



Life Membership

Introduction

Clubs have, on several occasions, requested guidelines for Life Membership. This paper offers matters to be considered

Model Rules Vs Constitution

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) confirms that associations operating under the Model Rules cannot have Honorary Life Members, in fact they cannot have other than Members and Associate Members. If they wish to have Life Members or Honorary Members they need to amend their current Rules, (which are then no longer the Model Rules) and which require registration at CAV, for which a fee of \$170 is payable.

Details to be decided

Assuming that the club wishes to proceed, items that must be considered are:

- What are the criteria for Life Membership?
This is usually outstanding service to the club in one capacity or another, or in several capacities over the years.
- What is the procedure for nomination for Life Membership?
Can a member nominate another member? Is there a nomination form?
- What is the procedure for election/appointment to Life Membership?
Is it a vote at a General Meeting? If so, does it require a simple majority or a larger, say 75% majority? Or does the committee approve the nominations (this is not usual)?
- What are the benefits of Life Membership?
Do they pay affiliation fees? Playing/court/green fees? Entry fees to club tournaments & events?
- Is there a limit on the number of Life Members at any one time?
Does the club wish to limit the numbers of Life Members (especially if the club and not the Life Members pay affiliation fees)?

Note that these details do not necessarily need to be included in the Constitution, they could as easily be included in By Laws or a Policy, if the Constitution allows for these, and any Constitution being amended should be amended to allow for these.

Possible Wording of Constitutional Clause

The clause below is in the Constitutions of several croquet clubs and may, with suitable amendments, satisfy the requirements of most clubs:

“Any person, who shall have rendered a special service or services to the Club may, at any Special or General Meeting, on the unanimous recommendation of the Committee and on receiving the votes of at least three quarters of the members present and voting at such meeting, be elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club, with full privileges, and without payment of any subscription, provided always that there shall not be, at any one time, more than three Honorary Life Members of the Club. An Honorary Life Member shall not be relieved of any financial obligations other than the payment of the annual subscription of the Club.”