

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
- k. facilitate junior chess coaching with a pathway into the Club

3. Membership

3.1. An individual may become a Member upon payment of the appropriate subscription fee. The committee may at its discretion refuse an application for membership.

3.2. 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.

3.3. Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- a) full Member (includes both social and match chess)
- b) affiliate Member. A member who is already a member of one or more other clubs, who chooses to join the Club for internal chess activities but may not represent the Club in league or cup chess.
- c) Junior member. A member under the age of 16.
- d) Life Member (to be conferred only at an AGM)
- e) Exceptional Member (membership given for any other reason at the discretion of Club officials).

3.4. Full and Life Membership confer:

- a) the right to vote at a General Meeting
- b) eligibility for selection for the Club in league and cup competitions
- c) the right to participate in the Club championship if any
- d) the right to participate in any events organised by the Club

Affiliate members have the rights in c and d above only, Junior members the rights in b, c and d above only, and Exceptional members have rights determined at the discretion of the

committee in each individual case.

4. Club Management

4.1. Club Officers and Officials will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Officers and Officials listed in sections 4.2 and 4.3 serve on the committee with full voting rights.

4.2. The Officers are as follows:

- Chair
- Committee Secretary
- Treasurer
- Club Captain

(Roles may be shared)

In addition, the Club may have an Honorary President, elected by the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years. The position honours a distinguished member of the Club. The President is not a member of the committee by right, and does not have any specific duties. but the President may be invited by the committee to fulfil any appropriate roles.

4.3. The Officials are as follows:

- Club Secretary
- Safeguarding Officer
- Head of Training
- Events Director
- Head of Venue
- Head of Equipment
- Head of Social Media
- Head of IT
- Data Protection Officer
- Any other relevant position as decided by an AGM

One or more of these roles may be held by the same officer. The committee may co-opt any other Club member to the committee. Not more than 3 such members may be co-opted in any 12 month period.

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 a UK bank supervised by the Prudential Regulation Authority 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. Digital Media

6.1. The Club's officers will maintain the Club's media and Social Media including the Club website on www.kingstonchess.com, its Instagram account, and its X 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 those designated to do so by the committee.

6.4 The Club Chair, Club Secretary, Treasurer and Club Captain are responsible for oversight of the Whatsapp groups.

6.5 All information collected relating to members' personal data is kept secure and confidential and is only used for the purposes for which it has been collected.

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 Committee Secretary with not fewer than 14 days' notice given to all Members.

7.3. All Club Members have the right to attend the AGM. Only Full and Life 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 fees
 - 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 10 Full Members.

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. Members intending to play rated games must be members of the English Chess Federation in order that games can be rated without cost to the Club.

8.2. Members representing the Club in competitions are expected to be familiar with the laws of chess and with the relevant 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 record chess games and are familiar with the use of chess clocks.

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 fulfil 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 when able to do so. 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.
- 9.5 Members and visitors should be aware of and comply with the Club's safeguarding policy.

10. Complaints and Appeals

- 10.1. All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be submitted in writing to the Safeguarding Officer or Committee 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 may only be changed through agreement by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an AGM or EGM. An AGM or EGM may for this purpose be deemed to take place by digital means.

DECLARATION

The members of Kingston Chess Club hereby adopt this Constitution for the Club.

SIGNED: 27 July 2026

NAME: Peter Andrews, Club Chair

