

Proposed updates to the constitution

AGM 2024

The Committee has agreed the following changes to update the constitution of the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club and recommend them to the membership for adoption at this year's AGM:

- 1) Article 3. In order to clarify what constitutes membership, it is proposed to change the final sentence of this Article to: "No person shall be deemed to be a member of the Club unless that person has paid their annual subscription." The current wording only applies to those joining for the first time and does not include existing members renewing their membership.
- 2) Article 4. The committee has agreed that it is unnecessary to have an "Events Secretary" as a specifically named member of the committee. This change will allow for greater flexibility when planning events as the tasks will be split between several committee members with expertise and experience in a particular area, e.g. booking bands, venues and catering rather than this being done by one person.
- 3) Article 5. The wording has been updated to reflect the change in numbers as outlined in the proposed change to article 4. The total number of committee members allowed will remain unchanged.
- 4) Article 6. The wording has been changed to reflect there will only be two named secretaries rather than three; in line with proposed change to Article 4
- 5) Article 9. It is proposed to delete the final two sentences of this Article as unnecessary. Membership is clearly defined in Article 3 as those who have paid their annual subscription.
- 6) Article 11. The club is of such a size as to make it unnecessary for our annual accounts to be audited by a qualified accountant. Therefore we propose changing the wording to say the annual accounts should be reviewed by an independent examiner rather than an auditor.
- 7) Article 13. It is proposed to change the wording to show the accounts are independently examined rather than audited as in the proposed change to Article 11.
- 8) Article 19. It is proposed to change the wording to show the accounts are independently examined rather than audited as in the proposed change to Article 11.

The table below shows the old and the new wording for each paragraph that is changing and that is followed by the complete constitution incorporating all the changes.

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Current Wording	New Wording
<p>3. The Club shall be a members' club and shall consist of ordinary members and junior members. A member shall be a junior member so long as that person shall remain a student. No person shall be admitted to membership until that person shall have paid the first annual subscription.</p>	<p>3. The Club shall be a members' club and shall consist of ordinary members and junior members. A member shall be a junior member so long as that person shall remain a student. No person shall be deemed to be a member of the Club unless that person has paid their annual subscription.</p>
<p>4. The officers of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice-President • Secretary • Events Secretary • Membership Secretary • Treasurer 	<p>4. The officers of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice-President • Secretary • Membership Secretary • Treasurer
<p>5. The Committee shall consist of the six officers and four other members. In addition, the President for the previous year will continue as a committee member for one more year.</p>	<p>5. The Committee shall consist of the five officers and five other members. In addition, the President for the previous year will continue as a committee member for one more year.</p>
<p>6. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The President and the Vice-President may each serve for two years, the Vice-President assuming the office of President after two years. The Treasurer and the three Secretaries may serve in that office for a term of not more than five years. The other committee members may each serve for a term of five years.</p>	<p>6. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The President and the Vice-President may each serve for two years, the Vice-President assuming the office of President after two years. The Treasurer and the two Secretaries may serve in that office for a term of not more than five years. The other committee members may each serve for a term of five years.</p>
<p>9. The annual subscription for ordinary members and junior members shall be determined at the AGM. Annual subscriptions shall be payable within seven days of the AGM. The Committee may terminate the membership of any person whose annual subscription remains unpaid two months after the AGM.</p>	<p>9. The annual subscription for ordinary members and junior members shall be determined at the AGM.</p>

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Current Wording	New Wording
<p>11. The Committee shall be empowered to delegate to the Officers or to sub-committees such powers as it shall think fit. Whilst the Committee retains overall responsibility for finance, operational responsibility lies solely with the Treasurer. In exceptional circumstances (usually related to the non-availability of the Treasurer) the Committee can use its powers to make alternative arrangements. The accounts of the club shall be audited by an independent auditor appointed each year at the AGM.</p>	<p>11. The Committee shall be empowered to delegate to the Officers or to sub-committees such powers as it shall think fit. Whilst the Committee retains overall responsibility for finance, operational responsibility lies solely with the Treasurer. In exceptional circumstances (usually related to the non-availability of the Treasurer) the Committee can use its powers to make alternative arrangements. The accounts of the club shall be reviewed by an independent examiner appointed each year at the AGM.</p>
<p>13. The Committee shall ensure the preparation of annual accounts of the Club made up to the year ended 31 March and their auditing.</p>	<p>13. The Committee shall ensure the preparation of annual accounts of the Club made up to the year ended 31st March and their independent examination.</p>
<p>19. Matters which must be discussed at the AGM shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Secretary's report b. The Treasurer's report, including the presentation of an audited balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 March. c. The election of Officers and members of the Committee d. The annual subscription. 	<p>19. Matters which must be discussed at the AGM shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Secretary's report b. The Treasurer's report, including the presentation of an independently reviewed balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 March. c. The election of Officers and members of the Committee d. The annual subscription.



The Constitution

1. The name of the Club shall be “Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club”.
2. The objects of the Club shall be to practise and to encourage the practice of Highland and Scottish Country Dancing.
3. The Club shall be a members’ club and shall consist of ordinary members and junior members. A member shall be a junior member so long as that person shall remain a student. No person shall be deemed to be a member of the Club unless that person has paid their annual subscription.
4. The officers of the Club shall be:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
 - Treasurer
5. The Committee shall consist of the five officers and five other members. In addition, the President for the previous year will continue as a committee member for one more year.
6. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The President and the Vice-President may each serve for two years, the Vice-President assuming the office of President after two years. The Treasurer and the two Secretaries may serve in that office for a term of not more than five years. The other committee members may each serve for a term of five years.
7. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members as may be necessary, either to fulfil specific tasks, or to fill casual vacancies until the next AGM.
8. On completion of their term of office, an officer or committee member shall be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year, unless no nomination is received for that position and the individual is willing to serve for a further year.
9. The annual subscription for ordinary members and junior members shall be determined at the AGM.
10. The Committee shall be empowered to make such regulations as it thinks fit to ensure the good government and efficient management of the Club, provided that such regulations in no way vary, infringe or set aside in whole or in part, the provisions of this Constitution.

11. The Committee shall be empowered to delegate to the Officers or to sub-committees such powers as it shall think fit. Whilst the Committee retains overall responsibility for finance, operational responsibility lies solely with the Treasurer. In exceptional circumstances (usually related to the non-availability of the Treasurer) the Committee can use its powers to make alternative arrangements. The accounts of the club shall reviewed by an independent examiner appointed each year at the AGM.
12. The Committee shall be empowered to make such arrangements and to undertake on behalf of the Club such contracts, engagements or other liabilities as it shall think to be in the interests of the Club and to the furtherance of its objects. In all such matters the Committee shall be deemed to act as the agent of all members of the Club.
13. The Committee shall ensure the preparation of annual accounts of the Club made up to the year ended 31 March and their independent examination.
14. The Committee shall be collectively responsible to the members of the Club for the good government and efficient management of the Club and for any action taken by it or by Officers or other members of the Club or by sub-committees on its authority or under powers duly delegated by it.
15. The Officers and sub-committees shall be responsible only to the Committee for the prompt and efficient discharge of their duties and for actions taken on the authority of the Committee or under powers duly delegated by it.
16. The members of the Club shall indemnify the Committee and any Officer or other member of the Club whether acting on the authority of the Committee or under powers duly delegated by it or not, against any loss or liability whatsoever or howsoever caused, provided that the Club shall in no circumstances indemnify the Committee or any Officer or member of the Club against any loss or liability arising from his or their wilful misconduct or from activities not reasonably in the interest of the Club or to the furtherance of its objects.
17. There shall be an AGM convened within six (6) weeks of the financial year end on 31 March.
18. A quorum at the AGM shall be 25% of the members of the club at that time.
19. Matters which must be discussed at the AGM shall be:
 - a. The Secretary's report
 - b. The Treasurer's report, including the presentation of an independently reviewed balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 March.
 - c. The election of Officers and members of the Committee
 - d. The annual subscription.

20. Matters which may be discussed include:
- a. The alteration of this Constitution
 - b. Any other business
21. The election of Officers and members of the Committee at the AGM will be by secret ballot with each member having one vote for each vacant position. In the event of more than one ordinary committee vacancy, the nominees with the highest number of votes will be elected.
22. All other decisions taken at a General Meeting shall be by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President will have a casting vote.
23. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall by order of the Committee or upon written notice given to the Secretary, signed by 12 members of the Club and specifying the matter or matters to be dealt with, be convened by the Committee within two months of such order or such notice.
24. A quorum at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be 20% of the members at the time and two members of the Committee, one of whom shall be an Officer, or 30% of the members of the Club.
25. Twenty-one days' notice in writing shall be given to each member of the Club, as far as is reasonably practicable, of any General Meeting.
26. Seven days' notice of any motion to be discussed at any General Meeting (including the nomination of Officers and members of the Committee) proposed and seconded by members of the club, shall be given to the Secretary in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder. The Chairman of the meeting shall have absolute discretion to accept or reject motions of which proper notice has not been given.