

GREATER LONDON CHESS CLUB

**CONSTITUTION ADOPTED September 2016
AMENDED June 2017**

1 NAME

The name of the charity is the Greater London Chess Club hereinafter referred to as the GLCC

2 PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY

The purposes of the charity are to provide a public benefit by:-

1. Advancing amateur sport by promoting the game of chess for the benefit of those living, working or studying in London or having some other connection with London.
2. Providing facilities and opportunities for the learning, teaching and playing of chess for the benefit of those living, working or studying in London or having some other connection with London with the object of improving conditions of life.

3 TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee of at least 5 trustees appointed at the annual general meeting of the charity. The trustees are collectively responsible for managing the affairs of the charity in a prudent and business-like manner.

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:-

1. Raise funds, receive grants and donations.
2. Apply funds to carry out the work of the charity.
3. Co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes.
4. Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes.

The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to deal with matters not covered by the constitution and to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with the constitution or the law. They must be reported to the next annual general meeting.

If a trustee resigns during the course of the year the remaining trustees may appoint a new trustee to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.

4 MEMBERSHIP

The charity shall have a membership. Any person who supports the work of the charity can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees on payment of the appropriate subscription membership lasts for the current subscription year and may be renewed for subsequent years. The trustees shall keep an up-to-date membership list.

A copy of this constitution shall be supplied to each member of the charity.

The trustees may refuse an application for membership or withdraw a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. Where it is proposed to withdraw a person's membership that member shall have the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend. The decision and reason for it must be notified to the member in writing.

5 PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The GLCC shall elect a president and such vice-presidents as it thinks fit. The president and vice-presidents shall hold their positions for life.

6 OFFICERS

The officers of the GLCC, who shall be subject to annual election at the annual general meeting, shall be:-

1. Secretary
2. Treasurer
3. Tournament controller
4. Equipment officer
5. Publicity and website officer
6. Team captains

The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be held by separate persons who must be trustees of the charity.

In the event of a vacancy arising during the course of the year the trustees may appoint an officer to fill the position until the next annual general meeting.

7 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members of the charity shall be liable to pay a subscription, the amount of which shall be determined at the charity's annual general meeting. The trustees may make detailed arrangements for the payment of subscriptions and shall determine the date on which membership lapses if a renewal subscription is not paid.

The trustees may waive or reduce a member's subscription in the case of hardship. An applicant for a waived or reduced subscription has the right to be heard by the trustees. The decision taken by the trustees must be notified to the applicant in writing.

The president, vice-presidents and honorary life members are not required to pay a subscription.

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

The charity's financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March. Its subscription year shall run from 1 September to 31 August.

The charity shall operate such bank or building society accounts as the trustees see fit and all money must be held in these accounts. The authorised signatories for the operation of such accounts shall be the treasurer and 2 other trustees appointed by the trustees. Transactions involved in the operation of the charity's accounts shall require only 2 of these signatories, one of whom shall be the treasurer unless he is unavailable and the trustees regard the transaction as a matter of urgency.

Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes. Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.

The trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by any member of the charity on request. They shall also be presented to the next annual general meeting.

9 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Trustees must hold at least 2 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the annual general meeting they will elect a chair, who will also chair the charity's next annual general meeting and any special general meetings. The secretary and treasurer shall not be eligible for election as chair. Trustees may act by majority decision. At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. The trustees may if they choose, invite the president, vice-presidents and officers who are not trustees to attend their meetings but only trustees may vote on matters to be decided at such meetings. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.

If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while the matter is being discussed or decided.

10 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting shall be held on a date as soon as practicable after the end of the playing season in order to:-

1. Receive reports from officers.
2. Receive a statement of accounts prepared by the treasurer.
3. Elect a president and vice-presidents as required from time to time, and honorary life members if considered appropriate.
4. Elect trustees and officers of the charity for the coming year. Any member may stand for election subject to their candidacy being proposed and seconded by members. They shall retire at the next annual general meeting but may stand for re-election.
5. Decide on the subscription for the coming year. Different rates of subscription may be applied to junior members, new members for their first year and any other category of member that the meeting considers appropriate.
6. Decide on fees to be paid for entry to the charity's internal competitions.
7. Decide on which Leagues to enter teams and how many teams to enter in those leagues.
8. Agree the charity's policy on items to be dealt with at League annual general meetings.
9. Take decisions on any other matters of policy which may arise from time to time.

The agenda shall be circulated to members at least 14 days before the meeting.

All motions must be proposed and (other than chair's motions) seconded. All issues shall be decided by a simple majority with each member having one vote regardless of the number of posts held, except that the chair may decide that the issue is of such importance that a postal ballot should be used to decide it. The chair shall have a casting vote only. Minutes must be kept of the meeting.

There must be at least a fifth of the club's members present at the annual general meeting. If the meeting is inquorate its agenda shall be dealt with by the trustees who may consult with such members as are present and shall report their decisions to all members within 14 days of the date of the meeting

11 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A special general meeting shall be held at the discretion of the trustees or following a written request forwarded to the secretary and signed by at least a fifth of the charity's members specifying its object. Where a meeting is requested by members it shall be held within 28 days of receipt of the request.

The provisions relating to the conduct of annual general meetings shall also apply to special general meetings.

12 ALTERATIONS

No alterations or additions to this constitution shall be made except at an annual general meeting or special general meeting. No alteration can be made which would cause the GLCC to cease to be a charity.

13 DISSOLUTION

The GLCC may at any time be dissolved by members at a special general meeting voting for a scheme of dissolution.

In the event of such a proposal not being agreed but the trustees believing that they are not able to continue to manage the charity in a way which is financially viable or meets the requirements of a charity the trustees may offer to resign and, if no other trustees can be elected to take their place, they shall have the power to dissolve the charity with no further procedure required.

On dissolution the trustees shall be responsible for collecting in all the assets of the charity and meeting its liabilities. All money and property remaining after the payment of any debts must be given by the trustees to a charity or charities with similar purposes to this one.