

Following discussion at the 2019 AGM re proposed changes to the Constitution it was agreed to form a working group to review the document and make recommendations for changes to the Committee for their review. Thank you to those club members who came forward to form that group - Auriol Hewson, Ralph Ambrose, Tim Springett, Mark Franks, Simon Gleeson and two now departed members Jonathan Bottomer and Linsey Hopkins.

The main changes proposed are in the language used and in building some greater flexibility into the constitution e.g. allowing committee roles outside of the executive members to expand or contract as required.

There were two recommendations that the committee rejected - (reasons are shown in italics)

1 The person elected to the position of Chair must have been a member of the committee for a minimum of 12 months unless no such person is willing to stand as Chair, in which case the terms of clause 5 (b) shall simply apply - clause 5 (b) being the clause that states that committee members must be first claim members of the club.

*The committee's view is that whilst knowledge of the committee is helpful it is not essential for the effective discharging of the role of Chair, as equivalent experience could have been gained in a number of different ways. Whilst it is recognised that allowance was made for the scenario where no such qualified candidate were to stand, the committee felt that the presumption of prior experience might deter otherwise suitable candidates from putting themselves forward.*

2. "No member shall serve on the Committee for more than three consecutive years from the date of their first appointment after which they must retire and will be ineligible for reappointment for a period of 12 months provided that –

a. Not more than one third of the Committee or Executive Committee shall retire and become ineligible for reappointment in any one year.

b. If more than one third of Committee members or Executive Committee members have served three years from the date of their first appointment then those who have served the longest shall retire first by the operation of this clause."

c. If no other member or members is willing to fill a vacancy created by the operation of this clause, then the retiring committee member or members shall remain eligible for reappointment

*As it is already a requirement of the constitution that all committee members must resign and seek re-election each year the committee were not persuaded that there was any value in instigating a 3 year maximum term. The committee remains committed to encouraging any club member who is interested in standing for election to a committee role to do so.*

--