

Independent Schools Tennis Association



www.istatennis.co.uk

President C.J. Gorringe C.B.E. (formerly Bradfield)

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman | R. Cake | (formerly) King's College School, Wimbledon | rjcake@btinternet.com | 07711-617 349 |
| Hon Sec | A.J. Blackman | Reed's School, Cobham | ajblackman@reeds.surrey.sch.uk | |
| Hon Treas | Ms C.E. Nicholls | Cranleigh | cen@cranleigh.org | |

I.S.T.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS - Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July 2024

to be held at

Eton College, Windsor.

Entries close: Friday 22nd March 2024

All matches take place at Willowbrook which has 10 acrylic courts, 10 artificial clay courts and 24 astroturf courts. Some senior plate matches, some U15, and all U13 matches will take place on the astroturf courts. Players should have the appropriate footwear.

a) **SUMMARY OF EVENTS:**

Sat 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July :

Youll Cup: U19 boys' team of two pairs
Thomas Bowl: U15 boys, 1 or 2 pairs
Asbury-Bailey Cup: U15 girls, 1 or 2 pairs

Sun 30th June– Tues 2nd July :

Loveband Trophy: U19 girls, 1 or 2 pairs

Mon 1st – Tues 2nd July:

John Barrett Cup: U13 boys, 1 or 2 pairs; check-in 8.45 am
Ralph Cake Trophy: U13 girls, 1 or 2 pairs; check-in 12.30 pm.

All events:

Play will commence at 9.00 am on each day. For round robin events, players should be at the courts for check-in by 8.45am. U13 Girls check in at 12.30 p.m. on Monday; Tuesday's times to be announced then.

Competitors are expected to play in all consolation, plate or shield events for which they qualify.

The third set at the KO stages in all U19 & U15 events will be a championship tie break (i.e. first to ten points).

U15 plate matches in knock-out stages following round robins are one set to 8 games, tie-break at 7-7, except the Boys' and Girls' Springthorpes which are best of two short sets to 6 games followed by a championship tie-break.

b) **FORMAT OF EVENTS – BOYS**

1. YOULL CUP (U19) Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July

A school's **team comprises two pairs** who play a three-set match (with tie-breaks at 6-6 and the third set a championship tie-break) against their opposite pairs. A school's Youll Cup second pair must not be

stronger than its first pair. If the score is 1-1 after the doubles matches, a one-set deciding doubles with one player from each of the first and second pairs will be played (tie-break at 6-6). If there is time, the deciding match in the final will be the best of three sets.

2. **YOULL SHIELD** is for Youll Cup losing quarter-finalists. This is played on a knock-out basis, matches having the same format as the Youll Cup.

3. **CLARK TROPHY (U19 PLATE)** **Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All schools losing their first match in the Youll Cup will take part in the Clark Trophy. The format is the same as for the Youll Cup.

4. **THOMAS BOWL (U15)** **Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All competitors must be under 15 on August 31st 2023, that is to say born on or after 1st September 2008. No player may represent his school in this event and in the Youll Cup or the John Barrett Cup in the same year. A school may enter one or two pairs, with the first pair not necessarily being the stronger pair. However, if the school has requested seeding for a particularly strong pair and the pair has been seeded, then this pair must be nominated as first pair and play as such.

The Thomas Bowl is run as a round-robin in the initial stage, with matches of one set.

In the second stage, from each Thomas Bowl round-robin group the **two top pairs** progress to the main **Thomas Bowl knockout**; the **third and lower placed pairs** proceed to the **Phillips Cup** (see below).

The main draw Thomas Bowl knockout matches will be best of 3 sets, tie-breaks at 6-6, and the third set a championship tie-break. The knockout stages will eventually produce the winners of the **Thomas Bowl**, and the pairs for the **Thomas Shield** and the **Springthorpe Boys Cup**.

5. **THOMAS SHIELD (U15)**

The Thomas Shield is for losing quarter-finalists in the Thomas Bowl knockout. The Shield is played on a knock-out basis, with matches having the same format as the Thomas Bowl knockout.

6. **SPRINGTHORPE BOYS CUP for Boys (U15 Plate) Sunday 30th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

The Springthorpe Cup is a knockout event for pairs that qualify for the knockout stage of the Thomas Bowl but then lose the first match they play. The format is best of two short sets to 6 games followed by a championship tie-break.

