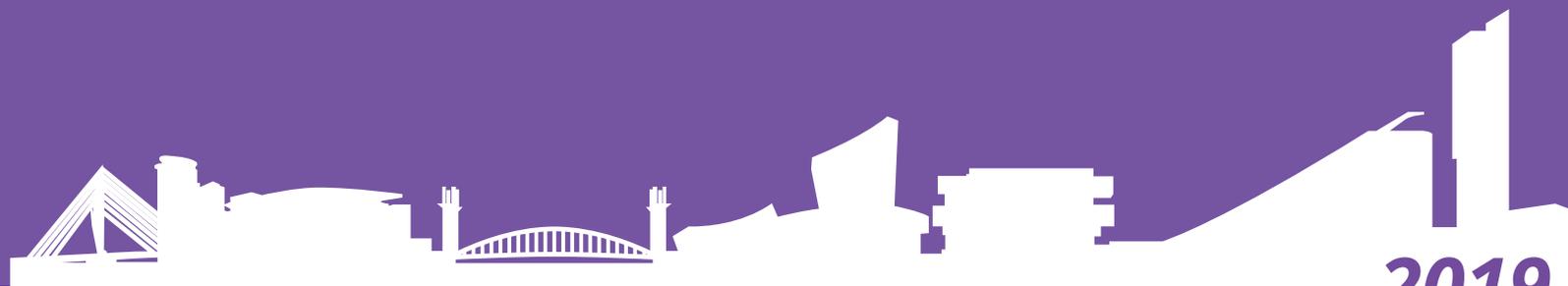


kiss my ace



2019

GLTA 
WORLD TOUR



Welcome to the 11th *Kiss My Ace* tournament, brought to you by The Northern Aces.

As always, we are excited to host our tournament in the fantastic city of Manchester, UK. This guide provides information ahead of your arrival in September, including notes about the venue, accommodation and transport in the city, as well as details about the fantastic night life.

Schedule

Thursday 5th Opening

Daytime Pre-tournament hit @ The Northern Tennis Club, Palatine Rd, Manchester M20 3YA

There will be opportunity for GLTA players to have a free hit on the courts subject to booking and availability. Please [contact the venue directly](#) to check.

19:00 Welcome Pimms and snacks @ The Northern Tennis Club

Friday 6th September Tournament opens

07:45 The Northern Tennis Club opens and Kiss My Ace begins!

08:00 Play starts If your match is scheduled for 08:00, please arrive for 07:45 prompt

Evening Free Evening to explore the city. Women's dinner (optional). *Check email news flashes for more info.*

Saturday 7th September Play continues

08:15 The Northern Tennis Club opens

08:30 Play starts If your match is scheduled for 08:30, please arrive for 08:15 prompt

Afternoon WAGs corner - in The Northern Bar. Meet up with some other Tennis widows and friend of players.

20:00 Onwards Tournament Dinner and Dancing at The Northern. Free drink on arrival. Raffle prize draw.

After Party Meet up in the Village on Saturday night (optional). *Check email news flashes for more info.*

Sunday 8th Finals Day

08:45 The Northern Tennis Club opens

09:00 Play starts If your match is scheduled for 09:00, please arrive for 08:45 prompt

17.00 (approx) Prizes will be awarded after finals have been completed

Evening Post tournament dinner options. *Check email news flashes for more info.*

Courts

Please be aware:

Matches between 11:00 and 19:00 will be played primarily on the **grass courts** (weather and time permitting). All earlier/other matches will be played on either red artificial clay, green clay or potentially on indoor hard courts.

The Northern's grass courts have been rated *second only to wimbledon*, so this is a real treat we're excited to share with you this year.



Footwear

You may play on a range of surfaces depending on weather and time constraints.

Players are encouraged to wear appropriate sports shoes for the courts they are playing on. Grass court shoes with pimples are recommended, but all court shoes are allowed on the grass courts at **The Northern**.



The Tennis Venue

As one of the premier tennis clubs in the North of England it is a real honor to be able to host our 10th tournament at ***The Northern Lawn Tennis Club***.

Situated in the heart of Didsbury, South Manchester, **The Northern** is a unique members-owned Racquet sports and Fitness club.

Founded in 1881 it has one of the richest histories of any sports club in the world. Over the years it has hosted many international tournaments including the Manchester Open, and the current Manchester Trophy which is part of the ATP Challenger Tour.

The courts you will be playing on have been graced with athletes such as Jimmy Connors, Billy Jean King, John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova, Sue Barker, Goran Ivanisovic, and Martina Hingis.

