

# **BEWDLEY TENNIS CLUB**

## **RULES (2020)**

### **TITLE**

1. The Club shall be called the Bewdley Tennis Club.

### **OBJECTIVES**

2. The objectives of the Club are to promote the amateur sport of tennis in Bewdley and community participation in the same and to provide for its Members facilities for playing tennis and a Clubhouse for their use.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

3. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in tennis. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable. Anyone wishing to become a Member of the Club shall submit an application in such form as the General Committee decide.
4. The Club's General Committee may refuse membership, suspend it or remove it, in its absolute discretion. No person shall be denied membership on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religious, political or other beliefs.

There may be different categories of membership and subscription consistent with objectives of the Club.

The categories of membership may include the following:

**LIFE MEMBERS** may only be elected at an Annual General Meeting.

**FULL MEMBERS** must be 18 years of age or over on 1 January of the current year.

**STUDENT MEMBERS** must be full time students over 18 years attending a recognised course of study as at 1 January of the current year.

**JUNIOR MEMBERS** must be under 18 years of age on 1 January of the current year.

**SOCIAL MEMBERS** are not entitled to use the playing facilities except to feed balls to Junior Members under the age of 10.

5. Only Life Members, Full Members and Student Members shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary meetings. Only Life Members, Full Members and Student Members shall be entitled to propose a change to these Rules. No person shall be considered a Member of the Club or enjoy any of its privileges until that person's entrance fees, subscriptions, payments and contributions have been paid. Payment of subscriptions will be deemed to be agreement to conform to the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Club, which are displayed in the Clubhouse and available on the BTC website.

## **CONDUCT**

6. Any Member who acts in such a way as to bring discredit on the Club or who breaks or fails to comply with the Rules or Bye-Laws shall (at the discretion of the General Committee) be expelled from the Club.

## 7. **DEFINED TERMS**

In these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

- “Disciplinary Code” means the disciplinary code of the LTA in force from time to time;
- “LTA” means Lawn Tennis Association 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 Bewdley Tennis Club.
- “BTC website” means the Bewdley Tennis Club website.

## 8. **MEMBERSHIP**

Each Member agrees as a condition of membership:

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

However, Rule 8b) 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 8b) should be enforceable, by virtue of the Contracts (Right of Third Parties) Act 1999, by any person who is not a party to this agreement. This means that the LTA can take action against a Member of a club only in relation to a breach of the LTA Rules and the Disciplinary Code.

The General Committee will strive to deal with all Disciplinary matters itself and will use the LTA Disciplinary Code to guide it.

9. 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 these Rules. A membership shall not be terminated unless the member is given 14 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the General Committee at which the termination shall be considered. The member shall be given the opportunity to appear before the General Committee to make representations. Membership must not be terminated unless at least two-thirds of the General Committee present vote in favour of termination.

## **VISITORS**

10. A visitor may only be introduced by a Life Member, Full Member or Student Member provided that no one whose application for membership has been declined or who has been expelled from the Club may be introduced as a visitor. Junior members may only introduce visitors with the permission of a member of the General Committee. A visitor may use the Club courts and facilities. A Member may not introduce more than three visitors on any occasion. The Member introducing each visitor shall be responsible for the payment of such visitor's fees as shall have been determined by the General Committee. A Visitor's Book shall be kept in the Clubhouse and the amount of such visitor's fees shall be clearly indicated therein. Any Member introducing a visitor shall (before the visitor plays) enter in the book his or her own name, the name of the visitor and the amount due for the visitor's fee. The number of times a visitor may play before being required to join as a Full Member shall be determined from time to time by the General Committee.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

11. An annual subscription shall be paid by each Member (excepting Life Members). The amount of such subscription shall be determined by the previous Annual General Meeting.
12. The General Committee shall be able to apply pro rata annual subscriptions rates from time to time as it sees fit. Such pro rata rates

may only be offered to new Members or to previous Members, but excluding Social Members, who have lapsed membership for a full calendar year and who subsequently re-join.

13. New Members joining the Club for the first time may in addition be called upon to pay an Entrance Fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the previous Annual General Meeting.

14. Any subscription or payment of contribution due from any Member under the Rules and Bye-Laws for the time being in force shall be deemed a debt due to the Club and shall be recoverable from such a Member.

15. Subscriptions are due on 1 April of each year and if any Member's subscription is not paid by that date the Member shall cease to be a Member of the Club (subject to the discretion of the General Committee).

## **GOVERNMENT & FINANCIAL**

16. The General Committee shall have the power to borrow on behalf of the Club for routine purposes .

17. The property of the Club shall be vested in not more than four Trustees and they shall deal with such property as directed by resolution of the General Committee (of which an entry in the Minutes shall be conclusive evidence) and they shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property.

18. If at any time the Club in General Meeting or at any meeting called specifically for the purpose shall pass a resolution authorising the General Committee to borrow money, the General Committee shall thereupon be empowered to borrow for the purposes of the Club such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and in such form and manner and upon such security as may be specified in the resolution, and thereupon the Trustees shall at the discretion of the General Committee make all dispositions of the Club property or any part thereof and enter into such agreements in relation thereto and execute such deeds and documents as

the General Committee may deem proper for giving security for such loan and interest.

