



FOR THE COMMUNITY STADIUM FOR THE COMMUNITY GOOD

Rules

(Approved 9 June 2006)

1. Name of the Party

This political party shall be known as “The Seagulls Party” (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”).

2. Objectives of the Party

The Party may act only in pursuit of the following Objectives:

- a) to campaign politically in the cause of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club or its supporters;
- b) to campaign politically for a permanent community stadium for Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club at Village Way, Falmer;
- c) to seek representation on elected bodies and to field candidates at elections;
- d) to organise meetings for its members and others;
- e) to liaise with such other organisations as is necessary in pursuit of the Party’s Objectives;
- f) to campaign against and take lawful action against any person or organisation considered to be acting detrimentally to the Party’s Objectives;
- g) to seek to increase its membership;
- h) to raise funds to carry out the Party’s Objectives;
- i) to undertake any other actions that further the cause of Party members, or which benefit the Party or Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club or its supporters.

3. Membership and Subscriptions

- a) Membership shall be open to any person aged 16 or over who agrees with the Objectives of the Party and agrees to abide by its Rules.
- b) Members shall pay an annual subscription decided by Annual Conference, and shall receive a unique membership number and card. The membership year shall run from 1st July to 30th June. Any member not paying his/her subscription by 1st October shall no longer be considered a member. Members joining after 31st March will be automatically included as members for the following year without further payment. Members must not act against Party policy (decided by Annual Conference, by Extraordinary General Meetings, and by the Committee).
- c) The Committee may reprimand, suspend or expel any member (without repayment of subscription), or refuse membership to any prospective member, who in its opinion:
 - i) has not acted in the best interests of the Party, or
 - ii) has violated the Objectives of the Party, or
 - iii) has brought the Party into disrepute, or
 - iv) has breached the Rules of the Party, or
 - v) has acted with violence towards another member of the Party, or
 - vi) has been convicted of an offence relating to his/her footballing or political activities in a court of law, or is subject to a banning order.

Such member or prospective member may present their case in person to the Party Committee. An offending member shall receive notice of the Annual Conference and shall be allowed to appeal to the Annual Conference, where a simple majority shall decide.

4. Annual Conference

- a) The Annual Conference of the Party shall normally be held on the first Thursday on or after 19th February each year, at a venue within eight miles of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and shall be open to all members. Notice of the time, date, venue and business of Annual Conference shall be sent to all members of the Party by the Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Conference. Annual Conference is deemed to have a quorum.
- b) Annual Conference is the supreme decision-making body of the Party. Any member joining the Party before 1st November the previous year shall be entitled to vote upon production of his/her valid membership card. Votes shall be conducted either by a show of hands or by secret ballot as decided by the Leader. Votes received by mail will be added if votes cast in the room result in a majority of less than two to one. The Leader shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- c) The outgoing Officers shall present reports to Annual Conference. A set of accounts for the previous financial year shall be made available to all members present. Written summaries of the reports and accounts shall be sent to all members.
- d) Proposed resolutions must be forwarded in writing to the Secretary by 25th January. The Leader may also allow Annual Conference to vote on any emergency resolution.
- e) Annual Conference may decide whether to field candidates at any forthcoming election or may delegate the decision to the Committee.
- f) All decisions made at Annual Conference shall take effect as soon as they are passed, except that new Officers shall not take up their posts until the following day.

5. Extraordinary General Meetings

- a) The Secretary shall arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) upon the signed request of one-half of the Committee or one-fifth of the voting membership. Those requesting the meeting shall declare the business to be discussed to the Secretary, who shall verify the validity of the request as soon as possible.
- b) The meeting shall be held not more than 21 days after the verification of the request at a venue within eight miles of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Notice of the time, date, venue and business of an EGM shall be sent to all members of the Party by the Secretary at least 14 days in advance. Only members of four or more months’ standing may vote.
- c) At least one-third of the voting membership must be present (or have voted by mail) within 15 minutes of the advertised start time to form a quorum. No business other than that declared may be voted upon, but the Leader may allow discussion of other business after all votes have taken place.
- d) Other general meetings may be arranged by the Committee for the purposes of seeking guidance, disclosing information, hearing guest speakers, etc., but shall not be binding on the Party.

6. Management of the Party

- a) The Party shall comprise a single organisation with no division of responsibility for the financial affairs and transactions of the Party.
- b) The Party shall be managed day to day by a Committee in a manner consistent with these Rules, with any resolutions passed at Annual Conference or at an EGM, and with its own resolutions. The Committee shall be responsible for the proper, efficient and lawful running of the Party.
- c) The Committee shall comprise the following Officers: Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Officer. A person may hold two Officers’ positions only if necessary, but the Committee must comprise at least three people.
- d) The Leader shall preside at all meetings, and shall ensure their proper and impartial conduct. In the absence of a Treasurer, the Leader is legally responsible for ensuring that the Party complies with financial controls until the appointment of a new Treasurer.
- e) The Deputy Leader shall advise and assist the Leader and shall act as Leader in his/her absence.

