

Background Information about Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Overall Intent

The purpose of the amendments is to improve the governance of the Association, by reducing the size of the Council and clarifying its role. As a consequence, the way in which its members are elected would change.

The proposed changes to the constitution have the full support of the existing Council, following extensive debate and consultation over a three year period and detailed work by several groups.

Role of Council

The role of the Council would be overall responsibility for the affairs of the Association, with a focus on high level policy, strategic initiatives, scrutiny and transparency. Day to day business, including authority to execute financial transactions, implementation of policy and recommendation of new or changes to policy, would be delegated to an Executive Board, which would replace the current Management Committee. Any changes to the way it and its working committees operate will be a matter for the new bodies and would not require further changes to the Constitution.

Composition and Election of Council

The Council presently has 33 members: 15 elected by the Individual Members of the Association, 9 by the Federations, the President, 6 Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. This would be reduced to 12 voting members, together with 3 Officers and up to 3 other non-voting members, co-opted to ensure a diversity of background and experience. The 12 voting members would be elected by Individual Members to represent Federations, grouped as shown below, and the Clubs and Individual Members in them. The Federations would be given responsibility for ensuring that sufficient candidates are nominated.

To avoid overburdening the Constitution with too much detail, the rules for elections will be determined by an Electoral Commission appointed by the President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. To ensure proportional representation of the whole of the CA's membership there will be 7 constituencies, namely:

Federation(s)	Seats
North West	1
Croquet North & Yorkshire	1
East & West Midlands	1
East Anglia	2
South East and London	3
Southern	1
South West	3

Amendments proposed

The proposed amendments make the minimum changes needed to the Constitution to implement the proposed reforms, rather than being a wider revision. The principal changes are to clause 12, which has been renamed "Governance" and covers the role and

composition of the new Council and Executive Board, and clauses 18 and 24, which cover the election of and vacancies on Council. The amendments are consequential and affect clauses 3(b), 8(b,c), 21, 23 and 25-30. A new clause, 32, specifies transitional provisions.

Timing

The amendments are being proposed at a Special General Meeting in March so that elections can take place over the summer, thus enabling the new Council to assume office from the date of the AGM in October. However, the transitional provisions give the Council power to delay their introduction should this not prove to be feasible.

Further Information

A presentation from the working party that developed the detailed proposals can be found at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?d=2222> and a draft of the election rules expected to be adopted is at <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?d=2224>. Please contact any of the members of the working party, Jonathan Isaacs, John Bowcott, John Dawson, Brian Havill, John Reddish and Ian Vincent, if you have questions about the proposals. If common threads emerge, a summary of them will be posted on the website.