

# SUTTON BOWLS CLUB

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. AIMS

- 1.1 The club shall be conducted in good faith and shall be known as Sutton Bowls Club.
- 1.2 The club will provide facilities and an environment to promote participation in the amateur sport of Lawn Bowls in Sutton and surrounding area; to foster goodwill and competition with other Bowls clubs.
- 1.3 The club will be an affiliated member of Sussex County Bowls and therefore Bowls England. Plus any bowls related organisation / association the Management Committee feel to be in the best interest of the club.
- 1.4 The club shall be non-profit making, all surplus income and profit are to be reinvested in the club.

### 2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 All formal activities and affairs of the Club shall be the responsibility of and administered by a Management Committee. The Committee will consist of a President, a Chairperson, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Club Captain, Match Secretary, Match Captain, Green Supervisor, plus elected club members as deemed necessary. Co opted members shall not be entitled to vote at committee meetings. Decisions shall be made on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to a second and casting vote.
- 2.2 All Officers shall be elected for a period of one year, but may be re elected to the same office the following year. All Officers and committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.3 The quorum at a Management Committee meeting shall be five. Any committee member failing to attend on three consecutive occasions without good reason, shall be asked to stand down.
- 2.4 The Management Committee will elect two committee members who together with the Treasurer shall be empowered to sign documents as required by the Club or Club bankers. The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Accounts shall be examined by an independent examiner before the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.5 The Management Committee will determine whatever procedures, rules and regulations are required to ensure the smooth running of the club. This includes rules of play and opening times. Any changes to current rules shall be notified to members by a prominent notice on the Club notice board.
- 2.6 Any dispute or question that may arise with reference to the running of the Club will be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision will be final.
- 2.7 The Management Committee shall comply with National and Local legislation applicable to the Club and shall ensure all insurances, safety checks of premises and equipment are kept up to date.
- 2.8 The Club, the Management Committee and members, do not accept any liability for loss or damage to any property of persons using the Club facilities; or for loss of life, injuries or illness however incurred. Any person entering the grounds or premises does so at their own risk.
- 2.9 An up to date copy of Sutton Bowls Club Constitution will be kept in the Club house and on the Club's website.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 Membership of the club shall be open to anyone regardless of gender, age, disability, race or religion. However, limitations of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non discriminatory basis.

3.2 There shall be four classes of membership.

a) Full Members – who shall have the use of all Club facilities and have the right to vote at Annual General Meetings.

b) Social Members - who have the right to use all Club Facilities other than the green, but do not have the right to vote at Annual General Meetings.

c) Junior Members (under 18) have the use of all club facilities. Those aged 16 and over have the right to vote at Annual General Meetings.

d) Honorary Members – The Management Committee at their discretion, can recommend at the A.G.M. that a subscription free Honorary Lifetime Membership be awarded to any member whom they consider has given long and devoted service to the Club. Honorary Members have the right to vote at Annual General meetings.

3.3 Membership / Social Membership subscriptions shall be paid annually by the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

3.4 Members may introduce a visitor to the green to play. The name must be entered in the visitors book. No visitors shall be entitled to play free of charge more than three times in a season.

3.5 All members must wear the correct attire when playing in matches, home and away. Flat bottomed shoes must be worn on the green. Smoking (subject to National legislation) is allowed in the open spaces around the green. Cigarette ends must be put in the receptacles provided.

3.6 Any Member who's misconduct is deemed to be against the interest of the Club or other club members shall be reported initially to the Management Committee, if the matter cannot then be resolved satisfactorily, a subsequent complaint must be made in writing to the County Chairman who shall conduct preliminary enquiries in accordance with Bowls England Regulation 9 /9a.

### **4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

4.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and Accounts of the Club for the year just ended; electing members of the Management Committee and for the fixing of annual subscriptions.

4.2 All members must be notified of the date of the Annual General Meeting 14 days in advance.

4.3 Committee members not wishing to stand must notify the Chairman 7 days in advance.

4.4 A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be one fifth of the total membership.

4.5 Any proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

### **5. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

5.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the Management Committee or at a request in writing and signed by at least one fifth of members eligible to vote, together with a full explanation as to the reason for the request. Matters discussed at the meeting shall only concern those for which the meeting has been called. Any voting shall be by ballot paper.

**6. TRUSTEES**

- 6.1 The property of Sutton Bowls Club, comprising of the bowling green and associated buildings, shall be vested in Trustees, to be held on behalf of the club in accordance with the Trust Deed.
- 6.2 The Trustees shall have the powers necessary to direct the Management Committee if required to do so.
- 6.3 The Club shall indemnify the Trustees against any liabilities incurred by them arising out of their office. The Trustees will remain in office until they resign or leave the club.

**7. DISSOLUTION**

- 7.1 A decision to dissolve the Club shall require a resolution to be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held within one month to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 7.2 If the resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the members present the Management Committee shall proceed to discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.
- 7.3 Thereafter, the Club premises, assets and any remaining funds shall be held in abeyance by the Club President and Trustees for initially 1 year. After which time a decision will be made annually by the President and Trustees regarding the future of the Club premises, assets and funds, with consideration to the Title and Trust Deeds and in the best interest of the local community.

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Tom Tupper Chairperson

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Susan Dudman Secretary

As amended and approved 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024