

Commentary on proposed changes to Club Constitution

- 2.2 What was previously known as “social” membership is now known as “supporter” membership.
- 2.6 This is an important power to exclude a member or refuse membership to them, to prevent damage or disruption to the Club. The proposed revision (and others later on) makes explicit what we already consider to be the case, that this can apply where the conduct is that of a parent/carers, as opposed to a member himself/herself.
- 2.8 This tidies up the rules on refunds on players leaving mid-season. The proposed revision is to avoid the need for a factual investigation and possible dispute as to when the member first attended training or a match.
- s3: Please note that a number of these provisions relating to the operation of the HCKP Committee have been moved up to section 3, having previously been contained in section 5, where they were intermingled with the provisions relating to the AGM.
- 3.2 This revision places minimum and maximum limits on the number of members of the committee, based on what we consider to be practicable.
- 3.5 This proposed revision makes explicit that if an officer leaves during the course of the year, the vacancy can be filled without waiting for the next AGM.
- 3.7 Currently committee members may not hold a position for more than 4 years. This provision may require revisiting before future AGMs, particularly in relation to the Director of Hockey, since that role is expected to be filled for a longer period. To preserve the position for the time being, and taking into account the need for continuity as the Club was set up from scratch only 2 years ago, we propose extending the period to 5 years.
- 3.8 The requirement for countersigning payments is to be removed, to reflect the fact that, in practice, payments are now made electronically rather than by cheque
- 3.17 This is a new provision to ensure the Committee maintains confidentiality of relevant matters.
- 4.1 This existing provision appeared arguably to restrict the power to appoint staff to development projects. We consider that it should be made explicit that the provision is wider, albeit to be limited by the need for any appointments to be in line with the Club’s objectives.

- 5.3 In conjunction with the deletion of clause 5.9 this seeks to clear up a potential ambiguity in conflicting provisions about whether or not supporter (previously social) members are allowed to vote.
- 7.2 This makes explicit the requirement on everyone to comply with the Code of Conduct, breach of which potentially gives rise to the disciplinary procedures.
- 7.3 The existing constitution contains a right to suspend a member. This was not subject to any procedural safeguards. A comprehensive disciplinary policy has now been adopted and a wellbeing policy is being developed, so this revised provision incorporates reference to those policies, to ensure that any suspension is subject to proper procedures.

Steve Innes

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