**Life membership – nomination and criteria**

1. Life Membership of Gold Coast Bridge Club is the highest honour that the Board of Directors, currently serving at the time of the nomination, can bestow on any member. This is a most prestigious award and only awarded to members demonstrating exceptional service to the club over an extended period of time.
2. Nominations for Life Membership can be made by any member of the club, supported in writing by 3 current members of good standing or one member, supported by one Board Member. The reasons for the nomination must be clearly stated in writing on the nomination form.

It is of the utmost importance for a detailed statement to be made in support of the nominee to be included in the nomination.

1. Nominations must be made at least 2 months prior to the next Annual General Meeting.
2. If the Board recommends to the membership that a member (so named) should be so honoured, this must be announced in the agenda sent out to the membership announcing the AGM. A simple majority of qualified voters at the AGM may award the Honour.
3. The Board shall review and decide on the suitability of any nominees, a majority vote is required for a nomination to go forward.
4. Should the Board decide in the negative to a nominee, the nominator (not the nominee) shall be advised in writing with the reason for the rejection of the nomination.
5. Individual nominees shall be considered purely on the basis of their individual merits and not compared with other nominees or past recipients of the award.
6. **Criteria required for individuals to be considered for the Award of Life Membership**

Nominees must have demonstrated a significant, and beyond the ordinary, contribution to the club over an extended period of time.

1. **Minimum of 10 years of continuous active membership. Active in specific roles that contribute to the benefit and welfare of the club and its members.**
2. **Regular participation in club sessions.**
3. **No record of bad behaviour.**
4. **Good sportsmanship.**
5. **Leadership and a willingness to help out when required.**
6. If more than one nomination is received, the Board should consider them separately. The Board may wish to limit the number of honours to be awarded at any one time in order to avoid an imbalance of awardees within the club. The Board may wish to consider limits on the number of awardees in the club at any one time. It is important however to avoid a situation where one awardee needs to pass away before another can replace that member.

**It is essential that all parties involved in discussions and communications concerning a nomination maintain all information in confidence until the outcome is decided and announced.**