- f) The Leader or Deputy Leader may act for the Committee in an emergency or other matter of extreme urgency, but must inform other Officers of his/her actions as soon as practicable, and must inform the Committee at its next meeting.
- g) The Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that the Rules of the Party are observed, and shall record minutes of meetings. He/she shall be responsible for maintaining membership records, and shall act as Nominating Officer with reference to the Representation of the People Act.
- h) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the Party's funds and shall provide a statement at meetings. He/she shall keep accurate records of all transactions. He/she shall be responsible for filing annual accounts and returns of donations and campaign expenditure with the Electoral Commission, and for any other actions regarding finances required by legislation or by the Party's registered financial scheme.
- i) The Communications Officer shall be responsible for overseeing the Party's press and other media outlets, including websites.
- j) Only the Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary or Communications Officer may make statements, give interviews, write articles, speak or correspond generally on behalf of the Party, except for those members (including election candidates and elected representatives) who are required to do so in pursuit of delegated duties.
- k) The Committee shall meet as and when necessary, or at the request of two separate Committee members to the Secretary. The Secretary shall do his/her best to inform all Committee members of the time, date, venue and business of any Committee meeting as far in advance as practically possible, and shall advise them of any special business to be discussed. The Secretary shall send minutes of Committee meetings to all Committee members as soon as practicable. Three separate Committee members shall form a quorum.
- l) All Officers shall retire at Annual Conference. From the second Annual Conference, candidates for the Committee must have been members of the Party for at least one year. Candidates for the Committee must declare their intention in writing to the Secretary by 25th January. Elections of Officers shall be by a series of ballots which eliminate the person with the fewest votes on each occasion.
- m) A vacancy for Leader shall be filled by the Deputy Leader. The Committee may co-opt other members of the Party to fill other vacancies. In the absence of an Officer from a meeting another Committee member may perform his/her role. Any Committee member who fails to attend three consecutive Committee meetings without adequate reason shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.
- n) Any member of the Party, or any other person invited by the Committee, may attend and speak at a Committee meeting but he/she shall not vote. Only matters deemed to be of the utmost sensitivity or confidentiality by the Leader may be discussed in secret.
- o) The Committee may, as it sees fit, delegate duties to any member of the Party and form sub-committees including any member of the Party. Sub-committees shall keep minutes and report to the Committee.
- p) The Committee may appoint a non-executive President.

7. Candidates and Elected Representatives

- a) Candidates to contest elections on behalf of the Party must be paid-up members of the Party. They shall be selected by the Committee as it sees fit and in accordance with Party policy.
- b) Candidates successfully elected must pursue Party policy to the best of their ability. On other matters elected representatives are free to follow their own consciences, but they must act in a responsible, lawful and democratic manner. Elected representatives will represent all their constituents; they should make themselves reasonably available to those constituents, consult on matters of interest and act accordingly. Elected representatives must report to the Committee.

8. Banking and Accounts

- a) The Party shall operate at least one bank or building society account. All withdrawals or cheques must be authorised or signed by the Treasurer and one other Officer. All monies received must be advised to the Treasurer and reconciled as soon as practicable.
- b) The Party's financial year coincides with the calendar year. Accounts will be prepared annually in accordance with at least the minimum regulatory requirements applicable.

9. Donations

All donations to the Party must be approved by the Committee.

10. Registration

The Party shall register annually with the Electoral Commission as a political party and comply with all relevant legislation.

11. Communication with Members

The Committee should communicate with members as often as necessary. Members must be advised of any changes in Officers' contact details.

12. Winding-up

The Party may be wound up only by a vote of at least three-quarters of those present and eligible to vote at Annual Conference or at an EGM. No subscriptions shall be repaid. Any monies, property or other assets remaining after the settling of all debts shall be given to a supporters' organisation, charity, amateur sports club or other similar body as decided by the Annual Conference or EGM that wound the Party up.

13. Changes To and Interpretation of Rules

- a) These Rules may be changed only at the Annual Conference or at an EGM of the Party, and only if two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote decide in favour of the proposed change. Proposed changes to Rules at Annual Conference must be notified to the Secretary in writing by 25th January.
- b) In the event of any situation arising which is not covered by these Rules, or where there is a conflict within these Rules or an interpretation required, the Committee shall decide the matter. In all cases the Committee shall ensure that the Objectives of the Party are complied with. They shall then use common sense, normal good democratic and open practice, and natural justice to decide the issue.