

Proposed modification of the Club Constitution & Rules

Background

The Committee proposes making several changes to the Constitution & Rules, which need to be ratified by a vote at the AGM before they may be effected. One of the proposals is to implement a quite radical change to the Disciplinary Procedure, which is explained below.

The rationale for the proposed changes follows:

Constitution

The only proposed change to the Constitution is to reinforce the Club's lack of bias regarding its members. Roger was quite upset that the revision to the Constitution approved by the 2017 AGM had not carried forward an explicit statement to the effect: "*The Club shall not have political or religious connections or bias.*", though the spirit of the statement was implicit in the revised text

§4.1	Membership. The proposed change re-inserts the non-bias statement verbatim at new paragraph 4.1c.
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Rules

The Committee proposes making several changes to the Rules...

§5.1	London Marathon Club ballot. With only four places to ballot amongst many hopeful members who would like a place, the Committee proposes that anyone who wins a place in the Club ballot shall be barred from entry into the following year's ballot.
§5.2	Use of Social Media. The Committee received a petition from a member requesting consideration of several proposed changes clarifying and expanding on the rules governing the use of the Club's social media. Those proposals that the Committee accepted are presented to here for ratification.
§7.4	Coaching Co-ordinator. The Committee concluded that a better way to operate Club coaching would be to encourage the coaches to elect their own Co-ordinator on an annual basis. Proposed changes to this section of the Rules lays out how this would be achieved and addresses the issue of no coach standing for election to the role.
§8.4	Supplementary Rules & Standing Orders. The member's petition referred to at §5.2 above also proposed changes to the Rule governing emergency changes to the Rules that may be effected by the Committee in advance of ratification by an AGM or EGM. Although none of the Committee could recall this mechanism ever having been invoked, the Committee felt that the proposals had some merit in bringing more openness to such changes, should they ever be required in the future. Hence the Committee proposes that the rationale for any such measure should be laid out in the minutes of the Committee meeting that voted to invoke the process.
§8.7	Extraordinary Disciplinary Procedure. The extant Disciplinary Procedure covers most issues likely needing to be addressed in ensuring that the Club is operated in accordance with the Rules and for the collective benefit of its members. There are unfortunately circumstances that may arise for which their resolution needs to be expedited or the details of the issue are personally sensitive. Examples of such issues include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeated behaviour that could damage the interests of the Club• A Club official's breach of trust to the detriment of other members• Grossly disrespectful engagement with another member or the Committee• Making continued unwelcomed advances to one or more members

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fraudulent or otherwise suspected illegal activity• Harassment <p>After a lot of soul-searching, the Committee agreed that a more robust and timely response is needed to address aberrant behaviour that most reasonable members would consider to be counter to the ethos of the Club, but which may not be explicitly in breach of any stated Rule, especially where there is a victim of the behaviour. The proposed new Rule provides for a rapid and assertive response to protect the Club and its members from such behaviour.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the extant Disciplinary Procedure, which has been used once in the past five years, remains the default procedure, with the new mechanism available to be used only in exceptional circumstances.</p> |
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Codification

The proposed changes are laid out in the revised Constitution & Rules documents, which are included in their entirety in the AGM pack.

Bob Thomas

Secretary, 2018/19