

Hamilton Bridge Club Constitution

Correction and Updates – 20th July 2026

It is a year since the current version of the constitution which was approved at the 2025 SGM and then by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies so it has now been active for more than 6 months.

Since that date, two errors have been discovered in the current document -

Rule 13. Annual subscriptions - missing **Clause 13(g)**

This refers to **Rule 11 Clause 11(b) - Discipline and/or suspension of members** pointing out natural justice applies to this process

Rule 32. Special General Meeting – incorrect references used in **Rule 32 clauses 32(b) and 32(c)**

For this change, listed below are the rules (or part of) being changed or used to allow for this change to be made –

These errors are to be corrected using **Rule 37(e)** which allows for correction of this type of error or change without the need for an SGM (only the relevant clauses are found here)

The two rules to be updated are in the attachment where the changes to be made are highlighted in red.

Rule 13. Annual subscriptions

Rule 32. Special General Meeting

A copy of the complete current Hamilton Bridge Constitution can be found here using this link–

<https://www.hamilton.bridge-club.org/Constitutions>

Members have twenty(20) Working Days from the date this notice was sent to the membership – 5 August 2026 - to object to both the method and content changes to the current version of the Constitution V4.1g

Rule 37 (Reference - only the relevant of the rule is displayed here)

37. Alterations to rules

No alterations, additions or deletion shall be made to these rules except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose except as noted in Rule 37(e).

e. Minor or technical amendments

- I. The Club (the society) may amend its constitution under section Incorporated Societies Act 2022 Section 31 if the amendment—
 - (a) has no more than a minor effect; or*
 - (b) corrects errors or makes similar technical alterations.**
- II. The committee of The Club (the society) must, in accordance with its constitution, ensure that written notice of the amendment is sent to every member of The Club.*
- III. The notice must state -
 - (a) the text of the amendment; and*
 - (b) the right of the member to object to the amendment.**
- IV. If no objection from a member is received within twenty(20) Working Days after the date on which the notice is sent (or any longer period specified in the club's constitution), the committee of The Club (society) may make the amendment.
However, if such an objection is received, The Club (society) may not make the amendment under this section.*
- f. Amended constitution must continue to comply to the Act
The Club (the society's) constitution, as amended under Incorporated Societies Act 2022 Section 30 or 31, must continue to comply with the requirements of this Act.*
- g. When the Constitution is amended The Club must provide to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies -
 - I. within twenty-five(25) Working Days a copy of the amendment and a copy of the Constitution as amended; and*
 - II. Advise whether the amendment is under Rule 37(a , b , c) – Act 2022 Section 30 or Rule 37(e) - Act 2022 Section 31; and*
 - III. Certificate from Club Officer(s) the amendment was made in accordance with requirements of the "Incorporated Societies Act 2022";**
- h. An amendment shall take effect from the date of registration by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies*
- i. All former versions of the rules are hereby revoked from the date of registration.*

Rule 13

13. Annual subscriptions (missing clause to be replaced)

- a. Annual subscriptions which shall be approved at the Annual General Meeting shall be determined by the Committee in office prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall automatically include provision for the NZ Bridge levy payable in respect of each member unless the member has a current membership with another Bridge Club affiliated with NZ Bridge and has nominated that other Club as their "Home Club" as provided under the NZ Bridge constitution.
- b. The committee shall have the power in its absolute discretion to refund, dispense with, make reductions in the subscription paid or payable by any member or take other actions as it thinks necessary.
The reason(s) for the changed subscription to a member or other action deemed necessary is not required to be recorded in The Clubs minutes but will alternatively be recorded in The Clubs "In Committee" minutes record.
- c. Subscriptions are due/paid in advance by the last day of the month following the month when the subscription notice was delivered to members.
(e.g. Subs invoice sent out in March = Subs payment due 30th April)

However, if the time of delivery of the subscription notice causes the due payment date to fall during the "Christmas / New Year Holiday Period" then the date and the subsequent related dates for Subs payment are to be extended by one month(30days).

(e.g. Subs invoice sent in November = Subs payment is due 31th December then the due payment date will be extended by 30 days to the following 31th January)

- d. The first subscription is payable on or within thirty(30) days of election to membership of the Club. If not paid, the membership may be cancelled at the discretion of The Committee.
A member elected after the due date for the Subs in any year shall pay a first subscription amount calculated on a pro rata basis on the joining date related to the AGM.
(e.g. join in April, AGM in November then the Sub will be reduced by five(5) twelfth parts of the annual Sub)
- e. A member whose subscription is unpaid thirty(30) days after the due date in Rule 13(c) will receive verbally or in writing/electronic format a warning notice from the Club of Non-Payment and may have their membership suspended at the discretion of the Committee.
- f. Any member whose subscription still remains unpaid sixty(60) days after the due date in Rule 13(c) will be deemed to be suspended from Club membership, shall not be entitled to the privileges of the Club and any other action the Committee decides until the subscription has been paid. This action can extend to communication with NZ Bridge to the effect the member is no longer a member of the Hamilton Contract Bridge Club.
- g. **A member suspended under Rule 13(e) or (f) has the right to appeal the decision as set out first in Rule 11(b) and then Rule 11(c).**

- h. If a subscription remains unpaid at the end of the Club's financial year the person concerned shall cease to be a member of the Club but shall still be liable to pay the outstanding subscription.

Rule 11 (Reference only)

11. Discipline and/or suspension of members

Included for reference only – Rule 13(e , f) being applied should be referenced to a Clause in Rule 13 refereeing the member to Rule 11(b) or (c))

- a. The Committee has the power to censure, suspend from membership for a period, or expel any member, but the member **shall** be given full opportunity to offer an explanation and otherwise treated in a manner consistent with the requirements of natural justice in a fair and just manner.
- b. *Any member suspended or expelled under Rule 11(a), or Rule 13(d. & e.) – non-payment of subscription fees has the right to appeal, by delivering a notice in writing to the Secretary to that effect within ninety(90) days from the date of expulsion or suspension. The process to be followed is found in Rule 12 – Disputes Resolution parts 1-3*
- c. *Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clauses Rule 12.(Parts 1-3) the member if sufficient support is found amongst The Club membership to convene a SGM within thirty(30) days of the date of the final delivery of the decision resulting from Rule 12.(Part 3 v. & vii) that the participants in the SGM may request that the Committee review the decision determined.*

Rule 32

32. Special General Meeting (incorrect reference to another Rule)

- a. The Committee shall call a Special General Meeting (SGM):
 - i. Whenever it considers it in the interests of the Club to do so; **or**
 - ii. Upon receipt of a requisition to do so signed by the lessor of (a) fifteen percent(15%) (rounded up) of the current membership or (b) thirty(30) members and stating the business of the meeting.
- b. Notice of any business to be considered at any Special General Meeting must be given at least ten(10) Working Days before the meeting and in the case of a meeting called under Rule **24 32**(a) (ii), the meeting must be held within thirty(30) days of the receipt of the requisition.
- c. If **less than** 70 percent(70%) of the Members signing the request under Rule **24 32**(a) (ii) are present at the meeting, the meeting may vote to have the reason(s) for calling the meeting void.
- d. At any Special General Meeting **no** business shall be transacted other than that stated in the notice convening the meeting.
- e. The information pertinent to the request for the notice of meeting is to be displayed on the Club Notice Board, Club Internet Web Site, and optionally by email to all members.