Pete Sampras won his first ever grass court tournament at **The Northern**, and more recent stars of the circuit such as Anna Ivanovic have used the club as a training base.



Facilities

The club has restringing, fitness, and sports therapy facilities that GLTA players will be able to enjoy during the tournament.

A physio will also be on-site. To make an appointment please contact them directly: www.physiquipe.com, +44 (0)161 300 5591, clinic@physiquipe.com.

There is a venue bar and restaurant, and a number of other eateries are located nearby.

You may be able to have a hit at the venue on Thursday 5th September. Please contact the centre directly to check if there are available courts.



Transport around Manchester

Airport

Manchester Airport is the third largest airport in the UK and offers excellent connections to the city centre and beyond with a regional railway station and Metrolink station onsite. A taxi from the airport to the venue should cost between £15 and £20.

Low Cost airlines such as Easyjet and Ryan air offer regular services from all over Europe and more than 200 worldwide destinations.

Road

Manchester is well connected to the rest of the UK via excellent motorway links. The M60 ring road connects the city to motorways north, south east and west. Parking is available at the venue.

Traveling around the city and suburbs Bus/Train & Tram

With a combination of trams, trains, buses and cycle routes, there are plenty of ways to get around the city and surrounding areas. Take a look at [Visit Manchester](#) for more information. Let us know if you have any questions about the best type of tickets to purchase or the best ways to get around, depending on where you plan to stay for the weekend.

Hotels close to the Tennis Venue

Premier Inn West Didsbury M21 7QS | www.premierinn.com

- Approx 20 min walk (1.1 miles)
- 9 -12 mins on various public transport options
- 7 mins by by car / taxi during usual traffic

Waterside Hotel and Leisure Club M20 5WZ | www.waterside-hotel.co.uk

- Approx 30 min walk (2 miles)
- 15-20 mins on bus or tram
- 9 mins by by car / taxi during usual traffic

Eleven Didsbury Park M20 5LH | www.electichotels.co.uk/eleven-didsbury-park

- Approx 20 min walk (1.2 miles)
- 12-15 mins on bus or tram
- 7 mins by car / taxi during usual traffic

City Centre Hotels

There's a huge selection of hotel accommodation that will put you right in the heart of city nightlife. Staying in the centre you will never be far from Canal Street and the Northern Quarter, areas of the city famous for being gay-friendly that offer a range of bars, restaurants and places to unwind.

All city centre hotels are easily reached by public transport, car or by rail links from the airport.

Here are a few of our favourites, that are something a little bit different to your standard chain hotel:

Velvet Hotel Bar and Restaurant M1 3HE | www.velvetmanchester.com

The Cow Hollow Boutique Hotel M1 1ET | www.cowhollow.co.uk

Hotel Gotham M2 4WU | www.hotelgotham.co.uk

Distance from the city to The Northern Tennis Club: approximately 4 miles

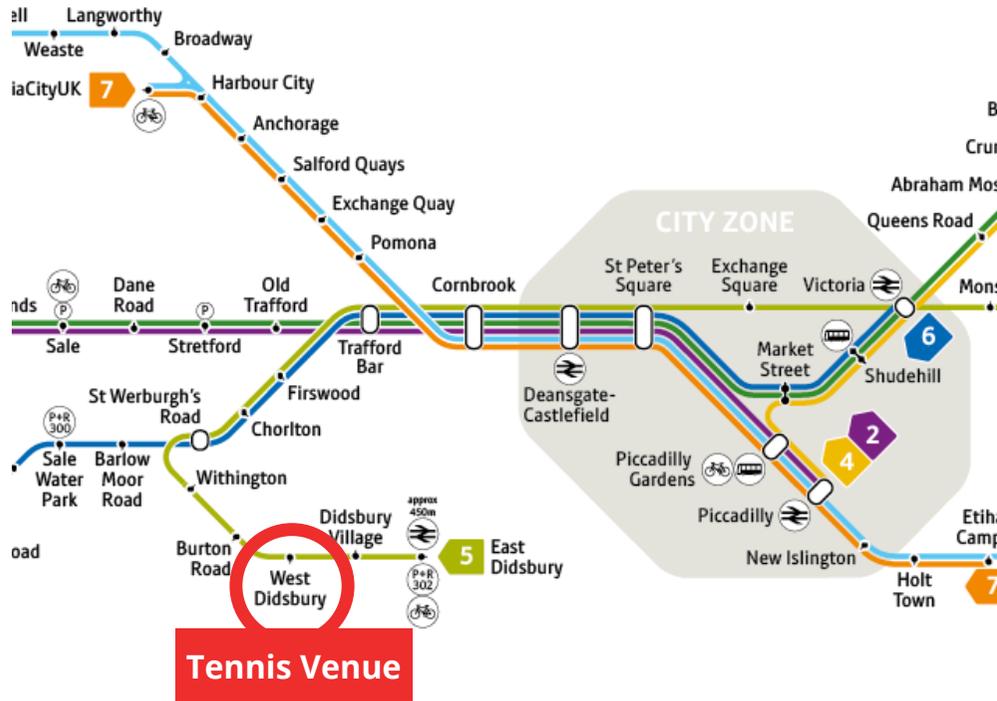
- **Tram or Bus** 30-40 mins
- **Car or Taxi** 15-20 mins
- **Walking** 1 hour+
- **Bicycle** (available to hire) 30 mins

For more information, including suggestions of hotels, self-catering apartments, transport and much, much more happening in and around the city, please visit:

www.visitmanchester.com



Getting to the tennis venue by tram



Click for: [Full Tram Map](#) | [Train Map](#) | [handy online journey planner](#)

Finding the tennis venue

The Northern Tennis Club, Palatine Rd, Manchester M20 3YA





Tournament Regulations

This tournament will be played in accordance with the rules of the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Association (GLTA) and the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Tennis rules from the International Tennis Federation apply. These rules are described in the following pages.

By participating in Manchester's International Tournament "Kiss My Ace" players agree with these tournament rules.

In the event a situation arises which does not pertain to any of these rules, the tournament organisation will decide how best to resolve the situation.

Matches

- Please report to the tournament desk 30 minutes prior to each match (or when the venue opens, whichever is earliest).
- All main draw matches will be the **best of 3 sets with a normal tiebreak at 6-6 in the first 2 sets, and the 3rd set taking the form of a super tie break game to 10 points.**
- Some events could be played in round robins. For every match you win, you get 2 points. The player with most points is the winner of the round robin. When two or more players have an equal number of points, the head-to-head result counts. If scores are tied, the tournament organisation will count the relative match-points, then the relative set difference, then the relative game difference, then the number of sets won, then the number of games won. If scores are still tied, the winner will be decided by a toss.
- **Warm up times are limited to 5 minutes.**
- Report the match results to the tournament desk after the match.
- Between matches a 30-minute break is allowed after a main draw singles match and a 15-minute break after a doubles match.
- Organisers and volunteers are present to check balls, warm-up times, rest periods and to be of general assistance.

Late arrival

Late arrivals will incur a penalty in accordance with the GLTA rules starting from the moment the match has been announced (and a court is available). Therefore it is your responsibility to arrange transportation, get directions if necessary and leave yourself sufficient time to get to the venue.

- **Up to 5 minutes** loss of toss and 1 game
- **5 to 10 minutes means** loss of toss and 2 games
- **10 to 15 minutes** loss of toss and 3 games
- **More than 15 minutes** default

Balls and courts

- The balls will be used for a maximum of 3 matches. New balls will also be provided for each final.
- After each match balls must be returned to the tournament desk.
- **For singles matches always use the single posts.**

Attire

- Proper tennis attire (including shoes) is required when on court.
- **For finals day we'd like to encourage people to wear whites if possible.**

Do's and Don'ts

- Always enter the courts through the appropriate entrance. Avoid disturbing other matches.
- Players shall not engage in unsporting conduct or disturb other players.
- A player is not allowed to receive coaching during a match.
- Do not enlist the aid of spectators in making line calls.
- Wait until players on another court have completed a point before retrieving or returning a ball.
- Proper attire - respectfully request whites for finals day if possible.
- **Players and spectators must not bring additional seats onto the grass.**

Unforeseen delay

In case of an unforeseen delay (including rain), the tournament organisation may opt for one or more of the following:

- To shorten matches playing sudden death at Deuce. The receiver chooses the side he or she wants to receive serve. However, in mixed doubles, the man must serve to the man and the woman to the woman.
- Sets will be shortened until 4 games with 2 games difference and a tiebreak at 4-4.
- The tournament organisation decides which option will be played. This will be announced prior to the match.

Contact

If you have any issue whilst at the tournament, please first approach a volunteer or the tournament desk, or else contact our tournament director:

Eira Guest (0044 7497 493225) Email: info@northernacesennis.com



Our picks of manchester

The Village

What trip to the Manchester GLTA Tournament would be complete without heading to The Village?

