

CAMBS & HUNTS CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

This Constitution has been amended at the Annual General Meetings held on 27th April 1977, 23rd April 1983, 1st May 1984, 29th April 1996, 9th May 2009 and 13th May 2019

1. NAME

The Association shall be called the Cambs. and Hunts. Contract Bridge Association.

2. OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) To promote and further the interests of bridge within the County.
- b) To employ the funds of the Association in such a manner as the Managing Committee may deem in the best interests of the game, regard being had to the fact that the Association is a non-profit making body.
- c) To organise and manage Leagues, matches and all forms of competition in the County.
- d) To be affiliated to the English Bridge Union (EBU) and to maintain and enforce in the County the decisions, rules and regulations of the said Union

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) All members of the Association must be Player Members of the EBU.
- b) A Player Member of the EBU shall become a member of the Association when his primary allegiance to the Association is recorded with the EBU.
- c) A Player Member of the EBU whose primary allegiance is with another Association may become a member of the Association by meeting its terms and conditions in force at the time of the request for membership.
- d) A member of the Association must be a paid-up member for the relevant Membership Year in order to vote at a General Meeting and to participate in its main competitions within that Membership Year.
- e) The Membership Year shall run for the twelve-month period from 1st April to 31st March.
- f) A member of the Association becomes a paid-up member through payment of any Association Pay to Play County component when participating in events at an affiliated Duplicate Bridge Club and/or through payment of an annual subscription fee for their Association membership category.
- g) If any member of the Association has not paid his annual subscription fee by 31 May, then he will not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting held in the remainder of that Membership Year.
- h) An Association member ceases to be a paid-up Association member on 31 May if at that date the Association member has not paid any outstanding annual subscription fee. That member can subsequently become a paid-up Association member on payment of the current Membership Year's subscription fee, but this late payment shall not override clause 3.7 above.
- i) For the avoidance of doubt, if an Association member is within a membership category that has a nil Association Pay to Play County component and a nil annual subscription fee for a Membership Year, then that member shall automatically become a paid up Association member for that Membership Year.

- j) The Association Pay to Play County component and each of the Association member category's annual subscription fee, for the Membership Year starting in the following 1 April, shall be determined by a simple majority of the paid up members at the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- k) The Association membership categories shall be as follows:
 - a. Ordinary Association Member - a Player Member of the EBU who has his primary allegiance recorded with the Association on 1 April of the Membership Year. An Ordinary Association Member shall also be a new Player Member of the EBU whose EBU membership start date is within the Membership Year and that member's primary allegiance is recorded with the Association on their EBU membership start date.
 - b. Dual Member - a Player Member of the EBU who does not have his primary allegiance recorded with the Association by 1st April of the Membership Year.

4. MEMBERS UNDERTAKING

All members of the Association undertake to observe the Regulations and Byelaws of the EBU and to be bound by its decisions and to consent to the publication of any offence found and any disciplinary action imposed by the EBU. The Association shall have the powers and the procedures for the enforcement of this requirement as are set out in the schedule to this Constitution (which shall stand as part of the Constitution and be subject to the same provisions as the Constitution for its amendment).

5. CLUB AFFILIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS

All subscription shall be due on 1st April each year. The annual subscription for Clubs shall be agreed at a General Meeting of the Association and will include such sums as are necessary for EBU affiliation and a Master Point License. The subscriptions should be paid to the Membership Secretary of the Association who will forward to the EBU a list of affiliated Clubs and the remittance for the EBU subscription for the year.

6. PRESIDENT

- a) Any member of the Association may nominate a person to be President of the Association. A President so nominated who consents to act shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority of the Managing Committee and may be removed by a similar such majority. The President will be ex-officio a member of the Managing Committee and all its sub-committees.
- b) A Vice-President (or Vice-Presidents) may be elected by members at a General Meeting. Nominations for this position will be made by the Managing Committee who will seek the views of affiliated clubs. Election will be made by simple majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting.
- c) The term of office of a Vice-President will be at the discretion of the Managing Committee.

- d) In the absence of the President, and Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Managing Committee will act as Chairman at any General Meeting of the Association. A Vice-President will not be a member of the Managing Committee.

7. MANAGEMENT

- a) The Managing Committee of the Association shall consist of one delegate from each affiliated Club which has 8 or more members and an additional delegate from Clubs with more than 30 members.
- b) Private members and members only of Clubs who do not qualify by reason of their size shall be represented on the Committee by one delegate who shall be known as the 'members delegate'. This delegate shall be appointed by agreement between private members and members of small Clubs who are present at a General Meeting. All members shall declare their Club of allegiance for the purpose of determining the membership of a Club. The number of members in a Club shall be taken as the number of subscriptions paid through the Club to the County Association in the preceding year. Should a Club become entitled to an additional delegate during the year then that delegate will be entitled to join the Managing Committee forthwith.
- c) The Managing Committee is empowered to appoint a Chairman, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, a Tournament Organiser, a Captain and any other officers from their members, or to fill any, or all such positions from within the Association. Such officers shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Committee, and have a vote therein, but if also a delegate they shall only be entitled to one vote. The Managing Committee may appoint sub-committees for any specific purpose and members of such sub-committees need not be members of the Managing Committee.

