

CONSTITUTION OF VICTORIA PARK CLUB
(last revisions – AGM 27 February 2020; EGM 22 September 2020;
AGM 23 February 2021; AGM 23 February 2023)

1. The name of the Club shall be VICTORIA PARK CLUB hereinafter referred to as 'the Club'.
2. The premises of the Club shall be at Lyndhurst Road, Exeter.
3. The main purpose of the Club shall be to provide facilities for and to promote and encourage participation in tennis and bridge. The Income and Property of the Club shall be applied solely towards promoting the Club's objects as set forth in this Constitution.
 - 3.1 The Club shall take and retain a membership in Devon County Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) (and by doing so become and remain registered as an associate of the LTA). The Club will, as appropriate, comply with and uphold the Rules and Regulations of the DLTA as amended from time to time and the LTA Rules and Disciplinary Code and the rules and regulations of any body to which the LTA is registered or affiliated.
 - 3.2 The Club shall make rules and regulations concerning the Club including regulations concerning disciplinary procedures that may be taken against Members, taking account, where appropriate, of the LTA Rules and the LTA Disciplinary Code and the LTA's wider jurisdiction.
4. The Club shall be a Members' Club and shall consist of such Members as are hereinafter mentioned.

Membership

5. Membership of the Club is open to the whole community without discrimination.
 - 5.1 Every applicant for Membership shall complete an application form. Each Member, as a condition of Membership, agrees:
 - a) To be bound by the Club's Rules of Membership; and
 - b) To be bound by the LTA's Rules and Disciplinary Code (Tennis Members only).
 - 5.2 Applications for Membership shall be considered by the General Committee of the Club or by the appropriate Sub-Committee or such person or persons authorised by the General Committee. Applications will be accepted if supported by the majority of those considering the application or by the person appointed for such purpose. Applications will be considered without discrimination. No reason shall be given to any applicant in the event of rejection.
 - 5.3 No person shall be admitted to Membership until their application is approved as provided under Rule 5.2 and the appropriate subscription has been received by the Honorary Treasurer.
6. In recognition of a Member's outstanding and sustained contributions to the Club, the General Committee may recommend his or her appointment as an Honorary Life Member (henceforth HLM). Before being put into effect, any such recommendation must be formally proposed and duly approved by the Membership at the following Annual General Meeting.
 - 6.1 Potential nominations by individual Members may be submitted in the first case for consideration by the General Committee. Upon election in General Meeting, the Honorary Life

Member shall enjoy full benefits of Club Membership without the payment of further annual subscription fees.

6.2 At the time of the nomination the overall number of HLMs excluding Trustees of the Club must not exceed 2% of the total Club Membership (figure to be calculated on the basis of all Adult Members).

6.3 Such Membership may be withdrawn by the Membership in General Meeting in the event of the HLM's behaviour bringing the Club into disrepute.

7. Temporary Honorary Membership may be given to those Members and Tennis Coaches providing a significant input to the Club or tennis coaching programme in that year. The General Committee shall determine those who are eligible for such Temporary Honorary Membership.

Committee And Officers Of The Club

8. The affairs of the Club in all matters which are not in these Rules reserved for the Club in General Meeting shall be managed by the General Committee of the Club or delegated by the General Committee to a Sub-Committee.

The General Committee may invite any other Member of the Club to attend a Committee meeting so as to inform and update Committee Members on the status of works planned or in progress. Such a Member's attendance is in an advisory capacity and holds no voting rights.

The General Committee may from time to time co-opt such additional Members as it deems necessary for the efficient running of the Club. Such co-opted Members may attend Committee meetings and vote. Such Membership shall lapse when it is determined by the Officers of the Club to no longer be required or at the next Annual General Meeting.

8.1 A quorum of three Members is required for a meeting of the General Committee.

8.2 The General Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club, all of whom are Adult Members of the Club.

The Officers of the Club shall be Honorary Members of the Club for the duration of their tenure and shall not be liable to pay any subscription for such period and shall fulfil the roles below:

8.3 The Officers of the Club shall consist of:

Hon Chair	Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer	Hon Tennis Committee Chair
Hon Safeguarding Officer	Hon Bridge Committee Chair

In the event that no person is nominated to the position of Chair of the General Committee the remaining Officers of the General Committee shall appoint one of their number to be the Chair person at each and every meeting and such appointment shall be recorded in the minutes of every meeting.

8.4 The Officers of the Club shall retire at the Annual General Meeting of the Club but shall be eligible for re-election.

