

## Herts 3 Pair Summer Doubles League (“The Herts League”)

1. There shall be two sections of the competition – one for Ladies’ Doubles Teams and one for Men’s Doubles teams.
2. Each team shall consist of six players.
3. The competition shall be played on a League system under the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations for County, Club and other matches, as laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which as far as they are applicable, are included herein.
4. All matches shall be played during the summer months, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> May and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> September unless extensions are granted beyond these dates.
5. Entries, fees and closing date for receipt of entries
  - 5.1 Only organisations registered to the Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association (“Herts LTA”) are eligible for this competition.
  - 5.2 Entries must be made on the official form provided by the Herts LTA, and shall be forwarded to reach the competition secretary by the notified date and will only be accepted on the understanding that there will be no general restrictions imposed on the playing of matches on Saturdays and Sundays.
  - 5.3 An Entry Fee of £20.00 per team is payable to the Herts LTA at the same time as the entry form is lodged.
  - 5.4 The competition secretary (on behalf of the Management Committee of the Herts LTA) shall have the right to refuse the entry of any team, if, in their opinion, such refusal is in the best interests of the competition.
6. Match fixtures
  - 6.1 Fixture meeting

To facilitate the arrangement of fixtures, the competition secretary will convene a special meeting of the Match Secretaries of the clubs who have entered the competition, the date and venue to be notified in writing to the Match Secretary of each club.
  - 6.2 Dates of match fixtures

Each Club with teams entered in the competition shall be responsible for arranging with the other clubs in their group(s) the dates for all their matches in the competition.
  - 6.3 Submission of match fixture lists

Each club with teams entered in the competition shall present a complete list of their arranged match fixtures to the competition secretary at the end of the fixture meeting. The fixtures will be placed online on the competition software, “League Planner”, to which all competing clubs will have access. Should any match date have to be re-arranged because of weather (or for any other reason) the Match Secretaries must make the necessary arrangements and update the match fixture on League Planner.
  - 6.4 Postponement of matches

In the event of a request for a fixture to be postponed on account of genuine difficulties fielding a team, the fixture should be rearranged wherever possible. Where, despite the best efforts of both teams, a revised date cannot be mutually agreed upon and arranged, the team who were ready and able to play shall be awarded a walkover. A walkover shall count as if the match had been played and shall be scored as a win. At the end of the playing season, an average of the number of Rubbers, Sets and Games gained by the team receiving the walkover from the total number of matches played rounded to the nearest whole number will be given to the team receiving the walkover. The team giving the walkover will not receive any Rubbers, Sets or Games and will have one point deducted and 9 Rubbers, 18 Sets and 108 Games awarded against them.
  - 6.5 Concession of a match

Unless previously agreed with the competition secretary, any team conceding a match by default may be referred to the Management Committee of the Herts LTA who, if they consider the circumstances warrant it, may invoke further match losses or demotion to a lower league or if deemed appropriate a team conceding two or more matches could have all of its results discounted.
7. Nominations and eligibility of players

- 7.1 No playing member of a club may play in more than eight matches or for more than two teams in the competition.
- 7.2 No player shall be entitled to play in the competition for more than one club during a season other than in exceptional circumstances and only then after permission has been obtained in writing from the competition secretary.
- 7.3 The qualification to play for a club shall be bona-fide playing membership of that club prior to a match.
- 7.4 Any Club with two teams in the same group must play the match between its two teams before any other.
- 7.4.1 If a club has two or more teams in the same group, then a player can only play matches for one of those teams throughout the entire season.
- 7.5 A player must have a current British Tennis Membership (BTM) number before playing in a match.

## 8. Match arrangements

### 8.1 Playing surface

Clubs must ensure the availability of 3 courts of satisfactory standard and of the same surface.

