



CONSTITUTION

OF THE

WESTERN CAPE BRIDGE
UNION

("WCBU")

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1. NAME

1.1 The name of this organisation shall be the **Western Cape Bridge Union** (“the Union”), with its address at the portion of the premises hired by it at Erf 2187, Greenpoint, Cape Town.

1.2 For the purposes of the Constitution of this organisation, the three entities “Western Cape Bridge Union”, “Western Province Bridge Union” and “Cape Town Bridge Union” are considered synonymous and interchangeable. This Constitution applies equally to all three named entities. It is also a given fact that no other organisation lays claim to or makes use of the title of any of these named entities.

2. PURPOSES and JURISDICTION

2.1 The Union shall exist in its own right separately from its members, shall continue in existence without regard to any changes in the identity of its members or of its officers, and shall be able to sue and be sued in its own name.

2.2 The Union shall be and remain affiliated to the governing body of bridge in South Africa, the South African Bridge Federation (hereinafter referred to as the SABF).

2.3 Subject to the authority of the SABF and in accordance with this Constitution, the Union shall have and exercise its powers and functions within the Western Cape Province (hereinafter referred to as the Union’s area of jurisdiction).

2.4 No activity of the Union may directly or indirectly promote the economic self-interest of any member of the Union’s Executive Committee otherwise than by way of reasonable remuneration and to cover expenses for services rendered, which may not be excessive nor may benefit any person in a manner inconsistent with the Union’s objectives.

2.5 The Officers and other Executive Committee members shall not be remunerated for carrying out their duties as such, save for the direction of tournaments and the teaching of bridge.

2.6 No single person will be enabled directly or indirectly to control the decision making powers of the Union.

2.7 The Union shall not accept any donation which is either revocable at the instance of the donor, or which is subject to any term or condition which could enable the donor, or any person or commercial or other body of any kind connected to the donor, to derive any direct or indirect benefit from the application of such donation.

3 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Union shall be to develop and promote all matters pertaining to the game of contract bridge.

For these purposes, and without limiting this main objective, it shall *inter alia*:

3.1 maintain a bridge centre and, on terms that it deems fit, make it available and run face-to-face games for both players and learners;

3.2 seek sponsorships, and rent out its premises at the bridge centre;

3.3 act, subject to the authority of the SABF, as the controlling body of clubs duly affiliated to it in terms of 6 below;

3.4 organise, manage and control bridge events, contests, competitions and congresses, whether on-line or face-to-face at its centre or anywhere else within its area of jurisdiction;

3.5 maintain a web-site for the publication of relevant information, and to cater for newsletters, educational resources, Facebook etc.;

3.6 provide support to the bridge clubs affiliated to it;

3.7 provide opportunities to educate and advance players;

3.8 deal with disputes arising from or relating to the playing of bridge within its area of jurisdiction or on-line; provided that if any such dispute arises between one affiliated club and another, or between an affiliated club and a member of that club, and provided further that the parties thereto have exhausted all other means available to them under the constitutions of the relevant club(s), the Union may in its discretion either agree to attempt to help settle the dispute, or to make a decision on the dispute which will be final and binding on the parties to it, or to refer the matter to the SABF.

3.9 insofar as it considers in its sole discretion to be necessary and proper, represent affiliated clubs or player members in raising and dealing with matters with the SABF.

4 TAX STATUS

4.1 The Union shall take such steps as may be necessary to be approved as a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, 1962.

4.2 For this purpose three of its Executive Committee members, who shall not be connected with each other, shall accept fiduciary responsibility for the Union and shall ensure that it shall use its property, capital reserves and income for nothing but the purposes of its objectives and other functions set out in this Constitution, and in so doing shall ensure that no portion thereof be distributed to any person or organisation other than in the course of it functioning as a public benefit organisation as provided above.

4.3 The Union shall submit a copy of this Constitution, and of all amendments thereto, to the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service.

5 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Union shall be limited to bridge players who are ordinarily resident within the Western Cape, in which case:

5.1 Such members shall be liable to the Union for such subscription fees as the Union may in its sole discretion from time to time determine;

provided that the Union may determine different categories of membership and the amounts of such fees payable in respect of each.

- 5.2 Acting as agents for the Union, affiliated clubs may collect such subscription fees from their members, together with such subscription fees as are payable by their members to the SABF; and where members pay their Union subscription fees to the clubs, the clubs shall remit them to the Union by the due date determined by the Committee.
- 5.3 If the member concerned is not a member of a club affiliated to the Union, the member shall make payment directly to the Union.
- 5.4 Failing due payment of the above fees the Union may terminate membership of the player concerned.

6 AFFILIATION TO THE UNION

- 6.1 Any bridge club established within the area of jurisdiction of the Union may apply to become affiliated to the Union.
- 6.2 In considering the application the Union may take into account any feature which in its sole discretion is relevant, including but not limited to whether the terms of its constitution or any other founding document are acceptable, the club agreeing to comply with the Union's Constitution, and the number of the club's members.

7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE UNION

- 7.1 Each such meeting (hereinafter referred to as an AGM) shall be held on or before 30 April each year.
- 7.2 The Secretary shall give the Union's members and affiliated clubs twenty-one days' notice of such meeting, which shall include an agenda, the Secretary's minutes for the previous meeting, a copy of the annual report by the President for the period since the previous AGM, a copy of the Treasurer's annual financial report and, after due approval by the

Executive Committee, a copy of the annual financial statements for the year ended on 31 December of the previous year.

