

## **Selection of Teams (team players) Process**

### **Playing on a team**

The club typically enters teams for men's and ladies leagues as well as mixed doubles (when offered). Leagues commonly played in are the LTA Surrey leagues and the National Teams event. Each team is allocated by the LTA to a division with lower numbered divisions being of a higher standard (i.e. division 3 will be higher than division 8). Most leagues play doubles only while some such as the National Team will have both singles and doubles matches. Likewise, the numbering of teams at the club will follow the same principle. Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team will typically be of a higher standard of play than Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> teams and likewise for the men's teams.

Leagues are typically for two seasons over the year (Summer and Winter).

Matches are typically played on Sundays and mid-week leagues are also entered at times.

#### *How are potential players initially identified?*

The membership form for joining the club and upon renewal of membership contains a question asking if there is an interest in playing team tennis this is for full or young adult members. Affirmative responses are compiled and provided to the Men's Team Captain (MTC) and Ladies Coordinator (LC), who are Club Committee members. Members who did not indicate a desire to play team tennis on the membership form but would like to be considered for a team can advise of their desire by any of the following:

- Write to the Secretary address of the club
- Contact the LC or Men's Teams Captain
- Contact any Committee member
- Advise the coaching staff

At times, members who show a standard of play for being a part of a team may be identified by:

- Coaching staff (e.g., from lessons, having otherwise seen a member's ability)
- Team Captains (e.g., from having played with the member or seen the member's ability)
- Committee members (e.g., from having played with the member or seem the member playing).

The member may then be approached to see if they would be interested in playing for a team. This does not place a commitment on the member to do so, and if, initially, they are not interested and would like to later be considered, they can express such interest at that time as outlined above.

The Club may from time to time (e.g. before the start of new season) send out separate calls for expression of interest or to confirm continued playing by existing team players.

#### *How are players allocated to a team?*

Initial allocation to a team is typically done on an annual basis (usually before the Summer season) and is by:

- For ladies and mixed doubles team is led by the LC for ladies with input from the captains for each team (NB: the MTC may be consulted in regard to mixed doubles)
- For men's teams is led by the MTC with input from the captains for each team.

Reasonable effort within the above groups will be made to form a consensus on team compositions.

Coaching staff may be invited to provide advice at any point in the process as could previous team players, Club Committee members, and others.

The following principles (non-exhaustive) guide the team allocation (in no particular order):

- Individual skill level of members (in singles and/or doubles, as relevant)
- Experience in playing competitive tennis
- Previous team allocation of members
- Match results from past seasons in league fixtures/club tournament.
- Performance in any specially arranged assessments that may be organised
- Performance in any team arranged trainings that may be organised
- Keeping established doubles pairings (i.e., an established pairing has shown good results)
- Consideration of prospective pairings (e.g., complementary abilities/skill sets for doubles)
- Availability (typically being available for 2 out of four weekends a month is considered to be needed to be a “core” team member (i.e., will be considered for each match; less availability may mean a player could be a “reserve” called upon if “core” players are not available. A “reserve” player can be asked to play for a team other than their original allocation (typically one team up or down)
- Ability (expected or demonstrated) in professionally representing the club (good sportsmanship, attitude, understanding of rules (e.g. foot faulting, line calls, etc. (if new to competitive tennis, rules will be provided and captains, experienced players will provide guidance), etc.)
- Realisation of potential / developmental reasons. A player may be considered at a stage where improvement is expected from playing in a higher team to gain experience and further develop
- Teams that have a need (e.g. a player is borderline between two teams, consideration will be given to placing in a team that may have a shortage of players, require someone with a higher standard/more experience), etc.

While the objective is to form teams that will be as competitive as possible in their respective leagues, equally important is the fostering of a productive and inclusive spirit in each team.

Once the initial allocation is done, the LC and MTC will submit their respective proposals to the Club Committee for endorsement. Once endorsed, the allocation is communicated to players by being added to the relevant team organisational chat groups. The decision of the Committee is final, but can be operationally adjusted such as in the following circumstances:

- If a player is allocated to a team where they feel uncomfortable to play for a motivated reason (e.g. standard may be considered too high, player would prefer to play in a lower team due to pressure/personal concerns, etc.). The member may express this to the LC or MTC. Reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the request. (NB: such allocations will typically be to a lower team as a player should not play above their level of standard).
- A player may be asked midseason to move to another team (up or down), assuming league rules are not broken for such a transfer, if there is a sudden need due to unavailability of players in said team (e.g. injury). A player is not obliged to make the move.
- A player may be asked to play a match for another team, assuming league rules are not broken). if there is a need due to player availability. This does not represent a permanent transfer to another team.
- A player is suspended by the club, matches are forfeited at this point.