

## LORTON TENNIS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

To all Club players

This year the Club Championships will have a different format from past years. There are 2 new concepts which are being introduced. The first, **THE PLAYING CONCEPT**, is to ensure the tournament flows and that all matches get played without problems, especially by removing the onus on the players to sort their matches out between themselves. The second, **THE FORMAT CONCEPT**, is to encourage **ALL** adult players to enter as well as a number of invited juniors as selected by the Club Coach and Anghie Cooley.

The **playing concept** is that **ALL** matches will be scheduled to be played over a period of 8-10 **weekends** in set time slots for all 3 courts. This will run from May to July, hopefully finishing before school holidays. However on your entry forms you can enter times/dates when you are unable to play due to family or work commitments. However, every player would only be allowed **1 whole weekend** free for some personal event (wedding/christening/business etc). This means that if someone has a Saturday job, then they can be excused **every** Saturday session, but **will be expected to play** their matches which will be scheduled for a Sunday. The grounds for this is to eliminate the hassle of having to organise the matches yourself. Everyone knows they have a match to play at a certain time, the courts are booked and so plans can be made accordingly. Obviously weather plays a part but the decision for cancellation will be made by the Tournament Committee. **Also, if your availability alters during the tournament, this can be adjusted to accommodate your new circumstances.** Draws for each weekend matches will be made by the committee at the end of every Sunday afternoon session and this will be available to everyone by ringing one of the committee members or looking on the Club noticeboard. Maybe the weekly draw can be posted on the club website, if someone is capable of doing that for me and so be picked up by internet.

The **format concept** will be different for the Men and Ladies Singles only. The Doubles events will still be drawn for partners and played as a knockout. Each Singles format is dealt with separately below.

## **MENS SINGLES**

The idea is to have a series of progressive draws dependent on the number of entries. This means that less experienced/social players will **NOT** play a First team player in their very first match and even most likely not even within 4 matches, provided we get sufficient numbers.

It works like this:

With sufficient numbers there will be at least 2 other draws, the First Draw comprised of beginners, some invited juniors and less experienced players. They will play a single pro-set of 13 games, first to 7, unless 6-6 when a tie-break will be played. From this draw, 2 or 4 players will progress into a Second Draw comprised of intermediate players, usually those players on the fringe of or playing 2nd team tennis, with possibly some stronger invited juniors. This draw will be full matches, best of 3 tie-break sets. From this draw the last 4 or 8 players will progress into the Final Draw. The top 8 or 12 players in the club are in this Final Draw, into which the players from the previous draw have now progressed. This system is like a sorting process, with the improving players being rewarded by meeting tougher opposition as they play. However, each draw will be played to completion, so even the First and Second Draws will have an eventual winner, as will the Final Draw (this will be the Club Champion for the Year).

## **LADIES SINGLES**

To encourage more ladies to play in the singles competition, there are 2 options available. I would appreciate it if when you submit your entry, you circle/underline your preferred option. The choice of playing format will then be decided by the majority vote. It is hoped that all entrants will still play in the competition, whatever option is finally chosen.

### **OPTION ONE**

A Round Robin format where there will be groups of 4 players (mixed ability), who will all play each other in their group using the pro-set format (13 games, first to 7 unless 6-6, then a tie-break is played) as in the Mens Singles. From each group

the top 2 players will progress into a Final Draw of 8 players where they will now play a knock-out format of matches of the best of 3 tie-break sets and so the Ladies Singles Champion is decided (like the Mens Final Draw). However the other 2 ladies will also go into a draw and play a knockout competition of a pro-set as in their group matches. This will result in a Winner for the Plate/Runners up Event.

### **OPTION TWO**

A knock-out format where for the first few rounds a pro-set of 13 games will be played (first to 7, unless 6-6 when a tie-break will be played). However once the draw reaches the semi-finals stages (last 4 players), then the format will change to the best of 3 tie-break sets.

Once again the idea is to encourage members to play, regardless of their standard of play. The round robin format is a more sociable experience in that everyone will get at least 3 games at the start and so get the chance to improve and play tennis in the knowledge that it is not all over in one go!! So come on ladies, let us have more than 5 entries this year.

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**ENTRY FORM**

**CLOSING DATE: SATURDAY 8/05/2010**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVENTS: SINGLES: YES/NO MENS/LADIES Option 1/Option 2**

**DOUBLES: YES/NO MENS/LADIES/MIXED**

**CONTACT: (home)\_\_\_\_\_ (mobile)\_\_\_\_\_**

**e-mail:\_\_\_\_\_**

**NON-AVAILABILITY: (regular eg Saturday job)\_\_\_\_\_**

**(one off free weekend eg known wedding etc. Please give all dates which might affect you)\_\_\_\_\_**

**PS: Please put your dates of non-availability in order of importance to allow us to give you the best opportunity to play your matches.**

**SEND TO: [fergusons641@btinternet.com](mailto:fergusons641@btinternet.com) or post to:**

**FLAT 1, GATESGARTH, BRAITHWAITE, KESWICK, CUMBRIA. CA12 5RY**