

SHEFFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

INFORMATION

including Conditions of Contest for events

INTRODUCTION

This edition dated 25 April 2009 to take immediate effect.

The purpose of this document is to provide a members' handbook, to include all information on the activities of Sheffield Bridge Club, the general running of the club (beyond the scope of the club Constitution and Regulations), and Conditions of Contest for all events, and to include all subject matter previously included within the hereby superseded "Sheffield Bridge Club Bylaws".

Unlike the wording of the club Constitution, which can be changed only by the membership at a General Meeting of the club, the information within this document can be updated by the current club Committee. Indeed, the Committee is responsible for keeping this document under constant review and updated whenever necessary.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

The level of the annual subscription may, as stated in the Club Constitution, be changed only by proposal at a General Meeting.

The current annual subscription is £36. Members may obtain a discount by one of the following routes:

Standby discount: For details please see the section titled "Standby Procedures"

Student discount: A discount may be applied for by Full-Time Students under the age of 25.

Refugee discount: A discount may be applied for by refugees from overseas at the discretion of the Committee

TABLE FEES

The levels of table fees are determined by the Committee. Current fees at the time of this edition were:

Evening duplicate sessions: £3.50 (£4.50 for visitors and guests)

Waddington League and Open League matches: £3.50

Other private matches of max 32 boards: £3.50 (£4.50 for visitors and guests)

Special events: as shown on the club calendar. (£1 additional for visitors and guests except for Swiss events.)

Afternoon duplicate sessions: £1.50 (£1.50 for visitors and guests)

Full time students, maximum age 25 and refugees as approved: £1.50 per session at any time. (£1.50 for visitors and guests)

BRIDGE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All duplicate bridge at Sheffield Bridge Club is played under the current Laws Of Duplicate Contract Bridge, as produced by the World Bridge Federation..

The Club also adopts the entire contents of the current EBU Orange Book, the Handbook of EBU directives and permitted agreements, except and unless specified otherwise by the Club.

Permitted agreements for duplicate sessions are:

Level 2 for Wednesday and Friday evening Jepson and Sutton sessions, the Mather Individual and the Musson Teams

Level 3 for Saturday evening sessions

Level 4 otherwise.

The EBU Orange Book states, in Para 11C10, that for Levels 3 and 4, it is not permitted to have a partnership agreement that in third or fourth seat, one may open 1 of a suit with less than 8 HCP. In the event that a partnership has a specific agreement that they may open in third or fourth seat with less than Rule of 18 but no less than 8 HCP, this must be disclosed on an EBU 20B Convention Card. If such a partnership does not have such a Convention Card, then the partnership is required to alert 1 of a suit opening bids in third and fourth seat. Otherwise, such light openings, should they occur, will be regarded as Deviations from agreed system.

Where a board in a pairs movement is not played due to lack of time, the players concerned receive a score equal to their own match-point score over the boards they have actually played. This is as if they were due to sit out the board.

CLUB PROGRAMMES OF REGULAR AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A programme of regular events is available on the Club notice board and on the Club web site. These include regular weekly bridge sessions and classes.

A calendar of special events is published every year. It is displayed on the club notice board and the Club web site and is distributed with the AGM report. Further information on some special events follows later on these pages.

AGGREGATE SCORED PAIRS

Tuesday evening sessions for the Patterson Trophy are played using Aggregate scoring. For this, it necessary to use a straight 2-winner Mitchell movement. The winning pair in each direction is the pair

whose total aggregate score over all the boards played, after deduction of any “excesses” and with average scores included for any boards sat out or not played, is the highest.

“Excesses” act as a windfall tax to prevent a pair from gaining excessively from a disaster by their opponents. Score limits are shown on the back page of personal score cards.

If your score on a board is reduced in this way, and if the reduction takes your score below a score achieved without “excess penalties” by another pair sitting in the same direction, then the reduction on your score will be limited such that you do not score less than the other pair. (This was recommended by the EBU in 1951!)