8.5 Junior Tennis Members shall have no right to propose or second a proposal in the affairs of the Club nor to stand for election to the position of Officer of the Club.

8.6 Any Member of the Club, except as excluded above in Rule 8.5, may at the Annual General Meeting nominate another Member for election to office. If the number of those nominated exceeds the number of vacancies the election shall be by a show of hands or other public sign.

8.7 The new Officers and Committee shall come into office immediately after the conclusion of the meeting and a list of the Committee shall be posted on the Club Notice Board.

8.8 In the event that a vacancy occurs on the General Committee after the Annual General Meeting, the General Committee shall be empowered to co-opt such Members as they see fit to fill such positions until the next Annual General Meeting.

8.9 There shall be a Bar Sub-Committee which shall consist of two Members of the General Committee, normally the Honorary Chair and Honorary Treasurer, and a Bar Manager being the person appointed to comply with statutory and licensing requirements.

8.10 In addition to a Tennis Sub-Committee and a Bridge Sub-Committee, the General Committee shall appoint any other Sub-Committees as deemed necessary for the effective running of the Club.

Each member of a Sub-Committee shall be rebated one half of the Membership fee for which they would normally be liable.

8.10.1 A quorum of one half of the Sub-Committee Membership is required for a meeting of a Sub-Committee.

9. The General Committee shall at all times act in accordance with resolutions passed by the Membership at General Meetings.

9.1 The Officers of the Club and all Sub-Committees shall at all times act in accordance with instructions and directions from the General Committee within the terms of the Club's Constitution.

9.2 On direction from the General Committee, domestic or other staff may be engaged on behalf of the Club to facilitate the efficient running of the Club and such engagement may be lawfully terminated as necessary.

9.3 In the event of a declared national emergency or other major event that limits or restricts the ability of the General Committee to manage the Club, the General Committee shall be empowered to suspend, amend or add to the Constitution and rules of the Club as they consider necessary. Such changes shall be temporary lasting no more than six months and shall be notified to the Membership as soon as practicable and shall be subject to approval by the Membership at the next General Meeting. Such authority shall only extend to matters concerning the day to day management of the Club and shall specifically exclude matters relating to the dissolution of the Club.

Trustees

10. There shall be three Trustees of the Club who shall be appointed from time to time as necessary by the Club in General Meeting from such Ordinary and Honorary Members as are willing to be appointed to such a position. The Trustees shall receive Honorary Membership for the period that they are Trustees. These are in addition to the Honorary Members permitted in Paragraph 6.

10.1 A Trustee shall hold office for life or until resignation by giving notice of such intention in writing to the General Committee or removed from office by a resolution passed at a General Meeting of the Club by a majority comprising two-thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote.

11. All property of the Club, including land and investments, shall be held by the Trustees for the time being in their own names as far as is practicable for the use and benefit of the Club.

11.1 On the death, resignation or removal from office of a Trustee the General Committee shall take steps to procure the appointment by the Club in General Meeting of a new Trustee and as soon as practicable thereafter take all lawful steps to procure the vesting of all Club property in the names of the Trustees as constituted after the said appointment.

11.2 The Trustees shall have the power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any Club property for the purposes of raising or borrowing money for the benefit of the Club subject to the consent of the General Committee.

Subscriptions, Finances and Accounts

12. The classes of Membership shall be as from time to time decided by the General Committee and subject to the approval of the Membership in General Meeting. The subscription due and the benefits accruing from each class of Membership shall be determined by the General Committee from time to time and be subject to the approval of the Membership in General Meeting.

Junior Members below the age of 18 may not be Club Officers nor vote at General Meetings – Rule 8.5 applies.

12.1 The General Committee may at its discretion add to or alter the classes of Membership if it deems it necessary. Such additions or alterations shall be submitted to the Membership for their approval or otherwise at the next Annual General Meeting.

13. Annual subscriptions shall be payable on election as provided in Rule 5.3 and thereafter without demand on the 1st day of April in every year. The General Committee may terminate the Membership of any Member whose annual subscription remains unpaid on the 1st day of July.

Only those Members whose subscriptions are fully paid for the current year may represent the Club in any capacity.

14. The Honorary Treasurer shall keep such proper books of account as will enable the presentation at every Annual General Meeting of the Club, or at any other time required by the General Committee, an accurate report and statement of the finances of the Club, including when practical and necessary a separate statement detailing the purchase and supply of intoxicating liquor for the previous or current year as the case may be, and shall present such report and statement accordingly.

