

## THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

### **Motions and Changes to the Constitution passed at the SGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, as amended by the AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016**

These were the motions and associated amendments to the constitution of the Croquet Association, which its Council proposed at which were passed at a Special General Meeting to be held at 11:15 am on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. Motion 1 required a simple majority, but motions 2 and 3 required changes to the constitution and hence a 60% majority of votes cast.

They were further amended by a motion passed at the 2016 AGM, which extended the new clause 11(a)(iii) by appending:

*The entitlement also applies to individual members of a School or University Member Club, subject to a maximum of 30 per club at any time.*

The following motions were proposed:

1. *That the approval required under clause 11(a)(ii) of the Constitution is given for the per-capita rate of club subscription to be successively raised, by up to £1 above the amount allowed by the rate of inflation, at the start of each of the five years 2016 to 2020, for all Member Clubs that have both a playing area not significantly less than 2 full sized lawns and no significant external restrictions on lawn availability from May to September.*

Subject to the success of motion 1:

2. *That the CA should expand its membership to include all players for whom a 'per capita' fee has been paid by their club, while allowing individuals to opt out of membership (but not the fee) if so desired. Membership to include full voting rights, eligibility to play in Calendar Fixtures, and direct access to the Gazette in a form to be decided. This requires the constitutional changes in Appendix A below.*

Subject to the success of motion 2:

3. *That separate voting rights for clubs be removed. This requires the constitutional changes in Appendix B below.*

### **A. Eligibility for Individual Membership of the Association through Membership of a Member Club**

Administrative systems will need to be developed to enable the change and clubs may need to seek consent from their members to share data, so to allow time for that the change to universal membership will take place when practical within that period.

Council therefore proposes:

*A1. that the following definition shall be added to the "GENERAL AND DEFINITIONS" section:*

*"Calendar Fixture     An event that appears in the Association's Fixtures Calendar"*

and that the following amendments shall take effect from a date, no later than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, to be specified by the Council:

*A2. that clause 3(a), which currently reads:*

“Applications for admission as an Individual Member, including the name, address and other contact details of the applicant and payment of, or authorisation to collect, the appropriate subscription, may be made via the Association's web site or sent to the Office.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“Applications for admission as an Individual Member may be made either:”

*and new sub-clauses 3(a)(i) and (ii) inserted as follows:*

“(i) by an individual, including the name, address and other contact details of the applicant and payment of, or authorisation to collect, the appropriate subscription, via the Association's web site or sent to the Office; or

(ii) by a Member Club, on behalf of one of its members, providing information about them in such form as the Association shall require.”

*A3. that in clause 4, which currently reads:*

“An Individual Member who wishes to resign must inform the Office not later than 30 November in any year or remain liable for the subscription for the following year.”

*the words “, who pays a subscription direct to the Association,” should be inserted after “Individual Member”.*

*A4. that in clause 11(a)(i), which currently reads:*

“the subscription of an Individual Member shall not be raised by more than 50% above the rate payable for the previous year without the approval of a General Meeting; and”

*the words “, who pays a subscription direct to the Association,” should be inserted after “Individual Member”.*

*A5. that the words “AND ENTITLEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP” should be appended to the title of clause 11, which currently reads “SUBSCRIPTIONS”.*

*A6. that a new clause 11(a)(iii) shall be inserted, with consequent renumbering, as follows:*

“Membership of a Member Club shall entitle that member to be an Individual Member of the Association in the class determined by the Council under Clause 2(b). The entitlement is conditional upon the Member Club paying a per-capita subscription in respect of its members and supplying the information about them required by the Association.”

*A7. that clause 11(b), which currently reads:*

“All subscriptions shall become due and payable to the Office on election or 1st January for Individual Members and 1st May for Member Clubs in each year as applicable. The Office will issue membership cards to Individual Members and receipts to Member Clubs.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“All subscriptions for existing Individual Members and Member Clubs shall become due and payable to the Office on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.”

*A8. that clause 11(c), which currently reads:*

“(c) Members whose subscriptions are in arrears shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership including the right to play in Calendar Fixtures. Individual Members in arrears on 1 May and Member Clubs in arrears on 1 June shall forthwith cease to be members of the Association but shall remain liable for their subscriptions.”

