

The Sonning Lawn Tennis Club Constitution as amended October 2016

Defined terms

In the rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

“SLTC” means Sonning Lawn Tennis Club;

“SPC” means Sonning Parish Council;

“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 a member of the Sonning Lawn Tennis Club;

“LTA Rules” means the rules of the LTA as in force from time to time;

“Club Rules” means the rules of the Sonning Lawn Tennis Club as in force from time to time;

the “Club year” shall be from 1st April to the 31st March.

Club Rules

1. Title

1.1. The Club shall be called ‘Sonning Lawn Tennis Club’.

2. Objects

2.1. The main object is to provide facilities for the playing of lawn tennis in the Parish of Sonning. The objects also include encouraging lawn tennis playing by arranging coaching, match playing, tournaments, as well as social and fund raising activities in support of the primary object.

3. Conditions of use of King George’s Field

3.1. In all its affairs and activities, SLTC will respect the Byelaws relating to King George’s Field, Sonning and issued by the SPC.

3.2. No sub-letting of the courts can be made without the approval of the SPC.

4. Membership

4.1. Membership is open to all residents of the Parish of Sonning. Note: any member who moves their place of residence out of the area can still, with the General Committee’s approval, continue in membership.

4.2. A limited number of tennis players not resident in Sonning may be invited to become members, subject to approval of the General Committee.

4.3. Individuals who are aged twenty one or under on the 1st September of the previous year, whilst continuing in full time education, may become Junior members. An additional category of Student applies to those aged 18 to 25 regardless of educational status.

4.3.1 Individuals who are aged 75 years and over on 1st September of the previous year may become Senior members at the same fee as a student.

4.4. Applications for Membership shall be made to the Membership Secretary, who shall submit them to the General Committee for its decision.

4.5. The number of Playing members shall, if necessary, be limited in such manner as the General Committee decide.

5. Conditions of membership

5.1. Each member agrees as a condition of membership:

- (a) to be bound by and subject to the Club Rules (as in force from time to time);
- (b) to be bound by and subject to the LTA Rules and the Disciplinary Code.

5.2. Rule 5.1 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 5.1, 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.

5.3. The General 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.

5.4. Any member of the Club who is found guilty by their actions of misusing the privileges or facilities of the Club or of otherwise bringing the Club into disrepute may be suspended or expelled.

6. Subscriptions

6.1. All subscriptions for new members shall be due upon election and before participating in play in any season. Any member whose subscription shall remain unpaid one calendar month after commencement of the Club year shall, in the event of same remaining unpaid seven days after receipt of a written request from the Treasurer, cease to be a member of the Club.

7. Management: the General Committee

7.1. The general management of the Club shall in the hands of the General Committee. The Officers shall be the President, the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Match Secretary and the Social Secretary. The members of the General Committee shall be the Officers plus up to three members, all to be elected annually from amongst the Membership at the Annual General Meeting. In addition the General Committee shall include one person nominated by the SPC. The General Committee shall have the right to co-opt up to two additional members at any time between Annual General Meetings.

7.2. The SLTC agrees that each member of the General Committee will be required, as a condition of election or appointment, to agree to be bound by and subject to the Club Rules, the LTA 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 the SLTC can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion

8. Annual General Meeting

8.1. The Annual General Meeting will be held in October or November, after the end of the annual accounting period. It will be the purpose of the meeting to elect a new General Committee, to receive and, if appropriate, approve an annual statement of account, to determine the subscriptions and to conduct such other business as the General Committee shall determine.

8.2. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given not less than two weeks prior to the meeting to all members of the Club.

9. Extraordinary General Meeting

9.1. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time at the discretion of the General Committee or shall be called within 21 days of the receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing to that effect signed by at least 15 members of the Club. Every request shall specify the business for which the meeting is convened and no other business shall be conducted at the meeting.

10. Visitors

10.1. Visitors may play, if introduced by a member, for a fee to be determined at the Annual General Meeting. The General Committee will determine the number of times on which the same visitor may play in a season. A register of visitors shall be kept, and no-one may play unless their name is entered therein.

10.2. Each visitor agrees as a condition of using the SLTC courts:

- (a) to be bound by and subject to the Club Rules (as in force from time to time);
- (b) to be bound by and subject to the LTA Rules and the Disciplinary Code.

11. Coaches and players

11.1. The SLTC agrees that all unlicensed and unregistered coaches and, so far as reasonably practicable, players and other persons using its facilities will be required, as a condition of such use, to agree to be bound by and subject to the Club Rules, the LTA 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 the SLTC can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion.

12. Conduct of play

12.1. The times of play are as follows:

- (a) Weekdays & Saturdays from 8:30 am
- (b) Sundays from 10.00 am

12.2. The General Committee may allocate times for matches, club occasions, junior play, coaching and other events as necessary.

- 12.3. Members shall have the right of playing in the order of arrival in the ground.
- 12.4. The last people to leave the courts are responsible for seeing that the nets are slackened off in the correct manner, and the courts, Clubhouse and main gate are locked.
- 12.5. Club Sessions (adult) and Junior Club Sessions are intended for members of all standards to play and mix in. Juniors of a suitable standard will be allowed to participate in adult club sessions subject to the approval of an application to the General Committee. A randomised system will operate to determine the combination of players making up each four. Operational rules for Club Sessions will be determined, as and when required, by the General Committee and displayed in the Club Hut. Club Session times will be determined by the General Committee.
- 12.6. Members wishing to arrange their own games must do so at times other than those allocated for Club Sessions.

13. Trustees

- 13.1. The property of the Club shall be vested in two Trustees who shall be appointed by the Committee and the property of the Club shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by Resolution (of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Committee. Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that a new Trustee or Trustees be appointed the Committee shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Chairman is now nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925 S.36, and he shall by Deed appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee.

14. Dissolution of the Club

- 14.1. The Club shall only be dissolved by resolution passed by a majority of at least five sixths of the members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose of considering the dissolution. In the event of dissolution any balance of cash remaining in hand after realisation of assets and payment of debts shall not be distributed among the members of the Club but shall be applied for charitable purposes similar to those of the Club or be paid, distributed or transferred to such charitable institutions or institution having objects similar to the objects of the Club as the Committee with the consent of the meeting shall determine.

15. Alterations to the Rules

- 15.1. No alteration to the Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting nor unless 21 days prior to such a meeting a written notice of the proposed alteration, or of one substantially to the like effect, shall have been given to the Secretary who shall give 14 days notice thereof to the members. The resolution embodying such proposed alteration shall be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the votes recorded thereon at the Meeting. All such alterations shall require the approval of the SPC, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

16. Exhibition of Rules

- 16.1. A copy of these Rules shall be exhibited on the notice board in the Club pavilion.