Example. At Love All, you defeat your opponents in 5S doubled for +1400. This would be reduced for you to +600. If another pair actually bid and make 6H in your direction for +980, then your score will not now be reduced to +600 but it will be reduced to +980 instead.

RUBBER BRIDGE

Rubber Bridge may be arranged at the club subject to space being available. In the event of Rubber Bridge being played, the maximum stake permissible is 50p per 100.

ISSUE OF EBU MASTER POINTS.

EBU Master Points are awarded for all duplicate sessions in accordance with the current EBU Master Point Handbook. Currently, Master Point certificates are placed in draws in the downstairs playing area for collection. Members not wishing to receive their Master Points may request the person responsible for Master Point Returns to arrange for their Master Points not to be printed. The Club will introduce direct-crediting of Master Points to EBU HQ, after which opting out will not be possible.

Most events attract Master Points at “Club” status. Under regulations for Districts, Sheffield Bridge Club is allocated up to 39 events per year as District events. For this purpose, all of our special events, listed below, are, wherever practicable, promoted to District Status.

Master Points are not awarded for any of our “ladder” trophies (such as Chamberlain, Pentathlons).

ISSUE OF FREE GAMES

Except for the 2009 season, winning pairs in each of the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening duplicates are awarded one free game per player in the form of a certificate. If a One-Winner movement is played, just the single winning pair will receive free game certificates except for the Chairman’s Pairs and the W.E.Dornan Mixed Pairs, in which case, the two leading pairs will receive free game certificates.

For the 2009 season, free games will not be issued to winners.

PRIZE AWARDS

Certain special events attract prizes. Prize money for the following events is derived directly from the £1 additional table fees for these events.

Lord Mayor’s Swiss Pairs.
Vera Copestake Multiple Teams
Rodger Mixed Pivot Teams
New Years Day Swiss Pairs
Laura Hadfield Multiple Teams
Flo Dornan Swiss Pairs

Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams

The four leading teams from the Vice Chairman's Multiple Teams are invited free of entry fees to represent Sheffield Bridge Club in the National Inter Club Knockout (NICKO). (In accepting such an invitation, teams may substitute some but not all of their players, provided this is acceptable to the qualifying players being substituted. Other teams are invited to represent Sheffield BC in the NICKO but must pay the EBU Entry Fees on the basis that they become the 5th and 6th etc teams.) The Committee has withdrawn this prize for the 2009 season.

WEEKLY LADDER COMPETITIONS

Trophy Points are awarded for each Tuesday evening on which Aggregate scored pairs is played. For each direction, the winning pair receive 5 Trophy Points each, the second placed pair receive 3 Trophy Points each, the third placed pair receive 2 Trophy Points each and the fourth placed pair receive 1 Trophy Point each. In the event of a tie, both pairs receive the more favourable award. (For example, two pairs tied for first place will each receive 5 Trophy Points, the next pair will receive 2 Trophy Points.) For each club member, the Trophy Points they receive for their 20 best results count towards the Trophy itself. It follows that the maximum Trophy Points possible are 100 representing 20 wins. Ties are not split. The winner(s) receive the Patterson Trophy.

Similarly, for each Match Pointed Pairs event on a Thursday, including Simultaneous Pairs and the Chairman's Pairs, Trophy Points are awarded on the same basis, and the winner(s) receive the Chamberlain Trophy.

In the same way, the Paton Trophy is awarded for Wednesday evenings and the Frith Trophy is awarded for Friday evenings. In addition for these two evenings, the leading "non-expert" pairs in each direction receive Trophy Points, which lead to the awards of the Jepson Trophy for Wednesday evenings and the Sutton Trophy for Friday evenings. If there are less than four non-expert pairs sitting in one direction, the awards will be 1 if one pair, 2 and 1 if two pairs and 3, 2 and 1 if three pairs.

