

Ringwood Chess Club Constitution

1. Name

The club shall be called Ringwood Chess Club, hereafter referred to as the The Club.

2. Objectives

The objectives of The Club are to foster the playing of chess in Ringwood and its environs and to provide facilities within Ringwood where members may meet and play chess.

3. Membership

The membership year runs from 1st July to 30th June.

Membership is open to all, except that the Committee may bar, suspend or expel anyone deemed unsuitable or who defaults in paying their subscription.

The membership shall consist of the following categories (see Appendix 1):

- Full Member
- Associate Member
- Student Member

Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.

Members joining part of the way through the year may be charged a reduced rate at the discretion of the Committee. Members experiencing genuine financial hardship may be charged a reduced rate at the discretion of the Committee. Members from the same family that include children may be offered a discount at the discretion of the Committee.

4. Committee and Team Captains

The day-to-day management of The Club shall be vested in a Committee that consists of the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The quorum for Committee meetings is 2.

Each team entered into a league shall be led by a Team Captain.

Collectively the Committee Members and Team Captains are known as the Officers of The Club.

Each Officer will be a Full Member of the club and will be elected each year at the AGM.

Should a Team Captain position fall vacant the Committee may appoint an interim team captain until the next AGM. Should any one of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer positions fall vacant more than 28 days before the next AGM is due an EGM will be convened to elect a replacement.

An individual may be a Committee Member and a Team Captain, and/or may be the Team Captain for more than one team. However, the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer must be held by three different individuals.

5. Club Activities

The Club shall meet in the evening at least once a week, most weeks of the year, at a suitable premises for the purposes of playing chess. Chess equipment shall be provided by The Club for use at The Club's premises.

Internal tournaments and open tournaments may be arranged from time to time at the discretion of the Committee.

The Club will arrange for teams to play in one or more local chess leagues, possibly including but not limited to the Bournemouth and District Chess League, the Southampton Chess League and the Dorset Chess League. Selection of Members for a team will be at the discretion of the relevant Team Captain. A Member will only be available for selection if their subscription to The Club has been paid up to date and they have paid the appropriate English Chess Federation Membership; it is a Team Captain's responsibility to check that these criteria are met before selecting players.

6. Financial Management

The financial year will run from 1st May to 30th April. All funds shall be expended wholly and exclusively for the furtherance of the Objectives of The Club.

7. Annual General Meeting

Unless subject to force majeure, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held on a date determined by the Committee in May or June following completion of all league matches for the season. At least 28 days' notice of it shall be given by the Committee to all paid-up Members by email or by post.

If the Chairman is not present someone shall be elected to act in his place at the meeting.

The Officers will report to the AGM on the matters for which they are each responsible, which will include the presentation of the accounts for the previous financial year by the Treasurer.

Any matter relating to the operation of The Club, including a change to this constitution, may be raised at an AGM. Any matter that involves a radical alteration in the affairs of The Club (as determined by the Chairman) will require at least 14 days notice in advance of the AGM to the Chairman and Secretary if it is to be voted upon; the secretary shall notify all members at least 7 days in advance of such matters.

Any motion to be voted upon must be proposed by one member and seconded by another. All Full Members and Student Members aged 15 or over at the time of the AGM whose subscriptions are paid up to date are eligible to vote. Motions will be decided by a simple majority vote of eligible members.

The following standard motions will be voted on at each AGM:

- Number of teams to run in each league in the coming season
- Election/re-election of each Officer
- Subscription rates for the coming membership year.

8. Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened by the Committee at any time, giving at least 14 days notice to all paid-up Members.

Alternatively at least seven Full Members and Student members age 15 or over may on written application to the Chairman or the Secretary require the Committee to summon an EGM, at which point the Committee must within 14 days summons an EGM to occur within 14 and 21 days of summoning (i.e. within a maximum of 35 days of the request by the Full Members to the Committee).

All Full Members and Student Members aged 15 or over at the time of the EGM whose subscriptions are paid up to date are eligible to vote. Motions will be decided by a simple majority vote of eligible members.

9. Visitors

Prospective new members may visit the club for free on 4 occasions before deciding whether to join.

Non-members from other clubs may visit occasionally at the discretion of The Committee.

10. Winding Up

Any funds remaining on dissolution of The Club after satisfying any outstanding debts and liabilities shall be given to the Chess in Schools and Communities charity.

Appendix 1

Full Membership is the default membership for anyone on or over the age of 21 at the start of the membership year (July 1st).

Associate Membership is open to players who play in a league for another club and make infrequent use of Ringwood Chess Club other than for matches (i.e rarely play friendly chess at The Club). These players would typically regard the other club as their primary club. They are welcome to attend AGMs and EGMs to express their views but they do not have voting rights at Ringwood Chess Club EGMs and AGMs and cannot call EGMs. The decision of whether someone qualifies for Associate Membership lies solely with the Ringwood Chess Club Committee.

Student Membership is open to anyone under the age of 21 at the start of the membership year or in full-time education. If they are aged 15 or over they have full voting rights at AGMs and EGMs and may call EGMs.

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