

Recreation Ground Trustee Representative

Somerton Recreation Ground is run by a group of trustees. One is appointed by each of the user groups (football, rugby, bowls, tennis, social club and snooker). The others are community members or trustees, appointed by the Chairman, and approved by the other trustees, who are considered to have something of value to add to the running of the trust.

The annual running costs for the Recreation Ground are in excess of £30,000. It is funded mainly through pitch fees and sponsorship, supplemented by rents and hire charges from regular and occasional users of the various facilities along with a small grant from Somerton Town Council. The trustees negotiate the pitch and other fees with a view to balancing the books. They take decisions on all aspects of the activities of the recreation ground.

The trust is set up as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). It is therefore a corporate body which is not a company incorporated under the Companies Acts; it is therefore not subject to company regulation. Neither its existence nor any charges it creates have to be registered at Companies House. The good news for trustees of a CIO is that in comparison to an unincorporated association or trust, if things go wrong, the trustees are generally not personally liable for any debts or other liabilities that the CIO incurs that are greater than the charity's assets.

The trustees meetings are held every 3 months, usually at the Edgar Hall, and invariably on a Monday evening. All matters that must be approved by the trustees are decided at these.

Operations meetings are held monthly, usually at the sport and social club, and also usually on a Monday evening. Decisions are made at the latter that decide on how the fields operate although some of these decisions still need to be rubber stamped by the trustees meetings. Operations meetings are often attended by members of the public who have an interest in the fields as well as, but not necessarily, by the trustees. They are mainly applicable to the football and rugby clubs.

The post of 'Tennis club Trustee' is to attend Trustee meetings and operations meetings when possible. They are to represent the views of the Somerton Tennis Club and to report back to the tennis club meetings a summary of the decisions made at the Trustee/operations meetings. They will often need to negotiate on behalf of the tennis club.

The role is typically held by the Chairperson of Somerton Tennis Club.