

Special Resolution to modernise the Orion Constitution

Q&A

What does the committee want to do?

Please be assured that there is no intention to fundamentally change the way the club is run. The committee is acutely aware of the club's history and traditions and seeks to preserve them.

A constitution should provide a governance framework establishing a core purpose, financial rules, and a management structure. The committee should be responsible for day-to-day operations. The committee is elected by members and may be held to account by them at general meetings.

The committee supports a constitution which maintains the traditions making Orion so distinct, whilst becoming a more easily understood, concise and accessible document.

Why Now?

The existing constitution can be found here:

[Orion-Harriers-Constitution-October-2025.pdf](#)

Necessary amendments over time have led to the document becoming increasingly complex and steadily less user friendly. It is time for it to be reorganised under distinct headings and sections, including both definitions and the most up to date expression of clauses which interested third parties look to see (England Athletics, HMRC re the club's CASC status etc.).

The current committee comprises many longstanding members. We feel it is preferable that modernisation happens under the stewardship of those very much aware of Orion's traditions, rather than in years to come when those connections may not be as strong.

What will change and will the Club be run differently?

The committee is not seeking to make changes, except where necessary to streamline club operations. Those who read the proposed new constitution will see a more structured document which clarifies the operational remit and accountability of the committee, whilst maintaining oversight by members.

Specifically:

- Distinct, historic operational aspects of the club are set out under clause 18 as "Traditional Club Regulations". This means that the committee has no power to make changes to these traditions except if authorised by a special resolution of members at a general meeting.
- Other matters on policies, procedures, competition rules, and trophies sit with the committee.
- There is a right for members who cannot attend general meetings to vote by proxy on both ordinary and special business (clauses 11 and 12).
- The notice period to members for any general meeting is increased from 7 to 14 days.
- Members continue to elect committee members (clause 13) up to a maximum of 15 individuals. The named committee roles set out have been changed to reflect only the

specific roles required to be filled (by England Athletics etc.). Other committee members elected will undertake specific committee work as required. This will provide flexibility for the committee in allocating responsibilities.

- Non-committee roles will be arranged by agreement between the committee and the individual concerned.
- We have taken care to ensure wording used in other areas reflects model clauses expected by HMRC and England Athletics and is easy to find if those bodies review our documentation.

What else might you like to know?

A message is sent to all members 6 to 8 weeks in advance of the AGM, asking those who wish to stand for the committee to notify the secretary, in writing, by a specific date. Members may also put themselves forward for election, in person, at the AGM. That system will remain.

However, under the new constitution, the names of those putting themselves forward in advance would be circulated with the AGM notice at least 14 days in advance of the AGM. Members unable to attend the meeting could then choose to contact the secretary and cast proxy votes. This would mean that any individual choosing to stand on the day, rather than in advance, could rely only on the votes of those present at the AGM: they would not have the benefit of having received proxy votes.

Details of those who have put themselves forward this year are included for your information.

Under the new constitution what could members do if they had concerns about the Committee and the Club's direction?

If matters could not be resolved informally, a group of at least 20 senior members could call a special general meeting to debate any issue/s of concern. This could be done by contacting the secretary in writing. Additionally, members not able to attend an AGM and raise issues there, would be able to vote for or against any committee member standing.

Why is this just a "for or against" vote on the new constitution?

It is usual for an AGM to vote on specific individual changes. What is being proposed this year is a one-off streamlining and reorganisation of a complex document. There is no practical structure which would facilitate multiple individual votes during an AGM timescale. Either the membership, being assured that the committee has covered the detailed analysis and cross-checking required, does wish to make the changes suggested, or it does not.

What should I do if I have further questions?

Please email any further queries to secretary@orionharriers.com or bring your questions to the AGM in person.