

The White House Boating Club

CONSTITUTION

Preliminary

1. The name of the club shall be the White House Boating Club.
2. The premises of the club shall be at the White House, Crosshall Marine, Crosshall Road, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 7GE, or at any other address as the club agrees by vote at a General Meeting.
3. The object of the club shall be to provide amenities and facilities on the upper reaches of the Great Ouse for boating enthusiasts.
4. The club shall be a members' club and shall consist of ordinary members, and where suitable, Honorary members and Associate members.

Membership

5. Every candidate for ordinary membership must be proposed by one member of the club and seconded by another member. Both the proposer and seconder must be ordinary members and voting for the candidate's fitness for membership. The name and address of every candidate proposed for ordinary membership, together with the name and address of his proposer and seconder, requires to be posted in the club for a period of at least 14 days before the candidate is selected.

Election to membership will be via a General Meeting, or by the General Committee of the club. No reasons shall be given to any candidate in the event of his/her rejection.

6. **Honorary members** may be elected by the club in a General Meeting, however there shall not be at any one time more than 16 Honorary members. Honorary members will not pay an entrance fee or annual subscription but shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership including a vote at any meeting of the club.
7. **Associate members**
 - a) Associate members may be elected by the General Committee of the club. No more than 25 people, who are members of another club, may be admitted to the club as Associate members. Associate members, will not pay an entrance fee, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership, but shall have no vote at any meeting of the club.
 - b) Associate members if attending more than twice in any calendar year shall be required to pay the current membership fee but shall have no vote at any meeting of the club neither shall they be elected to hold office at club.
 - c) Where an ordinary member, having been a General Committee member of at least two years' standing becomes a non berth holder of Crosshall Marine, the General Committee from time to time appointed shall have a discretion to re-admit that person to the club as associate member. Notwithstanding the limits imposed by rule 7a) and 7b), not more than 12 persons may be admitted using this discretion. Such persons shall not be counted in the general number of Associate members under rules 7a) and 7b).

- d) Moorers at Crosshall Marine cannot be associate members.

Committee and Officers

8. The affairs of the club shall be managed by the General Committee of the club in agreement with any decisions voted upon at a General Meeting. The General Committee shall consist of no less than 5 ordinary members of the club who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the club. They shall all go out of office in every year, but will be eligible for re-election.
9. The General Committee may appoint one or more sub-committee, as it may deem appropriate. Three members shall constitute a quorum of the General Committee, and two a quorum of a sub-committee.
10. The General Committee will consist of 5 office bearers: Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Treasurer, Club Secretary, and Social Secretary. Office bearers will be elected by the Ordinary and Honorary members of the club at a General Meeting. All office bearers will act in accordance with the directions of the General Committee of the club.

Trustees

11. There shall be three trustees of the club who shall be appointed as necessary by the club through a General Meeting from among ordinary or honorary members who are willing to be appointed. A trustee shall hold office during his/her life, or until he/she shall resign by notice in writing given to the General Committee, or until a resolution removing him/her from office shall be passed at a general meeting of the club by a majority comprising two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.
12. All property of the club, including land and investments, shall be held by the trustees for the time being, in their own names so far as necessary and practicable, for the use and benefit of the club. On the death, resignation or removal from office of a trustee, the General Committee should take steps to procure the appointment by the club in general meeting of a new trustee in his/her place, and shall as soon as possible thereafter take all lawful and practicable steps to procure the vesting of all club property in the names of the trustees as constituted after the said appointment.
13. The trustee shall have power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any club property for the purpose of raising or borrowing money for the benefit of the club, with the consent of the General Committee, but no purchaser, leaseholder or mortgagee shall be concerned to inquire whether such consent has been given.

Subscriptions, Finance and Accounts

14. An annual subscription will be paid to the club by each Ordinary and Associate member. The necessary level of subscription will be determined by the General Committee and agreed by a majority vote during a General Meeting. At the discretion of the General Committee a new joining member may pay a reduced subscription for a period less than a year. A half-year is from 1st August.
15. Annual subscriptions shall be payable on election, and thereafter on 1st May every year. The General Committee may terminate the membership of any ordinary or associate

member whose annual subscription remains unpaid on 1st August.

16. The treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of the accounts of the club, which enable him/her to present at every Annual General Meeting of the club, or at any other time if required (on reasonable notice) by the General Committee, an accurate report and statement concerning the finances of the club. This should include a separate statement with regard to the purchase and sale of tobacco and alcohol. Accounts should report finances of the club for the preceding year, and for the current year.

Intoxicating Liquor [hereafter referred to as alcohol]

17. On days other than Christmas Day the permitted hours for the supply of alcohol in the club premises will be the general licensing hours. On Christmas Day the permitted hours will be Noon to 3pm and 7 pm to 10.30pm. The opening times of the club bar, during which the supply of alcohol in the club premises will actually be permitted, will be notified to the members by the display of a notice in the clubhouse.
No alcohol shall be supplied to members or to any other persons on the club premises otherwise than by or on behalf of the club. No alcohol shall be supplied for payment to any person on the club premises other than a member. No alcohol may be supplied to anyone under the age of 18.
18. The General Committee will arrange the supply of alcohol by the club to members, and to appropriately signed in guests, and observe the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964, and all acts relating to it, and of any conditions attached to any licence held by or on behalf of the club for the supply of alcohol, or to any registration certificate granted in respect of the club premises.
19. No person other than official suppliers shall be paid at the expense of the club any commission, percentage or any similar payment on or with reference to purchase of alcohol by the club, nor shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of the club to its members or guests, apart from any benefit accruing to the club as a whole.

General Meetings

20. An Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held in every year, and there shall not be more than 15 months between one Annual General Meeting and the next. Notice of the day and time of the Annual General Meeting shall be posted in the club in the manner prescribed in rule 28 for a period of at least 14 days before such day. Notice of the Annual General Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting will be sent to the members given address by post or electronic mail. Notice of the meeting will include any proposed changes to the Constitution in rule 29 and any items intimated to the General Committee 21 days prior to a General Meeting.
21. The General Committee may summon a General Meeting of the club at any time. A General Meeting may be called by any five ordinary members delivering a written request to the General Committee. A General Meeting will be summoned by posting a notice in the club premises in the manner prescribed in rule 28 for a period of at least 14 days immediately before the day appointed for the meeting. This period may be abridged at the discretion of the General Committee if the urgency of the business to be discussed so requires.
22. At any General Meeting of the club every member of the club is entitled to be present, and every Ordinary or Honorary member will be entitled to one vote upon every question

raised. In the case of equality of voting, the chairman of the meeting (who shall be a member elected for the occasion by the meeting before any other business is opened) shall have a second or casting vote. The Club Secretary will take minutes of the proceedings at all General Meetings of the club.

Visitors

23. Members may introduce and entertain guests at the club, where there will be a visitor's book which both the member and his guests are required to sign. The member introducing a guest will be responsible for his guest, observing these rules and the club by-laws and will not leave the club premises before his guest. No person whose membership of the club has been terminated in rule 27 or is for the time being suspended under rule 25, or whose application for membership has at any time been rejected, shall be introduced as a guest, nor shall any member entertain on the premises more than two days at any one time, nor introduce as a guest the same person on more than three occasions in any one calendar year.

Alcohol may be sold or supplied for consumption on the premises of the club to members who are 18 years of age and over of any organisation visiting the club on the occasion of any sporting, recreational or social activity organised by the club or affiliated clubs in conjunction with that other organisation.

Conduct of Members

24. No betting shall be allowed in the club, although raffles, prize-draws or lotteries will be permitted but only for the purpose of raising funds for the club or charities and will be with the agreement of the General Committee. Gaming shall be permitted in the club but not contravening any of the provisions of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1963.
25. The General Committee may suspend the membership of any member whose conduct, whether on the club premises or elsewhere, is or has been, in the opinion of the committee, contrary to the interest of the club or injurious to its reputation.
26. Immediately upon the suspension under rule 25 of the membership of any member, the General Committee shall: -
 - I. Cause a general meeting of the club to be summoned for a day not later than the 21st day following the suspension.
 - II. Give notice to the suspended member at his address as last notified to the Secretary under rule 28 of his suspension, and inform him that if he so desires he may be present at the said meeting.
27. At any such meeting any allegations against the suspended member will be related (in his presence if he attends) to the meeting by a member of the General Committee. The suspended member will (if he desires) be allowed to answer, following a reasonable adjournment to enable him to prepare his answer. The decision of the club whether to reinstate the suspended member or to terminate his membership will be taken voted upon at the meeting or any adjourned meeting, and will be final and conclusive.

Notices

28. Each member shall keep the Club Secretary informed of their private address to which communications may be sent. Notices convening any General Meeting for the purpose of rule 31 will be notified to members at their given address by post or electronic mail. All notices will also be posted in a prominent position on the club premises, and it shall be the duty of the Club Secretary to ensure that any such notice remains exhibited throughout the required period.

Changes to the Constitution of the Club

29. This Constitution may be revoked, added to or altered by the majority comprising two-thirds or more of the members present at and entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the club of which notice has been duly given, specifying the intention to propose the revocation, addition or alteration, together with full particulars thereof. Any proposal or intent to change the Constitution must be notified to the General Committee 21 days prior to any General Meeting and must be notified to members in writing in accordance with rule 20 or 21.

Exclusion of Liability

30. Neither the club nor any officer thereof shall be liable to any member or guest of a member for any loss of or damage to any property occurring, from whatever cause, in or about the club premises, nor for any injury sustained by any member or guest whilst on or entering or leaving the club premises, and a notice to this effect shall at all times be displayed in a prominent position on the club premises.

Dissolution

31. If the number of ordinary members of the club shall at any time fall below 10, or if at any time the club shall pass in general meeting by a majority comprising two-thirds or more of the members present and entitled to vote for resolution (in this rule called the first resolution) of its intention to dissolve, the General Committee, or failing them the trustees, shall take immediate steps to convert into money all the property of the club, with power however to postpone or delay the conversion of any particular property if the club in general meeting shall so authorise. Out of the proceeds of such conversion, the trustees shall discharge all debts and liabilities of the club, including the expenses of such conversion, and any balance remaining in their hands shall be disposed of by them as the club in general meeting shall resolve, and thereupon the club shall for all purposes be dissolved. Provided that if the club shall not, within six months after the date of the first resolution, resolve upon the disposition of any such balance, the same shall be divided equally between all persons who were ordinary members of the club at the date of the first resolution.

A copy of the notice convening any General Meeting under this rule shall be sent by the Club Secretary by post or electronic mail to every member at his/her given address not less than 14 days before the date appointed for the meeting, but any accidental omission to send such copy or the non receipt of the same shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolution.