

THE TIMARU BRIDGE CLUB INCORPORATED BYLAWS

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1. **PLAYING DIVISIONS**

The Club Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) may, from time to time, create playing divisions for the purpose of providing reasonable standards of play, and distribution of numbers of members playing Contract Bridge.

2. **CONSTITUTION OF PLAYING DIVISIONS**

Each Playing Division shall each year elect a Committee to manage its affairs for the ensuing year. These committees shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, and at least five other members. Divisional Committees shall hereafter take office immediately following the Club Annual General Meeting that follows their election.

An Annual General Meeting for each Playing Division shall be held before 31st October in each year. Posting a notice to that effect on the Notice Board of that Division must occur at least **28** days prior to the meeting.

An Agenda for the **Annual General Meeting** shall be posted 14 days prior to the AGM. Any member who wishes to propose a Remit for consideration or a subject to be discussed at the Divisional AGM must notify the Divisional Secretary or in his / her absence a Committee member **15 days** before the AGM.

Nominations for Divisional Office Bearers and Committee – At least 28 days before the AGM a Nomination Sheet shall be posted which provides for those seeking election and their Proposers & Seconders to sign appropriately. Nominations shall close **7 days** prior to the AGM.

If insufficient nominations are received – Those nominated shall be duly elected. Further nominations may be taken from the floor of the AGM for any remaining vacant positions or in the case of no further nominations the incoming Committee may second to fill the vacancy.

Voting – Only persons who at the date of the Annual General Meeting have been members of that Division during the year may vote at this Annual General Meeting.

It shall be the responsibility of each Division Committee to make all arrangements for the programme of its Division, the setting up of the

rooms, the directing, scoring, and compilation of results, the tidying of the rooms and securing the building on each of its playing nights.

3. CONSTITUTION OF DIRECTORS' GROUP

There shall be a Directors' Group in the Club. This Group shall appoint its own committee to make recommendations to the Club Committee and the Club Committee shall appoint at least two members to that committee. The Group shall meet at least four times a year.

The group shall call an **Annual General Meeting before 31st October** in each year for the election of Chairperson and Secretary. Nominations, duly seconded, are to be given to the Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting

4. CLASSIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE CLUB

New members shall be admitted to the playing Division which the Committee considers appropriate to their experience and ability (and, where appropriate, their grading in their previous Club).

5. RE-GRADING OF MEMBERS BETWEEN DIVISIONS

The Club Committee will establish a Promotions Committee to ensure equity of playing skills within each Club division. The Promotions Committee shall;

- (1) Assess Player skills annually in time for the offer of promotion the following calendar year.
- (2) Determine promotion criteria relative to each Playing Division of the Club.
- (3) Manage the process of inviting players to accept promotion to a higher ranked Division than they currently play in.
- (4) Manage the playing skills inequity occurring in a Division where the offer of promotion is declined.
- (5) Oversee the process of reclassifying a player to a lower ranked Division of the Club at that person's request.
- (6) Consider any request for promotion from a Player who is keen to progress his/her Bridge but does not meet the current Promotions Criteria.
- (7) Advise the Division Chairpersons of any promotions offered in their respective Division.
- (8) Keep the Club Committee informed of any significant developments and provide a report to the Club Committee when necessary (or upon request)

6. PLAYING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- (1) Any silver player may, at any time, play in the gold group, and any bronze player may play in the silver group. When playing in a higher division, players are entitled to earn any C points and are eligible for prizes.

- (2) The Committee shall have power to fix times when it shall be open to members of all Divisions to play. The open times at present fixed are:
 - (a) Friday afternoons when any member of an affiliated Bridge Club may play.
 - (b) Other evenings or days when team matches, charity matches and other events decided by the Committee shall be played. These events are open to all divisions. Non members may play in Charity Matches.
 - (c) Holiday bridge nights at the end of the playing year, when non-members of the Club may also play.

7. LEARNERS' CLASSES

The Committee may, from time to time, arrange learners' classes for members and non-members, and may fix such charge as it may think fit, and may give such Learners' Classes the use of the Club Rooms at such time or times as it thinks fit.

8. TABLE FEES

The Table Fees for playing at the Club on any occasion (other than a Tournament) shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee.

9. VISITORS

- (1) Visitors who are members of another Bridge Club may play at the Club in the Playing Division equivalent to the standard of their Club, upon the following conditions:
 - (a) They shall pay normal table fees
 - (b) They shall, before playing, obtain the approval of a Division Committee member
 - (c) They shall not be eligible to qualify for Divisional or Club competitions
- (2) Visitors who are not members of another Bridge Club may play at the Club on nights other than the regular Playing Division nights upon the following conditions:
 - (a) They shall pay normal table fees
 - (b) They shall be introduced by a member who shall have obtained the prior approval of a member of the Club Committee to that visitor playing. The member introducing shall be responsible for the visitor
- (3) These rules shall not apply to persons who are members of a Learners' Group organised by the Club or approved by the Committee who are taking part in a regular course of lessons on the premises of the Club.
- (4) These rules shall not apply to Tournaments.

(5) Holiday Bridge may be held at the of the playing year and shall be open to members and visitors who need not be a member of any Bridge Club, and shall not require any prior approval to their playing in the Club.

10. TOURNAMENTS

The Committee shall be the controlling authority for tournaments, with power to co-opt other members.

11. TOSSING FOR POSITION

Before the start of play on any Club night, players shall toss for position save where a member has approval of the Committee to sit in a particular position. On the toss being made, the pair who wins the toss shall sit North South.

A member who wishes to have sitting or moving rights for the year must apply to the Divisional Committee each year. A member who wishes to have temporary sitting or moving rights may do so on the approval of the Divisional Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

It is expected that players with sitting rights and players with moving rights should endeavour to start at the same table.

12. PARTNERS

No person shall be permitted to play with the Director unless there is no Director available and a person who is playing agrees to act as Director. The Director may play for short periods in the absence of any player, or while awaiting the arrival of a partner if it has been previously ascertained that such person is coming.

13. PUBLICATION OF BY-LAWS

A copy of these By-Laws shall be kept posted on the General Notice Board of the Club

30 May 2024