

Summary of Revisions to Victoria Park Club Constitution

What's the purpose?

The existing Constitution does not represent how the Club operates in reality so it seems sensible to get these to align.

Membership categories need clarification and the Membership need to be able to see what benefits are available from each category.

The Committee structure is not fit for purpose – historically, the General Committee has 'run' the Tennis Section. The time has come for the Tennis Members to take control of tennis matters just as the Bridge Section have been doing for years.

One way of doing this is to slim down the General Committee and allow it to become an overarching management Committee responsible for future strategy and Club development and formally recognise the Bridge and Tennis Sub-Committees and the work that they do and give them the authority to manage their own affairs as well as sitting on and reporting to the General Committee.

To achieve this requires revision of quite a few rules and improvement in terminology in many.

The revisions to the Constitution are listed below. These should be read in conjunction with the following three documents which are available on the Club Noticeboard:

- **Membership – Who, What and How Much**
- **Classes of Membership and the Benefits attached**
- **Victoria Park Club Management and Committee Reorganisation**

The Code of Conduct also requires minor amendment to reflect some of the changes.

Revisions:

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| Rule 3 | - Add the words 'and to' in the first line
Reason – better English |
| Rule 3.2 | - Delete 'and byelaws'
Reason - outdated language, byelaws are no longer made |
| Rule 4 | - Delete membership categories
Reason – not needed |
| Rule 5.1 | - Re-write the application process
Reason – to reflect what is needed and how it is done in reality |
| Rule 5.2, 5.3,-
5.4, 5.5 | Delete
Reason – irrelevant, replaced by a new Rule 5.2: |

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.

- Rule 6** - Honorary Membership – refined to separate Honorary Life Membership and Honorary Temporary Membership and to further define
Reason – greater clarity and flexibility

- Rule 7** - Now becomes Rule 5.3. Deletion of reference to Temporary Membership and change from ‘payment made’ to ‘payment received’
Reason – abolition of Temporary Membership and claims that ‘it’s in the post’

- Rule 8.2** – Revision of the Membership of the General Committee
Reason – to better reflect the management needs of the Club to clarify who can nominate

- Rule 8.4, 8.5** - Remove the reference to ‘Ordinary’ Membership and limited term
Reason - to enable Honorary Members to be elected; the Committee will consist of Officers only

- Rule 8.8, 8.9** - To allow the General Committee to appoint Tennis and Bridge Sub-Committees within the Constitution
To formalise a 50% rebate of Membership for Sub-Committee Members
Reason – no formal status exists at present
Addition of new Rule 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.
Rule 8.9.1 now becomes Rule 8.10.1 *A quorum of one half of the Sub-Committee Membership is required for a meeting of a Sub-Committee.*

- Rule 12.2** - Updated Membership Categories

- Rule 13** - Only fully paid up Members may represent the Club
Reason – stating the obvious

- Rule 22.1** - Change of wording
Reason – to reflect changes in membership categories

- Bye-laws** – Changed to Code of Conduct throughout

- Rule 25** - Addition of new Rule 25.2:
Smoking and Vaping shall not be permitted within the curtilage of the buildings or within the grounds of the Club.
Reason – this has been voted on previously and passed