

# **Constitution of the Bankers Bridge Club**

## **Interpretation**

The Club Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the provisions of this Constitution and any policy matters now existing or made hereunder and any decision or interpretation by the Club Committee shall, in all matters affecting the Club, be conclusive and binding on all Club Members.

References in this Constitution to the masculine shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be read as including the feminine.

## **1. Name**

The name of the Club shall be the Bankers Bridge Club.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the Club shall be to operate a bridge club, to encourage the playing of bridge and to provide social amenities in connection therewith.

## **3. Location**

The location of the Club shall be such place as is, from time to time, decided by the members on the recommendation of the Club Committee, having regard to the history of the Club. The Club Committee may in the event of the normal club location becoming temporarily unavailable, make arrangements for the Club to be based in an alternative location.

## **4. Affiliations**

The Club shall be affiliated to the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland.

## **5. Membership**

Membership shall consist of those persons whose names appear on the Register of Members on the date of adoption of this Constitution and all those persons subsequently elected as members in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 6 herein, so long as their names are recorded in the Register of Members, which register shall be maintained by the Honorary Secretary.

## **6. Election of Members**

6.1 Membership shall be open to any person who undertakes in writing to be bound by the Constitution of the Club and who is elected in accordance with the procedures laid down in this Article.

6.2 A person wishing to apply for membership shall submit to the Honorary Secretary a completed application form, which shall be in such form and contain such information as the Club Committee shall from time to time, determine.

6.3 An applicant for membership shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the Club who have been members for not less than four years and who confirm in writing that the applicant is known to them personally.

6.4 The election of members shall, subject to Article 6.6, below, be decided by the approval of a majority of Club Committee Members present at the Club Committee Meeting at which the application is considered.

6.5 In considering an application for membership, the Committee may take into account such matters as they see fit including (but not limited to) capacity of the Club and grade of the applicant.

6.6 Following Committee approval, a notice containing the names of approved applicants shall be posted on the Club Notice Board in the Bridge Room on Club Bridge Nights for two consecutive weeks. On the expiration of the two weeks, the Club Committee shall consider objections, if any, to any applicant made by any member prior to final decision by the Club Committee. Where no objections are received, the Committee's approval shall be deemed final on the expiration of the two weeks.

## **7. Rights of Members**

All members shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings of the Club, and to hold office as a Club Officer or Ordinary Club Committee Member, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 10. All members are eligible to be nominated to any sub-committee established by the Club Committee.

## **8. Officers**

8.1 The Officers of the Club shall be the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

8.2 The Vice-President shall be a Club Member proposed by the President to be his successor as President.

8.3 With the exception of the Vice-President, no member of the Club shall simultaneously hold more than one Office of the Club.

8.4 The President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and shall retire at the following Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting following his election to the office.

8.5 The President may not serve for more than two consecutive years and shall not be eligible to serve on the Club Committee in any capacity, for a period of three years, after he ceases to be President, except in the capacity described in Article 9.8.

8.6 The Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall retire annually at the following Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election at each of the two Annual General Meetings following election to the office.

8.7 The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may not serve for more than three consecutive years and shall not be eligible to serve on the Club Committee in any capacity, save as President or Vice-President, for a period of two years after they cease to hold such office.

8.8 The Vice-President shall commence his appointment at the relevant Annual General Meeting and shall hold that office only until the immediately following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for election as Club President.

## **9. Club Committee**

9.1 Following the adoption of this constitution the Club Committee and all subsequent Club Committees shall normally consist of the following eleven (11) persons:

- I. President
- II. Honorary Secretary
- III. Honorary Treasurer
- IV. Seven Ordinary Committee Members
- V. The immediate past President or, in the second year of a President's term, the Vice-President.

9.2 The foregoing shall be elected to the Club Committee in accordance with the following procedures. Each of the President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President shall commence their respective appointments to such offices at the relevant Annual General Meeting and shall hold such appointment until the following Annual General Meeting.

