

# **MIDDLESEX COUNTY DARTS ORGANISATION**

## **MENS' SUPERLEAGUE**

### **RULES AND PLAYING FORMAT**

Revised: July 1990  
Amended: September 1991  
Amended: June 1992  
Amended: August 1992  
Amended: July 1995  
Amended: July 1996  
Amended: June 1998  
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Amended: July 2014  
Amended: June 2015  
Amended: July 2016  
Amended: July 2017  
Amended: June 2018  
Amended: November 2018  
Amended: July 2019

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The name of the League shall be the "Middlesex County Darts Super League (Mens')", hereinafter referred to as "the League".
- 1.2. The League will operate under the Constitution of the Middlesex County Darts Organisation.
- 1.3. Membership of the League shall be by election at the Annual General Meeting and will be restricted to 16 teams. Womens teams are allowed membership in the League, but will not be afforded any voting rights in respect of any changes/amendments to the League Rules or Constitution.
- 1.4. The League shall act through its Executive and Council. The Executive shall consist of a Chairperson, vice-Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Assistant Competition Secretary and Result Secretary.
  - 1.4.1. The Council shall comprise the above Executive plus one representative from each team in membership and shall have ultimate power to make any decision affecting the League. In meetings of the Council, the Treasurer and the General Secretary shall not be accorded the right to vote by virtue of their office only; the Chairperson shall not have a vote in any proceedings by virtue of his/her office only, but shall have, where necessary, a casting vote whether or not s/he was entitled to, or did, vote originally. The Executive Council shall be a deliberative body as regards policy matters and an executive body as regards the carrying out of any policy, or matter agreed by the Council, or of any arrangements arising out of such matters as have been agreed. A member of the Executive Council shall not be accorded a vote in any Council meeting by virtue only of his membership of the Executive Council.
  - 1.4.2. The Executive Council shall report on both its deliberations and its actions to the Council, as required.
  - 1.4.3. The Executive Council members shall be elected at the A.G.M. from registered members of the League.
- 1.5. Council meetings shall be held on a Sunday, or Wednesday, whichever is appropriate. The quorum shall be 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of voting members.

The normal rules of conduct of meetings shall apply and the decision of the Chair as regards what shall constitute rules of conduct, or interpretation of any of the League's rules, shall be unchallenged except that, upon consideration, the Chair may revise any ruling of the Chair.

  - 1.5.1. When, after due procedures, a vote is taken on any matter, the subject shall be closed and shall not be raised again for a period of three calendar months.
- 1.6. Non-Council members may attend meetings and may address them with the leave of the Chair, but may not vote.

- 1.6.1. The Minute Secretary shall keep Minutes of each Council meeting.
- 1.6.2. Non-representation at any Council meeting will automatically result in a fine of £20.00.
- 1.6.3. Council meetings will normally be held three or four times during the playing season.
- 1.7. Submitted proposals for change of Rules, Playing Format and nominations for the Executive, shall be submitted within 14 days prior to the A.G.M. of the League.
- 1.8. Any matters arising during a season which appear not to be covered one way or the other within the League Rules, will be subject to discussion at the next Council meeting. Teams interpreting a lack of a rule as the invitation to take the decision into their own hands, will be brought before the League Executive.

## **2. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 2.1. Each new team shall pay, in respect of its entry to the League, the sum of £50.00 as a non-refundable joining fee.
- 2.2. Competition entry fees will be agreed at the discretion of the Executive Committee at the start of each season
- 2.3. All League monies are to be paid BEFORE the first match of any season. Teams not complying with this will be fined £50 and forfeit any matches played until payment is received. After two weeks, teams failing to pay will be expelled from the League.
- 2.4. The Treasurer shall report to the Council the financial situation at each Council meeting.
- 2.5. All players registered with any team who are indebted to the League will be liable for the payment of all monies owed and will not be allowed to register in the League until the debt is cleared
  - 2.5.1 Fines for non-return of trophies can be allocated to individuals rather than the team as a whole at the discretion of the Executive
  - 2.5.2 Individuals within a 'debt suspended' team can return to the League by way of a 'buy back' payment for 20% of the total owed by the team
- 2.6. Any player, or team, not fulfilling the playing commitments of a competition by failing to attend on Finals, shall forfeit the right to receive any trophies, prizes, or prize monies that may be due in relation to that respective competition, unless the Executive has given prior permission for the absence.
- 2.7. At the end of each season, each team which has completed its fixtures shall be entitled to:-

