

# **Baldwyn's Freeholders Association and Club Rules**

1. The name of the Club shall be 'The Baldwyn's Freeholders Association and Club' hereinafter referred to as 'the Club'.
2. The Objects of the Club shall be:-
  - (a) To acquire, develop and maintain grounds and premises as a Park and Social Centre for the use of the members and Associate Members.
  - (b) To protect and further the general interests of the Members as Freeholders and Residents on Baldwyn's Estate in the County of Kent and to preserve and to improve the amenities of the said estate by direct negotiation with the appropriate person or authority by representation or on consultation with any Association or body concerned with local administration or welfare, or generally by other available methods.
3. Subject to Rule 7, all residents on the said Baldwyn's Estate, shall be eligible to be members of the Club. The term Resident means any person who has attained eighteen years of age and has continuously resided on the Estate for twelve months prior to his or her application and continues so to reside. Any person mentioned above and any other person above the age of eighteen whether resident upon the estate or not shall be eligible for Associate Membership.
4. Associate Members shall have the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same rules and bye-laws as ordinary members, except that they must not vote on any matter covered by Rule 7.
5. The annual subscription for a Member and an Associate Member shall be determined by the Management Committee on an annual basis
6. Members shall be entitled to vote upon all matters concerning the Club, except that no proposal for sale, exchange, mortgage, lease or other disposal of the Park or Premises or part thereof, or any matter of external loans, shall have effect unless it is endorsed at a duly convened meeting as provided by the Rules convening an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, by three-fourths of the Freeholders present at an Annual or Special Meeting called for that purpose.

**7.** Any proposal for the sale, exchange, mortgage, lease or any other disposal of the Park or Premises or any part there, or any matter of external loans shall only be agreed by the vote of three-fourths of the Freeholders present at a Special General Meeting of the Club.

**8.** All applications for membership, including Associate Membership, shall be approved by the Management Committee, and the issue of a Membership Card to the Applicant shall be evidence of his election, and he shall then be entitled to the benefits and privileges of the Club.

**9.** The Membership Secretary shall keep on the Club premises in a secure place, records of Club Member's names, addresses and subscriptions paid.

**10.** Subscriptions shall be due on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any Member or Associate Member whose subscription is still unpaid by the 31st December shall cease to be a Member or Associate Member as the case may be and shall forfeit all privileges and benefits but may seek re-election on payment of such arrears of subscription as the Committee may determine.

**11.** The Park and Grounds shall be vested in not less than two nor more than four trustees, who must always be Members of the Club, and to be Residents of Baldwyns Estate. (Freeholders or Householders) appointed at a General Meeting of the Club and shall be held by them upon the terms of a Deed of Trust. The Trustees shall remain in office until death or resignation or until removal by resolution of a General Meeting, or upon ceasing to be a Freeholder or Householder.

**12.** The Club shall be managed by a Committee of Members which shall consist of the following Officers - namely, President, two Vice-Presidents, Chair, Vice-Chair, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and of not more than twelve other Members. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall retire bi- annually but shall be eligible for re-election. However, no member shall be eligible as an Officer of the Club unless he or she has completed at least one full term as a Committee Member.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt any Member for any special purpose.

The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur during the year.

The Trustees not Members of the Committee shall be ex-officio members.

**13.** The Committee shall have power at the Annual General Meeting to nominate Members and Associate Members as Life Honorary Vice-Presidents in recognition of service to the Association.

Honorary Vice-Presidents shall have no voting rights other than those afforded to them as Members or Associated Members under Rule 3 and subject to Rule 7.

**14.** One or more Auditor(s) shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to audit the accounts of the Club annually.

**15.** The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held not later than the 30th November to transact the following business:-

- i.** To receive the Management Committees Report.
- ii.** To receive and, if approved, to adopt a Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the financial year, ending 30th September.
- iii.** To consider and if approved, sanction any alteration to the rules.
- iv.** To appoint the Officers and other Members of the Committee of Management.
- v.** To appoint Life Honorary Vice- Presidents.
- vi.** To appoint Auditor(s).
- vii.** To deal with any special matter which the Committee desire to bring before the members and such other matters as the Members desire to raise, subject to the later having been notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- viii.** Nomination of Officers and Committee must be made and seconded and be exhibited in the Club at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- ix.** Notice of the Meeting and Agenda shall be placed at the Park Entrance and also sent to Members and Associate Members not less than 10 days before the date of such meeting.

**16.** A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee, or on a written request to the Hon. Secretary signed by not less than 10 Members stating the purpose for which the meeting is desired, such meeting to be held within 21 days of the receipt of the request.

A notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be sent to Members and Associate Members not less than seven days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

A sum sufficient to cover the expenses of such special meeting shall be lodged with the Hon. Secretary at the time of the request by the signatories thereto, such sum to be returnable unless the Members consider the Special Meeting to have been called for a frivolous purpose.

**17.** At Committee Meetings and General Meetings the Chair shall preside and he shall have a casting vote in the event of equality of votes.

At Committee Meetings eight shall form a quorum. At General Meetings ten members must be present to form a quorum.

**18.** Associated Clubs of Members and Honorary Members may be formed only to carry out those functions or activities which cannot be organised by the Management Committee, either

(1) because of the specialised and expert knowledge required for their organisation.

(2) because Members or Honorary Members wish to organise an activity which the Management Committee declines to sponsor on the grounds of insufficient general interest.

In these two cases the Management Committee shall review annually the rules, fees, membership and balance sheets of Associated Clubs (as soon as possible after the Annual General Meeting) and levy charges and renew permission to use the property or grounds of the Association after the Annual review. The Management Committee may also be empowered to direct any Associated Club to arrange its activities to conform with the general interests of the Association.

**19.** Without the express sanction of the Committee no person shall enter the park precincts except by the main gate; but on payment of a fee set annually by the Management Committee and paid in advance sanction may be given to a Member or Associate Member of the Association and his household to enter or leave by his private gate from his premises.

**20.** The Committee of Management shall have full power to make such bye-laws as shall in their opinion be necessary for the administration of the Club and Maintenance of the grounds and premises.

**21.** The Club shall be open from 9.00 am to Midnight. The Committee to have powers to vary Club opening times at their discretion.

The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicants shall conform with the hours laid down by the Licensing Justices for the district from time to time.

**22.** A Member may introduce friends as his guests but no person may be introduced more than twice in one quarter, nor may any Member introduce more than two friends at any one time.

The Visitor(s) and the Member introducing the guest(s) must sign the books kept for that purpose.

No visitor shall be permitted to make payment of any kind either directly or indirectly.

**23.** (a) Persons may not be admitted to membership without an interval of two days between their application and their admission.

(b) A sub-committee composed of the Honorary Bar Stewards who are elected by the Management Committee, shall be responsible for the purchase and supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor.

**24.** The decision of the Committee shall be final and conclusive in any interpretation of these Rules.

**26.** Rules can only be altered at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose.