



THE EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION

Proposed amendments to the Constitution for approval at the AGM on 11 March 2017

1. Introduction.

The Constitution has not been amended since March 2000 and a number of changes have occurred since that date necessitating revisions to the Constitution. Whilst making these amendments the opportunity has been taken to tidy up the document to make it clearer and consistent. The following explanatory notes explain the main changes using the clause numbers in the attached document.

2. Clause 2 Area of Influence

Delete words “Sports Council Eastern Region” and substitute “current administrative areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk”

The original Constitution was drawn up to ensure that the Federation was eligible for Sports Council grants. As the Sports Council and its Regions no longer exist it is necessary to redefine our area of influence. This has been done by naming the six counties which traditionally have constituted our region. However our membership has always been open to clubs *near* our area of influence and this provision has been maintained in the revised document. Thus the exact demarcation of our area is not critical.

3. Clause 3 Aims

In line 2 insert after “croquet clubs in” the words “and near”.

In paragraph 2 delete the words “run under the auspices of the Croquet Association” and substitute “a Member of the Croquet Association.

As a result of recent extensive discussions between the CA and the Federations it was agreed that some changes would be desirable to ensure better cooperation and one of these changes was to invite all Federations to become members of the CA (without payment of a fee). EACF, along with all other Federations, has agreed to become a member of the CA.

4. Clause 4. Membership

Delete all the original clauses 4 (Membership) and 5 (Membership fees) and substitute the wording in clause 4 of the attached document.

Clause 4.1 The first part of the new wording covers the intent of the original clause 4 but now specifies that Membership is dependent on paying the prescribed fee(s) by the specified default date. This provision covers what was in the original clause 5 entitled “membership fees” (which no longer appears as a separate clause) whilst allowing the Executive Committee to decide by what date fees should be paid. This provides for more flexibility.

Clause 4.2 In the existing Constitution there is a single class of Member Club. This new clause defines two classes of Membership, Full Member Club and Associate Member Club.

The Croquet Association expects all Members of a Federation to be clubs registered with the CA at least as Affiliate Clubs if not Full Member Clubs. On the other hand the Federation does not wish to discourage newly formed clubs or very small clubs from being associated with the Federation. It is anticipated that in such situations help from the Federation would encourage such clubs to grow to a point where they would decide to register with the CA. Although the great majority of current members are registered with the CA, the

introduction of a new class of Associate Member Club, with limited benefits, will ensure that all current members will be able to continue their association with EACF and provide a stepping stone for newly formed clubs.

5. General Meetings

This is clause 6 in the existing Constitution and remains unaltered apart from the following changes:

5.iv Voting. This has been extended to clarify who is entitled to vote. The term “general meeting” has been substituted for “business meeting” as the latter term is not defined. Any references to “The Committee” are changed to “The Executive Committee” to be consistent. The following text has been added: “In the event of a tie the chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to an additional casting vote. The chairman of any General Meeting shall be the chairman of The Executive Committee or in his absence any member of the Executive Committee elected as chairman by a simple majority of votes of those present and entitled to vote.”

5.vii Annual General Meetings. Change “Committee” to “Executive Committee”. Change “pass the Accounts” to “approve the Accounts”. Change “Auditor” to “Examiner”. For an organisation of the size of EACF there is no legal requirement for a formal audit by a qualified accountant.

5.viii Extraordinary General Meetings. Change “Committee” to “Executive Committee”. Change “---at least three Members” to “---at least three Full Member Clubs”. It is necessary to clarify this when there are two classes of member. Added sentence “The business to be considered at the meeting shall be specified in the notice of the meeting”.

6. Executive Committee

6. i Added to specified named officers of the committee is “The Federation’s Representative on the CA Council”. This representative has traditionally been a member of the committee (see clause 7.v of the existing constitution) but should be listed in the first sub-clause as a member. The following text has been added “The Federation’s Representative on the CA Council shall be elected for a three year term and all other Committee members shall be elected for a one year term. All Committee members who wish to continue at the end of their term shall offer themselves for re-election at the AGM”. This is included to distinguish the different terms of office and the re-election procedure. The CA representative’s term is three years to be consistent with the terms served by other members of the CA Council.

6. ii The present wording in the constitution refers to voting rights at a general meeting which is now covered by 5.iv in the attached document. This clause should cover voting within the committee so the wording in the attached document is “Decisions made by the Committee shall be on the basis of a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie the chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.”

6. iii and 6.iv No change

6. v) A new clause setting out a procedure for members to nominate individuals for election onto the Executive Committee at the AGM.

7. Finance

The present mandate specified for drawing on the Federation’s accounts is The Treasurer plus either the Chairman or Secretary. This does not cover the situation where the Treasurer, for whatever reason, is not available or incapable of carrying out this function. This has therefore been changed to any two of the three officers. There is also further flexibility with the added wording “except as otherwise determined by the Executive Committee or at a General Meeting”

8. Amendments to the Constitution

9. Dissolution

The wording of these clauses has not been changed but their order reversed.