

# **NEWTON ABBOT BRIDGE CLUB CONSTITUTION**

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## **1. NAME**

- a. The club shall be known as Newton Abbot Bridge Club
- b. Its address shall be The Newton Abbot Racecourse, Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot, Devon or such other place as the committee shall decide.
- c. It shall be registered as a member of the Devon County Contract Bridge Association (DCCBA) and the English Bridge Union (EBU).

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the club are to:

- a. provide the necessary facilities to allow its members to play high-class Contract Bridge in pleasant surroundings and a convivial atmosphere at all times
- b. be a members club conferring upon all members all the usual privileges, rights and advantages of such a club
- c. abide by the current Laws of Duplicate Bridge for all sessions of Duplicate Bridge. Only 'general licence' bidding systems and conventions as defined by the EBU shall be permitted.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Any person may apply for membership of the club.
- b. A member may resign at any time by notifying the secretary.
- c. Life and honorary members can only be appointed by means of a petition presented as a motion at an AGM.

#### **4. MANAGEMENT**

- a. The club shall be managed by a committee elected at the AGM.
- b. The committee shall consist of three officers; a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer, and not more than seven other members.
- c. Normally, each shall serve a term of office of two years after which they shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM. However, one or more of those retiring may stand for re-election to serve for one year only. This is to avoid a high proportion either of officers or members coming up for election simultaneously.
- d. The maximum term of office for an officer in the same position, shall be six consecutive years. After this period the chairman shall be ineligible for re-election to the committee in any capacity for a further two years.
- e. The committee shall meet no less frequently than every two months.

#### **5. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee shall have the following powers, rights and duties. It shall:

- a. arrange the programme and rules governing play
- b. decide and adjudicate upon disputes between members arising in the club as well as in relation to play, financial transactions, and all other matters of the kind which are usually referred to the committee of a members' club. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding
- c. consider all suggestions made to them, by members, in writing.
- d. make such rules as they consider necessary, or desirable, for the well-being of the club and its members. All such rules, providing they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the club, shall be binding on all members and shall be construed as part of the Constitution until they are rescinded or varied by the committee or by the club in General Meeting.
- e. exercise all other powers of management except such matters as are expressly, by this Constitution, reserved to the members in General Meeting.
- f. co-opt at its discretion additional members to serve on the committee.
- g. determine all applications for membership of the club

- h. maintain a waiting list for membership of the club if it considers it desirable.

## **6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a. The Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held during the month of October in every year. The committee shall decide the date, hour and place in which such meetings may be held.
- b. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
  - i. elect the officers and committee for the coming year.
  - ii. elect an auditor for the coming year.
  - iii. receive the audited report and financial statement of the treasurer.
  - iv. approve or otherwise the committee's recommendations for annual subscriptions and table money.
  - v. transact such other business of which at least fourteen days notice in writing has been given to the secretary.
  - vi. transact any other business at the chairman's discretion.
- c. Every full member shall have one vote. In cases of equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- d. One third of the membership of the club (on the day the notice of the Annual General Meeting is posted on the club notice board) shall constitute a quorum.

## **7. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the committee or at the request of any twenty members by application in writing to the secretary specifying the business of the meeting.

## **8. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- a. The subscription year shall be 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- b. The committee may at its discretion treat a member whose annual subscription remains unpaid as at 31<sup>st</sup> December as having resigned membership.

## **9. GUESTS**

- a. Guests shall be welcome to the club in accordance with the rules laid down from time to time by the committee.