

BOLTON BRIDGE CLUB

RULES

1. The Name of the Club

Bolton Bridge Club Ltd.

2. Articles of Association

These rules are made pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Club and are supplemental thereto, but in so far as there is any inconsistency or ambiguity the provision of the Articles of Association shall override these Rules.

3. Admission of Members

The Committee of the Club shall have full power to decide that there shall be different classes of membership and to determine the rights and liabilities of such members, except in so far as the same are laid down in the Articles, and may further determine what other persons may be allowed to use the Club and on what terms, but within the limits only permitted in the licensing laws for the time being in force. Full members may play at any time; other classes of member may play at any time but are, however, limited to a maximum of five duplicates per annum on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as visitors. All members are eligible for club competitions. Only full members are entitled to attend or vote at any meeting of the Club.

4. Election of Members

Candidates for membership shall be elected by the Committee at its sole discretion and the entrance fee and subscription of each candidate elected shall become due immediately on election.

5. Entrance Fee and Subscription

Every full member shall pay on being admitted to the Club an entrance fee. Every Member shall pay an annual subscription which shall be due on the 1st day of November each year. Such entrance fee and subscription shall be of such amount as shall be determined by the Committee from time to time and shall be deemed to be a debt due to the Hon. Treasurer of the Club for the time being.

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6. Commission

No person shall at any time be entitled to receive at the expense of the Club or any member thereof, any commission percentage or similar payment on or with reference to the purchases of intoxicating liquor by the Club. Nor shall any person directly or indirectly derive any pecuniary benefit from the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to Members or guests, apart from any benefit accruing to the Club as a whole and apart also from any benefit which a person derives indirectly by reason of the supply giving rise to or contributing to, or a general gain from the carrying on of the Club.

7. Purchase and Supply of Liquor

The purchase for the Club and the supply by the Club of intoxicating liquor shall be in absolute discretion of the Committee or Bar Secretary or a Subcommittee appointed by the Committee for that purpose. In the event of any Member of the subcommittee for any reason ceasing to be a member of the Committee, he or she shall automatically cease to be a member of the Subcommittee. Such Subcommittee shall in no way be restricted in freedom of purchase.

Persons under the age of eighteen are not allowed to make purchases at the bar.

8. Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Visitors

There may be admitted to the Club's registered premises persons other than members or their guests, who attend the Club premises for the purpose only of playing bridge or as a spectator at a Bridge Tournament or for other purposes directly connected with the playing of bridge. Intoxicating liquor may be sold to such persons by or on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises and not elsewhere.

9. Application of Profit

No money or property of the Club or any gain arising from the carrying on of the Club shall be applied otherwise than for the benefit of the Club as a whole or of some charitable or benevolent purpose or purposes chosen by resolution of the Committee.

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10. Subscription in Arrears

If any member shall fail to pay his or her subscription within one month after it has become due, the Hon. Treasurer shall send notice in writing to his or her address as recorded on the books of the Club calling for payment of the same within seven days. If he or she fails to pay their subscription the Committee shall be entitled to terminate his or her membership without further notice.

11. Guests

Any member shall be entitled to introduce guests to the Club, provided that no person whose application for membership has been declined or who has been expelled from the Club, shall be introduced as a guest.

The member introducing the guest shall enter the name and address of the guest together with his or her own name in a book that shall be kept on the Club premises. Visitors who have not been introduced by any member present should be signed in by a member of the committee.

12. Opening of Club Premises

The Club shall be open on each day when bridge is played, from half an hour before the time fixed for commencement of play until 11:30 p.m. for evening sessions, or until 15 minutes after the end of play for afternoon sessions.

13. Permitted Hours for Sale of Intoxicating Liquor

The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor shall be fixed (and may vary from time to time) by the Committee in accordance with the provisions for the time being in force.

14. Conduct

Every person attending the Club shall behave in proper and decorous manner and be properly dressed. If in the opinion of any two members of the Committee then present any such person shall be in breach of this rule, he or she may be required immediately to leave the Club premises and shall have no right to remain on the premises.

Members are expected to abide by the EBU's "Best Behaviour at Bridge" which can be downloaded from the EBU website and is displayed on the Club Notice Board.

