

## **Summary of Proposed Constitutional Changes** by Ian Vincent

The Council is proposing a few amendments to the CA's Constitution at the (virtual) AGM this October. The full text is available in a document published on the website linked from the agenda, but this summarises the intention of them.

### **A. Change to Eligibility for Affiliate Membership**

A Council Working Party has reviewed the conditions for CA membership and recommended that a loophole that allows clubs with playing facilities to become Affiliate Members, which was inadvertently opened when the Constitution was amended in 2009, should be closed.

A few such clubs that were previously Full members have taken advantage of the current wording and downgraded to Affiliate membership. If the amendment is passed, they will be asked to return to Full membership.

New clubs with playing facilities, or those which have only ever been Affiliate members, will be eligible for the introductory rates for Full membership, which are £60 for the first year, and capped at £90 and £120 for the second and third years.

It is anticipated that some 15 current Affiliate Member clubs would be affected. The CA wishes to support Federations in encouraging them to transition to Full Membership, as Small or Large clubs as appropriate.

The change will also clarify that overseas clubs will only be eligible for Affiliate membership.

Individual Affiliate Membership would also be abolished, as it has not been available for some years.

### **B. Reduction of Quorum for Special General Meetings**

The quorum for special general meetings is currently 25. Given that most votes are now cast electronically before the meeting, this seems unnecessarily large and it is proposed to reduce it to 12, the same that as for AGMs.

### **C. Dissolution Clause**

The constitution currently has no dissolution clause. It is thought that one should be added, not only to cope with the, hopefully theoretical, possibility that croquet ceases to exist, but more practically to facilitate a possible change to the legal status of the Association. The clause allows the CA to be dissolved, in extremis by an inquorate meeting, and specifies possible organisations to which any surplus funds should be given.

### **D. Tidying up**

Finally, there are a few amendments to tidy up the text, to correct inconsistencies that have arisen from previous changes, which are not expected to have any practical consequences.