

CHANNEL ISLANDS CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE AND CONSTITUENT MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Channel Islands Contract Bridge Association (“CICBA”) is an Association as defined in the Bye Laws of the English Bridge Union Ltd., and shall be referred to as the Association throughout the Constitution.

1.2 The Association is a Constituent Member of the English Bridge Union Ltd. It shall abide with its Bye Laws, Rules and Policies. Hereinafter the English Bridge Union Ltd shall be referred to as the “EBU”.

2. OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

2.1 To promote Duplicate Contract Bridge in the Channel Islands and the encouragement of inter-club, inter-island, inter-county and national competitions.

2.2 To organise and run bridge competitions in the Channel Islands.

2.3 To employ the funds of the Association in such a manner as the County Management Committee of the Association shall consider to be in the best interests of the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge having regard to the fact that the Association is a non-profit making body.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

3.1 The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the following Officers –

- (a) County Chairman
- (b) County Secretary
- (c) County Treasurer
- (d) County Tournament Secretary

plus five other members of the Association, together these nine people will form the County Management Committee. The Chairmanship shall rotate two-yearly between Guernsey and Jersey and the other members of the County Management Committee shall consist of four who shall be Guernsey members and four who shall be Jersey members. These members together with the Chairman shall be nominated by their respective district committees and their election shall be automatic but not to individual posts. All Officers other than the Chairman must be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of the paid up members of the Association.

Voting for the election of officers shall be in writing and secret. Voting for all other matters shall be by show of hands unless at least one third of the members present demand a written ballot.

3.2 The County Management Committee shall meet from time to time as it deems fit, normally twice within a calendar year. A quorum shall consist of six members and, in the event of a tie on votes cast, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote only to be used to maintain the status quo.

3.3 The County Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt and to fill any casual vacancies.

3.4 The County Management Committee may from time to time appoint and disband sub-committees as may be deemed necessary and may delegate to them such powers or duties as may be deemed to be expedient. Such sub-committees shall conduct their business as directed by the County Management Committee.

3.5 The County Management Committee is responsible for the control of all monies and assets of the Association. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all monies due to the Association, payment of all accounts and for keeping the books of account. The Treasurer shall account to the Management Committee for all financial transactions as and when required and prepare a report and statement of account, independently examined, for each Annual General Meeting. Two authorised signatures shall be required on the paperwork for the payment of monies out of the Association.

4. ACCOUNTS

The Financial Statements of the Association shall be made up to the end of July in each year and shall be prepared, independently examined and presented at each Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). The Independent Examiner shall not be a member of the County Management Committee and shall be appointed annually at the AGM of the Association. There shall be deemed to be one account in the books of the Association which shall be used for all approved income and expenditure at both county and district levels. There shall be a bank account in both Guernsey and Jersey under the control of the Association and the County Management Committee may delegate the use of any funds to the District Committees. The Treasurer of the Association shall be responsible for amalgamating the Financial Statements of the Guernsey and Jersey Districts into County results solely for presentation to the AGM.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 All members of the Association must be Player Members of the EBU.

5.2 A Player Member of the EBU shall become a member of the Association when their primary allegiance to the Association is recorded with the EBU and either –
(a) residing in the Channel Islands, or
(b) not being resident in the Channel Islands being a member of a club affiliated to this Association provided that such a member is certified by their club each year as a regular playing member.

Members of the Association may also be members of other County Associations but they can represent individual Channel Islands only if –

- (c) they have not in that year played for another County Association and
- (d) are resident in the Channel Islands.

5.3 A Player Member of the EBU whose primary allegiance is with another Association or does not have primary allegiance to any Association can become a member of the Association by meeting its terms and conditions in force at the time of the request for membership.

5.4 A member of the Association must be a paid up member for the relevant Membership Year in order to vote at its Annual General Meeting and to participate in its main competitions within that Membership Year.

5.5 The Membership Year shall run for the twelve month period from 1st April to 31st March.

5.6 A member of the Association becomes a paid up member through payment of any Association Pay to Play county component when participating in events at an affiliated Duplicate Bridge Club and/or through payment of an annual subscription for their Association membership category.

5.7 If any Association member has not paid their annual subscription by 30th September then that Association member will not be able to vote at the following AGM as a paid up Association member.

5.8 An Association member ceases to be a paid up Association member on 30th September if at that date the Association member has not paid any outstanding annual subscription. That member can subsequently become a paid up Association member on payment of the current Membership Year's subscription, but this late payment shall not override clause 5.7 above.

5.9 For the avoidance of doubt, if an Association member is within a membership category that has a nil Association Pay to Play county component and a nil annual subscription for a Membership Year, then that member shall automatically become a paid up Association member for that Membership Year.

5.10 The Association Pay to Play county component and each of the Association member category's annual subscription for the Membership Year starting in the following 1st April, shall be determined by a simple majority of the paid up members at the preceding AGM.