7. **PHILLIPS CUP (U15 Plate)** **Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All pairs that finish third or below in their group in the Thomas Bowl preliminary stage round-robin will take part in **the Phillips Cup**. The format of the Phillips Cup is a round robin (matches of one set), followed by a knockout stage for group winners (matches one set tie-break at 7-7).

8. **JOHN BARRETT CUP (U13)** **Monday 1st July 8.45am – Tuesday 2nd July**

All competitors must be under 13 on August 31st 2023, that is to say born after 1st September 2010. Neither IAPS nor junior schools of senior schools are permitted to enter teams in this event (i.e. competitors must be from an Independent 11-18 school). Players may not play in this event **and** also in either the Thomas Bowl or the Youll Cup.

Each school may enter **one or two** pairs. All players will have matches on both Monday and Tuesday. Matches will be one set to six, and will be on a round robin basis. On the second day, group winners and probably runners-up will then play a further round robin followed by a knockout. There will also be a consolation event (a round robin followed by a knock-out) for those not qualifying for the winners & runners-up event. Thus all players can expect to play extensively on both days.

Please note that all teams will be required to register at 8.45 a.m. in order to have a prompt 9.00 a.m. start. No play is scheduled for Monday afternoon, to allow the courts to be used by the U13 Girls.

c) **FORMAT OF EVENTS – GIRLS**

9. **LOVEBAND TROPHY (U19)** **Sunday 30th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

A school may enter one or two pairs, with the first pair not necessarily being the stronger pair. However, if the school has requested seeding for a particularly strong pair and the pair has been seeded, then this pair must be nominated as first pair and play as such. **The initial stage of the Loveband Trophy is run as a round-robin**, with matches of one set. **The Loveband Trophy knockout matches** (following the round robins, for probably the top two pairs per group) will be **best of 3 sets**. Some knockout matches will start on Sunday afternoon, others will start on Monday.

All pairs must be available to start their group matches at 9.00 a.m., or at 10.30 a.m., on the Sunday.

10. **LOVEBAND SHIELD (U19)** **Monday 1st to Tuesday 2nd July**

This is for Loveband Trophy losing quarter-finalists, and has the same format as The Loveband knock-out.

11. **LOVEBAND PLATE (U19)** **Sunday 30th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All pairs coming third or below in their group in the round robin stage of the Loveband Trophy will take part in the Loveband Plate. The 1st stage will be a round-robin format, and will probably be played on Sunday afternoon; subsequent knockout rounds will start on Monday, following the same format as the Loveband Trophy knock-out.

12. **ASBURY-BAILEY CUP (U15)** **Saturday 29th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All competitors must be under 15 on August 31st 2023, that is to say born on or after 1st September 2008. No player may represent her school in this event and in the Loveband Trophy or the Ralph Cake Trophy in the same year. A school may enter one or two pairs, with the first pair not necessarily being the stronger pair. However, if the school has requested seeding for a particularly strong pair and the pair has been seeded, then this pair must be nominated as first pair and play as such.

The initial stage of the Asbury-Bailey Cup is run as a round-robin, with matches of one set. **In the second stage**, from each Asbury-Bailey round robin group **the two top pairs** progress to the **Asbury Bailey Cup knockout where the matches will be the best of 3 sets**.

13. **ASBURY-BAILEY-SHIELD** **Monday 1st to Tuesday 2nd July**

The **Asbury-Bailey Shield** is for losing quarter-finalists in the Asbury-Bailey knock-out. Matches have the same format as the Asbury-Bailey knock-out.

14. **SPRINGTHORPE GIRLS CUP (U15 Plate)** **Sunday 30th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

The Springthorpe Cup is a knockout event for pairs that qualify for the knockout stage of the Asbury-Bailey Cup where they then lose their first match. The format is best of two short sets to 6 games followed by a championship tie-break.

15. **ASBURY-BAILEY PLATE (U15)** **Sunday 30th June to Tuesday 2nd July**

All pairs who do not qualify for the Asbury-Bailey knockout (i.e. pairs that finish third or below in their round robin group) will take part in **the Asbury-Bailey Plate**. The format of the Asbury-Bailey Plate will be a round robin (sets to 6) followed by knockout stage for the group winners (where the matches will be one set, tie-break at 7-7).

