

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN THE NEW 2020 CONSTITUTION

Changes in the constitution fall into three main categories:

- Correction of errors
- Deletion of duplicated passages
- New additions

Correction of errors:

1. Page 12 - the numbering system went 14, 15, 6, 17. The 6 has been changed to 16
2. Page 17 - Clause 26/1. The original reference was to Clause 23 which was incorrect and which should be Clause 25.
3. Page 17 - Clause 26/2e. The word five was missing and has been inserted.

Deletions:

1. Page 5. The phrase “as set out in Appendix 1 to this constitution’ has been deleted as there was no Appendix 1. It has been replaced by the phrase “as determined by the committee.”
2. Page 22. Under Clause 39 - Funds, there were 5 sub paragraphs numbered 1,2,3, then 5,6. Paragraphs 5 and 6 were duplicated in the following Clause 40 and have therefore been deleted. Paragraph 5 has been amended to remove the reference to employees.

Insertions:

1. A life membership category has been introduced into the new constitution. On Page 5 under 2, a fourth paragraph has been inserted to allow for the life membership category. Linked with this it is necessary to insert under Section 2 on Page 8 a paragraph c, which exempts life members from paying the yearly club subscription fee.
2. The term of office for an office bearer is limited to three consecutive years. In the event that an office bearer resigns before the end of the year there is no definition in the current constitution as to whether this partial year counts as a term. On Page 11, under “14 - Composition and membership of the committee” a paragraph 8 has been inserted which provides a definition of “a term.”
3. The current constitution defines the subscription year as being the same as the financial year which commences on April 1st. (See Page 24, Clause 47) The problem with this is that the ABF (Australian Bridge Federation) and the NSWBA (New South Wales Bridge Association) requires payment of affiliation fees before the end of March. At this point in time the club is unable to provide accurate figures of members as club subscription fees are not officially due until the end of March and members have three months grace before they are officially considered to have ceased membership. Accurate membership figures are therefore not available until the end of June. Although over past years fees have been called for at the beginning of the year this is not supported by our constitution. This situation has led to payments being made to the ABF and NSWBA for members who subsequently cease to be members. The previous treasurer drew attention to this situation.

In the new constitution the club subscription year has been separated from the club financial year and will instead, line up with the calendar year. In addition, the period of grace for payment of fees before membership ceases has been reduced from three months to one month. This means that by February the treasurer will have accurate figures on which to base payment to the ABF and NSWBA. On Page 6 under “Clause 4 Cessation of membership” the figure of 3 months has been changed to 1 month. On Page 8, under “Clause 8 Fees and subscriptions” - in paragraph 2a, the words ‘financial year of the association’ have been deleted and again in paragraph 2b the wording has been changed to reflect that the subscription year is the same as the calendar year.