

SHEFFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

General Information

and

Conditions of Contest for events

INTRODUCTION

This edition dated 24 March 2024 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.

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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1. SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

The current annual subscriptions are given in the Club Regulations.

2. TABLE FEES

The levels of table fees are determined by the Committee. Current fees are given in the Club Regulations.

3. BRIDGE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

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

The Club also adopts the entire contents of the current EBU Blue Book, the "Handbook of EBU Permitted Understandings", and the current EBU White Book "Technical Matters", except and unless specified otherwise by the Club in this document or in the Constitution or Regulations.

Permitted agreements for duplicate sessions are as per Level 4 for all sessions. Players who employ complicated or highly artificial conventions are reminded of the need for adequate and clear disclosure.

Where a board in a Pairs movement is not played due to lack of time, an artificial assigned score is given to both sides.

Some of the Correction Periods for single session events (i.e. most club events) and for last sessions of events are later than given in the EBU White Book Para 2.5.4.3:

Requests for a ruling: 20 minutes of non-playing time after the end of the session.

Requests for an appeal: The later of (a) 20 minutes of non-playing time after the end of the session, (b) 20 minutes after the ruling is given, or (c) any later time allowed by the TD or CTD.

Score queries and errors: 7 days after the end of the session

4. 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.

Special events will be arranged and publicised on the club notice board and web site and via e-mails to members.

5. DUPLICATE PAIRS

Most Pairs sessions are Match Pointed. Match Points are converted to VPs in Swiss Pairs events. Cross IMPed Pairs sessions may be arranged. Aggregate scoring is no longer used.

6. 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. Normal table fees are payable.

7. ISSUE OF EBU MASTER POINTS.

EBU Master Points are awarded for all club duplicate sessions in accordance with the current EBU Master Point Handbook. These points are directly credited to EBU HQ under the Universal Membership scheme.

Most events attract Master Points at “Club” status. We may award Blue Points for the Lord Mayor’s Swiss Pairs and the Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams if currently permitted

Additional Master Points are not awarded for any of our “ladder” trophy ranking lists. (The EBU Master Point Handbook refers).

8. ISSUE OF FREE GAMES

Generally, free games are no longer issued as prizes for winning regular sessions, but please see the paragraph on Prize Awards, below.

9. PRIZE AWARDS

Most special events attract prizes. These will normally be advertised in advance. We may award prizes on a handicapped basis, which usually involves looking up the NGS effects the next day. We may award prizes for the winners or leading contestants.

If so advertised, the leading team from the Vice Chairman’s Teams is 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 subsequent teams.)

10. WEEKLY LADDER COMPETITIONS

This section needs review.

The schedule of ladder events is as shown on the home page of the club web site and may consist of any of the following events that existed before the 2020 pandemic:

Monday afternoons:	Allen Trophy	
Wednesday afternoons:		For non-experts only, Barber Trophy
Wednesday evenings:	Paton Trophy	and, for non-experts only, Jepson Trophy
Thursday afternoons:	Rankin Trophy	
Friday evenings:	Frith Trophy	and, for non-experts only, Sutton Trophy

The Paton Trophy is awarded to the player(s) with the highest total of their best 20 percentage scores in Match Pointed Pairs events on Wednesday evenings, including Simultaneous Pairs and the Chairman’s and Mixed Pairs, in each Club year.

Where a trophy is awarded for non-expert players, the winner will have had the highest total of Master Points for their best 20 results in each Club year.

A “non-expert” player, for this purpose, is a player whose NGS grade was not above 48% at the start of the Club year.

11. NGS

In general, when club results are submitted to EBU HQ, they will be used to update players’ National Grades.

12. PRO-AM PAIRS

A series of Pro-Am pairs may be arranged, in which each pair will consist of an experienced player and a relative newcomer to bridge. Trophy Points will be awarded on a basis of 5/3/2/1 for the leading four pairs in each direction, and if at least four events have been held, the Marcus Trophy will be awarded and shared by the leading experienced player and the leading newcomer. It will not be necessary for the two winners to have partnered each other.

13. DETAILS OF OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Following the 2020 pandemic, some, but not all, of these events are held in any year.

In the event of tied winners for the following events, the ties are not split unless stated. The format of any 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 Lord Mayor’s Swiss Pairs, the New Year Swiss Pairs and the Flo Dornan Swiss Pairs may be two-session Swiss Pairs events, with six rounds of seven boards each being played with current-round assignments, or may be single session with five rounds of six boards each. The winning pair receive the respective trophies. **The Easter Swiss Pairs** is similar but 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 a non-expert pair outside the top two, on a handicap basis using the NGS. For this purpose, a “non-expert” pair is one whose average National Grade was below 48% at the time of the event.

The Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams is a two-session Swiss Teams event. However, if the number of teams entered is deemed too low the format is changed to that of an all-play-all Multiple Teams.

Chairman’s Pairs: This is a single session Pairs event. The session will also count towards any coincident weekly Ladder events.

