

GORE COURT CRICKET CLUB CONSTITUTION

(revised at AGM on 30th March 2009)

- 1 **Name**
The Club is called Gore Court Cricket Club
- 2 **Objects**
 - 2.1 The encouragement and provision of cricket, tennis, hockey, squash and rugby and such other sports and activities as the Club in General Meeting shall decide
 - 2.2 The provision and maintenance of Club premises at The Grove, Key Street, Sittingbourne Kent and such other premises as the Club may from time to time acquire
 - 2.3 The provision of other advantages and benefits usually associated with a Club
- 3 **Eligibility for Membership**
 - 3.1 Full Membership may be applied for by any person over the age of 18 regardless of race, religion etc in line with the Club's equity rule
 - 3.2 Children below the age of 18 may be elected as junior Members without the right to hold office in the Club or to vote at General Meeting of the Club, regardless of race, religion etc in line with the Club's equity policy. Juniors may hold office within their specific sport Section if so required by that sport
- 4 **Admission of Member**
 - 4.1 A person will be accepted for Membership upon payment of the current subscription for the relevant category of Membership in line with sport equity policies adopted by each individual sport, i.e. cricket, tennis, hockey and rugby
 - 4.2 Each new Member must communicate in writing, to the Subscription Secretary, their full name, postal address and e-mail address.
 - 4.3 Until an applicant for Membership has paid the initial subscription he or she is not entitled to any of the privileges of the Club
- 5 **Entry to Membership**

When the Subscription Secretary has received a new Member's full name, postal address and e-mail address a copy of the current Rules will be forwarded to the Member.
- 6 **Resignation of Membership**
 - 6.1 Any Member may resign his Membership by giving to the Subscription Secretary written notice of his intention to do so
 - 6.2 Any person ceasing to be a Member forfeits all rights to and claim upon the Club, its property and its funds and has no right to the return of any part of his subscription
- 7 **Subscriptions**
 - 7.1 The annual subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the Club and shall be published in the current Fixture Card of each section
 - 7.2 All subscriptions must be paid by the 1st June of each year with the exception that hockey and rugby only subscriptions must be paid by 1st November each year
 - 7.3 Any subscriptions unpaid by the due date shall be subject to such surcharge as shall have been determined at the previous Annual General Meeting
- 8 **Subscriptions in arrears**
 - 8.1 If any Member fails to pay his annual subscription on or before two months after it becomes due, notice shall be posted in the Club as a defaulter
 - 8.2 If the Member does not pay the amount within 14 days from the posting of that notice, he shall not become eligible for team selection

8.3 If at any time the Member gives the Committee a satisfactory explanation, he may, in the discretion of the Committee and on payment of arrears, be readmitted to Membership

9 **Vice Presidents**

9.1 The Committee may invite any person in recognition of his services to the Club to be an Honorary Vice President

9.2 Members may send to the Secretary names of people suggested for invitation

9.3 Honorary Vice Presidents are not required to pay any subscription but are entitled to all the benefits and privileges of Membership except that they are not qualified to be officers of the Committee or to vote as Members or to claim any share of the property of the Club on its dissolution unless they have elected to pay the relevant subscription

10 **Management**

10.1 The management of the Club must be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer ('the Officers') elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and one representative from each of the sections namely Cricket, Tennis, Men's Hockey, Ladies Hockey and Rugby

10.2 Nominations for the posts of Officers and representatives of the sections must be given to the Honorary Secretary not less than 28 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting

10.3 All the Members of the Committee are eligible for re-election

10.4 The Committee must meet at least once in every month to examine accounts and arrange the affairs of the Club

10.5 At all meetings of the Committee 5 forms a quorum

10.6 A list of the Committee Members from time to time shall be clearly displayed in the Clubhouse

10.7 Each section of the club will have its own Committee and Constitution without variation to the Club rules but allowing development of each section as is necessary within the Club's policies

11 **Purchase and supply of liquor**

11.1 Purchase for the Club and supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor must be in the absolute discretion of a sub-Committee of not less than 2 Members being Members of the Committee appointed for the purpose

11.2 If any Member for any reason ceases to be a Member of the Committee he automatically ceases to be a Member of the Sub Committee and another Member of the Committee must be appointed in his place

11.3 The Sub Committee must not in any way be restricted in freedom of purchase

12 **Casual Vacancies**

12.1 The Committee may at any time and from time to time fill any casual vacancy among the officers and the Committee

12.2 Any Officer or Member of the Committee so appointed holds office only until the next following Annual General Meeting but is then eligible for re-election

