

REGULATIONS FOR THE DON BARTON WINTER MIXED KNOCK OUT CUP COMPETITION

1. The Competition shall be called the "ESSEX TENNIS DON BARTON WINTER MIXED CUP COMPETITION".

The Competitions Committee may divide any or all of the competitions into classes, and it shall have the power to determine in which class any Club shall compete. The Competition shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and with the Laws and Regulations of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the LTA so far as they may be applicable. The Competitions Committee wishes to make it clear that clubs should be discouraged from bringing in players primarily to play in this competition.

2. This competition shall be confined to Advantage Essex Member clubs (free entry) and those Proprietary clubs directly affiliated to the LTA (which will pay an additional fee, determined by the Competitions Committee). The winning Club shall be entitled to hold the cup provided by Essex Tennis until the commencement of the competition the following season.

3. This competition is open to all members of affiliated clubs who have attained or will attain the age of 18 on or before the 31st December in which the event starts. Players who have represented any English county* at Full or Over 35 age group within the past five years, taken from the date of the commencement of the current competition, are not eligible to play in this competition. *Players who are of a similar standard but are not eligible to play for an English county must seek clarification from the Competitions Committee as to their eligibility to play this competition. All other County Adult players are eligible. Any team fielding an ineligible player or players shall be struck out of the competition. If you are uncertain of a player's eligibility please refer to the Competitions Committee for further advice.

4. A Club may enter up to two teams in the same season's competition.

5. Any club desirous of competing (see Rule 2) shall complete an entry form and send to the organiser of the competition before the 13th September. Entry forms shall be sent to Secretaries of all member Clubs.

6. Players are not entitled to play for more than one Club in this competition during the same season. However, playing in this competition does not debar a player from representing a different Club in other club competitions organised by ESSEX TENNIS, namely the Open Leagues, Seniors Leagues, County Summer Cups and the County Winter Seniors Cups.

7. The balls shall be supplied and paid for by the home Club. The balls shall be top grade balls manufactured by the current ESSEX TENNIS Sponsors (if applicable).

8. The draw shall be on a system approved by the LTA, and to take place on or before the 1st October. The Competition Committee of Essex Tennis shall intimate the result of the draw to the Secretary/Match Secretary or team contact of all Clubs concerned, together with the date by which each round must be played. In the event that a tie has to be postponed due to inclement weather, the match is to be replayed within 10 days of the original tie and the home team Captain shall notify the Competition Organiser of the new fixture date as soon as it has been agreed with the opposing team. An Essex League match may be postponed to give precedence to an Essex Winter Cup match.

9. Choice of ground shall be determined in general by priority in the original draw, but where one Club shall have been entitled to choice of ground a fewer number of times than its opponent, the former shall have the choice. For the purposes of this Regulation a bye or a walkover shall be

regarded as equivalent to the choice of ground. Matches can be played at any time during the weekend, provided they start no earlier than 10 am and before 8pm. Matches may mutually be arranged during weekday evenings. (Playing under floodlights or indoors is permitted). If the courts used for a match are not of a uniform type of surface or if 1 or more courts is an indoor court(s) the visiting club shall have the choice as to which of their pairs shall play on which courts. This decision shall be taken before play commences.

10. The Captain of the winning team shall post (first class) or email a copy of the scorecard to the organiser of the competition within 48 hours of the tie. Teams failing to comply with this Regulation will automatically forfeit the right to a home match in the next round or where persistent abuse of this rule or sending in a result so late that arranging the next round is delayed shall be struck out of the competition.

11. Each competing team shall consist of 3 pairs. A ladies, a men's and a mixed pair and shall play their respective opposing pair one rubber i.e. the best of 3 tie-break sets. The LTA tie-break shall apply in the first two sets at six games all. The third set shall be determined by a Championship tie-break (i.e. the first pair to reach ten points. If level at ten all, then two points clear wins the tie-break). The team which shall win the majority of the rubbers shall be declared the winner of the match. The Captains should swap a note of their pairings prior to commencement of play.

12. The time of cessation of play shall be fixed prior to the commencement of play by the captains of the opposing teams. Play shall be stopped when that time arrives unless the captains agree to extend such time.

13. If at the time of cessation of play, or due to inclement weather, neither team shall have won sufficient rubbers to render victory certain, circumstances shall be reported immediately to the Competitions Committee who shall have power (a) to fix a date by which the match must be completed using the same team, (b) to order the match to be treated as a postponed match, see Rule 8, in which case the team does not have to be the same 6 players, or (c) to strike out of the competition one or both of the Clubs concerned. In the event one or more sets have been completed Rule 13(a) will apply. If no sets have been completed Rule 13(b) will apply.

14. A Club is not bound to play the same team throughout the competition, but no changes shall be made in the compositions of the teams engaged in a tie after the start of play, except where a replay is ordered under Rule 13 (b). Unless there are extenuating circumstances accepted by the Competition organiser, players competing in the final must have played at least once in the earlier rounds.

15. If any player be absent from court and not ready to play after the time fixed for commencement of play the opposing pair(s) shall be entitled to claim sets/rubbers as follows:

30 minutes absent: first set

45 minutes absent: second set and thus the rubber.

16. Any Club intending to scratch shall give information of its intention to do so to the Match Secretary of the opposing Club not later than three days before the date agreed upon to play, or shall be reported to the Competitions Committee, who shall have power to take such action as it may deem expedient including debarring the scratched team from entering the competition in the following year.

17. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors, interpretation of the regulations or otherwise in relation to this competition shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, whose decisions shall be final.

18. Any disputes between Clubs in these competitions shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the Competitions Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding upon both Clubs. Should either of the two Clubs in connection with any dispute or protest have a member or members on the Competitions Committee, the said member or members shall be ineligible to sit on the Competitions Committee, while such dispute or protest is being considered.

19. Light refreshments should be provided by the home club. If the away team does not require refreshments they should, at least 48 hours prior to the match, advise the home club to this effect. For the winter season the home club should supply, at least, liquid refreshments.