

# CONSTITUTION OF THE AVENUE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

## (As amended 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021)

### 1. Name

The Club (established in 1923) shall be called "The Avenue Lawn Tennis Club" and shall be a Members' Club.

### 2. Affiliation

The Club shall be affiliated to the County Lawn Tennis Association (CLTA) and the Club and its members shall comply with and uphold the rules and regulations of the CLTA as amended from time to time and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Rules and Disciplinary Code and the rules and regulations of any body to which the LTA is registered or affiliated.

### 3. Objects

The objects of the Club are the playing of Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis and social activities.

### 4. Eligibility

Persons of any gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or disability shall be eligible for club membership.

### 5. Keys

Keys to the entrance to the courts and to the clubhouse are issued to Full, Off Peak, Student, Non-Playing Parent and Junior Members aged 14 and over for a refundable deposit as set by the Committee. Such refunds will be forfeited if keys are not returned within three months of a member leaving the club.

### 6. Classes of Membership

- a) Full Playing Members – Entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- b) Off Peak Members – Entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- c) Student Members aged between 18 and 21 and in full time education – Entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- d) Junior Members up to and including age 17 – Entitled to attend General Meetings but not entitled to vote.
- e) Non-Playing Parent, restricted to play on the Junior Court - Entitled to attend General Meetings but not entitled to vote.

### 7. Season

The season shall commence on the 1st April and end on the 31st March each year.

### 8. Subscriptions

- a) The membership fees of the Club are subject to revision from time to time and a list of current rates is available on application to the Secretary.
- b) Subscriptions are due for renewal on the 1st April each year. Subscriptions for new members and lapsed members are due immediately on acceptance.

### 9. Suspension through Non-payment of Subscriptions

Should any member who has continued to use the facilities of the Club and has not paid his or her subscription within one month of the due date the Club Committee shall have the power to suspend that member until the subscription is paid, or to expel or discharge such member.

### 10. Conduct of Members

- a) The Committee shall have the power to request any member to resign or to terminate any membership, but for the purpose of this rule the vote of no less than five members of the Committee shall be necessary. Upon the termination of membership under this rule the subscription paid for the current season may be returned to the member wholly or in part at the discretion of the Committee.
- b) No person whose membership has been so terminated or who owes money to the Club shall be introduced by any other member, as a visitor, to any part of the Club premises
- c) Any person on ceasing for any reason to be a member of the Club shall forfeit all right to and

claim upon the Club, its property and its funds.

d) All facilities are for the use and enjoyment of all members and should be treated with respect.

e) No one under the age of 14 may play without an adult being present.

### **11. Hours of Opening**

The Club is open for play from 8 am.

Floodlight on the 3 full size courts operate from 8am to 10pm from Monday to Friday and from 8am to 8pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The Junior court lights operate from 8am to 8pm.

### **12. Officers and Committee**

a) The Officers of the Club shall consist of the Chairman, the Trustees (ex officio), the Secretary and the Treasurer.

b) The Club Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club, as defined in 12a above, the Ladies' Captain, the Men's Captain, the Welfare Officer and three other adult Members, and the entire control of the Club shall be vested in the Club Committee. The Club Committee shall have the power to co-opt.

c) The Officers and other members of the Committee shall be elected from the Full Playing or Off Peak Members as defined in Rules 6a) and 6b) at the Annual General Meeting and, subject to termination of office by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until their successors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting following their appointment. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur and to set up Sub-Committees to deal with catering, social and other matters. The retiring Officers and other members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

d) Members are only eligible to become Officers of the Club if they have been members for at least 13 months.

e) The Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be the signatories to the Club's bank accounts.

### **13. Trustees**

The Trustees (who shall be 21 years-of-age and over) shall be elected by the voting members and they shall respectively hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution of the Committee or members. Any casual vacancy in the office of Trustee may be filled by the Committee and the person so nominated shall hold office until the next General Meeting after such appointment when he or she shall retire but may be re-appointed by the voting members at such meeting. The Trustees shall be ex officio members of the Committee. The number of Trustees shall not be more than three nor less than two, and the property of the Club (other than money or securities for the same which shall be held by and under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in them. They shall deal with the property as directed by resolution of the Committee (of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence) and they shall be indemnified out of the Club property against risk and expense incurred on behalf of the Club.

### **14. Minutes of Meetings**

The Secretary shall cause Minutes to be taken of all proceedings of the Committee and General Meetings, which Minutes shall be open to inspection by any member applying to the Secretary thereon.