Sale Of Intoxicating Liquor

15. The supply of intoxicating liquor to the Club shall be under the sole control of the Bar Sub-Committee, Rule 8.9 refers, who shall arrange for the purchase thereof on behalf of the Club and for the supply thereof to Members, to Members' guests and to other persons admitted under Rule 18.

15.1 The supply of intoxicating liquor in or on the Club premises shall be permitted at such times as allowed by law and subject to any conditions imposed by the licensing authority.

15.2 No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied to Members or to any other person on the Club premises otherwise than by or on behalf of the Club. No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for payment to any person on Club premises other than a Member except as provided for by Rule 17.

15.3 All purchases of intoxicating liquor shall be paid for at the time that such purchase is made.

16. The General Committee shall secure the due observance of the current licensing regulations as enacted by Parliament and of any conditions attached to any registration certificate issued by the licensing authority in respect of the Club premises.

17. Persons other than Members and their guests may be admitted to the Club premises if they are persons who fall generally into the following categories:-

(a) Members of visiting sports organisations and officials and others immediately connected with such sporting organisations.

(b) Persons attending social functions held at the Club premises, provided that such persons do not attend more than twenty-four such functions in any calendar year.

(c) Persons visiting the Club premises actually in the company of a Member of the Club.

(d) Persons belonging to a body authorised to meet at the Club by the General Committee.

18. Intoxicating liquor may be sold or supplied by or on behalf of the Club to such persons as are admitted in the Rules above for consumption on the premises except that no person under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to purchase or consume intoxicating liquor on Club premises.

19. No person shall be paid at the expense of the Club any commission, percentage or similar payment on or with reference to purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club nor shall any persons directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to Members or guests apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole.

General Meetings

20. An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held before the end of February of every year to appoint Officers and Committee Members and to receive the reports of the Honorary Chairman, Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, to agree Membership fees and benefits arising (Rule 12.1 refers), and to transact such general business as shall be brought forward. Every General Meeting shall be made available for Membership participation by whatever means the Committee deem appropriate.

20.1 The Club accounts shall be made up and independently reviewed to the last day of December in each year and a copy of such accounts shall be presented at the meeting.

20.2 Written notice detailing any Motions and Resolutions to be submitted for the Members' consideration at the Annual General Meeting must be sent to the Honorary Secretary to arrive no less than seven days before the date of such a meeting.

21. A Special General Meeting of the Club may be summoned at any time by the General Committee and shall be called immediately if at least one-fifth of the Membership or twenty Members, whichever is the lesser, deliver a written request for the same to the General Committee.

22. Notice of the time and date of the Annual or Special General Meeting shall be posted in the Club in the manner described in Rule 27.1 for a period of at least fourteen days before such day and fourteen days' notice in writing of the said meeting shall be sent to all Members at the address recorded by the Honorary Secretary. The period of notice for a Special Meeting may be abridged by the General Committee at their discretion if the urgency of the business to be transacted in their opinion so merits it.

22.1 At any General Meeting of the Club every Member of the Club shall be entitled to participate and every such Member except Junior Members below the age of 18 shall be entitled to vote upon every question raised. Members may participate and vote by any method that the General Committee deems appropriate.

22.2 The Chair of the Meeting shall be the Chair of the General Committee or, if not present, a Member elected for the occasion by the Meeting before any business is opened.

22.3 In the event of equality of voting the Chair shall have a casting vote.

22.4 All General Meetings of the Club shall be minuted.

Alterations To The Constitution

23. These Rules in the Constitution may be revoked, added to or altered by a majority comprising two-thirds or more of the Members present at and entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Club. Any amendment to Rule 30.1 will also require the approval of all of the Trustees. Any proposed changes to the Rules must be submitted in accordance with Rule 20.2.

23.1 Any alteration or amendment to these Rules shall be notified in writing to the Inland Revenue and to the Clerk to the Local Authority by the Honorary Secretary within 28 days of such alteration.

Code Of Conduct

24. The General Committee may from time to time make, vary or amend the Code of Conduct, insofar as it shall not be inconsistent with the Rules of the Club, for the regulation of the internal affairs of the Club and the conduct of the Members. The Code of Conduct in force at the time shall be binding on all Members, their guests and other visitors to the Club premises.

Conduct Of Members

25. No betting shall be allowed in or on Club premises. No lottery shall be promoted on behalf of or in any way connected with the Club or any entertainment or event held by or in connection with the Club without the written authority of the General Committee.

