



WEMBLEY & HARROW TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

GUIDE FOR NEW CLUBS



Welcome

First of all, thank you for joining the Wembley & Harrow League. We are one of the ten largest leagues in England and the biggest in Middlesex, in terms of the number of registered players. In addition to the regular winter league, we oversee a variety of other activities and events designed to develop the sport of table tennis in our area.

We hope that you will enjoy participating in the League. This guide is intended to set out the background to how things work and what is expected of member clubs. If at any time you have any queries or there is something that needs clarification, please get in touch with a member of the Management Committee.

The W&HTTL appreciates the multi-cultural composition of its membership and of the area in which it operates. In an increasingly diverse society we support the principles of equal opportunities which will ensure that all of our members and those who come into contact with us are treated not only fairly but also on an equal basis.

A little history

The League was founded in 1931 to promote table tennis in north west London and provide a framework for competitive play. For the first season, there were three men's and one ladies' division. The Closed Championships also began in that season with a Men's Singles event, won by J Gill of the Wembley & Sudbury club.

The sport was at its height in the 1950s, with 18 men's and 4 ladies' divisions in our League alone in the 1952-53 season. In addition to tennis and other sports clubs, a large number of local business and other organisations ran teams. Now, we have just seven divisions (for men and women), reflecting the fact that far fewer people play the game nationally.

Several League players have represented England, including Jean Nicoll, Geoff Harrower, Connie Miles and Alan Rhodes. Sir Arthur Elvin, who was responsible for the development of Wembley Stadium and the Empire Pool, was President of the League for nearly 20 years.

The League's representative teams have five times won national inter-league honours and regularly compete in the Middlesex inter-league competitions, which have been won on many occasions.

Our Handbook and website

Each year, a hard-copy Handbook is produced containing individual, club and team contact details, fixture lists and historical information. The Handbook also carries the League Rules and is therefore the standard reference document for League's activities. The Rules provide further, definitive guidance to the points made in this *Guide for New Clubs*. The Handbook



The Elvin Cup winners for the Wembley & Sudbury club in 1956: Tony Hill, Michael Close and Lawrie Landry.

Secretary distributes copies of the Handbook to club secretaries at the start of September, along with a supply of match scorecards.

Handbook information is included in the League's website at www.wembleyharrow.uktt.info The website also contains full contact details, a historical section and with news and information from League competitions. The results database is updated weekly during the season with detailed scores and averages from matches in all divisions.

A weekly news and results e-mail is circulated to members and you should contact the administrator at wembley.harrow@btinternet.com to subscribe. A monthly e-newsletter, *TOPSPIN*, is also circulated with further insight and features.

Winter league matches

Matches should take place as per the schedule in the handbook on the night specified as the home team's match night. If you foresee any problems with hosting the match, you should contact the away team captain at the earliest opportunity, perhaps to rearrange the fixture. If not played during the same week, you must seek the consent of the Records Secretary in advance to play on a different date (since there may be knock-on effects to other matches).

The home team should arrive by 7.30pm to set up the venue. Matches should start not earlier than 7.30 p.m. and not later than 8.00 p.m. If a team has no member ready to commence play by 8.00 p.m., the match will be forfeited to their opponents. Late finishes are a growing problem and a barrier to younger players participating in league games, so please try to ensure a prompt start and finish.

The match card must be completed legibly (with first and second names of each player) and signed by both captains at the end of the evening. Both sides should keep a record in case there are subsequent disputes. The card should be returned to the Records Secretary to arrive no later than the Wednesday of the week following the match. It is acceptable to send a scanned copy of the signed card to the Records Secretary by e-mail.

Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis League		OFFICIAL SCORE CARD	
Home Team: <u>Ken Jon</u>	v	<u>Oshwac Nn</u>	Visitors
Date: <u>5.2.14</u>	Week No. <u>14</u>	Division <u>2</u>	
ORDER OF GAMES			
HOME TEAM			F A
1. <u>BARHAT MALDE</u>	3	1-1	11 9 11 5 11 6 X X 3 0
2. <u>LGS SAMUELS</u>	2	2-2	11 6 13 11 9 X X 3 0
3. <u>STEVE LEVEN</u>	2	3-3	11 5 11 6 11 9 X X 3 0
VISITORS			
1. <u>NIMIT</u>	0	2-1	11 3 9 11 6 11 3 X 3 1
2. <u>SHAH SAIB</u>	0	1-3	13 11 8 11 11 7 11 4 X 3 1
3. <u>SAMRAT SATISH</u>	0	3-2	9 11 11 5 11 8 5 11 11 4 3 2
RESULT	Captain's Signature		
Home: <u>3</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	2-3	11 5 8 11 11 5 X 3 1
Visitors: <u>0</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	3-1	11 5 11 7 11 11 X 3 0
Please post or e-mail this Card to the Records Secretary.			
<i>This card is six inches wide and may be used for checking the height of the net.</i>			

