

The Constitution of the Gwent County Chess Association

Amended: 15/6/11

1. The Association shall be known as the "Gwent County Chess Association" and is hereinafter referred to as the "Association".
2. The objects of the Association shall be :-
 - (a) To encourage, promote and regulate the game of chess in Gwent.
 - (b) To organise and control all League and Knockout chess competitions in the county.
 - (c) To organise chess events for members, including an annual Closed Congress.
 - (d) To select representative teams and enter them in Area and Zonal competitions.
 - (e) To encourage the formation of new chess clubs and to assist new and established clubs. This may include financial assistance.
 - (f) To promote the interests of the Welsh Chess Union and of any other organisation of which the Association may form part by membership or affiliation.
3. Any chess club in Gwent shall be eligible for membership of the Association provided that the number of its members is four or more. Such clubs shall pay the annual subscription for each member as is from time to time decided by the Association.
4. The Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of Officers and Delegates.
 - (a) The Officers shall be President, Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Captain and League Controller together with others who may be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All officers shall retire annually but may be nominated for re-election.
 - (b) Affiliated clubs shall be entitled to full representation on the Executive Committee on the basis of one delegate for every ten members or part thereof. Members of a club who are also Officers of the Association shall be excluded from these calculations.
 - (c) The Executive Committee is empowered to co-opt members as it considers necessary. Such co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at meetings.
5. The Executive committee may refuse or terminate membership in cases where it considers this to be in the best interest of the Association. A member who opposes such a decision shall have the right to appeal to a meeting of the Executive committee.
6. The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary to conduct the business of the Association. Officers and Club Secretaries shall be given at least seven days notice of such meetings. The minutes of Executive Committee meetings shall be available for inspection by members of the Association.
7.
 - (a) Two auditors must be appointed annually. They must not be members of the Executive Committee.
 - (b) The Financial Year of the Association shall be from May 1st of one year to April 30th of the following year. The Accounts shall be audited annually prior to the Annual General Meeting.
8. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June. At least **two** weeks prior to the date of the meeting, the Association Secretary shall send a copy of the agenda to all Officers and to the Secretary of each affiliated club.
9. The business at the Annual General Meeting shall be :-
 - (a) Minutes of the previous AGM and any intervening Special Meeting.
 - (b) Annual Reports from Officers.
 - (c) Presentation of Accounts and the setting of subscriptions and fees for the current year.
 - (d) Election of Officers
 - (e) Appointment of two Auditors.
 - (f) Other business of which due notice has been given to the Secretary. Properly proposed and seconded motions for inclusion on the Agenda must be submitted to the Secretary in writing before May **15th** preceding the AGM.
 - (g) Presentation of awards.

10. The Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting within 28 days of receipt of a written petition signed by not less than 10 registered members or on the instruction of the Executive Committee. At least 14 days prior to the date of this meeting, the Association Secretary shall notify all Officers and the Secretary of each club and send them a copy of the petition.
11. Voting procedures shall be as follows :-
 - (a) Votes shall only be counted from registered members who are over the age of fourteen.
 - (b) Voting shall be by show of hands unless there is a majority vote in favour of a ballot.
 - (c) The presiding officer shall only vote in the case of equal votes cast for and against a motion.
 - (d) Amendments to the constitution may only be made at Annual or Special General Meetings provided that there is a majority of at least two thirds in favour.
 - (e) The election of an Honorary member shall require a majority of at least three quarters in favour.
 - (f) All motions carried at Annual and Special Meetings become immediately effective.
 - (g) The required quorum shall be :-
 - i. not less than five at Executive Committee Meetings.
 - ii. not less than twelve at Annual and Special General Meetings.
12. The Association may be affiliated to other organisations with mutual interests. Such affiliation shall only be determined at an Annual or Special General Meeting. The Association is a member of the Welsh Chess Union.
13. The Association may elect as an Honorary member any past or present member of the Association who has rendered considerable service to the Association. Nominations for Honorary membership must be submitted to the Secretary for inclusion on the agenda of an Annual General Meeting.
14. Junior members of the Association shall be under the age of 18 on September 1st of the current year and will pay a reduced subscription.
15. To play a representative match for the Association or to play in the Closed Congress shall require membership of the Association and one of the following qualifications as applied to the County of Gwent :-
 - (a) Birth.
 - (b) Five years consecutive residence.
 - (c) Three months immediately previous and present residence.
 - (d) Two years immediately previous and present club membership.
 - (e) Attendance as a master or pupil at a school or college.

W. Chamberlain

T.A.J. Hill

20/4/90