

# CONSTITUTION FOR BRIDGE TENNIS CLUB (2017)

## 1. Description

The Club is a Members' Club, and is administered by its Committee. Its objects are to provide tennis, sporting and social activities for its Members, and subject to this, the Club is non-profit making. Any surplus funds raised by the Club's activities shall be applied only in furthering the said objects. None of the Club's funds or assets shall be paid or transferred without charge to its Members, save as hereinafter provided on any dissolution of the club. In furtherance of such objects the Club may:

- (a) Charge membership subscriptions at the figure recommended by the Committee, or as agreed by the Members at an Annual General or Special General Meeting (AGM and SGM).
- (b) Raise funds by such actions as the Committee or the Members may from time to time agree.
- (c) Buy, lease, hire or exchange any property (whether real or personal).
- (d) Borrow or lend funds for such purposes as the Members may from time to time agree.
- (e) Do such other lawful things as may be necessary.
- (f) Employ such persons to assist in the provision of the objects as may be thought necessary.
- (g) Keep such bank or other current or investment accounts for receipt and expenditure of the Club's monies, and all such accounts shall be in the name of the Club and administered only by the Committee, with a minimum number of two signatories for all cheques or other transactions.
- (h) Become an Associate of Kent County Lawn Tennis Association ("the County") and thereby to become an Associate of the Lawn Tennis Association Limited ("the LTA").

PROVIDED that such actions shall be approved by the Members at the AGM or at an SGM called by the Committee.

## 2. Committee

- (a) The Committee shall consist of not less than 4 nor more than 9 Members, to include a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. These positions may be filled by less than 3 Members.
- (b) The Committee may stand for re-election at the AGM together with other persons nominated by the Members of the Club. Such nominations shall be notified to the Secretary in writing or by e mail to be received no later than 14 days before the AGM. The Chairman of the AGM may exercise discretion to accept nominations from the floor. A Chairman and Vice -Chairman of the Committee shall also be elected at the AGM.

- (c) In the event that there is a deficiency in the numbers on the Committee, the Committee may at any time during the Club year (which runs from 1st April to 31st March), co-opt persons to serve on the Committee. Decisions made by the Committee need a quorum of 4 except where there are only 4 sitting when the quorum will be 3, or if there is no such quorum, such decisions must be ratified by the Committee at the next most convenient date.
- (d) All decisions of the Committee shall be decided by a simple majority of the Members present and voting and in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman (or, in his absence, the Vice Chairman,) shall have an additional vote.
- (e) A committee meeting date may, if necessary, be fixed at the request of no less than 5 committee members.
- (f) No member with a material financial interest in the club will be eligible to join the committee.

### **3. Annual and Special General Meetings**

- (a) The AGM shall take place no later than the 30th April every year and notice of the Meeting shall be given at least 14 days in advance by e mail where possible or by post and by exhibiting a notice on the Clubhouse noticeboard. The Committee may call a SGM by giving a similar notice within the same time frame. On written request of at least two thirds of the adult Club Members (being paid up and full members), the Committee must call a SGM as set out above ,PROVIDED that the request shall state the Members' reasons for requesting such a meeting. All notices of General Meetings shall contain an agenda. At every General Meeting, the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman, shall chair the meeting, PROVIDED that if neither is present the Members shall elect a member of the Committee present to chair the meeting. All SGMs shall be notified by the Committee in a like manner to AGMs.
- (b) At General Meetings decisions shall be voted by a simple majority of the Members present and voting and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second vote. Votes will only be valid if made by full adult members who are paid up.
- (c) The Committee shall produce for the AGM the Club accounts for the relevant Club year for approval by the Meeting and the Members shall authorise the Committee as to the maximum expenditure which the Committee may pay in respect of any single payment during the coming year.
- (d) Any resolutions proposed by Members at General Meetings must be notified to the Committee in writing no less than 14 days before the date of the Meeting.

### **4. Rules and Disciplinary Codes**

- (a) The Club will operate in accordance with the Rules annexed to this document and the Committee shall have the discretionary power to amend the same (should circumstances require) in any one Club year, in which event the amendments must be approved by the subsequent AGM or by a SGM called for the purpose. Subject to this, amendments may be voted at General Meetings.

- (b) The Club and all Members shall accept, agree and shall be bound by the Rules and Disciplinary Codes ("the LTA Rules") of the LTA or such successor entity (as may become the governing body for the game of tennis from time to time), and the General Rules and Constitution ("the County Rules") of the County in force from time to time including amendments made hereafter, insofar as the same are relevant to the activities of the Club.
- (c) All coaches (whether registered or licensed, or not), coaches' assistants and all visitors to the Club for the purpose of playing tennis will be bound by the LTA Rules, the County rules, the rules of the Club and the terms of any contracts made between them and the Club.
- (d) All Members shall accept and be deemed to agree, and all persons mentioned in sub-clause (c) above shall also be deemed to agree that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 shall apply to any agreement between themselves and the Club, and that the LTA and the County may enforce any breach thereof but only insofar as it relates to a breach of the LTA and/or the County Rules. Such Rules are available on the LTA and County websites.
- (e) The Club may terminate the membership of any Member or impose any other sanction it deems appropriate in the event of any breach of the Rules of the Club or the LTA Rules or the County Rules.

