



Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club

Established 1935

The Constitution

Constitution of the Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club

1. TITLE

The Club shall be called the 'Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club' hereinafter referred to as the Club.

2. OBJECT

The Object of the Club shall be the promotion of contract bridge according to the laws and ethics promulgated by the English Bridge Union.

3. PREMISES

The Club is based at the Bridge Centre, Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City.

4. AFFILIATION

The Club shall be affiliated to the English Bridge Union and the Hertfordshire Bridge Association.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Every member of the Club shall be a member of the Welwyn Hatfield Stadium Association hereinafter referred to as the 'Association'.
- b) All candidates shall pay the appropriate initial annual subscription (to include any joining fee) both for the Sports Park and the Club when applying for membership in writing to the Membership Secretary.
- c) Membership of the Club shall be at the discretion of the Committee. If approved by the Committee applicants will be regarded as Associate Members for a period of six months, or such other period as determined by the Committee, from the date of payment of the initial subscription, and unless notified in writing by the Secretary during the interim, will graduate to full membership thereafter.
- d) The categories of membership shall be:
 - i Honorary Life Members will be proposed by the Committee for election by the Club in General Meeting, in recognition of outstanding service to the Club. Life Members shall enjoy all the privileges of membership, but shall be exempt from payment of the Club subscription.
 - ii Members, including the categories of Student (under 25 years of age and in full time education) and Junior (under 18 years of age). Student and Junior members will pay reduced subscriptions and table money.
 - iii Associate Members as described in 5(c) above.

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6. MANAGEMENT

The management of the Club shall be vested in the Club Committee to be elected annually at a General Meeting.

The Committee (or any officer thereof acting with the authority of the Committee) shall have licence to take any action it deems fit for the harmonious conduct and management of the Club and it shall have the right to accept or reject applications for membership and to expel any Associate Member or Member without assigning a reason.

The Committee shall nominate a Member or Members to stand for annual election to represent the Club on the Joint Management Committee of the Association and to the Welwyn Hatfield Sports Centre Trust Limited in accordance with the provisions of the Association and Trust.

7. COMMITTEE

The Committee shall comprise:-

A Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, a Tournament Secretary, a Master Points Secretary, an Equipment Officer, and five other Members, one or more of whom may act as nominated twin or assistant officers to the above posts. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Committee, who may also co-opt additional Members even if this increases the number of Committee Members to more than twelve.

8. RULES and PROCEDURES

The Committee shall formulate and publish Rules and Procedures governing the running of the Club. Such Rules and Procedures may be reviewed and amended by a simple majority of members at any General Meeting. These rules and procedures shall be binding on all categories of membership and visitors.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM shall be held within two months following the end of each financial year of the Club in order to:-

- a) Approve the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- b) Receive the report of the Committee and the Financial Statement for the preceding year.
- c) Approve the audited Accounts
- d) Elect the Officers and the members of the Committee. All candidates shall be proposed and seconded prior to the AGM.
- e) Elect the Honorary Auditor, who must not be a member of the Committee.
- f) Approve the amounts of the annual subscriptions.
- g) Subject to the restrictions imposed by items 11 and 12, whether or not mentioned in the notice calling the meeting to transact any other business relating to the Club.

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10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM)

The Committee may call a SGM at any time and shall be bound to do so within three months of the Secretary receiving a written request, stating the nature of the business, signed by ten members of the Club. No business shall be conducted at a SGM other than that for which the Meeting was called.

11. NOTICES

Twenty-eight days notice of the date, time, place and business of an AGM/SGM shall be posted on the Club Notice Board to be found in the principal meeting place of the Club. If the date, time, or place vary from that shown in the Club Programme, or in the event of a call for a SGM, then fourteen days advance Notice shall be given in writing to each Member of the date, time, place and business of such Meeting, though the failure by any Member to receive such Notice shall not invalidate the Meeting.

12. RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions for consideration at a General Meeting shall be proposed and seconded by way of written notification to the Secretary. Resolutions require approval by a simple majority other than those amending this Constitution,

Resolutions passed at an AGM or SGM of the Club shall be binding on the Committee and all members of the Club providing the motion has been formally proposed and seconded by two members by way of written notification to the Secretary at least six weeks in advance of the meeting. Under such circumstances the Secretary shall post notice of the motion in accordance with the procedures in 11.

Motions proposed and seconded during the course of an AGM without such notification shall, if approved, be subject to ratification by the Committee within the next three months; the approved motion will have the force of a strong recommendation on the Committee and the Secretary shall post a Notice on the Committee's decision on the Club Notice Board within that three month period. If the Committee decide to substantially amend or to reject the motion, the Secretary shall within the same period offer the proposer and seconder the opportunity to raise the matter as a formal motion at a Special General Meeting.

13. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be altered only by a two-thirds majority of at least 25% of the prevailing Membership of the Club present and voting at an AGM or SGM. The wording of the proposed alteration shall appear on the Notice convening the Meeting.

28th April 1996