It is up to the home team to provide a new ball for the start of the match. They should also offer their opponents refreshments (usually at the end of the match). Catering facilities may vary but any effort will be appreciated. Providing refreshments is not only hospitable but gives teams the opportunity to relax and chat after a hard-fought match.

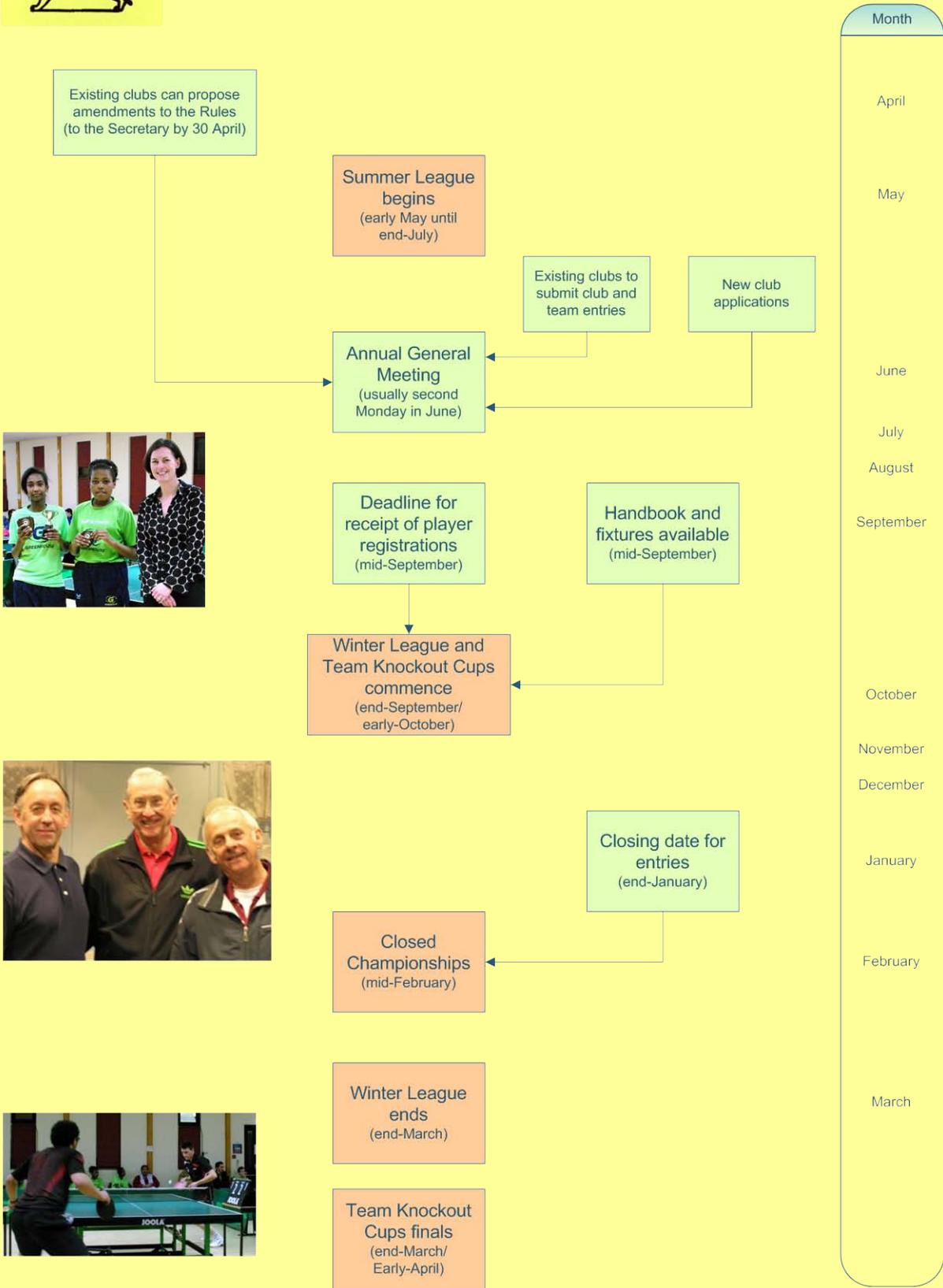
Summer league

The summer league is a successful and fun tournament held at a single venue (the Harrow Leisure Centre) each week from May to July/August. Clubs can enter teams of a minimum of two players each and all players receive a handicap based on their performance in the previous winter league. Club secretaries are contacted by the Summer League Secretary in February asking for entries.





