

NEMESIS BOAT CLUB

CONSTITUTION (APPROVED 9 MAY 2009)

1. Name

The club shall be known as **Nemesis Boat Club** (“NBC” or “Nemesis”).

2. Objectives

- a) To help support the Manchester University Boat Club (“MUBC”).
- b) To unite former Manchester rowers
- c) To compete in races

3. Membership

- 3.1 Two classes of Membership shall be established. Together these shall constitute the Membership of NBC.

Ordinary Members are any former Member of MUBC who wishes to receive a NBC email newsletter. Membership in this category shall be automatic for any former MUBC Member.

Rowing Members are any Ordinary Members who wish to compete in races organised by the Amateur Rowing Association (“ARA”). To be eligible for Rowing Membership, Ordinary Members must affirm that:

- i. S/he is an amateur as defined by Section Two of the ARA Constitution.
- ii. S/he agrees to abide by the laws and bye-laws of the Club as stated in the Constitution.
- iii. S/he can swim a distance of not less than fifty metres, and that s/he signs a declaration.

All Members must be at least 18 years old.

3.2 Election

Candidates for election to Rowing Membership shall make written application to the Secretary of the Club on the form provided. The power of election shall rest with the Committee, who may refuse to elect to membership any applicant without assigning a reason for so doing. All Rowing Members must sign the Declaration set out in Appendix 1

3.3 Restriction

A person who has been expelled from, or refused membership of the ARA shall not be eligible for Rowing Membership.

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4. Equal Opportunities Policy

The Club will ensure that the talents and resources of all members are utilised to the full and that no member receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, disability, marital status, creed, social class, ethnicity, age or sexual orientation or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance.

5. Child Protection Procedures

The Club accepts the policy and procedures relating to Child Protection, as set out by the ARA, and requires all members to accept them as a condition of membership.

6. Subscription

The rates of subscription shall be determined by the Members in General meeting and shall be due as at 1 June every year. Rowing Members shall pay a Rowing Subscription calculated to bear the expenses of racing as determined between them. For the avoidance of doubt, donations to Nemesis BC may not be used to pay rowing expenses, but only to further objectives (a) and (b) of Nemesis BC.

7. Cessation of Membership

- 7.1 Any member may resign giving one month's clear notice in writing to the Secretary.
- 7.2 A Rowing Member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, after due notice, they have not paid the annual subscription which became due within one month of joining or re-joining in subsequent years.
- 7.3 Any member violating any of the rules or regulations of the Club or being adjudged guilty of unsatisfactory conduct may, by resolution of the Committee, be suspended or expelled. Any member so suspended or expelled may appeal to an independent Hearings Panel consisting of the current MUBC Committee. Any hearings panel must give a fair and independent hearing to the appellant within an appropriate timescale. Hearings must not contravene the Human Rights Act 1998 or any other policies of the Club and ARA.

8. Disqualification from holding office

Only Members entitled to vote are eligible to hold office.

9. Committee

- 9.1 The Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Club as a whole and shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and other Officers as deemed necessary.

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9.2 Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and other Officers shall be put forward in the form of a motion under the terms of Rule 12.5.

9.3 The term of office shall be for one year, with effect from the date of the AGM, and Members shall be eligible for re-election.

10. Duties of Committee

10.1 **President:** The President will preside at all General meetings of the Club and at all meetings of the Committee, and shall be responsible for guiding the activities of the Club in accordance with its general policy as expressed by the majority of its members. The President shall represent or arrange for the representation of the Club at ARA regional level and at meetings of other organisations. The President shall ex officio be a member of any other committee of the Club.

10.2 **Vice-President:** The Vice-Presidents will be responsible for liaising between the Club and MUBC. A Vice-President will chair any meetings if the Chairman is unable to attend any Club meetings or engagements. There may be up to 3 Vice-Presidents if required.

10.3 **Secretary:** The Secretary will be responsible for the organisation of meetings of the Committee and of the Club, and the recording of minutes relating to such meetings and all correspondence relating to the general business of the Club.