The definition of "non-expert" is arbitrary for the purpose of these two trophies. A list of "non-expert" players is maintained by the Membership Secretary, or by some other delegated Committee Member. The principle is to allow newcomers to the game and improvers a chance to win a trophy. In general, if a member wins either of the Jepson or Sutton trophies, they are removed from the list of "non-experts" so that a different person may win each such trophy each year. Equally, the list needs to be of sufficient size that the trophies are not awarded based mainly on attendance. A list of current "non-experts" is available in the Club office.

In the event of low attendance at the club on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evening, a single winner movement (such as a Howell) will be used and in such case, the Trophy Points awarded will be to only four pairs altogether rather than eight.

In the event of low attendance on a Tuesday, the event may be varied at the discretion of the TD.

On the Thursday when the Chairman's Pairs is played, a single winner movement is used, but the Trophy Point awards are changed so that the top eight pairs receive Trophy Points on the respective scale 5,5,3,3,2,2,1 and 1.

Finally, on Saturday evenings, a single winner movement is normally used and Trophy Points are awarded to the top four pairs to the normal scale, the winning player(s) receiving the Lee trophy.

MONDAY BUTLER PAIRS

A series of Butler scored pairs may be arranged during any Spring to Summer season. The Bowler Grade 1 and Marcus trophies may be awarded. Separate Conditions of Contest are published for each such series of events.

DETAILS OF OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

In the event of tied winners for the following events, the ties are not split unless stated.

The Lord Mayor's Swiss Pairs, the New Year Swiss Pairs and the Flo Dornan Swiss Pairs are two-session Swiss Pairs events, with six rounds of seven boards each being played with current-round assignments. The winning pair receive the respective trophies. **The Easter Swiss Pairs** is similar but with the exception that three trophies are awarded. The "Gold" trophy to the winning pair, if necessary a tie being split, the "Silver" trophy to the second placed pair and the "Bronze" trophy to the leading runner-up pair containing neither player ranked Regional Master or higher. The format of each of these events may be changed under the advice of the Chief TD in the event that numbers for any of these events is low, or to fit with the Club calendar of events.

The Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams is a two-session Swiss Teams event. However, if the number of teams entered is deemed too low (and this has been the case more often than not in recent years) the format is changed to that of a two-session all-play-all Multiple Teams.

Chairman's Pairs: This is a single session Pairs event. It is normally held on a Thursday and combined with the Club's qualifying session for the National Pairs as both events require a single-winner movement. It is possible to compete for the Chairman's Pairs but not the National Pairs, as the latter is treated on a stratification basis. The session also counts towards the Chamberlain Trophy.

Vera Copestake Multiple Teams, Laura Hadfield Multiple Teams and Vice-Chairman's Teams. These are all single session Multiple Teams events replacing the Patterson Pairs events on the respective Tuesdays. Scoring is by IMPs and not converted to VPs.

Rodger Mixed Pivot Teams: This is normally played on a Monday before Christmas. As the title suggests, this is a single session Multiple Teams event in which each team must include at least one member of each sex and each player partners each other member of his/her team for one third (or approximately one third in the event of low attendance) of the session.

Brighton Ladies' Pairs and Woodward Men's Pairs: These are single session Match Pointed Pairs events held simultaneously. Each event plays a single winner movement and the respective winning pairs win the trophies.

Musson Teams: This is a single session Teams event, normally played on a Friday evening and replacing the Sutton and Frith events. Scoring is by IMPs not converted to VPs. Entry is open but only those teams containing no player ranked Regional master or higher, and therefore defined by Yorkshire CBA as "Non-expert", are eligible to receive the Musson Trophy. The top placed "Non-expert" teams (as defined in this way) qualify to the final of the Yorkshire event for the Yorkshire Cup.

W.E.Dornan Mixed Pairs: This is a single session Match-pointed Pairs event, normally played on a Thursday and replacing the Chamberlain event. It is a single-winner movement, the winning pair receiving the trophy and the leading pairs qualifying for reduced cost entry to the final of the Yorkshire Mixed Pairs. An open pairs session is normally held for single-sex pairs, but if numbers of such pairs are too few for a separate movement, these pairs may be incorporated into the Mixed Pairs event but without standing for the club or county trophies.