*shall be replaced by three clauses:*

“(c) Individual Members who pay a subscription direct to the Association whose subscriptions are in arrears shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership, including the right to play in Calendar Fixtures, unless they are entitled to Individual Membership under Clause 11(a)(iii). If they remain in arrears on 1 May, they shall forthwith cease to be Individual Members of the Association unless they are entitled to Individual Membership under that clause, but shall remain liable for their subscriptions.

(d) Individual Members who are entitled to Individual Membership under Clause 11(a)(iii) and whose Member Club's subscription is in arrears shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership including the right to play in Calendar Fixtures unless they are Individual Members under Clause 11(a)(i). If the Member Club's subscription remains in arrears on 1 May, its members shall forthwith cease to be Individual Members of the Association unless they are Individual Members under Clause 11(a)(i).

(e) Member Clubs whose subscriptions are in arrears shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of membership including the right to play in Calendar Fixtures. Member Clubs in arrears on 1 May shall forthwith cease to be members of the Association but shall remain liable for their subscriptions.”

## **B. Removal of club voting rights**

Currently clubs, as well as Individual Members, have voting rights at general meetings of the Association. The voting rights for clubs were introduced to give representation to members of them who were not Individual Members, but if the proposals in appendix A are passed this will no longer be necessary. The rights have rarely been exercised and complicate the procedure at AGMs, so Council proposes that they should be abolished.

Subject to the changes in Appendix A being passed, Council therefore proposes that, with effect from the date on which they take effect:

*B1. that, from clause 12(b), which currently reads:*

“A decision of the Council must be rescinded if a motion to that effect is proposed at a General Meeting and passed both by a majority of 6 to 4 of Individual Members voting and by a majority of 6 to 4 of Member Clubs voting.”

*the words “both” and “and by a majority of 6 to 4 of Member Clubs voting” shall be deleted.*

*B2. that the start of clause 13(b), which currently reads:*

“If an Individual Member or Member Club wishes”

*with reference to proposing candidates for office and motions, should be replaced by:*

“If an Individual Member wishes”

*B3. that clause 16(a), which currently reads:*

“The quorum for Annual General Meetings shall be 12 Individual Members and the authorized representatives of three Member Clubs. The quorum for Special General Meetings shall be 25 Individual Members and the authorized representatives of seven Member Clubs. The authorized representative of a Member Club, if he is also an Individual Member, shall be counted as a member of both categories.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“The quorum for Annual General Meetings shall be 12 Individual Members. The quorum for Special General Meetings shall be 25 Individual Members.”

*B4. that clause 16(d), which currently reads:*

“The election of members of Council shall be determined in accordance with Clause 18. Motions that required notice under the above Clause 16(c) and motions proposed at Special General Meetings shall be the subject of a postal vote in accordance with Clause 19. All other questions put to the vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands and to succeed each resolution must be carried both by a majority of Individual Members voting and by a majority of Member Clubs voting through their authorized representatives, both categories voting separately on each issue. The authorized representative of every Member Club present in person and every Individual Member present in person shall have one vote. The authorized representative of a Member Club, if he is also an Individual Member, shall be entitled to vote in both capacities.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“The election of members of Council shall be determined in accordance with Clause 18. Motions proposed in accordance with Clause 13(b) and motions proposed at Special General Meetings shall be the subject of a postal or electronic vote in accordance with Clause 19. All other questions put to the vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands and to succeed each resolution must be carried by a majority of Individual Members voting.”

*B5. that clause 16(e), which currently reads:*

“Proxy voting by Individual Members and the authorized representatives of Member Clubs is not permitted.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“Proxy voting is not permitted.”

*B6. that clause 17(a)(ii), which relates to the election of officers and currently reads:*

“Each Individual Member and Member Club shall have one vote.”

