

The Friary Tennis Club Constitution

1. Title

The name of the club shall be Friary Tennis Club, which exists by arrangement with the Order of Friars' Minor based at St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church.

2. Objectives

The main purposes of the club are to provide facilities for, and to promote participation in, tennis in the local community and surrounding areas plus any other activities that the committee wish to organise.

3. Membership

The tennis courts are the property of the trustees of the Order of Friars Minor. Membership is subject to the approval of the committee and is open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to the available facilities is allowable on a non discriminatory basis. It is expected that any applicants for membership should subscribe to the standards of the club, the most important of which is friendliness to everyone we meet at the club or when representing it elsewhere.

4. Non-Members

Non-members may only be allowed to play when invited by a club member but no more than three times at a fee to be determined by the AGM. One visitor is allowed per member. Members have the right to play over visitors.

5. Management

5.1 The management of the club shall be vested in a President and a committee consisting of: chairman, treasurer, and between 3 and 7 others. A majority should be parishioners of St.Thomas'. The chairman must be a parishioner of St.Thomas'.

5.2 The committee shall meet as and when necessary for the transaction of business with at least 7 days notice being given of any meeting where circumstances allow. Three members shall form a quorum.

5.3 The committee shall have the power to promote such competitions and to make such regulations as it may deem necessary and to appoint such sub-committees as it may think fit.

5.4 The committee shall have the power to terminate the membership of any member where, in the committee's opinion, there are good and sufficient reasons for so doing.

5.5 The committee shall have the power to co-opt: co-opted members shall not have voting rights unless previously decided by the committee,

5.6 The Guardian (leader of the Order of Friars Minor) or his deputy shall act as President.

5.7 The committee shall present a report to the Annual General Meeting, covering the last year's activities.

6. Finance

The treasurer shall maintain a full record of receipts and disbursements and shall prepare an annual statement at the end of the financial year. The Treasurer's annual statement shall be audited and certified by the Auditors, who shall be appointed at the A.G.M. and they shall not be members of the committee. All payments paid by the Treasurer shall be confirmed by the Club Committee and all withdrawals in the club's name shall be confirmed by the club committee. All withdrawals in the club's name shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other officer authorised to operate the club's bank account.

Any surplus income or gains are to be reinvested in the club. There shall be no distribution of club assets, either in cash or in kind, to members or third parties.

7. Annual General Meeting

An annual general meeting of the club shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year for the purposes of:

7.1 Receiving the report and balance sheet of the preceding financial year.

7.2 To elect the committee representatives and to appoint Auditors for the forthcoming year.

7.3 Deciding such resolutions or amendments to the Rules as have been submitted.

The secretary shall give at least 14 days prior notice of the meeting. All motions must be proposed and recorded and forwarded to reach the secretary no later than 5 days prior to the meeting.

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the committee, or on the request of no less than one quarter of the members. One family represents one vote.

10 days notice of such a meeting shall be given to each member of the club by the Secretary.

Only the business for which the meeting is called may be transacted.

8. General

8.1 No alteration shall be made to this Constitution unless it is agreed by both two-thirds majority of an Annual General Meeting and the President.

8.2 Where the rules are silent or in the event of any question arising as to the correct interpretation of these Rules or any question not herein provided for, the committee's view of such questions shall be final and binding on members.

8.3 Members on court must be sensitive to those waiting for a game.

8.4 Rule removed (for 2003 version).

8.5 In the interest of club standards the committee requests members to wear appropriate sports gear. Non-marking tennis shoes must be worn in order to avoid damaging the playing surface.

8.6 No animals belonging to members are allowed off the leash.

8.7 Members should keep themselves informed of club activities by reading newsletters and notices.

8.8 The club seeks to distinguish itself by its friendliness, and all members are expected to contribute actively to that standard.

9. Dissolution

On the dissolution of the club, any assets remaining after paying debts and meeting other legally payable liabilities are to be allocated to the purposes of the Order of Friars Minor as determined by their trustees (Registered Charity Number 232177).

April 2015