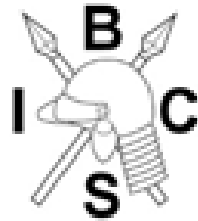


Battersea Ironsides Sports Club



Constitution

The Rules of the Club

Version 1.0
2nd January 2013

PREAMBLE.....	3
Historical Note	3
Composition of the Constitution	3
THE RULES OF THE CLUB.....	4
Composition.....	4
The Objects of the Club.....	4
Management of the Club.....	6
Honorary Auditor	7
Honorary Secretary.....	7
Honorary Treasurer.....	7
Management Committee.....	8
Vacancies	9
Trustees.....	10
Honorary Officers.....	10
Sub-Committees	10
Personnel and resources.....	10
Membership.....	11
Social Members & Temporary Members.....	11
Honorary Membership.....	12
Life Membership	12
Visiting Members	13
Subscriptions.....	13
Conduct of Members	13
Expulsion of Members	14
Resignations.....	14
Meetings	15
Accounts & Financial Objectives.....	16
Amendment of the Rules of the Club	16
Dissolution of the Club.....	16

PREAMBLE

Historical Note

The Club was formed in 1943 by Col. E.H. St. Maur Toope from members of the 42nd Royal Tank Regiment, Cadet Battalion located in the borough of Battersea.

In 1948 the title was changed to “Battersea Ironsides” and the Club opened to other than ex-Royal Tank Regiment Cadets.

The clubs colours originate from the RTR motto and shoulder flash “Through mud and blood to the green fields beyond”, brown, green and red. White has been added and brown interpreted as black for fashion reasons.

The club helmet and crossed lances hark back to the “Old Ironsides” of Cromwell’s parliamentary troops.

Composition of the Constitution

The constitution is made up of The Rules and The Regulations.

The Rules are the fundamental structures and strategic controls of the Club and can be changed by a formal process of the management committee and approval by the Club in General Meeting.

The Regulations are the day to day tactical controls and structures and can be adjusted by formal decision of the Management Committee.

These Rules and Regulations replace completely all preceding Rules, Regulations or Constitutions.

THE RULES OF THE CLUB

1. The name of the club shall be “**Battersea Ironsides Sports Club**”, hereinafter called the “**Club**”.

Composition

2. The Club comprises

2.1 The Constituent Sections:

- a) Rugby Section – Battersea Ironsides Rugby Football Club Limited also known as Ironsides Rugby
- b) Cricket Section – Battersea Ironsides Cricket Club
- c) Football Section – Battersea Ironsides Football Club
- d) Junior Section – the Junior Sections of a, b, c above acting together

and

2.2 Associated Sections as defined in the Regulations of the Club which for the avoidance of doubt are not Constituent Sections.

2.3 Any Constituent Section wishing to leave the Club must give at least 12 months notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, otherwise they will be liable for the ensuing year’s subscription and the cost of facilities which cannot be re-booked.

2.4 No Constituent Section may introduce any clause in its own constitution, rules or regulations that runs counter to these Rules or conflicts with them. The Constituent Sections shall also make reasonable efforts to have their rules or regulations comply with and compliment the Regulations of the Club.

The Objects of the Club

3. The object of the club is to provide facilities and promote participation in the amateur sports of rugby union football, cricket and association football at the Battersea Ironsides Sports Ground, Burntwood Lane, Earlsfield, SW17 0AW and other areas in the Borough of Wandsworth.
4. Where it does not conflict with clause (2) above, the additional objects of the Club shall be to promote other sports and to foster social relationships amongst members, their families , friends and the local community in a non-discriminatory and inclusive basis.
5. The three sports of Rugby Union Football, Cricket and Association Football represent the essence of the Club and accordingly they are specifically enshrined in the constitution. The Club shall therefore use its reasonable endeavours to:
 - i. provide a senior football pitch at least once every weekend during the football season to a suitable standard for playing tier 7 senior football or its equivalent if replaced;

- II. provide a senior cricket pitch at least once every weekend during the cricket season to a suitable standard for playing Surrey Championship cricket or its equivalent if replaced;
- III. provide a senior training area at least twice a week during the rugby season in the evenings to a suitable standard for rugby football training;
- IV. provide a playing area at least once a week on Sunday morning during the rugby season to a suitable standard for mini rugby training;
- V. provide playing areas for junior cricket and football.

