

Proposal for AGM June 2022

It is proposed that we amend the Preston Contract Bridge Club constitution in accordance with the details below. A copy of the proposed constitution is attached.

Proposed Bill Alston

Seconded Andrew Petrie

Background and summary of the proposed changes to the PBC Constitution – June 2022

Background

The club is facing two large, possibly existential threats:

- A) Not being able to generate sufficient income to cover costs when the £10K annual rent becomes due in November
- B) Having insufficient volunteers to run the club – Officers, Trustees, Club Committee members, other helpers

The primary purposes of this update to the constitution are:

1. To help alleviate B) by:
 - a. Splitting the current role of Chairman into two more manageable Officer roles – Chairman of Trustees and Chairman of the Club Committee;
 - b. Making the tenure for Officers, Trustees and Club Committee members, three years;
 - c. Making it easier for people to join the Club Committee.
2. To help alleviate A) by not requiring changes to club charges to have to wait for an AGM.
3. To streamline processes, remove bureaucracy and reduce unnecessary work for volunteers.
4. To remove unnecessary content, clarify certain provisions and correct errors.

Summary of main changes

Area	Brief description of change	Reason
Clause 9 (1) admission of members	Remove procedural elements and write a separate policy	Constitution should just be about our principles for membership such as non-discrimination and reasons for possible membership refusal
Clause 9 (5) Table money and other fees or charges	Change to clarify due dates and procedure for setting charges	The trustees must retain financial control to discharge their duties to ensure financial viability of the charity. Provision is made for the committee to vary visitor fees and table money for one off events, to allow for charity pairs etc.
Clause 11 Meetings	Add provision for electronic or hybrid meetings	We are already conducting some business this way and the constitution should allow this for all types of meetings
Clause 11 Meetings	Allow for resolutions to be submitted electronically	As above
Clause 11 (5)	Change to 15 minutes after the start in 2 places	Current clause ambiguous
Clause 12 First charity trustees	Remove	No longer required
Clause 12 Officers	Define 4 Officers – Chairman of Trustees, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman of the Club Committee Remove reference to how appointed and tenure	Chairman of Trustees and Chairman of the Club Committee are very different roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustees = “To ensure the charity meets its legal, charitable and fiduciary obligations” ○ Club Committee = “To manage the day-to-day operations of PBC” Now summarised in Table 1 – easier for reference
Clause 13(2) Trustees	Adjust 7 non-officers to 6	Now 4 Officers, leaving 6 others to make 10
Clause 11 First AGM	Remove section	No longer required
Clause 13(3) Other officials	Remove reference to specific roles	More flexible and more appropriate
Clause 13(4)	Formally identifies a permanent	Inappropriate to not identify the CC in the constitution

Standing Committees	sub-committee of the Board – the Club Committee	Formally identifies the role of the CC in running the day-to-day operations of the club
Table 1 Appointment process and tenure	Summarised in a Table. Tenure extended to 3 years and apart from the Chairman of Trustees, no limit on the total tenure.	Hard enough to get volunteers. People deserve the certainty in their personal planning. Waste of time and resources - we haven't had a contested election since the charity was formed.
Clause 21	Allows electronic execution of documents	Streamline processes