

# NORTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

*(Revised 2005)*

### 1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "THE NORTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION" hereinafter referred to as "The Association".

### 2. OBJECTS

- (a) The objects of The Association will be to organise, manage and control or provide for the organisation, management and control of Contract Bridge, particularly competitive bridge, in that part of Wales north of a straight line joining Dolgellau and Welshpool (but excluding those towns) extended west to the coast, and east to the English border, or such other areas as may be determined by the Welsh Bridge Union
- (b) Generally to consider, decide upon, control, manage and do all such matters and things necessary or expedient from time to time for the benefit and advancement of duplicate bridge within the sphere of influence of The Association.
- (c) The Association shall have no jurisdiction over any domestic arrangement & or events within the purview of individual clubs unless such matters are specifically referred to The Association.

### 3. ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

#### (a) **Affiliated Clubs.**

A club with eight or more members with an identifiable playing location within North Wales, as defined in Section 2.1.1 of the Welsh Bridge Union Constitution, may apply for affiliation to The Association. The club must provide its name, location, the name and address of a club secretary, the names of its members who are individual members of The Association and the Welsh Bridge Union and an affiliation fee to be determined by The Association and the Welsh Bridge Union payable on initial affiliation. Affiliation will automatically lapse when one year passes in which the club fails to record at least eight paid-up members of The Association and the Welsh Bridge Union. Each affiliated club shall be responsible for the collection of and passing on to the Honorary Treasurer of the Welsh Bridge Union, the annual Area Subscription and the annual Welsh Bridge Union Subscription of its members who are individual members of The Association and the Welsh Bridge Union.

#### (b) **Membership**

There shall be three classes of individual members designated

##### (i). Honorary Life Member :-

Any individual so elected by the council being a person who in the Council's opinion is worthy of the distinction by virtue of his position or his services to the game of contract bridge.

##### (ii). Member:-

An individual who is a member of an affiliated club and who has paid to that club the annual subscription of the Welsh Bridge Union. Any individual who is a member of more than one affiliated club may designate which is the club through which his membership is to be recorded. An individual who has failed to pay the annual subscription of The Association and the annual subscription of the Welsh Bridge Union within six months of the same/being due, shall cease to be a member of The Association and The Welsh Bridge Union.

(iii). Direct Member :-

Any person who is not a member of an affiliated club shall be eligible to apply to the Honorary Secretary of The Association to become a direct member. A direct member shall cease to be a member of The Association if he fails to pay the annual subscription of The Association within six months of the same being due.

4. COUNCIL

The management of The Association shall be vested in a Council which shall comprise all members nominated annually by the affiliated clubs. Club secretaries shall notify the Secretary of The Association by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year of their representatives and reserve representatives on the Council and of subsequent changes in nominations. Clubs shall have the right to nominate the following representatives and, in the event of the inability of a nominated representative to attend, may send a named reserve representative with voting power:-

Clubs having 8-15 fully paid members of The Association and the W. B. U. shall have ONE representative.

Clubs having 16-30 fully paid members of The Association and the W.B.U. shall have TWO representatives.

Clubs having 31 + fully paid members of The Association and the W.B.U. shall have THREE representatives.

5. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a). **Election of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.**

The posts of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and the Council may pay such reasonable honoraria as they think fit. The Council shall elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from either (i) the Council members or (ii) persons who are members of The Association but not of the Council. Any official who is not an elected member of the Council shall have no vote, but a Chairman who is not an elected member shall have a casting vote. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected annually, but shall be eligible for re-election each year. Nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman must be in writing and be received by the Secretary 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. In the event that no nominations are received for either Chairman or Vice-Chairman, Council may appoint someone from the body of the members.

All individual members of The Association are entitled to be present at the Annual General Meeting and shall have one vote each. The Chairman of The Association shall have an additional casting vote if necessary. No proxies are allowed.

- (b). To elect or reject to membership clubs and/or individuals.
- (c). To co-opt any person for a specific purpose with the right to speak and vote only on that matter for which co-opted.
- (d). To organise tournaments and congresses.
- (e). To choose teams for representative matches.
- (f). To expel any club or member for infringement of the Constitution, for disobeying any ruling of the Council, or for conduct considered detrimental to the best interests of the game.
- (g). To control the finances of The Association and to negotiate with other bodies.  
A finance sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, Treasurer, Congress Organisers and one additional Council member shall meet at least once per year and shall:-
  - (i). receive an estimate of income and expenditure for the year.
  - (ii). monitor all items of expenditure of The Association
  - (iii). make recommendations to the Council on financial matters

- (iv). deal with other relevant financial matters of The Association,
- (h). To elect delegates to represent The Association on the Council of the Welsh Bridge Union.

## 6. MEETINGS

### (a). **Annual General Meetings.**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year when all members of affiliated clubs and individual members shall have the right to attend and vote. Fourteen days notice of such meeting shall be given. At such meeting the following business shall be transacted :-

- (i). Receive a report on the activities of The Association for the preceding year.
- (ii). Consider and, if approved, adopt the accounts for the preceding year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- (iii). Election of Auditors – in normal circumstances they shall continue in office from year to year, unless a fresh nomination is made, in which event it must be sent to the Secretary at least three weeks before the Annual General Meeting.
- (iv). To determine the scale of annual subscriptions which include the annual membership subscription of the Welsh Bridge Union.
- (V). To consider any alterations and/or additions to the Constitution.

### (b). **Extra General Meetings.**

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened at the request of any six members of Council. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall only consider the specific Items referred to in the request and no other items, Fourteen days notice of such meetings shall be given in writing and to include names, WBU numbers and signatures of all parties to the request.

### (c). **Council Meetings.**

The Council shall meet on at least three occasions during each calendar year.

### (d). **Quorum**

Seven members shall form a quorum at any meeting of The Association or Council with the exception of the finance sub-committee, which shall meet the requirements laid down in Section 5 Para (g).

## 7. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

No alterations or additions to this constitution shall be made without the consent of at least two-thirds of those voting at an annual general meeting or an Extraordinary general meeting called for this purpose and of which at least fourteen days notice shall be given to members together with a copy of the proposed alterations or additions.



