

THE TAMAR BRIDGE CLUB CONSTITUTION

(Adopted 24 November 1986)

1. NAME

The name of the Club shall be the Tamar Bridge Club (in these rules called "the Club").

2. OBJECT

The object of the Club shall be to promote the game of Contract Bridge and, in particular, the game of Duplicate Contract Bridge by such means as possible.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Club shall be:

(a) **Ordinary members**, namely, persons approved by the Committee upon nomination by two Club members and the payment of such membership fee as the Club may from time to time determine.

ⁱ**New members** nominated as in (a) above, may be elected to provisional membership at any time, but such election to be confirmed at the first subsequent Committee Meeting.

(b) **Life Members**, namely, persons who have been elected to Life membership at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for having given outstanding service to the Club or to the game of bridge.

(c) **Honorary Members**, namely, bridge players visiting Launceston, provided, however, such membership shall not extend beyond a period of two months, and such members shall not hold office, vote at the Club meetings or be eligible for trophies awarded by the Club.

(d) The Club may from time to time create or abolish classes of membership and determine the conditions of admission to and privileges of such classes.

ⁱ Amended AGM 8/11/11

4. MEMBERSHIP FEE

- (a) The membership fee of the Club shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and be payable within one month after that meeting, or in the case of new members, by their fourth attendance.
- (b) A member whose annual membership fee is overdue shall not be eligible to compete in any competition or vote at any meeting or be a member of the Committee.
- (c) Persons joining the Club six months after the Annual General Meeting shall pay half the membership fee.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held towards the end of the calendar year, on such date as the Committee may fix, and after such notice (at least 10 days) as may be determined by the Committee.
- (b) A Special General Meeting of the Club may be summoned by the Committee at any time, upon giving at least fourteen days notice thereof, setting out the business to be transacted thereat, in such manner as the Committee may determine.
- (c) Not fewer than ten members may invite the Committee in writing to summon a Special General Meeting of the Club and may, if the Committee refuses to do so, require the Committee upon receipt of such request and a sum of money sufficient to defray the costs of the notice referred to in sub-clause 5(b), shall be bound to summon such meetings.
- (d) Any business may be brought before the Annual General Meeting, but no business other than formal business and business set out in the notification of such meeting shall be dealt with at any Special General Meeting of the Club.
- (e) At any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Club, 15%ⁱⁱ of total membership, or ten, whichever is the greater, shall form a quorum.
- (f) At all meetings of the Club or the Committee, the President shall preside. If he/she be not present, the Vice President shall preside, or if he/she be not present some other person shall be elected to preside.
- (g) The Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

ⁱⁱ Decreased from 20% to 15% AGM 8/11/2011

- (h) Voting at meetings of the Club shall, unless five members present call for a ballot, be determined on the voices or upon a show of hands.
- (i) All meeting shall be conducted under the recognized rules of meeting procedures.

6. THE COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

- (a) The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the following:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - And threeⁱⁱⁱ other members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Committee shall have the power from time to time to make, amend, and repeal By-Laws as may be necessary or convenient for the proper carrying out of the objects of the Club.
- (c) All members of the Committee shall be honorary.
- (d) The office bearers of the Club shall hold office from the Annual General Meeting at which they have been elected to the following Annual General Meeting, provided that any office bearer may at any time submit his resignation as such officer bearer to the Committee, and further provided that the Committee may appoint any member to fill any vacancy occasioned by such resignation or by death or by reason of the Committee as hereinafter provided declaring the office of any member of the Committee to be vacated.
- (e) The Committee may declare the office of any of its members who shall, without leave or reasonable cause shown, be absent from three consecutive meetings, to be vacated.
- (f) The Committee shall have powers to set up sub-committees and determine their functions and may if they think fit, appoint a non-member of the Committee to serve thereon.
- (g) Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, the quorum required at its meetings shall be four.
- (h) The Committee shall meet at regular intervals, at least six times each year.

ⁱⁱⁱ Increased from 3 to 5 AGM 18/11/1997. .Increased from 5 to 6 AGM 8/11/11.
Amended to three November 10 2016

- (i)^{iv} The term of the President will be for one year's duration.
The president will stand down after 4 consecutive terms.

7. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE^v

- (a) Nominations for all positions of the Committee must be in the hands of the Secretary, in writing and signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee no later than three days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
- (d) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
- (e) The ballot for the election of officers and committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the Committee may direct.

8. PROPERTY

- (a) The Club may from time to time at a General Meeting appoint trustees of its property, who shall have the legal ownership of the Club's property, and be vested with power to sue in the Club's name, and who shall hold office until death, resignation or removal there from at a General Meeting.
- (b)^{vi} The Club is to utilize the services of such banks or financial institutions as the Committee decides upon and open accounts therewith, such account or accounts to be operated on by any two of the authorised cheque signatories.

9. FINANCIAL YEAR AND AUDIT

- (a) The financial year of the Club shall end on the last day of September to which day the accounts of the Club shall be balanced.
- (b) The Auditor shall be requested to undertake a Compilation Agreement on the Tamar Bridge Club financial statements, in

^{iv} New Clause added AGM 7/11/2019

^v New Clause added AGM 8/11/2011

^{vi} Amended AGM 8/11/2011

accordance with Tasmanian Legislative requirements, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year.

- (c) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of auditor during the year, the Committee shall appoint an alternative auditor.

10. POWER TO TAKE ACTION UPON COMPLAINTS

Should any complaints be made to the Committee as to the conduct of any member, the Committee may notify the member of the complaint made and give him the opportunity of being heard in respect thereto.

The Committee may, after hearing the person interested and taking evidence in such a manner as it thinks fit, dismiss the complaint or uphold the complaint and take whatever action the Committee deems just. This shall include the power to suspend or determine the membership of the member complained against and such decision shall be final but subject to the right of appeal by a member whose membership has been determined as foresaid to a Special General Meeting of the Club, which that member may demand to be called not later than twenty-one (21) days after he or she is notified on the Committee's decision.

11. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

- (a)^{vii} The constitution of the Club shall not be altered nor the Club be dissolved save with the approval of at least two-thirds of the members recorded at a General Meeting, of which written notice of the proposed alteration or dissolution has been given to all members at least fourteen days before the meeting.
- (b) If upon winding up or dissolution of the Club there remain, after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, any assets the same shall not be distributed amongst members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to some other organization having similar objects to the objects of the Club as may be recommended by the Committee, approved by at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting called to consider the dissolution of the Club or any adjournment thereof.

^{vii} Amended AGM 8/11/2011