- 2.7.1. A payment, by way of a Guaranteed return, if the Council shall have decided that such payments shall be made that season.
- 2.7.2. A payment, representing prizes won by its players in the League's competitions, if the Council shall have decided that such prizes be awarded in that year.
- 2.8. The Council, in considering the matters in 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above, shall have regard to the League's likely income and expenditure in the year and to the position of its Reserve Fund Account. The Council shall decide the amounts referred to in 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above.
- 2.9. Any team indebted to the League at the end of the current season shall have the amounts of its indebtedness set off against any payment due to it, if any, from the League under 2.7.1 and 2.7.3 above
- 2.10. The League Secretary and Result Secretary will each receive an Honorarium of £100 at the end of the season. The Minute Secretary will receive an Honorarium of £50.
- 2.11. The League's account shall be kept and held by the Treasurer and shall be certified at the end of the financial year by the Auditors appointed. The League's liquid assets, not for the time being required for the discharge of debt or working capital, shall be deposited in the name of the League with Barclays Bank plc.
- 2.12. The League's cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairman, or the Secretary.
- 2.13. The financial arrangements heretofore described are in no event to be regarded as a legal contract and are intended to be binding in honour only.

### **3. PLAYERS ETC.**

- 3.1. Each mens team shall be entitled to play any player of the male sex, subject to the following conditions:-
- 3.1.1. Each mens team shall be afforded the right to sign on a maximum of three world ranked players, male or female, (to rank number 50), or BDO registered players of other counties, only two of whom can be played on any one playing night. This excludes current signed and playing Middlesex County players. The cut off for players to be declared subject to the world ranking element of this rule is the first League match or competition of the season. With regards to the registered players of other counties, this rule applies even if the player opts to join an outside county at any stage during the playing season. If any teams quota is exceeded due to players joining another county during the playing season, one player shall be de-registered for the remainder of that season.

- 3.1.2. The definition of an 'outside county player' is any player who, on their 'green' BDO registration form, declares himself unavailable for selection for Middlesex County but declares himself available to another County, regardless of whether he has played during that season or not. This also applies to players who have declared themselves unavailable to all County teams if that player represented another County in the previous season, but is not in receipt of full release papers.
- 3.1.3. Each mens team shall be afforded the right to sign on one female player, as long as the player is registered to a Middlesex Ladies Super League team and declared as available for Middlesex County for that same season when submitting the BDO registration form, as mentioned in 3.1.6
- 3.1.4. No player may play for more than one team in any one season, taking all the League's competitions as a whole, unless that player was in a team that has resigned, or been expelled, from the League.
- 3.1.5. No team shall play more than 20 players in K.O. competitions in any season.
- 3.1.6. All players must be registered with the league by completing a 'green' BDO registration form. The registration form for each player must be received by the Result Secretary within seven days of that player taking part in a League match. Breach of this will result in that a deduction of one game point for each game said player played, regardless of the result of that game point.
- 3.1.7. Players may be registered by member teams at any point during the playing season, unless the player is subject to Rule 3.1.1, where they can only be registered prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January in any given season.
- 3.1.8. No player shall be allowed to transfer to any other team once the season has begun, unless that player was in a team that has resigned, or been expelled, from the League.
- 3.1.9. A player must sign the match sheet for at least 50% of League matches to be allowed to enter into the League competitions.
- 3.1.10. Each team will be allowed to sign on an unlimited number of male players, subject to the teams' compliance with Rule 3.1.1, but for any players over and above a total of 20, the team will be subject to the charge of the £1 registration fee for each additional player signed.

- 3.1.11. All players must be registered with the League by completing a BDO registration form. The registration form for each player must be received by the Result Secretary by 16:00 on the Friday following the League match the player first registered an attendance at. Breach of this will result in a fine of £5 per player, per match attended until the registration form has been received.
- 3.2. The League's representative (County) team shall be drawn from the male playing members of the League.
- 3.3. Players shall complete such registration procedures which may be prescribed by the Council and shall agree to the prescribed conditions, before representing the League in any representative game.
- 3.4. The Council may, at its discretion, amend the provisions as regards formal registration for internal competitions, as in 3.1.5. above.
- 3.5. No player, having once been knocked out of a K.O. competition (either as an individual, or as a member of a losing team), shall play again in that competition, either as a substitute for another player, or in his own right, except that where a breach of the League's rules has occurred which materially affected the losing player (the breach not being occasioned by him), the Council may, at its discretion, re-instate him in the competition, either in substitution for, or in addition to, the winning player. The foregoing shall be construed as embracing any number of players up to, and including, a complete team.

