

# CONSTITUTION OF THE CARLINGFORD BRIDGE CLUB

## 1. NAME:

The name of the Club is – CARLINGFORD BRIDGE CLUB.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- a) To organise the playing of bridge at the times and places determined by the majority of members at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings.
- b) To be associated with the Australian Bridge Federation.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Members and Associate Members shall be required to pay fees as set from time to time by the Annual General Meeting of Members. They may consist of one or more of the following:

- (i) Joining Fee
- (ii) Annual Subscription
- (iii) Playing Fees

Associate Members are persons for whom Carlingford Bridge Club is the designated home club, but who pay a lesser annual fee than other home club members as determined by the Annual General Meeting. Associate Members do not have voting rights at Annual General Meetings or Extraordinary General Meetings, and may not hold positions on the Club Committee.

- b) A limit to the total number of members may be set by the members at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- c)
  - (i) Visitors will be welcome, on payment of a Visitor's Fee, provided playing space is available. In special circumstances, the Committee may waive the payment of an additional fee by visitors.
  - (ii) Visitors are permitted to play on special days, party days or Red Point Days and to receive any masterpoints and prizes earned for those events, except that visitors and their partners are not eligible to be Club Champions, nor to receive any prize awarded for winning the Club Championship
  - (iii) A pair consisting of two Club Members shall always have preference for table playing space over any pair comprising a Club Member and a visitor or 2 visitors.

- (iv) Should the capacity of the venue be reached, then a pair comprising 2 members would have preference for playing over any pair comprising a visitor and a member or 2 visitors.
  
- d) If membership is at any time limited for space or management reasons, a waiting list shall be kept by the Secretary. Membership may be refused by decision of the Committee. A member who is unfinancial for more than two (2) months may (at the discretion of the Committee) lose his/her membership rights and must pay visitor's Fees.
  
- e) Honorary Life Membership
  - (i) A member may be elected an Honorary Life Member at a general meeting of the Club, subject to the requirement that a nomination for Honorary Life Membership must have received the prior approval of the Committee.
  
  - (ii) The Committee shall have and exercise absolute discretion to approve or to decline any nomination for Honorary Life Membership and the Committee shall not be required to furnish or disclose any reasons for any such approval or otherwise.
  
  - (iii) An honorary life member shall be entitled to all the privileges and be subject to all the rules of a Member during his or her life without any further payment of annual subscriptions.

#### **4. GENERAL MEETINGS:**

- a) Notice: At least fourteen (14) days notice shall be given by advice posted on the Notice Board.  
  
The accidental omission to give notice to any member or the accidental failure of some member receiving such notice shall not invalidate the meeting or proceedings.
  
- b) Quorum: The quorum shall be one-third of the membership (excluding Associate Members) present in person.
  
- c) Agenda: Agenda matters must be received by the Secretary ten (10) days before the meeting and shall be posted on the Notice Board at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.
  
- d) Results: All resolutions shall be decided by a show of hands unless a poll – prior to or upon the declaration of the result of a show of hands – is demanded by at least three (3) members. If a poll is not duly demanded the declaration by the Chairman as to the result of the show of hands shall constitute conclusive evidence as to such results.
  
- e) Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.): The A.G.M. will:-

- (i) receive and approve Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
  - (ii) receive and consider the President's Report;
  - (iii) receive and approve the Treasurer's Report, including a Statement of Accounts;
  - (iv) elect a Committee;
  - (v) consider other matters on the Agenda and any other matters properly brought before the Meeting.
- f) Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M.): E.G.M.'s may be called by the Committee or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by one-quarter of the membership, such request to also specify the business to be brought before the Meeting.

**5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- a) Committee meetings shall take place at such time and place as the President, or any two members of the Committee, shall determine.
- b) The quorum at a Committee Meeting shall be four (4) members in person.
- c) The Chairman of the Meeting shall not have a casting vote.

**6. ELECTION FOR OFFICE OF COMMITTEE:**

- a) All positions on the Committee shall fall vacant at each Annual General Meeting.
- b) Nominations signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder must be made to the Secretary on the nomination form which shall be displayed on the Notice Board not less than seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting for positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Committee Members.

All Committee Members and all signatories to the nomination of Committee Members must be members of the Club. Persons who are not a member of the club, or persons who are Associate Members, may not stand for the Committee nor nominate Committee Members.

- c) The office of President may be held for not more than three (3) consecutive years.
- d) The meeting shall determine the election of each office bearer by a show of hands.
- e) If no nomination is received for a specific office on the Committee, any member present may be proposed and seconded, and such nomination if consented to by the nominee shall be deemed to be a valid nomination.

- f) Upon the death, expulsion or resignation of any office bearer, the remaining members of the Committee may elect a new Committee Members
- g) A Committee Member who has missed three (3) successive meetings, without leave of absence being granted, may be considered to have resigned and his/her place may be filled in accordance with clause 6. f).
- h) No Committee Member shall receive payment or benefit in kind for any services to the Club.

## **7. FUNDS:**

- a) The Committee shall receive and disburse moneys and other assets in the best interests of the Club.
- b) All moneys received by the Club shall be used for Club purposes or be deposited promptly in a bank/building society account in the name of the Club and all cheques drawn shall be signed jointly by any two persons authorised by the Committee.

## **8. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION:**

This constitution may be added to, repealed (in whole or part) or amended by resolution passed at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless notice of the resolution together with appropriate explanatory material have been placed on the notice board fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting, and the resolution has been passed by at least two-thirds of the members present voting thereon.

## **9. WINDING UP:**

If at any General Meeting, a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed, then an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held within four (4) weeks to ratify such resolution. One-quarter of the members shall be required to be present at such E.G.M. and the resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall require to be passed by two-thirds of those voting. The meeting shall also determine:

- a) the best method of disposal of the Club's assets to best realise their value (in cash or in kind); and
- c) another non-profit bridge club operating in Australia to which the balance of effects and funds realised shall be donated.

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End of Constitution