

Cirencester Tennis Club Constitution-Accompanying note

What is the purpose of the club constitution?

- To help the Committee clarify how the Club procedures should work and to serve as a point of reference and guide to resolve any problems.
- To enable outsiders e.g. funders, to see that the Club is run in a democratic and accountable manner.

Why have we amended it?

- To bring it up to date with LTA guidelines
- To accurately reflect the correct status of the club as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)
- To minimise further updates for future Committees.

Key changes

Status

-Corrected status from private, unincorporated, members club to CASC. We registered as a CASC over ten years ago and it only came to light when we received tax return requests!
The Finance Act 2002 introduced tax relief for qualifying clubs making them eligible for mandatory rate relief. It was geared towards clubs trading for income or in receipt of high capital gains (e.g. selling land). Once registered, you can't de-register (a restriction imposed to include anti-avoidance provisions) but it has no negative impact other than tax form filling every now and again!

Membership fees

-Currently the constitution states that fees are approved by members at the AGM each year. However, the LTA suggests that the Committee is responsible for setting the fees as they are responsible for the administration and finances of the Club. It could be that in any given year the committee needs to raise the fees to cover unforeseen costs and it could be that members veto a change even though it destabilises the financial sustainability of the club.