

## **MELKSHAM & DISTRICT SKITTLES LEAGUE**

### **RULES 2017**

1. THE LEAGUE SHALL BE CALLED 'THE MELKSHAM AND DISTRICT SKITTLES LEAGUE', THE AIM IS TO PROMOTE INTEREST & COMPETITIVE GAMES BETWEEN TEAMS IN MEMBERSHIP. ALL TEAMS TO BE IN A RADIUS OF SIX MILES OF MELKSHAM TOWN HALL.
2. THE LEAGUE SHALL CONSIST OF A LADIES AND A MENS SECTION, WITH A MAXIMUM OF SIXTEEN TEAMS IN EACH DIVISION.
3. ALL FEES ARE FIXED ANNUALLY AT THE A.G.M. LEAGUE AND CUP FEES TO BE PAID BY DATE ON THE ENTRANCE FORM. ALL MATCH FEES INCURRED DURING THE SEASON (LEAGUE AND CUP) ARE TO BE PAID ALONG WITH ANY OTHER EXPENSES: IE SCORE BOOKS, ETC; BY THE DATE SHOWN ON THE ANNUAL ACCOUNT SENT AT THE END OF THE SEASON. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL INCUR A FINE OF £1 PER DAY.
4. THE OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE TO CONSIST OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHAIRPERSON, GENERAL SECRETARY, TREASURER, FIXTURE SECRETARY AND A COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS (MAXIMUM). THE SAID OFFICERS WILL ENFORCE THE RULES.
5. THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED AT THE A.G.M. UNTIL SHE/HE DECIDES TO RETIRE. ALL OTHER OFFICERS PLUS THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ELECTED AT THE AGM TO SERVE A THREE YEAR PERIOD. CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON WILL BE ELECTED ANNUALLY BY THE COMMITTEE.
6. IN THE CASE OF EQUALITY OF VOTES THE CHAIRPERSON WILL HAVE THE CASTING VOTE.
7. A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING CAN BE CALLED UPON BY A REQUISITION LETTER BEING SIGNED AND SUPPORTED BY 9 DIFFERENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVES. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH REQUISITION THE COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE A MEETING WITHIN 21 DAYS. THE BUSINESS TO HAND MUST RECEIVE A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT. EACH TEAM REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ALLOWED ONE VOTE ONLY.
8. THE DATE OF THE A.G.M. WILL BE FIXED BY THE COMMITTEE. ALL TEAM REPRESENTATIVES WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M. AND AN AGENDA. TO BE RECEIVED 28 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE.

9. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WILL VOTE SEPERATELY ON ISSUES RELATING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LEAGUE. ALL ITEMS REGARDING THE FEES ETC WILL REMAIN A JOINT VOTE.
10. ALL MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED ON ALLEYS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AND IT IS THE CLUBS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING:- BALL SIZES ARE 4¼" MINIMUM TO 4¾" MAXIMUM. ALL PINS MUST BE OF EQUAL SIZE, PINS MUST BE MARKED AS FOLLOWS, FRONT PIN WITH A WHITE 2" BAND AROUND THE CENTRE AND 1" BAND AROUND THE TOP AND BOTTOM. THE FRONT QUARTER PINS TO BE MARKED WITH A 1" BAND AROUND THE TOP AND BOTTOM. ALL ALLEYS MUST BE SIX FOOT WIDE AND A MINIMUM LENGTH OF 29 FEET. FROM THE BASE LINE TO CENTRE OF FRONT PIN THE BASE LINE TO BE MARKED WITH A 2" WHITE LINE THE WIDTH OF THE ALLEY. THE WHITE DIAMOND SHOULD BE PAINTED 4 FEET 4" FROM FRONT TO BACK AND SIDE TO SIDE WITH SPOTS FOR THE PINS. (ALL PINS THAT STAND AND FALL OUTSIDE THE WHITE DIAMOND ARE DEAD. PINS TO BE 4FT FROM CENTRE OF FRONT PIN TO CENTRE OF BACK PIN, ALSO THE SAME LEFT TO RIGHT)
11. **MENS SECTION** – A PLAYER HAS TO HAVE BOTH FEET BEHIND THE BALL LINE WHEN THROWING THE BALL. IF A BALL HITS THE SIDE RUNNER ALL PINS THAT ARE HIT WILL BE REPLACED. IF A PIN SHOULD FALL ON THE WHITE DIAMOND AND BY SOME FREAK CHANCE STANDS AGAIN, THIS PIN WILL BE REMOVED AND COUNTED.  
  