#### **4. CONDUCT OF GAMES**

- 4.1. All League games shall take place on a Wednesday evening, unless altered by rule 5.6 of Playing Format.
- 4.2. At each League match an Open Board shall operate from 8.15pm. (2015hrs.) and match commence by 8.30pm. (2030hrs.). **This rule must be strictly adhered to.**
- 4.3. Each playing venue must provide a second board at all times during the duration of the match. The second board must also be subject to Rule 4.5
- 4.4. K.O. competitions shall be played at such venues, starting at such times, as stated in Rule 6.1
- 4.5. All games shall be played on a 1 - 20 treble-clock board. The centre of the bull shall be 5ft.8ins. from the floor and the throwing distance will be 7ft.9¼ins. The oche shall be raised at least 1-inch in height and at least 2ft. across the face of the board.
- 4.6. No player shall deliver any dart with his feet in any position other than behind the toe-edge of the oche. Any player in breach of this rule shall first be warned, in the presence of his Captain, by the Referee and any subsequent dart delivered in breach of this rule shall not score.
- 4.7. No call or information regarding a particular throw must be given, other than by the official caller. Players should not remove their darts until the score has been called.

4.8. All venue are to be pre-vetted by two members of the League Council, before the commencement of the season, to check that they adhere to Rule 4.3 and Rule 4.5. The visiting team captain has the right to check that these rules have been adhered to before the commencement of a match, but not during of after.

4.8.1. Where a team requires to change venue during the season, they will provide the League Council with 14 days notice, so that they can enforce Rule 4.8. Teams not providing said notice, and where Rule 4.8 cannot be adhered to in time for a scheduled match to take place at the new venue, may be subject to reversing the fixture, using a neutral pre-vetted venue within the League, or forfeiture of the match, whichever is appropriate. The non-offending team will not be forced to reverse any future fixtures if the reversal is subject to this rule.

4.9. The League will not tolerate aggressive behaviour, and will be forced into disciplinary action. This will include the throwing of darts in a 'violent' or 'angered' manner. We encourage all teams to report incidents of such behaviour to the League Council

## **5. PLAYING FORMAT**

5.1. The League format will consist of 4 sets of pairs, 1 x 801, straight start, double finish, followed by 8 sets of singles, best of 5 x 501, straight start, double finish.

The first throw in the first pairs set will go to the away team, the first throw in the second set to the home team and so on, alternately. The first throw in the first singles set will go to the away team, the first throw in the second set to the home team and so on, alternately.

5.2. During any season where the League is comprised of ten or fewer teams, each team will play each other three times. The decision on which teams will be played either home or away on two occasions in any season will be drawn randomly, although an attempt will be made to allow teams who play one less home game in a previous season for this to be reversed in consecutive seasons where this occurs

Any season where the League is comprised of six or fewer teams, each team will play each other four times, with two home, and two away matches against each team.

5.2.1. Any match forfeited by an away team in the middle turnaround of any season subject to Rule 5.2, will subsequently enforce a reversal of the final fixture between the same two sides. This rule will not be enforced for home sides who forfeit during the same period.

5.3. Teams will be allowed to use any 8 from 12 players in any League match, providing that:-

5.3.1. All players are present at the commencement of the match at 8.30pm.

5.3.2. The surnames of all the players to be used are **CLEARLY** indicated prior to the commencement of the game.

5.4. A team will be allowed to start with a minimum of 6 players, but may not add players after a match has commenced.

Games will have an order of throw, as indicated in the team list, and draws will be made for the match.

After the pairs are played, reserves may be put in for the singles before the draw for the singles has been made. Once a player has been removed they may not be put back in.

In the event of one team having less than 8 players, the team with a full quota of players present will select the players of its choice to be drawn in the singles, and pairs against the opposing team. The remaining singles, and pairs will be awarded to the team with a full quota of players.

No pairs with less than two players from both sides are to be played.

In the event of both teams having less than 8 players, the team with the higher number of players (if applicable) will select the players of its choice to be drawn in the singles against the opposing team. In the event that both teams have the same number of players, the singles will be drawn as normal with the players available. The remaining singles will be awarded to the team with the higher number of players (if applicable). Any non-contested singles or pairs due to lack of players on both sides, will be declared void.

5.4.1. No alteration to the order given by the draw will be permitted and teams shall have no scope to vary this rule, even by agreement on the night.

5.4.2. Any team commencing a match with fewer than 8 players will be fined £10 per player absent for each match.

## 5.5. Results

5.5.1. It is the responsibility of the winning team to send the result by text message to the Result Secretary, within 24 hours of the match. Winning teams will be awarded 2 points, and teams awarded 1 point each for a drawn match.

