

# **Rules of the London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association**

## ***Name***

1. The Association shall be called the London Business Houses Contract Bridge Association and, subject to a decision of the AGM, shall be affiliated to the English Bridge Union.

## ***Objects***

2. The objects of the Association shall be to promote interest and organise competitions in Contract Bridge and uphold the laws and ethics of the recognised governing bodies.

## ***Organisation***

3. The Association shall comprise Contract Bridge Clubs, constituted under the aegis of Business Houses, having their headquarters within twenty-five miles of the Royal Exchange and playing facilities in the Central London area. The term 'Business Houses' should be understood to include Banks, Commercial Houses, Insurance Companies, Post Offices, Corporations and such other organisations as may be approved by the Committee. All member clubs shall pay any annual subscription as may be determined under Rule 18b.

## ***Administration***

4. The general management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee elected annually from the membership of the Clubs that are members of the Association, consisting of:

*Chairman*

*Vice-chairman*

*Honorary Treasurer*

*Honorary Secretary*

*Tournament Manager*

*Honorary Results Secretary*

*Honorary Master Points Secretary*

*Two other members*

Provided that any one or more offices may be combined and held by one person. The Trustees of the Association shall be the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary for the time being.

5. No person shall be eligible for election to the Committee unless they are at the time of election a member of a member club.
6. Should a vacancy occur on the Committee through resignation or otherwise, the remaining members of the Committee shall have power to fill such vacancy by co-opting a person who is eligible for election to the Committee.

7. The Committee shall hold meetings when necessary. At such meetings three shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-chairman will officiate. In the absence of both Chairman and Vice-chairman the members present shall proceed to elect a Chairman for the time being. At Committee meetings the Chairman shall have an additional or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
8. All communications shall be addressed to the Honorary Secretary who shall conduct all correspondence and keep a record of all proceedings.

### ***Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents***

9. The Association may or may not adopt an Honorary President and/or any number of Honorary Vice Presidents. A nomination for Vice President shall normally be in recognition of exceptional service to the Association.

The adoption of such persons shall be the majority decision of the voting membership present at a General Meeting of the Association.

### ***Powers and Duties of the Committee***

10. The Committee shall have power to make bye-laws and enter into any activity for promoting the objects of the Association and to make arrangements for conducting matches, tournaments and competitions, and sending representative teams to tournaments and spending money for the purpose of providing prizes for competitions and meeting expenses incidental thereto.
11. The Committee may charge entry fees and table-money at such rates as it may deem appropriate.
12. The Committee may form sub-committees and co-opt any person onto the Committee or any Sub-committee for the purpose of conducting the business of the Association. Persons so co-opted shall have no voting powers whilst serving unless the Committee decides otherwise.
13. The Committee shall have power to request any affiliated club to resign or to determine any membership without explanation, but for the purpose of this rule the vote of no less than two-thirds of the whole Committee shall be necessary. There shall be a right of appeal to the membership present immediately following an Annual General Meeting under Rule 18f. Pending resolution of an appeal such Club shall be suspended.

### ***Finance***

14. All subscriptions, entry fees or table-monies received shall be regarded as monies of the Association.
15. The Honorary Treasurer shall bank all monies to the Account of the Association and be responsible for the payment of all necessary expenditure.
16. Cheques drawn on the Association shall be signed by two of the following: Honorary Treasurer, Chairman, Vice-chairman and Honorary Secretary or a Committee member who has formerly held one of those offices.
17. The financial year shall be from 1st August to 31st July.

## ***General Meetings***

18. A General Meeting of the Association shall be held every year not later than the end of September to transact the following business:
  - a) To receive and if approved to adopt a statement of the accounts to the end of the preceding year.
  - b) To fix the annual subscription of the members.
  - c) To consider and sanction any alterations to the Rules and Bye-laws.
  - d) To elect the officers and members of the Committee.
  - e) To appoint an Auditor or Auditors (who shall not be members of the Committee).
  - f) To deal with any matter which the Committee or members may decide to bring before the meeting.
19. Notice of a General Meeting shall be sent to clubs that are members of the Association not less than twenty-one days before the meeting.
20. Any resolution to be included in the agenda of the General Meeting shall be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than ten days before the date of the meeting; provided that any resolution may be discussed and voted on at a General Meeting notwithstanding that the requisite notice has not been given if the majority of the persons present assent thereto and the Chairman at his discretion considers that members not present at such meeting will not be prejudiced.
21. Each Club shall be entitled to send two delegates to any General Meeting but should only one delegate attend they shall have only one vote. Delegates must be members of a member Club.
22. Upon receipt of a request signed by not less than ten Clubs, the Honorary Secretary shall call a Special Meeting within twenty-one days. The Committee may call a Special Meeting at any time they consider necessary.
23. Any decision of the majority present at a General Meeting shall be binding on all members of the Association. In the event that a motion to determine the Association is passed, the Trustees will have sole discretion in the disposal of assets to any recognised charity or charities, after all liabilities have been met.

## ***Trophies***

24. All permanent trophies shall remain the property of the Association. Clubs holding such trophies will be required to acknowledge this and guarantee their safekeeping to the satisfaction of the Committee.

**Revised 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009**