

BANGOR LAWN TENNIS CLUB

CONSTITUTION

September 2025

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1. Name

The Club, established in 1899, is called Bangor Lawn Tennis Club ("the Club"), located at 32 Farnham Park, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 3SR.

The Club's website address is bangorlawntennisclub.co.uk. E-mail address info@bangorlawntennisclub.co.uk

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Club are:

- (1) to provide facilities on an amateur basis for lawn tennis and for tennis coaching to all members and generally to promote, encourage and facilitate the playing of lawn tennis in the community.
- (2) to provide and maintain Club premises at 32 Farnham Park, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 3SR and club-owned tennis equipment for the use of its members.

3 Club Rules & Code of Conduct

- (1) The Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all its members. Every member of the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety, welfare (of other members and visitors) and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the club and guidelines contained in the Tennis Ireland code of conduct (Club notice board, www.tennisireland.ie)
- (2) The Club promotes and encourages the sport of tennis for children. We maintain a rigorous Child Protection policy to support this. Our policies and procedures can be found on the Club notice board & website. Our current Child Protection Officers are also listed on the Club notice board & website.
- (3) To maintain Club standards and the enjoyment of all the facilities available, Bye-laws (including playing etiquette etc) have been set to ensure that this continues for the members of the club. The Bye-Laws can be found on the club notice board & website

4. Membership

4.1 Eligibility for Membership

- (1)** Persons are eligible for full membership of the Club provided they are at least 18 years old.
- (2)** Persons below the age of 18 may be admitted as junior members without the right to hold Office, be a member of the Management Committee or attend and vote at General Meetings.
- (3)** All members and new member applicants must agree to adhere to Club Rules, Tennis Ireland code of conduct, Child Protection policies and our Bye-laws.

4.2 Admission of Members

- (1)** Any person who wishes to become a member must submit an application to the Honorary Secretary or to the Membership Secretary. Every candidate for membership must be proposed by a full member and seconded by another full member, not closely related to the applicant, and who have been continuous members of the Club for at least the previous two years.
- (2)** An application for membership shall be considered by the Management Committee which may, by simple majority, admit an applicant to membership.

4.3 Membership Categories

- (1)** There shall be the following membership categories:
- (a) Senior – members aged 24 or over on 31st December of the previous year.
This includes Senior (A) – SEE 4.4(4)
 - (b) Couple
This includes Couple (A) – SEE 4.4(4)
 - (c) Family – parents / partners and children aged 17 or under on 31st December of the previous year.
 - (d) Intermediate – members aged 18 to 23 on 31st December of the previous year.
 - (e) Junior - members aged 4 to 17 on 31st December of the previous year.
 - (f) Short-term – members who spend more than six months of the calendar year outside Northern Ireland but wish to play for a period of three months or less.
 - (g) Overseas – members who spend at least six months of the calendar year living outside Northern Ireland.
 - (h) Associate – non-playing members; (a non-playing member entitled to use club facilities)
 - (i) Suspended – members who wish to suspend their membership for at least one year owing to injury, work or family commitments.
 - (j) Honorary – granted at the discretion of the Management Committee.
(entitled to use the club facilities and attend, vote at general meetings)
- (2)** Full members: All members aged 18 or over in categories Senior, Couple, Family, intermediate and Honorary are entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at General Meetings.
- (3)** A member wishing to transfer to another membership category must apply in writing or email prior to 1st May, in default of which he may be held liable for payment in full of his fees.

4.4 Membership Fees

- (1)** The membership year is the calendar year. The annual fee payable by a current member is the sum of the club fee and the Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland (UBTI) affiliation fee (if appropriate).
- (2)** The annual club fees for the following membership year for the various categories of membership shall be determined annually by the Management Committee and ratified by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- (3)** Discounts, as ratified by the AGM, shall be applied to the club fees if paid in full before 1st March.
- (4)** A Senior member aged 65 or over on 31st December of the previous year shall receive a reduction of 25% of the annual club fee. A Couple membership shall receive a reduction of 12.5% of the annual club fee if one or both are aged 65 or over on 31st December of the previous year.
- (5)** All members shall be invoiced by the Honorary Treasurer or the Membership Secretary in respect of the annual fees as soon as practicable after 1st January.
- (6)** Any member whose annual fee has not been paid by 1st April shall be sent a reminder letter by the Honorary Treasurer or Membership Secretary. If he has not paid the fee by 1st May, the Management Committee shall have the power to suspend him from using the Club's facilities and / or representing the Club. The suspension would be lifted after payment of the fee.
- (7)** A new member shall be eligible for a reduction in the club fee for that membership year. The reduction shall be the proportion of the year prior to admission of the member.
- (8)** No member shall exercise any right of membership until after payment of his first annual fee.