5.5.2. Score sheets must be completed by the home team, signed by both Captains as a true record and then posted to the Result Secretary within 24 hours.

5.5.3. Teams failing to submit results sheets to the Results Secretary by 16:00 on the Friday following each match are liable to a fine of £10. For each additional result sheet that is received later than the recorded deadline, the fine will increase in increments of £10.



- 5.6. The home team will supply the chalker (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed) and will be responsible, as far as is practicable, for the board, oche, equipment and general good order while the game is in progress.
- 5.7. No matches to be cancelled, postponed or otherwise. For unforeseen circumstances such as adverse weather conditions, the Council have the right to cancel a full week of fixtures. Any games not played will be awarded to the non-offending team as deemed by the Council.
- 5.8. The non-offending side in a forfeited match shall be awarded the points and be credited with either, a minimum of five legs, or the non-offending teams average winning legs, or the offending teams average losing legs, whichever the greater.
- 5.8.1. The offending side in a forfeited match shall be fined the amount of £50.
- 5.9. At the end of the season, the League winners will be decided by the following criteria in this order:
- The highest points accumulated, as stated in Rule 5.5.1
  - The highest aggregate set difference
  - The highest number of sets won
  - Head-to-head results between tied teams
  - Head-to-head aggregate set difference
- In the event that two or more teams are still inseparable via these criteria, a 'dead heat' shall be declared and a 'playoff' match shall be arranged, at a neutral venue. The format for this match will consist of 9 singles, best of 7 x 501, straight start, double finish. The first throw in the first set will be decided by a single toss of a coin, the first throw in the second set will go to the opposing team and so on, alternately.
- 5.10. All matches are deemed to have commenced once the draw has been made. Once matches have started, they must be finished and if not completed, the match will be awarded to the non-offending team as per Rule 5.8.
- 5.11. No match venue may be changed (or reversed) other than in exceptional circumstances, and only with the strict agreement of the League Council prior to the match commencing.

## **6. K.O. COMPETITIONS**

- 6.1. All K.O. competitions will be held at venues as agreed by the Council. All registered League players (subject to Rule 3.1.9) are eligible to enter, and must register with the Competition Secretary in person before 8.15pm (2015 hours.) and be aware that the first matches, as per the draw, will commence at 8.30pm (2030 hours.)
- 6.2. An entry fee per player will be payable for all K.O. competitions.

6.3. At the venue, in any K.O. competition, (eights, fours, pairs, singles), where the number of teams/players is sufficient to cause preliminary rounds to be played, one and only one draw shall be made. There will be as many byes in the preliminary round as are necessary to reduce the number of teams/players in the first round proper to a power of two (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8, 16 etc.). There will be no re-draw at any stage of the competition.

6.3.1. All competitions are to be drawn separately, and, regardless of whether more than one competition is played on the same occasion, not done in conjunction with any previous, or concurrent competition.

6.4. County competitions to be played on a Wednesday, scheduled at the convenience of the League, but organisation on the night will be the responsibility of Middlesex County Darts Organisation.

6.5. In each K.O. competition, the order of throw shall be decided by a 'bull up' with only darts within the 25 (outer bull) or bullseye (inner bull) being accepted, and all darts to be retrieved.

6.6. Neil Ronchetti Memorial Cup

This is to be played as best of 3 x 1001, straight start, double finish. Each team shall be granted one player, decided by means of a team playoff, to take part in the competition finals.

6.7. Gold Cup Singles and Pairs

These are open to all who play in the League. Should a player also play for another County, he has the choice of which County K.O. he joins, except in the case of a registered County player who must play in the County K.O. with whom he is registered.

6.8. Competition Rules

6.8.1. A maximum of 20 players per team is acceptable for the League Singles.

6.8.2. Two reserves are allowed for the eights entry. Any eight from ten to play in any game, to a maximum of ten individual players throughout the competition.

6.8.3. One reserve is allowed for the fours entry. Any four from five to play in any game, to a maximum of five individual players throughout the competition.

6.8.4. For the first round of matches, a player/team may be designated by the Competition Secretary to mark the first match. After that, it is expected that any losing player/team will score the next game. Breach of this rule will result in a fine of £10 to the offending team. The offending player/team will not be eligible to enter the next League competition, and this ban can be carried forward to the first competition of the following season if necessary.

