

THE NORTHERN CLUB

RULES

1. TITLE

The Club shall be called "THE NORTHERN CLUB". Club teams shall bear the Club's name.

2. PURPOSE

The Club is a non profit-making organisation. All profits and surpluses will be used to maintain or improve the Club's facilities. A resolution to dissolve the Club can only be passed in general meeting and then only if approved by the votes of more than two-thirds of the members present and voting. In the event of dissolution any assets of the club that remain will become the property of another non profit-making organisation with similar objectives to those of the Northern Club.

3. COLOURS

The Club colours shall be blue, maroon and gold. Each playing section may elect to have its individual colours, flag and tie.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The classes of membership and the rights attaching thereto shall be as follows:

- (a) "House Members" who shall be over the age of 18 and entitled to use the Club premises but not, as such, to participate in any outdoor game or squash or racketball.
- (b) "Non-Resident House Members" who shall be over the age of 18 residing outside a 20 mile radius from the Club and shall be entitled to occasional use of the Club premises, but not, as such, to participate in any outdoor game or squash or racketball.
- (c) "Adult Playing Members" being House Members who shall be entitled, on payment of the appropriate playing subscription, in addition to the privileges of house membership to take part in the games activities of the appropriate playing section.
- (d) "Associate Members" who shall be over the age of 18 and shall be entitled to the use of the bars and lounge but shall not, as such, be entitled to participate in the playing of sport. This category is restricted to wives, husbands, partners and relatives of members who must accompany them (one Associate only at any one time) and widows or widowers or bereaved partners of former members.
- (e) "Student Members" being over the age of 18 who are enrolled as full time students at any recognised establishment of further education. Such members over the age of 20 shall provide evidence of continuing study to the Membership Secretary before 1st October each year.
- (f) "Junior Members" being over the age of 5 and under 18.

5. PLAYING SECTIONS

(a) The playing sections of the Club shall be male bowls, male cricket, male hockey, male squash and racketball, female bowls, female cricket, female hockey and female squash and racketball. The affairs of each playing section shall, subject to such regulations as may be laid down by the Council, be managed by its own section officers (including a Chairperson) and Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting of the section members.

(b) The playing sections are expected to follow, where appropriate, any rules and regulations laid down by their national governing bodies. If the Club has applied for registration under the Clubmark scheme the relevant playing section will abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the awarding body. The Council may adopt regulations relating to the operation of a playing section and these may be amended by the Council from time to time. Any amendments must comply with the Clubmark requirements of the awarding body as they may be amended from time to time.

6. CLUB YEAR

The Club year shall extend from the 1st October to 30th September.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) The basic rate of subscriptions payable by the various classes of members and associate members shall be such amounts as the Club in general meetings shall from time to time determine or, if the overall increase in subscriptions be less than five percentage points over the current Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), as agreed by Council. An additional amount which shall be agreed by Council shall be added to the subscription and may be deducted by the member or associate member provided the subscription is paid before 31st October in the Club year to which the subscription relates. An additional amount which shall be agreed by Council shall be added to the subscription of all members in categories 4(a) and 4 (c) of these Rules notwithstanding Rule 7 (b) every fifth Club Year, this amount not to exceed 10% of the subscription of members in category 4(a) and 10% of the house membership component of the subscription of members in category 4 (c) for that year, such amount to be held separately and used solely for the purposes of refurbishment or modernisation of the main clubhouse facilities.

(b) Any member who is eligible to claim State Pension and who has been a member for at least the previous five years shall, on notification to the Membership Secretary by the 1st October in any year, have their subscription fixed at the rate applicable during the Club year in which such application is made regardless of any subsequent general changes in subscription rates.

(c) Members in categories 4(a) & 4(c) of these Rules under the age of 24 shall pay such subscription as Council shall from time to time determine.

