

**KINGS BOWLS CLUB CONSTITUTION (established 1992)**  
**OCTOBER 2022 Revision**

1. **TITLE** – The Club shall be known as **KINGS BOWLS CLUB**
2. **OBJECTIVE** – To play and enjoy the game of bowls and participate in social activities with other members and members of other bowls clubs.
3. **MEMBERSHIP**
  - 3.1 The classes of membership will be as follows:
    - (a) Full playing – 18 years plus
    - (b) Social – non playing members
    - (c) Junior – 12 years to 18 years
    - (d) Student – 18 years plus at committee's discretion
    - (e) Honorary – as per 3.6
  - 3.2 Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport of outdoor flat green bowls on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. Membership may however be limited according to available facilities on a non-discriminatory basis.
  - 3.3 Juniors must be sponsored by a full member who must agree to take responsibility for their good behaviour and conduct. Junior members will pay a reduced subscription, enjoy all the amenities and privileges of the club, subject to the appropriate restrictions under the licensing laws, but will have no voting rights or be able to stand for office.
  - 3.4 The committee shall be responsible for determining a sensible membership balance between applicants of different gender.
  - 3.5 Application for membership must be submitted to the secretary in such a form as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the committee and must be signed by the applicant. All applications will be considered by the committee. New members elected during the playing season shall pay a pro rata subscription as agreed by the committee. All nominations for membership shall be displayed on the notice board at least seven days prior to admission and any objections to a nomination must be delivered to a committee member in writing within seven days of such display for consideration by the committee.
  - 3.6 Any member may nominate a fellow member for honorary membership but such nomination must be accompanied by a full justification and is subject to the unanimous agreement by the committee.
  - 3.7 Membership fees will be in two parts – the first part due by the end of October following the AGM and the balance due at the pre-season meeting March/April. Any member not paying by the due dates may forfeit all rights and privileges of the club and may, after consideration by the committee, be deemed to have resigned their membership.
  - 3.8 Only full playing members, as at 3.1a, shall have a vote at relevant meetings and be able to stand for office.
  - 3.9 The Club Committee may refuse membership or, subject to point 9 of this constitution, remove it, only for good cause such as conduct likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.
  - 3.10 Limitation of Club liability
    - 3.10.1 All references to the Club in this Section shall mean each and every individual member of the Club from time to time.
    - 3.10.2 Members are bound by the following Rule which shall also be exhibited in a prominent place within the Club premises:

*“Members of the Club may use the Club premises, and any other facilities of the Club, entirely at their own risk and impliedly accept:*

      - a) *The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to members.*

*b) The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of the use of the Club premises, any other facilities of the Club either sustained by members or caused by the said members whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of them, the Officers, Committee or Servants of the Club."*

- 3.10.3. Membership of the Club and acceptance of these Rules by the member will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act.

#### **4. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 The officers of the club are as follows:  
*Chairman, Club Secretary, Captain, two Vice Captains, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Ladies'/Men's Secretary.* Officers may hold no more than two positions in the club. All officers to be voluntary and unpaid
- 4.2 The club committee shall comprise of officers as in 4.1, a member for ground maintenance and a maximum of four elected members.
- 4.3 Any committee meeting must have a quorum of at least seven members. Committee meetings will be held at the committee's discretion.

#### **5. FINANCE**

- 5.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that all monies paid to and from club funds are properly receipted and accounted for. The treasurer will advise the committee on the financial viability of any expenditure that may be planned.
- 5.2 Once per year the treasurer shall bring before the club an income and expenditure account for the period since the last preceding account, made up to a date not exceeding six weeks prior to presentation, together with a balance sheet made up to the same date. Every such balance sheet shall be accompanied by a report from the Treasurer.
- 5.3 Once every year the accounts shall be examined and verified by an auditor appointed by the committee.
- 5.4 The committee shall determine subscriptions for the following season and submit them for members' approval at the AGM.

