



SCOTTISH BLIND GOLF SOCIETY

The driving force behind blind golfers in Scotland since 1982.

Constitution

This document was updated and adopted by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting held on February 23, 2017 at RNIB Offices in Edinburgh and was notified to OSCR.

1: NAME

The Society shall be known as the Scottish Blind Golf Society, hereafter, referred to as the Society.

2: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society are to further the physical and mental health of all registered blind or partially sighted persons in Scotland to ameliorate their suffering and distress and to aid them in their handicaps, specifically by promoting and encouraging their participation in, and the playing of, the game of golf. The Society will achieve this by:

2.A	Promoting blind golf.
2.B	Maintaining, promoting and conducting a club for blind golf, for the accommodation of the members of the Society, their friends, companions and the recruitment of sighted people to act as guides and generally to afford the members and their companions, all the usual privileges and advantages, convenience and accommodation of a club.
2.C	Holding or arranging matches and competitions and offer and grant, or contribute towards, the provision of prizes, awards and distinctions.
2.D	Undertaking or participating in all manner of promotional publicity or advertising activities on its own account, or as part of its general activities, as a club.
2.E	Raising money from subscriptions.
2.F	Granting any rights and privileges to subscribers.
In furtherance thereof, but not otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers:	

2.G	Employ and pay any person or persons to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Society and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation, to, or on behalf of, employees and their widows and their dependants.
2.H	Bring together in conference, representatives of voluntary organisations, government departments, statutory authorities and individuals.
2.I	Arrange and provide for, or join in arranging and providing for, the holding of exhibitions, courses, meetings, classes, training courses, tournaments and competitions.
2.J	Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting such objectives and exchange such information with other bodies with similar objectives, whether in this country or overseas.
2.K	Undertake, execute, manage or assist any charitable trust which may lawfully be undertaken, executed, managed or assisted by the Society.
2.L	Arrange to be written and print, publish, issue and circulate gratuitously or otherwise such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or documents or films or recorded tapes as shall further such objectives.
2.M	Purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of such objectives and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or erections necessary for the work of the Society.
2.N	Make regulations for any property which may be so acquired.
2.O	Subject to consents as may be required by law, sell, let, mortgage or dispose of, or turn to account, all or any of the property or assets of the Society.
2.P	Subject to consents as may be required by law, accept gifts, and borrow or raise money for such objectives on such terms and on such security as shall be thought fit.
2.Q	To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whomsoever, by way of subscription, donation and otherwise, provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objectives.
2.R	Invest the money of the Society, not immediately required for such objectives, in or on such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions [if any] as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.
2.S	Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of such objectives.

3: MEMBERSHIP

3.A	<p>Membership shall be divided into the following categories and applications shall conform to one, [1] of these categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Playing or Full Member, who shall be a person of eighteen (18) years and over and who complies fully with the criteria mentioned in Section 3B. Full playing members will be entitled to vote.II. Junior Member, who shall be a person of under eighteen [18] years and who complies fully with the criteria mentioned in Section 3B. Junior members shall not be entitled to vote.III. Associate member who complies with section 3.C, any individual who has undertaken to act as a guide and/or supports and agrees with the aims and objectives of the Society. Associate members shall not be entitled to vote.IV. Honorary Member, who shall be a Full or Associate member, who is awarded Honorary membership by a simple majority vote at Annual General Meeting in recognition of outstanding services to the Society. Honorary members shall be entitled to vote.
3.B	<p>Full Membership to the Society shall be open to individuals of all ages and both sexes who can provide written evidence from a Society for the Blind or Local Authority, Social Work Department of blind or partially sighted registration and whose vision is so low as to make it impossible to play golf without the assistance of a sighted guide and who are interested in furthering the work of the Society and who have paid the subscription as laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee mentioned below and who have achieved a Society handicap and a sight category, complying with the guidelines of British Blind Sport.</p>
3.C	<p>Associate membership is open to individuals of all ages and both sexes who are interested in furthering the work of the Society, who shall be registered upon the payment of any Associate subscription as laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee mentioned below.</p>
3.D	<p>Full Membership to the society is dependent on individuals first joining one of the recognised affiliated local districts, who are bound by the terms and conditions of the Scottish Blind Golf Society, this Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.</p>
3.E	<p>The Executive Committee shall have the right to refuse the membership of any individual.</p>

4: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.A	With the exception of powers which are specifically stated in this Constitution to be exercisable by the members, the policy and management of the affairs of the Society shall be managed on its behalf by an Executive Committee, who shall be elected at Annual General Meeting by the Society's full members and meet, thereafter, no less than four, [4] times each year.
4.B	The Executive Committee shall consist of a Captain, a Vice Captain, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Match Secretary, and a Handicap Secretary. Additional members should be co-opted to the Executive Committee, from affiliated Districts which are not represented by the aforementioned posts.
4.C	The position of Match and Handicap Secretaries may be combined if the need arises. This dual position should only be held until the next AGM or until a volunteer has accepted the post of Match or Handicap Secretary.
4.D	The elected Executive Committee may include a maximum of two, [2] sighted persons, who shall have full voting rights.
4.E	Nominations for election to the Executive must be made by full playing members in writing, to be received by the Secretary prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, authorised by a proposer and a seconder and with the nominees consent. The retiring Executive Committee may present a slate of nominations for the membership to consider at the Annual General Meeting and each such nomination must be proposed and seconded in the manner outlined above. Multiple nominations for the same post will be decided by secret ballot of the members attending the Annual General Meeting.
4.F	<p>Terms of Office:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. <u>The Captain</u>, who must be a Full Member, will serve in office for one year and may stand for re-election for a further successive maximum term of one year. II. <u>The Vice Captain</u>, who must be a Full Member, will serve for one year but may accept further years of service in this capacity, if elected to the Executive Committee by Society membership at the Annual General Meeting, and at the sole discretion of the captain elected. III. <u>The Secretary</u>, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the society membership and serve for a two year term, and will be eligible for re-election thereafter. IV. <u>The Treasurer</u>, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the Society membership and serve for a two year term, and be eligible for re-election thereafter. V. <u>The Match Secretary</u> will be elected at Annual General Meeting by the Society members and serve for one year and will be eligible for re-election thereafter.

