
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

at

UCKFIELD CIVIC CENTRE

on

SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2019

at 11.30

Proposals to be taken under agenda item 7

Proposal 1

1. The County Constitution was last updated at the AGM 2013. The approved constitution contains the following clauses in relation to club affiliation:

4.1 Any Duplicate Bridge Club (hereinafter called a 'club') in Sussex may affiliate to the Association and all such clubs shall be affiliated to the EBU.

4.2 Any change in the annual club affiliation fee shall be approved by the members present and voting at the AGM.

2. Recent research into the actual affiliation process makes clear that clubs are actually affiliated to the EBU first, via an application process which requires them to agree to the EBU's clubs terms of affiliation. EBU affiliated clubs are then automatically affiliated to the county association in which they are located. In addition, we have established that the authority to disaffiliate a club rests solely with the EBU.

3. In all of these circumstances **the Management Committee proposes** to amend section 4 of the constitution to read as follows:

4.1 Any Duplicate Bridge Club (hereinafter called a 'club') may affiliate to the EBU and all EBU-affiliated clubs in Sussex shall be affiliated to the Association.

4.2 Affiliation to the EBU is achieved through an application process which requires applicants to agree to the EBU clubs terms of affiliation.

4.3 The application of any Association club affiliation fee shall be approved by the members present and voting at an Association general meeting.

4.4 If the Association receives evidence that an affiliated club might be in breach of the EBU clubs terms of affiliation, the Association will report the matter to the EBU for consideration of action under the relevant clause of those terms of affiliation.

Proposal 2

4. Recent work to assemble a disciplinary committee compliant with the parameters specified in the constitution has shown that the ceiling of five members in each of the conduct and disciplinary committees allows too little flexibility bearing in mind the need for the two committees to be entirely independent. It is also felt that the process by which the two committees maintain their independence should be clarified.

5. **The Management Committee therefore proposes that the relevant parts of the conduct and discipline annex to the constitution are replaced by the following revised paragraphs. The changes proposed are shown in bold italics.**

Conduct Committee

3.1 The Management Committee of the Association shall appoint a Conduct Committee through its powers to appoint sub committees under clause 3.6 of the Constitution. The Conduct Committee shall be responsible for investigating complaints against the Association's members and to determine whether a Disciplinary Offence should be referred to the Association's Disciplinary Committee.

3.2 The Conduct Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members of the Association and no more than **seven**. A quorum for any meeting shall be three of its members. It shall act by simple majority vote and its appointed chairman, or whomsoever in his absence the Conduct Committee shall select to chair a meeting, shall have a second, or casting vote in the event that there is parity of voting.

Disciplinary Committee

4.1 ***Where required to consider a case referred by the Conduct Committee***, the Management Committee of the Association shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee through its powers to appoint sub committees under clause 3.6 of the Constitution. ***In order not to impede the progress of individual cases, the authority to make appointments to a Disciplinary Committee will be exercised by the Officers of the Association on behalf of the Management Committee, taking care to ensure the independence of the appointees.*** The Disciplinary Committee shall determine sanctions for offences admitted by the defendant, hear charges of offences and determine whether those charges are proved and, if proved, determine the sanction to be imposed.

4.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members of the Association and no more than **seven**. At least three of its members must be present when it makes a decision to uphold a complaint and impose sanctions on the offending member. It shall act by simple majority vote and there shall be no abstentions.

Proposal 3

6. The approved constitution also contains the following clauses in relation to the quorum required for a general meeting:

7.8 Quorum

7.8.1 The quorum for the conduct of business at an AGM or EGM shall be 30 members.

7.8.2 The Secretary shall be required to arrange a further EGM, if an AGM or EGM respectively fails to reach a quorum. In both circumstances the additional EGM with no change in the Agenda shall be scheduled to occur within a period of 28 days after the aborted AGM or EGM. The Secretary shall publish on the County Website the date, venue and time of the additional EGM giving at least 7 days' notice.

7.8.3 The Members present at the additional EGM shall be the quorum.

7. Recently the level of attendance at the AGM has varied but the AGMs of 2016, 2017 and 2018 have all failed to attract the required level of attendance, necessitating the organisation of an EGM each year to legitimise conduct of the required business. In light of the reduced interest in AGM attendance, **the Management Committee proposes that clause 7.8.1 of the constitution be amended to read:**

7.8.1 The quorum for the conduct of business at a general meeting shall be 10 members, except where an EGM is held following a failure to reach a quorum at an AGM or EGM – see clause 7.8.3.

8. In line with this change, the Management Committee also proposes that clause 10 be amended to read:

10. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall not be amended except at a general meeting of the Association. A notice of the proposed amendment shall be sent to members at least 21 days before the date of the AGM or EGM and no motion amending the Constitution shall be passed unless it is supported by 7 members or two-thirds of those present and voting, whichever is the greater, except where the EGM is held following a failure to reach a quorum at an AGM or EGM. Then the motion will be passed if two thirds of those present support it.

Proposer: Dick Wheeler

Seconder: Martin Pool

Date: February 2019