16. RALPH CAKE TROPHY (U13)**Monday 1st July(12.30p.m.) to Tuesday 2nd July**

All competitors must be under 13 on August 31st 2023, that is to say born after 1st September 2010. Neither IAPS nor junior schools of senior schools are permitted to enter teams in this event (i.e. competitors must be from an Independent 11-18 school). Players may not play in this event and either the Asbury-Bailey or Loveband.

Each school may enter **one or two** pairs. All players will have matches on both Monday and Tuesday. Matches will be **one set** to 6 games, and will be on a round robin basis. On the second day, group winners and probably runners-up will then play a further round robin and then a knockout. There will also be a consolation event (a round robin followed by a knock-out) for those not qualifying for the winners & runners-up event. Thus all players can expect to play extensively on both days.

Please note that all players for this event need to register at 12.30 p.m. on Monday; Tuesday's registration time will be announced on Monday 1st July

d) ENTRY FEES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Annual subscription | £25.00 |
| Youll Cup | £35.00 per team |
| Thomas Bowl | £25.00 per pair |
| Loveband trophy | £25.00 per pair |
| Asbury-Bailey Cup | £25.00 per pair |
| John Barrett Cup (U13 Boys) | £25.00 per pair |
| Ralph Cake Trophy (U13 Girls) | £25.00 per pair |
| Penalty for late payment | £50.00 per school |

e) ENTRIES AND DRAW

Entries should be made by FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024 by completing the Google entry form. An invoice will automatically be generated on submission of the entry form. Payment of the affiliation and entry fees should be made electronically to Independent Schools Tennis Association, sort code 30-97-55, account number 00258933, giving as Reference the name of the school entering; follow the instructions on the invoice.

Please make every effort to ensure that your school processes the **payment within fourteen days** after you have submitted the entry. For an obvious reason, **ISTA has introduced a late payment penalty of £50. Please send a notification of payment to ISTA's Hon Treasurer, Ms Carolyn Nicholls, cen@cranleigh.org, stating clearly the name of the school for which the entry is made.**

The draw is scheduled for 25th April 2024.

f) ARRIVAL; REQUESTS FOR A LATE START; REQUESTS FOR A SUNDAY START

Schools should be ready to play from 9 am, and should tick the entry form to confirm that they will be able to do so; **check-in for round robin events will be at 8.45 am.**

A school with a long distance to travel may request a late start. Teams should request a late start only if necessary. The time of an anticipated and necessary late arrival **MUST** be clearly given on the entry form, with the reasons specified. and justified.

We need to keep lower than in previous Championships the number of Youll Cup teams and Thomas Bowl and Asbury-Bailey Cup pairs given a Sunday start. If many are unavailable on Saturday, we have courts unused and then, to everyone's disadvantage, there is excess pressure on courts on remaining days, and a restricted variety of potential opponents for both local and distant schools on both Saturday and Sunday.

Only a school absolutely unable to compete on Saturday 1st July should ask for a Sunday start. This should be done only if absolutely necessary, e.g. there is a whole school obligatory calendared school event (not merely a team match). Schools must give details and justify the request on the entry form.

Requests for a Sunday start will not necessarily be granted. If a Sunday start is approved, then the school must be ready to play by 10.30 a.m. without exception.

g) START TIMES on court:

To help them plan travel and accommodation, schools should understand their start times as being those stated on the Championships Details for the different events, unless they have requested to start at a later time of day or on the Sunday. Where ISTA requires pairs to start significantly later in the day than the general time advertised, schools will be notified during May. Please appreciate that ISTA will still need to make some late adjustments to individual match timings because of withdrawals (schools do try to keep these to a minimum but a few are bound to happen); schools will be informed later in June when this happens.

Details of how to get to Eton will be emailed to schools shortly before the Championships. Draws with provisional timings will be posted on the ISTA website also shortly before the Championships; from experience we know that publishing a draw or a set of first-stage boxes, and then having to make changes, causes confusion that is better avoided.

h) ACCOMMODATION

Schools have to make their own arrangements with hotels or other establishments, and so should examine the websites and talk to staff to check for the best deals and arrangements for extending or shortening stays. For accommodation in the Windsor area, use www.windsor.gov.uk, click on 'accommodation' to find hotels, b & bs etc. It is very helpful.

