

Constitution

Name

1. The name of the club shall be the Kings Cross Steelers Rugby Football Club.

Aims and Objectives

2. To provide the means and facilities for gay and bisexual men to play rugby.
3. To raise funds to enable the club to meet the aims and objectives as set out in clause 2.
 - a. The club is a non-profit making and non-profit distributing organisation which is not subject to commercial influences. All profits and surpluses from its playing activities must be used to maintain or improve the related facilities or for the purposes of a non-profit making body.
 - b. In the event of the disbandment of the club the available assets will be distributed equally to all members.
4. In pursuance of the aims and objectives as stated in clause 2, the club may associate or affiliate with such sporting organisations as may appear to be necessary or desirable by the committee. The club may associate or affiliate to non sporting organisations with the approval of an AGM or EGM. Members will be informed in writing of any association or affiliation to external organisations.

Membership

5. There are three classes of membership, full (player), full (non-player) and supporter.
 - a. Full (player) membership will be restricted to men who seek to play rugby for the club and will comprise mainly of gay and bisexual men.
 - b. Full (non-player) membership will be restricted to those who seek to fully contribute to the aims and objectives of the club but do not wish to play rugby.
 - c. Supporter membership will be restricted to anyone who fully supports the aims and objectives of the Club.
 - d. Full (non-player) and supporter members can train with the Club and may, on an occasional basis, participate in matches, subject to the Laws of the Game and Rugby Football Union regulations, provided that no full (player) member is thereby deprived of the opportunity to play.
6. Membership is discretionary and may be denied by the committee.
7. Only persons who have fully paid up their membership will be deemed to be members of the club.

8. Membership fees are payable from August 1 to cover the current playing season. Fees will be set at the Club's AGM and may be revised by an EGM.
 - a. Members joining between August 1 and December 31 pay the full current fee.
 - b. Members joining between January 1 and April 30 (or the last league game of the season, whichever is sooner), pay 50% of the current fee.
 - c. Members joining between May 1 (or the day following the last league game of the season, whichever is sooner) and July 31 pay the full current fee, which also covers their membership for the next season.
 - d. Members who leave the club for whatever reason within 14 days of joining may apply for a refund of their membership fees. Membership fees are non-refundable after this period. Joining fees are non-refundable.
9. (blank)
 - a. Honorary, honorary life, president and vice-president membership status may be conferred by an AGM or EGM. An AGM or EGM can decide which voting rights, if any, are to be given to that member.
 - b. Organisations may apply to the committee for corporate membership. The committee will determine the appropriate fee payable for such membership. Corporate membership carries no voting rights.
 - c. Potential members who face financial difficulties in meeting the full membership fees can apply to the committee for a reduction in fees. The committee, after satisfying itself of the potential member's bona fides, may offer reduced rate membership and/or payment by instalments.
 - d. Bona Fide Students can join as Full (Playing) Members at a discounted fee set at the club's AGM. Evidence of entitlement to such a discounted fee must be provided to the Committee.
 - e. Life membership may be purchased at a rate of 10 times that of the prevailing Full membership fee. Life membership carries the same voting rights as a Full (non playing) member, except when and if the Life member is a current registered player of the club when Life membership will carry the same voting rights as a Full (playing) member. Life membership is non-transferable. Life membership fees are non-refundable. The maximum number of Life memberships available shall be 20.

Management

10. The Club will be managed by a committee elected at the AGM of the club. All elected officers shall retire annually and are entitled to seek re-election. In committee meetings all elected and co-opted officers, with the exception of the chairman, will have an equal vote in all matters.

11. The committee shall consist of at least five officers, namely a chairman, secretary, treasurer, a supporters' secretary and playing team captain(s).
 - a. The AGM or EGM may elect additional officers to other posts as it sees fit.
 - b. The committee may co-opt additional officers and appoint sub-committees
 - c. To fill a vacancy of an elected post, the committee can appoint an officer or call an EGM.
 - d. Club members can force an election or alter an appointment by virtue of clause 26b below.
 - e. Only fully paid up members of the club can stand for, be elected to, be appointed, or be co-opted onto, the committee.
 - f. The committee may appoint additional persons to such functions as it may wish. Such persons will not be members of the committee, but should attend committee meetings in connection with their function and are accountable to the committee.
12. The Club chairman is responsible for arranging committee meetings, AGMs and EGMs. The chairman will be responsible for the conduct of any votes taken at the meeting. The chairman of any meeting is not entitled to vote but in the event of a tie will have the casting vote.
13. The secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings, circulating minutes and agendas, and maintaining the Clubs' non-financial records. The secretary also acts as the focal point for enquiries from potential members.
14. The treasurer is responsible for the financial matters of the Club. The treasurer is also responsible for maintaining the Club's financial records and recording who has paid their membership fees.
15. The committee shall meet at least six times a year.
 - a. The committee shall be deemed to be quorate with the presence of half of the committee's members.
 - b. A minimum of seven days notice of committee meeting's shall be given to committee members, unless at least three quarters of committee members agree otherwise.
16. The AGM will appoint a discipline committee consisting of the Club chairman and three Club members, at least one of whom must not be a committee member.
 - a. The discipline committee is responsible for investigating complaints against members' behaviour and has full powers to discipline members in any way the discipline committee sees fit. A complaint can include (but is not limited to) allegations of bringing the Club into disrepute.
 - b. Only an EGM or AGM can overturn the decisions of the discipline committee.
 - c. Members can be referred to the discipline committee by the main committee, by an EGM or AGM, by a team captain or upon the direction of an official rugby body to which the Club has directly or indirectly affiliated.

Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

17. The Club must hold an AGM before 30 June each year.
18. Items for the agenda, and nominations for elected posts, must be received in writing by the club secretary by no later than 4 weeks before the AGM.
 - a. The chairman of the meeting has the discretion to accept items for the agenda and nominations for elections after the 4 week deadline, provided the meeting also votes to accept the item or nomination on to the agenda
19. Notice of the AGM containing venue, date, time and agenda must be sent or given to members at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Members who are entitled to vote must also be sent proxy forms.
20. The AGM will include at least the following items on the agenda:
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Secretary's report
 - d. Auditor's report
 - e. Election of officers
 - f. Election of honorary auditor
 - g. Election of team captains
 - h. Election of the discipline committee
 - i. Membership fees.
21. Only full members who have paid their membership fee on the day before the notice for an AGM or EGM is issued, including members covered by clause 9c, are entitled to a vote or proxy vote at an AGM or EGM. Supporter members elected or appointed as officers to the Club committee are entitled to vote as a full member.
 - a. Members may vote at an AGM or EGM as follows:-
 - i. Supporter members may vote for Supporters Secretary only
 - ii. Full (playing) members may vote in all votes except that of supporters secretary
 - iii. Full (non playing) members may vote in all votes except that of playing captains.
22. Proxy forms will consist of:
 - a. A ballot form if there is to be a vote or election
 - b. A proxy form to allow each member who cannot attend to nominate any other member to votes on their behalf. Proxy forms must be registered with the chairman at the start of the meeting.
23. Quorum for any AGM or EGM shall be a quarter of full members, including proxy votes.
24. Election for the committee members will be by show of hands where the vote is uncontested; or by secret ballot if the vote is contested; or as the AGM so decides.
25. Votes on all issues must be proposed or seconded by at least three full members. At the request of at least a quarter of full members present

before voting commences, voting will take the form of a secret ballot, otherwise by a show of hands.

Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs)

26. An EGM may be requested:
 - a. By the committee or
 - b. Upon written request to the club secretary, signed by not less than seven members of the Club, and containing the reason for the request.
27. An EGM must be convened within 28 days of the secretary receiving a valid request.
28. An EGM should follow the rules as set out in clauses 21 to 25.

Finance

29. The Club funds shall be held in a bank or building society account in the Club's name, and shall only be withdrawn on the signature of 2 authorised members of the Committee. Between 3 and 4 committee members will be authorised to sign for withdrawals.
30. The financial year for the Club shall end on April 30.
31. The honorary auditor should not be a member of the committee.

General

32. All decisions taken at an EGM or AGM are binding on the committee unless changed by a subsequent AGM or EGM.
33. Each member will receive a copy of the constitution.
34. Any committee member is obliged to impart any information requested on the Club's affairs by another member, with the exception of information of a personal nature.
35. Three Club members appointed by the committee are responsible for managing the allocation of any tickets for international or senior matches or any other rugby events offered to the club.
 - a. The committee may allocate up to two tickets to a named individual, at the Club's or the individual's cost.
 - b. All other tickets must be allocated by random ballot, witnessed by a member who is not on the committee.
 - c. All members must be notified of ticket allocations and invited to apply for the ballot.
 - d. If required the Club can demand payment in advance from applicants and charge an administration fee.
 - e. Advance payment should be deposited in a separate escrow account whilst the funds are under the Club's supervision, and is refundable to unsuccessful applicants. The administration fee and/or any interest may be retained by the Club, at the committee's discretion.
 - f. The committee can also allocate tickets as part of a sponsorship arrangement. All members should be informed of the details of

this allocation arrangement so that matter can be raised in an EGM or AGM.

- g. Members may give some of their tickets to bona fide friends but in no circumstances can tickets allocated to the Club be resold or passed to third parties. Members are held fully responsible for all tickets allocated to them. In the case of tickets allocated directly by the committee, the committee is accountable to the membership for any misuse.

36. This constitution can only be amended by a two thirds majority of the votes cast, including proxy votes, by full members at an AGM or EGM.

Amended:

| Version | Date | Information |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 06 September 1998 | clause 10 revised after a vote at the Annual General Meeting. |
| 2 | 08 November 1998 | clause 4 revised after a vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting. |
| 3 | 03 September 2000 | clause 3a revised after a vote at the Annual General Meeting. |
| 4 | 10 December 2000 | clauses 17, 18 and 30 revised after a vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting. |
| 5 | 14 August 2002 | clauses 15c, 18 and 18a revised after a vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting. |
| 6 | 06 July 2003 | clause 5 revised after a vote at the Annual General Meeting |
| 7 | 17 July 2005 | clauses 3, 5, 8, 9, 11e, 16, 21, 24 revised after a vote at the Annual General Meeting. |
| 8 | 02 July 2009 | clauses 3a, 3b, 8, 8a, 8c, 11, 11c, 11d, 11e, 17, 30 revised; clause 5d deleted; clause 11f inserted after a vote at the Annual General Meeting. |
| 9 | | Present Version |