5.11 The Association membership categories shall be as follows:-

5.11.1 Ordinary Member – a Player Member of the EBU who has their primary allegiance recorded with the Association.

5.11.2 Dual Member – a Player Member of the EBU who has their primary allegiance recorded with another Association.

5.11.3 Direct Member – a Direct Player Member of the EBU who does not have primary allegiance to any Association.

6. MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

6.1 An AGM of the Association shall be held in each year and shall normally take place at the time of the Inter-Island teams event held in alternate years in Jersey and Guernsey in the months of October or November or as near as possible thereto. The place, date and time of the AGM shall be determined by the County Management Committee. A notice convening the meeting shall be sent to each member of the Association at least 21 days

before the date of the meeting and a copy of an agenda listing the ordinary and special business to be transacted shall be sent to each affiliated club at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. Such notices shall be deemed to have been given if delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail or placed on the Association websites for the Guernsey and Jersey Districts. The ordinary business of the meeting shall comprise submission of the Reports of the County Management Committee, adoption of the Financial Statements, election of Officers of the County Management Committee, ratifying the membership subscriptions, appointment of an Independent Examiner and EBU Shareholder.

6.2 A request for a Special Resolution from a paid up Association member, which shall require a vote of the paid up members at the AGM, must be sent in writing to the Secretary no later than four weeks before the date of the AGM. The request must be supported in writing by two other paid up members of the Association.

6.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) may be convened –

- (a) By the County Management Committee upon giving not less than 28 days’ notice or –
- (b) By a written request to the Secretary signed by not less than 10 members upon receipt of which the Secretary shall call an EGM not less than 28 days nor more than 56 days of the receipt of such a request. Any such EGM shall be held in either Jersey or Guernsey.

6.4 General Meetings – All members of the Association shall be entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy. A quorum shall consist of 10 members. The Chairman shall have a casting vote only to be used to maintain the status quo.

6.5 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 shall be scheduled to occur within the period of 28 days to 42 days after the aborted AGM or EGM. The Secretary shall publish the date, venue and time of the EGM at least three weeks before the date of the additional EGM.

6.6 If the additional EGM once again fails to reach a quorum, the County Management Committee shall be able to take any decisions necessary so that it can continue to manage the affairs of the Association.

7. MEMBERS BEHAVIOUR

7.1 Each member of the Association shall be required in connection with the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge, to conform to the standards of fair play, courtesy and personal deportment prescribed by the Bye Laws and regulations for the time being of the EBU.

7.2 The Association shall have the powers and the procedures for the enforcement of the requirement in clause 7.1. They are set out in the Schedule of the Constitution and shall stand as part of the Constitution and be subject to the same provisions of the Constitution for its amendment.

8. AFFILIATED DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

8.1 Any Duplicate Bridge Club may affiliate to the Association and all such Clubs shall be affiliated to the EBU. The Association has the right to determine at an AGM through a simple majority of its paid up members, the annual club affiliation fee to be charged for the twelve month period from the following 1st April.

8.2 Elections for the Regional Club Committee

All affiliated Clubs are entitled to propose and vote for a County Representative to sit on the Regional Club Committee. All nominations for this must be submitted to the County Secretary in writing (or e-mail) at least 28 days prior to the AGM. In the event that there is more than one nomination for the post, each affiliated club shall have one vote to be exercised (by letter or e-mail) to the County Secretary to arrive prior to the commencement of the AGM. The representative for the Regional Club Committee should be independent of the County Committee.

8.3 Team Selection

A Selection Committee of three shall be chosen by the County Management Committee at their first meeting after the AGM.

8.4 Competitions

These shall be subject to such rules and fees as the County Management Committee shall prescribe or as laid down specifically in General Meeting or by the EBU where appropriate.

8.5 Chairman

The Chairman shall be an ex officio member of all Committees except the Selection Committee unless specifically elected as a member of that Committee.

9. SPECIAL FUND

9.1 Subject always to the terms of clauses 9.2 – 9.3 below, in order to assist with meeting the expenses of the Association and the cost of the county inter island competitions, the Guernsey and Jersey Districts of the Association shall carry out certain fund raising activities to meet their respective obligations and the funds so generated shall be paid into a separate bank account of the Association titled CICBA Special Fund (the “Special Fund”). The management of the Special Fund and the amount that each of the Districts is obligated to pay into it are set out in the Appendix to this Constitution.

9.2 In the event that either

(a) the aggregate contribution of one of the Districts in any calendar year shall have fallen below the Indexed Contribution due to have been generated by such District by twenty five per cent (25%) or more or

(b) the aggregate cumulative amount that one of the Districts has contributed from and including 2012 shall have fallen below the aggregate cumulative amount that such District

should have contributed during such period by £1,000 or more, the committee of the other District, whose fund raising contributions have met its obligations, may instruct the County Management Committee to terminate the Special Fund and split and distribute the whole of the balance of the Special Fund equally between the Districts.

9.3 In the event that the Special Fund is terminated in terms of clause 9.2, clause 9.1 is no longer applicable and instead it shall thereafter be the responsibility of each of the Guernsey and Jersey Districts to meet their own 50% share of the cost of the Association and to carry out their own fund raising activities as they see fit to meet their share of such costs.

10. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Alterations to the Constitution shall be made only at an AGM or EGM through the positive votes of at least two thirds of the paid up members present.

11. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association can be dissolved at an EGM provided at least two thirds of the total paid up members present on the date of the EGM positively vote for its dissolution. The assets of the Association on a dissolution shall be distributed equally amongst the Guernsey and Jersey Districts or donated to a charity or charities decided by the paid up members attending the dissolution meeting.

12. INTERPRETATION

On all questions of interpretation of the Constitution the decisions of the County Management Committee shall be binding until or unless upset at an AGM or EGM. The County Management Committee shall determine any point or matter that is not covered by the Constitution.

13. DEFINITIONS

The terms Association, Constituent Member, Duplicate Contract Bridge and Playing Member have the meanings set out in the Bye Laws of the EBU.