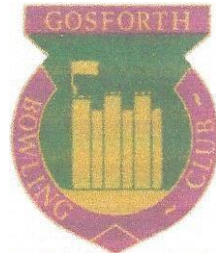


GOSFORTH BOWLING CLUB



Constitution

November 2023

Contents

Contents	2
Section 1: Name and Objectives.....	3
Section 2: Officers of the Club	4
Section 3: Membership.....	5
Section 4: Management Committee	9
Section 5: Trustees	12
Section 6: Annual General Meeting.....	13
Section 7: Dissolution of the Club	14
Section 8: Property and Funds	15
Section 9: Miscellaneous	16
Gosforth Bowling Club Bye-laws.....	19

Section 1: Name and Objectives

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be Gosforth Bowling Club (hereinafter referred to within this constitution as the 'Club').
- 1.2 The Club shall be affiliated to Bowls England and Bowls Northumberland
- 1.3 The objectives of the Club are to provide facilities for, and to promote participation in, the amateur sport of outdoor flat green bowls in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 1.4 The Club shall adopt and conform to Bowls England Rules & Regulations and the current Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

Section 2: Officers of the Club

- 2.1 The Officers of the Club shall be Full Members of the Club and shall consist of the President, Ladies Captain, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary, **Honorary Ladies Secretary**, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Green Ranger, Honorary Bar Manager, Honorary Assistant Secretary and Honorary Assistant Treasurer. Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for the period of election, retiring at the end of the period of election. All Officers of the Club shall be eligible for re-election to the same office or another office at the end of their current period of election.

Section 3: Membership

3.1 Categories and votes of Membership

3.1.1 There shall be the following categories of membership with power to vote at all relevant meetings of the Club as indicated hereunder.

- (a) A FULL MEMBER – being a person who, at the date of election, shall have attained the age of eighteen years shall have one vote.
- (b) A JUNIOR MEMBER – being a person who, at the date of election, is under the age of eighteen shall have no vote.
- (c) AN HONORARY or LIFE MEMBER – who shall have one vote.
- (d) A SOCIAL MEMBER – who shall have no vote.

3.2 Rights and privileges of members

3.2.1 The rights and privileges of each category of membership shall be as follows:-

- (a) A FULL MEMBER shall have the full use of all Club facilities. Affiliation Fees shall be payable to Bowls Northumberland and Bowls England.
- (b) A JUNIOR MEMBER shall have the full use of all Club facilities subject only to 9.4 of this Constitution. Affiliation Fees shall be payable to Bowls Northumberland and Bowls England.
- (c) AN HONORARY or LIFE MEMBER shall have the full use of all the Club facilities. Affiliation Fees shall be payable by the Club to Bowls Northumberland and Bowls England providing the said member is an active bowling member.
- (d) A SOCIAL MEMBER shall have the full use of the Club-house facilities.

3.2.2 Candidates for membership shall have no privileges whatsoever in relation to the use of the Club or premises until they have become a member.

3.3 Membership Joining Fee & Subscription Fee

3.3.1 The rate of Joining Fee (if any) and Subscription Fee for each category of Membership shall be proposed by the Committee to the members at the Annual General Meeting in each year. Any proposed changes shall be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote and shall become operative from **1st April**. The current rate of Joining Fee (if any) and Subscription Fee shall be prominently displayed in the Club premises.

- (a) 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.

- (b) Membership subscriptions will be kept at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
- (c) The Club Committee may refuse membership or 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. If consideration of removal of membership is as a result of a disciplinary issue, the procedure to be adopted shall be that as set out at point 3.6.2 of this Constitution.

3.3.2 All members shall pay the Joining Fee (if applicable) and their first annual subscription fee upon election to the Club and thereafter by 1st April.

3.4 Members' duty to provide contact details

3.4.1 Every member shall furnish the Honorary Secretary with up-to-date contact details that shall be recorded in the Register of Members and any notice sent to such address/es either by post or electronically shall be deemed to have been duly delivered.