	VI. <u>The Handicap Secretary</u> will be elected at Annual General Meeting by the Society members and serve for one year and will be eligible for re-election thereafter.
4.G	The duties and responsibilities of each Office Bearer shall be defined in the Society's Code of Conduct.
4.H	Any Executive Committee member who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of that Committee without apology or explanation will be deemed to have demitted office and the Committee shall be able to appoint a substitute until the next Annual General Meeting when the vacant post can be filled.
4.I	The Executive Committee may appoint such special or Standing Committees or Sub-Committees as may be considered appropriate and shall determine their respective terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing committees shall be reported back to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.
4.J	The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or a defect in the election appointment or qualification of a member.
4.K	The Executive Committee posts are designed for one post, one vote and only in the exceptional circumstance of a lack of volunteers should the existing Match and Handicap Secretaries posts be combined.

5: MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY & RULES OF PROCEDURE

5.A	The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall determine. The Secretary shall give fourteen, [14] days notice of the meeting in writing.
5.B	The business shall include the consideration of the Annual Report on the work of the Society, the approval of the accounts, the election of Executive Committee members, motions submitted by the Executive Committee or by members and the transaction of other matters which may from time to time be appropriate.
5.C	The Secretary shall arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society within 21 days of receiving a written request so to do, signed by not less than one third of the Full Members and giving reasons for the request. Any Full Member is entitled to sign such a request. The Chairman/Captain of the

	Executive Committee may at any time at his or her discretion, call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.
5.D	An Extraordinary General Meeting shall deal specifically with the purpose for which it was called and no other business will be valid.
5.E	All papers relating to General Meetings shall be issued to Full Members at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
5.F	Quorum - The quorum at any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting shall consist of not less than one fourth [1/4] of the Full members. The quorum at any Executive Committee meeting shall consist of not less than four, [4] of the elected members, and The quorum of any Sub-committees, which may be elected from time to time, shall consist of not less than two thirds of the Sub-committee membership.
5.G	Voting - Save as otherwise provided, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. No person shall exercise more than one [1] vote, but in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. No proxy voting shall be allowed.
5.H	Minutes - Minute files shall be kept by the Executive Committee and the appropriate Secretary/Convener shall enter in the minute file a record of all in attendance, the proceedings and resolutions.
5.I	Standing Orders and Rules - The Executive Committee shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or Rules for the Society. Such Standing Orders and/or Rules shall come into operation immediately, provided they shall be subject to review by the Society at Annual General Meeting and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution and with the Rules of Golf as laid down and amended from time to time by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.
5.J	The Executive Committee shall have the power to invoke disciplinary procedures as defined in the Society's Code of Conduct. In summary, these shall consist of 3 [three] classes: I. Conditional suspension II. Full suspension III. Termination of membership

6: FINANCE

6.A	All funds raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the objectives of the Society and for no other purpose. Payment may be made in
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	good faith for reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Society and fees to professional or technical advisers or repayment to members of the Executive Committee or any approved Sub-committee for out-of-pocket expenses.
6.B	The Treasurer shall keep proper accounting records and prepare accounts annually and at such intervals as the Executive Committee shall direct.
6.C	Annual Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with statutory requirements.
6.D	A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society with such Banks/Building Societies, as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. The Executive Committee shall authorise a minimum of two, [2] separate members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the Treasurer, to administer all payments on behalf of the Society. Paper cheques must be signed by two of the nominated parties and electronic payments via an internet banking system may only be completed by the recognised dual authorisation method. Where applicable, a monthly electronic statement showing all the Society's financial transactions will be circulated to all Executive members
6.E	All members, in receipt of discounted, complimentary or gratuitous fees, payments, goods or services from the Society shall be prohibited from including such items, in whole or in part, in any expenses claim tendered to the Society, funding bodies, organisations or other associations.

7: PROPERTY

The title to all property, heritable and moveable, which may be acquired on behalf of the Society, shall be vested in the name of the Scottish Blind Golf Society, or in the names of the trustees of a trust established for that purpose.

8: ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A resolution to alter this Constitution shall not be valid unless:

8.A	Three quarters of the votes cast in relation to the resolution at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society are in favour.
8.B	Notice shall be given to members not less than seven, [7] days before the meeting.

9: DISSOLUTION

If the Executive Committee by a simple majority decide at any time, that, on the ground of expense or otherwise, it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, of which not less than 21 days notice shall be given, stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed at the meeting. If such a decision is confirmed by a three quarters majority of the votes cast in relation to the resolution at such meeting, the Executive Committee shall sell such of the assets of the Society as they may consider appropriate and settle the debts and liabilities of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of such debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such charitable organisation or organisations having objectives similar to the objectives of the Society as the Executive Committee may determine.

This Constitution was updated and adopted by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting held on February 23, 2017 in Conference room1 at RNIB Scotland, Edinburgh and was notified to OSCR.

Robin Clayden, Secretary. Date: February 24, 2017.
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