

Tournament Prospectus

The Essex Open Tennis Championships 25th to 31st July 2010

Acceptance & Selection Policy – Where an event is oversubscribed the following selection policy will operate:

- In all main draw singles events, with the exception of players awarded wild cards, the highest rated applicants will be selected first. Players of the same LTA rating will be merited according to their LTA RANKING as at the closing date. Players of equal rating AND ranking shall be drawn by lot, except in 11 & under singles events, where players of equal rating shall be accepted according to date and time of application.
- In doubles events, acceptances will be made according to the date and time of application. An application shall only be considered complete on receipt of a valid application from BOTH players in a doubles team.
- Where singles consolation events are oversubscribed, players who have taken part in the fewer or fewest matches in the main draw singles events shall be accepted first. If two or more players are tied then acceptances will be made according to the date and time of a player's consolation event application.

Address of Tournament – The tournament shall take place at Billericay Lawn Tennis Club, Blunts Wall Road, Billericay, Essex CM12 9SA. Telephone: 01277 657 786.

Other nearby clubs/centres may also be used.

Application Deadline - The deadline for the receipt of player applications for all singles events is 2:00pm on Tuesday 6th July 2010. Doubles event applications will be processed up to 10:00am on Friday 16th July 2010. Application deadline for mens and boys singles consolation events is 4:00pm on Wednesday 28th July 2010. Application deadline for ladies and girls consolation events is 4:00pm on Thursday 29th July 2010. We may extend the application deadline for any events (or part of an event) if we feel this to be reasonable and appropriate.

Availability of Competitors - It is a condition of entry that players shall be available throughout the published dates and times of the tournament. (Please see "Other Tournaments").

Balls – Slazenger balls (or an equivalent ITF approved brand) will be provided for all matches. Once-used balls may be used for some matches, particularly in early rounds. The winner of each match shall return the balls to the control desk immediately after the conclusion of each match.

British Tennis Membership – All applicants for both singles and doubles events must be registered players under the British Tennis Membership Scheme. In addition, all applicants for singles events shall hold a current LTA rating at the time of application.

Cancellation Deadline – You may cancel your application to any main draw singles or doubles event by 10:00 am on Friday 16th July 2010. After this deadline, no refund is allowable regardless of the reason for the withdrawal. A 10% administrative charge will be deducted from any refunds where payment has been made by credit or debit card.

The cancellation deadline for singles consolation events shall be the same as the application deadline.

It is each player's responsibility to ensure that we have received and acknowledged your request to cancel prior to the published deadline/s.

Cancellation of Event(s) and/or the Tournament - We may cancel any event, if in our opinion it would not be economical, practical or in the best interests of players to run such an event.

We may also cancel the tournament, any event or part of an event as a result of the intervention of the weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Entry fees are refundable to any player who has not started a match in a cancelled event.

Catering – A selection of drinks and hot/cold refreshments will be available from the club at most times during the tournament.

Club Activities - All players and guests must respect the rights and enjoyment of other people using the club (whether for tennis activities or otherwise). Adjacent courts may be used for coaching and other non-tennis activities by club members and their guests.

Clothing - All players must wear recognised tennis clothing and shoes which do not damage or mark the courts. Clothing containing oversized logos and/or advertising material is not permitted. Warm-up clothing/track suits may not be worn during a match, unless permission has been obtained from the referee (or assistant).

Committee/Tournament Personnel – The tournament committee shall comprise the following members:

- Chairman: Les Cambridge (Billericay LTC)
- Tournament Organiser : Richard Lehman (Billericay LTC)
- Committee Member: Colin Clay (Billericay LTC)
- Entries Secretary/Tournament Referee : David Fuchs (LTA Accredited Official, ITF White Badge Referee, member of the Association of British Tennis Officials)
- Representative of the LTA: Cristian Winder
- Representative of Tennis Services UK Limited: Sarah Lewis (Administrator)

Court Supervisors: Gavin Ewart, Kath Lovell*, Ray Lovell* and Robert Smith (LTA Accredited Officials & members of the Association of British Tennis Officials) * = ITF White Badge Officials

Complaints - The decision of the referee is final. If you are unhappy with any matter in connection with any tournament, you may raise the matter verbally with the referee. You may also make a complaint in writing to the referee or the tournament director, provided you do so within 48 hours of the occurrence.

If you are still not satisfied, you may, within 10 days of receiving a written response from us take the matter up with one of the following:

- Officiating Services Manager, The Lawn Tennis Association, National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London SW15 5JQ, if your complaint relates to the action or decision of an official.
- Cristian Winder, Essex County Lawn Tennis Association, Redbridge Sports & Leisure Centre, Forest Road, Barkingside, Essex IG6 3HD, if your complaint relates to any other matter.

Conditional Applications – We will not accept an application which is conditional upon a player being accepted for two or more events applied for, nor on another player also being accepted to play in the tournament.

Contact Details/Correspondence – All applications, enquiries and other correspondence relating to this tournament should be addressed to:

Tennis Services UK Limited, P.O. Box 151, Sutton SM1 2WN.
Telephone: 08712 779 819. Fax: 07092 27 27 27 E-mail: info@tennisuk.net

During the tournament, telephone lines are open from 7:30am until 10:00pm each day.

Courts – The tournament will take place on up to 7 outdoor artificial grass and 3 outdoor macadam courts. Competitors cannot choose which surface to play their matches on. Individual matches within an event (including those within the same round) may be played on different surfaces. Other clubs/centres and court surfaces may be used, at the discretion of the committee.

Data Protection Act (1998) - By submitting an application to this tournament, you agree to the publication of your name, LTA membership number, rating, ranking, county, acceptance status, match details and results on our website and to our privacy policy (available from www.tennisuk.net, or on request).

You also agree to the LTA and/or LTA sanction tournament organisers, from my geographical area, using the information provided as part of my application (with the exception of credit/debit card details) to communicate information about this and future tournaments, in my geographical area, via post/email or SMS. You also accept that such information may be used to update the British Tennis membership record of the person identified.

Dates and Times of Play – Play takes place from Sunday 25th July to Saturday 31st July 2010. Matches may start as early as 9:00am and continue late into the evening. We may alter the times of play during the tournament, if we feel this necessary to complete the tournament on time.

Doubles events will take place on or after Monday 26th July. Singles consolation events will start on or after Thursday 29th July.

Doping Test – Any player may be required to submit to a random doping control test without prior notice. This will be undertaken by an independent sampling officer appointed by UK Sport. Failure to submit to this test will be treated as a positive result.

Doubles Pairings – cannot be changed after the draw has made. If either player is unable to play then the pair shall withdraw from the event and no entry fee refund will be made to either player, regardless of the reason for withdrawal.

Draw Dates and Times – Draws shall be made shortly following the cancellation deadline for each event.

Emergency Medical Treatment - In a case of accident, illness or emergency at the tournament, involving a player under the age of 18 years old, emergency medical treatment may be carried out as recommended by an approved medical authority.

Entry Method - You may make an application to take part in the tournament by posting a completed application form to Tennis Services UK Limited (see "Correspondence"). We will also accept faxed application forms, or applications made online at the tournament website (www.tennisuk.net). Applications will not be accepted by e-mail or telephone, nor via the LTA website. No applications will be accepted without payment.

Applications for singles consolation events (if held) may only be made by completing a short application form on-site at the tournament and handing this to the referee.

Entry Fee - £15.00 per applicant per event (singles) £7.50 per applicant (doubles), payable by cheque or postal order. Visa, MasterCard, Switch, Maestro, Solo and Delta Cards can also be accepted. No additional charge for singles consolation events.

Only competitors who have paid their entry fees (or submitted payment details) prior to the closing deadline shall be considered for inclusion in the tournament. Cheques relating to cancelled/unsuccessful applications will be shredded 10 days after the conclusion of the tournament, unless a stamped addressed envelope is provided to Tennis Services UK Limited within this time period.

No entry fees will be billed until after the published closing deadline. Entry fees paid by credit or debit card are collected by Tennis Services UK Limited acting as an agent authorised by the club for the collection of entry fee payments.

We reserve the right to make a reasonable administrative charge where a payment is dishonoured or declined. Recovery costs will also be added to any unpaid amounts due.

Events – The following events will be staged:

- Mens Open singles (men and boys born in 1999 and earlier)
- Boys 18 & under singles (born between 1992 & 1999)
- Boys 16 & under singles (born between 1994 & 1999)
- Boys 14 & under singles (born between 1996 & 1999)
- Boys 12 & under singles (born in 1998 or 1999)
- Boys 11 & under singles (born in 1999 only)

- Ladies Open singles (ladies and girls born in 1999 and earlier)
- Girls 18 & under singles (born between 1992 & 1999)
- Girls 16 & under singles (born between 1994 & 1999)
- Girls 14 & under singles (born between 1996 & 1999)
- Girls 12 & under singles (born in 1998 or 1999)
- Girls 11 & under singles (born in 1999 only)

- Mens Open doubles (men and boys born in 1999 and earlier)
- Boys 16 & under doubles (born between 1994 & 1999)

- Boys 13 & under doubles (born between 1997 & 1999)
- Ladies Open doubles (ladies & girls born in 1999 and earlier)
- Girls 14 & under doubles (born between 1996 & 1999)
- Singles consolation events or matches may be held (weather and circumstances permitting) as decided by the committee.

Event Format - Events may use standard knockout draws, progressive or staggered draw formats, according to entry numbers. Where an alternative event format is adopted which requires players to compete in two or more matches (e.g. round-robin, playback, compass), such additional matches are an integral and compulsory part of the event and are not optional.

We may change the format of any event; amalgamate events or run qualifying events if we feel that it is reasonable and appropriate to do so. The referee may also change any draw in the event of withdrawals.

Event Restrictions – Subject to age limitations, players may apply for a maximum of TWO consecutive events and ONE doubles event.

In addition players may apply for ONE singles consolation event, provided they have been eliminated by all main-draw singles events by the application deadline for the consolation events.

Late Arrivals - Please allow sufficient time for your journey to the club including allowances for delays. If you are not present and ready to play within 15 minutes of your court being ready and your match being called, you will normally be scratched from the match. The entry fee is not refundable in these circumstances.

Where a player withdraws or is not present and ready to play, the referee may, at his/her entire discretion fill a vacant space in the draw with a lucky loser or a reserve or award a walkover.

Liability - All players enter this tournament, use the club and compete at their own risk. Neither the tournament, its officials nor the club, its staff, management or committee will be responsible for death, personal injury, or loss of or damage to property whether occurring on the premises or otherwise, other than liability for negligence incurred under English law. If we make a mistake which prevents you from playing or continuing in the tournament, the maximum amount we shall be liable for is the value of your entry fee.

Match Dates and Times – See "Scheduling of Matches"

Match Format – In all events EXCEPT 11&U, 12&U, singles consolation events and JUNIOR doubles events, matches shall be the best of three sets. The tiebreak shall operate at 6 games all in ALL SETS. In 11&U, 12&U, plate and JUNIOR doubles events – any third set shall be replaced with a "match tiebreak". The winner of the match tiebreak shall be the first player to win 10 points, leading by a two point margin. Should the score reach 9 points all, then the tiebreak shall be extended until one player gains a lead of two points (e.g. 11-9, 12-10).

In the event of bad weather or other circumstances beyond our control, the referee may alter the match format for any event (or part of an event). This may mean adopting abbreviated scoring methods – some of which may not count for LTA ratings purposes.

Media Statement – Unless the tournament referee is informed prior to the start of the tournament, you consent to being involved in any publicity connected with LTA staged tournaments, including media interviews, photographs and TV footage.

Unofficial photography and video recording is not permitted without the prior consent of the tournament referee, any players involved in such photography/video footage and (in the case of players under 18 years of age) their parent or legal guardian. To avoid disruption to play, requests must be made with sufficient notice as consent will not normally be sought from players once a match (including warm-up) has commenced. A photographic consent form may need to be completed.

Non-Umpired Matches - Matches will normally be played without umpires. All players must be familiar with the LTA Guidelines for a non-umpired match, a copy of which will be on display at the tournament.

Order of Play – See "Scheduling of Matches"

Other Tournaments - It is each applicant's responsibility to ensure that they are not accepted for any other competition which takes place on any of the tournament dates (this includes other competitions run by Tennis Services UK Limited). The submission of applications for multiple competitions taking place at the same time is however permitted, provided that cancellation deadlines are observed. Players who find themselves committed to more than one tournament on any date and are forced to withdraw as a consequence will be penalised under the LTA's Automatic Penalty system.

Parental Permission – Applications made by or on behalf of players under 18 years of age must be countersigned by a parent or legally registered guardian. In the case of website applications, the registration of a credit/debit card and the use of a player's British Tennis/LTA number (or username) and online registration password shall constitute parental consent.

Prizes/Trophies – In the Mens Open Singles event, £125 will be paid to the winner (£60 runner-up). In the Ladies Open Singles event, £100 will be paid to the winner (£50 runner-up). A personal prize, and/or trophy will be awarded to each winner and runner up in all other events. All finalists are required to attend the finals day presentations on Saturday 31st July 2010.

Ratings & Rankings – We will use the ratings and rankings supplied to us by the Lawn Tennis Association. We will submit all applicable singles results to the LTA for inclusion in the periodic ratings and rankings calculations.

All main-draw singles events (except 11&U) shall be LTA Grade 3 rankings events. 11&U matches shall count for ratings only (grade 6)

Referee – The tournament referee is David Fuchs. Contact telephone number: 08712 779 819. David is an LTA Accredited Referee and ITF White Badge Official and a member of the Association of British Tennis Officials.

Refunds - If we cancel the tournament, or any event, or if we are unable to accept your entry for any reason, we will refund your entry fee for any event(s) in which you have not completed a match. We will also refund your entry fee if you cancel your entry to any event within the timescales permitted (see "Cancellation of Applications") (where payment has been made by credit or debit card then a 10% deduction will be applied to cover processing costs). Refunds will not be made in the event of withdrawal due to illness, injury, failure to arrive on time or for any other reason (other than those detailed under "Liability").

Refusal of Admission - The club may refuse admission to any person without giving a reason and ask any person to leave the premises if their behaviour has caused or is considered likely to cause distress or inconvenience to others, whether in connection with the tournament or otherwise.

Refusal of Entry - We may decline to accept an application from any player.

Reasons for declining an entry would include failure to settle entry fees for a previous event or tournament, a poor history of withdrawals, failure to appear and disruptive behaviour (whether at this club or otherwise). A decision to decline an entry is never made lightly and is always done in the best interests of the tournament and in consultation with at least two members of the tournament committee.

Reserves – If you are offered a place as a reserve in any event you need not attend the tournament unless we notify you that you have been accepted to play.

As a reserve, you will be considered available to play at any time, up to and during the tournament, unless you tell us to the contrary, prior to us notifying you that you have been accepted.

If we give you more than 24 hours notice, and you decline the offer to play, then you will be charged an entry fee and incur suspension points under the LTA's automatic withdrawal penalty system.

Rules Governing This Tournament – The tournament is sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association ("the LTA") and will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Tennis; the Rules & Regulations of the Lawn Tennis Association; LTA Tournament Regulations including the LTA Code of Conduct, the LTA Clothing and Equipment Regulations and the rules of the host club.

The tournament committee may alter or add to these rules in which case we will post written details on the tournament notice board and/or the tournament website. The referee shall however have general discretionary powers in interpreting any rule or regulation relating to the tournament and in situations not specifically covered by any applicable rules or regulations governing this tournament.

Scoreboards - Where scoreboards are provided these must be used. As a minimum, players must update these at each change of ends. The winner of each match is responsible for resetting the scoreboard and returning the used match balls, tin (and any name cards provided), to the control desk, immediately after the end of each match.

Scheduling of Matches - Match times are fixed by the referee and are NOT NEGOTIABLE. All applicants are considered available to play AT ALL TIMES throughout the published dates and times of the tournament.

It is each player's responsibility to find out when they are required to play. We will normally tell you your first match date and time (or the procedure for finding this out), by email. Regardless of whether you receive an email or not, if you have not determined when you are playing within 48 hours of the start of the tournament, you must contact the tournament referee. If you do not and miss your match as a consequence, you will lose your entry fee and face possible disciplinary action by the LTA for "failure to show".

Any player who is unable to determine when they are playing should arrive at the centre in time for the start of play each day (9:00am) to find out. Any player who misses their match will forfeit their entry fee and face disciplinary action by the LTA for non-appearance.

During the tournament, you must not leave the centre without checking if and when you are required to play next. The website is updated each evening at approximately 8:30pm with the following day's order of play.

Sign-in - Players must sign in at the control desk each day at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of their match. Players who do not do this will not be considered to be present. Matches may be called up to 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time.

Travel Information - Travel information and a map detailing the location of the club is available from the tournament website (www.tennisuk.net).

Website - The tournament website at www.tennisuk.net provides online application and payment facilities and includes up to date entry lists. Match dates/times and draw sheets will be published shortly prior to the start of the tournament. These will be updated during the competition at approximately 8:30pm each evening.

Wet Weather Procedure - The allocation (or reallocation) of matches to any other available courts, in the event of rain or bad light shall be at the sole discretion of the referee.

During prolonged periods of wet weather, matches may be considerably delayed. We will make every attempt to revise orders of play where possible and keep players informed where it is practical to do this. It is recommended that players check, before starting their journey to see if there have been any changes to the scheduling. Due to the large number of players taking part, it may not be possible to contact players individually if matches are delayed, postponed or moved to another day.

Wild Cards - The committee reserves the right to issue wild cards, in accordance with LTA tournament regulations.

Withdrawals - A player who does not wish to take part in any event and advises the referee prior to the published cancellation deadline shall incur no penalty and shall be entitled to a refund (see "Cancellation Deadline")

After the published cancellation deadline, any player withdrawing from a match or an event shall forfeit his/her entry fee and will receive suspension points under the LTA's automatic withdrawal penalty system.

If you are unable to play for any reason AFTER the cancellation deadline then you must let us know as soon as possible BY TELEPHONING (08712 779 819). You must also make sure that we receive and acknowledge your withdrawal. For this reason ask that players/parents DO NOT communicate withdrawals by e-mail or fax. If you withdraw by e-mail/fax and your communication is not read in time (or not received), you will be penalised as a non-appearance. E-mails/faxes are not usually attended to at weekends, nor after 4:00pm on Fridays.

Tennis Services UK Limited closely monitors players who have been accepted for competitions who withdraw after the cancellation deadline. Tournaments may, at their discretion decline to accept applications from players who withdraw without good reason, at short notice or on a regular basis.

Withdrawals have an adverse effect on events and on other players. We therefore ask that withdrawals are communicated to us as soon as possible and not left to the day of a match, when it is often impossible to bring in reserves and could mean a wasted journey for an opponent.

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