3.5 Election and retirement of members

3.5.1 Application for membership

Applications for membership shall be made on the prescribed form supplied by the Honorary Secretary which shall be completed by the applicant.

3.5.2 Election of Members

(a) Upon receipt of an application for membership. The Club or Membership Secretary will immediately circulate the application to the Committee, and provided there is no objection to the applicant, approve the application with 5 days and inform the applicant accordingly.

(b) The election of all classes of members is vested in the Committee. If there is objection to an application the matter will be referred to a committee meeting to consider. Final acceptance or non-election shall be by a simple majority vote of the Committee. The Committee may refuse applications only for good cause such as conduct likely to bring the Club into disrepute. The Club or Membership Secretary shall inform each candidate in writing of the candidate's election or non-election. The Club or Membership

Secretary shall furnish an elected candidate with a copy of the Rules and Byelaws of the Club and make request for such payments as are necessary.

3.5.3 Payment of Fees upon Election

- (a) Upon election, a candidate shall pay immediately fees as shall be requested. In default of such payment, the election shall be void unless sufficient cause for delay be shown.

3.5.4 Retirement of a member

- (a) A member wishing to resign their membership shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary before 1st May and shall not then be liable to pay the subscription for the following year.
- (b) A member who retires in accordance with this Rule shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee or any other fees refunded.

3.5.5 Arrears of Subscription

- (a) The Committee may cancel, without notice being given, the membership of any member whose annual subscription and other annual fees are more than one month in arrears provided that the Committee may, at its absolute discretion, re-instate such member upon payment of arrears. No member whose annual payment is in arrears may use the Club premises or vote at any meeting.

3.6 Conduct of Members

3.6.1 Under-taking by members to comply with rules

- (a) Every member, upon election and thereafter, is deemed to have notice of, and undertakes to comply with, the Club Rules and any Byelaws and Regulations of the Club.

3.6.2 Disciplinary action against members

- (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.

3.6.3 Complaints

- (a) Complaints of any nature shall be addressed in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

3.6.4 Members of other Bowls England Affiliated Clubs

- (a) A member of any Club affiliated to Bowls England (a list whereof is published by Bowls England annually) may be authorised to use the premises of the Club.

3.7 Limitation of Club liability

3.7.1 All references to the Club in this Section shall mean each and every individual member of the Club from time to time.

3.7.2 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, Trustees or Servants of the Club.”

3.7.3 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.

3.8 Limitation of Club playing membership

3.8.1 Playing membership shall not exceed 150 Members, exclusive of Honorary Members and Life Members unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Committee decides that a temporary increase in these numbers is warranted in the general interest of the club.

Section 4: Management Committee

4.1 Composition of Committee

- 4.1.1 The Officers as listed in 2.1 and five elected members.
- 4.1.2 Candidates for election to the Committee shall be those members of the retiring Committee eligible to offer themselves for re-election and such other full members whose nominations (duly proposed and seconded in writing by Full members of the Club) with their consent shall have been received by the Honorary Secretary at least twenty eight days before the date of the Annual General Meeting in each year. Such nominations, together with the names of the Proposer and Seconded shall be posted to the Club premises at least fourteen days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.1.3 If the number of candidates for election is greater than the number of vacancies to be filled then there shall be a ballot of those members present and entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.1.4 If the number of candidates for election is equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled then all candidates shall be deemed to be elected if majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting, and entitled to vote, vote in favour of such election.
- 4.1.5 In the event of the ballot failing to determine the members of the Committee because of an equality of votes the candidate or candidates to be elected from those having an equal number of votes shall be determined by lot or previously nominated person.
- 4.1.6 If, for any reason, a casual vacancy shall occur, the Committee may co-opt another person to fill such a vacancy until the next following Annual General Meeting. Co-opted Members will be entitled to vote.
- 4.1.7 To be elected to be an officer of the club, or to be considered for election to the MC that person must have been a member of GBC for a minimum of 2 years.

