

TEA TREE GULLY BRIDGE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION

1. The Name of the Club

- 1.1 The name of the Club is "Tea Tree Gully Bridge Club Incorporated".
- 1.2 The Club shall be an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

2. The Objects of the Club

The objects of the Club are to provide social contact between members through the medium of contract bridge and to support and promote the game of contract bridge.

3. The Powers of the Club

The Club shall have all the powers conferred by Section 25 of the Act.

4. The Management Committee of the Club

- 4.1 The Management Committee of the Club shall consist of the officers both elected and co-opted as described here.

- 4.1.1 These officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

President
Vice-president
Secretary
Treasurer
Chief Tournament Director.

- 4.1.2 The elected officers shall have the power to co-opt from among Club members as many committee members as they see fit from time to time in order to conduct the business of the Club. Members so co-opted become officers of the Club.

- 4.2 The Committee shall appoint one of its officers as Public Officer as required by Section 56 of the Act. The name and address of any new person so appointed shall be lodged with the appropriate authority within one month.

- 4.3 If an elected office becomes vacant during the life of the Management Committee the Committee may appoint a Club member to act in that capacity until the next General Meeting.

5. General Meetings

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held within eight weeks after the 30th June each year. Written notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to all members at least 14 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

- 5.2 A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee. Written notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to all members at least 21 days prior to the date of the Special General Meeting. The Committee shall call a Special General Meeting within 28 days of receiving a written request signed by at least 20% of the members.
- 5.3 A quorum at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting shall comprise 20% of members. Except as otherwise required by this Constitution, a question for decision at a General Meeting shall be determined by a simple majority of members present and entitled to vote. A record shall be kept of all resolutions of Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings.
- 5.4 Election of officers of the Club
 - 5.4.1 All offices shall be declared vacant and officers for the following year shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
 - 5.4.2 Candidates for election to an office of the Club shall be nominated by a member and must signify either in writing or in person at the Annual General Meeting that they are willing to be nominated and are qualified to stand under Section 30 of the Act.
 - 5.4.3 In the event that it becomes necessary voting for candidates for election to an office of the Club shall be by secret ballot. The candidate obtaining the highest number of votes shall be elected.

6. The Management of the Club

- 6.1 The affairs of the Club shall be administered by the Management Committee. Five members of the Committee shall comprise a quorum. The Chair of a committee meeting shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
- 6.2 The Committee may invite a person of good will to be the Patron of the Club.
- 6.3 The Committee shall appoint a person of suitable standing as Auditor.
- 6.4 The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Club and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to members of the Club except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Club.
- 6.5 The financial assets of the Club shall be held only in deposit accounts owned by the Club at an Authorised Deposit-taking Institution. The signatories of those accounts shall be any two of the Treasurer and two other elected officers of the Club. All money received by the Club shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the Club's deposit accounts.

- 6.6 The Club shall have a common seal bearing the name of the Club and the words "Common Seal". The seal shall be kept securely by the Public Officer and shall be for use in significant transactions with other persons or corporate bodies. It shall be used only by resolution of the Management Committee and the affixing of the common seal to any legal instrument shall be attested by the signature of the Public Officer and one other elected officer.
- 6.7 The President shall:
- 6.7.1 Chair all General Meetings and meetings of the Committee.
 - 6.7.2 Provide the main link between Club members and the Management Committee.
 - 6.7.3 Where necessary provide support to ensure that all officers fulfil their roles in accordance with this Constitution.
- 6.8 The Vice-president shall:
- 6.8.1 Act as Chair of meetings in the absence of the President.
 - 6.8.2 Provide support for other officers in fulfilling their roles in accordance with this Constitution.
- 6.9 The Secretary shall:
- 6.9.1 Keep a record of all resolutions of Annual and Special General Meetings and meetings of the Management Committee and ensure that those minutes are properly confirmed and signed.
 - 6.9.2 Attend to the smooth running of meetings including the issuing of notices of meetings to all participants and the oversight of seating arrangements and the provision of voting slips for secret ballots at General Meetings.
 - 6.9.3 In cooperation with the Treasurer keep an up-to-date list of members.
 - 6.9.4 Arrange for the timely printing and distribution of notices or other items to members as they become necessary.
- 6.10 The Treasurer shall:
- 6.10.1 Keep records of all monies received and expended in accordance with modern accounting standards.
 - 6.10.2 Oversee the collection of table fees and annual subscriptions and joining fees and their prompt depositing into an account owned by the Club.
 - 6.10.3 Submit a statement of financial affairs to the Committee on request and submit an audited statement of financial affairs to the Annual General Meeting.

6.11 The Chief Tournament Director shall:

- 6.11.1 Oversee the calendar of tournaments and the timely publication of this calendar.
- 6.11.2 Appoint Directors to tournaments conducted by the Club.
- 6.11.3 Support Tournament Directors in all matters relating to the conduct of tournaments including the purchase of materials and equipment for their smooth running.
- 6.11.4 Oversee arrangements for the scoring of tournaments and the publication of results of those tournaments.

7. Tournaments

- 7.1 As far as is practicable tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as published by the World Bridge Federation.
- 7.2 The appointed Director shall have absolute discretion for the conduct of the tournament including the seating of pairs and the choice of movement.
- 7.3 All members and visitors are subject to the table fees of the Club. Table fees for members and visitors shall be set by the Committee from time to time. However the Committee may at its discretion waive the table fees for playing Tournament Directors and for special events.

8. Membership

- 8.1 A person shall be nominated for membership of the Club by a member supported by another member. The Committee may at its discretion and in consideration of the welfare of the Club refuse any nomination.
- 8.2 New members shall pay a joining fee the amount of which shall be fixed at an Annual General Meeting.
- 8.3 Members shall pay an annual subscription fixed each year at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions will become due after the Annual General Meeting. A member whose annual subscription remains unpaid for 90 days shall cease to be a member unless exceptional circumstances prevail.
- 8.4 Life Members may be elected at the Annual General Meeting under the following conditions:
 - 8.4.1 The person nominated shall be a member of long standing who has attended at least 500 sessions in tournaments conducted by the Club and has given service of exceptional nature to the Club.
 - 8.4.2 The person nominated shall be recommended by the Committee.
 - 8.4.3 The election shall be by secret ballot and shall be carried by a four-fifths majority of those present and entitled to vote.

- 8.5 The Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend any member if it considers it to be in the interests of the Club. Such a member shall have right of appeal to the Committee. The member whose appeal is rejected by the Committee shall have further right of appeal to the next General Meeting.

9. Dissolution of the Club

- 9.1 The affairs of the Club may be wound up by a decision of at least 75% of members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting.
- 9.2 Upon the dissolution of the Club and after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any remaining assets shall be transferred to some other incorporated association or associations which are not carried on for the profit or gain of its members and have objects similar to those of the Club.

10. The Constitution

This Constitution shall not be altered except by a General Meeting of the Club. Notice of alterations shall be given to all members at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Any changes to the Constitution shall be lodged by the Public Officer with the appropriate authority within one month.

History

This Constitution was in essence accepted by a Special General Meeting of the Tea Tree Gully Bridge Club on 1 November 2018.

The document was lodged with Consumer and Business Services later that month. At the time of lodgement, certain small changes to the wording and provisions were suggested.

The Constitution was subsequently redrafted in line with those suggestions. The new document was lodged with Consumer and Business Services on 11 April 2018.