

Rules of Compton Croquet Club

September 2021

(as amended and confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of 2015 Mar 20th and updated at the September 14th 2021 AGM))

1. The Club shall be called the **Compton Croquet Club**.
2. The **object** of the Club shall be to provide facilities for, and promote participation of, the whole community in the sport of croquet.
3. The **officers** of the Club shall consist of the President, not more than *three* Vice-Presidents, the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Competition Secretary, all of whom shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The Club shall be managed by a **Committee** consisting of the officers and not more than five other members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for *three* years and, subject to the termination of office by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the third Annual General Meeting next following their election. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
5. The Committee shall have power at any time and from time to time to fill any **vacancy** among the officers and Committee. Any officer or member or the Committee so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting but shall then be eligible for re-election.
6. The Committee shall have power to elect as **honorary life members**, without payment of any further subscription, any member of not less than three years' standing who shall in the opinion of the Committee have rendered services to the Club, but such election shall not take effect unless and until confirmed at the Annual General Meeting next ensuing the date of such election.
7. The **categories of membership** and the sums payable as **annual subscription** for each shall be those determined by the Committee from time to time and posted on the noticeboard. The **subscription year** shall commence on 1st May and end on 30th April.
8. The names of all members whose current subscriptions shall not have been paid before the 31st May in any year and who neglect to comply with a written request for payment within seven days after the same shall have been sent to them, shall be posted on the noticeboard of the Club, and such members shall cease to be members on the expiration of such seven days unless a reason satisfactory to the Committee shall be given for the delay.
9. **Membership** shall be open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs; and of age, sex or disability except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of croquet as a particular sport. The Club may refuse membership or expel from membership (see Rule 11) only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club's members and decided by a majority vote. Membership shall not become effective, nor shall any candidate be admitted to the privileges of membership, until at least two days have elapsed since his or her application and the appropriate subscription has been paid.
10. A member desiring to **withdraw from the Club** must give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary on or before the 31st May in any year, otherwise the subscription for the current year shall be payable.
11. The Committee shall have the power to ask any member to resign if they have offended against the rules of the Club and it is considered by the Committee that the offender's conduct has rendered him or her unfit to remain a member of the Club. Before such member is asked to resign the Honorary Secretary shall give him or her seven days' written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and shall inform him or her of the complaints that have been made. No member shall be asked to resign without first having had an opportunity to answer the complaints made against him or her, nor unless at least two-thirds of the Committee then present vote in favour of their resignation. A quorum at a Committee

meeting at which the question of resignation is decided shall be *six*. If a member asked to resign does not resign the Committee shall have the power to expel him or her. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club's members and decided by a majority vote.

12. No member whose membership has been terminated under these rules or who owes money to the Club shall be introduced by any other member as visitor to any part of the Club premises.
13. All **disputes** must be referred to the Honorary Secretary, and by him or her to the Committee, whose decision shall be final.
14. The Committee shall have power to **reserve the lawns** at their discretion for Club Events and during Croquet Association Tournaments.
15. The Committee shall have power to **alter the rules**, but no such alteration shall take effect until the same has been confirmed at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose.
16. The Committee shall have power to make **bye-laws** for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Club and for the introduction of temporary membership, without compliance with Rule 9, for periods not exceeding six weeks and for the payment of reduced subscriptions. In the event of a conflict between the bye-laws and the rules the latter shall prevail. Such bye-laws shall be posted in some conspicuous part of the Club premises and shall be binding on all the members.
17. A **General Meeting** of the Club shall be held in every year not later than 31st March unless the Committee otherwise decides to transact the following business:
 - (a) to receive and, if approved, to adopt a statement of the Club's accounts to the end of the preceding year;
 - (b) to consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration of the rules;
 - (c) to elect the officers and the Committee as constituted by Rules 3 and 4;
 - (d) to appoint a suitably qualified accountant or competent person to examine, independently, the Club's books and records;
 - (e) to deal with any special matter which the Committee or any member desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.

Written notice of the names of any candidates for election, and of any formal motions, each duly proposed one member and seconded by another, must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary not less than 28 days before the meeting. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

18. A **Special General Meeting** may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be convened within 21 days from the receipt of a requisition in writing addressed to the Honorary Secretary signed by not less than *ten* members specifying the object of the meeting for any of the following purposes:
 - (a) to consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration to the rules;
 - (b) to deal with any special matters which the Committee may desire to place before the members, including the expulsion of a member;
 - (c) to receive the resignation of the Committee or to remove any member or members thereof from office and to fill any vacancy or vacancies caused thereby;
 - (d) to deal with any special matters which the members requiring the meeting may desire to place before the Club.

Written notice of the names of any candidates for election, and of any formal motions, each duly proposed by one member and seconded by another, must be submitted to the Honorary

Secretary not less than 28 days before the meeting. Notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

19. At General Meetings the President or failing him or her the senior Vice-President shall preside, and at Committee Meetings the Chairman shall preside and in each case shall have a casting vote or additional vote in the event of an equality of votes.
20. At Committee meetings (except for the purposes of Rule 11) *five* shall form a **quorum**. At General Meetings *ten* shall form a quorum. Temporary members may attend General Meetings but shall not be entitled to vote, and they shall not be counted as part of the necessary quorum.
21. There shall be not more than *four* **Trustees** of the Club. The property of the Club (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Honorary Treasurer) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the Committee who may, for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting, remove any Trustee or Trustees from the office of Trustee. Where, by reason of any such death resignation or removal, it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed, or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or additional Trustees, the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Chairman is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925 and he or she shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Club and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall in favour of a person dealing *bona fide* and for value with the Club or the Committee be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.
22. The Club shall affiliate to the **Croquet Association** and any appropriate regional governing body devoted to croquet. The **Laws of the Croquet Association** shall be observed.
23. The Club may operate a **bar** on the Club premises:
 - (a) There shall be a **Bar Sub-Committee**. The Sub-Committee shall consist of *three* members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year and the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Club, all of whom shall be over the age of eighteen years. *Three* members of the Sub-Committee shall form a quorum. The Sub-Committee shall be concerned with the purchase for the Club and with the supply by the Club of alcohol;
 - (b) There may be admitted to the Club premises (except at such times as the Committee may direct) and there may be sales of alcohol for consumption on the Club premises to:
 - i) the guests of members (maximum three per member). Any member introducing a guest, and the guest, must sign in the book provided for that purpose. No member shall leave the Club premises before his or her guest;
 - ii) members of teams playing or practising on the Club premises and their guests and officials and their guests;
 - iii) players and officials in the Club's tournaments and their guests.
 - (c) Alcohol may not be supplied to members or guests on the premises otherwise than by or on behalf of the club;
 - (d) No member may receive any commission, percentage or similar payment at the expense of the club with reference to purchase or sale of alcohol by the club;
 - (e) The permitted hours shall be displayed in the bar;

- (f) No person under the age of eighteen years may sell or will be supplied with alcohol.
24. The Club shall be run on a **non-profit making basis**. Any surplus income, gains or assets shall be reinvested in the Club and may not be distributed to members or third parties.
25. If at any General Meeting, adequate notice having been given under Rules 17 or 18, a resolution for **the dissolution of the Club** is passed by a majority of members present, and such resolution is subsequently confirmed at a Special General Meeting by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Full members present, the Committee shall thereupon proceed to realise the property of the Club and discharge all the Club's debts and liabilities. Any balance remaining after such discharge shall not be paid to or distributed amongst members but shall be remitted as donations equally to the governing bodies to which the Club is affiliated under Rule 22.

FF/amended after September 14th 2021 AGM