It is acknowledged that until a high quality artificial training area can be built off the cricket pitch that II. and III. are mutually exclusive and the club shall therefore use its reasonable endeavours to find a solution, ideally through building a high quality artificial training area which shall particularly be used to save the outfield surface during wet or other inclement weather when the ground and turf may get damaged.

6. The Club shall use its reasonable endeavours to maintain access to facilities and sports for its members at an affordable level. Specifically, development and improvement of the facilities shall not be at the expense of affordability. The fees charged to the Sections shall not increase as a result of optional developments and improvements. Any essential works shall be effected without increasing fees wherever possible.
7. In considering any proposed development or improvement of the Club's facilities, consideration shall be given first to complying with the recommendations and guidelines of the governing bodies of Rugby Football, Cricket and Association Football where the relevant Section requests it.
8. The Club shall in general give priority to the use of its facilities to Rugby Football, Cricket and Association Football at both adult and junior level and this must be considered alongside any commercial benefit from other uses.

Notwithstanding these objects - where the Management Committee decides that it can offer the facilities of the club to other users for a period of time, which does not in the view of the Management Committee overly interfere with the current or foreseeable requirements under these Rules, the Management Committee may make such commitments and long term agreements and they may not be over-ridden by these Rules.

Management of the Club

9. The affairs of the Club in all matters not in these Rules reserved for the Club in General Meeting shall be managed by a Committee of Members of the Club (hereinafter called the “**Management Committee**”).
10. The **Management Committee** shall consist of:
 - a. The Chairman of the Club, the Hon. Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, (hereinafter called the “**Officers**”) – total 3 people;
 - b. Two representatives of each of the senior Rugby Football, Cricket and Association Football sections of the Club (hereinafter called the “**Senior Players Representatives**”) – total 6 people;
 - c. Two representatives of the Junior Section of the Club (hereinafter called the “**Junior Players Representatives**”) total 2 people.

The Management Committee may therefore normally total 11 people, the management committee may decide to invite others to join them, either permanently or for a specific duration. The Chairman may be elected from amongst the Players Representatives, or from the general membership.

11. The Junior Players Representatives and the Senior Players Representatives shall collectively be known as the Players Representatives.
12. The Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. They shall go out of office in every year but shall be eligible for re-election.
13. The Senior Players Representatives shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the rules of each constituent section and shall take office annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Club or at such other time as may be required by the respective section.
14. The Junior Players Representatives shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the rules of the Junior Section, or if such a body is not yet constituted, by the junior sections of the rugby, football and cricket sections acting jointly, and shall take office annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Club or at such other time as may be required by the Junior Section. They shall go out of office every year but shall be eligible for re-election.

Honorary Auditor

15. An Honorary Auditor may if required be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. He shall go out of office every year but shall be eligible for re-election. Alternatively, the Management Committee may recommend that the club accounts are presented without prior audit, in this case this shall be voted on annually in advance at a General Meeting of the Club. A General Meeting of the Club can at any time by simple majority require a retrospective audit.

Honorary Secretary

16. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary, subject always to the control and direction of the Management Committee to:-

- a. Summon and attend all meetings of the Management Committee and prepare and keep minutes of the proceedings;
- b. Summon and attend all General meetings of the Club and prepare and keep minutes of the proceedings;
- c. Ensure that a Sub-Committee shall prepare and keep a Register of Members and Social Members and their subscriptions and be responsible for the collection and payment of subscriptions to the Honorary Treasurer;
- d. Ensure that the Club conforms to the regulations of the Licensing Act 2003 or such other act or acts concerning the consumption of alcohol and entertainment as may from time to time apply;
- e. Ensure that sufficient cover is being maintained for insurance purposes; and
- f. Ensure that all contracts and agreements are properly drawn up and complied with.

Honorary Treasurer

17. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Treasurer to keep the financial books and accounts of the Club and prepare an annual statement of Income and expenditure and a Balance Sheet. He shall also be responsible for collecting all sums due to the Club and paying the Club's liabilities as they arise.

- a. That such Bank Account or Bank Accounts be kept with a Clearing Bank as may be agreed from time to time, and that cheques be signed on behalf of the Club by the Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary or Chairman and such other Members as may be approved and identified in the Regulations or by the Treasurer alone as the Management Committee may authorise.
- b. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a budgetary forecast at least once a year for review and discussion by the Management Committee not less than 3 months before the start of the financial year.