Mather Individual: This is a single session, single winner event, the winning player receiving the Mather Trophy, and the leading players qualifying for reduced cost entry to the final of the Yorkshire Individual.

Intercity Teams competition: This event is organised by the League Operating Group (LOG). It is a Teams-of-eight single session event, normally played on a Monday evening.

PENTATHLON TROPHIES

The leading pairs in five specified pairs events are awarded “Pentathlon Points” according to a scale shown below. The player(s) with the highest number of Pentathlon Points receives the Pairs Pentathlon Trophy.

These events are currently: Lord Mayor’s Swiss Pairs, Chairman’s Pairs, New Year Swiss Pairs, Easter Swiss Pairs, Flo Dornan Swiss Pairs.

The leading teams in five specified teams events are awarded “Pentathlon Points” according to a scale shown below. The player(s) with the highest number of Pentathlon Points receives the Teams Pentathlon Trophy.

These events are currently: Vera Copestake Multiple Teams, Rodger Mixed Pivot Teams, Laura Hadfield Multiple Teams, Vice Chairman’s Teams, Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams.

The awards of Pentathlon Points are based on the principle of 20 for a pair or team winning an event, descending in equal steps to 10 for the top quarter of the field, and thereafter descending in equal steps from 10 to zero for the middle half of the field. Thus the average award is approximately six and a quarter irrespective of the size of the field in each event, assuming no more than 21 pairs or teams are competing.

These new scales, introduced for the 2004/2005 season, differ from the original scales only in the pro-rata reduction of awards for 20 or less pairs or teams.

Size of field	Scale of awards														
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
21+	20	18	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
20	20	18	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	5	4	3	2	1	
19	20	18	15	13	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2		
18	20	18	15	13	10	9	8	7	6	4	3	2	1		
17	20	18	15	12	10	9	7	6	5	4	2	1			
16	20	17	14	11	9	8	7	6	5	3	2	1			
15	20	17	14	11	9	8	6	5	4	3	2				
14	20	17	14	10	9	7	6	5	3	2	1				
13	20	17	14	10	9	7	6	4	3	1					
12	20	16	12	8	7	5	4	2	1						
11	20	16	11	8	6	5	3	1							
10	20	15	9	7	5	3	1								
9	20	14	8	6	4	1									
8	20	13	7	5	3	1									
7	20	12	6	4	2										
6	20	12	6	3	1										
5	20	11	5	2											

Where positions are tied, Pentathlon Points are shared in the same way as Master Points are shared, with fractions being rounded up.

If an event is cancelled, the Pentathlon will be decided by the remaining events.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS' GUIDES

A series of guides have been prepared to assist the club's Tournament Directors. Copies of the following guides are available in the office and may be photocopied for reference. If you are reading this on the club web site, you can click most of the titles below to read them immediately!

A guide to Evening Duplicates
Duplicate Pairs Movements
Multiple Teams Movements
TDing on Saturday evenings
Running the bar on Saturday evenings
TDing with duplimated boards.

Members should note that our Tournament Directors are empowered under Laws 90 and 91 of Duplicate Contract Bridge to issue Procedural and Disciplinary Penalties and, in extreme circumstances, to suspend and disqualify a player for the remainder of any session.

BEST BEHAVIOUR AT BRIDGE

Sheffield Bridge Club has embraced the principles of the EBU's promotion of Best Behaviour at Bridge. A sheet explaining what is expected of members is displayed on the Club's notice-board. The contents of the sheet are based upon a similar sheet produced by the EBU.

CONVENTION CARDS

Chapter 4 of the EBU Orange Book states that pairs must have two completed Convention Cards.

Sheffield Bridge Club policy differs in that it is an expectation rather than a requirement that regular partnerships should have convention cards, and non-regular partnerships should have, as a minimum, basic details of their system on the outside pages of their scorecards.