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15. Host/Hostess system

The club operate a host / hostess system where all members take a turn at being the host. The rules of the system are:

- It is a condition of membership that all players are included in the host/hostess system.
- Any member who cannot make the date allocated must make their own arrangements to change with another member.
- Any member who considers he/she should not be included in the system is asked to submit their reasons in writing to the committee. Intention not to use the system is not considered a satisfactory reason to be excluded from the scheme which is seen to be a very valuable service to the whole membership.
- The host is allocated a parking place on the front drive, on the right hand side.
- The host will be given a free ticket to play by the Director.
- A member wishing to use the host system must be in the Club by 7.20pm. After 7.20pm the host is entitled to play with any remaining player. The host should not leave the Club without consulting the Director(s).
- Alphabetical lists for the host system are on the club notice board. There will also be monthly lists on the notice board; members are asked to initial this list to indicate that they are aware of their commitment.
- If for any reason a Host does not want their score for that event to be part of the EBU NGS they can, via the EBU website request that the event be excluded. Please note this can only be done in advance of the event. The Club will not exclude the scoring data of the Host when sending through the results to the EBU.

16. Amending a Result

A result can only be amended with the full agreement of both opposing pairs.

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17. Reserving Tables

Any member who requires a reserved N/S seat for normal club duplicates must apply in writing to the committee stating the reason for the request. Applications will only be considered on medical grounds. Should permission be granted the following conditions will apply:

- A separate reservation must be made on each occasion that the facility is required.
- Tables from 1 upwards (downstairs) will be reserved depending on the number of requests received.
- Reserved tables will be available on a “first come – first served” basis to those who have reserved tables.
- Reservations may not be made for specific tables except under special circumstances.
- The number of tables available for reservations will be restricted to a maximum of 7 on any one evening.
- The reserved seat system will be suspended when the steward is on holiday.

Members who have been granted this privilege are encouraged to consider partnering each other on occasions due to the restricted number of tables available for reservation.

18. Advertising Events and The Use of the Notice Boards

1. The Notice Boards are for the use of the Committee and its Members.
2. If you wish to place a notice on the Notice Board you should:
 - a) Seek the prior permission of the Club Hon. Secretary.
 - b) The Club Secretary will require full details of the proposed notice and its purpose. The notice shall include the name, address and telephone number of the person running the event. The notice will not have a list that requires Member(s) to add their names as participating.
 - c) Notices will not be allowed to advertise external events where such events conflict with the purposes and needs of the Club. Such events must obtain the consent of the Committee.
 - d) The Committee may allow such events where they are advantageous to either the Club and/or its Members.

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19. Modification of the Rules

The Committee may from time to time amend or make additions to these rules, but no amendment or addition shall be made which is not in conformity with the licensing laws for the time being in force, and nothing contained in these Rules shall derogate from the rights of the members to make amendments or additions in General Meeting.

20. Complaints

In the event of a written complaint being made to the Committee about the conduct of a member of the Club the Committee may, and if the complaint is signed by at least three members of the Club it shall, investigate the complaint.

On investigating such a complaint the Committee shall give the member about whose conduct the complaint has been made an opportunity to respond and put forward evidence in his defence, including witnesses if appropriate. Additionally, the member has the right to have questions put to the complainant and any supporting witnesses by the Committee. If the Committee considers that a hearing is necessary, the member may be accompanied by a friend or representative.

If on investigating such a complaint the Committee is of the opinion that the member has behaved in an unacceptable manner or in such a manner as to cause injury to the interests of the Club, then the Committee may reprimand the member, suspend the member from the privileges of membership for such period as it may think fit, or expel the member from the Club.

The Committee shall forthwith notify the member of any decision made on the investigation of a complaint about his conduct, and may if it thinks fit publicise the decision by displaying a notice at the Club premises.

An appeal against a decision under this paragraph must be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary within two weeks of the notification to the member of the decision of the Committee.

In the event of an appeal being made against it, the decision of the Committee shall not be put into effect until the appeal has been determined.

An appeal under this paragraph will be heard at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club and the meeting will have the power to confirm, vary or annul the decision of the Committee.

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When an appeal is made a deposit of £50 is required from the appellant towards the costs of calling the Extraordinary General meeting; this deposit may be repayable in full or in part, to be determined by the meeting.

Nothing in these Rules shall preclude the Committee from referring a matter of conduct to the Conduct Committee of the Lancashire Contract Bridge Association, or to the Laws & Ethics Committee of the English Bridge Union if it considers it appropriate to do so.