8. DELEGATES

As soon as possible after 1st March and not later than 15th March each year, Clubs shall inform the Secretary of the names and addresses of their nominated delegates for the ensuing year commencing 1st April. Clubs will be entitled at any time to replace their delegates.

9. MEETINGS

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the Cambridge University Easter Term, but not later than 30th May, of each year. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to all affiliated Clubs.
- b) Other General Meetings shall be held within 90 days of receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing signed by 20 members or as directed by the Chairman of the Managing Committee.
- c) Committee Meetings shall be held at such times as the Committee may decide, or as directed by the Chairman of the Managing Committee.
- d) 30 days' notice shall be given for any General Meeting and 7 days' notice for all Committee meetings. Notice of a general meeting may be given by

publication of the date thereof on the website of the Association and by e-mail to the secretary or other proper officer of each affiliated club.

- e) 15 members shall form a quorum for any General Meeting and 5 for any Committee Meeting.

10. ACCOUNTS

Audited accounts shall be made up to 31st March each year for submission by the Managing Committee to the Annual General Meeting.

11. VOTING

At all meetings voting shall be by show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by any five members. In case of equality of voting the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

12. ALTERATIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION

No alteration shall be made to this constitution except at a general meeting by a resolution carried by at least two thirds of the votes cast at a general meeting and notice of any alterations to be proposed must be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary, so that it can be circulated with the notice of such meeting.

13. RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for inclusion in the Agenda for a General Meeting must be sent to the Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting. This Constitution and any Resolutions passed at previous meetings shall not be substantially altered or revoked unless notice is given in the notice convening the General Meeting. Such resolutions or amendments will require a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting.

14. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association may be dissolved at a General Meeting provided at least two thirds of the members present on the date of the General Meeting positively vote for its dissolution. The assets of the Association on a dissolution shall be donated to a charity or charities decided by the members attending the General Meeting at which the resolution for dissolution is passed.

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

1. This Schedule is required by Section 4 of the Constitution of the Association and prescribes the powers and procedures for enforcing it.
2. The Committee of the Association shall appoint a Conduct Committee and shall have power from time to time as it may think fit to vary the composition of that Committee. The number of members of the said Committee shall not be fewer than three nor more than seven. A quorum for any meeting of the Conduct Committee shall be three of its members for the time being. It shall act by simple majority vote and its appointed Chairman (or whomsoever in his absence the Committee shall select to chair its meeting) shall have a second and casting vote in the event that there is parity of voting.
3.
 - (i) The Association shall act by its Conduct Committee for the enforcement of the standards prescribed in the said Section 4 of its Constitution.
 - (ii) The procedures of the said committee shall conform mutatis mutandis to those prescribed in the Bye-Laws of the English Bridge Union for enquiry by its Laws and Ethics Committee into allegations of misconduct by individual members. It shall have powers to make findings and decisions consequent thereon in respect of allegations brought to its attention: to be entertained by the said Conduct Committee an allegation that an individual members of the Association has not confirmed to the said standards in (i) herefor shall be made in writing, lodged with the Chairman, or Secretary of the Association and referred to its said Conduct Committee.
 - (iii) At any time after it has duly received an allegation in the aforementioned manner the Conduct Committee shall have power (whether it has commenced any procedure in respect thereof or not) to refer that allegation to the English Bridge Union for the consideration of its Laws and Ethics Committee in the manner prescribed in the said Union's Bye-Laws, and in so doing it shall have fully discharged its responsibilities under this schedule.
 - (iv) Where the Conduct Committee does not use its power in (iii) above and after it has duly enquired into an allegation concerning an individual member and has found him to be in default of the before mentioned standards, the Conduct Committee shall have powers to decide as it may think fit to select and give effect to one or more of the following provisions in relation thereto:
 - (a) that the said individual member shall be rebuked;
 - (b) that the said individual member shall be censured and admonished;
 - (c) that the said individual member shall be barred from all or such as it shall specify of the competitions sponsored or licensed by the Association for such period as it shall determine.
4.
 - (i) The findings and decisions of the Conduct Committee under Section 3 above shall be delivered to the individual member in writing and shall have effect 21 days thereafter EXCEPT that the said individual member shall have the right to appeal the said findings and decisions other than the exercise of powers in 3 (iii) above within the said period of 21 days. Such appeal shall be put in writing and delivered to the Secretary of the Association within the said period.

- (ii) In the event of such appeal any decision to apply the foregoing sections (iv) (a), (b) or (c), shall not take effect until the appeal has been determined.
- (iii) Any such appeal shall be referred to an Appeal Committee to be appointed by the English Bridge Union acting by its Laws and Ethics Committee. The said Appeals Committee shall be fully empowered to consider and enquire into the matter appealed in such manner as it shall think fit to determine the outcome of the Appeal and to confirm or vary the findings and decisions of the Conduct Committee in relation to the matter appealed (but not to impose any penalty which it was not within the power of the Conduct Committee to impose). Alternatively the Appeal Committee shall have the power to decide that the allegation is one that shall be referred to the said Laws and Ethics Committee as an allegation of misconduct under the Bye-Laws of the Union relating to Conduct whereupon such referral shall occur, the prior findings and decision of the Conduct Committee in relation to the matter shall be nullified, and the individual member shall be so informed.