The beating heart of LGBTQ+ Manchester, centred around the world famous Canal Street, the Village has something for everyone: be it cheap drinks and cheap pop in Thompsons or G-A-Y; cocktails for the ladies only at Vanilla; some cheeky leather or rubber fun in Eagle or REM; a classy glass at Velvet Bar; or a cracking bite to eat in No1 Canal Street!

Didsbury/West Didsbury area

Probably the best places for casual dining and socialising near the venue is Burton Road - there are numerous small restaurants and bars all of which offer something different, are friendly and casual, and none of which are ridiculously expensive.

Volta and Crazy Wendy's are a couple of our favourites on Burton Road but for our vegetarians and vegans there is also a great place called Greens on Lapwing Lane which is just around the corner.

Chorlton-cum-Hardy

This is another accessible suburb of Manchester and not far from the venue. As well as the bars and restaurants near the main tram stop, favourites near here are Elektrik Bar, and Jasmine or Turkish Delight for food (both bring your own alcohol).

You can also pay a visit to the lovely Unicorn cooperative grocery store on Albany Road, or walk the short distance to Whalley Range to visit the lesbian owned Nip and Tiddle on upper Chorlton Road.

Check out **Chorlton (Beech Road)** and **Chorlton (best of the rest)**.

Other areas that you might want to check out when you are visiting the city - lots of independent shops, opportunities for coffee, food and people watching, as well as a pint or two of craft ale and some great food.

The Northern Quarter

Ancoats

Afternoon Tea in Manchester

Vegan / Vegetarian food

Cocktails and a touch of glamour

There's lots more information available on the web so take a look for yourselves and if you have any questions just ask a local!

Our commitment to Sustainability

You may already be aware that the bee is the symbol both of Manchester and also of our tournament.

This year in order to do our part to promote a more sustainable and environmentally friendly tournament, we are making the following efforts:

1. There will be no single use plastic water bottles available, instead we will have drinking water available to players and recommend that everyone brings a water bottle to refill. The water in Manchester is drinkable.
2. We will be using local suppliers for all of our supplies for the tournament. This enables us to cut down on mileage and carbon footprints, as well as supporting our local economy.
3. We will be using electronic communications and as little paper as possible during the tournament and its preparation.
4. We will be recycling materials already purchased and utilised for previous tournaments and events to decorate the venue.
5. We will be donating funds raised from your generous donations at entry and from our fantastic raffle to The Proud Trust who are a charity supporting young LGBTQ+ people in our area. We thank you, on their behalf, for your generosity!
6. We will be recycling every ball used during the tournament through the Venues recycling scheme - so please ensure that you bring balls back to the desk.
7. Any left over food and goodie bag items, where appropriate will be distributed to local food banks, charities and tennis clubs.
8. We would like to encourage all participants to use public transport or to share journeys during the tournament to minimise the environmental impact that travelling to the event causes. Respectfully we would ask that anyone flying to the event looks at how they might offset the carbon emissions from their flight.
9. We can only be sustainable as an event if we respect the rules of the venue, playing on grass as a natural surface is in itself an environmentally friendly surface. Help us and the venue to respect this experience by not taking chairs onto the grass courts and by wearing shoes that do not cut up the courts.
10. We may be fortunate to have free flowing drinking water and constant electricity (at least for the time being) in Manchester, but always be mindful of leaving taps running and where not movement detecting lights are in place, if you switch it on when you go in, please make sure that you switch it off when leaving.



Waiver of Liability

By participating at the Manchester international tournament 2018 and related activities and events, participants agree to waive any and all rights and claims for bodily or emotional injury, injury to their reputation, or any other damage or harms that they might suffer, or any other claims of any nature they or their legal representatives may have against the Manchester international tournament, Northern Aces Tennis Group, GLTA and its officers, all tournament sites, tournament sponsors, or any organization, facility or individual associated with this tournament and the related activities and events.

Participants agree to participate at their own risk and the above organizations, facilities, and individuals will not be responsible for any harm, injury or damage that they might suffer.

They also release and waive any and all rights to claim damages or remuneration which may arise as a result of references to, photographs, images or likenesses of them which may appear in any publication or other media coverage.

Quick links

[Kiss My Ace Facebook page](#)

[Kiss My Ace GLTA Tournament Software](#)

[The Northern Tennis Club website](#)

***We are really looking forward
to welcoming you very soon!***

**Manchester Northern Aces
GLTA Crew**

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