## **5. Membership**

- (a) Persons wishing to join the Club shall be vetted and approved for acceptance by the Committee, whose decision shall be final. The Committee will keep a written record of any persons who have not been accepted.
- (b) The Committee may expel any Member for dishonesty, defamatory or unpleasant behaviour, physical abuse or failure to pay any sums (including subscriptions) due to the Club, PROVIDED that the decision is ratified by no less than two thirds of the Committee at the time of such decision to expel. Such expulsion shall operate immediately in the first four cases but in respect of failure to pay sums, the Committee shall give to the Member no less than one month's written notice by e mail and by post of such expulsion. If the Member pays such sums within the one month, then the Committee may, at its discretion, re-instate the Member on such terms as to the Committee shall seem appropriate. The Committee will keep a written record of such Members who have been expelled or who have been threatened with expulsion. Any Member so expelled shall have the right to bring the matter before the next General Meeting and if two thirds of the Members (including the Committee) present and voting at such a meeting so decide, then the Member may be re-admitted to the Club, subject to any terms that to the Meeting shall seem appropriate.
- (c) The Club may permit visitors to use the Club's facilities on payment of such fees as the Committee may decide from time to time, the object being to encourage visitors to become Members. The Club may from time to time , permit persons who have rendered services to the Club to use the Club's facilities free of charge on occasions to be determined by the Committee, for example Honorary Members.
- (d) The Committee may nominate to the AGM for election persons to stand as President and Vice President(s) of the Club or to become Honorary members. Such persons shall have no voting powers, shall not stand on the Committee and shall not exceed 10% of the Club's total membership.

- (e) The Committee shall propose to the AGM the subscriptions and all other sums payable by Members during the following year and the Members present shall vote upon them, PROVIDED that in circumstances that seem to the Committee may seem exceptional, such sums may be varied by the Committee during such year.

## **6. Minutes**

The Committee shall keep written Minutes of all Committee and General Meetings and shall have absolute discretion to remove from such Minutes any matters which seem to them to be of a confidential or personal nature and to keep such matters in a written record but not publish them. Such matters may include (but shall not be limited to) items relating to the expulsion of or payment failure by Members. Subject only to this, such Minutes will be published on the Clubhouse notice board after they have been approved by the Committee next meeting.

## **7. General Powers**

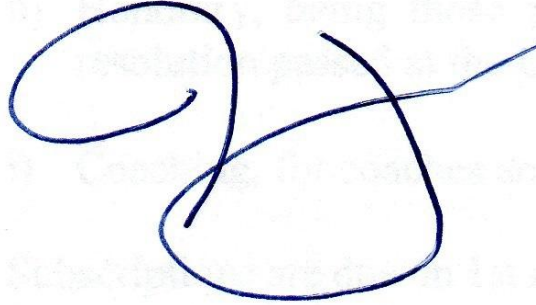
Subject to this Constitution, the Committee shall have power from time to time to make regulations for the proper management of the Club, for the calling and conduct of meetings, for the administration of the Club's bank and/or Savings Accounts and for custody of documents.

## **8. Dissolution of the Club**

- (a) The Club may be dissolved by the resolution of no less than two thirds of its voting Members at a General Meeting provided that those members are paid-up and full adult members.
- (b) No less than 28 days advance notice must be given in writing to the Committee and to all Members of such resolution and the Meeting shall be advertised in a suitable local newspaper, with a notice of it given to the LTA and the Kent County Tennis Association.
- (c) The Meeting shall appoint a Committee of no less than 5 Members (including a Chairman and Vice -Chairman) to wind up the affairs of the Club and to fix a date when the use of the Club's facilities shall cease. The Committee will further give directions as to the disposal of the Club's fixed assets, including the transfer of the courts surfaces, netting, fencing, lighting and the Clubhouse to the Club's Landlord, Bridge Parish Council (or its successors in title) or, should the said council not wish to accept such transfers, or be unable to so accept, then directions will be given for such transfers in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (d) below.

- (d) Any remaining assets, together with those not transferred under sub-clause (c) above and the Club's funds, shall be realised and/or transferred to such other charitable or non-profit organisation as to the said Committee may seem appropriate, PROVIDED that the Committee may elect in its absolute discretion and subject to the availability of funds, refund to Members the unused parts of their subscriptions and their Clubhouse key deposits or sell any non-fixed assets to Members.

**Signed, JOHN MORGAN, Chairman  
2016**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**This constitution was agreed and passed by the AGM of 22nd March 2012  
and incorporates the amendments that have been made since  
that AGM and will be reviewed annually as before.**