

Rules and Bye Laws of the Regent Bridge Club

1. Name

The name of the club shall be “The Regent Bridge Club”

2. Object

The object of the club shall be to encourage the playing, promotion and teaching of the game of bridge and to provide social amenities in connection therewith.

3. Membership

Membership shall consist of Ordinary members, Country Members, Honorary Members and Temporary Members but no person shall be eligible to be elected who has not attained the age of eighteen years. The number of members in each class shall be at the discretion of the committee.

1) Ordinary Members shall comprise

- (a) All persons whose names appear as Ordinary Members in the Club Register on the 1st January of the current year and
- (b) All persons elected as Ordinary members in accordance with Rule 4 of the club Rules after that date so long as their names are on the Register as such.

2) Country Members shall comprise

- (a) All persons whose names appear as Country Members in the Club Register on the 1st January of the current year and
- (b) All persons elected as Country Members in accordance with Rule 4 of the Club Rules after that date so long as their names are on the Register as such.

3) Honorary Members shall comprise those members who have in accordance with Rule 4(3) of the club Rules been so honoured by the club.

4) Temporary Membership

Any person residing temporarily in Dublin City or County may be elected by the Committee as a Temporary Member. Such person shall not be liable for payment of an entrance fee but shall pay the annual subscription appropriate to an Ordinary Member on a pro-rata basis. A Temporary

Member may be elected for a definite period but unless it is otherwise stated in the minute made on the occasion of election membership shall terminate at the end of the Club's financial year.

The Temporary Member shall cease to be a Member when his period of residence in Dublin comes to an end.

The Secretary shall notify Members of the election of Temporary Members by the Committee by placing a notice on the club notice-board.

4. Election of Members

(1) Ordinary Membership

Ordinary Membership shall be open to any person who undertakes to be bound by the Rules of the Club and who is elected in accordance with Rule 4(4) hereunder.

(2) Country Membership

Country Membership shall be open to any person permanently resident outside a radius of 30 km of Dublin G.P.O. who undertakes to be bound by the Rules of the Club and who is elected in accordance with Rule 4(4) hereunder and having been elected shall be entitled to the rights and privileges hereinafter limited.

(3) Honorary Membership

On the recommendation of the Committee and in recognition of outstanding service to the club or promotion of the game of bridge it shall be competent for two thirds of the Ordinary Members present and voting at a General meeting of the Club to confer upon any person the distinction of Honorary Membership.

The committee shall have power to confer ex-officio Honorary Membership upon the President of the Irish Bridge Union and upon the President of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland. In both cases the period of Honorary Membership shall be limited to their respective terms in office.

(4) Each candidate for Ordinary or Country Membership shall be proposed by one Ordinary Member and seconded by one Ordinary Member of the Club, both of whom have been Ordinary Members for at least four years, and who know such candidates personally. The nomination form, which shall contain the name and address of the candidate, shall be given to the Honorary Secretary for submission to the Committee.

(5) Any Country Member who ceases to hold the residency qualification shall apply for election to Ordinary Membership *pari passu* with new entrants.

5.

Country, Honorary and Temporary Members shall not have any right or interest in the property of the Club nor shall they be eligible to hold office or act on any Committee or sub-Committee.

All Ordinary Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings of the Club, hold office and act on any Committee or sub-Committee.

Country and Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend but not to vote at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings of the Club.

No person who has been elected or registered shall enjoy any right or privilege until the entrance fee and/or subscription has been paid in full.

6. Sale of Liquor

A visitor shall not be supplied with excisable liquor in the Club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member, and that member shall upon the admission of such visitor to the Club premises or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor, enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book which shall be kept for the purpose and which shall show the date of each visit.

No member of the Committee, and no manager or servant employed in the Club, shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquors therein, or in the profits arising from such sale.

No excisable liquor shall be sold or supplied in the club premises to any person under the age of eighteen years.

No excisable liquor shall be sold or supplied for consumption outside the premises of the Club except to members of the club between the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

No excisable liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the Club premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club premises) or be consumed on those by any person (other than such a member)—

(a) At any time on Christmas Day or Good Friday, or

(b) On any other day, as specified hereunder, outside the times so specified in respect of it:

(i) St. Patrick's Day – between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;

(ii) The 23rd of December – if it falls on a Sunday, between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.

(iii) Christmas Eve and the eve of Good Friday – between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.

(iv) The eve of any public holiday (other than Christmas Eve)-

(I) If the eve falls on a weekday, between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on the following day, or

(II) If it falls on a Sunday, between 12.30 p.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day;

(v) Any other Sunday (except a St. Patrick's Day which falls on a Sunday): between 12.30 p.m. and 11.00 p.m.

(vi) Any other Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday: between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m.; and

(vii) Any other Friday or Saturday: between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. on the following day.