4.2 Committee Meetings

- 4.2.1 The Committee shall endeavour to meet monthly making such arrangements as to the conduct, place of assembly and holding of such meetings as it may wish.

- 4.2.2 Voting shall be by show of hands. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman (or other nominated person) shall be entitled to a second and casting vote.
 - 4.2.3 Five members personally present shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Committee.
 - 4.2.4 Any conflict of interest must be declared to the Chairman (or other nominated person) prior to the start of the meeting. The Chairman (or other nominated person) will determine if the person may remain in the meeting and/or vote when the item is discussed.
- 4.3 Powers of the Committee
- 4.3.1 The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club according to the Rules and shall cause the funds of the Club to be applied solely to the objects of the Club.
 - 4.3.2 In particular the Committee shall ensure that the property and funds of the Club will not be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of Members other than as reasonably allowed by the Rules. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties and all surplus income or profits will be re-invested in the Club.
 - 4.3.3 The nomination of Directors to the Gosforth Recreation Company Limited shall be vested in the Committee.
 - 4.3.4 The Committee shall have power to elect Honorary Members, and, subject to confirmation by the Members in a General Meeting, Life Members.
 - 4.3.5 The Committee shall have power to grant monthly and weekly membership tickets to Visitors introduced by Members and shall determine the charges to be made for these. Members may also introduce occasional Visitors, but they may not be introduced more than three times in any season. The names of the Visitors and of the Members introducing them shall be entered in the Visitors' Book.
- 4.4 Appointment of Sub-Committees
- 4.4.1 The Committee may appoint such sub-committees as it may deem necessary and may delegate such of its powers as it may think fit upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed expedient and/or required by the law.
- 4.5 Disclosure of Interest to Third Parties

- 4.5.1 A member of the Committee, of a sub-committee or any member of the Club, in transacting business for the Club, shall disclose to third parties that they are so acting.
- 4.6 Limitation of Committee's authority
 - 4.6.1 The Committee, or any person or sub-committee delegated by the Committee to act as agent for the Club or its members, shall enter into contracts only as far as expressly authorised, or authorised by implication, by the Committee. No one shall, without the express authority of the Committee, borrow money or incur debts on behalf of the Club or its membership.
- 4.7 Members' indemnification of Committee
 - 4.7.1 In pursuance of the authority vested in the Committee by members of the Club, members of the Committee are entitled to be indemnified by the members of the Club against any liabilities properly incurred by them or any one of them on behalf of the Club wherever the contract is of a duly authorised nature or could be assumed to be of a duly authorised nature and entered into on behalf of the Club.
- 4.8 Nomination of Honorary or Life Members by Committee
 - 4.8.1 The Committee may nominate for election at an Annual General Meeting such Honorary or Life Members as the Committee may think fit.
 - 4.8.2 The election of Honorary or Life Members shall be placed before the Annual General Meeting each year and such Honorary or Life Members shall be duly elected if two thirds of those present, and entitled to vote, vote in favour of election.

Section 5: Trustees of Gosforth Bowling Club

- 5.1 There shall be at least three Trustees of the Club who shall be appointed from time to time as necessary by the Committee of the Club from among Full or Honorary Members who are willing to be so appointed.
- 5.2 A Trustee shall hold office for a maximum term of 5 years, or until they resign by notice in writing given to the Committee or until a resolution removing them from office be passed at a meeting of the Committee by a majority comprising two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.
- 5.3 All the property of the Club, including land and investments, shall be held by the Trustees for the time being, in their own names so far as it is necessary and practicable, on trust for the use and benefit of the Club. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal from office of a Trustee, the Committee shall nominate a new Trustee in their place, and shall as soon as possible thereafter take all lawful and practicable steps to procure the vesting of all Club property into the names of the Trustees as constituted after such nomination. For the purpose of giving effect to any such nomination, the Honorary Secretary for the time being 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 they shall by Deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee.
- 5.4 The Trustees shall in all respects act, in regard to any property of the Club held by them, in accordance with the directions of the Committee and shall have power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any Club property so held for the purpose of raising or borrowing money for the benefit of the Club in compliance with the Committee's directions (which shall be duly recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings of the Committee) but no purchaser, lessee or mortgagee shall be concerned to enquire whether any such direction has been given.
- 5.5 The Trustees shall be effectually indemnified by the members of the Club out of the assets of the Club from and against any liability, costs, expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in the exercise of their duties or relation to any property of the Club vested in them, or in relation to any legal proceedings, or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of a Trustee of the Club.

