

Constitution of the Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club

Version 2

Date adopted: 19 October 2021

Name

The club shall be known as the Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club (which is an unincorporated association) hereafter referred to as HOSBC.

• Aims and Objectives

The club is established for :-

- The playing of duplicate and other forms of Bridge
- To provide a social environment for its members
- To provide facilities for less experienced players to learn and to play Bridge

all in a friendly and supportive atmosphere

Membership

Membership shall be open to all bridge players and those wishing to learn the game. Membership shall be open to all who share the objectives of the club without distinction as to race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

- Any person wishing to become a member of the club shall apply for membership by completing and forwarding to the secretary such form as may be prescribed from time to time by the committee.

- A person shall be deemed to be a member of the club if they have paid the annual subscription and any other fees relevant at the time of joining. Any member whose subscription is more than two months overdue shall be deemed to have forfeited membership. The Committee is empowered to withdraw membership from anyone guilty of persistent breaches of club rules or bridge etiquette, or whose conduct is outside the spirit of it's laws and ethics

- All who join or renew membership shall be deemed to accept the club's constitution and rules.

- Any member may introduce a guest to play at the Club on not more than five occasions in any one year and on further occasions with the prior approval of the Management Committee.

• Affiliation

The club is not affiliated to any governing body but shall adopt the EBU Laws and Ethics.

Officers & Management Committee

- The Officers of the Club shall be the Chairperson, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. They shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to hold office for one year at the conclusion of which they shall be eligible for re-election.

- The Committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of HOSBC

including setting subscription fees, table money or any other fees necessary for the running of the club.

- The Committee shall have the power to distribute any surplus funds to any suitable local organisation who share this clubs aims and objectives or local charitable cause as it feels appropriate.

- The affairs of the club shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of the Officers and up to two other members co-opted by the Officers to help the Club run smoothly Nominations for the Officers shall be received, in writing, by the Secretary seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall contain the consent of the nominees. The Officers shall be elected annually by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Should a tie result, a second ballot between the tying candidates shall be held. If this also results in a tie, the matter shall be resolved by the drawing of lots.

- Three or more of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Committee

- The Committee may co-opt any person on to the Committee in the event of a casual vacancy.

- The Officers of the Club shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to hold office for one year at the conclusion of which they shall be eligible for re-election.

- The Committee shall meet as required by the business to be transacted. Voting shall be decided by a simple majority and each person present shall have one vote, save that, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member.

- The committee may form sub-committees as and when it is necessary for the proper functioning of the club.

- **Annual General Meeting**

Members should be given notice of the AGM at least 21 days in advance.

- The Annual General Meeting shall be held by the 30th. November each year the business of the meeting being to:

- Receive reports from the Committee and Officers.

- Receive an audited Financial Statement from the Treasurer.

- Elect the Officers and an Honorary Auditor for the coming year.

- Consider and vote upon proposed amendments to the Constitution.

- Deal with any other business of which notice has been given in the agenda of the meeting.

- A quorum for the Meeting shall be 10% of Club Members including at least 1 from the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

Items for inclusion in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall issue an agenda 7 days before the date of the meeting.

Finance

- The funds of HOSBC shall be devoted to the furtherance of its aims and objectives. (No member of the Committee shall hold any salaried office or receive any other benefit from the HOSBC).

- The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accounts of all income and expenditure and assets and liabilities.

- The Club's Financial Year will end on the 30th. September each year.

- All accounts shall be reviewed by the Committee and Audited before they are submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting

Change of Constitution

- Any alteration to this Constitution may be made only by a resolution at a general meeting passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Dissolution

- The HOSBC may be dissolved by a resolution passed by two thirds majority of those present and voting at a general meeting, the notice of which specified that it be intended to propose such a resolution

- In the event or the HOSBC being dissolved for any reason the assets and funds shall be dispersed in accordance with this constitution.