### 8.2 Arrangement and composition of teams

Before the commencement of each match the two Captains shall declare their teams by arranging their six players into three pairs in the order of their relative playing strength. Each pair shall then play one rubber against each opposing pair, consisting of two tie-break (6-6) sets. If a set all, then a 10 point tie-break shall be played to decide the winner of the rubber (i.e. first to 10 points will win the rubber provided they lead by a margin of two points. If 9 points all then the tie-break shall be extended until this margin has been achieved)

8.3 Unless mutually agreed otherwise, teams should be on court and ready to play at the scheduled match start time. If this is not adhered to, the Captain of the opposing team will claim according to the following schedule:

If a player or players are -

- (a) 15 to 29 minutes late, the first set of the rubber they are concerned in
- (b) 30 to 59 minutes late, the rubber they are concerned in
- (c) One hour or more, all the rubbers they are concerned in

The Captain of the opposing team, when realising that he has a player late, may reorganise his pairings but must still comply with Regulation 8.2 in respect of relative playing strength.

### 8.4 Order of play and court allocation

- (a) This is set out on the match card provided to clubs by the competition secretary.
- (b) In no case shall any pair play more than one rubber on the same court without the unanimous consent of the Captains.

### 8.5 Provision of balls

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide at least nine new balls.

### 8.6 Determination of match result

Except for the special provision of Regulation 8.7.2 a match result shall be deemed to have been obtained when one of the two teams has won at least five of the scheduled nine rubbers.

### 8.7 Abandoned matches

If a match is abandoned for any reason whatsoever, such as bad light, or bad weather:

#### 8.7.1 Before completion of the first two rounds:

Regulation 8.6 shall apply, but if neither side has won at least five rubbers the match shall be replayed on a date to be mutually agreed between the two opposing clubs, such agreement to be made within 21 days of the abandoned match and it shall be the responsibility of both clubs to enter the rearranged date online within 48 hours of the agreement.

#### 8.7.2 After completion of the first two rounds, but before completion of the third round:

Regulation 8.6 shall apply, but if neither side has won at least five rubbers, all rubbers, sets and games played in the third round shall be ignored and the match shall be decided on the score standing at the completion of the first two rounds. Should the score stand at three rubbers all upon completion of the first two rounds, the match shall be replayed on a date to be mutually agreed between the two opposing clubs, such agreement to be made within 21 days of the abandoned match and it shall be the responsibility of both clubs to enter the rearranged date online within 48 hours of the agreement.

### 8.8 Concession of rubbers, sets and games

The Captain of either side may concede rubbers, sets and/or games to the opposing side for the purpose of completing any round.

#### 8.9 Submission of match results

It is the responsibility of the winner to enter the result online within 48 hours of the match and of the loser to confirm the result online within 7 days of the match.

#### 9. Determination of precedence in groups at conclusion of competition

9.1 A match win shall count as one point.

9.2 At the conclusion of the competition the teams in each Group and/or any sub-division of a Group shall be placed by the competition secretaries in order of precedence in accordance with the number of points won.

9.3 The club whose team scores the highest number of points in the Championship Group will be the Champion Club for the next year, and the club whose team scores the next highest number of points in the Championship Group will be the Runner-up for the year.

9.4 If two or more teams score an equal number of points, the order of precedence in their Group shall be determined by the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played, and should the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played be equal, the percentage of sets won to sets played shall decide; and should the percentages in respect of both rubbers and sets be equal, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide.

#### 10. Grouping arrangements for the Men's competition, including arrangements for promotion and relegation

10.1 The teams entered shall be arranged in Groups by the competition secretary in accordance with the results of the competition in the previous year and in conformity with the provisions of Regulation 9.

10.2 The teams finishing last in the Championship Group may be relegated to Group 1A. The teams finishing last but one in the Championship Group may be relegated to Group 1B. The teams finishing first in Groups 1A and 1B will be promoted to the Championship Group.

10.3 The team finishing last in either sub-division of a Group (except the lowest Group) may be relegated to second place in the same sub-division of the Group immediately below.

10.4 The team finishing last but one in sub-division B of a Group may be relegated to first place in sub-division A of the Group immediately below.

10.5 The team finishing last but one in sub-division A of a Group may be relegated to first place in sub-division B of the Group immediately below.