Section 6: Annual General Meeting

- 6.1 An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year in the month of November on a date to be fixed by the Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall at least fourteen days before the date of such meeting circulate to each member notice hereof and of the business to be brought forward thereat. This may be either by post or electronically.
- 6.2 No business, except the passing of the Accounts and the election of the Officers, Committee and Honorary Auditors, and any business that the Committee may order to be inserted in the notice convening the meeting shall be discussed at such meeting unless notice thereof be given in writing by a member entitled to vote to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 The Committee may at any time, upon giving twenty one days notice in writing, call a Special General Meeting of the Club for any special business, the nature of which shall be stated in the summons convening the meeting, and the discussion at such meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.
- 6.4 A Special General Meeting may also be called on a written request addressed to the Honorary Secretary signed by at least twelve members. The Committee shall meet within fourteen days of the request in order to call a Special General Meeting. The Committee shall give twenty one days notice in writing of any such Special General Meeting. The discussion at such meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.
- 6.5 At every meeting of the Club the President will preside, or in their absence, the Vice-President or in their absence a Chair elected by a majority of those present shall preside.
- 6.6 Twenty members entitled to vote at the relevant meeting and personally present shall form a quorum at any General Meeting of the Club.
- 6.7 Only Full Members or Honorary or Life Members shall vote at any General Meeting of the Club. Other members may attend and speak but are not entitled to vote.
- 6.8 Voting, except upon the election of members of the Committee, shall be by show of hands.
- 6.9 In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman (or other nominated person) shall have a second or casting vote, on any matter.
- 6.10 On any resolution properly put to a meeting of the Club relating to the creation, repeal or amendment of any Rule, Byelaw or Regulation of the Club such Rule, Byelaw or Regulation shall not be created, repealed or amended except by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

Section 7: Dissolution of the Club

- 7.1 If, at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 7.2 If, at that Extraordinary 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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.

Section 8: Property and Funds

- 8.1 The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of members other than as reasonably allowed by the Rules and all surplus income or profits are reinvested in the club.
- 8.2 The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, sporting equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, away-match expenses, post match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.
- 8.3 The Club may also in connection with the sports purposes of the Club:
 - (i) sell and supply food, drink and related sports clothing and equipment;
 - (ii) employ members (though not for playing) and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Committee without the person concerned being present;
 - (iii) pay for reasonable hospitality for visiting teams and guests.

Section 9: Miscellaneous

- 9.1 **Opening of Club Premises**
The Club premises shall be open to members at such times as the Committee shall direct and those times will be posted on the club notice board.
- 9.2 **Safeguarding**
The club shall adhere to the Safeguarding Policy of Bowls England and will ensure that all the contents are communicated to members and clearly displayed within the club premises for members and visitors.
- 9.3 **Equalities**
The club shall adhere to the Equality Policy of Bowls England.
- 9.4 **Licensing**
The club shall adhere to the requirements of the Licensing Act (or any subsequent Act) with regard to the purchase and supply of excisable goods.
- 9.5 **Data Protection**
The club shall adhere to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) with regard to holding and using members' data.
- 9.6 **The members acknowledge this document constitutes a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.**

GOSFORTH BOWLING CLUB BYE-LAWS

1. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Applications in excess of the numbers permitted by clause 3.8 of the Constitution may be considered by the Committee, and the names of the successful candidates shall be placed on a waiting list. Should a candidate defer entry, when offered membership, he/she will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list for a future vacancy. The applicant will be notified of this when the decision is made.

