

CONSTITUTION OF GREAT YARMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

Adopted 1 January 2016 and amended 21 January 2022.

1. NAME

The Club shall be called Great Yarmouth Bridge Club [GYBC].

2. OBJECTS

The object of the Club shall be to provide facilities for its members for playing Duplicate Contract Bridge.

3. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Club shall be situated in Gorleston Golf Club.

4. AFFILIATIONS

The Club will be affiliated to the Norfolk Contract Bridge Association and to the English Bridge Union.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1. Membership shall be open to all bridge players. Membership of GYBC requires all members to follow all the rules of Gorleston Golf Club (GGC).

5.2. Any person wishing to become a member of GYBC shall apply for membership by advising the Secretary of their details.

5.3. Any member wishing to object to an application for membership should notify the Secretary in writing.

5.4. In declining an application the Committee may give a reason but shall not be obliged to do so.

5.5. In considering applications for membership the Committee shall have regard to the playing facilities available, and may from time to time decide that the Club shall be closed to new applications for membership for such period as it may decide.

6. OFFICERS

6.1. The Officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.2. No member of the Club shall simultaneously hold the office of more than one Officer of the Club.

6.3. Each of the Officers of the Club shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and shall retire annually at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election. A member shall not serve as Chairman for more than three consecutive years unless agreed by AGM.

6.4. In the event of a vacancy arising during the year in the office of any Officer of the Club, the Committee shall choose one of their number to fill such vacancy until the following A.G.M..

7. COMMITTEE

7.1. The Committee of the Club shall consist of the Officers of the Club, together with four other members of the Club, who shall be elected at the A.G.M. of the Club, and shall retire annually at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.

7.2. The Committee may from time to time co-opt further members of the Club to serve on the Committee until the ensuing Annual General Meeting, whether to fill a vacancy arising, or as additional members, except that the total number of members of the Committee (including Officers) shall at no time exceed ten. Co-opted members shall be entitled to participate fully in the proceedings of the Committee.

7.3. A quorum at meetings of the Committee shall be three members of the Committee, including at least one of the Officers.

7.4. The Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees to undertake on its behalf such aspects of the administration of the Club as it shall think fit, and members of such sub-committees may include members of the Club who are not members of the Committee.

7.5. Proceedings of the Committee and of any sub-committees shall be regulated in such manner as the Committee may from time to time decide.

7.6. The Chair and/or the Committee shall make a report to each A.G.M. of the Club concerning the affairs of the Club since the previous A.G.M..

8. MANAGEMENT

8.1. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by the Committee, and the Committee shall have power to determine any issue arising in connection with the affairs of the Club which is not specifically provided for in this Constitution.

8.2. The Committee may from time to time formulate and publish such rules as it thinks expedient for the efficient and harmonious running of the Club (but in the case of any conflict between such rules and this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail).

8.3 Any issue of policy determined by the Committee or any rules published by the Committee may be varied by a resolution of members at a General Meeting of the Club, provided that such resolution is not in conflict with this Constitution and is not retrospective in application.

8.4 In the event of such variation being made, the policy or rules (as the case may be) shall not be further varied by the Committee in a manner inconsistent with the resolution.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

9.1. An A.G.M. shall be held on last Monday of January.

9.2. A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be convened by the Committee if a request for such a meeting signed by at least ten members of the Club is delivered to the Secretary, stating the reason for the meeting, and such meeting shall take place within one month of the receipt of such request.

9.3. A Special General Meeting of the Club may be convened by the Committee on its own initiative at any time.

9.4. All General Meetings of the Club shall be held at the headquarters of the Club unless circumstances arise which render this impracticable.

9.5 The Chairman, if present, shall chair all General Meetings of the Club, and in his absence another member of the Committee shall chair the meeting.

9.6. Notice of all General Meetings of the Club shall be given to all members of the Club no later than two weeks prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

9.7. Any member may propose a motion to be discussed at a General Meeting provided that written notice of the proposed motion is delivered to the Secretary no later than one week prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

9.8 The chairman of the meeting may permit discussion of other business at a General Meeting if he thinks fit.

9.9. A quorum at General Meetings of the Club shall be ten members present in person.

9.10. If fifteen minutes after the time fixed for a General Meeting of the Club no quorum shall be present, the meeting shall be adjourned to a new date (of which the like notice shall be given to members as was required to be given for the meeting which has been adjourned), and in the case of a General Meeting which has been adjourned due to the lack of a quorum (but not of a meeting adjourned for any other reason) such number of members as are actually present at the adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum.

9.11. Voting at General Meetings of the Club shall be by show of hands, and in the event of parity of voting the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

10. NOTICES

10.1. Notices of any Special General Meeting of the Club, and of an A.G.M at which in the opinion of the Committee any business of a non-routine nature is likely to be discussed, shall be given to members by displaying a notice on the club's website.

10.2. Notices of any A.G.M. at which in the opinion of the Committee no business of a non-routine nature is likely to be discussed, will be given by displaying a notice on the club's website.

10.3. Notices of any other matters to be brought to the attention of members shall be made by displaying a notice on the club's website.

11. NOMINATIONS

11.1. Nominations for the posts of Officers or Committee members shall be proposed and a seconded, by a member of the Club.

