NAILSEA & DISTRICT CROQUET CLUB CONSTITUTION.

Title

1. The name of the Club shall be The Nailsea and District Croquet Club.

Objects

2. The main purposes of the club are to provide facilities for and and to promote participation in the amateur sport of Croquet in Nailsea.

3. The Club shall take active steps to encourage beginners to the game by provision of advice and coaching as appropriate.

4. The Club shall from time to time hold social and other events for the membership and their guests.

Membership.

5. Membership of the club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of Croquet. The club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
The club committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to an independent appeals panel.

6. A person becomes a member by paying an annual subscription to the treasurer except for honorary members.

7. A person's membership may be deemed to have lapsed if his/her subscription remains unpaid after the last day of April. This shall not apply to those paying in instalments by standing order.

8. The Committee may expel any member whose conduct is, or has been, in the opinion of the Committee, contrary to the interest of, or injurious to the reputation of, the Club. If a member is so expelled, he/she shall have the right of appeal, and the appeal shall be heard by a board of three independent persons to be appointed by the S. W. Federation of Croquet Clubs Committee.

9. Definitions of Membership.

9a. Full Member.
Member who pays the NDCC “Full Membership” fee.

9b. Associate Member.
Full Members of other Croquet Clubs who wish to avail themselves of NDCC’s facilities. The restriction being that their number is not permitted to exceed one fifth of the total membership.
Associate Members will be charged a fee of 70% of the full membership.

9c. Country Member.

Members who live at a distance greater than 25 miles radius from the Club.

Country Members will be charged a fee of 50% of the full membership.

9d. Social Member.

Members who do not play but wish to remain involved with the club.

Social Members will be charged a fee of 10% of the full membership

9e. U.25 member

For those members up to the age of 25 on January 1st of the membership year

Under 25 Members will be charged a fee of 30% of the full membership.

9f. Honorary Member.

The Committee may elect persons to hold Honorary Membership of the Club for a period of 3 years.

9g. Life Member.
In special circumstances the Committee may grant Life Membership to anyone who has provided outstanding services to the Club

9h An Ordinary Member is a Full, Associate, Country or U25 Member but must be aged at least 16

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10. The Committee may choose to elect a President who will remain in office for a period of three years.

Committee and Officers.

11. A Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club.

12. Seven persons shall be elected annually from among the Ordinary Members. Additional members up to a maximum of eleven active Committee members may be co-opted by the Committee for specific duties. Each candidate must be proposed and seconded by Ordinary Members of NDCC.

13. Three Committee members, to be specifically elected at the AGM, will hold the offices of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Vacancies in these offices will be filled as necessary from elected or co-opted members. The Chairman shall hold office for up to three years, after which he must stand down. In the event that no other candidate is nominated he may be invited to stand for re-election for a further year if at least 50% of those attending the AGM vote in his favour.

The vote shall be by anonymous paper ballot, and the President shall have a deciding vote should it be necessary**.**

14. The duties of the other Committee members shall be determined by the Committee themselves. Committee members shall at all times act in accordance with the directions of the Committee as a whole.

15. The Quorum at Committee meetings shall be three, one of whom must be one of the officers named in Paragraph 13 above.

16. The Committee may appoint sub-committees for specific purposes at any time. At least one member of any sub-committee shall be a member of the Committee.

General Meetings.

17. An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in November each year. Initial notice of the AGM will be given 6 weeks prior to the agreed date.

Ordinary members may submit proposals suggesting amendments to the Constitution. These proposals will be considered and a vote taken at the AGM. Ordinary Members may also submit items for discussion under AOB.

Proposals and items for inclusion under AOB on the Agenda must be submitted to the Club Secretary three weeks prior to the agreed date and must be proposed and seconded by Ordinary Members of the club.

Nominations of Committee Members must be submitted to the Club Secretary on the appropriate form three weeks prior to the agreed date

The final agenda, including proposals and nomination details, will be circulated to all members two weeks prior to the agreed date.

18. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
    [a] Receive and approve reports from the Chairman and the Treasurer;
    [b] Elect the Committee, which will take office from the close of the meeting;
    [c] Appoint an Honorary Auditor
    [d] Transact any other business on the Agenda.

19. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Club may be summoned at any time by the Committee, and shall be so summoned within seven days of the receipt of a written request signed by not less than ten Ordinary members. The business at such a meeting shall be restricted to that which is stated in the notice of the meeting.