(b) The subscription for new members admitted after 1st August may be on reduced terms at the discretion of the Committee.

(c) A copy of the Constitution and Bye-Laws will be supplied to all Members.

2. USE OF THE GREEN

(a) The opening and closing dates for the Green shall normally be the last Saturday in April and the last Saturday in September, respectively but may vary at the discretion of the MC.

(b) On a limited number of occasions each season the Green will be made available for special competitions and matches as approved by the Committee, and will be closed to Members for play.

(c) The day shall be split into four sessions:—

Morning	10.00 am to 2.00 p.m.
Early Afternoon	2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Late Afternoon	4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Evening	6.00 p.m. to dusk

(i) Morning

Monday, Wednesday and Friday - closed for maintenance by the Green Contractor.

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday - open for competitions, and casual or free play.

(ii) Early Afternoon

Monday to Friday inclusive - open for competitions and casual play. If required, the final of the Ladies' Championship and the final of the Mixed Pairs Competition can be played.

Saturday - mixed jumbles.

Sunday - open for competitions and/or free play

(iii) Late Afternoon

Sunday to Friday inclusive - open for competitions and/or for free play.

Saturday - continuation of mixed jumbles.

(iv) Evening

Monday to Friday inclusive - open for competitions and/or casual play and mixed competitions.

Saturday and Sunday - open for free play.

(d) Ordinary games shall not exceed twelve ends when all rinks are fully occupied and other Members are waiting to play.

(e) Rinks may be occasionally reserved by Members by inserting an entry into the Rink Book beforehand.

(f) All games shall be played under the Rules and Regulations of Bowls England.

N.B. Casual Play indicates the Club traditional methods of 'drawing discs' in the weekday morning and early afternoon sessions, and of 'making up' in order of arrival in the evening sessions.

Free Play indicates the Members are free to make their own arrangements.

3. COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES ETC.

(a) Members are not eligible to participate in Club Matches or Competitions until their subscriptions have been fully paid.

(b) Club Matches take priority over all other arrangements, rinks not used in a Club Match may be occupied by Members for casual play.

(c) Match-playing members of other bowling clubs shall not normally be eligible to represent the Club in matches.

(d) Rinks reserved for competitions in the Home Fixture Diary (Rink Book) must indicate the date and time the entry is made.

(e) The Home Fixture Diary shall indicate the rinks required by the Club for Matches and special Competitions, and the dates of all the rounds of the County Competitions.

(f) With one exception, no more than four rinks may be reserved during the evening sessions for Club or other competition play, the one exception being when more than four rinks are required on any one evening for County Competitions.

(g) There is a limit of two rinks which may be reserved for competitions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and early afternoon sessions from Monday to Friday. Four at all other times with the exception referred to in Bye-law 3(f).

(h) The Committee will be responsible for deciding the number of ends or shots for all Club Competitions and shall review these decisions each year.

(i) The Committee will be responsible for organising individual club competitions for Men, Women and also for mixed play.

4. CONDUCT AND DRESS

- a) All players shall provide themselves with bowls and regulation footwear.
- b) All players shall wear white above the waist and grey trousers/skirts for club and league competitions except for when the competition rules allow, officially approved coloured shirts.

On Saturday afternoons and when engaged in friendlies, members shall wear white above the waist and grey trousers/skirt (except when white below the waist is also specified) In all cases regulation footwear shall be worn. Male members may also be required to wear in addition an approved blazer (navy blue or black) and club tie or an approved jacket with club or county badges.

- c) For roll-ups, casual play and Jumbles players may wear "smart casual wear (no jeans) and this includes tailored shorts.

(e) Dogs shall not be allowed in the Club grounds unless on a leash, and no dogs apart from Guide Dogs are allowed in the Clubhouse.