**July 2013**

**CONSTITUTION**

**1. NAME**: **WHITEHALL REGIONAL BRIDGE CLUB**

**2.** **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of Whitehall Regional Bridge Club (“the Club”) shall be the playing and promotion of bridge under the rules, guidance and objectives of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland.

* To encourage and promote the playing, advancement and improvement of the game of Contract Bridge.
* To promote and foster Contract Bridge Tournaments and Inter Club competitions.
* Through the play of Contract Bridge to enhance the social fabric of the members of the Club.
* To conform to the standards and requirements of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland.
* To be self sufficient and surplus funds which may accumulate to be used to further the Club’s objectives.
* To occasionally support charitable organisations in Ireland that members have consented to.

**3.** **ADMINISTRATION**

All the powers of the Club and the administration of the Club’s affairs including the control and disposition of funds shall be vested in or delegated to and exercised by the elected committee of the Club.

**4.** **MEMBERSHIP**

* The Club shall be a Members Club. A new member must be proposed and seconded by two current members of the Club. Any bridge player who shall be willing to be bound by the Constitution of the Club, and also the Rules of the Club, may apply for membership of the Club by completing a Membership Application Form and submitting it to the Honorary Secretary. The Committee reserve the right to accept or reject an application for membership of the Club. A new member shall receive a copy of the Constitution.
* Members’ subscriptions are payable yearly in advance of Bridge season (1st September to 31st May).
* Only members are entitled to play in the Club during the Bridge season.
* Members may invite a maximum of 2 guests to play in the Club during the Bridge season.
* Visitors may not play in Special Competitions.
* Membership of the Club is not required for playing in the Club from the 1st June to 31st August each year.
* In the event of any member acting in such a manner as to bring the Club into disrepute or to disrupt the smooth running of the Club or the enjoyment of other members, the Committee shall have the right to reprimand such a member, and to warn them as to their future conduct. This may be done verbally or in writing. **If the said member should** **continue to so act, the Committee shall cancel such person’s membership and refund their annual subscription for that year.**

**5.** **ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT**

 The care and responsibility for the proper administration of the Club shall be vested in the Committee.

* The Committee shall be responsible for all Bridge Competitions in the Club.
* The Committee shall decide the annual subscription, competition entry fees and the prize monies to be paid out to members.
* The Committee shall generally do such acts, enter into such agreements and carry out such undertakings as may in the opinion of the Committee be in furtherance of any of the objectives of the Club.

**6.** **COMMITTEE**

 (a) The Committee shall consist of the Officers:-

* President.
* President-elect who shall also be Vice-President.
* Honorary Secretary.
* Honorary Treasurer.
* 8 ordinary members (to include outgoing President, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Assistant Honorary Treasurer).
1. The office of the President is for one year.
2. The office of the Honorary Secretary is for a one year term and no person can serve as Honorary Secretary for more than four consecutive years.
3. The office of the Honorary Treasurer is for a one year term and no person can serve as Honorary Treasurer for more than four consecutive years.
4. The Committee may appoint one of its members to act until the next election to fulfil the functions of an officer (except President) whose office shall have become vacant.
5. The Committee has the right to co-opt any member of the Committee throughout the year should a vacancy occur.
6. The outgoing President automatically becomes an ex-officio member of the incoming Committee if he/she so wishes.
7. For any valid meeting of the Committee 5 members of the Committee must be present.
8. The presiding officer shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
9. The Committee shall meet when necessary, but normally at least five times a year.
10. The Committee may make its own rules of procedure. The Committee shall cause full and accurate minutes to be kept of its meetings and a record of attendance of Committee members.
11. The Committee must follow up any resolutions from the AGM.

**7.** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

* The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the last Tuesday in May each year.
* 14 days notice of the Annual General Meeting and of all resolutions of which due notice has been received by the Committee shall be given to the members. A quarter of total members of the Club shall form a quorum.

(a) The business of the AGM shall be to receive reports from the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer

(i) To confirm the appointment of a President.

(ii) Election of Auditor.

(iii) Election for the positions of

* 1. The Officers (with the exception of the position of President, the office of which shall be assumed by the outgoing President-elect) as follows:-

President-elect (who shall also be Vice-President), Secretary, or Treasurer.

 2. Committee members.

(b) Nominations for the vacant positions of officers and Committee members shall be submitted seven days in advance before the date fixed for the AGM.

**8.** **ANNUAL AUDIT**

* The Club’s Financial Year shall be from 1 May to the following 30 April.
* The Treasurer is responsible for keeping a record of the financial transactions of the Club.
* The Treasurer shall present/forward a report for each committee meeting.
* All cheques issued on behalf of the Club shall be signed by 2 officers of the Committee.
* The Club’s Accounts shall be audited annually. The Auditor shall be nominated at the AGM. In the event that no suitable person is available within the Club the Committee reserves the right to nominate an external Auditor.

**9.** **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE**

 It is the responsibility of the Committee to ensure that there is Public Liability Insurance.

**10. DISCLAIMER**

The Club shall not be liable for any personal property of any member, guest or visitor which is deemed to be lost, stolen or mislaid before during or after the activities of the Club.

**11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

A Special General Meeting shall be convened on the written request to the Honorary Secretary of twenty members of the Club.

**12. TOURNAMENT PLAY**

All Bridge tournaments, matches and competitions shall be conducted under the rules of the CBAI.

The Tournament Director shall be responsible for decisions with regard to the conducting of Bridge Competitions.

In the event of a player/players not agreeing with the decision of the Tournament Director he/she should firstly request the Tournament Director to reconsider his decision.

If the Tournament Director reaffirms his decision or changes his decision the players involved may further appeal to the Committee within the Club.

**13. CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall not be repealed, amended or altered in any way save with the consent of a two thirds majority of the members present and entitled to vote at a general meeting of which due notice has been given.