

Berkshire Chess Association

Last amended Sept 2011 – change in *italics*

1. Name

The Name of the organisation shall be the Berkshire Chess Association.

2. Objects

The objects of the Association are

- i. To encourage chess in Berkshire and associated districts
- ii. To represent the interests of Berkshire chess
- iii. To act as a channel of communication between chess clubs in Berkshire and regional and national chess organisations.
- iv. To be responsible for chess activities at county level.

3. Membership

- i. Full membership. This is open to any chess club in Berkshire or in the area served by organised competitions of the Association, which is elected for membership by an Annual General Meeting and which pays the membership fee.
- ii. Individual membership. Persons may be elected individually to the Berkshire Chess Association and shall be represented at meetings by the Treasurer.
- iii. Election to membership
 - a) Election shall be by a majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.
 - b) Acceptance of the Constitution and of all Competition regulations currently in force shall be implicit in acceptance of election.
- iv. Honorary Vice-President. Election of these shall take place at an Annual General Meeting and will remain in force unless rescinded at a subsequent Annual General Meeting. Anyone elected to this position shall have the right to attend any General Meeting but, in this capacity, not to vote. Election will normally be a mark of appreciation for services rendered to Berkshire chess.

4. Dues

All dues, and the dates by which they shall be paid, shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Termination of Membership

- i. Membership of the Association shall automatically lapse on failure to pay any due by the date decided at the Annual General Meeting.
- ii. Membership can otherwise be terminated by a vote of the majority of those present at a General Meeting, provided that a motion proposing such termination has been included on the Agenda for the meeting.

6. Attendance at General Meetings

- i. Each full member shall have the right to send one representative with an additional representative for each team currently entered in the Berkshire Chess Association. They shall have the right to vote.
- ii. Officers of the Association and *delegate(s) to the English Chess Federation* shall not count as club representatives. They shall have the right to vote.
- iii. Individual members and Honorary Vice-Presidents shall have the right to attend but not to vote.
- iv. Other persons may attend if agreed by a majority of voting members present at the meeting, but such persons shall not have the right to vote.

7. Annual General Meeting

- i. If not already determined by a general meeting, this shall be held in or near Berkshire on a date (normally between May and September) determined by the Management Committee.
- ii. At least 28 days notice in writing shall be given to the Secretaries of all affiliated Clubs, Officers and Delegates of the Association, Honorary Vice-Presidents and individual members with the following:
 1. A Formal notice of the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting. This formal notice shall include the closing date by which proposals must be received by the Secretary of the Association.
 2. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, unless previously circulated.
 3. Any motions being presented by the Management Committee for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.
- iii. Clubs desiring to add any item to the Agenda must give details of it in writing to the Secretary of the Association not less than 21 days before the meeting.
- iv. A formal Agenda will be circulated by the Secretary of the Association to Secretaries of all affiliated clubs, Officers and Delegates of the Association, Honorary Vice-Presidents and individual members 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. It shall contain:-
 - a) The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
 - b) Presentation of Reports and Accounts.
 - c) *A list of the Offices to be elected including Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the BJCA and the appointment of an Independent Examiner.*
 - d) Other business as described in section 7 (ii) and (iii)
- v. The President shall take the chair. In his absence the chair shall be taken by a member of the Association as determined by a majority of the voting members present.
- vi. The chairman shall have no vote except in the event of a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.

8. Extraordinary general meeting

- i. This can be called only
 - a) At the discretion of the Management Committee, or
 - b) On a request in writing, signed by the Secretaries of five or more affiliated Clubs. Such a request must be made to the Secretary of the Association and must specify in writing the business to be transacted. The Secretary of the Association shall hold such an Extraordinary General Meeting within one calendar month of the date of receipt of the request. No business other than that specified in the request shall be placed on the Agenda.
 - c) On a request in writing signed by the Secretaries of at least half of the affiliated clubs if it is on the same business as an earlier Extraordinary General Meeting held within the previous 12 months.
- ii. Clubs shall receive in writing at least 14 days notice of the date of the meeting, together with the Agenda and minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and, if relevant, Extraordinary General Meeting, unless previously circulated.
- iii. No business other than that on the Agenda shall be considered.
- iv. The President shall take the chair. In his absence, or where a conflict of interest exists, the chair shall be taken by another member of the Association as determined by a majority of voting members present.
- v. The chairman shall have no vote except in the event of a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.

9. Officers and Delegates

- i. The Officers of the Association shall be President, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Captains, League Secretary, Individual Championship Conductor, Grader, Captain of Correspondence Team, Junior Organiser and Website Manager. The delegates are those elected to represent the Association on the English Chess Federation Council or its successors or on the Southern Counties Chess Union Executive Committee.
- ii. Officers and delegates shall be members of affiliated Clubs or individual members.
- iii. Officers and delegates shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

BCA Constitution

- iv. Officers and delegates can be removed by a vote of the majority of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- v. No Delegate may play for another County if by doing so he becomes ineligible to play for the Berkshire SCCU League team.
- vi. Should an office or delegacy become vacant during the course of the year, the Management Committee shall have the power to appoint for the unexpired portion.
- vii. Offices can be created or abolished only at an Annual General Meeting.

10. Management Committee

- i. Composition
 - a) The Officers and Delegates mentioned under 9.i, together with
 - b) Four persons, each from a different affiliated club of the Berkshire Chess Association which is not represented on the Management Committee under 10.i.a). Election will take place annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- ii. The Committee shall at each meeting elect a chairman from among its members in attendance.
- iii. The Committee shall meet
 - a) To execute the business determined by General Meetings.
 - b) To plan the business of the Annual General Meeting.
 - c) When called by the Secretary of the Association.
- iv. Voting. Each member except the chairman shall have a vote. In the event of a tied vote the chairman shall have the casting vote.
- v. Co-option. The Committee shall have the power of co-option, but co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.
- vi. Quorum. Any six voting members shall form a quorum.
- vii. The Committee shall be responsible for all equipment, held by the Association.
- viii. Subcommittees. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees. All recommendations made by the sub-committees will be reported to and considered by the Management Committee at its first subsequent meeting.

11. Interpretation of the Constitution

The interpretation of this Constitution shall whenever necessary be by the chairman of the meeting , unless there is a conflict of interest in which case the meeting shall elect another chairman and his interpretation shall be accepted as final.

12. Amendments to the Constitution

No amendment to this Constitution shall be made except by the vote of not less than two-thirds of those present at a General Meeting, with a minimum of twelve votes in favour.

13. The Laws of Chess

The Laws of Chess as adopted by the English Chess Federation shall govern all play under the control of this Association unless modified at the Berkshire Chess Association AGM. Such changes shall be documented in the Berkshire Chess Association Rules.