9.4 Ordinary Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual General meeting. At each Annual General Meeting following the adoption of this Constitution, two of the Ordinary Committee Members shall retire from office and shall, subject to the provisions below, be eligible for re-election to the Committee. The persons to retire shall, in the first instance, be any Committee Member who has, pursuant to Article 9.7, been co-opted to the Committee, secondly, any Committee Member who wishes to retire and, thereafter, those who have been longest in office. In the case of equal seniority, the persons to retire shall be chosen by lot.

9.5 An Ordinary Committee Member shall be eligible for election to the Club Committee as an Ordinary Committee Member for two successive terms, provided that these two terms shall not exceed five years in aggregate. Following retirement from the Committee, a person shall not be eligible for election to the Club Committee for two years unless as a Club Officer.

9.6 Following the adoption of this Constitution each of the serving Ordinary Committee Members shall be eligible to offer himself for re-election to the Club Committee without regard to the length of his previous service on the Club Committee.

9.7 In the event of a vacancy arising, the Club Committee may co-opt a Club member to the Club Committee and that member shall continue as a member of the Club Committee until the next Annual General Meeting of the Club and shall then be eligible for election to the Committee in the normal way.

9.8 The immediate past President shall be a member of the Club Committee for a period of one year after he ceases to hold the office of President, unless he chooses not to serve.

9.9 The business of the Club shall be managed by the Club Committee including, but not limited to, such matters regarding the formation of tables, table money, fixing of Club stakes, hours of play and conduct of competitions as the Club Committee shall, from time to time, see fit.

9.10 The Club Committee may exercise its powers notwithstanding a vacancy.

9.11 The Club Committee shall meet at least four times annually at such time as the President shall direct and, also, on a requisition by three (3) members of the Club Committee. A quorum shall be

deemed to be established if not less than six (6) members of the Club Committee are in attendance.

9.12 At all meetings of the Club Committee, the Chair shall normally be taken by the President. In the absence of the President, the Chair shall be taken by a member of the Club Committee selected at the meeting.

9.13 The Club Committee may, from time to time, appoint such sub-committees consisting of Club members as it may deem necessary or expedient for the efficient administration of the Club and may delegate to such sub-committee such of the powers of the Club Committee as the Club Committee deems appropriate. At least one member must be a Club Committee member.

9.14 The Honorary Secretary shall ensure that adequate records of Club Committee meetings, Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings and correspondence are kept.

## **10. Election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members**

The names of any club member nominated for election as a Club Officer or Ordinary Committee Member, together with the names of his proposer and seconder, shall be given to the Honorary Secretary, in writing, not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall be notified to Club Members by electronic means or by post and posted on the Club Notice Board in the Bridge Room for at least one (1) Club Bridge Night prior to the Annual General Meeting.

## **11. Subscriptions and Fees**

The Annual Subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Club Committee. All such subscriptions shall be due on 1<sup>st</sup> September each year. Any member whose Annual Subscription remains unpaid on 30<sup>th</sup> November shall automatically cease to be a member of the Club.

## **12. Accounts**

12.1 The Honorary Treasurer shall ensure that proper books of account are kept, showing the financial affairs, receipts and disbursements of the Club. The Honorary Treasurer shall, at least quarterly, furnish the Club Committee with an up to date statement of account.

12.2 The accounts of the Club shall be audited annually by a suitably qualified person, who may be a member of the Club but who shall not be a member of the Club Committee.

12.3 The draft annual audited accounts shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting of the Club. A copy of the draft accounts, in paper format, shall be made available by the Honorary Secretary to any Club member, on request.

## **13 Disciplinary Powers of the Club**

13.1 All disciplinary powers of the Club shall be vested in the Club Committee except where otherwise stated.

13.2 In the event of a written complaint being made against any Club Member which, if established, would justify disciplinary action of any sort, the Club Committee shall first determine whether the member has a case to answer. If the Club Committee so decides, it shall not exercise any of the powers given to it under this Constitution unless such Member has been notified in writing of the complaint made against him and the date specified in Article 13.3 shall have passed.

13.3 Any notice issued, pursuant to Article 13.2, shall state the date by which such member shall, if he so wishes, provide a response to the Club Committee, such date being such as to allow to such member a reasonable time to prepare a response, should he wish to do so.