### **15. Annual General Meetings**

Annual General Meetings shall be held to transact the following business

a) To receive and, if approved, to adopt the statement of the Club's accounts for the preceding financial year.

b) To consider, and, if approved, sanction any proposed alteration to the Constitution.

c) To appoint the Officers (other than Trustees) and other members of the Committee,

d) To deal with any special business which the Committee desires to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from members for consideration by the Meeting and the Committee.

e) To decide on any resolution that may be duly submitted to the Meeting as hereinafter provided.

An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held at least once in a year and 15 months must not elapse without one being so held.

Annual General Meetings shall be held upon a date and time to be fixed by the Committee and notices convening them shall be sent to all members not less than 14 days before the meeting, and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

## **16. Resolutions**

Any voting member desirous of moving any resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary not less than 10 days before the date of such meeting

## **17. Special General Meetings**

A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called within 21 days upon the requisition in writing of any 10 voting members or by resolution of the Club Committee stating the purpose for which the Meeting is required.

## **18. Voting**

- a) At all General Meetings of the Club every member in Classes 6a) to 6e) shall be entitled to attend but only members in Classes 6a) to 6c) aged 18 and over shall be entitled to vote.
- b) At Committee and General Meetings the Chairman shall preside and shall have a second or casting vote in the event of an inequality of votes.

## **19. Quorums**

At Committee Meetings five shall form a quorum. At Annual and Special General Meetings 10 voting members shall form a quorum.

## **20. Financial Year**

The financial year of the Club shall end on the last day of March each year, to which day the accounts of the Club shall be balanced.

## **21. Prohibition of Profits**

No member shall, except professional services rendered at the request of the Committee, receive any profit from the funds or transactions of the Club.

## **22. Visitors**

Only Full Members and Off Peak Members shall be allowed to introduce up to two visitors at any one time provided that, if the visitors are invited to play, the member introducing such visitors shall ensure that the visitors' standard of play and dress is not lower than the general standard of the members. Every visitor shall be the guest of and be accompanied by the member introducing him or her. A visitor may not play on more than one occasion before joining and the member shall pay the visitor's fee into the club bank account

## **23. Unlawful Games**

The Club premises shall not be used for unlawful gambling or for playing any game of chance or other unlawful games.

## **24. Alteration of Constitution**

The Constitution of the Club shall be amended by a simple majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Club. Any proposed alteration or amendment to the Rules must be sent in writing to the Secretary not less than 10 days before the General Meeting.

## **25. Rules (Bye-Laws)**

The Committee shall have the power to make Rules(Bye-Laws) for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Club as shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution. Such Rules(Bye-Laws) shall be posted in some conspicuous part of the Club premises and on the website and shall be binding on all members.

## **26. Matches, etc**

The Committee shall have the power to make arrangements for holding matches, tournaments and other competitions and to impose a charge for entry in such tournaments and competitions and to provide cups and other prizes therefore and to reserve courts as may be required on any occasion as the Committee in their discretion consider proper.

## **27. Members Responsibilities**

- a) It shall be the duty of all Full Members to assist the Committee in the running of the Club.

b) Members should not leave their litter for others to clear up but should remove any litter left on court.

c) Be vigilant about security and lock the door if the clubhouse is unattended. Ensure that the last person to leave the Club has keys to lock the clubhouse and front gates. Return balls to the clubhouse if nobody is waiting to play.

### **28. Club Servants**

Club servants shall be under the orders of the Committee and no member, other than a member of the Committee, shall give orders to or reprimand a servant.

### **29. Loss of Property**

Members or visitors leaving their racquets, shoes or other property on the Club premises do so at their own risk, and the Club shall not be responsible for any loss sustained through their so doing.

### **30. Dress**

Suitable, comfortable sports clothing should be worn on court and shoes must be Tennis Shoes with flat, non-marking soles.

### **31. Dissolution**

If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the members present, the Committee shall thereupon, or at some future date as shall be specified at such resolution, proceed to realise the property of the Club and, after the discharge of all liabilities, shall divide the proceeds remaining among other similar clubs and upon the completion of such division the Club shall be dissolved.

### **32. Constitution Binding upon Members**

A copy of this Constitution shall be posted in some conspicuous part of the Club premises and each member will be deemed to be bound by it. A copy is also available from the Club Secretary on request.