13 **President**

13.1 The President of the Club must be elected by the Members in General Meeting

13.2 The President holds office for a term of 3 years or until resignation or until the President ceases to be a Member of the Club, or unless he is removed by a resolution of the Members in General Meeting

- 14 **Trustees**
- 14.1 The property of the Club must be vested in not more than 4 but not less than 2 Trustees appointed by the Committee
- 14.2 The Trustees must deal with the property as the Committee from time to time directs by Resolution of which an entry in the Minute Book is to be conclusive evidence
- 14.3 The Trustees must be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property
- 14.4 The Trustees will hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Committee
- 14.5 When by reason of death, resignation or removal it is necessary for a new Trustee or Trustees to be appointed the Committee must nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees
- 14.6 For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President is now nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925 Section 36 and he must by Deed appoint the person or persons nominated by the Committee
- 15 **Sub-Committees**
- 15.1 The Committee may from time to time as it considers necessary or expedient appoint sub-Committees from among the Members of the Club and may depute or refer to them any of its powers and duties
- 15.2 The sub-Committees must periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and must conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee
- 15.3 If any Member of a Sub Committee ceases to be Member of the Club he automatically ceases to be a Member of the Sub Committee and another elected Member must be appointed in his place
- 16 **Annual General Meeting**
- 16.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club must be held in March in each year on a date and at a time to be fixed by the Committee
- 16.2 The Annual General Meeting must
- Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
 - Receive from the Committee a report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year
 - Elect the Committee
 - Decide on any resolution duly submitted to the meeting as provided below
- 16.3 A copy of the report, balance sheet and statement of accounts must be sent to the Members at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting
- 16.4 Every third year the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts must be audited by an independent external body
- 17 **Members Resolutions**
- Any Member who wishes to move a resolution at the Annual General Meeting must give written notice of the resolution to the Honorary Secretary not later than 28 days preceding the Meeting
- 18 **Special General Meetings**
- The Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time for any purpose and it must do so immediately upon the requisition in writing of any 10 Members of the Club stating the purpose for which the Meeting is required

- 19 **Notice of General meetings**
- 19.1 The Secretary must send Notice of the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting and of the business to be transacted at the Meeting to every Member and must post it prominently in the Club House at least 21 days before the Meeting
- 19.2 No business may be brought forward at the General Meeting other than that of which notice has been given
- 20 **Conduct of General Meetings**
- 20.1 At all General Meetings the President or in his absence a Member selected by the Meeting must take the chair
- 20.2 Every Member present over the age of 18 years has one vote at all meetings of the Club and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the Meeting may have a casting vote
- 21 **Quorum**
- The quorums at all General Meetings are as follows:
- For motions proposing any repeal or amendment of the Club rules – 40 Members
 - For all other business – 20 Members
- 22 **Financial Year**
- The financial year of the Club ends on 30th September in each year to which day the accounts of the Club must be balanced
- 23 **Permitted Hours**
- The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor are the hours granted by Swale Borough Council pursuant to the Licensing Act 2003. The Committee shall set bar opening hours, within the permitted hours
- 24 **Commission**
- 24.1 No one may receive at any time at the expense of the Club or of any Member of the Club any commission percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club
- 24.2 No one may directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to Members or guests or others so entitled apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole and apart also from any benefit which a person derives indirectly by reason of the supply giving rise to or contributing to a general gain from the carrying on of the Club
- 25 **Profits or Emoluments and Fund Raising**
- 25.1 No Member may receive any profit or emoluments from the funds or transactions of the Club except for professional services rendered at the request of the Committee
- 25.2 Any Member or Members organising a social or fund raising event whether for the benefit of the Club in general or a Section in particular must pay the net proceeds thereof to the Honorary Treasurer and provide an income and expenditure account for the scrutiny of the Committee within 14 days of the event
- 26 **Visitors**
- All visitors' names and addresses must be entered in the Visitors Book kept behind the bar and signed in by the sponsoring Member. The same individual may not be introduced as a visitor more than 4 times per year. Sponsoring Members are responsible for the behaviour of their visitors on the Club premises. Visiting teams, their officials and supporters are permitted to enter the Club and use its facilities without being entered in the Visitors Book

