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# NAME

1.1 The club shall be called the Crowthorne Chess Club (the “Club").

# PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the Club shall be to provide facilities for members to meet regularly to play chess in a sporting and friendly manner for the overall benefit of the members of the Club having regard to the current Laws of Chess.

2.2 The Club shall enter chess teams in competitive leagues and competitions and shall organise or participate in other appropriate activities as the Club so decides through the Executive Committee.

# MEMBERSHIP

3.1 All those on the current List of Members shall automatically continue to be Members of the Club (the 'Members') upon the adoption of this Constitution.

3.2 New applicants shall become members after completion of an application form, and payment of their subscription.

3.3 Membership shall remain valid unless terminated by resignation, failure to pay the Membership Subscription (the 'Subscription'), or expulsion from the Club under the provisions of this Constitution.

3.4 Members shall not bring the game of chess into disrepute in any way. Accordingly Members shall conduct themselves in a respectful and pleasant manner, uphold the interests of the Club and comply with any instructions on the use of the facilities of Wellington College or other such premises used by the Club.

3.5 All Members participating in playing chess or in other activities associated with the Club shall do so at their own risk and shall be entirely responsible for their own actions and safety. Accordingly the Executive Committee accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by the Members no matter how incurred.

3.6 The Executive Committee, having taken all the relevant circumstances into consideration, shall be entitled to suspend or expel any Member whose conduct is considered to be unacceptable or detrimental to the interests and purposes of the Club. Before taking such a decision the Member concerned shall be entitled to make representations to the Executive Committee. An appeal for reinstatement may be made at the next Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting requested under the provisions of rule 9.

# **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4.1 The Club shall be managed and administered by an Executive Committee, chosen from the Members of the Club, who shall, in accordance with the principles of this Constitution, endeavour to run the Club efficiently and effectively on behalf of all the Members.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the following three Officers:

* President (Chairman)
* Secretary
* Treasurer

No one person shall hold more than one of these roles at the same time.

4.3 The Executive Committee shall be elected at an Annual or Special General Meeting. Existing members of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election. The tenure of existing members of the Executive Committee shall expire at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

4.4 A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be that the three Officers shall be present. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to co-opt Members to fill any vacancies and such Members shall have full voting rights.

4.5 The Executive Committee shall be entitled to invite other Members or non-Members to attend meetings where specialist or expert advice is required and such invitees shall not have any voting rights.

4.6 A Member may, because of exceptional services on behalf of the Club, be considered at an Annual General Meeting to be elected as an honorary Life Vice-President

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PRINCIPLES**

5.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July..

5..2 A quorum shall be 8 Members or 50% of the Membership whichever is the less.

5.3 The primary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Minutes of the previous AGM.
2. Matters arising (if any).
3. Presentation of reports by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Team Captains and other relevant reports
4. Consideration and approval of the audited account of the Club.
5. Determination of the Subscription for the following year.
6. Approval of capital or exceptional expenditure for the following year.
7. Election of the Officers of the Executive Committee
8. Election of all other Club Officials (eg Team Captains, Auditor).
9. Review of the Child Protection Policy.
10. Any other business for which notice has been property given.

5.4 Minutes shall be published by the Secretary within 30 days.

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CONDUCT**

6.1 The Secretary shall announce the date of the AGM at least 28 days prior to that date.

6.2 Any proposal to be included in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting must be received by the Secretary in writing or by email at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

6.3 The Secretary shall issue to all Members, in writing or by email, the agenda of the Annual General Meeting at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

6.4 New proposals put forward for consideration at the Annual General Meeting without prior notice as required above will not be accepted unless the President with absolute discretion considers the proposals have exceptional merit.

6.5 A simple majority of Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting shall determine all issues that require a vote. The President shall exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

# **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

7.1 With the exception of an honorary Life Vice-President and or Members holding the titles of FIDE Grandmaster and FIDE International Master, all Members shall pay an annual Subscription.

7.2 The amount of the Subscription and discounts - if any - shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

7.3 The Subscription shall become due on 1st August.

7.4 Members must have paid their subscription and also be paid up members of the ECF before playing any match for the club.

7.5 Where a Subscription is due and has not been paid by 30th September the appropriate Member shall normally be reminded by the Treasurer, and if the Subscription is not paid within a further 14 days, their Membership of the Club will be deemed to have lapsed and the Member will not be eligible to attend any club nights/events.

7.6 Junior Members shall be under 18 years of age on 1st September

7.7 New Members shall pay a pro rata Subscription determined by the Treasurer.

7.8 Prospective new members can attend club nights twice before joining and paying their subs.

# **FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS**

8.1 No Member of the Club shall commit or enter into any financial arrangement involving the Club without the prior approval of the Club's Treasurer. Otherwise that Member will be personally liable for the expenditure unless and until subsequently approved by the Treasurer or Executive Committee.

8.2 The Treasurer and Secretary shall ensure the Club is adequately insured for public liability and for the Club's chess equipment and trophies. [Current insurance is through the English Chess Federation].

8.3 The audited accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer to the AGM and shall be made available for inspection by Members who did not attend the meeting.

8.4 A Member seeking reimbursement of expenses must submit a claim in writing and attach the relevant receipt to the Treasurer within 2 calendar months of the date on which the expenditure was incurred and in any case no later than 14 days prior to an Annual General Meeting.

8.5 The financial year of the Club shall be 1st June to 31st May.

# SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

9.1 The Secretary shall summon a Special General Meeting with notice of 14 days either on the instructions of the Executive Committee or the formal ratification of not fewer than 8 Members or 50% of the Membership whichever is the less.

9.2 The summons for a Special General Meeting shall include a clear statement of the reason for the meeting, at which no other business shall be permitted.

9.3 A quorum shall be 15 Members or 50% of the Membership whichever is the less.

9.4 Minutes shall be published by the Secretary within 30 days.

# WELLINGTON COLLEGE

10.1 The staff and students of Wellington College shall be entitled to use the facilities of the Club free of charge.

10.2 The staff member in charge of chess at Wellington College shall be entitled to be an Honorary Member of the Club.

# AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 Amendments and additions to this Constitution shall be made only at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Club in accordance with the procedures for such General Meetings stated above.

11.2 Any proposed amendments or additions shall require a majority of two-thirds of those eligible to vote of the quorum present at such a General Meeting.

# DISSOLUTION

12.1 The Club may be dissolved by at least two-thirds of the Members of the Club voting for such dissolution at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Club. This shall include a determination of the disposal of the assets of the Club after all liabilities have been met.

12.2 If a motion for the dissolution of the Club is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, when notice of the meeting is given, this motion shall be specifically referenced.

13. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

 The club will use the ECF Child Protection Policy.