10.4 **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all monies belonging to the Club and will keep proper accounting records of all such transactions. S/he will present to the members at the AGM a balance sheet and income and expenditure account showing the Club's financial position and the results of its transactions for the year. The transactions of the Club will be conducted through a bank account and will require the signatures of two of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

10.5 **Membership Secretary & OARA Representative:** The Membership Secretary will be required to keep an up-to-date list of members, and to maintain an up to date email list sufficient to distribute the newsletter and to contact the Member. The Membership Secretary will also be the OARA Rep (responsible for race entries) unless this position is delegated.

10.6 The Committee may establish other Officer positions as they see fit.

11. Club Committee

11.1 The Committee is responsible for the general conduct of the Club's business and activities. The Committee shall meet at regular intervals during the year, as required by the business to be transacted.

11.2 Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary on instructions from the President, or not less than three committee members.

11.3 A quorum shall consist of not less than 4 members of the Committee.

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11.4 In the case of casual vacancy among the Committee, the said Committee shall be entitled to co-opt members until the next AGM.

12. General Meetings

12.1 An Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) shall be held on the date of the Two Cities Boat Race or at the MUBC Annual Dinner, as shall be determined by the Club Committee.

12.2 There shall be laid before the meeting a statement of accounts made up to 31st March previous to the date of the AGM.

12.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) shall be called on the instructions of a simple majority of the Committee, or on a requisition signed by not less than 4 of the Members of the Club entitled to vote.

12.4 Not less than 21 days clear notice of an EGM shall be given, specifying to all members the time and business of the General Meeting.

12.5 Motions for discussion at AGMs not originated by the Committee, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least 4 days preceding the AGM.

12.6 Members not able to attend a General Meeting shall be entitled to lodge their proxy votes with the President.

12.6 At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote, except when more than one nomination has been received for a position on the Committee, in which case voting will be by secret ballot.

12.7 At all General Meetings the President will preside or, in his/her absence, the position of Chairman for the meeting will be fulfilled by the Vice-President.

12.8 At all General Meetings a quorum shall consist of twice the membership of the Committee then present.

12.9 Accidental Omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of, a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of a meeting.

13. Liability

The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not, however, be the personal liability of the Committee, but shall be the responsibility of the Club as a whole.

14. Voting

Both Ordinary and Rowing Members are entitled to vote at all meetings.

15. Alteration of Constitution

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This constitution shall not be altered, amended or rescinded except by a General Meeting of the Club. A resolution to give effect to a change must be passed by at least 75% of the members voting at the General Meeting.

16. Auditor

The Committee shall appoint an Auditor to report to the AGM on the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet.

17. Distribution of Profits

In no circumstances can any profit be distributed directly to Members, but any profits earned shall be used in furthering the objects of the Club.

18. Termination

The Club shall not terminate except by a resolution of a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose and, in such an event, any surplus assets shall be donated to MUBC.

19. Power of Decision

Any matter not provided for in this constitution, or any question over the interpretation of it shall be dealt with by the Committee whose decision shall be final.

20. Safety

The Committee shall appoint a member to act as Safety Adviser whose duty it will be to understand the requirements of the ARA Code of Practice for Water Safety and advise on their prominent display, their observation and their implementation at all times.

21. Complaints

Complaints submitting that the conduct of a member is detrimental to the character or interests of the Club shall be submitted in writing, signed by not less than 2 members, to the Committee who shall consider such complaints within one week.

22. Club colours

The Club colours shall consist of purple, gold and white

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APPENDIX 1

Declaration

Each Rowing Member upon joining shall sign the following declaration:

Name: _____

Upon acceptance into membership of **Nemesis Boat Club** I understand that rowing is undertaken at my own risk. I confirm that I do not suffer from any disability or medical condition which may render me unfit for strenuous exercise.*

I also confirm that I am able to swim a minimum of 50 metres.

Signed: _____

*Should a medical condition exist, this will not necessarily preclude you from membership/participation, but it must be declared. Should you be in any doubt, advice should be sought from your family doctor.