

CONSTITUTION

This document describes the Constitution of the Gerrards Cross Chess Club (hereinafter referred to as The Club)

The name 'Gerrards Cross Chess Club' was formally adopted at the 1st General Meeting of the Club held at Gayhurst School, Gerrards Cross, on September 25th 1946 and it remains the name of The Club.

Objectives:

1. To provide a venue and necessary equipment for members to play, practice and discuss the game/sport of chess.
2. To provide serious matchplay chess (in addition to social chess) for those members who wish to participate, both in The Club's own tournaments, and against other Chess Clubs. The Club is affiliated to The English Chess Federation, The Buckinghamshire County Chess Association, and The Southern Counties Chess Union. Other affiliations may apply from time to time.
3. To actively encourage the playing of chess in the wider community, including liaising with the organisation 'Chess in Schools and Communities'.
4. To assist and support such charitable institutions or purposes as the Committee shall from time to time deem appropriate.

Policy statement of equality:

5. The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the the sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
6. The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy playing chess in an environment free from threat of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and abuse
7. All Club members have a responsibility to challenge discriminatory behaviour.
8. The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to our disciplinary procedures.

Membership:

9. A senior member shall be any person over the age of 18, having been approved by any Officer of The Club, who has paid their annual membership fee.
10. A student member shall be any person between the ages of 16 – 21, having been approved by any Officer of The Club, who has paid their annual membership fee.
11. A junior member shall be any person under the age of 16, having been approved by any Officer of the Club or Junior Chess Coach, who has paid their annual membership fee.
12. All members will be subject to the regulations of the Constitution and by joining The Club will be deemed to have accepted these regulations and codes of practice that The Club has adopted.
13. Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting of The Club.

Membership Fees:

14. Members shall pay to The Club an annual membership fee (subscription) which may vary for different member categories.
15. Subscription levels will be decided at the AGM on a vote of the members.
16. Annual subscriptions will become due one month after the AGM. Any existing member not paying the subscription within 2 months after the AGM will be referred to the Committee.
17. The Club would prefer fees to be paid electronically to the Club account but cash or a cheque may be paid to a Club Officer and a receipt issued.
18. The annual Club year runs from 1st September.
19. Individuals joining the Club part way through the year shall pay an appropriate pro rata membership fee as decided by the Committee.

20. Any member of The Club who wishes to represent the Club in a team, or individually in a tournament, must be a paid up member of the English Chess Federation in order to avoid The Club being charged a grading fee for each game played. This ECF subscription is in addition to The Club annual subscription, and must be arranged by the member through the ECF website.

The Officers, Committee, and Annual General Meeting:

21. The Officers of The Club shall consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
22. A General Meeting may elect a Vice-President as an additional Officer to support the management of The Club.
23. A Committee consisting of the Officers of The Club, the Captains of The Club Teams, and the Junior Managing Coach shall conduct management of the Club.
24. The Officers and Committee members of The Club shall be elected annually by vote of the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Club, or at a properly called Special (or Extraordinary) General Meeting. The AGM is to be held annually, on a normal Club evening, typically in August or September. The AGM will be chaired by the President, or if the President is unavailable then another Officer of The Club will take the Chair.
25. At least seven days notice shall be given of the time and place of all Committee meetings.
26. The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence with outside bodies and organisations (in conjunction with the Committee) and shall take minutes or notes of meetings of The Club and Committee.
27. Any nomination for Office or Team Captain shall be put at the AGM by a proposer and seconder, and the nominee must confirm acceptance of the nomination (which acceptance can be conveyed prior to the meeting if the nominee is unable to attend). If there is more than one nominee for a post then a vote shall be taken of members at the meeting and a simple majority shall win the vote.
28. At any General Meeting or Committee meeting where a vote is taken on any Club matter, if the vote is tied then the Meeting Chairman will have the casting vote
29. If no nominations are received at the AGM for a particular Team Captaincy role then The Club Officers may, at a later date, co-opt a willing member for that captaincy who will also automatically be a member of The Club Committee.
30. The place of meetings, general or otherwise, shall be at the discretion of the Committee, who shall also have the power to convene special General Meetings.
31. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by any members written request to the Secretary signed by not less than 25% of the current membership.

32. Announcement of a Special General Meeting will be made by email and in the regular Club room, giving members not less than fourteen days notice.
33. No member of The Club shall be entitled to vote or take part at any meeting unless their subscription and any arrears they may owe to The Club have been paid.
34. No junior member of The Club, or their parent or guardian shall be entitled to vote or take part in any meeting. However they may attend purely to observe.
35. A General Meeting shall have the power to rescind or alter a decision of any previous General Meeting (or Committee meeting) by a simple majority vote.
36. A General Meeting will have the power to confer Life Membership of The Club on any member previously nominated by the Committee for that honour.

The Treasurer, and accounts:

37. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of monies received, and Club expenditure, and shall prepare and submit to The Annual General Meeting a set of accounts, made up to the financial year end.
38. All Club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the Club, and operated under the signatures of any two of the four Club Officers (President, Treasurer, Vice President and Secretary). No Club account signatory may withdraw money from The Club account for personal use under any circumstances. Any member misusing Club funds shall repay the same and be expelled without prejudice to his liability to prosecution for such misuse.
39. Where practicable, the Treasurer shall sign all cheques.
40. The AGM may vote to amend the financial year dates by a simple majority vote, on the recommendation of the Treasurer.
41. A General Meeting shall have the power to request an independent audit of The Club's financial account by a simple majority vote.
42. The Committee shall have the power to request an independent audit of The Club's financial account.
43. The Committee shall, at its regular meetings, review the financial position of The Club.
44. Reasonable 'out of pocket' expenses incurred by members on behalf of The club will be reimbursed at the discretion of the Committee.
45. All monies received by The Club (subscriptions, donations, prizes, grants etc.) shall be applied towards carrying out the objectives of The Club, and the Committee shall be empowered to administer such funds as may be placed at its disposal from time to time for the furtherance of these objectives.

Competitions & Tournaments:

46. All paid-up members may play in tournaments run by The Club, which arise from time to time. Each Tournament may be organised by a Club Officer or a co-opted Club member who will lay down the rules of such competitions.
47. All members of The Club are eligible to represent The Club in The Buckinghamshire Chess League, or any other League that The Club may choose to enter from time to time.
48. The selection of players in any team to represent The Club is at the sole discretion of the applicable Team Captain.
49. Team Captains shall ensure that all participants representing The Club in any League Competition (such as the Bucks League) are paid-up members of The Club, and of The English Chess Federation.
50. Elected Team Captains may, on occasion, nominate another member to act in their place.
51. The 1st Team Captain shall in consultation with the other Team Captains nominate members of The Club to play in teams competing in a League (such as the Bucks League) in accordance with the League rules.

Junior Chess Club:

52. Membership of the Junior Chess Club shall be at the sole discretion of the Junior Chess Club Managing Coach. The Managing Coach will have the responsibility of ensuring that payment of the Junior Club subscription is obtained from the accompanying adult of any junior member.
53. All coaches supervising juniors at the junior Club shall have passed a Disclosure & Barring Service Check.
54. Juniors may, with permission from the Managing Coach and at least one other Officer of The Club, participate in the senior Club chess at either a social level or as a League Team player.
55. Juniors must be aware that the chess equipment that they use at The Club is of value to The Club and must not be mistreated.

Data Protection & Privacy Policy:

56. The Gerrards Cross Chess Club is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of members, past members, and affiliates of The Club. The Privacy Policy (at Appendix 1) of this Constitution explains when, how, and why The Club collects personal data about people.

Behaviour at The Club, Disciplinary pathway.

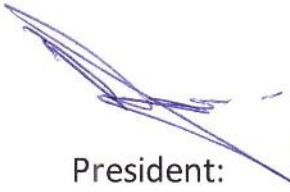
57. All members of The Gerrards Cross Chess Club (senior and junior) are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship.
58. Members are expected not to use any obscene language in The Club, or when visiting another Club, or in front of juniors or their parents.
59. Any dispute regarding play between two members of The Club should be resolved by those two members with goodwill on each side. If the dispute cannot be resolved then a member of the Committee will be consulted whose decision on the dispute will be final.
60. If a Club member has a dispute with a member of the opposing team in a formal match, then the Team Captain shall be informed.
61. If a Club member makes a complaint, verbally or in writing, to any Committee member regarding the behaviour of another member then that committee member shall inform the Club President. The President may direct the formation of a Disciplinary sub-committee consisting of one Club Officer and two other Committee members. The Disciplinary sub-committee may question any Club member (and parents if a junior is involved) about the incident concerned, and will ask for explanation from the member against whom the complaint was made. The Disciplinary sub-committee will convey their recommendation to the President, which may be:
 - Complaint is not upheld – the matter is closed.
 - Complaint is upheld, which may then result in:
 - ... simple verbal advice regarding the incident, or
 - ... verbal warning regarding the incident, or
 - ... written warning regarding the incident with possible suspension of membership for a period, or
 - ... written cancellation of membership without refund of member subscription.
62. The Police may be notified if a serious incident occurs, such as verbal abuse contrary to common law, physical abuse or assault, theft of Club money or property, wilful damage to Club property or premises, wilful damage to a Club member's property while at The Club.

The Constitution.


63. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. This is provided that the proposed amendment has been posted where it can be seen by all members attending a normal Club evening, with a period of at least two weeks before such a meeting. The proposed amendment will be put on the formal agenda for the meeting.

We hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original Constitution and regulations as adopted at The Gerrards Cross Chess Club AGM held on - 11. 9. 19

President:

 Tony GANGER 11/9/2019.

Secretary:

PETER FORREST


Treasurer:

Peter James Colwill
PJ Colwill 11th September 2019