

Background

After a gap of some 15 years, I once again became an active member of the TCCPA by attending the January 2014 AGM and volunteering to join the Committee.

Over the next 12 months, I was surprised by how little went on. No General Meetings to which the whole membership was invited, and just a handful of Committee meetings with no agenda or minutes (as I recall).

At the pre-AGM 2015 committee meeting, and in the Committee emails that preceded it, the general feeling was that something needed to be done to rejuvenate and relaunch the Association.

It was against this background that I suggested a two-fold approach at the pre-AGM Committee Meeting – a TCCPA Festival and Championships that would encourage our wider membership to engage with the Association, and some changes to the Constitution that would increase the effectiveness of communication and make such engagement more likely and more effective.

Proposed Changes (*notes in italics*)

- Currently the constitution states that General Meetings will be held only on an 'ad hoc' basis. These need to be timetabled in at least twice a year.

7.1 Replace 'on an ad hoc basis' with 'at least twice a year'.

- There is no structure for General Meetings, so we need to add:

7.8.3 General

1. Agree Minutes of previous General Meeting and matters arising
2. Action items outstanding
3. Member Resolutions (notice of these must be given in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the GM)
4. AOB
5. Date of next meeting

- Ordinary members must be allowed to vote at General Meetings, so:

9.1 Replace 'AGMs, EGMs' with 'AGMs, GMs, EGMs'

- Ordinary members should be encouraged to contribute items to the agenda:

7.9 Members should be encouraged to contribute Members Resolutions to meeting agendas, by having an email reminder from the Secretary no less than 40 days prior to any GM, EGM or AGM.

- Minutes need to be distributed quickly to help members to quickly achieve action points:

6.18.3.2 Add 'within two weeks of the meeting'

- Meeting minutes are an important way of ensuring that good progress is made. So the responsibilities of the Minutes Secretary need to be detailed:

6.18.5 Minutes Secretary

6.18.5.1 To record minutes of all meetings (CM, GM, AGM, EGM), to include a clear summary of all action points, with deadlines.

6.18.5.2 To email the minutes to the Secretary within two weeks of the meeting.

- All meetings need to have an agenda, and I think that it's the job of the Chairman:

6.18.1.4 To write the agenda, and to send it to the Secretary no less than 14 days before all meetings (CM, GM, AGM, EGM).

Summary

Hopefully you'll look upon the above as helpful and straightforward. To anyone who asks 'Why not just do these things without changing the constitution?' , I would reply 'Why bother having a constitution in the first place?'