**LADIES SECTION** – A PLAYER HAS TO HAVE BOTH FEET BEHIND THE BALL LINE WHEN THROWING THE BALL. ALL BALLS TO BE THROWN FROM BEHIND THE BALL LINE. IF A BALL HITS THE SIDE RUNNER, ALL PINS THAT ARE HIT WILL BE REPLACED. IF A PIN SHOULD FALL ON THE WHITE DIAMOND AND BY SOME FREAK CHANCE STANDS AGAIN, THIS PIN WILL BE REMOVED AND COUNTED.
12. BOTH FEET OF THE PLAYER MUST BE WITHIN THE WIDTH OF THE ALLEY DURING THE RUN UP AND THROW.
13. SUBSTITUTES DURING THE GAME WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.
14. **LADIES SECTION** - EACH TEAM TO CONSIST OF 8 PLAYERS AND PLAYED OVER 5 LEGS AS CURRENTLY STATED. TEAMS ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY ONE A.N.OTHER IN EACH LEG. A.N.OTHER WILL BE THE LOWEST SCORER WITHIN THAT LEG AND WILL THROW AGAIN IN THE POSITION OF NUMBER 8 ON THE BOARD AT THE END OF EACH LEG. IF THE LOWEST SCORER WITHIN THAT LEG HAS THROWN OFF AND LEFT THE ALLEY THEN THE SECOND LOWEST WILL PLAY IN THAT

POSITION.

EACH TEAM WILL PLAY HOME AND AWAY IN THEIR DIVISION. PLAYERS SHOULD ATTEND BY 8 PM AND COMMENCE NOT LATER THAN 8.15 PM. LADIES PLAY 5 LEGS WITH 1 POINT FOR EACH LEG PLUS 2 POINTS FOR THE AGGREGATE

**MENS SECTION** – EACH TEAM TO CONSIST OF 12 PLAYERS AND PLAYED OVER 4 LEGS AS CURRENTLY STATED. TEAMS ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY UP TO TWO A.N.OTHERS IN EACH LEG. IF A TEAM PLAYS ONE A.N.OTHER HE WILL BE THE LOWEST SCORER IN THAT LEG AND WILL THROW IN POSITION 12 AT THE END OF EACH LEG. IF A TEAM PLAYS TWO A.N.OTHERS, THEY WILL BE THE FIRST AND SECOND LOWEST SCORES AND PLAY IN POSITION 11 AND 12 AT THE END OF EACH LEG. IF A TEAM HAS A PLAYER WHO HAS THROWN OFF AND HAS LEFT THE ALLEY HIS SCORE WILL NOT COUNT AS A LOWEST SCORE SO YOU MOVE TO THE NEXT LOWEST.

EACH TEAM WILL PLAY HOME AND AWAY IN THEIR DIVISION. PLAYERS SHOULD ATTEND BY 8.15 PM AND COMMENCE NOT LATER THAN 8.30 PM. THE MEN PLAY 4 LEGS WITH 1 POINT FOR EACH LEG PLUS 3 POINTS FOR THE AGGREGATE.

ALL PLAYERS ARRIVING AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND LEG CAN ONLY PLAY THE REMAINING LEGS, IF A PLAYER ARRIVES ON THE ALLEY BEFORE THE END OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LEG THEY MAY PLAY ALL THE LEGS.

ANY TEAM PLAYING THE GAME WITH LESS THAN THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WILL INCUR A FINE OF £1.00 PER PLAYER SHORT WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO THE END OF SEASON BILL.

15. LEAGUE MATCHES, HOME TEAMS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STICKERS UP. ALL MATCHES WHERE THE STICKER UP IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMITTEE THE MINIMUM AGE WILL THIRTEEN.
16. ALL TEAMS MUST REGISTER ON THE FORMS PROVIDED AND PLAYERS SIGN IN THEIR OWN HANDWRITING FOR THE TEAM THEY WISH TO PLAY FOR. NO PLAYER CAN SIGN FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM. ALL REGISTRATIONS FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY BEFORE THE SEASON COMMENCES. ANY TEAM WISHING TO REGISTER PLAYERS AFTER THE START OF THE SEASON MAY DO SO ON THE FORMS PROVIDED AND THIS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

17. ALL LEAGUE GAMES SHOULD BE PLAYED BY THE LAST LEAGUE FIXTURE DATE OF THE SEASON WHERE POSSIBLE OR WITHIN TWO WEEKS. TEAMS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THIS WILL FORFEIT THE GAME(S) EXCEPT IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
18. PLAYERS REQUESTING A TRANSFER MUST OBTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE 2 CAPTAINS CONCERNED AND APPLY IN WRITING TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY; WHEN APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE THEY CAN THEN REGISTER FOR THEIR NEW TEAM. NO TRANSFERS WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON.
19. POSTPONED GAMES SHOULD BE PLAYED BY THE END OF THE SEASON. IT IS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CAPTAIN WHO CANCELS TO NOTIFY THE FIXTURES SECRETARY. ANY TEAM FAILING TO TURN UP ON SPECIFIED DATES WILL BE LIABLE FOR THE EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OPPONENTS.
20. RESULT SHEETS MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH TEAMS. THE TIME OF COMMENCEMENT MUST BE STATED, THE HOME TEAM TO SEND LEAGUE AND CUP SHEETS TO THE FIXTURES SECRETARY. A FINE OF £1.00 WILL BE INCURRED FOR LATENESS IF NOT RECEIVED BY THE NEXT MATCH.
21. IF A TEAM PLAYS AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER THEIR SCORE FOR EACH LEG PLAYED WILL BE DEDUCTED AND A FINE INCURRED AS PLAYING WITH A PLAYER SHORT. THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL HAVE TO PAY ANY EXPENSES THAT HAVE BEEN INCURRED. ANY FURTHER DISPUTE OR PROTEST WITH THIS RULE WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE COMMITTEE WHOSE DECISION WILL BE FINAL
22. TEAMS WISHING TO RESIGN FROM THE LEAGUE MUST DO SO IN WRITING TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY ONE MONTH BEFORE THE A.G.M. TEAMS THAT RESIGN AFTER THE A.G.M. WILL INCUR A FINE OF £10.00  
  
IF ANY TEAM RESIGNS DURING THE SEASON, THEN ALL POINTS GAINED BY OTHER TEAMS WILL BE DEDUCTED.
23. APPLICATIONS BY NEW TEAMS TO JOIN THE LEAGUE MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY BEFORE THE A.G.M.

TEAMS ALREADY ELECTED TO THE LEAGUE SHALL BE DEEMED AS MEMBERS UNLESS THEY HAVE RESIGNED OR HAVE NOT PAID THEIR FINES OR OTHER PAYMENTS BY THE DUE DATE OR FAILED TO COMPLETE FIXTURES.

24. MONTHLY NEWS SHEETS WILL BE SENT EACH MONTH AND A FIXED CHARGE WILL BE MADE TO COVER THE COST.
25. ALL TROPHIES WILL BE HELD FOR ONE YEAR, THE WINNERS ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP THESE TROPHIES IN A REASONABLE CONDITION, ESPECIALLY WHEN RETURNING TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY AT THE END OF THE SEASON.
26. IN THE MENS SECTIONS PREMIER AND DIVISION ONE, FRONT PIN FIRST RULES WILL APPLY.
27. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION WILL BE TWO UP AND TWO DOWN UNLESS THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO LEVEL OUT THE DIVISIONS.
28. ANY AMENDMENTS / PROPOSALS / ADJUSTMENTS MADE AT THE A.G.M. WILL BE SENT TO TEAMS BEFORE THE START OF THE NEW SEASON.
29. TEAMS GAINING HONOURS IN THE LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITIONS WILL BE ALLOCATED TWO EXTRA TROPHIES IF REQUESTED FREE OF CHARGE.
30. ALL PROPOSALS ETC; FOR THE A.G.M. MUST BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO THE A.G.M.
31. TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO SEND THEIR PLAYERS HIGHEST AVERAGE OR HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE TO THE FIXTURES SECRETARY 14 DAYS AFTER THE LAST LEAGUE GAME HAS BEEN PLAYED. PLAYERS MUST HAVE PLAYED IN 75% OF GAMES TO QUALIFY FOR THE AVERAGE BUT ANY NUMBER OF GAMES FOR THE HIGHEST SCORE.
32. EACH DIVISION OF LADIES AND MENS SECTIONS TO HAVE THEIR OWN AVERAGE CUP.
33. ANY TEAM NOT ATTENDING THE A.G.M. OR NOT SENDING THEIR APOLOGIES WILL INCUR A FINE OF £5.00 WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO THEIR FOLLOWING SEASONS BILL.

### **GENERAL CUP COMPETITION RULES**

1. COMPETITIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL TEAMS IN MEMBERSHIP TO THE LEAGUE AND ALL PLAYERS ARE REGISTERED PLAYERS.
2. TEAMS ENTERING MUST DO SO ON FORMS PROVIDED, THESE MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TREASURER BY THE STIPULATED DATE. ANY ENTRANCE FEES TO BE PAID AT TIME OF ENTERING.

3. ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED ON A KNOCK OUT BASIS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PINS WILL COUNT. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE AN EXTRA LEG / LEGS WILL BE PLAYED TO FIND THE WINNER.

4. **MENS SECTION** – A PLAYER HAS TO HAVE BOTH FEET BEHIND THE BALL LINE WHEN THROWING THE BALL. IF A BALL HITS THE SIDE RUNNER ALL PINS THAT ARE HIT WILL BE REPLACED. IF A PIN SHOULD FALL ON THE WHITE DIAMOND AND BY SOME FREAK CHANCE STANDS AGAIN, THIS PIN WILL BE REMOVED AND COUNTED.

**LADIES SECTION** – A PLAYER HAS TO HAVE BOTH FEET BEHIND THE BALL LINE WHEN THROWING THE BALL. ALL BALLS TO BE THROWN FROM BEHIND THE BALL LINE. IF A BALL HITS THE SIDE RUNNER, ALL PINS THAT ARE HIT WILL BE REPLACED. IF A PIN SHOULD FALL ON THE WHITE DIAMOND AND BY SOME FREAK CHANCE STANDS AGAIN, THIS PIN WILL BE REMOVED AND COUNTED.

5. FIRST NAMED TEAM IS THE HOME TEAM WHO WILL GIVE OPPONENTS TWO SEPARATE DATES (DAYS & WEEKS); AWAY CAPTAINS MUST ACCEPT ONE OF THESE DATES. ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED BY DATE STIPULATED. THE FIXTURE SECRETARY MUST BE INFORMED OF ANY GAMES THAT ARE NOT FIXED OR PLAYED BY THE STIPULATED DATE.

ELIMINATION FOR A BREACH OF RULES WILL REST WITH THE COMMITTEE. CUP SHEETS TO BE SENT TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY.

6. ALLEYS FOR SEMI-FINAL / FINALS WILL BE SELECTED BY THE COMMITTEE. ALL WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY OR PRIZE.

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**LADIES & MENS KNOCK OUT CUP**

ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AS ORDINARY SKITTLES  
LADIES 8 A-SIDE 5 LEGS  
MENS 12 A-SIDE 4 LEGS  
ALL OTHER CUP COMPETITIONS RULES APPLY.

