

LAWN TENNIS,

OR PELOTA;

Saw

~~RULES~~ OF THE GAME,

AS PLAYED BY THE

LEAMINGTON CLUB.

LEAMINGTON:

D. SARNEY, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, REGENT STREET.

RULES.

Laws

I.

THE GAME may be played by two persons, one against the other, and called a single match, *by* two persons against one and called a unicorn match; or by four persons, two partners on each side, and called a double match. *S; 2*

II.

The ground shall be a right angled parallelogram marked upon the turf, 30 yards long by 12 yards wide, and divided into two right and two left courts as follows: Across the middle shall be stretched a net four feet high and touching the ground (or nearly so), the division thus formed is called "the lists." The lists shall be centrally divided lengthwise by a line from end to end, forming the right and left courts on either side of the net. ✓

III.

The game may be played with a racquet, five's bat, or with the hand. *✓*

IV.

The ball shall be of india-rubber or other substance answering the purpose, punctured or not, as may be agreed upon, or as circumstances require. Its circumference should be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, -it must not exceed 8 inches nor be less than 7. Its weight should be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, -it must not exceed $1\frac{3}{4}$ ounces nor be less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces.

V.

Fifteen aces shall be the game and no setting.

VI.

The side serving the ball is the inhand, and the inhand, only, scores.

VII.

The first inhand and the choice of lists shall be decided by toss. The party winning the toss shall have one first hand only.

VIII.

The ball shall be served by the inhand with one foot inside and the other outside the boundary line, the inner foot to be within a racquet's length of the line dividing the courts at the time of serving.

IX.

In serving the ball in unicorn and double matches the inhand shall commence by serving into the court opposite his own proper court, after which, he shall serve alternately, first calling "play right," or "play left," according to the court of the player whom he is about to serve; failing to do so, or serving the ball into the wrong court is "a let." In single matches the inhand may serve into either court, first calling the court into which he is about to serve; failing to do so or serving into the wrong court is a let—two lets to be a hand out. The out-hand has the option of taking a let ball. If the ball strikes the net or poles or does not fall within the lists the hand is out.

X.

The hand is also out; if in play he, or his partner fail to strike the ball before it shall have touched the ground twice and return it over and clear of the net and within the lists.

XI.

In like manner he scores an ace if the opposite party do not return the ball over and clear of the net and poles and within the lists.

XII.

If a ball falls on or over any of the boundary lines, or if it touches the net or poles and then falls into the lists it is dead and the point is scored, although the player takes it, but in this case he must call "foul," or the ball will be considered in play.

XIII.

If one partner strikes at a ball the other shall not take it afterwards.

XIV.

The lists shall be changed at the end of each game.

XV.

The game shall be called on scoring an ace or putting a hand out.



DIRECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

The net, which should be of a light or conspicuous colour, should be stretched across the ground by means of a strong cord running through rings on the top of five upright poles standing at equal distances from each other, the outer ones on the lateral lines of the lists, the centre pole on the line dividing the courts, and the other two halfway between the centre and outer poles. The suspending cord should be made fast by a stay or staple driven into the earth at a sufficient angle to make the structure secure.

The balls should be white or as nearly so as they can be obtained, being more visible in an imperfect light than red or any dark colour.

The most serviceable racquet has been found to be the old English or light Tennis racquet—the ordinary Irish racquet now in use not possessing sufficient weight to give the player a command of the ball.

The ground may be marked by any means the players think proper, either by whitening or by a cord or tape. The objection to whitening is that it disfigures the lawn and wears out the turf by confirming the play-ground to the same spot. A common hempen cord is ugly and apt to trip up the players, therefore, a white tape, such as is used in marking the ground for croquet is recommended. It has the advantage of being moveable, it is more sightly and defines the ground better than either cord or whitening. The distances may be marked upon it, or there may be a length of tape for each side, so that in laying out the lists the ground is measured at once, and a parallelogram correctly formed. The tape can be

confirming

fastened down by small staples, or common hair-pins will answer the purpose. It will not be necessary to lay down the whole length of the longitudinal divisional line but only so far as shewn in the diagram—and that by thinnest possible cord, ~~at~~ ^{the} eye will be a sufficient guide for the distance unmarked. *the*

Suited for
gentlemen
and
to
Members
of the
The game as prescribed by these rules is more especially adapted to summer and autumn play upon turf, ~~by men~~. For ladies, the dimensions of the lists, the weight of the balls, and the sizes of the racquets, may be lessened, but the rules of play will be equally applicable.

The Leamington Club have played the game with racquets of various sizes and make, with balls of different weight and color, and they have tried nets of other dimensions. They believe they have tested it in all its varieties, and it is on the experience of old racquet players in close and open courts and upon the lawn, that they have framed these laws for their own government. In so doing they have endeavoured to simplify the game by leaving it unhampered by unnecessary restrictions, and to give all possible scope to activity and skill.

TAG