

# **BATH BRIDGE CLUB**

## **Rules - as amended at the A.G.M. held on 8 March 2007**

### **1 Definitions**

- 1.1 The Club shall be called the Bath Bridge Club.
- 1.2 The object of the Club is to encourage the advancement of the game of Bridge and to provide the organisation and facilities necessary for members to play Contract Bridge (both Rubber and Duplicate) in accordance with the Rules of the English Bridge Union, and other card and board games as from time to time determined.

### **2 Membership**

- 2.1 The Club shall consist of Ordinary and Life members.
- 2.2 A candidate for election to Ordinary membership shall be proposed and seconded by Ordinary or Life members and the application displayed on the Club notice board for four weeks, before consideration by the Committee. The Committee shall determine by a simple majority vote whether or not to elect a proposed member. The Committee shall in no case be compelled to state its reasons for rejection.
- 2.3 Former members rejoining within one calendar year of their resignation will not be required to repeat the formal election procedures (see 2.2.) but will be required to pay the full annual subscription.”
- 2.4 Every successful candidate shall be deemed to be an Ordinary member upon payment of the entrance fee (if any) and the annual subscription (if any).
- 2.5 Life members shall be entitled to enjoy the facilities of the Club, without paying the annual membership fee. Election to Life membership shall be by unanimous decision of the Executive Committee and must be ratified at the next General Meeting.
- 2.6 Complaints about the conduct of a member, whether Life or Ordinary, shall be considered in accordance with the club's disciplinary procedure. Where appropriate, penalties may be imposed on members against whom complaints are upheld. In the most severe cases a member may be expelled providing this sanction is ratified by at least six members of the Committee of the club. At least seven days notice shall be given of a proposal to expel a member, in order to give the member an opportunity to appear before the Committee and for the Committee to consider the matter.
- 2.7 Members shall be permitted to introduce guests to the Club, subject to the restrictions or conditions imposed on the Club by the Landlord of the premises, providing that the proposed guest has not been rejected as a member of the Club. The member will be responsible for the guest's expenses incurred on the

Club's premises. The same guest may not be introduced more than six times in any twelve consecutive calendar months. Ex-members may be permitted to enjoy guest status or to rejoin the Club at the Committee's discretion.

- 2.8 Visitors who are not members' guests may use the Club at the discretion of the Committee representative in charge on the evening they attend. However, they should apply for membership after a maximum of six visits to the Club. Continued attendance may then be permitted, until their membership application has been processed. The Committee has the discretionary authority to waive the six-visit limit depending on individual circumstances.

## **Committee**

- 3.1 The Club shall be administered by a Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and up to seven other members, one of whom shall take the role of Health and Safety Officer. A Committee member must be a member of the Club.
- 3.2 The Committee is authorised to commit Club funds for the provision of all necessary facilities for the Club's proper and efficient operation. It will submit to a General Meeting any proposal for a permanent change of premises or for any exceptional expenditure in excess of £1000.
- 3.3 The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Committee, shall be elected by Club members at the Annual General Meeting. A notice indicating the nominations shall be displayed at the Club's premises at least three weeks prior to the AGM; giving the name of the nominee with the signatures of the proposer, seconder and nominee.
- 3.4 The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairman from the existing Committee. The person elected will hold the position for one year.
- 3.5 The Committee may appoint a Chief Tournament Director who should be a suitably qualified person who will hold the position for one year. He/she will only attend Committee meetings by invitation and in that event will not be entitled to a vote.
- 3.6 The Committee may co-opt members for special purposes or to fill vacancies on the Committee.
- 3.7 All members of the Committee shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting but will then be eligible for re-election.
- 3.8 The Committee shall meet at least once every three calendar months at such dates as it shall determine. The Secretary shall circulate an agenda to all members one week before the date of the proposed meeting. Five members shall form a quorum and in the event of a tie in voting the presiding officer shall have a second or casting vote.
- 3.9 The minutes of the proceedings of the Committee shall be kept by the Secretary, issued to all Committee members as soon as is practical after the meeting and signed by the Chairman, after approval at the next meeting. A copy shall be

published on the notice board for viewing by all Club members, provided that matters of a commercial delicacy or a libellous nature shall be omitted at the discretion of the Secretary.

#### **4 Finance**

4.1 All Ordinary and Life members shall be deemed equally responsible for all liabilities of the Club.

4.2 The entrance fee and annual subscriptions shall be determined from time to time at a General Meeting. The subscription year shall be from the first of January and subscriptions must be paid by the end of March or membership is deemed to have lapsed. Members elected after the 30th April shall pay two thirds and those elected after 31st August one third of the annual subscription. Until such members have paid their subscriptions they will pay table money at the visitors rate.

4.3 Two Honorary Auditors, who are not members of the Committee, shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to audit the accounts of the Club. The Treasurer shall present these accounts, duly audited, to the Annual General Meeting following the 31st December.

4.4 The Committee shall set table money with one month's notice being given of any change. Table money for special events shall be advertised in advance.

#### **5 Conditions of Play**

5.1 The Committee shall determine the form of play from time to time. One month's notice shall be given (on the Club notice board) of any change. The Committee shall display on the notice board any guidance considered necessary on the procedure to be followed for each form of play.

5.2 There shall be a Committee member, or a designated Club member, responsible for the running of each event, including the collection of table money and the custodianship of cards, equipment etc.

5.3 When playing Duplicate Bridge, conventions used by players shall be restricted to those covered by English Bridge Union Licence Level 3 or its equivalent.

5.4 When Duplicate Bridge is played the Tournament Director is deemed to be the agent of the Committee. Should there be an appeal against a Director's ruling then the Committee shall constitute an Appeals Committee and appeals against the Appeals Committee's findings shall be referred to the English Bridge Union.

## **6 Organisation of the Club**

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held at such place as the Committee shall fix but not later than 31st March. Six weeks notice shall be given to members together with an agenda of the business to be transacted.
- 6.2 Special General Meetings may be convened at the request of the Committee or on application, in writing, by at least ten members of the Club. Ten days notice shall be given to members together with an agenda of the business to be transacted.
- 6.3 At a General Meeting, Ordinary and Life members present shall be entitled to vote on any Motion. Such Motions will be carried if a simple majority of those present vote in favour except where a modification of the Rules, or dissolution of the Club is involved (see Rules 6.5 and 6.6). Proposed Amendments to Motions will be accepted from the floor, but no new Motions will be allowed. (Added to Rule 6.3 following ratification at 9 March 2000 AGM).
- 6.4 The quorum at any General Meeting shall be twenty members.
- 6.5 No Rule shall be altered and no Rule shall be made except by two-thirds majority of voting members at a General Meeting. At least one month's notice of any proposed new Rule or alteration to an existing Rule shall be given to the Secretary.
- 6.6 Dissolution of the Club can only result from a two-thirds majority of voting members at a General Meeting.
- 6.7 In the event of dissolution of the Club all net assets will be divided equally between members.
- 6.8 A copy of these Rules shall be displayed on the Club's notice board.
- 6.9 The Committee shall deal with any matters not covered by these rules.

## **7 Health and Safety**

- 7.1 The Committee has a responsibility to ensure that the Club adheres to appropriate Health and Safety legislation.
- 7.2 All members and visitors have a duty of care to ensure that safety guidelines are followed and that all incidents are reported to the Committee.
- 7.3 Any Health and Safety issue raised with a Committee member should be discussed at the next Committee meeting and any necessary action undertaken and recorded in the minutes.