10.6 In all Groups below the Championship Group and Groups 1A and 1B:-

10.6.1 The team finishing first in sub-division A of a Group may be promoted to last but one in sub-division B of the next higher Group.

10.6.2 The team finishing first in sub-division B of a Group may be promoted to last but one in sub-division A of the next higher Group.

10.6.3 The team finishing second in either sub-division of a Group may be promoted to the last place in the same sub-division of the next higher Group.

10.7 If, under the above procedure, more than one team from the same club reaches the same Group, the competition secretary has the power to place them in separate sub-divisions of the same Group, but if by doing so this displaces another team from a sub-division, the displaced team shall remain in the same Group, but in the opposite sub-division.

10.8 Teams not entered in the competition in the previous year shall be placed in either sub-division of the lowest Group, except where the competition secretary considers that the standard of play of any such team warrants its placing in any vacancy that may occur in any higher Group.

10.9 Not more than seven teams shall be accommodated in any Group except the bottom Group or sub-division if the total number of teams makes this desirable.

10.10 Where, in the opinion of the competition secretary, the performance of a team competing the previous year has proved exceptional, the team may be promoted to a higher Group than that into which they would normally have been placed under the above procedure. This will be dependent upon there being a vacancy in an appropriate higher Group.

10.11 Each team shall play one match only against each of the other teams in their Group (or sub-division of a Group).

11. Grouping arrangements for the Ladies competition, including arrangements for promotion and relegation
- 11.1 The teams entered shall be arranged in Groups by the competition secretary in accordance with the results of the competition in the previous year and in conformity with the provisions of Regulation 9.
- 11.2 The teams finishing last and last but one in the Championship Group may be relegated to the Premier Group. The teams finishing first and second in the Premier Group will be promoted to the Championship Group.
- 11.3 The teams finishing last and last but one in the Premier Group may be relegated to the Intermediate Group. The teams finishing first and second in the Intermediate Group will be promoted to the Premier Group.
- 11.4 The team finishing last in the Intermediate Group may be relegated to Group 1A. The team finishing last but one in the Intermediate Group may be relegated to Group 1B. The teams finishing first in Groups 1A and 1B will be promoted to the Intermediate Group.
- 11.5 The team finishing last in either sub-division of a Group (except the lowest Group) may be relegated to second place in the same sub-division of the Group immediately below.
- 11.6 The team finishing last but one in sub-division B of a Group may be relegated to first place in sub-division A of the Group immediately below.
- 11.7 The team finishing last but one in sub-division A of a Group may be relegated to first place in sub-division B of the Group immediately below.
- 11.8 In all Groups below the Intermediate Group and Groups 1A and 1B:-
- 11.8.1 The team finishing first in sub-division A of a Group may be promoted to last but one in sub-division B of the next higher Group.
- 11.8.2 The team finishing first in sub-division B of a Group may be promoted to last but one in sub-division A of the next higher Group.
- 11.8.3 The team finishing second in either sub-division of a Group may be promoted to the last place in the same sub-division of the next higher Group.
- 11.9 If, under the above procedure, more than one team from the same club reaches the same Group, the competition secretary has the power to place them in separate sub-divisions of the same Group, but if by doing so this displaces another team from a sub-division, the displaced team shall remain in the same Group, but in the opposite sub-division.
- 11.10 Teams not entered in the competition in the previous year shall be placed in either sub-division of the lowest Group, except where the competition secretary considers that the standard of play of any such team warrants its placing in any vacancy that may occur in any higher Group.
- 11.11 Not more than seven teams shall be accommodated in any Group except the bottom Group or sub-division if the total number of teams makes this desirable.
- 11.12 Where, in the opinion of the competition secretary, the performance of a team competing the previous year has proved exceptional, the team may be promoted to a higher Group than that into which they would normally have been placed under the above procedure. This will be dependent upon there being a vacancy in an appropriate higher Group.
- 11.13 Each team shall play one match only against each of the other teams in their Group (or sub-division of a Group).
12. Any matter arising from these competitions which are not specifically covered by these regulations shall be dealt with by the competition secretary on behalf of the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.

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