

THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION

CONSTITUTION (abridged)

1. **Name:**
The name of the organisation hereinafter described shall be "The Irish Bridge Union" (hereinafter referred to as the "Union").
2. **Address:**
The address of the Union shall be that of the Secretary of the Union for the time being, or such other address as the Union may from time to time decide.
3. **Description:**
The Union shall be a confederation of THE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND and THE NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION (hereinafter referred to as "The Constituent Organisations").
4. (i) **Objectives and Powers:**
 - (a) To organise, manage and control or to provide for the organisation, management and control of Duplicate Bridge Matches, Contests (Congresses and Tournaments) and to organise or take part on behalf of All Ireland in European or World Championships;
 - (b) To devise, authorise and impose and/or collaborate with any other authorised National or International Organisation in devising, amending, authorising and imposing a code of Laws, Rules or Regulations for use in all matches, contests, congresses, tournaments or other forms of competitive event to be promoted or held by or under the auspices of the Union or either of the Constituent Organisations.
 - (c) Generally to consider, decide upon, control, manage and do all such matters and things necessary and expedient from time to time for the benefit and advancement of Contract Bridge in Ireland.
4. (ii) **Additional Powers**
 - (a) To be associated with or affiliated to any International Body as the Union may decide.
 - (b) Where it shall deem it suitable to do so to represent or provide for the representation of the Union at any fixture or meeting organised by any Body of which the Union is a member or to which it is affiliated.
 - (c) To draw up such rules and regulations as are from time to time deemed appropriate to govern and control the conduct and activities of representatives appointed under 4(ii)(b) provided that such rules and regulations are made available to the representatives prior to the events or meetings in question.
5. (i) **Membership**

Every individual member of such Constituent Organisation or every individual member of a Club which is affiliated to such Constituent Organisation shall be deemed to be a member of the Union provided that:-

 - (a) Such member has paid the relevant membership fee to the Constituent Organisation.
 - (b) Such member has not been suspended by either of the Constituent Organisation in which case the person's membership of the Union shall not be reinstated until such suspension has been ended by the Constituent Organisation in question.
5. (ii) **Suspension of Members from Competition**

When any member of either Constituent Organisation has been suspended from competition by that Organisation such suspension shall automatically have effect with regard to any competitions run by or organised under the auspices of either the Union or the other Constituent Organisation such suspension to remain in effect until it shall have been terminated by the Organisation which originally imposed it.

6. Council

(a) The Legislative, Executive and Administrative powers, duties and functions of the Council shall be exercised, performed and carried out by a Council which shall consist of delegates nominated by and from the Constituent Organisations in the following proportions:-

The Contract Bridge Association of Ireland:	8 delegates
The Northern Ireland Bridge Union of Ireland:	8 delegates

Should any delegates be unable to attend the Constituent Organisations shall have power to appoint substitutes.

(b) The Council shall elect or re-elect from amongst themselves the following officers:

- (1) President
- (2) Vice-President
- (3) Hon. Treasurer
- (4) Joint Hon. Secretaries

(c) At each Annual Meeting the Council shall appoint auditors for the ensuing year.

7. Finance

All administrative and other expenses as the Union shall from time to time incur shall be met:-

- (a) by annual subscriptions from each constituent organisation;
- (b) by profits, if any, derived from any competitive events promoted and/or held by the Union.
- (c) by donations, emoluments or profits derived from any other source.

8. Meetings.

(a) Annual Meeting of Council shall be held not later than 31st August in each year and notification of the meeting together with Agenda shall be sent to the Secretary of each Constituent Organisation not less than four weeks before the date of the meeting.

(b) Members of the Union may attend the annual Meeting of the Council as individuals or as representatives of their Clubs. Subject to the Authority of the Chairman they shall be entitled to enter into discussion of matters on the Agenda and contribute to such discussion but shall not be entitled to vote on any matter which is the subject of a vote at the meeting.

(c) Audited and signed accounts for the preceding year shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting for adoption and discussion of same shall be open to those attending the meeting.

(d) The President at his sole discretion, may, or upon the written requisition of a Constituent Organisation, **must** cause a meeting of the Council to be convened.

(e) Either Constituent Organisation shall be entitled to send to the Secretary of the Union any resolution which it desires to move at the Annual Meeting, or at any Council Meeting. Such resolution must be received by the Secretary not later than twenty one days before the date of such meeting.

(f) The Secretary shall, within twenty eight days after any Annual Meeting of the Council send to the Secretary of each Constituent Organisation a copy of the Minutes of such meeting.

9. Committees.

The Council may elect and depute to a Committee for the purpose any specific matter for consideration, with such powers, duties and responsibilities as the Council may determine. Upon conclusion of the matter for which the Committee was appointed, it shall, *ipso facto*, be dissolved. In any case it shall be deemed to be dissolved at the next Annual Meeting unless appointed thereat.

10. Votes & Voting Rights

A simple majority shall be required to pass a resolution at any meeting of the Council. The Chairman shall be entitled to vote on any motion, and in the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11. Quorum

The quorum for any meeting of the Council shall be seven members of whom there shall be at least two delegates from each Constituent Organisation.

12. General

(a) The Union shall be non political. In the case of functions at which it is customary to honour the Head of State, the appropriate procedure generally observed in that state shall be adopted.

(b) The autonomy of either Constituent Organisation shall not be infringed and no resolution shall be passed to affect the status or activities of either Constituent Organisation in their respective spheres of influence.

(c) The Constituent Organisations shall have the right to be associated with or affiliated to any organisation other than the Union.

(d) The Constituent Organisations shall have the right to participate independently in matches, contests, Congresses and Tournaments of any kind controlled, managed or sponsored by any organisations other than the Union.

(e) The Constitution of the Union shall not be altered without the consent of the Constituent Organisations.

(f) It shall be within the power of the Union to expel or suspend any individual from the Union provided that no expulsion or suspension shall be effective unless all of the following conditions have been fulfilled:-

- (i) a special meeting of the Union must be convened for the sole purpose of providing the appropriate expulsion or suspension;
- (ii) not less than fifteen days notice of such special meeting must be sent to the individual or individuals whose expulsion or suspension is being considered together with the full statement of the reasons for the proposed expulsion or suspension;
- (iii) the individual or individuals whose expulsion or suspension is being sought may, not less than two days before the date of such meeting send to the Secretary of the Union a full written reply and such individual or individuals may attend at the meeting of the Union and be heard in their defence.