19. All Members of the Club, whether voting on such resolution or not, and all persons becoming Members of the Club after the passing of such resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.

20. If the number of Trustees becomes less than four then the General Committee may instruct, and if less than three shall instruct, the surviving or continuing Trustees to appoint as additional Trustees the persons whom the General Committee specifies.

21. Only Life Members, Student Members and Full Members of not less than one years' standing shall be eligible to be elected as Officers of the Club or as ordinary members of the General Committee, or to be eligible for co-option to the General Committee.

22. The Officers of the Club shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for twelve months, except for the President who may hold office for five years. The Officers shall be a President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Mens' Captain(s), Ladies' Captain(s) and Mixed Captain(s).

23. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a General Committee that shall consist of:-

- a) the Officers of the Club.
- b) Up to four ordinary General Committee members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office shall be for twelve months.

Where an office of the Club is held jointly by two people then only one shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of the General Committee.

24. The President of the Club shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and may hold office for five years. The President may not serve consecutive terms.

25. The General Committee shall decide in its discretion the procedure for nominating Officers and ordinary members of the General Committee and shall notify the Members accordingly. Nominations must be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM. Officers and ordinary members shall be proposed, seconded and elected at the Annual General Meeting.

26. Retiring members of the General Committee may be re-elected.

27. In the event of a vacancy caused by the retirement or otherwise of any member of the General Committee before the expiration of his or her term of office, the vacancy may be filled by the General Committee for the remainder of the term.

28. Bye-Laws shall be made by the General Committee at its discretion and shall be posted on the General Committee Notice Board and the BTC website. Such Bye-Laws shall not contravene the Rules of the Club, but shall be binding on all Members.

29. Should any questions arise not provided for in the Rules or Bye-Laws the same shall be referred to the General Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

30. The General Committee shall have power to appoint Sub-Committees at its discretion and, if thought fit, to place on any Sub-Committee any Member or Members of the Club.

31. The General Committee shall have power to make, alter or repeal Bye-Laws, but this shall not apply to the Rules. No new Rule shall be made nor shall any existing Rule be amended, altered or rescinded without the consent of a majority of the voting Members present at a General Meeting and then only if twenty-one days of notice of such proposed additional amendment, alteration or rescission shall have been given in writing to the Secretary and fourteen days of notice thereof posted on the General Notice Board in the Clubhouse and on the BTC website.

32. Exceptional expenditure shall require the authority of the General Committee, but routine payments may be made at the discretion of the Treasurer and/or the Secretary.

## **MEETINGS**

33. There must be an Annual General Meeting of the Club once every year, which is to be held in December.

34. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall whenever possible be held before 31 December each year at such time and in such place as may be selected by the General Committee for the transaction of the following business :-

- a) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts;
- b) To elect Officers;
- c) To elect ordinary members of the General Committee;
- d) To appoint an independent examiner of the Accounts
- e) To determine Subscription rates and Entrance fees for the coming season;
- f) Any other business

35. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club may be called at the discretion of the General Committee and shall be called by the General Committee within 21 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than one fifth or twenty of the Members eligible to vote whichever is the less and the business to be transacted at such meeting shall be stated in the requisition and the resolutions proposed. No other business is to be transacted at that meeting. All expenses attendant upon the calling and holding of that meeting shall be paid by those



members signing the requisition unless it be decided to the contrary at that meeting.

## **MEETING PROCEDURES**

36. The Secretary shall communicate to all Members at their last known e-mail address (or mail address where no e-mail address is known) notice of the date of a General Meeting together with the resolutions to be proposed at least twenty-one days before the meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be posted on the General Committee Notice Board in the Clubhouse and posted on the BTC website. Accidental failure to give notice to any person so entitled shall not invalidate the holding of the meeting.

37. At a General Meeting twenty members, or one tenth of the membership entitled to vote (whichever is the greater) shall form a quorum. At a meeting of the General Committee Meeting five members shall form a quorum.

38. At all meetings a simple majority of members entitled to vote shall carry except where otherwise provided by these rules. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson (or acting Chairperson) shall have a casting vote.

39. A Chairperson shall be elected at the January General Committee meeting from and by the members of the General Committee attending that meeting and shall be Chairperson for twelve months.

40. There shall be no right for a Member to vote by proxy. No person may represent more than one Member.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

41. The Secretary shall post a copy of the Rules and Bye-Laws in the Clubhouse and on the BTC website together with a list of Entrance Fees and Subscriptions approved at the previous Annual General Meeting.
42. Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer and shall be subject to an independent examination each year. For the purposes of the accounts the Club's financial year shall end on 30 September.
43. There may be admitted to the Club's registered premises guests of Members as visitors and visiting teams and contestants in tournaments and officials of such teams and tournaments and during the period of the visit intoxicating liquor may be sold to such persons by or on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises and not elsewhere.
44. The bar will be opened at the discretion of the General Committee
45. Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on the Club's premises.
46. All surplus income or profits are re-invested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to Members or third parties.

## **DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

47. The Club shall be wound up only by the sanction of at least five sixths of the Members present (and entitled to vote) at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose and at which meeting at least twenty-one days of notice shall be given. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution. Upon the dissolution of the Club, any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), a registered charity or sports' governing body, with preference being given to local CASC registered tennis clubs, if possible.