the AGM.

4. Championship, Ladies and Mens Divisions Rules

- a. Clubs will inform the Secretary and Match Secretary at the the AGM of their entries and preferred match days.
- b. The fixtures will be made available by the Secretary by email and also on the LTA tournament software.
- c. Clubs will then arrange any changes and notify the Match Secretary and Secretary who will then provide the final fixture list. This will aim to be completed by April 15th each season.
- d. No change may be made to the final fixture list without reference to the Secretary, who must be informed immediately which of the teams requires to change and who, in the event of a match not finally being played, will awards points as if that team had scratched to the opposing team.
- e. Should both teams agree to a rearranged fixture, then the Secretary must be informed of the circumstances and the new date immediately so that it is always clear and agreed by both Clubs and the Secretary prior to the match which team is in default if the match does not take place, and which team will be deemed to have scratched.
- f. A fixture shall be valid unless play is impossible due to bad weather. In such a case the home team must inform their opponents at least one hour before the start time. The visiting team must attend unless so notified.

5. Eligibility and Nomination of Players

- a. It is within the spirit of the league that member clubs ensure that all team players are members of the club they represent. A player may not play for more than one member club in any of the mixed competitions in any one match season. A player may represent another member club in a non mixed competition or cup competition, only if their own club has not entered a team in to that non-mixed competition.
- b. Clubs entering more than one team must nominate two couples before the season starts for each team other than the lowest team. The nominated couples or as individuals with another partner, may play only in their nominated or a higher team.
- c. The penalty for playing an ineligible or nominated player incorrectly will be that any games in which he/she has played will be awarded to the opposing team.
- d. Each team in the Championship will consist of three mixed couples, except in Division Three and the Men's Division, two appropriate couples.
- e. All matches shall consist of nine rubbers of twelve games each – 108 in total, and the match shall be decided on games won. teams with two couples will play 6 rubbers of 12 games totalling 72 games.
- f. In all matches 4 points shall be awarded for a win and two points for a tie. Scores must be input onto the LTA tournament software within 48 hours. A copy must be kept by the home team signed by both captains. This must be supplied if requested. If a team concedes 3 matches all their results will not count and they will need to seek re-election next season.
- g. Points and games won and lost will be recorded on the LTA software and in the event of a tie for first place in each Division, the result will be decided on total games won. In the event of a tie on both counts, a Championship will be decided on a match held on a neutral ground with the same scoring format.
- h. Should a match have to be abandoned for inclement weather or light when 55 (37 for two couple teams) games or more have been won by a team, this team will be awarded four points. Should it be abandoned when one team has won 54 (36 for two couple teams) games, the two teams must decide at that time whether to call the match a draw for two points each or to re-arrange a replay of the whole match. The Secretary must be informed of their decision immediately.
- i. Should a match have to be abandoned before a result is clear, the Clubs will arrange a new date for a replay of the whole match and inform the Secretary immediately.

- j. Should a team in any match scratch to the opposing team, the latter shall receive four points and be awarded games according to their season win average.
- k. The decision to abandon a match shall rest with the two team captains of the day. The home team captain's decision will be final.
- l. Clubs with two or more teams in the same Division must have completed all fixtures between them by end June or such matches will be deemed void and no points awarded to either team.
- m. All matches must be played by 15 September each season, and if no explanation has been received by the Secretary to enable them to judge an award of points, any such matches will be deemed void and no points awarded to either team.
- n. The home team shall provide new balls for each match.
- o. Matches will start at 6.30 pm for evening matches and 3.00pm for afternoon matches. Alternative times may be arranged by Clubs but the time agreed will be the start time. Provision shall be made by the home team to enable both teams to knock-up for 15 minutes **prior** to the start time. The start time will be the point at which attendance will be judged, whether or not knock-up time has over-run.
- p. Should a couple not be present to go on court within 15 minutes of the start time, the opposing team may choose whether to claim the 12 games which would have been played and count them towards the match result. The only exception to this rule is that in the case of two court Clubs, the third couple may arrive more than 15 minutes after the start time but must be ready to go on court for the start of the second rubber, otherwise they will be deemed to be over the late limit as above.

6. Knockout Competition Rules

- a. All entries from League and Associate Members shall be submitted to and accepted at the AGM.
- b. Each team shall consist of two ladies and two men.
- c. A player may only play for one cup team per season. To play in the Final the player must have played at least 1 previous round.
- d. If a Plate runs alongside the Knockout cup the the losing teams from the first round (and second if necessary for numbers) will be entered.
- e. The initial draw and round completion date will be circulated after the AGM, and subsequent draws and completion dates after the completion date of each round. Any team failing to complete a round will be disqualified other than if the Secretary has been kept fully informed of mitigating circumstances.

- f. The first named team after the draw is the home team and the contact must offer the opponents within seven days of the published draw, three practical dates, and inform the Secretary of the agreed date. The contact must inform the Secretary of the result of each match within 48 hours of the match to enable the next round draw to be made.
- g. They should not offer dates when either team has a League Match and the dates should not all be in one week.
- h. Approximately three weeks will be allowed for the completion of each round and the Secretary shall be informed by the completion date. Failure to report results by date that will mean that the League Officers will decide an outcome.
- i. Each Team shall supply half the new balls required for the match. Failure to do so will result in them compensating their opponents for the cost of their share.
- j. The Final shall be played on a neutral ground or a venue decided at the AGM.
- k. A cup will be presented to the winners and a trophy to the runners-up provided the number of entries is sufficiently high. A trophy will be awarded to the winners of the Plate if it runs.
- l. The order of play Mixed 1v1, 2v2, Mens, Ladies, Mixed 1v2, 2v1.
- m. Rubbers will be 12 games, in the event of a match being tied, winning rubbers will be counted, if it is still tied then a final set will be played with the first mixed pairings. If the match is still tied a final tie break game will be played. (If there is not enough time for a full set to be played then captains can agree to play a 10 point tie break)
- n. Should a match require to be abandoned for weather or light before a result is known (or before even having been started), the captains of the day shall arrange a new date to play a whole match, other than if the score shall have reached 3 all, the captains will arrange a new date to complete the match from the point reached.
- o. Scores should be kept by both Captains and entered by the Home Captain onto the LTA software. The results must also be sent to the Match Secretary by both captains within 48 hours.