#### **6. MEETINGS**

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting. The AGM of the club shall be held in October of each year as determined by the committee. The Secretary shall give at least 14 days' notice to all fully paid members with a copy of the agenda which must include election of officers, election of committee members and presentation of accounts.
- 6.2 Extraordinary General Meeting. An EGM may be convened at any time by the committee or by written notification to the Secretary by at least ten fully paid members giving their reasons for the meeting. At least 28 days' notice must be given so that the Secretary has 14 days to inform all members. The discussion at such meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.
- 6.3 Any member wishing to have an item included in the AGM or EGM must put the item in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting.
- 6.4 Alterations to the Constitution can only be made at the AGM or EGM by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.
- 6.5 Any member may be present at a Committee Meeting but not take part.
- 6.6 Any member may take a presentation to a Committee Meeting having given seven days written notice to the Secretary stating their reasons.
- 6.7 Any AGM or EGM meeting must have a quorum of at least thirty members or 50% of the total membership should it fall below 60.

## **7. AFFILIATIONS**

- 7.1 The Club shall be affiliated to Bowls England and the Kent County Bowling Association. The Club may affiliate to other local bowling associations at the discretion of the Committee.
- 7.2 The club shall adopt and conform to Bowls England Rules and Regulations and the Crystal Laws of the Sport of Bowls

## **8. ELECTIONS**

- 8.1 Any two full members of the Club may nominate a full member for election to the Committee or as an Officer, providing the member agrees to the nomination.
- 8.2 Every member of the Committee must stand down and be proposed and seconded for election each year at the AGM.

## **9. BEHAVIOUR**

- 9.1 All members are expected to behave in a reasonable manner befitting the game of bowls.
- 9.2 Members are expected to abide by the rules of the Club and the Committee shall have the right to bring any breach of the rules to the notice of the member and, if necessary, bring any member who contravenes the rules before them at a time and place determined by the Committee.
- 9.3 Any member so notified or brought before the Committee has the right to explain their actions. This explanation must be received by the Secretary no later than 21 days from the written notification of the breach to the member or given verbally before the Committee as determined in 9.2
- 9.4 The Committee has the right to ban any member whose behaviour or breach of the rules is considered detrimental to the Club. Any member so banned shall forfeit their subscription and all rights and claims on the Club.
- 9.5 Members shall have the right of appeal to the full membership at the AGM or EGM.
  - a) All disciplinary matters will be dealt with in accordance with Bowls England Regulation 9 (Misconduct)
  - b) Should any member be expelled, the former member shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee refunded and must return any property belonging to the Club.

## **10. RULES OF PLAY AND DRESS CODE**

- 10.1. Players are expected to adhere to the dress code as specified in the Club Handbook.
- 10.2. Order of priority for rink selection – Bowls England, Kent competitions, fixed date outside competitions, other outside competition games, club competitions and roll-ups. No competition shall override fixed date Club matches.
- 10.3. Rinks will be booked on the sheets provided in the Club House stating the competition.
- 10.4. Club Officers shall have the power to demand the use of wet mats or suspend/stop play if it is considered the green will be damaged as a result of play.

## **11. TEAM SELECTION**

- 11.1. Club Matches – Fixture sheets will be displayed for members to indicate their availability. All will play unless contacted. All players to arrive 30 minutes before start of the match.
- 11.2. The Captain/Vice Captain will select the teams. All members will be given an equal opportunity for selection and a record will be kept of their availability and selection.
- 11.3. Representative Competitions – Both men's and women's selection committees will determine who represents the Club. These committees will be appointed by the Club Committee.
- 11.4. The elected Club Committee will determine any issues not covered by the above rules in their absolute discretion

## **12. CHILD PROTECTION**

Kings Bowls Club is committed to promoting a safe environment in which children and vulnerable adults can enjoy taking part in the game of bowls. It will seek to underpin and ensure this commitment by following and promoting the joint child protection policy and procedures of the National Governing Bodies.

## **13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

- 13.1. If, at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 13.2. If, at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least 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 assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club. Note that the Lease Agreement with STC Sports Club specifies that 12 months' notice is given of any termination of the lease.
- 13.3. If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Club.
- 13.4. Upon dissolution of the Club the Committee shall give or transfer the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:
  - a) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a charity and/or
  - b) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or
  - c) to Bowls England for use by them in related community sports.