

Lavender Bridge Club



INTRODUCTION – The HISTORY of the LAVENDER BRIDGE CLUB

The Club has been in existence for decades, even before Andrew & Anne Stimson took on responsibility for it, and ownership of it around 1993. They ran it with great enthusiasm, hard work and good humour, and they showed kindness to everyone. They prepared lunch for Wednesday bridge sessions, and afternoon tea for Friday sessions. In 2020 the pandemic forced closure of the Club for a few months, but, as soon as the law permitted, they re-opened, complying with Covid regulations; sadly, some members did not return. Andrew & Anne have computerised results, and joined Bridgewebs so members can access results and hands with ease. In recent years rampant inflation has taken its toll but, because they were determined to keep table money low while still providing food, they have incurred a substantial loss. They now wish to hand over the ownership of Lavender to its members, and its management to a committee as a not-for-profit society, hence the formulation of this constitution. The Committee has named Andrew its President.

LAVENDER BRIDGE CLUB CONSTITUTION

NAME

The Club is called the **Lavender Bridge Club**.

OBJECTS

- To provide a venue and facilities for members to play Duplicate Bridge competitions. At the same time, the club continues to provide a safe place for lonely bridge players of all abilities to spend time away from home, where they can meet and converse with like-minded folk, and keep their brains active, all in a warm, sociable environment.
- To manage the club as a not-for-profit organisation.

VENUE

The Club rents the Community Hall attached to York Gardens Library, 34 Lavender Road, SW11 2UG (or another venue if this hall ceases to be available).

AFFILIATIONS

The Club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union and Surrey County Bridge Association.

MEMBERSHIP

- Anyone wishing to become a member should complete a membership form, after having attended the club at least 3 times.
- The Committee will keep a register of members which will include their name, address, email address, telephone number, and EBU number. It will be kept in accordance with the GDPR.
- The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December.
- New members joining the club between January and June will pay the full annual fee; those joining on or after 1st July pay half the annual fee.
- If a member is expelled or resigns, no refund of the membership fee will be made.
- The annual subscription must be paid by 31st March. Those who have not paid by that date will pay visitors' table money.
- Members of the Club automatically become individual members of the English Bridge Union, (if not already a member of the EBU) and must abide by its Laws & Ethics.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & FEES

- The price of the Annual Subscription will be proposed by the Committee for approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- The price of Table Money will be proposed by the Committee for approval at the AGM.
- The price of Guests' and Visitors' Table Money (at a higher price than members') will be proposed by the Committee for approval at the AGM.
- Should the club become loss-making during the year, the Committee has power to increase the amounts in the above three categories, subject to approval at a Special General Meeting of members.

COMMITTEE

- The Committee of the Club comprises the Officers of the Club, plus no more than four other members of the Club.
- The Officers are President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Nobody may hold more than one Office simultaneously.
- The Chairman will report on the affairs of the Club at the AGM.
- The Officers of the Club must retire at the AGM but are eligible for re-election.
- Nominations for the posts of Officers or Committee members are to be in writing, signed by a proposer and a seconder, both of whom must be members of the Club, and by the nominee; to reach the Secretary at least a week before the AGM.

MANAGEMENT

- The Committee will manage the Club as a not-for-profit organisation. However, it has power to retain a reserve for contingencies such as replacement of equipment, stationery, playing cards, or anything else that may from time to time become necessary.
- The affairs of the Club are managed by the Committee, which has power to determine any issue not specifically stated in this Constitution.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- An AGM of the Club will be held every year no later than 30th April.
- Every AGM will be held at Club venue unless it becomes impracticable.
- At least two weeks' notice of the AGM will be given to members.
- Any member may propose a motion for discussion at an AGM provided written notice is given to the Secretary no later than one week before the date of the meeting.
- The chairman of the meeting will permit discussion of Any Other Business at an AGM.
- Voting at General Meetings will be by show of hands, and in the event of a tie, the chairman has the casting vote.

ACCOUNTS

- The Treasurer will prepare the accounts of the club for the year ending 31st December to be given in the first place to the Committee, and subsequently to all members at or before the AGM.
- The accounts for the past year will be presented at the AGM for acceptance, except at the inaugural AGM when no accounts exist.

MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR

- All members of the Club are required to conform to the standards of fair play, courtesy and personal presentation prescribed by the Laws and regulations of the EBU.
- The Committee will follow the EBU disciplinary procedures for the enforcement of standards.
- Any person making a complaint against one or more members of the Club must do so in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman. The Committee will decide whether to take any action or not.

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A resolution to alter this Constitution may only be made at a General Meeting (Annual or Special) and will require at least two thirds of the votes to be in favour of the resolution.

DISSOLUTION

Should the Club cease to be viable, it may be necessary to wind it up.

- In the first instance the Committee should consult with members at a Special General Meeting as to whether to seek to merge with another Bridge club, and to pursue such course of action, if a simple majority of members is in favour. Any remaining assets of the club would be transferred to the acquiring/merging club, subject to approval at the SGM.
- If there is no alternative but to dissolve the Club, a resolution to wind it up must be put to an SGM at which at least half the votes cast must be in favour. The importance of attending such meeting must be impressed on all members when giving notice of the meeting.
- If a winding up resolution is passed at the meeting, the Committee will collect in all monies owed to it, pay any debts, and sell any assets of realisable value. The sum remaining afterwards will be paid to a suitable charity.