

AMESBURY BOWLS CLUB  
A COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB  
Reg No: 04597

**CLUB CONSTITUTION**

*AMENDED June 2021*

**1. The Club will be called “AMESBURY BOWLS CLUB”**

Hereafter to be referred to as "the Club" and shall be affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Wiltshire, or their successors and to other Bowling Associations as the General Committee shall decide.

**2. OBJECT**

To foster, develop and promote the game of Lawn Bowls at all levels, providing all members of the Community an opportunity to enjoy the sport and to develop individual skills in competitive and recreational bowls. The club shall adopt and conform to Bowls England Rules and Regulations and the Crystal Laws of the Sport of Bowls

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs.

The Club may have different categories of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will decide upon subscription levels, which will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. However, the number of members may be limited in recognition of the available facilities provided by the Club; if such an event should occur, the limitation would be on a non-discriminatory basis.

The Club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members.

The Club membership will consist of:

**3.1 Full Members**

Shall be playing members over the age of 18.3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to any person who completes a membership application form and pays the relevant subscription /joining fee as determined by the Club, subject to Clause 3 (above).

**3.2 Honorary Life Members**

Honorary Life Membership may be confirmed on a Full or Social Member of the Club by an 80% majority vote at a General Meeting. Nominations for consideration must be given in writing to the Secretary 28 days prior to the General Meeting.

**3.3 Junior Members**

Shall be classified as any young player up to and including 18 years of age or in full time education at the start of the season that is as of 1st April of that year. Junior members will be entitled to the same playing privileges as that of a Full Member.

**3.4 Social Members**

The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint any person a Social Member and shall be limited to such numbers as the Management Committee shall decide in the best interests of the Club.

A social member is some-one wishing to partake in and use the social facilities of the Club and opting NOT to use the green under any circumstances. However, the one exception to this is where a full member wishes to take a year or two out as a result of health or employment and joins as a Social member. Under these circumstances they may roll-up for up to four times per year as detailed for guests.

Social Members of Amesbury Bowls Club who are bowling members of another affiliated club may at the discretion of the selection committee be invited to play on occasions in a friendly match for the club.

### **3.5 Temporary Members**

All members of visiting teams or visiting opponents in matches shall automatically become Temporary Members of the Club for the day of their visit only, due notice of which shall be posted on the Club Notice Board. The Management Committee is empowered to elect other Temporary Members on payment of the appropriate fee subject to a proposer and seconder.

## **4. LIST OF MEMBERS**

The Management Committee shall keep for reference, on the Club premises, a list of members and their addresses as required under the Licensing Laws. Every member shall within fourteen days give to the Secretary notice of any change of address.

## **5. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS**

The nominated officers of the Management Committee, in an interview with the prospective new member will explain the objects and policy of the Club and ascertain the prospective member's attitude and intentions as a member. The Officers will take note of any objections received from members and will inform the prospective member whether the application is approved or not. The Secretary will confirm the decision in writing.

## **6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A member shall cease to be a member if he/she resigns by giving their notice in writing; or if he/she is requested to resign by a resolution of the General Committee; or if his/her annual subscription remains unpaid by the due date. At such time any properties belonging to the club shall be returned.

## **7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The annual subscription will be recommended by the Management Committee prior to the Autumn General Meeting and will be ratified by the members present.

The subscriptions will be as follows:

- (a) Full Members the full amount as set by the Autumn General Meeting.
- (b) Full Members who are 80 years of age or over, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, will subscribe a percentage of the full subscription in (a) above; such a percentage to be set down by the Management Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting as prescribed in Clause 8.1(iii)
- (c) Junior Members up to and including 18 years of age, on 1<sup>st</sup> of April, be free for the first year of membership and then set at the discretion of the Management Committee prior to the Autumn General Meeting.

(d) Social Members fees set at the discretion of the Management Committee.

## **8. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of October in each year, on a date fixed by the Management Committee, twenty-one clear days written notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to Members. Members must advise the Secretary in writing of any business to be considered at the Annual General Meeting at least 14 days before a meeting. The Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than 14 days before the meeting by circulating a copy of the notice to every member and posting it on the Notice Board.

### **8.1 The business of the A.G.M. shall be to: -**

- i. Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.
- ii. Receive a summary of the accounts for the current year, to date, from the Treasurer.
- iii. Decide the subscription rates and other fees for the forthcoming year.
- iv. Receive the annual report from the Secretary.
- v. Elect accounts examiners.
- vi. Elect the Officers, Committee Members and Delegates of the Club as prescribed under Clause 8.2 referred to as "The Officers". In addition, four Full Members shall also be elected to complete the composition of the Management Committee.
- vii. Transact such other business received in writing by the Secretary from Members 14 days prior to the meeting and which is itemised on the agenda.

### **8.2 Election of Officers**

All Officers, Members of sub-committees and delegates to outside organisations shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, from, and by, all members entitled to vote.

All Officers shall be elected for a period of one year, with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected for a period of three years. Retiring Officers may be re-elected to the same office or another office in the following year.

Nomination of candidates for election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date.

Only lady members will be entitled to elect the Lady Captain and other gender specific positions and only men entitled to elect the Men's Captain and other gender specific positions.

Election of the Management Committee will be undertaken by a ballot.

Proxy votes will be accepted and counted in the ballot. Eligible members will only be permitted to use a proxy vote where they have provided their apologies (for absence) to the Club secretary, prior to the A.G.M.

The President of the Club or the Vice-President in their absence will have the entitlement of a second and casting vote, which can be applied in all voting at either the A.G.M. or General and Special Meetings.

## **9. GENERAL & SPECIAL MEETINGS**

A General Meeting shall be held in March or April on a date to be fixed by the Management Committee to transact business of the Club and to receive the accounts of the Club made up to 31st December.

The Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting in the following circumstances:

- (a) Upon the direction of the Management Committee.
- (b) At the request, signed by one fifth of the members, stating the special objectives thereof. (No business other than that for which the meeting is specifically called shall be brought before a Special General Meeting).
- (c) At least 21 days' notice of the meeting shall be given.
- (d) In the event of the dissolution of the Club, as provided in Clause 17.

### **9.1 A Quorum**

25% of eligible members will form a quorum for General and Special Meetings.

50% of eligible members will form a quorum for all Committee Meetings

At all AGM's, General and/or Special Meetings the Chair will be taken by the President or Vice President or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Management Committee.

## **10. VOTING AT MEETINGS**

Decisions made at an A.G.M. General or Special Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes cast by those members attending the meeting and entitled to vote. In the event of equal votes, the President shall be entitled to a second and casting vote.

Where voting is by ballot, a returning officer will be appointed prior to the voting to adjudicate the ballot and to notify the Chairman of the result of the ballot accordingly.

Voting rights are restricted to Full and Honorary Life Members and will be undertaken with recognition of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The rights and privileges of a member shall not be transferable.

## **11. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Management Committee shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Fixture Secretary, Greenkeeper, Ladies and Gentlemen's Captains (The Officers), and four Full Members all of whom shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

They shall control the management of the Club, have the power to control or dismiss any servant of the Club, and purchase such articles, as they deem necessary.

The President as Chairman, and in his absence, the Vice President, shall have the casting vote.

Any vacancy caused by resignation or otherwise, may be filled by the Committee who have the power to co-opt.

Notwithstanding the provision of Clause 11, The Management Committee may co-opt an additional Full Member onto the Committee in a non-officer capacity, where deemed necessary or appropriate, as determined by the aforesaid Management Committee.

### **11.1. Bye - Laws**

The Management Committee shall have the power to make such bye - laws, as they consider necessary, providing that no such bye - law conflicts with any of the Club Rules.

The bye - laws will be displayed on the Club Notice Board and shall be deemed passed for inclusion in the rules in the next General Meeting.

## **12. GREEN COMMITTEE**

A Green Committee shall be appointed by the Management Committee at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. It shall be chaired by the President, or a member nominated by the President and approved by the Management Committee, plus five other members.

It shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Green and its surroundings. The Green Committee shall make recommendations to the Management Committee for all expenditure.

The Chairman may, if he or she wishes, appoint one of the members of the Green Committee to be the Green Keeper.

The composition of the Green Committee shall be displayed on the Club Notice Board before the Spring Meeting.

## **13. BOWLS COMMITTEE(S)**

The Men's Committee shall be comprised of: Captain, Vice-Captain, Men's Secretary, Bowls Wiltshire Representative, S&D Representative, plus three Full Members.

The Ladies Committee shall be comprised of: Captain, Vice-Captain, Secretary, plus three Full Members.

Members of both Committees shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. From these Committees Selection Committees shall be formed.

## **14. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **14.1 Loans**

If on any occasion it is decided by the Management Committee that it is necessary to raise a loan, the details must be presented to the Trustees for their consideration and full approval.

### **14.2 Audit of Accounts**

Two scrutineers shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, and they shall audit the accounts presented to them by the Treasurer.

### **14.3 Non-profit Making**

All surplus income or profits are re-invested in the Club. No surpluses or profits will be distributed to members or third parties.

## **15. INDEMNITY CLAUSE**

Each member of the Club shall (to the extent that such person is not entitled to recover under any policy of insurance) be entitled to be indemnified out of all funds available to the Club which may lawfully be so applied against all costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever reasonably incurred by such person in the proper execution and discharge of duties undertaken on behalf of the Club arising there from, or incurred in good faith in the purported discharge of such duties, save in any such case where any such costs, expenses and liabilities arise in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust.

## **16. TRUSTEES**

Four members of the Club shall be Trustees in who all funds of the Club shall be vested. The Trustees shall be appointed at a General or Special Meeting, but no Trustee shall be

either the Secretary or the Treasurer of the Club. The Trustees shall be Full or Life Members of Amesbury Bowls Club with a minimum of three years membership but shall relinquish office if they become bankrupt or of unsound mind.

Any Trustee may be removed from office by a resolution passed by a majority of members present and voting at a General or Special Meeting. Unless so removed, every Trustee shall deal with funds and property of the Club vested in them as directed by resolution of a General or Special Meeting of which, an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence.

The Trustees of the Club shall not, without the sanction of a General Meeting of the Club, demise, underlet, exchange, sell or otherwise dispose of all or any parts of the lands, buildings, tenements or hereditaments of the Club, provided nevertheless, that no mortgagee or other person advancing money to the Club shall be concerned to see that any money is advanced to him or her is wanted for any purpose of the Club, or that no more than is wanted is raised or borrowed.

Any Trustee shall be indemnified out of Club property against risk and expense, except for such funds of the Club as may actually be received by him or her.

Trustee's names shall be displayed on the Club's general notice board.

Any casual or temporary vacancies arising among the Trustees of the Club will be filled by the General Committee.

The Trustees shall be entitled to attend all Committee meetings of the Bowls Club but shall not be entitled to vote unless he/she is an elected member of that committee.

## **17. DISSOLUTION**

If at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution were passed for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the Management Committee shall, thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realize the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets will not be distributed amongst the Full Members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary Organisation having objects similar to those of the Club, the sport's governing body or a registered charity.

## **18. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Any proposed alterations to the Club's Constitution and Rules may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal.

Any alteration or amendment must be duly proposed and seconded. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of those Members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.