

Summary

The committee would like to introduce a new constitution in 2021 to reflect the current and future needs of the club. The existing constitution, some 30 years old, focuses in many areas on issues that faced the club in the '90's and is no longer fit-for-purpose.

We have a draft constitution developed from the model LTA constitution for a club such as BWE.

This is not about the name of the club and no name changes will be proposed as part of an updated constitution.

The problem

The current constitution was originally written in 1989 with some subsequent very minor changes. It was written to address a different set of challenges.

I am sure there are many in the club who could explain the background in detail, but it appears largely designed to maintain an appropriate relative balance in power between squash and tennis players following the merger of the two, whilst operating in a pre-internet age with many more members than we currently have.

There are other elements of the constitution which if we were to follow today would cause us problems:

- Malcolm would not be able to operate the bar
- Many of us have not joined legitimately according to the constitution. If you did not:
 - apply in writing in advance and
 - have your name up in the club-house for 7 days prior to election to give people the time to object and
 - get formerly voted in by the committee

then you have not joined in accordance with the constitution. So that's probably 80% of us?

- we could not use any booking system, so Clubspark would have to go. You would have to turn up and if all courts are in use you kick people off as they finish their set.

I could go on.

The consequences

The constitution was right for the time it was written but is out of touch in 2021. It is no longer fit-for-purpose. If we do not follow it, and indeed in many ways cannot follow it, then it is time for a refresh.

As a committee we are asked by you to run the club on your behalf. We need a new constitution, so the committee know where they stand when making decisions on your behalf.

The solution

We have developed a draft which is based on the model LTA constitution for a club of our size and legal structure. There are some minor changes to reflect our local circumstances, but nothing that changes the fundamental thrust of the LTA version. The current Trustees have been consulted.

We will soon be asking for your support for a change. We will need your support for this to take effect.

Dissolution

There is one issue that will need consideration by the members: the distribution of assets if the club was ever to be wrapped up with an excess of funds. We will find some way of consulting / involving members in agreeing a solution to this.