11.2. Nominations must reach the Secretary no later than one week prior to the date fixed for the A.G.M.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS and FEES

12.1. Each member of the Club shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be approved at the A.G.M. Subscriptions shall be due for payment immediately after A.G.M. in each year. Unless the Committee decides otherwise, any member whose subscription remains unpaid after the due date shall pay table money at the rate applicable to visitors until his subscription has been paid in full.

12.2. Each member of the Club, and each guest and visitor, shall pay table money on each occasion when [s]he plays at the Club.

12.3. The Committee may determine variations on the basic amounts of subscriptions and table money for members, guests and visitors in different circumstances, and may waive subscriptions or table money in the event of hardship or for any other good cause.

12.4. The Committee may determine from time to time the amount of fees to be charged for use of the premises or equipment of the Club, or for any other purpose for which it is of the opinion that fees ought to be charged.

13. ACCOUNTS

13.1. The Committee shall arrange for accounts to be prepared in respect of the financial affairs of the Club for each year ending on 31 December.

13.2. The accounts for each year shall be presented to the A.G.M. of the Club for approval.

14. GUESTS and VISITORS

14.1. Any member may invite a guest to play at the club at any time. The guest or visitor must be signed into Gorleston Golf Club (GGC).

14.2 Any guest/visitor must abide by GGC rules. GYBC Committee may from time to time place a limit on the number of occasions on which a non-member (whether a guest or a visitor) may play at the club without being required to join.

15. CONDUCT

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

15.2. On investigating such a complaint the Committee shall give the member about whose conduct the complaint has been made an opportunity to be heard and put forward evidence in their defence (this includes witnesses if appropriate). If a live Hearing takes place the member may be accompanied by a friend or representative who need not be a member of the club. Additionally, the member has the right to have questions put to the complainant and supporting witnesses (if any) by the Committee.

15.3. 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.

15.4. 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 headquarters of the Club.

15.5. An appeal shall lie to a General Meeting of the Club against any decision to reprimand, suspend or expel a member of the Club following the investigation of a complaint about his conduct.

15.6. Notice of such an appeal must be in writing, and delivered to the Secretary within two weeks of the notification to the member of the decision of the Committee.

15.7. 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.

15.8 On the appeal being heard by a General Meeting of the Club, the General Meeting shall have power to overrule the conclusion of the Committee, or to uphold it, in which event the sanction imposed by the Committee may be confirmed or varied (to any sanction which the Committee was empowered to impose, or to none).

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

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

16.1. No alterations shall be made to this constitution except at a General Meeting of the Club .

16.2. In order for a resolution to alter this constitution to have effect at least two-thirds of the votes cast on the resolution must be in favour.

17. WINDING-UP

17.1. In order for a resolution that the Club shall be wound up to have effect at least two-thirds of the votes cast on the resolution must be in favour, and in addition the number of votes cast in favour of the resolution must exceed one half of the number of members of the Club entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting at which the resolution is put.

17.2. If a resolution that the Club shall be wound up is effectively passed, the Committee shall be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Club, and unless the winding up has been initiated with a view to amalgamating the Club with some other club (in which case any surplus assets and funds may be transferred to such other club), any surplus assets and funds shall be equally shared amongst the existing GYBC members.

Objectives

The purpose of "The Club" shall be to promote Contract Bridge in Gorleston and Great Yarmouth.

The management of "The Club" shall be vested in the Committee consisting of not more than seven members including a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, to be elected annually, after being proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt, in an advisory capacity only, not more than two additional members. The Quorum of the Committee shall be not less than three, or one third of the whole number of the Committee, whichever is the greater. Casual vacancies occurring in the Committee, including the office of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be filled as soon as practical, by the Committee. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman of the Committee shall have a second casting vote.

The Committee shall meet whenever summoned by the Secretary or Chairman at least three times a year; at least three days notice of any such meeting shall be given to each member of the Committee. The Committee shall have power to make such regulations as are not inconsistent with these rules as they consider fit for the proper conduct and management of the Club. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all proceedings of the Club and Committee. He/she shall keep the Club records and a register of all the Members.

Membership Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Committee for approval and confirmation.

Finance

The subscription for the year, shall begin on 31 January. Such sum as the Members in General Meeting shall decide.

The Treasurer shall keep correct books of the financial affairs of the Club, which shall be duly audited annually by the Hon. Auditor. The Club shall keep a Bank Account and cheques drawn against the Club Funds must bear the signature of the Treasurer and Chairman or Secretary, or any two of these Officers.

General Meeting

The AGM of the Club, of which at least 2 weeks notice shall be given to Members, shall be held in the month of January.

At all business meetings of the Club the quorum shall not be less than one third of the whole number of the Members of the Club.

General Rules

No alteration in, or addition to the foregoing rules and Constitution shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting and then only if carried by two thirds majority of the Members present and voting.

That during such time as the provision of the Gaming Act 1968, which make it compulsory for Bridge Club playing Rubber bridge for money stakes to be registered and licensed remain in force, the Club shall refrain from playing Rubber Bridge on any club premises for stakes.

No responsibility or liability shall attach to the Club or the Committee in respect of the property of any member or guest. In the event of the Club folding all assets to be given to a charity decided upon by the current members.

Acceptance of Membership of the Club is deemed to be acceptance of these rules.