**THE MARSTON GREEN LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

**CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

(AS REVISED AND ADOPTED APRIL 2018)

1. TITLE

The name of the club shall be “The Marston Green Lawn Tennis Club”.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB
2. The objects of the club shall be to provide facilities for the promotion of participation in the Game of Tennis, and to organise and promote social events.
3. The club is constituted by these rules as a non-profit making members’ Club. In no circumstances during the continuance of the Club, not at nor after its dissolution, shall any surplus funds be distributed to any member or other person nor to any organisation which is not itself either constituted as non-profit making or a charity.
4. MANAGEMENT

The Club shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain, Ladies Captain, Coach and five (5) other members.

Five shall form a quorum including the Chair and/or their representative. Representation on the Executive Committee can include no more than two (2) members of any family (i.e. next of kin).

The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall have powers as detailed here below. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt any eligible member of the Club to fill any vacancy that may occur and shall meet regularly throughout the playing season. Should any member be absent without reasonable cause for three (3) consecutive meetings he/she shall automatically retire. Three (3) of the members (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) shall remain in office for two (2) years and then retire but shall be eligible for re-election. The remaining members shall retire annually but be eligible for re-election.

The Executive Committee shall meet as occasion demands when they shall be called by the Secretary at the request of the Chair. At least seven (7) days’ notice of such meetings shall be given unless the members unanimously agree to waive this requirement.

1. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

1. Subject to the prior approval of a General Meeting of the Club:

To instruct the Trustees to buy and/or sell Land of Freehold or Leasehold Tenure, to grant Leases thereof, raise money or mortgage thereon by Legal Charge or otherwise. To partition, exchange or otherwise deal with any land for the time being held by the Trustees.

1. Ex-Officio

To deal with all questions regarding the general management of the Club.

To appoint such sub-committee(s), as they deem necessary, to adequately deal with the management of the Club and its activities. To co-opt, if they so desire, persons not being members of the Executive Committee to such sub-committee(s).

To take disciplinary action where, in their opinion, such action is necessary and to exclude any member from the Club property or land.

1. MEETINGS
2. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting, at which the Treasurer shall present the audited accounts for the year, and at which the reports of the Executive Committee shall be read, shall be held as soon as may be convenient after the close of the Summer Season, and in any case not later than 30th November.

1. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

The Secretary must call an EGM if it is decided to do so by the Executive Committee, or within twenty-eight (28) days of receiving notice requesting them to do so, signed by ten (10) or more voting members.

1. Notice and Agenda

At least twenty-eight (28) days clear notice of any Annual or Extraordinary Meeting must be given and the notice convening the meeting must state the reason why the meeting has been called and specify the items which are on the Agenda for such a meeting. In the case of appointment of a new Trustee(s) under Rule 6 the notice must state the name(s) of the member(s) proposed as Trustee(s). Alternative proposals must be proposed and seconded by voting members and lodged with the Secretary at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting. In the case of Rule 16 the notice must clearly show the Rule number and the proposed alteration.

1. Amendment of Rules

Subject to the compliance with Rule 5c alterations to these Rules can be made by a simple majority vote at an Annual or Extraordinary Meeting except in the case of any proposals to alter the objects clauses of the Rules, or dispose of the land and/or buildings owned by the Club; this must be approved by at least 75% of all members of the Club entitled to vote (i.e. NOT ONLY those attending the meeting).

If a postal/card vote ballot is requested, the Honorary Secretary shall, on or before seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting, forward to the members details of any such alterations together with a ballot paper. The ballot paper should be marked with an ‘x’ against the item for which the member wishes to vote and shall be counted as a vote if received before the time of the particular meeting for this purpose.

1. Proposals to Erect Buildings

In the case of a proposal to erect buildings, this must be approved by more than 50% of all members of the Club entitled to vote, although only those present at a meeting on such a proposal shall be allowed to vote, i.e. there shall be no postal vote.

1. Appeals

Where the Executive Committee consider it necessary to ask a Member to resign, the Secretary shall write to the Member in question asking him/her to withdraw from the Club. The aforesaid Member has the right to be heard at an Executive Committee meeting called for this purpose. If the Member wishes to avail himself of this right, he must inform the Secretary that it is his/her desire to be heard within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the Secretary’s letter. On receipt of this request the Secretary must send out notice calling the Executive Committee Meeting within seven (7) days.

1. TRUSTEES

All assets of the Club shall be vested in three (3) Trustees, who shall hold office until such time as new Trustees are elected and appointed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. The Trustees shall have the power to buy or sell Land of Freehold or Leasehold Tenure, to grant leases thereof, raise money or mortgage thereon by Legal Charge or otherwise, subject to the prior approval of the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting and upon instructions from the Executive Committee.

1. FINANCE

The Honorary Treasurer shall have complete control of all finance of the Club and shall keep record of all transactions concerning the activities of the Club; but shall have the power to appoint Assistant Treasurers to co-ordinate the social and bar activities thereof. The accounts shall be made up to 30th September. They shall be audited by the Auditor duly appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club is open to the whole community without discrimination.

There shall be ten (10) classes of membership of the Club:

Senior Members

Intermediate Members

Junior Members

Life Members

Honorary Members

Student Members

Temporary Members

Social Members

Country Members

Family Membership

Conditions of Membership:

1. Senior Members shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club and shall be entitled to vote.
2. Intermediate Members shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club. The right to vote shall be confined to Intermediates who are eighteen (18) years and over.

Those members who are eighteen (18) years of age, and are attending/continuing full time education locally, should be allowed to continue paying the Intermediate subscription, until the completion of their course or during their twenty-second (22nd) year.

1. Junior Members shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club but are not allowed to vote.
2. Life Members shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club and be entitled to vote.
3. Honorary Members shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club, with the exception of Voting Rights and the playing of Tennis, unless as a visitor.
4. Student Members (including University, Colleges, and Members of HM Forces) shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club during periods of vacation and/or leave with the exception of Voting Rights.
5. Temporary Members shall be members of the Coaching Sessions and persons resident in the area not more than three (3) months and shall be governed by such regulations as may be made from time to time by the Executive Committee and will have no voting rights.
6. Social Members shall be members who shall enjoy the social amenities of the Club, with the exception of Tennis, will have no Voting Rights, and shall not exceed one fifth (1/5th) of the full playing members of the Club.
7. Country Members shall reside a distance of fifty (50) miles or more from the Club.
8. Family Membership is applicable to families where both parents are Senior Members with one or more children who are also members.
9. Qualification and Status

A person may apply to be a Senior Member if he/she is eighteen (18) years old or over and shall be subject to a playing test.

Persons under eighteen (18) years may apply for Junior Membership, Junior Members may be invited to become Intermediate Members at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

All persons with the right to VOTE are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee or any other Committee(s).

Intermediate Members, upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) years must apply for Senior Membership.

Applicants refused membership of and Members requested to resign from the Club may appeal this decision as per Rule 5f.

1. Intermediates OVER fourteen (14) years will be allowed keys to the clubhouse to enable them to play unsupervised Tennis and also to have access to toilet facilities. They must undertake to sign their name in the book provided for this purpose and ALSO provide a signed disclaimer from their parents removing all responsibility from MARSTON GRENN TENNIS CLUB in case of accidents etc. The rest of the clubhouse is OFF LIMITS and Juniors will NOT be allowed to play without SENIOR supervision.
2. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Class A:

The entrance Fee will be laid down at the Annual General Meeting. Senior Club Fees will be reduced for both men and ladies on reaching the age of sixty-five (65) years to the same amount as intermediate fees.

Class B:

As Class A, unless already paid.

Class C:

The entrance fee will be as laid down at the Annual General Meeting.

Class D:

Those elected to Life Membership are exempt from fees. Life Membership will be awarded by the Executive Committee.

Class E:

Those elected to Honorary Membership shall pay such fees as may be laid down at the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Membership will be awarded by the Executive Committee.

Classes F-J:

No entrance fee, except as laid down at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions:

These can be in accordance with the Rulings laid down by the Annual General Meeting and shall be applicable for the twelve (12) months commencing 1st April.

1. PLAY

The order of play shall be under the jurisdiction of the Playing Committee (i.e. a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee), or in their absence, any member of the Executive Committee.

1. Members are to refrain from play if, through exceptional circumstances, they are requested to do so by any Member of the aforementioned Committees and to observe such times of closing of the Pavilion as laid down.
2. When on court, all members are required to wear ‘Genuine’ Tennis clothing being predominantly white, also heel-less, non-ribbed tennis shoes must be worn. Members must remain properly dressed at all times on court. Tracksuits and plain jumpers may be worn during inclement weather.
3. Junior members will only go to the Club if they intend to play Tennis. And then only at the times when Senior and Intermediate Members are not occupying the courts.
4. All four (4) courts shall be occupied by those members desirous of play. Players whose names do not appear on the board forfeit their entitlement to play.
5. Two (2) courts to be bookable for 1-hour periods on Saturdays between 1pm and 2pm and Sundays between 12noon and 2pm subject to court availability and inclement weather conditions.
6. The last members to use the court on any day will be responsible for the return of all tennis balls to the Pavilion and sweeping of the courts.
7. VISITORS

Members may bring visitors to the Club on payment of a fee determined at the Annual General Meeting. Visitors names must be entered in the visitors’ book provided, BEFORE PLAYING. No member shall introduce more than two (2) friends at any one time and no visitor may play more than six (6) times in any one season, except with the Special Approval of the Playing Committee. It should be noted that during periods of general play, visitors should be of a suitable playing standard.

1. RESIGNATIONS

Written notice of resignations must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than the 31st March, otherwise the subscriptions for the season will be payable.

1. CHILDREN

Parents will be held responsible for the behaviour of their children and or those of their friends that may visit the Club.

1. GAMES

Games, other than Tennis, e.g. cards, board games, table tennis, pool, darts, etc. will be allowed in the Club during the winter months and also during bad weather.

1. DOGS

Dogs are not allowed in the Club grounds except on a leash.

1. RULES

These rules may not be amended except at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

1. BAR

The permitted hours of the Club for the purpose of the selling of alcoholic beverages shall be in accordance with any resolution passed by the Executive Committee in this connection from time to time and only shall be sold during the hours presently recorded by the Solihull Magistrates Court. No intoxicating liquor shall be sold to non-members of the Club other than members of visiting Clubs. No persons may be admitted to membership or be admitted to any of the privileges of membership without an interval of at least two (2) days between their nomination or application for membership and their admission.

No intoxicating liquor shall be sold to persons under the age of eighteen (18) years. Access to the bar is limited to Members of the Bar Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee.

1. GENERAL LIABILITY

Personal belongings left in the Pavilion and grounds by members or friends are deposited at their own risk and the Club cannot be held responsible.

1. The Club will not be responsible for personal injury to any member or third party however caused.
2. Any members found disfiguring or wilfully damaging the property of the Club or behaving in an objectionable manner shall be asked to resign.
3. COMPLAINTS

All complaints, grievances or suggestions, should be made in writing to the Secretary who will submit them to the Executive Committee to deal with as occasion demands.

1. RULES NOT PROVIDED FOR

The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter affecting the conduct of the Club not provided for in these rules.