

Mowing and Lining Guide

Firstly, if you haven't mowed or lined the courts before we need to show you how. Please email ksltc@hotmail.com or message/call Nick on 07714 797515 and we'll arrange to meet you on the courts and walk you through the process.

When you are ready to start mowing and lining you will need access to the courts, the shed and the mowers. These are three independent combination padlocks – if you don't have the codes please email or call us as above.

Next a basic safety warning. Both machines are obviously potentially dangerous and it's vital you treat them with respect. It is vitally important that you:

Never leave the machine unattended and running
Never allow any children on either court when mowing or lining

The court gates must be padlocked during mowing and lining.

As a general rule the **rotary mower** (that's the one with the single blade that spins below the machine) is used for long grass and the **cylinder mower** (with the multiple blades at the front and visible when mowing) is for milling the playing surfaces. If for any reason you feel uncomfortable using the cylinder mower, then please use the rotary.

Lining the courts is almost more important than mowing, as it's a time-consuming task to mark out the courts from scratch. If you are stuck for time, we would prefer it if you focus on lining, even if it means lining on uncut grass.

We don't store fuel on site. If you need fuel then either knock at 15 Kingsholm Square (Nick's House) or telephone him. Failing this, if you end up getting fuel yourself (unleaded petrol), keep the receipt and we will reimburse you.

1. Nets

You will obviously need to lower and move the nets. Make sure you reduce the tension and then undo the hooked end from the post - this will be the opposite end to the post with the winding mechanism. Do not release too much tension as the cable will come out of the winder, not a major problem if you do but it's a bit fiddly to replace it.

2. First use the rotary mower

- Push throttle fully forward to choke position, and pull cord
- Upon start-up, immediately pull throttle lever back to idle speed
- Set blade height to second notch (from front of mower) for cutting outside courts areas
- Set blade height to first notch (i.e. lowest blade height) for cutting courts
- Always collect cuttings, and empty into the black compost bins (or the small compost heap behind the shed)

3. If you feel confident/keen, you may wish to finish cutting courts with the cylinder mower

- The blade height is set correctly, so no need to adjust it.
- It has a 3 step start-up:
 - turn red switch to ON
 - push choke to ON
 - push fuel lever to ON
 - pull the cord
- If mower doesn't start first or second pull, chances are one of the above switches is in the wrong position
- Upon start-up, immediately turn the choke lever OFF (never run engine on choke for more than a few seconds!)
- Unlike the rotary mower, you can leave the engine on idle while emptying the grass box (throttle lever must be pulled back to minimum)
- Stop engine by turning the red switch to OFF, and then turn the fuel lever OFF

4. Most important, always complete the white lines (even if it's too wet to use the mowers)

- Mix the water and whitener in the machine so that it has the consistency of single cream.
- Place the small heavy drum on the two wheels, one in the mixture and the other on the grass.
- Only place the drum once in the lining position otherwise you will paint lines where you don't want them! Or to reposition, tilt the machine so the painting wheel is off the floor before moving it.
- Walk slowly along the existing line, you will probably need two or three passes on each line
- The line may not look that bold at the beginning but as it dries it will whiten.
- A good tip – if you walk with the sun behind you it is easier to see the existing line. If you are taking several passes on a line, start this way and then return facing into the sun.

Please make sure that everything is replaced in the shed as you found it, and everything is locked back up at the end.