

Proposed change to Maitland Bridge Club Constitution 2013

Reference: Maitland Bridge Club Management Committee meeting dated 13 May 2024

8.7 Proposed changes to MBC Constitution 2013.

Motion: *A Special Resolution to vary Clause 8 Fees and Subscriptions MBC Constitution 2013 is to be put forward at the 2024 AGM. Members will be supplied with a document which clearly shows the current Clause 8, the amended Clause 8 and the reasons for the amendments. This will be published 21 days before the AGM August 7, so that members can make an informed vote.*

Moved Wendy **Seconded** Phil *passed unanimously*

It is to be noted that the Committee has had detailed discussions regarding the Constitution and this is the only change to the MBC Constitution which is proposed by the Committee 23/24. Members can view the MBC Constitution 2013 on the website, under Information.

This **special resolution** will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7 August 2024, commencing at 5.00 pm.

A quorum of 15% of the MBC membership must be present at an Annual General Meeting.

The MBC Constitution 2013 states:

31. Special resolutions

(1) A resolution is passed by an association as a special resolution:

(a) at a meeting of the association of which notice has been given to its members no later than 21 days before the date on which the meeting is held, or

(b) in such other manner as the Director-General may direct,

if it is supported by at least two-thirds of the votes cast by members of the association who, under the associations constitution, are entitled to vote on the proposed resolution.

Please see Pages 2 and 3 for more detail about this proposed change to the Constitution.

Proposed changes are in bold italics with explanations in the third column.

Current Clause 8 in 2013 Constitution	Proposed Change to Clause 8	Reasons for the proposed change
<p>8. Fees and subscriptions (1) A member of the association must, on admission to membership, pay to the association a joining fee.</p> <p>(2) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclause (1), a member of the association must pay to the association an annual membership fee as determined by members at the annual general meeting. The annual membership fee must be paid within three months of the due date. In default of the payment a member shall be deemed to be unfinancial. The unfinancial member will lose the right to vote at meeting of the association and the right to pay table money at members' rates.</p>	<p>8. Fees and subscriptions (1) A member of the association must, on admission to membership, pay to the association a joining fee, as determined by the management committee.</p> <p>(2) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclause (1), all members of the association (home club and associate) must pay to the association an annual membership fee as determined by members at the annual general meeting. The annual membership fee must be paid within one month of the due date. In default of the payment a member shall be deemed to be unfinancial. The unfinancial member will lose the right to vote at meetings of the association and the right to pay table money at members' rates.</p>	<p>Joining fee for those joining as home club members who do not have an active ABF Number is currently \$25 as a one-off payment. Joining fee is not currently charged for members who already have an active ABF number or join MBC as an associate member. Those joining as home club members who have an <u>inactive</u> ABF Number are charged a \$20 reactivation fee. These amounts may change as the ABF changes its fee structure in the future, and may need to be adjusted by the management committee to ensure costs are covered.</p> <p>Currently, ALL Members pay a \$30 annual fee. In 2024 this fee did not cover the costs paid to Bridge NSW for affiliation and Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) for capitation fees. The ABF increased their capitation fee to \$20 in July 2023 and Bridge NSW increased their affiliation fee to \$20 in September 2023. This did not allow MBC to adjust the annual membership fee at the 2023 AGM. As a result, 137 home club members paid \$30 for 2024 and MBC had to pay \$40 in fees. Members pay these fees through their home club so it is unfair for associate members to pay the same amount as home club members. The management committee recommends a two tier fee structure whereby ALL members pay a lower annual fee and home club members pay the affiliation/capitation fees separately. E.g. all members pay \$20 (to be determined at the AGM) and Home club members also pay affiliation/capitation fee of e.g. \$40 making a total of \$60 for home club members. The change from three months to one month is to streamline the MBC's accounting processes.</p>

<p>(a) The membership year shall be 1 January to 31 December.</p> <p>(3) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclauses (1) and (2) a member of the association shall pay the prescribed table fee when participating in games of bridge conducted by the association</p>	<p>(3) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclause (1) and (2), all <u>home club</u> members of the association must pay to the association an annual affiliation/capitation fee as determined by the management committee, based on the fees charged by Bridge NSW and the Australian Bridge Federation. The annual affiliation/capitation fee must be paid within one month of the due date. In default of the payment a member shall be deemed to be unfinancial. The unfinancial member will lose the right to vote at meetings of the association and the right to pay table money at members' rates.</p> <p>(4) The membership year shall be 1 January to 31 December.</p> <p>(5) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclauses (1), (2) and (3) a member of the association shall pay the prescribed table fee when participating in games of bridge conducted by the association. This fee is determined by the management committee when considering the running costs of the club.</p>	<p>The affiliation/capitation fees that are paid by MBC to Bridge NSW and the Australian Bridge Federation had not increased for many years. Both made substantial increases to these fees in 2023. We have been advised these fees will increase in line with the consumer price index each year. This clause will allow the management committee to adjust the affiliation/capitation fee as required to ensure MBC does not run at a loss on membership fees, as occurred in 2024. Any changes will be governed by the changes made by Bridge NSW and ABF.</p>
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