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**LADIES & MENS FRONT PIN FIRST CUP**

THE FRONT PIN MUST BE HIT & FLOORED BEFORE OTHER PINS COUNT. IF THE FRONT PIN IS FLOORED AFTER THE BALL HAS STRUCK ANOTHER PIN THIS IS THE END OF THE LEG FOR THE SAID PLAYER.

IF THE FRONT PIN IS NOT FLOORED BUT OTHERS FALL, THESE ARE TO REMAIN DOWN AND SHOULD REMAIN DOWN IF A SPARE RESULTS FROM THE REMAINING PINS.

LADIES PLAY 8 A SIDE 5 LEGS, MEN PLAY 12 A SIDE 4 LEGS.

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**MENS ALEC BUTLER CUP – NOMINATION RULES**

THE PIN THAT THE PLAYER CLEARLY NOMINATES MUST BE HIT TO COUNT, SHOULD OTHER PINS FALL BEFORE BEING NOMINATED THESE MUST REMAIN DOWN AND NOT TO BE PUT UP IF A SPARE RESULTS FROM THOSE STANDING.

ALL GAMES 8 A-SIDE 5 LEGS.

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**MENS USHERS CUP – 12 A-SIDE NOMINATION**

ALL GAMES AS RULES ABOVE  
PLAYED OVER 4 LEGS

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**MENS HILLIER SINGLES -NOMINATION CUPS**

ALL GAMES PLAYED AS PER NOMINATION RULES  
TEAMS TO SUBMIT NAMES TO FIXTURE SECRETARY OF THOSE WHO WILL REPRESENT THE TEAM ON SPECIFIED DATES.

ANY PLAYER MAY BE SUBSTITUTED UP TO AND INCLUDING ROUND ONE BY ANOTHER PLAYER FROM THE TEAM IN THE CASE OF SICKNESS ETC.

GAMES WILL BE 3 LEGS (SEMI-FINAL & FINAL WILL BE 5 LEGS)  
SET TIMETABLES WILL BE ISSUED FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND GAMES  
FAILURE TO ARRIVE ON TIME MAY RESULT IN ELIMINATION.

**LADIES TROTMAN SINGLES**

ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AS ORDINARY SKITTLES  
ALL OTHER CUP COMPETITIONS RULES APPLY.

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**LADIES PAIRS**

ALL GAMES PLAYED AS ORDINARY SKITTLES  
ALL OTHER RULES AS ABOVE

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**MENS NOMINATION PAIRS**

ALL GAMES PLAYED AS PER NOMINATION RULES  
ALL OTHER RULES AS ABOVE  
PLAYER MUST BE SIGNED ON TO A MDSL TEAM

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**LADIES & MENS CAPTAINS CUP**

ORDINARY SKITTLES APPLY  
EACH TEAM CAPTAIN (OR IN CASE OF ILLNESS DESIGNATED VICE  
CAPTAIN) ARE EXPECTED TO ENTER  
GAMES WILL BE 3 LEGS (SEMI-FINAL & FINAL WILL BE 5 LEGS)  
SET TIMETABLES WILL BE ISSUED FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND GAMES

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**MIXED PAIRS ORDINARY**

EACH PAIR TO CONSIST OF ONE FEMALE AND ONE MALE WHO MUST  
BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE AT TIME OF ENTERING  
ENTRIES TO BE SENT TO THE FIXTURE SECRETARY WITH A FEE OF  
£1.00 PER PLAYER.  
ONE SUB WILL BE ALLOWED THIS MEANS THAT ONCE THE DRAW HAS  
BEEN MADE A CHANGE OF PLAYER BEFORE THE START OF THE  
GAME IS ALLOWED.  
GAMES WILL BE 3 LEGS (SEMI-FINAL & FINAL WILL BE 5 LEGS)  
SET TIMETABLES WILL BE ISSUED FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND GAMES

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AGREED AT THE AGM MEETING 11.07.17