Constitution of the MIT Croquet Club

March 18, 1998

1 Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Croquet Club, hereinafter referred to as the Croquet Club, or just Club.

2 Purpose

The purpose of the MIT Croquet Club is to play croquet. The Club deems croquet an excellent sport, well-suited to increasing the physical coordination, improving the negotiation skills, and raising the general level of punting of its members and any others who wish to join in their games. It has also been found to be greatly entertaining.

3 Membership

Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of this organization, though ones that like croquet are strongly preferred. The membership of this organization will at all times contain at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Non-Discrimination Statement.

This organization may charge monetary dues for the acquisition and maintenance of croquet equipment. Dues may be waived for one of two reasons:

- inability to afford dues, or
- furnishing of croquet equipment.

4 Officers

4.1 Officer Duties

This organization will have four officers. All officers of this organization must be distinct persons.

4.1.1 President

The President shall be the official representative of the group to any other organization and to MIT. He or she shall be responsible for calling any meetings that do not involve playing croquet, and for overseeing scheduling of election meetings. The President must be a current MIT student.

4.1.2 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the group, and is required to sign all checks/vouchers of the group. The Treasurer is responsible for raising funds for acquisition and maintenance of croquet equipment, by collecting dues or receiving ASA funding or other means, and for the acquisition and maintenance of said equipment. The Treasurer must also ensure its accessibility to the club. The Treasurer must be a current MIT student.

4.1.3 Public Relations Officer

The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for responding to queries regarding the Club, or croquet in general, in a timely, informative, and polite manner. The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for maintaining the group's mailing lists. The Public Relations Officer shall also be responsible for promoting the playing of croquet among the non-croquet playing masses, including but not limited to small children, teaching assistants, and tourists.

4.1.4 InterCollegiate Coordinator

The InterCollegiate Coordinator shall be responsible for seeking out croquet-playing organizations at other colleges and arranging matches with them. This officer is likely to acquire other duties once such organizations have been located. This section liable to amendment.

4.1.5 Flunky

Flunkies are not elected, nor are they officers proper, but rather are appointed by any of the four officers listed above to assist them in carrying out their duties. Flunkies must voluntarily accept their position. It is preferred that flunkies be current MIT students. Once appointed, a flunky serves the office of the appointing officer, and retains his or her flunky position upon a change of officers. A flunky may quit at any time by informing his or her officer, though advance notice would be considered tactful. All flunkies shall be numerically identified (Flunky 1, Flunky 2, etc.), and flunky numbers shall not be duplicated. If the same person holds multiple flunky positions, they do not acquire additional flunky numbers. Officer election, removal, and resignation procedures as stated in subsections 4.2 through 4.5 do not apply to flunkies. Also, flunkies may be rewarded on an irregular basis with ice cream by their officer.

4.2 Elections

Elections shall occur after spring break, and follow the format of trial by croquet. During the week immediately following spring break, all club members who wish to run for office shall announce their candidacy to the group. Elections then proceed as follows:

A date and time within a week of the close of nominations, weather permitting and barring extenuating circumstances, must be mutually agreed upon by all candidates for President as the time of the elections meeting. This meeting shall then be announced to the rest of the group at least twenty-four hours in advance.

At the meeting, the election follows a set procedure. If there is only one candidate, he or she is declared winner. If two, each candidate must designate two supporters present at the meeting. If three, each candidate designates one. All supporters must be distinct persons. For four to six candidates, no supporters are designated. If more than six candidates are vying for any one office, appropriate procedure shall be decided upon by the four current officers. Quorum for the meeting is all candidates for the office under contention and supporters.

Candidates then select balls at random. If two or three candidates are running, they and their supporters form teams. Play proceeds according to United States Croquet Association 9-wicket Backyard Croquet rules, with the exception that in the case of three candidates the sides are blueyellow/redgreen/blackorange. The candidate who wins, or whose side wins, wins the election.

Elections for the positions of Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, and InterCollegiate Coordinator follow the same procedure. The Treasurer election must occur within a week after the President election, then Public Relations within a week, then InterCollegiate Coordinator within a week. More than one election meeting can occur on the same date. If the set of candidates for one office is a subset of the set of candidates for the office immediately preceding it in the order of elections, it is permissible for the candidate to come in second in the election game for the earlier office to be declared winner of the later office, provided that all candidates involved in the game have agreed to this prior to the beginning of play.

Newly elected officers shall take office at the close of the next business day following their election.

4.3 Removal

If an officer is derelict in the performance of or unable to carry out (extended illness, taking a term off out of town, etc.) his or her duties and does not resign, a meeting of the general membership shall be called at least seventy-two hours in advance. If the President's performance is in question, the meeting shall be called by any two of the other officers. At the meeting, quorum for which shall be either ten members or one-half the current active membership, a vote shall be taken to remove the officer from his or her position. This vote requires a two-thirds majority of those present to pass.

In the event that an officer is removed, a week of declarations of candidacy shall ensue, followed by standard election procedure.

4.4 Resignation

Officers may resign at any time by announcing it to the general membership. In the event of a resignation, a week of declarations of candidacy shall ensue, followed by standard election procedure.

4.5 Other

If an officer position becomes vacant for any other reason, such as loss of eligibility for the position, it should be announced as soon as possible to the general membership. This announcement shall be followed by a week of declarations of candidacy, followed by standard election procedure.

5 Meetings

There are four general types of meetings.

5.1 Croquet

Croquet meetings may be called by any member of the group at least six hours in advance, under the stipulation that said member must be able to access a croquet set by the posted time of the game. No meetings shall be called during rain, snow, or other precipitation; nor when the ground is covered with precipitate or is simply too muddy. Subject to this restriction, at least one game should be called per month when the membership does not deem it too cold to play.

Croquet meetings shall be run according to United States Croquet Association rules, with modifications as agreed upon by those present at the start of the meeting. If the same modifications are made repeatedly, they may be added to the club's list of standard modifications in an amendment meeting as stipulated in section 5.4. Meetings may also be run according to completely different sets of rules, which must also be agreed upon in full before play commences. If the same sort of game is played repeatedly, it may be added to the club's list of standard games in an amendment meeting as stipulated in section 5.4.

The preceding paragraph is invalid in any meeting at which, before play commences, all present agree to play Calvinball.

5.2 Elections

Election meetings shall be held as stipulated in section 4.2. The President should facilitate scheduling of election meetings if difficulties should arise. Election meetings are also subject to the same environmental restrictions as croquet meetings. This overrides all time limits for scheduling election meetings in section 4.2.

5.3 Officer Removal

Officer removal meetings shall be called and scheduled as stipulated in section 4.3.

5.4 Amendments

If any member finds a glaring problem with part of this Constitution after the official recognition of the group, he or she shall inform the officers. If it is declared a serious enough problem to change, a meeting of the general membership shall be called at least seventy-two hours in advance. The call for the meeting must include the text of the offending portion, and of the proposed change.

Quorum for an amendment meeting shall be ten people or one half of the current active membership. The amendment shall be discussed and potentially modified at the meeting, run approximately according to Warlock's Rules of Order, and then voted upon. This vote requires a two-thirds majority of those present to pass.

If an amendment meeting ends with no change to the Constitution, the section on which the unsuccessful amendment attempt was made cannot have any more amendment attempts made upon it for at least three months.

Amendment meetings may also be called to propose changes to the club's standard list of rules. These meetings follow the same procedure as constitutional amendment meetings.

6 ASA God Clause

The MIT Croquet Club agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.