

Kingston Chess Club Constitution

1. Name and Affiliations

- 1.1. The club (the "Club") is an unincorporated association named Kingston Chess Club.
- 1.2. The Club will be affiliated to chess associations in order to participate in competitions, including the Surrey County Chess Association, the Thames Valley Chess League and other such associations as the Club formally decides.

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club are to:

- a. provide an opportunity for Members to play both social and match chess
- b. secure a regular venue for playing chess
- c. encourage the study and practice of chess amongst Members
- d. organise competitions (which may be informal) for Members
- e. organise teams to participate in selected competitions
- f. organise events to entertain and instruct Members in the practice of chess
- g. represent the Members interests in the chess associations
- h. keep a sufficient quantity of chess playing equipment
- i. promote the game of chess in the Kingston area
- j. ensure that the Club is solvent

3. Membership

- 3.1. An individual may become a Member at the invitation of any member of any Club Official and upon payment of the appropriate subscription fee.
- 3.2. Members of the club include the Committee Officers, Team Captains or the Liaison Officer.
- 3.3. All Members are subject to the regulations of the Constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to have accepted the regulations and codes of conduct that the club has adopted.
- 3.4. Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:
 - a) full Member (includes both social and match chess)
 - b) associate Member (social chess only)
 - c) provisional Member (for those joining after 31 January in a season)
 - d) Life Member (to be conferred only at an AGM)
- 3.5. Membership confers the right to:
 - a) vote at a General Meeting
 - b) be selected to play for the Club in league and cup competitions subject to team requirements and playing strength
 - c) participate in the Club championship if any
 - d) participate in any events organised by the Club
- 3.6. Membership is contingent on paying the appropriate Membership fee.

4. Club Management

4.1. Club Officers and Officials will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

4.2. The Club Committee comprises the following Officers:

- President
- Chair
- Secretary (whose role may be shared with between two people who are both eligible to attend Committee Meetings.
- Treasurer
- Club Captain

4.3. The Officials of the club comprise:

- Fixtures Secretary
- Liaison Officer
- IT Officer
- Team Captains
- Any other relevant position as decided by an AGM

4.4. The Committee shall operate consistent with the budget, mandates and actions as agreed by General Meetings save that it may make non-material adjustments to these if it believes that is in the best interests of the Club.

4.5. A minimum of three persons shall constitute a quorum for a Committee meeting.

4.6. Decisions by the Committee shall be determined by a majority vote of its members. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

5. Finance

5.1. The Club Committee will be responsible for the financial policy of the Club. The Treasurer will be responsible for the operational management of Club Finances.

5.2. The financial year of the club will end on 31 July.

5.3. All monies will be held at the Metro Bank in Kingston in the name of the Club.

5.4. Any monies paid by the Club should be authorised by the Treasurer plus one other Committee member.

5.5. The Treasurer should ensure that Club is appropriately insured.

6. Social Media

6.1. The Club's IT Officer will maintain the Club's Social Media including the Club website on www.kingstonchess.org.uk, its Twitter Feed on @KingstonChess

6.2. The Social Media content should reflect the official position of the Club or otherwise be neutral on controversial issues.

6.3. Due to the potentially litigious nature of Social Media, the only Members authorised to post to Social Media are the IT Officer, members of the Club Committee and the Liaison Officer.

7. Annual general meetings

- 7.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club will be held each year in June or July.
- 7.2. Notice of the AGM will be given by the Club Secretary with not less than 14 clear days' notice given to all Members.
- 7.3. All Club Members have the right to attend the AGM. Only paid-up Members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- 7.4. The AGM agenda shall include:
 - Matters Arising
 - Apologies
 - Election of the Committee Officers and Club Officials
 - Reports from Club Committee Officers and Officials
 - Treasurer's Report and Budget
 - Agreement of the annual subscription fee
 - such other matters that are proposed by the Committee or Club Officials
 - such other matters that are proposed and seconded by Members providing they give not less than one month's notice prior to the meeting
- 7.5. The quorum for AGMs will be 30% of the paid-up Membership from the current season.
- 7.6. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) may be called if a majority of the Committee agrees. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for the AGM.

8. Representative matches

- 8.1. Membership of the English Chess Federation at Bronze level or above is mandatory for Full Members and Provisional/Associate Members playing match chess in order that games can be officially rated.
- 8.2. Members representing the Club in competitions are expected to be familiar with the laws of chess and with the bye-laws pertaining to any competitions in which they participate.
- 8.3. Nobody may represent the Club in a rated match unless they are able to annotate chess games and are familiar with the use of chess clocks in time control conditions.
- 8.4. Members should respond promptly to requests from their team captains regarding availability to play in a forthcoming match and they should endeavour to fulfill all commitments.

9. Responsibility of Members

- 9.1. Club Members should treat each other and visitors respectfully and in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.
- 9.2. Members should not disturb other players engaged in a game and should silence mobile phones during a match.
- 9.3. Members should help to set up the room and equipment and clear up afterwards at least twice a season. Members should treat the chess equipment with respect and ensure that it is stored neatly.
- 9.4. Players should welcome visitors to the Club and encourage them to play whatever their level.

10. Complaints and Appeals

- 10.1. All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be submitted in writing to the Club Secretary.
- 10.2. Complaints will be heard by the Club Committee. The disciplinary hearing will have the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the suspension or termination of Club Membership.
- 10.3. The outcome of a disciplinary hearing must be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the Member against whom the complaint was made as soon as practical.
- 10.4. A written appeal against such a Committee decision would be considered by the Committee in good faith.

11. Dissolution

- 11.1. A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a two-thirds majority vote of the Membership.
- 11.2. In the event of dissolution, any assets of the club that remain will be divided amongst Club Members unless the Club decides to donate any assets to an appropriate chess organisation.

12. Amendments to the constitution

The Constitution will only be changed through agreement by a two-thirds majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

DECLARATION

Kingston Chess Club hereby adopts and accepts this Constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of Members.

SIGNED:

DATE: 23 June 2023

NAME:

John Foley

POSITION: Club President

SIGNED:

DATE: 23 June 2023

NAME:

Alan Scrimgour

POSITION: Club Chair