Excisable liquor may be supplied for consumption on the Club premises and be consumed on such Club premises by any person

a) On Christmas Day, between 12.00 midday and 10.00 p.m. or

b) On any other day, for one hour after the expiration of any period in respect of that day during which it is lawful for the Club, to supply any excisable liquor for consumption on the Club premises,

If in each case the excisable liquor is –

(i) Ordered by or on behalf of that person at the same time as a substantial meal is so ordered and

(ii) Consumed by that person during the meal or after the meal has ended.

The Club shall comply in all respects with the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003, and in particular

- (i) no person under the age of eighteen years shall be entitled to be in the bar of the club premises after 9.00 p.m.
- (ii) no person under the age of eighteen years shall be entitled to be in the bar of the club premises between the hours of 10.30 a.m. (12.30 p.m. on a Sunday) and 9.00 p.m. unless in the company of his or her parent or guardian, subject to the exceptions set out in the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003.
- (iii) No person who is at least 18 years of age and under the age of 21 years shall be entitled to be in the bar of the club premises unless they produce an age document within the meaning of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003.

The Committee of the Club shall, subject to the provisions of laws, have power to determine the hours during which the bar may be open for the sale of excisable liquor.

7 Visitors

A member may introduce not more than four guests at any one time and such Member shall pay the table money for his or her guests and shall have the name of such guests entered in the Visitor's Book.

8 Management

(1) The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of a Committee elected for not less than one year by a general body of Members, and which shall consist of a President, a President-elect, an Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer (the officers of the Club) and up to eleven other members, together with the outgoing President.

(2) The Committee shall have all powers necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Club and all Bye-Laws. Regulations or orders made by the Committee shall be binding on every Member unless and until rescinded by the Committee or by the Ordinary Members at a General meeting of the Club.

(3) The Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee shall be elected each year if necessary by ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Club and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Club or until they resign from the office or Membership of the Club.

(4) The three members not being ex-officio members who have been longest in office shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee until they have been a year out of office. In cases of equal length of service on the Committee, the Committee itself shall by ballot (if necessary) determine the order of retirement of its members.

(5) Notwithstanding rule (4) of this rule no member of the Committee who has less than five years service on the Committee will be ineligible for re-election.

9 Election of Officers and Committee

(1) The election of the Officers and other Members of the Committee shall take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. The names of all persons nominated for election to any office or to serve on the Committee together with the names of their proposers and seconders shall be given to the Honorary Secretary not later than twenty one days prior to the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall be posted on the Notice Board not later than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

(2) The outgoing President shall be an ex-officio Member of the Committee for one year after he or she ceases to be President.

(3) No person may hold the office of president for more than three consecutive years but a member shall be eligible for re-election after a lapse of one year.

(4) The Committee shall have the power to fill by co-option any vacancies occurring in its number during the year.

10. Trustees of the Club

(1) The Committee shall appoint, from among the Ordinary Members of the Club, Trustees, in whom the Club premises and other such property of the Club as the Committee shall determine shall be vested. The number of trustees shall be not less than two.

(2) Subject to Rule (3) of this Rule the Trustees of the Club shall hold the office until death or resignation from office or membership of the Club.

(3) Where the Committee considers that having regard to the interests of the Club, a Trustee should cease to hold office, it may by resolution of two thirds of its members remove that trustee from office.

(4) The Trustees shall deal with the property of the Club in accordance with resolutions of the Committee. An entry in the Minute Book of the Committee signed by the Chairperson thereof shall be evidence of such resolution.

11. Committee.

(1) The Committee shall meet at least three times a year at such time as the President shall direct or on a requisition by three Members of the Committee. A quorum shall be deemed to have been established if four members are in attendance.

(2) At all meetings of the Club or of the Committee the Chair shall be taken by the "President" or in his or her absence by the President-elect. In the absence of both the President and the President-elect, the chair shall be taken by a member selected at the meeting.

(3) The Committee shall make all such regulations regarding the formation play, conduct of competitions, costs of refreshments, employment, control and dismissal of servants and the general management and of tables, payment of table money, fixing of Club Stakes, hours of conduct of the Club as it shall, from time to time see fit, provided that such regulations shall be inoperative to alter, amend or repeal any of these Rules.

(4) The Committee shall from time to time appoint such sub-Committees, consisting of Ordinary Members of the Club, as it may deem necessary or expedient for the efficient administration of the Club and by depute or refer to them such of the powers and duties of the Committee as the Committee deem fit, but without removing the final responsibility from the Committee. Any sub-Committee appointed by the Committee shall regularly report their proceedings to the Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Committee.

(5) The Committee shall ensure that the correct accounts and books shall be kept showing then financial affairs, receipts and disbursements of the Club.

(6) In addition to committee members being informed in advance of committee meetings, a notice announcing them will be posted on the club notice board.

12. Disciplinary Powers of the Club

In the event of any complaint being made against any member which if established would justify disciplinary action of any sort the Committee shall first determine whether the member has any case to answer. If it so decides, it shall not exercise any of the powers given to it under these rules unless such

member shall be informed in writing of the complaint made against him or her and the date set out in the next sub rule shall have passed.

