

Seaford Bridge Club

The Constitution

1 **Name of the Club**

The club shall be known as the Seaford Bridge Club hereinafter referred to as 'The Club'.

2 **Objectives**

The objectives of the Club shall be to provide facilities for the playing of Bridge as a social amenity in the Seaford area.

3 **Management**

(a) The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), comprising the following officers: Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and not more than four other members. The Committee may elect one of their number as Deputy Chairman.

(b) The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies occurring during a year and to co-opt up to two members during any one year.

(c) The Committee shall conduct the general business of the Club and shall have the power to make and enforce bye-laws. Any bye-laws so made shall be displayed on the noticeboard and shall remain in force unless and until revoked by the Committee or by resolution at a General Meeting of the Club.

(d) A General Meeting may elect an Hon. President in recognition of a member's outstanding service to the Club. The President may attend Committee meetings but is not entitled to vote. The President may take the chair at the AGM. The President shall remain in office until such time as a successor is elected.

4 **Club Year**

The Club year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

5 **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than the end of February each year. The Secretary shall display the notice calling the meeting and its Agenda on the Club noticeboard at least fourteen days before the meeting. The Agenda for the meeting shall include:

- election of Officers and Committee;
- approval of the accounts for the previous year which shall have been displayed on the Club noticeboard at least fourteen days before the date of the AGM;
- appointment of an external examiner of the accounts for the ensuing year; and
- any other business.

6 **Special General Meeting**

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman by posting a notice, including the Agenda, on the Club noticeboard at least ten days before the meeting. A Special General Meeting shall also be held following a written request to the Secretary, stating the purpose of the meeting and signed by at least ten members.

7 **Quorum**

A quorum at meetings shall be as follows:

- Committee – four members including officers
- General – twenty members

- 8 **Voting**
Voting at all meetings by show of hands unless the Committee decide an alternative method would be better. Members unable to attend a general meeting may cast their votes in writing to the Club Secretary.
- 9 **Subscriptions**
The amounts of the annual subscription and table money shall be determined at the AGM except that the Committee shall have the power to vary table money when deemed necessary. Subscriptions shall become due on 1 March and be payable not later than 31 March. New members joining after 30 September shall pay one half of the annual subscription.
- 10 **New Members**
Applications for membership will be considered by the Committee. Applicants may attend initially as Visitors.
- 11 **Visitors**
Visitors may be introduced to the Club by any member. They may attend as visitors for a maximum of six sessions during any one year. This limit may be extended at the discretion of the Committee. The name of the visitor(s) and of the sponsor(s) shall be entered into the Visitors' Book. Payment required will be double table money.
- 12 **Rules of Play**
The rules of play shall be the International Laws of Contract Bridge or the International Laws of Duplicate Bridge as appropriate. Additionally, members shall abide by the Club Bye-Laws, which shall be on display in the Card Room. The Committee shall have power to amend the Bye-Laws, such amendments to be submitted to the next AGM for confirmation.
- 13 **Penalties**
The Committee may suspend the membership of any member who infringes the Club constitution or whose conduct is considered detrimental to the Club. The question of further action, if any, shall be considered by the Club Committee, when the member concerned may make representations, in writing or in person, if he/she wishes to do so. In the event of the Committee's deciding that the member shall be asked to resign, the member shall have the right of appeal to a panel chaired by the Club's President and comprising the Club's officers. The panel's decision shall be final.
- 14 **Change of Constitution**
The constitution may only be altered by a resolution of not less than a two-thirds majority of those present and voting passed at a General Meeting of the Club for which at least 28 days notice specifying the proposed alteration has been given by a notice on the Club noticeboard. Amendments duly proposed and seconded will be considered at the meeting if presented to the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting.
- 15 **Liability of the Club**
The Club shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury sustained by any member or visitor while attending a Club meeting.