- 7.3 The quorum for an AGM shall be 21 members. If there is not a quorum, then the meeting shall be adjourned for 14 days and, whoever is then present, will constitute a quorum.
- 7.4 All members of the Union may attend and speak at the AGM, and such members alone may vote on any resolution, whether proposed in the agenda or at the meeting; for such purpose members may be represented by proxy, the process and timing thereof to be determined by the Executive Committee.
- 7.5 In addition to any other business, a maximum of ten members shall be elected to serve on the Executive Committee until the next AGM, whose positions thereon will be determined, as provided for in 8.3 below, by the Executive Committee itself at its first meeting after the AGM.
- 7.6 Save as otherwise expressly provided for herein, a simple majority will be sufficient for the passing of any resolution or election.

8 MANAGEMENT OF THE UNION – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 8.1 The Union shall be managed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee), all of whom shall have been elected at an AGM, and shall hold office until the next AGM.
- 8.2 No-one may be a member of the Committee who is not ordinarily resident within the area of jurisdiction of the Union.
- 8.3 At its first meeting the Committee shall from its number itself elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, and the remaining members shall serve as Additional Members.
- 8.4 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members, who as such will thereby also be Additional Members of the Committee for the balance of its annual appointment.

- 8.5 The Committee shall meet not less than every three calendar months at such day and time as the President shall direct, and the minutes of such meetings shall be published on the Union's website.
- 8.6 The President shall chair meetings of the Committee, and in his absence the Vice-President shall chair it; if the Vice-President is also absent, then the Treasurer shall chair it.
- 8.7 A quorum for a Committee meeting shall be at least a majority of its members there present and, save as provided for elsewhere in this Constitution, any decision by the meeting will be passed by a simple majority of those present. In the event of a tie the President, or person presiding in his absence, will have a casting vote.
- 8.8 The Committee may at any time appoint one or more sub-committees to deal on its behalf with any particular matters that would otherwise fall within the Union's powers. For this purpose, the Committee may issue bye-laws, which shall come into immediate effect and as such will be binding on all affiliated clubs and members of the Union, but which are to be ratified at the next AGM.
- 8.9 The Committee shall nominate so many representatives as are permitted by the SABF to serve on its board, provided that only members of the Committee may so be nominated to represent the Union; and provided further that if any such nominated SABF board member for any reason becomes no longer a member of the Committee, then he/she shall with immediate effect no longer represent the Union on the board, and the Committee may thereupon nominate another of its officer members to represent it on the board.
- 8.10 The Committee may admit players from outside the Western Cape as members and determine the fees payable by them, but such members shall not be entitled to vote at an AGM or SGM.

9 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 9.1 Should anything sufficiently urgent arise that the Executive Committee considers should be dealt with in a general meeting before the next AGM is duly held, a Special General Meeting (SGM) may be held on such day and at such time as the Committee shall direct.
- 9.2 Members and affiliated clubs shall be given twenty-one days' notice of such meetings, and of the matter that requires to be dealt with.
- 9.3 The quorum for an SGM shall be 21 members. If there is not a quorum, then the meeting shall be adjourned for 14 days and, whoever is then present, will constitute a quorum.

10 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- 10.1 Any number of Honorary Life Members may be elected at an AGM, provided that such an election will only be effective if it receives at least 75% of the votes cast, and voting shall be as provided for an AGM in 7.3 above.
- 10.2 Any such Honorary Life Member shall thenceforth not be liable for the payment of fees to the Union.

11 DISCIPLINE

- 11.1 In line with the SABF's requirements, the Union expects its members to respect the principles of ethics and good conduct.
- 11.2 For this purpose, the Committee on behalf of the Union shall have the power to take disciplinary action against any player who fails to adhere to or breaches the SABF Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Code issued by the SABF, and which renders penalizable unacceptable or reprehensible conduct of any kind whatever, whether towards a player or an official of a Union, and any conduct which brings the game of bridge, the SABF, the Union or any affiliated club into disrepute.

11.3 Such action may be taken where the said conduct occurs either at the bridge table or on the premises at any tournament or event run by the Union or an affiliated club, or on-line during any such tournament or event, or anywhere else where the conduct is directed towards any official of the Union, an affiliated club, or any bridge player.

11.4 The Committee may in its discretion refer the matter to be dealt with by the SABF, may otherwise either itself undertake the disciplinary action, or may appoint an Ethics sub-committee to do so.

12 DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION

12.1 The Union will be dissolved if a resolution to do so is passed by a 75% majority at a duly constituted AGM or SGM.

12.2 Upon dissolution its assets shall thereupon devolve upon the SABF, provided it is at the time a public benefit organisation approved as such in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, 1962, failing which any public benefit organisation similar to the Union which has been so approved.

13 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

13.1 Any amendment to this Constitution will only be valid if passed by a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast at an AGM or SGM.

14 DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION

14.1 This Constitution took effect from 18th March 2023, being the date upon which the then existing Constitution was by amendment duly replaced by it at an AGM / SGM.