Such notice shall state the date by which such member shall, if he or she so wishes, convey his or her answer to the Committee, such date being such as to allow to such member a reasonable time to prepare such answer, if any.

Every matter of complaint coming to the attention of the committee or any of its members must be passed to the member against whom the complaint is made even if any particular part thereof has been disregarded in the decision that there is a case to meet and even if in the event such allegation has not been taken into account in arriving at any finding or disciplinary action.

At all times the procedures including those above must be both fair and seen to be fair for both the complainant or complainants and the member concerned. No findings of disputed fact shall be made unless both complainant or complainants and the member concerned both attend at the same time before the committee.

All disciplinary powers of the Club shall be vested in the Committee except where otherwise stated.

The Committee shall have the power

(a) by a vote of a majority of its Members present at any meeting consisting of not less than seven to suspend such Member until the next subsequent General Meeting or for such lesser time as it may, in its absolute discretion, think fit. At such meeting the Member whose suspension is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation for his or her conduct verbally or in writing. The Committee shall be the sole judges of fact as to whether there has been a breach of any of the Rules and Regulations or Bye-Laws or of the conduct of such Member warranting suspension. Any person suspended under this Clause shall forthwith cease to enjoy the rights and privileges of Membership.

(b) by vote of a majority of its entire number to call upon him or her to resign. At such meeting the Member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation of his or her conduct verbally or in writing. If having considered such explanation the committee again call upon the Member in question to resign and if the said Member fails within fourteen days of the Committee's request to tender such resignation, such Member shall be expelled by a resolution of the Members of the Club at a General Meeting on a vote by ballot of two thirds majority of those present and voting.

On receipt of the resignation or on the passing of a resolution expelling the Member as provided for in this Clause, the subscription for the current year, if paid, shall be refunded.

13. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of October or at such other time of the year as the Committee may decide for receiving the Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts; for electing the officers and other members of the Committee; for revising these rules and transacting any other business of the club. Notice of such meetings together with any other notices of Motion which it is proposed to move shall be sent to each Ordinary Member ten days before such meeting.

All Notices of Motion intended to be moved at Annual or Special General Meetings shall be sent in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty eight days before the date of such meeting.

14. Special General Meetings

Special general Meetings may be called at any time by direction of the Committee and shall be called by requisition to the Honorary Secretary, stating the business to be brought forward signed by at least twenty Ordinary Members, within thirty days of the receipt thereof. Ten days notice of the date of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be sent to each Ordinary Member,

15. Voting

Voting in all matters save any provided by Rules 4, 9 and 12 shall be by a show of hands or by ballot by direction of the Chairperson and no vote shall be by proxy. At all meeting whether of the Committee or of the Club, the Chairperson shall in the event of a tie in addition to his or her vote as a Member, have a casting vote.

16. Entrance fees, Subscriptions and Registration Fees

The entrance fee payable by Ordinary Members and the Annual Subscriptions for all categories of members shall be as fixed from time to time by the Committee. All such subscriptions or payments shall be due and payable in advance on October 1st each year. Ordinary members elected after 1st April in any year shall pay one half the appropriate rate with the entrance fee.

Notice that Annual Subscriptions are due shall be sent to each Club Member prior to the 30th September in each year. Any Member whose subscription is unpaid on 31st December in any year shall automatically cease to be a Member.

If such a Member subsequently reapplies for Membership the Committee shall have the power in its discretion to remit payment of all or part of the entrance fee payable.

17. Alteration of Rules

(1) These Rules shall not be capable of repeal or alteration nor shall any new Rules be made without the consent of the majority of the ordinary Members present at the General meeting of the Club of which due notice has been given.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 17(1) the committee shall be empowered subject to obtaining legal advice to repeal or alter any Rules in order to comply with the requirement of any Act of the Oireachtas or other similar requirement relating to the Registration of Clubs.

18. Interpretation

The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these Rules and any Bye-Laws or Regulations now existing or made hereunder and any decision or interpretation by the Committee shall, in all matters affecting the Club, be conclusive and binding on all Members.

19. General

(1) On dissolution or winding up of the Club, Ordinary members only shall be entitled to share in distribution.

(2) The property and monies of the Club shall belong to the Ordinary Members equally but shall be personal and shall not be capable of assignment nor of being made subject to lien or charge nor shall any interest pass to heirs, executors or administrators of the estates of deceased Members.

20. Contract Bridge Association of Ireland

The Club shall affiliate to the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland, and members of the Club shall be subject to that Association's constitution in all matters relating to the control and organization of Bridge in Ireland, which are not in conflict with the Rules and Bye-laws of the Regent Bridge Club.

21. Commencement

These Rules and Bye-Laws shall come into effect on the 20th July 2004 replacing those which came into effect on 23rd October 1986.