

## The Herts 2 Pair Knockout Cup (“The Harris Cup”)

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1. **Entry** to the Herts 2 Pair Knockout Cup (‘The Harris Cup’) is open to LTA registered venues
2. Entries are made online once the competition has been opened for entries (usually in June)
3. The entry fee is £20 per team for Hertfordshire venues that pay the Herts Annual Fee, or £30 per team for venues that don’t pay the Fee
4. **Events:** There are two events: a Ladies competition and a Men’s competition
5. There are no age restrictions and venues are encouraged to play juniors wherever possible and appropriate. It is the responsibility of the venues concerned to ensure that their young players are mature enough to behave in accordance with the Herts values (which are shown at the foot of the page), with particular reference to Honesty and Sportsmanship
6. A venue may only enter one team in each event i.e. one Men’s team and one Ladies team
7. Smaller venues are encouraged to join forces to form a combined team
8. The competition will be played on an annual basis and the winners of the Men’s and Ladies events will hold ‘The Harris Cup’ trophies for the following year
9. The competition will be played in the summer leading to a Finals Day event, which will usually be held in October
10. The Finals Day event is expected to move around the county each year
11. **Competition Structure:** The competition will be played on a knockout basis following an initial draw, which will usually include an element of seeding\*
12. Once entries are in, venues will be placed into a draw and will be informed immediately by the organiser of their 1<sup>st</sup> round fixture and the play by date. Similar arrangements will apply in subsequent rounds
13. **Match Arrangements:** The captain of the home team must contact their opposition’s captain immediately and offer up to three potential dates within the play by period on which to play the fixture
14. As long as there is agreement between two competing clubs, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed
15. Matches can be played at any time, including weekend mornings and afternoons and weekday evenings
16. Play by dates must be strictly adhered to in order for the competition to progress to schedule. The only exception to this is when a fixture has been adversely affected by the weather close to the play by date, in which case the organiser may offer a short extension
17. The home team captain is responsible for welcoming the away team and organising some light refreshments (unless there has been prior agreement not to have any)
18. If players are not ready to play within 30 minutes of the match start time, the opposing team may claim the rubber(s) (by the score 6-0, 6-0)

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19. In the event that the away team is late for extenuating circumstances (e.g. motorway closure) and has contacted the home team in good time, the expectation is that the home team will show a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time
20. **Team and Match Format:** A team consists of four players. Captains should arrange their players into two pairs, which should be named in order of relative playing strength
21. A match consists of four rubbers, with each pair playing against each opposing pair over the best of 3 sets, consisting of 2 tie-break (6-6) sets, with a deciding championship (i.e. 10 point) tie-break as a third set if necessary
22. A championship tie-break counts as one set and one game to the winner
23. In the first round of rubbers, the home team’s 1<sup>st</sup> pair plays the away team’s 2<sup>nd</sup> pair and vice versa. In the second round it is the turn of like pairs to play each other
24. **Player Eligibility:** A player may only represent one venue in the competition in any given year
25. All players must:
  - I. Have a British Tennis Membership (BTM) number, which links to the venue they are competing for
  - II. Be a member of the registered venue they are competing for
26. **Courts:** Fixtures are expected to be played on 2 courts of the same surface. If, in exceptional circumstances, it is necessary to use more than one surface, the away team has the choice of court allocation
27. **Balls:** It is the responsibility of the home team to supply a minimum of 8 new balls
28. **Determination of Match Result:** A team is the winner of a fixture if they win at least three rubbers. If the score stand at two rubbers all, the team which has won the most sets is the winner. If the number of rubbers and sets won is equal, the team which has won the greatest number of games is the winner. If the teams are still inseparable, each team forms a new pair, who play a championship tie-break to determine the winner
29. Both captains should complete a scorecard and retain their copy. The winning captain must contact the organiser with the result immediately
30. **Team Withdrawal:** Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a team conceding a fixture by default will not be allowed to enter the competition the following year
31. **Player Retirement:** If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber is eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers
32. **Postponed Matches:** In the event of a request for an arranged fixture to be postponed on account of genuine difficulties fielding a team, the fixture should be rearranged within the play by period wherever possible. Where, despite the best efforts of both teams, a revised date cannot be mutually agreed upon and arranged before the play by date, the team who were ready and able to play will be awarded the fixture

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- 33. **Abandoned Matches** (due to bad light or bad weather): If a match cannot be started or is stopped before the first round has been completed, the match should be rearranged within the play by period wherever possible
- 34. If a match is stopped after completion of the first round but before completion of the second round and the score stands at two rubbers to nil, the team which has won the two rubbers is the winner. If the score stands at one rubber all, the match should be replayed
- 35. The captain of either team may concede rubbers, sets and/or games to the opposing team for the purpose of completing any round
- 36. **Complaints or disputes:** Any complaint or dispute should be put to the organiser by the team captain(s) within 48 hours of the of the complaint/dispute arising

*\* Seeding will take into consideration the position of the venue's highest team in the Herts League that year and any other relevant information, including previous performances in The Harris Cup*

Players are expected to adhere to the Herts Values of **Honesty, Excellence, Resilience, Teamwork and Sportsmanship** throughout