## 6.9. Trophies

### 6.9.1. Perpetual Trophies and the Presentation of Them

All perpetual trophies will remain the sole property of the Middlesex County Darts Super League (Mens'). As such, trophies will be presented to the League and Competition winners at the Annual Presentation Dance, at the end of each season's business, on the understanding that they must be returned as and when requested by the League Secretary.

### 6.9.2. Safekeeping of Trophies

The responsibility for the safe return of all trophies won by a team is the Team Secretary, or his authorised deputy.

6.9.3. All perpetual trophies are to be returned to the Competition Secretary by the night of the Captains, Secretaries & Neil Ronchetti Finals. Any team not returning trophies by this time will be fined £20 per trophy, and any team responsible for the complete loss of a perpetual trophy will be fined £100 to replace it.

### 6.9.4. Teams Leaving the League

In the event of a team having won a trophy, or trophies and then dropping out of the following season's League structure, the trophy, or trophies must be returned to the League Secretary at the Annual General Meeting following the Annual Presentation Dance. Failure to return the trophy, or trophies, as in 6.7.1. or 6.7.3., will result in a fine being incurred of an amount required to replace the missing trophy, or trophies and may mean any League payout being withheld.

6.10 In the event that the League competitions are held over to a 'Finals Night', any player that fails to attend to play in the 'Finals Night' will be banned from all League competitions for a full year. Discretion may be considered by the Executive when enforcing this if said player has extreme circumstances.

6.11 It is the responsibility of the Competition Secretary to oversee the registration, draw and running of all League K.O. Competitions. In the event that a Competition Secretary has not been elected, the venue holding the K.O. Competition will provide an event organiser to do so in his absence

6.12 To be eligible to play in the 'League Competitions' as listed in Appendix A, players must have an attendance of 50% of all League matches upto the date of the competition

6.12.1 In all 'League Competitions' (except the Reg Tunstell & Team KO Cup), no two players who are subject to Rule 3.1.1 may participate in the same team

6.14 To be eligible to play in the 'Additional Competitions' as listed in Appendix A, male players must be registered with a team in the League prior to the date of the competition. Female players do not have to be registered in either the Middlesex Mens' or Ladies Super League to be eligible to take part

6.14.1 In all 'Additional Competitions' no two players who are subject to Rule 3.1.1 may participate in the same team, but male players from different teams within the League are permitted to play in the same team

6.14.2 In the Mixed Triples, teams are to be comprised of two male players and one female player

## **APPENDIX A**

### LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

- 1) League Singles – best of 5 x 501 - £2.50 entry
- 2) League Pairs – best of 5 x 601 - £5 per pair entry
- 3) League Fours – best of 5 x 801 - £10 per 'four person' team entry\*
- 4) Team KO – best of 5 x 1001 - £20 per 'eight person' team entry\*
- 5) Captains Cup – best of 5 x 501 - no entry fee (one representative from each team)
- 6) Secretarys Cup – best of 5 x 501 - no entry fee (one representative from each team)
- 7) Neil Ronchetti – best of 3 x 1001 - no entry fee (one representative from each team via internal qualification)

\* *Designated reserves for the League Fours (one per entry), Reg Tunstell Team KO (two per entry) and Middlesex Cup (two per entry) can be named but teams can be altered between rounds only*

### ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

- 1) Mixed Pairs – best of 5 x 501 - £2.50 per player entry
- 2) Mixed Triples – best of 5 x 601 - £2.50 per player entry

### COUNTY COMPETITIONS

- 1) World Professional – best of 3 sets, best of 5 x 501 per set, last set to be won by two clear legs until five legs each then one sudden death leg with a nearest the bull to decide who throws first in final leg - £5 entry fee
- 2) World Masters – best of 3 sets, best of 3 x 501 per set - £5 entry fee
- 3) Gold Cup Singles – best of 5 x 501 - £5 entry fee
- 4) Gold Cup Pairs – best of 7 x 501 - £5 per player entry fee

**ANY MATTER NOT COVERED BY THE RULES SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE SHALL, THEREFORE, BECOME EMBODIED IN THE RULES.**

The following Executive Officers were appointed for the year 2018/2019 at the League Annual General Meeting held at Tithe Farm Social Club on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Chairman                        | Roger Schena |
| Vice-Chairman                   | Roy Peacock  |
| Secretary                       | John Scott   |
| Treasurer                       | Roger Schena |
| Competition Secretary           | Mick Ward    |
| Assistant Competition Secretary | Nick Yates   |
| Result Secretary                | John Scott   |
| Minute Secretary                | John Scott   |

John Scott  
November 2018