4.5 Resignation

A member wishing to resign should inform the Honorary Secretary or the Membership Secretary in writing or email. He has no right to a refund of any part of his fees. The Management Committee may refund part of his fees if it considers it appropriate.

5 Visitors

- (1)** Any member (aged 16 or over) may introduce visitors to the Club other than those whose applications for membership have been declined or who have been expelled from the Club.
- (2)** The procedure for recording the details of the visit and payment shall be given in the Bye-laws of the Club.
- (3)** A visitor is entitled to use all the club's facilities and join in club sessions but not play in matches. The member is responsible for the behaviour and safety of his visitor and the visitor has a responsibility to adhere to the rules of the club.
- (4)** No one may be admitted as a visitor on more than six occasions in any one calendar year. If the visitor decides to join the Club, the money already collected will be deducted from his membership fee.

6. The Management Committee - *(The Management Committee follow further rules. See – BLT Management Committee Rules)*

A list of our current committee members can be found on the clubhouse notice board.

6.1 Composition

- (1) The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of:
 - (a) The Officers: Club Captain; Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary.
 - (b) at least four and no more than eight other elected members.

6.2 Election of Management Committee Members – (Process found on Management Committee Rule 2.2)

- (1) Members of the Management Committee, including Officers, shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (2) At least six weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall post a nomination form for the election of the Officers and members of the Committee on the Club notice-board, including a final date for nominations.
- (3) A candidate for Officer must be a full member of the Club and shall normally have at least one year of previous membership of the Committee. A candidate for membership of the Committee must be a full member of the Club

6.3 Selection Committee for BLT team club matches.

- (1) A Selection Committee of five members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of whom three shall form a quorum.
- (2) The Committee shall be advised and assisted by the Club Coach; who shall not be a member of the Committee.

6.4 Club President

The Club President shall normally serve for a maximum of 5 years. The Management Committee shall propose a member for the post of President and this proposal shall be ratified at an Annual General Meeting.

6.5 Trustees

The Management Committee shall appoint at least four Trustees, to hold office until death or resignation unless removed from office by a motion of the Management Committee or by a motion duly passed at a General Meeting.

7. Annual General Meeting – (Further information found in BLTC Management Committee Rules)

(1) The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Club shall be held not later than the 30th September each year. At least six weeks before the date of the AGM, the Honorary Secretary shall post the date of the meeting on the Club notice-board.

(2) Only full members (as defined in Rule 4.3(2)) shall be entitled to propose motions for the AGM, receive notice of the AGM, and to attend and vote at the AGM.

Any member wishing to propose a motion to be decided at the AGM shall give in writing or by email to the Honorary Secretary notice of his proposal not less than twenty-eight days before the meeting.

(4) A prepared agenda of business shall be transacted at the AGM. The details of which can be found in the *Management Committee Rules*. Only motions on the agenda shall be considered at an AGM.

(5) The Honorary Secretary shall send to each member's last known address written notice of the time and place of the AGM together with the motions to be proposed for AGM, the accounts summary and the unapproved minutes of the previous AGM, at least seven days before the meeting. In this context the term "written notice" includes communication by email. The accidental omission to send any notice or notices shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.

(6) Each member present shall have one vote; there shall be no right for a member to vote by proxy. Voting shall be by show of hands where possible, unless a ballot is requested. Motions shall be passed by a simple majority of those members present and voting, except that motions concerning addition, alteration or deletion to the Constitution and Management Committee Rules shall require at least a two thirds majority. In the event of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote.