# LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2023 Competition Pack <br> Updated 6 April 2023 

Finals to be played at Graves Tennis Centre, Sheffield

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## Introduction \& Important Dates

Welcome to the Competition Pack for the LTA Seniors County Cup Event. It is hoped the following information will help answer any questions you may have about the Event.

LTA County Cup Events gives a player the opportunity of representing their county in a competitive team environment and the age groups range from 8 U through to adult categories.

In October 2019, Seniors Tennis GB announced; 'as one of the measures the LTA is undertaking to provide greater support to seniors' tennis, which is run by the volunteers of Seniors Tennis GB, it has been decided the Inter-County events will, from 2020, be organised by the LTA Competitions Team as a consolidation of the stable of County Cup Events (with Julie Piper as Tournament Director)'. Both the LTA and Seniors Tennis GB welcomed this initiative.

## Event Details -

The LTA Seniors County Cup Event is held in two stages - a Qualifying Event which is held from the Monday 3 April to Monday 2 October 2023 with the Finals being played the weekend of Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October 2023.

## There are 8 Events per gender -

- Women - Over 40s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, Over 70s, Over 75s and Over 80s
- Men - Over 45s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, Over 70s, Over 75s and Over 80s

Counties entering the relevant age groups are placed in order according to the 2022 Event results. Wherever possible, counties have also been placed in groups as geographically close to one another so as to involve the least amount of travelling time for all the teams within that group and the knock-on effect of accommodation expenses. It should be noted, in some cases this has not always been possible.

The match format is played on a round-robin basis and varies from age group to age group. Please refer to the rules \& regulations (Rule 3 - Match Format) for specific information for the relevant age group.

Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. The tie-break will apply at 6 games all in the first two sets. The $3^{\text {rd }}$ set in all matches will consist of a Championship tie-break (to 10 points).

For any match, counties may nominate a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 players.
Teams are nominated in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number order.
Due to lack of entries, there will be NO National Finals for either the Men's or Ladies Over 80s Event. Instead, the Ladies will play on a 'home \& away' basis during the course of the season. The Men will play on a league basis (5 matches each). The counties coming top of the respective Event will be deemed the County Champion.

| Qualifying Events \& Dates | Nominations Open | Nominations Close |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| LTA Seniors County Cup Event |  |  |
| Qualifying Event - Monday 3 April to Monday 2 October 2023 | 1 March 2023 | 1 October 2023 |
| Wherever possible, matches to be arranged by 31 May 2023 <br> All matches to be played and results submitted by 2 October 2023 |  |  |


| Dates for the Finals <br> Graves Tennis Centre, Sheffield | Nominations Open | Nominations Close |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Friday 27 October 2023 <br> Finals for the Ladies Over 65s, 70s and 75s <br> Finals for the Men's Over 65s, 70s and 75s | 1 October 2023 | 16 October 2023 |
| Saturday 28 October 2023 <br> Finals for the Ladies Over 55s and 60s <br> Finals for the Men's Over 55s and 60s | 1 October 2023 | 16 October 2023 |
| Sunday 29 October 2023 <br> Finals for the Ladies Over 40s and 50s <br> Finals for the Men's Over 45s and 50s | 1 October 2023 | 16 October 2023 |

## LTA COUNTY CUP

LTA SENIORS' COUNTY CUP EVENT
Qualifying Rounds - Monday 3 April to Monday 2 October 2023
Finals - Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October 2023
TEAM CAPTAINS FACT SHEET

| Personnel | Event Director - Julie Piper <br> Event Organiser - Andy Hanks <br> E-Mail - seniorcountycuporganiser@gmail.com |
| :--- | :--- |
| Player Eligibility | Please refer to point 2 in the Rules \& Regulations. <br> It is a county's own responsibility to check the eligibility of all team players. The use of an <br> ineligible player may result in a county forfeiting all rubber(s) in which that player competed <br> and/or relegation. Please refer to LTA Rule 66. <br> It is a county's responsibility to check whether a player is a LTA Advantage Member. If a <br> player is not listed, then the player in question must join LTA Advantage prior to play <br> commencing. |
| Composition of Team | Please refer to Regulation 4. <br> Nomination process opens on the 6 March 2023 and closes 2 October 2023. <br> Match nominations, in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number order, must be submitted to the <br> opposing Team Captain 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked <br> players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained <br> throughout the Event. <br> Any query relating to results, nominations, player eligibility, etc. must be raised in writing to <br> the LTA Competitions Team within 48 hours or it will not be considered. |
| Match Arrangements | Wherever possible, matches to be arranged with the opposing team captain no later than <br> Wednesday 31 May 2023. All matches to be completed no later than Monday 2 October <br> 2023 and all results submitted by Tuesday 3 October 2023. <br> Please note, until a match has been scheduled on the system you will NOT be able to submit |
| results, scores, names of players and the result will not count towards your league standing |  |
| or an individual player's ITF WTN ranking. |  |
| Unless previously agreed, matches should start no earlier than 12.00 noon. |  |
| Please refer to point 5 in the Rules \& Regulations. |  |


| Match Format and Order of Play | Please refer to Regulation 3, 6 and 7. <br> Each rubber to be the best of three sets. The tie-break will apply at 6 games all in the first two sets. The $3^{\text {rd }}$ set in all matches will consist of a Championship Tie Break (to 10 points). <br> Rubbers should not be conceded as this may affect the final position of counties in a group. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Match Scorecards | You are advised to print a copy of the Rules \& Regulations and scorecards to take with you to your matches. Please ensure you have read the Rules \& Regulations before your matches! |
| Court Surface and Tennis Balls | The home team will be responsible for providing a minimum of three new ITF approved tennis balls for each first round of rubbers, for arranging the date and venue of the match and for the hospitality. <br> Teams must be prepared to play on any surface of acceptable standard, under floodlights or on covered courts, as offered by the home team with the following exception; if the courts that are available are of more than one surface it will be the choice of the away team as to which surface should be used. |
| Discipline and Code of Conduct | Please refer to Rule $6 \& 7$. <br> Your attention is drawn to Rules 9, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 of the Rules \& Regulations regarding discipline of all players, both on and off-site, during the Event. All players must abide by the LTA Code of Conduct. |
| Finals | Please refer to Rule 10. <br> The top team in Groups 1A and 1B will contest a Final. No player may play for more than one team during the Finals weekend. <br> To be played on the indoor acrylic courts at: <br> Graves Tennis \& Leisure Centre <br> Bochum Parkway <br> Sheffield <br> S8 8JR <br> Tel: 01142839500 <br> Website: www.placesforpeopleleisure.org <br> The Order of Play for the Finals will be finalised once Finalists are known. <br> Due to lack of entries, there will be NO National Finals for either the Men's or Ladies Over 80s Event. Instead, the Ladies will play on a 'home \& away' basis during the course of the season. The Men will play on a league basis (5 matches each). The counties coming top of the respective Event will be deemed the County Champion. <br> The rules and regulations for the Finals weekend are included in this Competition Pack. |

## General Rules \& Regulations - applicable for all Events County Cup Events 2023

1. The management of the County Cup Events shall be entrusted to the LTA Competitions Team, with power to suspend or modify any of these Regulations to meet exceptional circumstances (including adaptation of scoring format(s)) and to decide any question of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and interpretation of the Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team's decision shall be final.
2. For the purpose of the County Cup Events, which shall be area competitions subject to the Lawn Tennis Associations Limited Rules 66 (including appendix 1), the following shall be regarded as Counties: East of Scotland, North of Scotland, South of Scotland, West of Scotland, North Wales, South Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
3. Although it is not compulsory to compete, all Counties are encouraged to enter all relevant County Cup Events. Any County intending to compete in an Event must email notification to the Event Director (countycup@LTA.org.uk) 31 December 2022 months before the relevant event. Where appropriate, any County that withdraws from an Event shall be placed in the lowest group for the following year and will have any applicable funding for that Event withdrawn.
4. A player is qualified to represent an area in any County Cup Event if they meet the criteria outlined in the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rule 66. No player may represent more than one County in any Event.
5. Referee(s) shall be appointed for each venue by the LTA Competitions Team. The Referee shall decide any point that relates to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, County Cup Rules \& Regulations and / or LTA Code of Conduct which may be referred to him/her. He/she shall decide whether or not the match shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance. After consulting with the Event Director and / or Event Referee if necessary, the Referee shall have the final say in all on-site matters. Including adaptation of scoring formats.
6. Any County failing to show or nominate a team on any day, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), will have all their matches in the Event declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group. Furthermore, subject to investigation, they may be precluded from the following year's Event and will be placed in the bottom group of the relevant Event.
7. If any player, team or doubles pairing play out of order, those rubbers they competed in and below shall be declared null and void. If a match is postponed to the next day before any play has taken place the composition of the competing teams may be changed. For Seniors County Cup events any singles matches played shall be in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number order.
8. If a player(s) is / are defaulted, except in cases of punctuality, then that player(s) is no longer allowed to take any further part in that competition.
9. The County Association via its appointed captain (or other designated person accompanying the Team) is responsible for the behaviour of its Team on and off the site for the duration of the event which includes but is not limited to travelling to, staying at accommodation and returning to the County.

Any incident shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). Entry into the County Cup Events constitutes acceptance, by both the County and its individual members of the team, of the LTA's jurisdiction to deal with any disciplinary matter in accordance with these Regulations (including the Code of Conduct) and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). In particular, the following shall apply:
9.1 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident occurring on site shall be referred to the Referee for decision and any appeal against his / her decision shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance to the LTA Disciplinary \& Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
9.2 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident off site shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
9.3 Any disciplinary matter relating to match fixing, financial speculation, betting and anti-doping, as set out in the Disciplinary Code, shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited rules.

## LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2023

Women's - Over 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80s
Men's - Over 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80s

## Special Regulations

The organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of the following regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.

Any complaint relating to eligibility of players and / or nominations or any dispute(s) arising between counties shall immediately be referred to the LTA Competitions Team via (seniorcountycuporganiser@gmail.com) within 48 hours of the occurrence

## 1. Format of the Competition

Divisions shall be divided into two sections (A and B) which shall be rearranged annually by The LTA Competitions Team into geographical groupings where practicable to reduce travel costs (apart from Division 1).

Normally two teams from each division will be promoted and two teams from each division relegated, apart from Division 1 where there can be no promotions and the bottom division(s) where there can be no relegations.

The arrangement of divisions will depend on the number of counties entering the relevant age group.
The County winning Division 1A and 1B of each age category shall proceed to the Finals to determine the Champion County for the year within that age group.

Any county withdrawing or, (normally) entering a new team into an age group not previously entered, will be placed in the bottom group for the following year's Event.

## 2. Eligibility

Senior age qualification rules permit players to take part if they reach the minimum age at any time during the year in which the competition is played.

A player, if selected, is eligible to represent his/her County only in accordance with LTA Rules 66.
If a player moves to reside in another county, then one complete year must elapse before he/she may play a match for the new County, if selected.

All SCOs are responsible for verifying their players are eligible before nominating them to play in any representative match.

In any one year, no player may play in more than one age category for which he/she is eligible, but a player may play down once in a younger age group (per season). If he/she plays down more than once, he/she will forfeit his/her rubbers in any second or subsequent match. The exceptions to this are the men's \& women's Over 75 \& 80s where a player may play down in the women's and men's over 70s and 80s respectively to a maximum of twice.

A player who has played down once, may play down a second time in the Finals only. Where a player is nominated to play a match and their team receives a walkover this shall count as a qualifying match for nomination to the Finals but only for the team receiving the walkover.

Once a player has opted for a particular age category in his/her first fixture of the season, this will be deemed to be his/her elected age category unless made clear to the Event Director at countycup@lta.org.uk that this is the match/matches to be played in the younger age group.
3. Match Format

For all Men's age groups up to and including Over 65s age group and Division 1 of Men's Over 70s
For all Ladies Over 40 age groups (Divisions 1 to 3 inclusive)
For all Ladies Over 50s and 55s age groups (Divisions 1 and 2)
For all Ladies Over 60s and 65s in Division 1
Each match shall consist of five rubbers - two singles and three doubles: commencing with No 1 playing No 1 of the opposing team and then No 2 playing No 2 of the opposing team followed by doubles.

## Round 1

Singles 1 v singles 1
Singles 2 v singles 2
1 st doubles $v$ 1st doubles

## Round 2

1st doubles v 2nd doubles
2nd doubles $v$ 1st doubles

Each match shall be decided on the combined result of singles and doubles. All matches must be completed (apart from the Finals which are played to a result).

For all Men's Over 70 age groups (Divisions 2 and 3 inclusive)
For all Men's Over 75 and 80s all Divisions
For all Ladies 50 and 55 (Division 3)
For all Ladies Over 60s \& 65s (Divisions 2 and 3 inclusive)
For all Ladies Over 70s, 75s and 80s all Divisions
Each match shall consist of four doubles rubbers only to be played as follows:

## Round 1

Round 2
1st pair v 1st pair
2nd pair v 2nd pair
1st pair v 2nd pair
2nd pair v 1st pair
Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. The tie-break will apply at 6 games all in the first two sets. The $3^{\text {rd }}$ set in all matches will consist of a Championship Tie Break (to 10 points).

Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. Each match to be decided on number of rubbers won. However;
(a) If rubbers are tied, the number of sets won will decide.
(b) If sets are tied, the number of games won will decide.
(c) If games are tied, the combined result of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets, then games.
(d) If a tie still prevails, then the result of the leading rubber, ie 1st pair $v$ 1st pair, will decide.
(e) If the first round of the match has been fully completed without concessions and inclement weather prevents the whole match from being completed, then a result can be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games.
(f) If a draw still results, then the match between the first pairs will decide

One point is allocated per rubber win and two points per match win and this will be reflected on the league table.
4. Composition of Teams

Team nominations open Monday 6 March 2023 and close Monday 2 October 2023.
All players, singles \& doubles, must be an LTA Member. Singles players must be nominated in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number order

Match nominations, in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number order, must be submitted to the opposing Team Captain 30 mins before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event.

Counties should nominate a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players per match. A sixth player may be introduced to play in the doubles rubbers in the second round as substitute for any player nominated to play in round one, but no player shall meet in round two a player who he/she met in round one.

Where the match comprises doubles only, a team comprises a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 players one substitution may be allowed in the second round.

If a player retires for any reason at any stage, he/she may take no further part in the match.
No player may play for more than one team during the Finals weekend.
5. Match Arrangements

Please note, until a match has been scheduled on the CMS you will NOT be able to submit any results, scores, names of players and the result will not count towards your league standing or an individual player's ITF WTN ranking

All matches must be arranged and entered on the Tournament Software site by Team Captains no later than Wednesday 31 May 2023.

On receipt of notification of Divisions and matches to be played, the home team will offer three dates for the fixture. The three dates must include dates over at least 2 different weekends and must be 8 clear days apart. Dates should not be offered during National Championships and World Championships unless agreed by both teams.

The onus is on both captains to ensure match arrangements are made promptly. No extensions of time will be granted beyond the end of the Competition - please ensure all matches have been played \& completed and results entered by Tuesday 3 October 2023.

Once a match has been arranged, if a county then wants a rearrangement, they need to request a change, in writing (email), at least 10 days before the match is due. After that period it is at the discretion (goodwill) of the team if they want to offer a new date.

The matches will be managed, and all necessary arrangements made, by the County Associations concerned.
The home team will be responsible for providing a minimum of three new ITF approved tennis balls for each first round of rubbers, for arranging the date and venue of the match and for the hospitality.

Teams must be prepared to play on any surface of acceptable standard, under floodlights or on covered courts, as offered by the home team with the following exception; if the courts that are available are of more than one surface it will be the choice of the away team as to which surface should be used.

Unless agreed otherwise by both captains' matches should not start before 12.00pm (midday)
Team Officials are not allowed on court during the matches and no advice by any person is permitted during play.
Both captains must complete and sign the scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours and the losing captain is responsible for checking the entry.

Any query relating to results, nominations, player eligibility, etc. must be raised in writing to the LTA Competitions Team within 48 hours or it will not be considered.
6. Conduct and Completion of Matches

If players arrive more than 30 minutes late, then the first set of each rubber not started at the agreed starting time may be claimed by the opposition.

Players arriving more than one hour late, then each rubber scheduled to start at the agreed starting time may be claimed by the opposition.

Incomplete rubbers will be void, except in the case of illness or injury (details of which must be clearly recorded in the scorecard) when the retiring player shall lose the match but may record and games and sets won in that match prior to his/her retirement.

If a match is abandoned before completion of the first round, the match shall be replayed at the reverse venue with a new date and time being agreed mutually as per Rule 5.

A minimum of 12 hours' notice should be given by the home venue that no play is possible so the away team does not need to travel to that match. A new date and time shall be agreed mutually as per Rule 5 at the original venue. If a team has started their journey and play is not possible then the rearranged match will be at the reverse venue.

Counties should field complete teams for each match however in the event of exceptional circumstances (at the LTA Competition Teams discretion) where this is not possible, counties are to field an incomplete team, rather than concede the match.

## 7. Conceded Matches

Where a match is conceded, the Team Captain receiving the walkover must enter the "MATCH RESULT" online and not individual "rubber result (s)" as no player names are required.

In the event of a County conceding a match, they will incur 3 penalty points $(-3)$ on the league table and the opposing county get a walkover win and 2 match points.

A County withdrawing from the league will give 2 match points to their remaining opponents.
Any County conceding two or more matches will be placed in the bottom division for their age group next year.
Any County conceding their last match of the season, if they consider the match to be a "dead rubber" or are already relegated, will be relegated to the bottom division particularly if this affects the league table.

Any county conceding a match or withdrawing from the Event must inform the LTA Competitions team via seniorcountycuporganiser@gmail.com. Failure to do so may result in that county not being allowed to enter a team into that age group the following year. (Please also refer to Rule 6 of the General Rules \& Regulations for all County Cup Events).

## 8. Promotion/Relegation

The final order in each division in which all matches have been completed (or results have been reached in accordance with Rules 3) shall be determined by the number of matches won.

In a division where this applies but there are teams with an equal number of matches won and in a division where not all matches have been completed but the number of matches won by two or more teams is equal, the positions shall be determined by comparing:
(a) Percentage of rubbers won to rubbers completed for each team. Should this still fail to determine the order, then
(b) Result of the match between them or if more than two, then
(c) Percentage of sets won to sets completed. If two teams are still tied, then
(d) Match result, or if more than two, then
(e) Percentage of games won to games completed. Should this still leave two teams tied, then
(f) Result of the match between them
9. Separate rules for the Finals, as defined below, shall apply in addition to these Rules

To be eligible for the Finals, a player must have played in one County League match in his/her elected age group during the season and cannot play down a age group in the Finals.

A player who has played down once, may play down a second time in the Finals only. Where a player is nominated to play a match and their team receives a walkover this shall count as a qualifying match for nomination to the Finals but only for the team receiving the walkover.

In exceptional circumstances, The LTA Competitions Team has the authority to authorise a non-nominated player to play in the Final. The criteria that will be applied for eligibility for the Finals for players are:
(a) Eligible for the age group
(b) Has an LTA number
(c) Has not represented the County in another age group this year other than in playing one match down
(d) The ITF (singles) World Tennis Number of the player should be no higher than that of the singles players
(e) Will only be permitted to play doubles
(f) A competitor may play in only one age group Final

Counties can only nominate a maximum of 6 players for the Finals. Nominations open Monday 2 October to Monday 16 October 2023.

The LTA Competitions Team reserves the right to impose an appropriate penalty should any county fail to take its place with a full team at the scheduled time in the Final.

Each rubber will consist of two tiebreak sets and, if necessary, a third set of a championship tie break [to 10 points]. Matches must only be played to a result.

The provisional schedule of matches for the Finals will be as follows and a detailed OOP will be produced nearer the Event dates once the Finalists are known.

| Friday 27 October 2023 | Play starting at 9.30am 6 courts | Ladies 75 <br> Ladies 70 <br> Men 75 <br> Ladies 65 <br> Men 65 <br> Men 70 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Saturday 28 October 2023 | Play starting at 9. 30am 2 courts <br> Play starting at 11.00am 4 courts | Men 55 <br> Men 60 <br> Ladies 55 <br> Ladies 60 |
| Sunday 29 October 2023 | Play starting at 09.30am 4 courts | Men 45 <br> Men 50 <br> Ladies 40 <br> Ladies 50 |

The order of play on Saturday and Sunday will be No 2 Singles followed by No 1 Singles, Doubles and reverse doubles

Matches must be played to a result (eg 3-0 / 2-1)

## LTA COUNTY CUP

## LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2023

## Scorecard for Doubles matches

Age Group $\qquad$ Men/Women (circle as appropriate)

## Division



## Please make sure all LTA Membership numbers are recorded

Result: $\qquad$ beat $\qquad$ by $\qquad$ Rubbers to $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ Games to $\qquad$
Date Played: $\qquad$ Venue: $\qquad$

Please ensure you enter all required details - male or female, age group, division, LTA numbers and enter county names where shown. Remember the Championship Tie Break counts as one set and one game.

Signed:

## LTM COUNTY CUP

LTA Seniors County Cup event 2023

## Scorecard for Singles / Doubles matches

Age Group $\qquad$ Men/Women (circle as appropriate)
Division


Result: $\qquad$ beat $\qquad$
by $\qquad$ Rubbers to $\qquad$ Sets to $\qquad$ Games to $\qquad$

Date Played: $\qquad$ Venue: $\qquad$
Please be sure you enter all required details - male or female, age group, division, Membership numbers and enter county names where shown. Remember the Championship Tie Break counts as one set and one game.

All players must be current LTA Advantage Members and Singles players have an ITF SINGLES World Tennis Number.

If LTA Numbers are not shown for all players or are incorrectly recorded, these match results will not be included in the ITF (singles) WTN rankings run.

Signed: $\qquad$