Blank Convention Cards are available from the bar, and are free. Even better is to down-load a blank Convention Card from the EBU web site.

SMOKING

Smoking is now prohibited throughout the club and within 10 feet (3m) of any entrances to the building.

BOOKING LISTS

Booking lists are posted in the downstairs playing area for some special events.

Similarly, booking lists are kept by the Steward for teams matches for Monday evenings and teams should book such matches.

Teams matches may be played at other times when the club is open provided that advance notification to the Steward is given.

PROCEDURE AT THE START OF AN EVENING SESSION

At approximately 7.10pm, the Tournament Director will ring the bell. At this point, all players, who have not already done so, must move immediately to an appropriate table for play.

If a player expects to arrive at the club within a few minutes after this time, that player must notify the club by phone of expected late arrival so that the Tournament Director can take account of this.

THE END OF AN EVENING SESSION

Evening sessions finish at approximately 10.45pm but are dependant on the movement for that evening. Tournament Directors are instructed that, unless special conditions apply (such as for completion of teams matches), a new round may not be called after 10.30pm. A decision taken by a Tournament Director, when the time is almost exactly 10.30pm, as to whether or not a further round is to be played, is final.

SEATING RIGHTS

For all Mitchell movements, unless instructed otherwise by the Tournament Director, the North-South and East-West pairs at each table must decide by toss of coin which pair is to have seating rights, unless one pair has been granted permission by the Committee to have a right to sit.

STANDBY PROCEDURES

The Standby player should arrive at the club by 7.00pm.

Any person wishing to use the Standby (known in other clubs as “host”) system should make himself or herself known to the Standby by 7.05pm. The Standby player should wear a badge to aid identification.

The Standby player must pair up players requiring partners in the order that players make themselves known to the Standby player. Players thus paired up may, by mutual agreement only, rearrange their partnerships, but the Tournament Director is responsible for resolving any difficulties and for final assignments of partnerships.

Players whose partners have not arrived by the time the bell has been rung at approximately 7.10pm must inform the Tournament Director.

The standby player must remain at the club until the Tournament Director has commenced the movement and informed the Standby player that he or she is no longer required. If the Standby player is not required, he or she will be entitled to a voucher from the Steward for a free game on another occasion. If the Standby Player is required, he or she is exempt from table fees for that session.

A member who carries out a Standby duty in the course of a year from July to June or who has been granted an exemption, will be eligible to a discount on the following year’s subscription of one third of the standard subscription amount.

OTHER EXEMPTIONS FROM TABLE FEES

For each session, the Tournament Director is exempt from table fees. In addition, scorers are entitled to a voucher for a free game for each two events that they score.

APPEALS

Players may, in most cases, appeal a ruling given by a Tournament Director. Further information is given in the Guide for Tournaments Directors – Evening Duplicates.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

These are now fully covered in the Regulations.

SCORING ERRORS AND PROCEDURAL PENALTIES

The “Standard amounts” at Sheffield Bridge Club are a quarter of a Top at Match Points, 3 IMPs at IMPed events, and 250 at Aggregate scoring.

Scoring errors are subject to Procedural Penalties only on Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions. The Tournament Director is responsible for ensuring that table name slips have been adequately completed, and, in the case of Aggregate Pairs, that Personal Score slips have been correctly and adequately headed.

THE BAR

The bar is open on each weekday from 6.30pm to 11.00pm, and at other times for certain special events.

The bar will close temporarily at 7.10pm when there is a duplicate session to enable the duplicate to make a prompt start, and the steward to collect table money. The bar will re-open when the table money has been collected and checked.

Orders for drinks (with cash) may be given to the steward, who will bring them to the table.

A list of current prices is posted at the bar.

Members may cash personal cheques subject to production of a banker’s card. The maximum amount will be the lower of the banker’s guarantee and the reasonably available cash in the bar.

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