

NEWPORT CROQUET CLUB CONSTITUTION

1 TITLE

- 1.1 The Club shall be called Newport Croquet Club, hereafter to be referred to as “the Club” and shall be affiliated to the East Anglian Federation and shall become a Member Club of the Croquet Association.

2 OBJECTS

- 2.1 To foster and promote the sport of Association & Golf Croquet at all levels, providing opportunities for recreation and competition and to promote community participation in healthy recreation in the sport of croquet at all levels.
- 2.2 To provide croquet lawns and a Club House on the Recreation Ground, Frambury Lane, Newport, Essex, and to supply all things incidental to the playing of croquet.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to any person completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription/joining fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Club Members.
- 3.2 There shall be six classes of membership available. These are:
 - 3.2.1 Full Member
 - 3.2.2 Family Member (Up to and including 17 years of age):
 - 3.2.3 Student Member
 - 3.2.4 Country Member
 - 3.2.5 Second (Club) Member
 - 3.2.6 Honorary Member

4 OFFICERS

- 4.1 The Officers of the Club shall be as follows:
 - President
 - Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer

5 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 5.1 All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, from, and by, the Members of the Club.
- 5.2 All Officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year.

6 GENERAL COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a General Committee comprising the Officers of the Club and eight other Members elected from, and by, the Members of the Club. The General Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year. It may appoint sub-committees.

- 6.2 The duties of the General Committee shall be:
- 6.2.1 To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the Members.
 - 6.2.2 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Club through the Treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by Members and should be independently examined before every Annual General Meeting. The Club shall maintain a bank current account and the following shall be authorised to sign Club cheques: two from the Chairperson; Treasurer; Secretary; President and members nominated by the Committee.
 - 6.2.3 To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels this is necessary. They shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - 6.2.4 To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.
 - 6.2.5 A quorum shall be one third of the Officers and Committee

7 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 7.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held not later than the end of December each year. 21 clear days written notice shall be given to Members of the Annual General Meeting by circulating a copy of the notice to every member at their home address, either by Post or email, and posting the notice on the Club notice board.
- 7.2 Members shall advise the Secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall circulate the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than 7 days before the meeting.
- 7.3 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
 - 7.3.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any other General Meetings.
 - 7.3.2 Receive the Independently examined accounts.
 - 7.3.3 Receive the annual report of the Chairman.
 - 7.3.4 Elect an Independent Examiner.
 - 7.3.5 Elect the Officers of the Club (i.e. President; Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer and other General Committee Members).
 - 7.3.6 Fix Club subscription rates. A Member who has not paid his subscription by such default date as the Committee prescribes may at the discretion of the Committee be deemed to have resigned.
 - 7.3.7 Transact such business received by the Secretary and included on the agenda.
 - 7.3.8 Such other business except business for which a Special General Meeting is required (e.g. expulsion, dissolution or changes to the constitution) as by common consent of the meeting the Chairperson in his/her discretion admits.

- 7.4 Special General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee. The business to be considered at the meeting to be specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- 7.5 Nomination of candidates for election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date. Nominations can only be made by Members and must be seconded by another Member.
In the absence of nominations prior to the meeting nominations may be taken from the floor. All nominations shall have the consent of the nominee.
- 7.6 At all General Meetings the chair will be taken by the Chairperson, or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Members attending the meeting.
- 7.7 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote or alternatively in his/her discretion he/she may direct a written poll.
- 7.8 A quorum for a General Meeting shall be one quarter of the Members and two Officers of the Club.
- 7.9 Each Member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote on any separate issue at General Meetings.

8 EXPULSIONS

- 8.1 A member who is found by vote carried at a Special General Meeting called in accordance with clause 7.4 to have behaved in a manner likely to bring the club into disrepute or cause substantial prejudice to it may be expelled from the club. Provided that:-
- 8.1.1 The resolution must be carried by 4/5ths of those attending and voting.
- 8.1.2 This is the only business at the meeting.
- 8.1.3 Before putting the motion to the vote the member shall have a full opportunity to address the meeting.
- 8.2 The member expelled may appeal by notice in writing sent to the Secretary of the C.A. within 14 clear days who shall within 14 days thereafter convene a meeting of the Chairperson (or in their absence the Vice-Chairperson) of the Council and two members who shall decide the appeal and shall not be required to give reasons. Following expulsion any subscription for the whole of that year that has been paid by that member shall be returned.

9 ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 9.1 Any proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting, convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be proposed by a Member of the Club and seconded by another Full Member. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two thirds of those Members present at the meeting and voting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.
- 9.2 Any abstentions shall be recorded but shall not count as a vote.

10 **DISSOLUTION**

- 10.1 If at any General Meeting of the Club a Resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the members present and voting, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter (at which not less than one half of the members shall be present) to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 10.2 If at that Special General Meeting, the Resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the Members present at the meeting and voting the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the Resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club. Abstentions shall be recorded but shall not count as a vote.
- 10.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Members of the Club, but shall remit any balance to any approved sporting or charitable purposes, to comply with the legislation (Schedule 18 Finance Act 2002), preference should be given in the first instance to approved sports activities in the Newport area, otherwise to the sport of Croquet generally.