

WICKHAM BISHOPS BRIDGE CLUB

September 2022

Wickham Bishops Bridge Club Constitution:

Name

The Club shall be called **Wickham Bishops Bridge Club**

Object

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

Headquarters

The Headquarters of the Club is currently at Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Wickham Bishops, Essex. This will only change if the rental becomes unaffordable. If this occurs then the club will seek cheaper premises.

Affiliations

The Club abide by the rules set out by English Bridge Union (E.B.U.).

Membership

Membership will be open to all people with an understanding of the game.

There will be rate for the annual subscription and table money for every meeting with guests paying a higher rate.

All people applying for membership must complete the application form. All members must agree to their information being available to other members as required by the Data Protection Act. At the end of this period, provided they have played three times as visitors (or had this requirement waived), and there are no objections and the Committee is satisfied that the applicant is of a sufficient standard, the Chairman will sign off the application and the Membership Secretary will then confirm their acceptance into the Club.

A member shall cease to be a member of the Club immediately, if expelled from the Club under the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Officers

The Officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, a minimum of three officials. The Committee members should not exceed five, giving a maximum total of eight including officers and committee members at any given time.

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.

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 ensuing Annual General Meeting.

Current Serving Officers and Committee Members

Chairman Peter Thomas. Treasurer Ann Goody. Secretary Ann Goody. Official David Croom.

Committee

The Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club together with other members of the Club who wish to be involved and assist with the running of the club. 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 eight. Co-opted members shall be entitled to participate fully in the proceedings of the Committee.

The Committee shall make a report to each Annual General Meeting of the Club concerning the affairs of the Club since the previous Annual General meeting.

In the event of a voting tie at any committee meeting, the Chairman will have a second and casting vote.

Management

The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Club, 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.

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 the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

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.

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.

General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in each year no later than four months after the end of the financial year

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

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.

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.

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

A quorum at a General Meeting of the Club shall be ten members present in person.

At the discretion of the committee, voting at General Meetings of the Club shall be by ballot and allowing votes by proxy for those unable to attend. In the event of parity, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Notices

Notice of any Special General Meeting of the Club, and of an Annual General Meeting 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 e-mail to the last address of each member notified to the Secretary.

Notice of any Annual General Meeting at which, in the opinion of the committee, no business of a non-routine nature is likely to be discussed, may be given to members by e-mail to the last address of each member notified to the Secretary. Notice of AOB to be brought to the attention of members verbally or by circulating details at the meeting.

Nominations

Nominations for the posts of Officers or Committee members shall be verbally by a Proposer and a Seconder, both of whom shall be members of the Club, and also by the person nominated.

Subscriptions

Each member of the Club shall pay an annual subscription, the basic amount of which for the time being shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. Subscriptions shall be due for payment on 1st September in each year in respect of the year to the following 31st August. Unless the Committee decides otherwise, any member whose subscription remains unpaid after the 30th September shall cause their membership to lapse and shall pay table money at the rate applicable to visitors until their subscription has been paid in full.

Each member of the Club, and each guest and visitor, shall pay table money on each occasion when he plays at the Club, the basic amounts of which for the time being shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

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.

The Annual General Meeting may authorise the committee to increase the basic amounts of subscriptions and table money prior to the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

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

Accounts

The treasurer is responsible for the bank accounts to be prepared to report in respect of the financial affairs of the club for each year ending on 31 August.

The Accounts for each year shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the club for approval.

Guests & Visitors

Any member may invite a guest to play at the Club at any time but, in the event of the playing facilities being inadequate to accommodate all those who wish to play, priority shall be given to members.

Visitors may be permitted to play at the Club at any time, but in the event of the playing facilities being inadequate to accommodate all those who wish to play, priority shall be given to members and the guests of members.

The Committee may from time to time place a limit of the number of occasions on which a non-member (whether a guest or a visitor) may play at the Club without being required to apply for membership.

If such a limit is for the time being in force, a non-member who has applied for membership shall (subject to available playing facilities) be permitted to play at the Club until his application for membership has been considered by the Committee, even if the limit imposed by the Committee is thereby exceeded.

Members' Behaviour

Each member of the Club shall be required, in connection with the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge, to conform to the Code of Conduct and etiquette as used by the (E.B.U.).

Alterations to the Constitution

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

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.

Winding Up

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; this vote to be taken at the General Meeting at which the Resolution is put.

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 transferred to such of the organisations as may be specified in the Resolution initiating the winding up, and if no such organisation is so specified, to such of those organisations as the Committee may think fit.

The organisations referred to are any Registered or Recognised Charitable Body.