

LAWN RACKETS,

OR PELOTA;

RULES

AND

LAWS OF THE GAME,

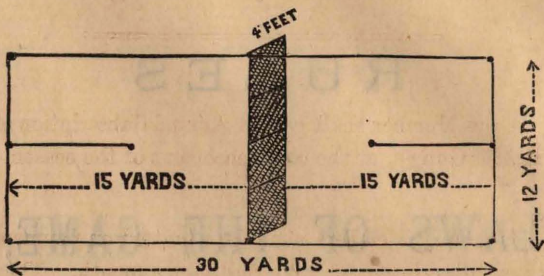
AS PLAYED BY THE

LEAMINGTON CLUB.

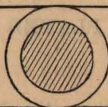
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LEAMINGTON :

D. SARNEY, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, REGENT STREET.



TAPE AND



RING

# R U L E S

OF THE

## Teamington Pelota Club.

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### I.

EACH Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of Half-a-Guinea, at the commencement of the season.

### II.

Honorary Members shall be admitted on payment of a Subscription of Five Shillings a month. They will have the same privileges, and be subjected to the same Rules, as other Members, except that they shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee. They shall not be liable to any whip or extra payment, to meet the expenses of the Club, nor have any interest in its funds or property.

### III.

The management of the Club, and the control of its funds, shall be conducted by a Committee of Seven Members, including the Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually at the first meeting, of which notice shall be given to the Members by the Secretary.

## IV.

All Candidates for admission, whether as Annual or Honorary Members, shall be nominated in writing by a Member, to the Secretary, and balloted for by the Committee at the next meeting of the Club, which shall take place three clear days after the nomination. Four members of the Committee to be present, and the election unanimous.

## V.

The days of play shall be Wednesday and Saturday in every week, commencing the Second Wednesday in April. Any Members may engage the ground on other days, and have the use of the Club property on payment of four shillings to the box. Visitors accompanied by members will be allowed to join in the game on these occasions upon payment of Sixpence a game by each player.

## VI.

Any Member may introduce a visitor or friend on Club days, who may join in the game with permission of the Members present. No Member or Visitor to play more than three successive games, provided any other member is waiting to play. The order of retiring to be decided by lot.



## VII.

All lost balls to be paid for—One Shilling each.

## VIII.

Any Member wearing the shoes or flannels, or using the racket of another, without permission, to forfeit Five Shillings to the box.

## IX.

The Game to be played according to the Laws of the Leamington Club.

## X.

Every person losing a love game to pay One Shilling to the box.



# L A W S.

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## 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.

## 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 racket, 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 in-hand, and the inhand, only, scores.

## VII.

The first in-hand 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 in-hand with one foot inside and the other outside the boundary line, the inner foot to be within a racket's length of the line dividing the courts at the time of serving.

## IX.

In serving the ball in unicorn and double matches the in-hand 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 in-hand 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 racket has been found to be the old English or light Tennis racket—the ordinary Irish racket 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 whiting or by a cord or tape. The objection to whiting is that it disfigures the lawn and wears out the turf by confining 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 whiting. 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

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. The eye will be a sufficient guide for the distance unmarked.

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

The Members of the Leamington Club have played the game with rackets 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 racket players in close and open courts and upon the layn, 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.



The Game has hitherto been played on the Lawn of the Manor House Hotel, where the Members of the Club hope, by permission of Mrs. MATTHEW WISE and the Proprietor, to hold their future Meetings.

Visitors may obtain further information by applying to Mr. BOWN, Victoria Terrace.

Leamington, January 1, 1875.