Schools may choose to stay at one of the Travelodges, www.travelodge.co.uk. There is one conveniently in Slough, 01753-516897 (but check its parking arrangements for minibuses), another near Heathrow, and one in the middle of Windsor. There are some cheap deals involving family rooms, but check the conditions.

i) DRESS CODE

We strongly recommend that a school organises its own tennis team-strip. Players then look smart and identifiable as belonging to a particular school because the tennis clothing can carry the school's badge, logo or name, or have distinctive style and colouring. Additionally, it helps referees and spectators see which teams are on court, and follow the progress of matches.

Each item of clothing worn on court at the Championships should be recognised tennis clothing and predominately white unless the school team clothing has a coloured scheme (but a coloured shirt must be the school tennis shirt – not just some practice shirt!). If the weather is cold, smart recognised tennis track suits may be worn for the warm-up. Colleagues in charge of tennis are urged to ensure all players are suitably dressed. The referee reserves the right to ask players who are incorrectly dressed to change their clothing.

Tennis footwear: shoes should be suitable for acrylic surface and for synthetic clay (called "Smashcourt") or for astroturf. Shoes may not be trainers, nor leave black marks on the court surface.

j) TOURNAMENT TELEPHONE NUMBER, & colleagues' mobile numbers.

For the duration of the tournament, **the tournament telephone number will be 07850-046555.** The reserve number will be 07711-617 349. Schools and players are asked to ring in if they have any problems during the tournament, especially if they are delayed and will be arriving late on any day. **Colleagues in charge should issue these numbers to players and parents travelling independently.**

Colleagues i/c teams are asked to give the numbers of their mobiles to the referees to ensure that players can always be contacted. This reduces delays.

k) USE OF WHATSAPP

As in recent years, the Hon Sec Adrian Blackman is organising a WhatsApp group for colleagues i/c teams. Please ensure that you authorise him to join you to the group if you wish to. We recommend this. It makes it simple for referees to contact schools and to get players to where they are needed.

l) REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments, including hot meals, will be available on the main site. We ask that all teams clear up their own litter. The amount of litter left each year has been a considerable headache to the Committee and Eton's groundstaff, so please make every effort to support us with this.

m) CODE OF CONDUCT

L.T.A tournament regulations and codes of conduct will apply. The decision of the referee in all matters is final.

n) REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES – note, this year the AELTC match is May not July

There will be ISTA representative matches against the **All England Club for both girls and boys**. Each match will be for two ISTA pairs. The **girls' and boys' matches** will take place simultaneously on **Saturday 18th May** either on the Championship grass courts or in the Club's new Indoor Centre. Please let the Honorary Secretary know by 31st January 2024 if you believe that one (or two) of your players are strong enough to be considered, and would like to play. Only request that a player be considered if he or she is definitely available on 18th May. Please make your likely players aware of the date, and advise them that they should keep the date free.

There will also be a fixture against **the Public Schools' Old Boys LTA** (see below). The date for this match will be confirmed in due course. Please let the Honorary Secretary know if you would like one of your players to be considered for this match, and advise him to keep the date free. There will also be a fixture against **Independent Schools Tennis – Old Girls (ISTOG)**. We are delighted that this association has been founded and are very keen to support this match. The match date will be communicated in early 2024 but please contact Kerry Smith (Kerry.Smith@emanuel.org.uk) if you have any questions.

o) PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS LTA and INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TENNIS - OLD GIRLS (ISTOG)

School leavers are encouraged to join the PSOBLTA (boys) or ISTOG (girls). These fantastic alumni associations offer an attractive fixture list of matches against universities, clubs and schools and are a great way to keep your tennis going and stay in touch. Matches are good fun and membership is free for the first five years after leaving school. Please contact Adrian Blackman (ajbleckman@reeds.surrey.sch.uk) if you are interested in joining PSOBLTA (boys) or Kerry Smith (Kerry.Smith@emanuel.org.uk) if you are interested in joining ISTOG (girls).

Adrian Blackman, Honorary Secretary, ISTA.

2nd January 2024