

Northampton Croquet Club **Constitution**

1. Title

The Club shall be called the Northampton Croquet Club (hereinafter referred to as the Club).

2. Objects

To foster and promote the sport of croquet at all levels, providing opportunities for tuition, recreation and competition.

3. Membership

The membership year shall run from 1st April to 31st March in the following year. Membership of the Club shall be open to all persons aged 18 and over, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion, disability or gender, subject to the approval of the General Committee, and membership shall be confirmed upon receipt of a completed membership application form with the appropriate subscription. This shall be payable on joining the Club and at the specified times thereafter. A register of members shall be kept and only fully paid up members shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Club.

There shall be the following classes of membership:

STANDARD

NEAR COUNTRY: Living beyond a 15 mile radius of the Club but within a 30 mile radius.

FAR COUNTRY: Living beyond a 30 mile radius of the Club.

And within each class there shall be the following sections:

SINGLE

JOINT: Two people at the same address

FAMILY: Up to four people at the same address

LATE JOINERS: Joiners between 1st September and the following 31st March who have not previously been members of a croquet club shall pay half the appropriate annual rate when joining and half the annual rate by the following 31st July.

At the discretion of the General Committee, concessionary rates may be allowed to the following:

- a. persons undergoing full-time education
- b. persons registered unemployed.

Any person below the age of 18 may not be a member due to SAH restrictions.

4. Election of Officers

All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and must be members of the Club. All Officers are elected for a period of one year but may be re-elected to the same or another office the following year, with the exception of the Chairman who must stand down from that office normally after a period of five years. After one year that person may stand for re-election.

5. Management

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a General Committee comprising seven members:

- a. Three Executive Officers: Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer;
- b. Four other elected Committee members;

The Committee shall meet whenever necessary, but not less than four times a year. A quorum shall be four, to include at least one Executive Officer.

The Committee may co-opt additional members, up to three in number, for specific purposes. Co-opted members shall serve for such time as the Committee shall decide, within the period up to the next AGM.

Additionally, the immediate past Chairman shall automatically become ex-officio a member of the Committee for the period of his successor's tenure of office.

The Committee have the right to terminate the membership of any member not abiding by the rules of the Club.

6. Finance

The financial year shall run from 1st November to 31st October in the following year. The Club shall be financed by members' subscriptions and by other suitable means. An accurate account of the finances of the Club shall be kept by the Treasurer and shall be available for all reasonable inspection, and audited before the AGM. The Club shall maintain a cheque book account; cheques on that account shall be signed by two out of the three Executive Officers.

7. Honorary Members

The Club may, at AGM,

- a) appoint an Honorary President, if thought fit, to hold office for such time as may be decided;
- b) elect members to Honorary Life Membership in recognition of outstanding services to the Club.

8. Annual General Meeting ,

An AGM shall be held not later than the end of January to:

- a. Receive the annual report of the committee
- b. Consider the audited accounts
- c. Determine the subscriptions for the ensuing year
- d. Elect officers and committee members
- e. Approve the appointment of an auditor.

9. Extraordinary General Meeting

An EGM may be called by the General Committee or by written request for such a meeting signed by at least five members or ten per cent of the membership, whichever shall be the greater, up to a maximum of ten members, submitted to the Secretary.

10. Amendment of the Constitution

No amendment shall be made to this Constitution except at an AGM or EGM. Twenty one days' notice shall be given of any proposed amendments and of any General Meeting.

Amendments must be proposed and seconded and must be carried by not less than two thirds of the votes cast at the meeting.

11. Dissolution

If, at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed for the dissolution of the Club, before such a resolution shall be effective it must be confirmed at an EGM held not less than one month thereafter, by two thirds of the members present. The Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the property of the Club and, after the discharge of all liabilities, give or transfer any surplus or remaining assets to some other organisation having objectives similar to those of the Club.