WEMBLEY & HARROW TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE ANNUAL TIMELINE



Registrations, fees and fines

Clubs are required to enter teams for the forthcoming season by the date of the AGM. No payment is required at this stage. In September, club secretaries should complete the team registration sheets with the details of each player (including a valid Table Tennis England membership number). No player is permitted to play in a league or cup match if his or her registration has not been received by the Management Committee in advance. Additional players can be registered during the season, until the seasonal deadline of 31 January.

In early-October, the Treasurer will send each club secretary an invoice which covers team and player registrations and the Middlesex TTA fees along with any outstanding fines. The invoice must be settled by 31 October.

Clubs and teams can be fined for the following breaches of the Rules:

- Non-attendance at the AGM
- Conceding a walkover in a league or knockout cup match
- Late receipt of match card
- Playing fewer than three players in a match (from third occasion)

In addition, each club must lodge a £10 deposit with the Treasurer to cover potential fines.

Knockout cups

The League runs five knockout cup competitions in parallel with the winter league calendar:

Elvin Cup (all teams can enter; automatic entry for teams in divisions 1 and 2)

Elvin Junior Cup (division 3 and below; automatic entry for teams in divisions 3, 4 and 5)

Harry Finch Trophy (division 6 and below; automatic entry for teams in divisions 6 and 7)

Olympus Shield (for juniors, club-based entry)

Alma Reeve Trophy (for ladies, club-based entry)



The three senior cups are for three players in each team with each player playing two singles and two doubles matches. The other two cups are two-a-side with five games in total. Details of the minimum number of games which each player needs to have played in order to take part in each round can be found in the Handbook. Plate competitions are run in each of the three senior sections for teams who lose their first match. The cup and plate finals take place at the end of the season.

The Cup Competitions Secretary co-ordinates the events and sends the draws for each round to team captains and club secretaries by e-mail. Clubs or teams not wishing to take part, or those wishing to enter cups for which they are not entered automatically, should contact the Cup Competitions Secretary in advance.

Closed Championships

The League has run a Closed Championship for its members for over 80 years. In 2014, there were 12 events across different standards and age groups. The Championships traditionally take place in February. Qualifying events are held on midweek evenings culminating in a Finals Night where the best players in the League are showcased. An entry form is published on the website in early-January and all League members are encouraged to participate.



Annual General Meeting

The League AGM takes place usually in early-June and is an important part of the calendar. Each club must be represented and all members have the opportunity to influence the running of the League by proposing resolutions (by 30 April), engaging in debate at the meeting and volunteering for positions on the Management Committee. Divisional trophies from the winter league are presented at the AGM.

Other League activities

Juniors

In order to keep table tennis going in increasingly busy times, it is vital to provide the opportunity for boys and girls to take up the sport. The League has run coaching sessions for juniors for over fifty years, allowing youngsters to learn the game and then progress to competitive play. Sessions take place at the Harrow Leisure Centre on Saturday mornings.

In addition, the League enters teams in the National Junior League and Middlesex inter-league junior events, runs the Olympus Shield and encourages those academy-based clubs which have large junior memberships. For further information or if you would like to help with the development of young talent, please contact the Management Committee.



Social Club

The League runs a Social Club on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Harrow Leisure Centre for informal table tennis. Players of all standards are encouraged to attend and you pay on the day, currently £4 for adults (£3 concessions) per session.

Representative Matches

The Management Committee enters and selects teams to represent the League in various County and National competitions at junior, senior and veteran levels. Ranking lists are maintained where necessary.

Your Management Committee

All of the above activities would not run without the dedication of volunteers. There are 15 posts on the Management Committee, representing a variety of roles and responsibilities, and not all are always filled. Committee members are (re-)elected at each AGM by the clubs on behalf of their members. Committee meetings are held every other month.

So never forget that it's your League, run by and for its members - we are an amateur league with amateur players, all of us doing the best we can on and off the table. The Management Committee is always open to suggestions and feedback from members and new volunteers are especially welcome, in whatever capacity - there are many ways that you can support the League.

Good luck!

