**A close up of playing cards

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Paper 3**

**Constitution Review - Summary of Main DIfferences**

At last year’s EGM (replacing the AGM which was inquorate) on 23/06/2022, it was determined that a working group be set up to look at the Constitution which was deemed in need of revision. The actual minute until section 11 read:

“AM volunteered to form a working party to look at the Constitution.”

The working party was duly formed, and Alec Smalley and Howard Rosemarine agreed to join. My thanks go to them for their work on this. The result is the Constitution redraft listed as Paper 2 for this AGM. The chair has ruled that amendments to this redraft, duly proposed and seconded, must be presented with the final papers two weeks before the AGM, and once the amendments have been voted on, then the constitution redraft has a whole will be voted upon, and will stand or fall as a whole.

I felt it would help members if I listed the main elements of change in terms of the constitution redraft compared with the current constitution. Apart from the first one below, all the other changes are related to the relevant section of the redraft.

The first major change is that Council is to be abolished. This is purely pragmatic rather than any attempt to disenfranchise clubs. The reality is that it does not work in that almost nobody comes. The Executive is very keen to work with clubs however and the constitution redraft has an amended clause 2.1 which reads:

To promote the game of Bridge in the County of Manchester and its environs; to support all bridge clubs in the County of Manchester and its environs; to run county events, including those that qualify for national county events; and the encouragement of inter-club, inter-county and national competitions.

The membership sub-committee of the Executive is already setting up liaison between clubs and the County.

Then to go through each section:

Section 1 is unaltered.

Section 2 is unaltered apart from 2.1 given above.

Section 3 has been rewritten to conform with the EBU Universal Membership (UM) scheme, rather than the complex and arcane methods of becoming a member of the county previously listed. Other than that, there are no changes.

Section 4 deals with the Executive and again has changes. The post of match secretary has been abolished, as it is felt this is better done directly by the Selection Committee. The Executive has been expanded by adding the Higson Cup & Plate Secretary, the Goldstone Trophy Secretary, the secretary of the selection committee if the chair is already a member of the Executive, and the publicity secretary. Other tidying up textural matters occur in this section but nothing else substantive.

Section 5 has minor changes. The quorum for the AGM has been reduced from 20 to 15, and the timescale for when the AGM should take place has been relaxed. The business of the AGM has been specified more explicitly. There are similar changes in the specifications around any EGM

Section 6 deals with voting and has substantive changes. In particular, a detailed section on proxy voting is now included in this section.

Sections 7-10 have no changes.

The Schedule of Disciplinary Procedures has one change only. In paragraph 6.4 the following has been inserted:

“If the complaint is upheld, then the disciplinary Committee shall be made aware of any previous sanctions against the member(s), whether verbal cautions, written reprimands, or suspensions”

Alan Mould

Convenor, Constitution Review Group

May 2023