

CONSTITUTION.

BRIDGEND DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB.

Amended May 1999

1 Name

The name shall be “Bridgend Duplicate Bridge Club”.

2 Objects

An association of Ladies & Gentlemen formed to play Duplicate Bridge in accordance with:

- (a) the laws governing the game;
- (b) the rules hereunder;
- (c) any bye laws laid down by the Welsh Bridge Union.

The Club shall be registered with the Welsh Bridge Union.

3 Management

The Management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of Officers and four (4) ordinary Members. The officers shall be:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Tournament Director

Scorer/Master Points Secretary.

4 Honorary Life President

A suitable person may be chosen by the Committee for the above position.

Duties

5 Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for the general organisation and conduct of the Club; including responsibility for renting suitable premises; the arrangement of tournaments; the fixing of subscriptions, table monies, and prizes. The Committee may appoint sub-committees at its discretion to investigate any matters pertaining to the Club, and report back to the main Committee. The decision of the Committee on all matters relating to the Club, within these rules, **shall be final.**

6 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall take the “Chair” at all meetings; in the event of a tied vote the Chairperson shall have a casting vote to determine the tie. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, who shall be a member of the Committee, and elected annually by the Committee, shall take the chair.

7 Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the day to day conduct of the Club, including the provision of any equipment required; the calling of the Annual General Meeting; the calling of Committee Meetings as required, giving adequate notice of time and venue to Members; the taking and circulating Minutes of meetings, and dealing with all correspondence.

8 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all monies due to the Club, and the payment of all monies from the Club. The Treasurer shall pay all monies in hand into the Club’s bank account at the first opportunity. Cheques shall be jointly signed by any two (2) of three (3) signatories, who shall be appointed by the Committee.

9 Tournament Director

The Tournament Director shall be responsible for the organisation and conduct of all events. **The Tournament Director shall have absolute authority, after due warning, to penalise any player by “score adjustment”.**

10 Scorer/Master Points Secretary

The Scorer/Master Points Secretary shall be responsible for the scoring, the recording of all events conducted by the Club, the assessing and allocation of Master Points according to the Rules of the Welsh Bridge Union.

11 Representative/s on the Western Area Committee (WBU)

The necessary number of Committee Members, and/or full Club Members shall be elected annually by the Committee to represent the Club at Area Meetings. It shall be the duty of these members to put forward the Club’s viewpoints, to safeguard the Club’s interests at such meetings, and to report the findings of the various committees back to the Club Committee.

12 General Rules

- (a) Membership of the Club may be closed at the discretion of the Committee and a waiting list established.
- (b) To become a member an applicant must attend at least two ordinary Club nights (not Area/National events or WBU/BBL Simultaneous, etc) and then be proposed, and seconded, in writing by two (2) full members.

The election of new members shall be at the discretion of the Committee, and shall be subject to a joining fee plus the annual subscription.

- © The annual subscription shall be payable on the 1st day of January. Non payment by the 31st March shall automatically result in loss of membership.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to exclude any member who has offended against the Rules of the Club, or shall, in the opinion of the Committee, render him/her unfit for membership of the Club. Before any such member is expelled the Secretary shall give him/her at least ten (10) days written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee, and shall inform him/her of the complaints made against him/her. No member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity to appear before the Committee, and answering any complaints made against him/her. No member shall be expelled unless two (2) thirds of Committee Members present vote in favour of the expulsion.
- (e) Any full member may introduce visitors to the Club, and every visitor shall be considered a guest of the member, who shall be responsible for the table monies, introduction fee, and the signing of the Visitors Book. It shall be considered a breach of privilege for any member to introduce a guest living within a twenty (20) mile radius of Bridgend more than three (3) times per year, other than by direct application to the Secretary.
- (f) All monies received, and purchases made in the name of the Club, shall become the sole property of the Club, and will be deposited and maintained by the Club. The Committee should at all times make every effort to achieve permanent premises for the use of the Club.
- (g) The Club shall not become involved in any commitments other than those approved by the Committee.
- (h) The quorum for any Committee Meeting shall be five (5) full members. The quorum for any General Meeting shall be twenty (20) full members.
- (i) Any complaints or suggestions with regard to the running of the Club

shall be made to the Secretary or any other Officer in writing.

- (j) The Club's Books and records shall be made available for perusal for any full member within a reasonable time of such request being made in writing.
- (k) Any item of the Constitution may be proposed for amendment or change By the Committee. Such proposals must be posted on the Notice Board for three (3) consecutive weeks for perusal by the members. If at the end of this period no adverse reactions are received, such amendments shall be considered as approved, and accepted. If opposition to such amendments are notified in writing to the Committee by six (6) full members, then the matter must be put to a general vote.
- (l) The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt any full member on to the Committee should a vacancy occur for any reason, or for any reason other than a vacancy, should the Committee agree, by a simple majority vote, that such co-option would be advantageous, and in the best interests of all members of the Club.
- (m) The Committee shall be empowered to grant Life membership to any full Member of the Club for exceptional service to the Club.
- (n) Election, in accordance with the rules governing the Annual General Meeting of all Officers of the Club, shall automatically entitle them to free annual subscription.
- (o) The Tournament Director for an individual Bridge session shall be exempt from the payment of table money.
- (p) The Scorer/Master Points Secretary shall be exempt from all table money payments.
- (q) Entrance fees shall be paid at the discretion of the Committee for full Members who have qualified via the Club for certain Area, District, or National events.
- ® The Bridgend Duplicate Bridge Club cannot be dis-banded without the acceptance, and full agreement, of 75% of the remaining full membership. Should such a situation occur, then all assets shall be realised, and after **ALL** outstanding commitments and debts have been satisfied, the balance (if any) shall be divided equally among all Honorary, Life, and fully paid up members of the Club.

13 Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be arranged as soon as conveniently Possible after the close of the financial year (December 31st), but not later than March 31st.

Not less than one (1) month's notice of such Meetings shall be given to members if the date varies from that given on the Fixture card.

The business of the meeting shall include the production of accounts, the election of Officers and Ordinary members to serve on the Committee; to lay any other business of which the Secretary has been notified in writing not less than two (2) weeks prior to the Meeting.

Any full member may propose any other full member for election as an Officer or Ordinary Committee member, subject to the proposals being made, and seconded in writing to the Secretary not less than two (2) weeks before the meeting, and subject to the nominees consenting to serve, and to accept any day to day duties in running the Club. Elections shall be by separate ballot. Proxy votes will not be permitted.

14 Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called by a majority vote of the Committee, or by a written request by not less than fifteen (15) members to the Secretary, who will arrange the meeting within thirty (30) days of so being requested, informing all members of date, time, and venue.

HISTORY:	Adopted	May 1975
	Amended	March 1978
	Amended	April 1980
	Amended	Sept. 1981
	Amended	Feb. 1992
	Amended	Feb. 1993
Rewritten and	Amended	March 1996
	Amended	May 1999