Management Committee

18. The Management Committee may appoint such sub-Committees for such purposes as it may deem appropriate. No less than two members of the Management Committee shall serve on each sub-Committee and no sub Committee shall be quorate without one member of the Management Committee being present.
19. One half of the members of the Management Committee including at least one Officer and at least one Players Representatives from each Constituent Section shall constitute a quorum.
20. On all propositions dealt with by the Management Committee each Players Representative shall be entitled to a vote and the Chairman shall normally not be entitled to a casting vote. Where appropriate the Management Committee may decide to hold meetings and votes by email or such other methods of communication as they may deem appropriate.
 - a. In the case of disagreement, or on an issue any committee member considers requires further thought, or where a Player's Representative wishes to refer to his Section for advice, any member of the Management Committee may ask for a vote on an issue to be deferred until the next meeting (Meeting #2). This option may be used freely.
 - b. In the case of continued lack of consensus, the Chairman may ask all the Players Representatives to refer the issue back to their Sections for further consideration and thereby attempt to reach a decision after a new discussion at a subsequent meeting (meeting #3). This option should be used rarely and only after genuine attempts have been made to find a solution. Every effort shall be made to find a compromise solution for the good of the Club. In this event the agreement of 3 Constituent Sections shall be required, for the avoidance of doubt this shall normally mean a 75% majority voting in favour.
 - c. If at the conclusion of Meeting #3 a compromise has still not been found, the Chairman shall formally request the Constituent Sections to direct the Players Representatives as to how to vote at the next meeting (Meeting #4). The agreement of 3 Constituent Sections shall be required for the matter to be passed, if no formal agreement can be reached then the matter shall not be passed.
21. The Management Committee shall have the power from time to time to make Regulations with regard to administrative and other matters. Such Regulations, as amended from time to time, "THE REGULATIONS OF THE CLUB", shall be published and be available with the RULES OF THE CLUB on the club website and in the club house.
22. The Management Committee shall have the power from time to time to appoint up to three Members to act as trustees for and on behalf of the Club. Any Trustees so appointed shall be identified in the Regulations. Such appointments shall be subject to ratification or rejection by the members at the next Annual General Meeting following the appointment. In the event that a Trustee shall be rejected by the members in Annual General Meeting it shall be incumbent on the Annual General Meeting to vote on a Member proposed to replace such Trustee. Written notice of the intention to propose a rejection of a trustee together with a written proposal for an alternative trustee duly seconded shall be lodged with the Honorary Secretary not less than seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the appointments are due to be ratified.

23. The decision of the Management Committee on the meaning of any of the Rules and Regulations shall be final and binding.
24. The Management Committee shall have control over all income and expenditure, and investment of reserves.
25. Nobody shall be eligible to serve on the Management Committee of the Club unless he is a Constituent Member and until such time as he has completed one year as a registered member and is 18 years of age.

Vacancies

26. The Management Committee shall have power at any time to fill any vacancy among the Officers. Any Officer so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, but may then be eligible for re-election.
27. The relevant Constituent Sections shall have the power at any time to fill any vacancy among the Senior Players Representatives.
28. The Junior Section of the Club, or if such a body is not constituted, the junior sections of the rugby, football and cricket sections acting jointly shall have the power at any time to fill any vacancy among the Junior Players Representatives.

Trustees

29. The property interest of the Club shall be vested in the Trustees and/or a limited company or companies incorporated for this purpose and the trustees and directors of such companies appointed by the Club or its Sections shall be indemnified against financial risk and expense out of the Club's property in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Honorary Officers

30. The Management Committee may from time to time invite such professional people as it sees fit to become Honorary Officers of the club to assist with the planning and administration of the club or the provision of other services to the Club, for example: Honorary Solicitor, Architect, Surveyor, etc.

Sub-Committees

31. The Management Committee shall appoint such sub-committee as shall be necessary from time to time for the management of the club and its facilities, the duties, objectives and working of such Sub-Committees to be defined in the Regulations of the Club.

Such Sub-Committees may include but shall not be limited to:

- a) House Committee (responsible for the pavilion and the internal facilities)
- b) Grounds Committee (responsible for the maintenance of the grounds and sporting facilities)
- c) Membership Committee (responsible for social membership and collection of subscriptions)
- d) Finance Committee (headed by the Hon Treasurer responsible for collection of section fees, treasury, payment of bills and production of accounts)

Where such Sub-Committees are to have temporary duration, for example to oversee a project or programme, such committees shall be called 'a working party'.

Personnel and resources

32. The Management Committee shall have power to employ staff or contractors for the efficient running of the Club bar and premises on such terms as to remuneration and conditions of engagement as it may think fit.

Membership

33. There shall be the following classes of Membership
 - a. Constituent Members
 - b. Associate Members
 - c. Honorary Members
 - d. Life Members
 - e. Temporary Members
 - f. Social Members

All Members of a Constituent Section over the age of 18 shall automatically become eligible for Constituent Membership of the Club. In the case of junior members of a Constituent Section, one parent or guardian of each properly paid up junior member shall automatically become eligible for Constituent Membership of the Club.

34. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of total membership numbers according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
35. The Constituent Sections shall present a list of new paid-up members from time to time to the Honorary Secretary or provide access to such membership information online.
36. The Honorary Secretary shall maintain a list of Constituent Members through access to Constituent Sections lists of members and through the addition and management of other Members from the approved Membership classes as applicable.
37. At a General Meeting each Constituent Member shall be entitled to one vote. For the avoidance of doubt where a Constituent Member is a Member of more than one Constituent Section they shall still entitled to only one vote as a Constituent Member
38. If any member of a Constituent Section ceases to be so and is not a member of any other Constituent Section then membership of the Club will automatically cease.

Social Members & Temporary Members

39. A category of membership to be known as Social Membership shall be available to persons over 18 years of age (this may be principally of interest to those who are not Constituent Members).
40. No person shall be admitted to social membership or to any of the privileges of social membership within two days of the submission of a written proposal for his or her social membership.
41. Temporary Membership, with the right to use Club premises, may be granted to a person proposed for Social Membership after two days have elapsed from the receipt of a written proposal for that person by the Honorary Secretary. On the granting of Temporary Membership to a person, that person shall pay an initial subscription to be determined by the Management Committee pro rata for the remainder of the subscription year. Such initial subscription may be refundable at the discretion of the Management Committee if full social membership is not granted. Persons over 60 years of age shall pay a subscription of 50% of the current social membership subscription.

42. Social Membership, with all the privileges of such membership, shall only be granted after the written proposal for membership shall have been considered and approved by the Membership Committee of the Club. The Membership Committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute.
43. Social Members shall not be entitled to attend or vote at any General Meeting of the Club, however all members within non-voting categories are entitled to apply for full membership with voting rights upon paying the appropriate subscription and after going through the relevant full membership application procedures. The spouse of a social member shall not be entitled to accompany a Social Member at the Club premises but shall themselves need to become a Member to do so.
44. Social Members shall pay an annual subscription of an amount to be determined by the Management Committee at the start of each subscription year.

Honorary Membership

45. The Management Committee may create Honorary Social Members for those who deliver exceptional service to the club, or those who bring honour to the club. Such appointments shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Social Members shall not pay a membership subscription and shall in all other respects have the rights of a Constituent Member.

Life Membership

46. All registered members as at 11.5.56 are deemed to be Life members. Life members under this category will continue to pay annual subscriptions while they are playing for one of the Club's playing sections and shall in all other respects have the rights of a Constituent Member.. Life members will cease to be members if the club is unable to contact that member following reasonable efforts to do so for a period of three or more years.
47. Life Membership shall be available to those who have been adult members for ten years or more on payment of the current Life Membership Subscription as may be set by the Management Committee from time to time and no further annual subscription will be required from then on.

Honorary and Life Members shall be listed in the Regulations of the Club.

Visiting Members

48. Members of visiting clubs playing against one of the Constituent Sections may be granted appropriate access to Club premises for the day on which their Club is playing the Constituent section.

Associate Members

49. Associate Members are the paid up members of an Associate Section, the rights of an Associate Member shall be those agreed from time to time with the Associate Section, this will normally be the use of the club house the bar, and agreed facilities during such times as the Associate Section is actively using the facilities and for a social gathering immediately afterwards. Lists of Associate Members to be provided by the Associate Sections to the Honorary Secretary from time to time as agreed with each Associate Section.

Subscriptions

50. The Subscription Year shall end on 31st May in each year and commence again on the 1st June each year.

51. Subscriptions for each year, and for each class of membership shall be as directed by the Management Committee. The subscriptions for Constituent Members shall be collected directly from the Constituent Sections based on the number of Constituent Members or other mechanism as the Management Committee may deem appropriate for those members who are Constituent Members through their membership of a Constituent Section, and directly from the individuals for those members who have applied directly to the club.

52. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

53. On admission to any temporary membership class every applicant shall pay the appropriate initial subscription. Renewal subscriptions shall be payable by 30th June each year.

54. If any Member required to pay a Subscription directly to the club shall fail to pay his or her renewal subscription by the 30th June the Honorary secretary shall notify the Member, calling for payment of the subscription within seven days. If payment is not made within the stipulated seven days the Management Committee shall be entitled to terminate the membership of that Member without further notice

55. Generally the Management Committee shall be entitled to agree and levy such charges as might be agreed from time to time by the Management Committee

Conduct of Members

56. Members are expected to comply with the rules and regulations of the Club, with policies and guidelines set out by the governing bodies of the sports being played and to act so as not to bring either the sports or the Club into disrepute.

Betting and Gambling

57. The writing or passing of betting slips is strictly prohibited on Club premises. Games of skill may be played for modest stakes between adult members.

Expulsion of Members

58. The Management Committee shall have the power to expel any member only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sports into disrepute or materially and deliberately failing to comply with the reasonable rules of the Club. Before any such Member is expelled the Honorary Secretary shall give him or her seven days' notice in writing to appear before a meeting of the Management Committee, which notice shall contain particulars of the complaints made against him or her. No Member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity of appearing before the Management Committee and answering the complaints made against him or her, nor unless at least two-thirds of the Management Committee then present vote in favour of his or her expulsion.
59. Where a Member is expelled under clause 58 the Constituent Sections shall be compelled to expel that Member from all Constituent Sections and shall not re-admit that Member to any Constituent Section without approval of the Management Committee

Resignations

60. Any member or social member desiring to resign must give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary on or before 30th June in each year.

Meetings

61. Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in each calendar year and fifteen months shall not elapse without a general meeting. At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be concluded:

- a. The reading and approval of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
- b. Honorary Secretary's Report;
- c. The presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year ended on the 31st day of March prior to the meeting which accounts shall first have been duly audited (if required);
- d. The election of the Officers;
- e. EITHER The election of an auditor to provide an independent audit of each year's accounts
OR to decide not to audit the coming years accounts;
- f. The ratification or variation of subscriptions;
- g. Such other business as shall have been indicated to the Honorary Secretary and included in the notice of meeting sent by him or her to the members.

62. Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by decision of the Management Committee and shall also be convened within 21 days on the requisition of one fifth of the members of the Club or 30 members whichever is the less. Such requisitions must state the purpose for which such meeting is required and only the stated business will be conducted at the Meeting. As much notice as possible shall be given and where possible 14 days notice should be given.

63. Notice of Meetings

The Honorary Secretary shall at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting and as soon as possible before an Extraordinary General Meeting send to every member a notice of the meeting stating the time when and the place where it will be held and the business to be conducted. The normal method of communication for such notices shall be both direct email to Members (last registered email address) and postings on the Club and Section Websites. The Secretaries of the Constituent Sections shall assist as appropriate.

64. Quorum

The quorum at any General Meeting shall be 25.

65. Resolutions

All resolutions at a General Meeting shall require 50% and one vote of those present at the meeting to be successfully passed.

Accounts & Financial Objectives

66. Full accounts of the financial affairs of the Club duly audited by the auditors shall be made available on the club website and such presence notified to every member with the notice convening the Annual General meeting.
67. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties. The Club may accumulate general reserves to cushion against unexpected expenses or reduction in income or to accumulate a fund to enable investment in facilities. The Management Committee may appoint an Investment Committee under the Chairmanship of the Honorary Treasurer to design an investment strategy and invest such monies as it shall see appropriate.
68. The Club shall be empowered to borrow money without limit on such terms and conditions as the Management Committee shall think fit.

Amendment of the Rules of the Club

69. No alteration to the Rules of the Club including this clause may be made without the unanimous agreement of the Players Representatives specifically authorised by their respective Sections and approved at the next General Meeting.
70. Any case or occurrence not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose actions shall be considered at the next General Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for this purpose.

Dissolution of the Club

71. The Club may only be dissolved by resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose, provided:-
 - a. The objects of the Club are considered incapable of continued performance, and
 - b. The resolution has been supported by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting.
72. In the event that dissolution shall occur, the assets of the Club shall be used first to discharge all liabilities of the Club and the remaining assets shall be given or transferred to an essentially similar organisation, a registered CASC, a registered Charity or the governing bodies of the constituent sports for use by them in community sports.