

Hungerford Bridge Club

Policy/Procedure for Associate Members

1: Like every other aspect of society, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on how we play bridge. In an attempt to retain the ethos and character of the Club; maintain fairness of treatment; and to ensure that the Club events are controlled for the benefit of the membership, the Club has determined that:

- 1.1 New membership applications (*for full membership*) have been suspended.
- 1.2 Visitors are welcome to play in our online events, but may only play with a member, as a guest of that member.
- 1.3 Visitors who play more than 5 times online will be required to pay an annual visitor supplement in lieu of the previous in-person visitor table money fee.

2: The Club is cognisant that there may be exceptional circumstances (as an example, but not limited to, a newcomer to the Hungerford area who otherwise would apply for full membership) where an individual may be considered for Associate Membership. On such occasions the Membership Secretary will invite the individual to apply to become an Associate Member.

3: Applications for Associate Membership are to be submitted to the Membership Secretary. All such applications shall be reviewed by the committee within five days, with approval at the sole discretion of the committee (with the primary aim being to maintain the ethos and character of the Club). The Membership Secretary shall communicate the committee's decision to the applicant within two further days. Should any issues be raised, the Club Chair will resolve the situation after consultation with the committee. For successful applications, the annual visitor supplement shall become immediately payable, if it has not already been paid.

4: For the Club's online events, an Associate Member is treated as a member for the purposes of §1.2 above. Otherwise:

- Associate Membership applies only to the Club's online activities.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to vote at the AGM or other Club meetings.
- An Associate Member is not eligible to serve on the Committee.

5: Associate Memberships:

- Are subject to ongoing review by the committee, specifically the frequency and numbers of visitors invited to play with the Associate Member.
- Shall be formally reviewed by the committee every six months.
- May be withdrawn, or the terms and conditions altered, at any time by the direction of the committee.
- Shall automatically cease once the Club fully returns to 'normal' club evenings.