

CONSTITUTION

1. Aims

- A. To provide an environment where members of the club can enjoy playing tennis together.
- B. To promote the club within the local community and to encourage all to join regardless of individual playing standard.
- C. To provide opportunities for social and competitive play, and tennis coaching for all ages and standards.

2. Membership

Membership is open to all. Anybody under the age of 16 requires parental consent. Membership allows access to the courts at any time for no additional charge, subject to the constraints of structured activity in club sessions and also to the rights of fee paying members of the public outside these sessions.

By joining the club all members accept the terms of the Constitution. The Committee reserves the right to suspend the membership of any member whose conduct is considered detrimental to the aims of the club or its reputation.

3. Subscription Fees

Membership subscriptions are paid annually according to the scale of fees and concessionary rates stated in the Application Form for Membership. This form is reviewed annually by the Committee.

The various levels of the fee scale is set to be reasonably affordable to the community, whilst enabling sufficient funds to provide for ongoing maintenance of the courts - by contract with BCC – and also to provide club revenue for investment in club activities and future investment in additional facilities.

GSTC is a community club which has entered into a leasing agreement with Bristol City Council (BCC). Any change to membership fees is subject to the approval of its members (by General Meeting) and to the appropriate representative of Bristol City Council e.g. The Tennis Development Officer (TDO).

4. Public use of the Courts

The tennis courts in Greville Smyth Park are public courts for the use of the whole community. However, the club has entered into a contract with Bristol City Council to have exclusive use of the courts during club sessions. Outside these sessions the general public is equally permitted to use the courts on an hourly basis by paying the appropriate fee to the park warden. However, one court is always to be left free for club members to use on a turn up and play basis.

All members who use the courts should regulate their usage to a reasonable length of time –e.g. a maximum of one hour- to give fair access to any who are waiting to play.

5. LTA Affiliation

The club shall maintain annual affiliation to The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and abide by its rules. LTA affiliation includes Public Liability Insurance and entry to regional competitions.

6. Agreement with the Local Authority

The club shall abide by its annual agreement with Bristol City Council which generally covers court rental, club policy issues and court maintenance. Any proposed changes to this agreement must be agreed by both parties and be approved at an Annual or Interim General Meeting.

7. Management

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The club is managed by an elected committee which consists of:

Chairperson – responsible for club organisation and policy.

Secretary – responsible for the administration of club affairs, recording minutes and dealing with correspondence.

Membership Secretary – responsible for the administration of membership details and subscriptions.

Treasurer – responsible for keeping records of club accounts.

All club members have the right to stand for election to the committee at the AGM.

The Committee as a whole is responsible for the running of the club and may take provisional decisions on behalf of the club. It may also invite other members to help manage club affairs. Committee meetings are minuted and circulated to all club members.

8. Club Meetings

Annual General Meeting

The Club holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the purpose of:

- Electing or re-electing members of the committee.
- Reporting club accounts.
- Debating and voting on club issues including provisional decisions taken by the Committee during the course of the year.

All members have the right to vote at the AGM. A quorum of at least 8 members or 20% of the membership present at the meeting is required in order to take or validate decisions on behalf of the club.

The agenda of the meeting is circulated to all members at least three weeks in advance of the date of meeting and includes *Any Other Business* to enable any member to raise a particular issue of interest or concern.

A. Interim General Meetings

The Committee or a minimum of five club members may call for an Interim General Meeting (IGM). In the event of a tie during a vote in an Annual or Interim General Meeting, the Chairperson is entitled to a casting vote.

9. Health And Safety

All accidents and injuries are to be reported to the Chairperson who shall keep records of such incidents and report accordingly to the LTA where it can be dealt with under the terms of the LTA Employers Liability Insurance. The Chairperson shall also send a copy of the report to the Tennis Development Officer at Bristol City Council

10. Club Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the club, any assets of the club that remain after payment of necessary fees, costs and annual subscription refunds will be donated to a charity nominated by the Committee.

GSTC hereby adopts this Constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Signed: N.B Coates

Date: 31/3/09

Position: Chairperson