13.4 At all times the procedures, including those above, must, in the view of the Club Committee, be fair for both the complainant (or complainants) and the member concerned. No findings of disputed fact shall be made by the Club Committee unless both the complainant (or complainants) and the member concerned have been given an opportunity to attend and speak at a meeting of the Club Committee or to make a written submission for consideration by the Club Committee.

13.5 In the event of a Club Member acting contrary to this Constitution or conducting himself, in or out of the Club, in a manner which in the opinion of the Club Committee may injure or discredit the character of the Club, the Club Committee shall have power by a vote of a majority of its Members convened for the purpose.

(a) to suspend such Club Member until the next subsequent Annual General Meeting or for such lesser time as it may, in its absolute discretion, think fit. At such Club Committee meeting the Member whose suspension is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation for his conduct verbally or in writing. The Club Committee shall be the sole judges of fact as to whether a Club Member has so acted or so conducted himself. Any person suspended under this Article shall forthwith cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of Membership; or

(b) to call upon the Club Member to resign. At such Club Committee meeting, the Club Member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation of his conduct verbally or in writing. If having considered such explanation, the Club Committee again calls upon the Club Member in question to resign and if the said Club Member fails within fourteen days of the date of the Club Committee's request to tender such resignation, such Club Member shall be expelled by the approval by members of a Special Resolution at a General Meeting of the Club.

#### **14. Annual General Meeting**

14.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of July or at any such other time in each year as the Club Committee may decide for receiving the annual audited accounts of the Club, for election of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members, and transacting such other business of the Club as the Committee may determine, including any resolutions submitted by members in accordance with Article 14.3 herein.

14.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be posted on the Club notice board for at least three (3) Club Bridge Nights prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall also be sent by electronic means or by post to members not less than twenty-one (21) days before such meeting.

14.3 All resolutions to be proposed by Club Members at the Annual General Meeting shall be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen (14) days before the date of such meeting. Any resolution proposed by Club Members shall be proposed and seconded by two (2) Club Members. Any such resolutions received by the Honorary Secretary shall be posted on the Club notice board for at least one (1) Club Bridge Night before such Annual General Meeting and shall also be sent by electronic means or by post to Club Members.

14.4 The President shall preside at the Annual General Meeting of the Club until the election of the new President, who shall take the Chair immediately following his election.

### **15. Extraordinary General Meetings**

15.1 The Club Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of members at any time. Notice of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be posted on the Club notice board for at least two (2) Club Bridge Nights prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting and shall also be sent to members by electronic means or by post not less than fourteen (14) days before the date on which the meeting is to take place.

15.2 The Club Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within thirty (30) days of receipt of a requisition to the Honorary Secretary, signed by at least twenty (20) members, stating the business proposed to be conducted. Fourteen (14) days' notice of the date of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be sent to members by electronic means or by post and shall also be posted on the Club Notice Board for at least one (1) Club Bridge Night.

### **16. Voting**

16.1 Voting by Club Members at general meetings and by Club Committee members at Club Committee meetings shall be by a show of hands or by ballot by direction of the chairperson and no vote shall be by proxy.

16.2 A simple majority of Club Members present and voting shall be sufficient approval of all resolutions put to Club members at general meetings of the Club, save in the case of Special Resolutions as provided in Article 17 herein.

16.3 At all meetings, whether of the Club Committee or of the Club, the Chairperson shall in the event of a tie have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member.

### **17. Special Resolutions**

A Special Resolution is a resolution which will change this Constitution in any way or which calls for the winding-up of the Club or which calls for the expulsion of a Club Member pursuant to Article 13.5. Special Resolutions shall be proposed by the Club Committee or by not less than 5% of Club Members or a minimum of seven (7) members, whichever number is the greater. To be valid, a Special Resolution shall be passed by not less than a two thirds majority of those members present and voting at the General Meeting at which it is proposed.

### **18. Winding-up**

If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Club there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other institution having objectives similar to those of the Club. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall, under its rules, prohibit the distribution of its income and property among its or their members. Members of the Club shall select the relevant institution at the general meeting at which the winding-up of the Club is approved, and in the event that effect cannot be given to such selection, the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.

**DATE**