*shall be deleted and the remaining sub-clauses of 17(a) renumbered accordingly.*

*B7. that clause 19, which relates to postal or electronic voting, and currently reads:*

“(a) If notice of motion has been given under Clause 16 (c) or a Special General Meeting has been called or requisitioned, a voting paper shall be issued with the Agenda for

meetings as required by Clauses 13 or 15(c), giving the terms of each motion to be proposed thereat.

- (b) Each Individual Member and each Member Club shall have one vote and the two categories of membership shall vote separately on each issue.
- (c) The voting paper must be signed and returned to the Office so as to arrive not later than the first post 10 days before the date of the meeting. Alternatively, if so advertised, votes may be submitted by e-mail to the Office from a registered address, or by other attributable electronic means, by the same time. Such votes shall be treated as postal votes in clauses 19(e) and 19(g) below.
- (d) Two scrutineers who are not members of Council shall be appointed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Council to count the votes. They shall record the number of votes cast for and against each motion within each of the two categories of membership.
- (e) At the conclusion of the debate on each motion, the Chairman of the meeting shall call upon the Individual Members present who have not cast a postal vote to vote upon the motion by a show of hands; and he shall next call upon the authorized representatives present of Member Clubs that have not cast a postal vote to vote upon the motion by a show of hands. The authorized representative of a Member Club, if he is also an Individual Member, shall be entitled to vote in both capacities subject to the above conditions. The Chairman shall then call upon the scrutineers to announce the result of the postal vote and shall then declare the total number of votes cast for and against the motion within each of the two categories of membership.
- (f) For a motion to be carried it must be carried both by a majority of Individual Members and by a majority of Member Clubs, both categories being considered separately.
- (g) An Individual Member who has cast a postal vote but attends the meeting in person may cancel his postal vote and vote at the meeting provided he so informs the scrutineers before the result of the postal vote is announced. A Member Club that has cast a postal vote may cancel its postal vote and vote through its authorized representative subject to the same proviso.
- (h) The Chairman of the meeting may require those who have voted at the meeting to identify themselves to the scrutineers.”

*shall be replaced by:*

- “(a) If notice of motion has been given by an Individual Member or a motion proposed by the Council under Clause 13(b), or a Special General Meeting has been called or requisitioned, a voting paper shall be issued with the Agenda for meetings as required by Clauses 13 or 15(c), giving the terms of each motion to be proposed thereat.
- (b) The voting paper must be signed and returned to the Office so as to arrive not later than the end of the tenth day before the date of the meeting. Alternatively, if so advertised, votes may be submitted by e-mail to the Office from a registered address,

or by other attributable electronic means, by the same time. Such votes shall be treated as postal votes in clauses 19(d) and 19(f) below.

- (c) Two scrutineers who are not members of Council shall be appointed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Council to count the votes. They shall record the number of votes cast for and against each motion.
- (d) At the conclusion of the debate on each motion, the Chairman of the meeting shall call upon the Individual Members who have not cast a postal vote to vote upon the motion by a show of hands. The Chairman shall then call upon the scrutineers to announce the result of the postal vote and shall then declare the total number of votes cast for and against the motion.
- (e) For a motion to be carried it must be carried by a majority of Individual Members voting.
- (f) An Individual Member who has cast a postal vote but attends the meeting in person may cancel his postal vote and vote at the meeting provided he so informs the scrutineers before the result of the postal vote is announced.
- (g) The Chairman of the meeting may require those who have voted at the meeting to identify themselves to the scrutineers.”

*B8. that clause 31, which currently reads:*

“Alterations in and additions to the Constitution shall not be made except by means of a motion proposed and seconded at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The voting shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions for voting set out in Clause 19. For the motion to succeed it must be carried by a majority of 6 to 4 of the Individual Members voting and by a majority of 6 to 4 of the Member Clubs voting. Such alterations and additions shall come into force forthwith unless otherwise decided.”

*shall be replaced by:*

“Alterations in and additions to the Constitution shall not be made except by means of a motion proposed and seconded at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The voting shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions for voting set out in Clause 19, except that for the motion to succeed it must be carried by a majority of 6 to 4 of the Individual Members voting. Such alterations and additions shall come into force forthwith unless otherwise decided.”.