- (d) Members whilst residing abroad shall pay no subscription. Any playing section member absent during the whole of a playing season shall be exempted from paying their subscription for that season provided they shall give notice to the Membership Secretary before the first day of the particular season of their intention to invoke this Rule. Such notice shall be renewed for each year that the member remains abroad.
- (e) The Council shall have power to vary the prevailing rate of subscription for individuals to meet exceptional cases and may at its discretion remit a portion of the first subscription of a playing section member joining the Club late in any playing season.
- (f) Any member who wishes to resign their membership must do so in writing to the Membership Secretary before 1st October to avoid liability for subscriptions for the whole or part of the following year.
- (g) Any member who wishes to change their class of membership must inform the Membership Secretary who will determine the appropriate change in subscription. The member will become immediately liable for any increase. "Family Discount" is available. Any spouse/partner and junior or student of the immediate family of a full member, paying the same or lesser fee, shall be entitled to a discount from the appropriate subscription as determined by Council.
- (h) The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

8. ENTRANCE FEES

The Council shall from time to time determine entrance fees for members. The Council shall have the power at any time and at its discretion to vary the requirement to pay an entrance fee.

9. UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS OR FEES

(a) Unless a member has made an alternative arrangement with the Membership Secretary :

(i) if any member's due subscription or entrance fee remains unpaid on 30th November in any year the Membership Secretary shall suspend such member from use of the Club and/or participation in Club events until all arrears are paid.

(ii) The Membership Secretary shall delete from the list of members all persons whose subscriptions remain unpaid on 31st December.

The exercise of any power vested in the Membership Secretary under this Rule shall not relieve any member of their liabilities to the Club.

(b) Any person whose membership has lapsed may at the discretion of the Membership Secretary be required to pay an entrance fee and any subscriptions outstanding from former membership if subsequently re-admitted to membership notwithstanding Council's discretionary treatment of new first-time members.

10. NEW MEMBERS

(a) Membership of the Club is open to all without discrimination and regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non discretionary basis..

(b) Application for membership of the Club shall be by completion of a membership application form and by payment of the relevant subscription and / or entrance fee as determined in Rules 7 and 8. The applicant shall not be eligible to take part in the business of the club or eligible for selection for any Club team unless the application has been agreed by the Sports Executive Committee and the subscription has been paid.

(c) The Sports Executive Committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport concerned into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the Sports Executive Committee who shall appoint an Appeals Committee consisting of members of the Club Council to hear the appeal.

11. CLUB HONOURS

(a) The Council shall have power to confer Honorary Life Membership on any member who in its opinion has given exceptional service to the Club.

(b) The President of the Club shall be entitled to Honorary Membership during his year of office.

(c) The Council shall have power to confer annual Honorary Membership on any member of the Club in recognition of exceptional service to the Club.

(d) The Council shall have power to award silver or gold Club lapel badges in recognition of loyalty or services to the Club. The silver badge will be awarded after 25 years' and the gold badge after 40 years' membership.

(e) Any member, other than associate member, who has been a member for 50 years and is at least 65 years of age shall be made a Life Member.

(f) The Council may at its discretion confer Associate Membership on the widow or widower or bereaved partner of any former long standing member or one who in its opinion has given exceptional service to the Club.

12. THE COUNCIL

(a) The Council of the Club shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the immediate Past President, the Club Secretary, the Club Treasurer and a representative Trustee. The members of the Council other than the immediate Past President and the representative Trustee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the members present who are entitled to vote. No member shall be eligible for election to Council unless their name together with those of their

proposer and seconder be posted in the Clubhouse at least three clear days before the Annual General Meeting. No member who is also an employee of the Club shall be eligible to serve on the Council.

- (b) The Council shall have the general management of the affairs of the Club which are not by these Rules reserved to the Club in general meeting and not assigned by these Rules to the Finance and Management Committee or the Sports Executive Committee..
- (c) As part of but without in any way limiting its general powers of management the Council shall have the following specific powers:
 - (i) To determine any question which may arise upon the construction of these Rules.
 - (ii) To determine any question relative to the affairs of the Club other than in relation to matters reserved to the members in general meeting or assigned to the Finance and Management Committee or the Sports Executive Committee..
 - (iii) To delegate any of its functions to the Standing Committees or to any sub-committee it may appoint for a specific purpose.
 - (iv) To make regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the playing sections and of the Standing Committees or any sub-committees.
 - (v) To make rules and regulations for the conduct of the members and to determine and impose penalties for the breach of any such rules and regulations.
 - (vi) To make and to vary or rescind Bye Laws for the regulation of the Club's affairs provided that any such Bye Laws shall not be at variance with the Rules of the Club.
- (d) Four members of the Council present in person shall form a quorum.
- (e) The current President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, the Club Treasurer, the Club Secretary and the elected Finance Officers, being the signatories on the bank account, and the Trustees and after due consideration of all the circumstances and being satisfied that it is in the interest of the Club for the purpose of its activities to borrow, are authorised (any two together) to borrow money from a financial institution by way of overdraft or loan and to secure such overdraft or loan against the Club's property, subject to full Council approval.
- (f) The members of the Council, past and present, and members acting on their behalf shall be entitled to a full indemnity out of the property and assets for the time being of the Club and by members of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in or in relation to the discharge of their duties.

13. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (a) There shall be constituted the following Standing Committees which shall be under the general direction of the Council:

(i))The Sports Executive Committee which shall be responsible for the purchase for the Club and the supply by the Club of alcohol, and for compliance with the Licensing Laws and regulations and the Health and Safety laws and regulations , and for overseeing safeguarding, and for making arrangements and provisions for the use of the Clubhouse including the setting apart of the whole or some part of the premises for some purpose whether the same shall temporarily exclude members or some of them therefrom or not, and for the care and maintenance of the external fabric of all the Club's buildings and of the grounds, including the playing areas, parking areas, landscaped areas and boundaries and for the overall co-ordination of playing section affairs, and for the election of new members as provided for in these Rules and for taking steps necessary to be taken under Rule 9 hereof in respect of unpaid subscriptions, the maintenance of membership records and the maintenance and supervision of the subscriptions bank account and for such other duties as may be delegated to it by the Council. The Sports Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be, at their discretion, the Vice President, the House Officer , either the male or female cricket chairperson, either the male or female bowls chairperson, either the male or female squash and racketball chairperson, either the male or female hockey chairperson, the Maintenance Officer and the Club Manager. The Snooker Secretary, the Ground Officer, the Membership Secretary and the Health and Safety Officer shall report to or attend the Committee on an ad hoc basis. The members of the Sports Executive Committee with the exception of the sports section Chairpersons and the Club Manager shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the members present who are entitled to vote.

(ii) The Finance and Management Committee which shall be responsible for the formulation of the financial policy and the direction of the overall finances of the Club and for ensuring that the Council is kept informed of the financial position of the Club on a regular basis. The Committee shall be responsible for devolving elements of the overall annual budget to the Sports Executive Committee and for monitoring their management. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who shall be the Club Treasurer, the President, the Vice President, a representative of the Sports Executive Committee (if not the Vice President), the Immediate Past President, three elected Finance Officers and the Bar Secretary. The Ground Officer, the Membership Secretary ,and the Health and Safety Officer shall report to or attend the Committee on an ad hoc basis. The Assistant Treasurer may attend the committee on an advisory only basis. The members of the Finance and Management Committee with the exception of the immediate Past President and the three Finance Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the members present who are entitled to vote. The three Finance Officers shall serve for three years , one retiring each year in rotation and being eligible for re-election.

(b)No member shall be eligible for election to a Standing Committee unless their name, together with that of their proposer and seconder shall first be posted in the Clubhouse at least three clear days before the Annual General Meeting. No member who is also an employee of the Club shall be eligible to serve on a Standing Committee.

(c) Each Standing Committee shall render to each meeting of the Council for confirmation (or otherwise) a full account of any of its proceedings which have taken place since the preceding meeting of the Council.

(d) A quorum at a meeting of a Standing Committee shall be four members of whom at least one shall be a member of the Council.

(e) The President, the Vice President and the Club Secretary shall be ex officio members of all Standing Committees (as well as of all sub-committees constituted by the direction of the Council).

(f) With exception of the Assistant Treasurer and the Club Manager all members of the Council and the Standing Committees are Honorary Officers of the Club.

14. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

There shall further be constituted an Emergency Committee which shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Club Secretary and the Club Treasurer and the Chairperson of the Sports Executive Committee (any three of whom shall form a quorum) to determine matters of an emergency nature arising between meetings of the Council.

15. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL OR COMMITTEES

The Council shall have the power to appoint a member who is not also an employee of the Club to fill any casual vacancy on the Council or Standing or sub-committee until the next Annual General Meeting. Any member so appointed shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council or any standing or sub-committee at such meeting.

16. TRUSTEES

(a) The property of the Club shall be vested in not more than three nor less than two Trustees who shall be elected by the members in general meeting from time to time as a vacancy occurs in their number. A Trustee shall continue to hold his appointment until his resignation or death unless he shall be removed from office by a resolution of a general meeting. The Trustees shall from time to time designate one of their number to be the representative to serve on the Council.

(b) The Trustees, past and present, shall be entitled to a full indemnity out of the property and assets for the time being of the Club and by the members of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in or in relation to the discharge of their duties.

17. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the last Wednesday of March in each year or otherwise at a time to be fixed by the Council for the following purposes:

- (a) To receive from the Council a report, balance sheet and statement of account for the preceding year.
- (b) To elect the members of the Council and the Standing Committees
- (c) To appoint an auditor for the ensuing year.
- (d) To decide on any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting as hereinafter provided.

18. RESOLUTION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Any member desirous of moving any resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the Club Secretary by the 31st January immediately preceding the date of such meeting. The notice shall include the proposed wording of the resolution and shall give the name of the seconding member.

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called by the Club Secretary at any time on the request of the Council of the Club or on the petition of forty or more members. Any such petition of members shall state the object of such meeting. In the event of non-compliance by the Club Secretary within one month the said members shall be empowered to call such meeting themselves, repeating in the circular convening such meeting the statement made to the Club Secretary.

20. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Fourteen days at least before the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting a notice of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be posted in the Clubhouse and a copy thereof shall be sent to every member entitled to vote.

21. VOTING

Those members of the Club in categories 4(a) and 4(c) of these Rules shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting. Every question at a General, Council or Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes given by a show of hands except a paper ballot shall decide where there is competition for any official position. The Chairperson of any such meeting shall in addition have a casting vote. The Club Manager and the Assistant Treasurer not entitled to vote at a meeting of a Standing Committee.

22. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Council shall have power to expel or otherwise discipline any member who shall offend against the Rules or Bye Laws of the Club or whose conduct shall in the opinion of the Council be unacceptable and in the case of expulsion render him unfit for membership of the Club. Before any such member is expelled or otherwise disciplined the disciplinary procedures laid down by the Council from time to time and posted in the Clubhouse shall be followed including the procedures relating to rights to appeal.

The Emergency Committee shall have the power to suspend temporarily the offending member if the offence is serious enough to warrant such action. This rule is without prejudice to the powers of the Council vested in it under Rule 12(c).

23. VISITORS

Except in the case of visiting sports teams or when the Club premises or part thereof have been let out for a function, no visitors shall be admitted to the Clubhouse unless introduced by a member. The member concerned shall ensure that the name of any visitor so introduced is entered in the Visitors Book provided in the Clubhouse. No visitor shall be entitled to more than six such introductions in any Club year. Each playing section shall enforce a similar ruling in respect of visitors using the playing facilities.

24. COPY OF THE RULES

The Membership Secretary shall send a copy of these Rules to every member upon election and a copy shall be posted conspicuously in the Clubhouse.

25. ALTERATION OR ADDITION TO THE RULES

No new rules or alteration to these Rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting of the Club or at a Special General Meeting and then only if approved by the votes of more than two-thirds of the members present and voting. Notice of any proposed alteration in the Rules shall be given to the Club Secretary in writing but it shall not be necessary for the Club Secretary in the notice calling the meeting to specify the proposed alteration in detail but he shall indicate the general nature thereof.

26. LICENSING LAWS

The Club shall comply with the requirements of the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton in respect of the Licensing Laws

.March 2023 edition - rule 4 (d) amended and rule 11 (f) added.