25.1 Gaming shall be permitted in the Club provided that it does not contravene the provisions of any current legislation.

25.2 Smoking and Vaping shall not be permitted within the curtilage of the buildings or within the grounds of the Club.

26. The General Committee may suspend the Membership of any Member whose conduct, whether on the Club premises or elsewhere, is or has been in the opinion of the Committee contrary to the interests of the Club or injurious to its reputation.

26.1 Following the suspension under Rule 26 of the Membership of any Member, the General Committee shall hold a meeting on a date not later than 21 days from the date of suspension. The General Committee shall give notice to the suspended Member, at the address last notified to the Honorary Secretary under Rule 27, of the suspension from Membership and that attendance will be permitted at the said meeting.

26.2 At the meeting called for the above purpose the allegations against the suspended Member shall be related to the meeting by a Member of the General Committee and the suspended Member shall, if so desiring, be heard in answer; a reasonable adjournment shall be allowed at the discretion of the meeting to allow the preparation of the same.

26.3 The Members of the Committee present shall vote to re-instate the suspended Member or to terminate the Membership, a simple majority of those voting deciding the issue. The Club may refuse Membership or expel from Membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to the Club's Members at the next Annual General Meeting and decided by a majority vote.

Notices

27. Each Member shall inform the Honorary Secretary of their private address or some other address to which communications may be sent for attention.

27.1 It shall not be necessary to send any notice intended for Members generally except in the case of a notice convening any General Meeting. All notices shall be deemed to be posted by affixing the same in a prominent position on the Club premises in a part of the Club frequented by Members. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to ensure that any notice is so displayed throughout any period required in this Constitution.

Visitors

28. Members may introduce and entertain guests at the Club and there shall be kept at the Club a Visitors Book which both the Member and the guest shall sign.

28.1 The Member introducing a guest shall be responsible for the guest strictly observing these Rules and the Club Code of Conduct at all times and the Member shall not leave the Club premises before the guest.

28.2 No person whose Membership of the Club has been terminated under Rule 26.3 or who is for the time being suspended under Rule 26 or whose application for Membership has at any time been rejected shall be introduced as a guest.

28.3 No Member shall at any time entertain more than two playing guests on the premises and the same person may not be introduced as a playing guest on more than six occasions in any year. However, where guests from other Clubs attend Victoria Park Club as part of a reciprocal agreement or initiative with Victoria Park Club, this restriction shall not apply.

28.4 Any Member introducing visitors or guests in accordance with the foregoing shall be responsible for the payment of such fees as may be prescribed by the General Committee from time to time.

Exclusion Of Liability

29. Neither the Club nor any Officer shall be liable to any Member or guest of a Member for any injury or loss or damage occurring from whatever cause in or about the Club premises and a notice to this effect shall at all times be displayed in a prominent position on the Club premises.

Dissolution Of The Club

30. If the number of Ordinary Members of the Club shall at any time fall below 10 or if at any time the Club shall pass in General Meeting by a majority of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote a resolution of its intention to dissolve, the General Committee or failing them the Trustees shall take immediate steps to convert into money the property of the Club with power however to postpone or delay the conversion of any particular property if the Club in General Meeting shall so authorise.

30.1 Out of the proceeds of such a conversion the Trustees shall discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club including the expenses of such conversion and any balance remaining in their hands shall be given by them to such Community Amateur Sports Clubs within the City of Exeter as the Club in General Meeting shall resolve. No distribution of the remaining funds shall be made in cash or in kind to Members or other third parties.

30.2 A copy of the Notice convening any General Meeting to dissolve the Club shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary under Rule 27 not less than 14 days before the date appointed for the Meeting. Any accidental omission of the same shall not invalidate any proceeding or resolution.

Resignations

31. Any Member intending to resign from the Club must give written notice of that intention to the Honorary Secretary before 31st March and must pay any arrears of subscription or charges due at the date of such notice. If such notice is not given they shall be considered Members for the current year and shall be liable to pay the appropriate subscription.

Copy Of Rules

32. A copy of the Rules and Code of Conduct shall be posted in the Clubhouse and copies may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary on payment of a fee.

Interpretation

33. If any doubt arises as to the meaning or application of the Rules or Code of Conduct the General Committee may place such construction upon them and may make such regulations with reference to them as in their judgement serves the best interests and convenience of the Club and its Members.