- 27 **Gaming**
Save for the provision of gaming machines or other games or lotteries permitted by law and approved by the Committee the Clubhouse may not be used for gambling or the playing of any game of chance
- 28 **Amendment of Rules**
- 28.1 These Rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any General Meeting
- 28.2 A Resolution to alter the rules must be passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote who shall be in favour
- 28.3 Any reference in these Rules to ‘these Rules’ or ‘the Rules of the Club’ includes a reference to the Rules of the Club as altered from time to time in accordance with this rule
- 29 **Bye-laws and Regulations**
- 29.1 The Committee may from time to time make repeal and amend byelaws and regulations it thinks expedient for the internal management and well being of the Club and the use of its facilities
- 29.2 Bye-laws and Regulations must not be inconsistent with these Rules
- 29.3 All bye-laws and regulations are binding on the Members until repealed by the Committee or set aside by a Resolution of a General Meeting of the Club
- 30 **Facilities, competitions etc**
If in its absolute discretion it thinks proper the Committee may make arrangements for holding matches, tournaments and other like competitions and provide cups and prizes for such competitions
- 31 **Supply of Intoxicating Liquor**
- 31.1 Intoxicating liquor may be sold to non Members admitted to the Club premises under Rule 26 for consumption on the premises only
- 31.2 No one under the age of 18 whether or not a Member of the Club may be supplied with or consume intoxicating liquor on the Club premises save where full table meals are provided in an area set aside for the purpose in which event persons of age 16 to 18 may be so supplied
- 32 **Expulsion of Members**
- 32.1 If at any time the Committee consider that the interests of the Club require it they must invite a Member by letter to withdraw from the Club for period not exceeding 6 months specifying the time before which the withdrawal should be made
- 32.2 If the Member concerned does not withdraw the Committee must submit the question of his expulsion to a Special General Meeting to be held within 6 weeks after the date of the letter
- 32.3 Not less than 4 weeks notice of the Meeting must be given to Members
- 32.4 The Honorary Secretary must inform the Member in question of the time and place of the Meeting and the nature of the complaints against him in sufficient time to afford the Member a proper opportunity of offering his explanation
- 32.5 At the Meeting the Member must be allowed to offer an explanation of his conduct verbally and if after that two thirds of the Members present vote for his expulsion he will immediately cease to be a Member of the Club
- 32.6 The voting at any such Special General Meeting must be by ballot if not less than 5 Members present at that meeting so demand
- 32.7 The Committee may exclude from the Club until the Special General Meeting is held any Member whose withdrawal has been requested

- 33 **Borrowing**
- 33.1 If at any time the Club in General Meeting passes a resolution authorising the Committee to borrow money the Committee may then borrow for the purpose of the Club the amount of money either at one time or from time to time at the rate of interest in the form and manner and upon the security in the Resolution
- 33.2 The Trustees must at the discretion of the Committee make all dispositions of the Club property or any part of it and enter into any agreements in relation to it as the Committee deem proper for giving security for any loans and interest
- 33.3 Every Member of the Club whether voting on the Resolution or not and any one becoming a Member of the Club after the passing of the resolution is deemed to have assented to the resolution as if he or she had voted in favour of it
- 34 **Notices and Members Addresses**
- 34.1 Any notice these Rules require to be given or sent to a Member is deemed to have been duly given or sent on the next working day after it is e-mailed or alternatively sent pre paid post to the address of the Member appearing in the Club books
- 34.2 Every Member must immediately give to the Subscriptions Secretary written notice of any change in his or her postal address and e-mail address
- 35 **Interpretation of Rules**
- 35.1 The Committee is the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and the regulations made by it from time to time
- 35.2 The decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these rules or by the regulations is final and binding on the Members
- 36 **Dissolution**
- If at any General Meeting the resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a majority of Members present and entitled to vote, and if that resolution is confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of two thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting held not less than one month after that Meeting at which not less than one half of the Members entitled to vote are present, the Committee must immediately or at such future date as is specified in the resolution proceed to realise the property of the Club and after the discharge of all liabilities must
- (a) pass any share, commitment or monies in Gore Court (Westlands) Limited to Swale Borough Council
- (b) pass any other equipment, assets or funds donated by any external body to the local community for use within local community sport
- (c) divide the remainder equally among all the full Members and upon completion of the division of the Club will be dissolved
- 37 **Headings**
- The headings to these rules are for ease of reference only and are not to be taken into account in their interpretation
- 38 In these rules the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa