



CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the club shall be 'Seacourt Fencing Club', hereafter referred to as the Club and shall be affiliated to British Fencing (BF).

2. **Objectives**

The purpose of the Club shall be to enable members to participate in the sport of fencing and provide such training as seems appropriate and within whatever constraints the club finds itself. It shall also have the objective of promoting participation in the sport within the local and wider community and to provide opportunities for non-members to experience the sport to that end. It shall lend whatever support it is able to the BF in furthering the wider interests of the sport.

3. **Funds and Club Subscriptions**

The Club is entitled to make a surplus for the purpose of club continuation and development and to ensure equipment is replaced or new equipment is purchased. This funding may also be used to replace equipment when the national or international governing bodies change any clothing or safety regulations.

The Club funds shall be administered by the Club Treasurer who will provide an annual report at the AGM and any interim financial information requested by the committee.

Payments from the Club funds shall require approval by the treasurer plus one other club officer. This approval can be given by counter signing or electronic signing of any cheques or electronic transfers from the club account(s) or in writing by email if payment is required from any cash funds held by the treasurer.

The club subscription details shall be set and administered by the Committee who will review them annually and present any proposed changes to the club members at the AGM for consideration and approval.

4. **Membership**

Membership of the Club shall be open to any person paying the relevant subscription fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the club members and paying the annual membership fee. The subscription fee is payable weekly. A discount is available to those paying quarterly. The annual membership fee is levied at the beginning of the calendar year.

Anyone who wishes to become a member must fill in a membership form. The Committee may, at its discretion, refuse to grant membership to any person.

There shall be four classes of membership available:

1. Full member
2. Concession (those in full time education up to tertiary level or in higher education as proved by a valid NUS card)
3. Honorary member (non-fencing & non-fee-paying. Awarded by the committee and with no membership voting rights).

- 4 Junior member (Any fencer below the age of 18 years old that is not a concessionary member and only attends the junior fencing evening session) with no voting rights.

Members must abide by the constitution and rules of the club as determined by the Committee.

Full and Concessionary Members must be full or social members of BF unless they are novices under the instruction of a qualified coach.

5. **Structure**

The affairs of the club shall be administered by a Committee consisting of: Honorary President, the officers of the club being the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Also a minimum of two and maximum of four members' representatives.

6. **Committee**

The Committee shall have power to co-opt anyone to its meetings, but he or she shall not have power to vote.

The Committee shall have the power to fill any committee vacancies that occur between AGMs.

The Chairman (or in their absence the Vice Chairman) shall have a casting vote at a Committee meeting.

The Secretary shall endeavour to give seven days notice of a Committee meeting.

3 members, of whom two are officers, shall form a quorum at a Committee meeting.

The officers and Committee members shall serve for one year and may stand for re-election.

The Committee shall meet at regular intervals.

The committee shall appoint a Welfare Officer in accordance with the requirements of BF.

7. **Elections**

The officers and Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of those members present and eligible to vote.

The officers and Committee members shall serve for one year and may stand for re-election. Nominations, duly seconded and with the consent of the nominee, should be preferably made in writing to the Secretary before the meeting but, in the absence of such, nominations, duly seconded, may be accepted at the meeting.

8. **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary and displayed on the noticeboard giving not less than 13 days notice. The notice must include details of any proposed changes in the Club constitution.

Attendance shall be open to all members of the club. A quorum for the meeting shall be 5 members including club officers.

All members have a single vote on any matter. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting will be:

- To receive reports on the activities of the club from the Chairman, Treasurer and Match Secretary.
- To present the annual accounts.
- To elect a Committee to oversee the day-to-day running of the Club.
- To consider any changes to Club subscriptions.
- To consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
- To discuss any other business pertinent to an Annual General Meeting and notified to the secretary at least 14 days before the AGM.

9. **General Meetings**

The Committee shall have the power to call a General Meeting of the Club at a time other than the Annual General Meeting to discuss matters which will not wait for an AGM.

Any 7 members of the Club may request the calling of a General Meeting. Notice shall be given under the same conditions as for an AGM.

10. **Rules**

Separate from Constitution document it may be necessary to have a number of lesser guidelines on good practice and guidance that can be altered as circumstances change. These will be compiled and updated by the Committee and displayed in a document called The Rules.

The Committee has the right to:

1. Interpret these rules and to settle any question not provided for in the rules.
2. Change the rules where necessary and notify the membership of these changes by publicising them on the Club noticeboard.

11. **Dissolution**

In the event that the Club is dissolved, for whatever reason, the whole of its assets shall be distributed for the benefit of the sport of fencing in the BF southern region, as seen fit at the time by the decision of a meeting of such members who remain. None of its assets shall be returned to any individual member.

12. **Declaration**

The Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Name	Martin Toms	Position	Chairman
Sign	<i>Martin Toms</i>	Date	6 June 2024
Name	Lucy Wright	Position	Secretary
Sign	<i>Lucy Wright</i>	Date	6 June 2024

Approved by the members at A.G.M dated 6 June 2024