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**Winter Season Club Evenings-Information for club members**

The Winter season runs from 1 October until the clocks change at the end of March. The club evenings take place every Tuesday and Thursday (except over the Christmas/New Year period), from 6.30-8.30pm on the 2 floodlit courts.

Given the increasing number of members wishing to play during the winter (over 40 for the 2018-19 season) and the limited availability of floodlighting, it is necessary to have quite complex rules to enable fair access to play. This is an important issue as some members like to plan well ahead but others cannot do this for personal/work reasons. A successful rule change has been trialled for this season and any suggestions for improvement for the 2019-20 season are welcome.

**Costs** – each session is subsidised by the club and costs £1 per person as a contribution towards the running and maintenance of the floodlights. Members are billed at the end of the season and are expected to pay by electronic banking to reduce admin time for the treasurer. Tennis balls are provided.

**Booking** – all members must book their place for each session by signing up to the doodle poll link on the club website. This is free and easy to operate.

1. Initially, 8 places are available each evening and these can be booked as far ahead as members wish. However, no member can sign up to play more than once a week and it is advised that members sign up no more than a month or so in advance unless they can guarantee their availability.

If a member finds that they cannot make a date they have signed up to, they must unsign as soon as possible to enable someone else to take their place.

Members need to check the doodle poll regularly as an evening that is fully booked can suddenly have availability when a member unsigns.

1. 7 days before each session, members can sign up to play for a second time that week if the session is not full.
2. 48 hours before each session (ie from Sundays 6.30pm for Tuesdays; Tuesdays 6.30pm for Thursdays) 4 additional places are made available on a ‘first come first served’ basis. This makes the maximum number for each session 12 players, enabling short ‘sitting out’ times in cold weather.

**Organisation during each session** – a club member is responsible for the organisation of each session. This includes having the key to open up the club bench to access the tennis balls, enabling the operation of the floodlights with tokens and ensuring that members play with a variety of people each evening with minimum sitting out time.

It is expected that all members are happy to mix in and enjoy good quality social tennis.

The only ‘perk’ session organisers receive is the ability to sign up to 2 sessions a week without waiting for the 7 day rule (see Booking 2 above).

**Cancellation of a session** –

1. If fewer than 4 members are signed up at 5pm on the evening of the session, this session is automatically cancelled. Members signed up for a session should check it is still running as soon after 5pm as possible.
2. If the organiser deems the weather is too inclement to play, or there is a heightened risk of injury, the session will be cancelled before 5pm on the evening of the session. A note will be put on the doodle poll to this effect and members who have signed up will be informed by email if possible.
3. If a session goes ahead, the organiser can end play at any time if they judge conditions have worsened or there is a heightened risk of injury. It is for each member to judge if conditions are safe for them to play and they should withdraw if they feel conditions are unacceptable.