20. At any General Meeting all members shall be entitled to be present and to speak. However, only Ordinary Members shall be entitled to vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot where this is stipulated elsewhere within this constitution but in all other cases shall be by show of hands unless resolved otherwise. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman of the Meeting shall be entitled to use a second, casting vote.

21. The Quorum at a General Meeting, shall be One Fifth of the Ordinary Membership. For the purpose of determining that Quorum has been achieved, only the Ordinary

Members attending shall be counted.

22. The Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings of all General Meetings.

Subscriptions, Finances and Accounts.

23. The annual subscription for Ordinary Members shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting each year. The Committee shall have the power to ;
    (a) agree reduced subscriptions for persons in full-time education, for family groups [namely, parents with children under 18], or other such well-defined classes as are deemed deserving.
    (b) Agree a reduced subscription for payment before a due date set by the commitee

    (c) offer members the option to pay subscriptions in instalments by standing order
    (d) set a fee for payment by standing order

24. Full subscriptions will normally be payable whatever time of year a member joins, but the Committee shall have discretion to charge reduced subscriptions to new members joining after July 1st.

25. Thereafter subscriptions are payable on the first of April each year.

26. The Club's financial year shall end on the last day of September

27. The Treasurer shall keep such accounts as will enable him to present at the Annual General Meeting, or at any other time if required [given reasonable notice] by the Committee, an accurate report and statement concerning the finances of the Club.

28. An Auditor, who is not a member of the Committee, shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. The treasurer shall be responsible for preparing a statement of account and presenting it, with the Auditor's comments, if any, to the Annual General Meeting.

29. The Treasurer shall take steps to ensure that all money belonging to the club is properly banked. Cheques drawn on the Club's account must be signed by two out of the four named Committee members.

30. The Committee is authorised to borrow or raise money in such manner as it sees fit.

Club Property.

31. All members are responsible for the safe keeping and proper use of playing equipment and other property. Misuse of such property will not be tolerated and all damage must be reported to a Committee member.

Non-Profit making

32. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

33. The committee shall appoint three Trustees of the Club.

33a The committee shall monitor the willingness and suitability of those Trustees to continue in office and arrange for their replacement as necessary.

34. All property of the Club shall be held by the Trustees for the time being, in their own names as far as necessary and practical, for the use and benefit of the Club.

34a The Trustees shall act, in regard to any Club property held by them, in accordance with the directions of the Committee.

35. As far as practical, playing equipment will be available for the use of members at all reasonable times for play or practice on the Club's lawns. In cases of conflict, organised Club events shall take priority over informal games between members.

Guests.

36. Subject to the availability of lawns and equipment, members may invite non-members to play with them as guests. Any person playing frequently as a guest must expect to be asked to become a member, or pay such a fee as the Committee may decide is appropriate.

Exclusion of Liability.

37. Neither the Club nor any officer thereof, shall be liable to any member or guest of a member for any loss or damage to any property occurring, from whatever cause, in or about the Club's lawns or other premises; nor for any injury sustained by any such person whilst on or entering or leaving such premises.

Dissolution.

38. Upon dissolution of the club any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered CASC, a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports.

Alteration of this Constitution.

39. Any addition to, alteration to, or revocation of all or part of this Constitution must be agreed by a two thirds majority vote at a General Meeting, in the notice of which the intention to make such changes has been properly given.

Adopted 23rd. March 1982

Amendments:-

22.03.83 Para 24	01.03.08	Para 2, 6,
20.03.84 Para 9		Para 9 &10 re written

16.03.85	Para 7		including 9a-9i
06.12.85	Para 37		Para 13, 15, 29, 32
15.03.86	Para 13		Add new Para 32a
12.03.90	Para 13		Para 38.
22.03.91	Para 13	10.03.12	Para 9 rewritten
21.03.92	Para 9		i.e. f & g deleted
02.03.96	Paras 26 & 29. Add New Para 30		Para 17, 26
19.03.97	Paras 8 & 13	10.11.12	Para 10
20.03.99	Para 13	11.11.17	Para 9h added
			Para 12 rewritten
			Para 13 rewritten
			Para 17 rewritten

06.11.21	Para 9e rewritten
05.11.22	Para 7 rewritten. Para 23b,c,and d added
02.02.23	Para 2, 5, 38 rewritten
	Para 32 with new heading added
02.11.24	Para 20, 21,and 23 rewritten