Vera Copestake Multiple Teams, Laura Hadfield Multiple Teams and Vice-Chairman’s Teams. These are all single session Multiple Teams events.. 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. 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 may be held for single-sex pairs, but it is more likely that numbers of such pairs are too few for a separate movement, in which case, these pairs may be incorporated into the Mixed Pairs event but without standing for the club or county trophies.

Mather Individual: This is currently discontinued.

Intercity Teams competition (LOG Jamboree): This is an end-of-season event, organised by the League Operating Group (LOG), whereby all the teams that have represented Sheffield Bridge Club in the Yorkshire League are invited to compete against each other on a handicapped basis. It is a Teams-of-eight single session event, normally played on a Monday evening. Each team-of-eight is split into two sub-teams-of-four for the purpose of the movement and for scoring. The gross score for each team is the sum of the IMPs achieved by each sub-team. A list of handicaps is prescribed before the start of the event based on the NGS and the two leading teams after applying the handicaps will win a prize.

14. 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.

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.

If insufficient events are held, a trophy may not be awarded.

15. 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. Most of these guides are available to be read on the club web site.

A Guide to Evening Duplicates
Duplicate Pairs Movements
Multiple Teams Movements

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.

16. 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.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off during play

17. SYSTEM CARDS

Chapter 3 of the EBU Blue Book states that pairs must have two completed System Cards (formerly known as Convention Cards).

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

Blank EBU 20B System Cards may be down-loaded from the EBU web site.

18. SMOKING

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

19. BOOKING LISTS

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

Booking may be required for Teams matches for Monday evenings, in which case, Captains will be informed.

Teams matches may be played at certain other times provided that advance notification to the CTD is given.

20. PROCEDURE AT THE START OF AN EVENING SESSION

At approximately 7.05pm, the Tournament Director will instruct players, who have not already done so, to move immediately to an appropriate table for play to start at 7.10pm. Table fees, in the form of tokens, are collected as the TD prepares for the session to commence, or may be collected as players arrive.

If a player expects to arrive at the club within a few minutes after 7.05pm, that player must notify the club by phone of expected late arrival so that the Tournament Director can take account of this.

Similar arrangements are expected for afternoon sessions.

21. THE END OF AN EVENING SESSION

Evening sessions finish at approximately 10.30pm to 10.45pm but are dependent 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. Tournament Directors are similarly advised that rounds of three boards should not be started after 10.25 and rounds of four boards should not be started after 10.15pm.

Players should note that Tournament Directors are instructed that movements of more than nine rounds of three boards or movements of more than thirteen rounds of two shall not be used, so that it should be reasonable to complete a movement in good time, but players should be sympathetic if a Tournament Director calls a final move at

almost exactly the latest allocated time because of the practical inconvenience of curtailing a movement.

Players are requested at the end of a session to tidy up the playing areas and refreshment area in preparation for the next session.

Similar arrangements are expected for afternoon sessions.

22. 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 or a right to move.

23. STANDBY PROCEDURES

The Standby player should arrive at the club by 15 minutes before the scheduled session start time.

Any person wishing to use the Standby (known in other clubs as “host”) system should make himself or herself known to the Standby by ten minutes before the scheduled start time. 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 approximately five minutes before the scheduled start time 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.

Any member who wishes to carry out a Standby Duty must register to do so before the day on which the proposed Standby is to be done. A list is displayed on the club website in order that other members and visitors without a partner for a particular session will be able to check whether a Standby is available before setting out to play. A list may also be posted at the club.

Any member who carries out a Standby Duty as prescribed above will be given two free game tokens, one of which will be collected in the event that the Standby plays in that session.

In the event that there is no pre-signed up Standby for a particular session and an odd number of players arrive without a partner, then, in order of priority, either the last player to arrive or the player who agrees to go home will receive one free game token.

There is no limit on the number of standby duties for which a member may volunteer, and the free game tokens are transferable.

24. OTHER EXEMPTIONS FROM TABLE FEES

For each session, the Tournament Director, scorer and player responsible for opening the club, collecting table fees and closing the club are exempt from table fees.

25. 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.

26. DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

These are now fully covered in the Constitution.

27. PROCEDURAL AND DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES

The “Standard amounts” at Sheffield Bridge Club are as the prevailing amounts quoted in the EBU White Book.

28. THE BAR

Some alcoholic drinks are available from the refreshment area, with payments to be made via an honesty box. A list of current prices is posted.

Only drinks purchased at the club (or water) may be consumed within the club.

29. MEMBER’S NOTICES

A notice board is available for members to post details of external events. Otherwise, permission from a club officer is required before any notice may be placed on the club’s notice boards.

30. CLOSURES DUE TO BAD WEATHER

In the event of bad weather, particularly snow, the club may cancel sessions at relatively short notice. Members are advised to check the web site for latest news, or make enquiries, in the event that bad weather may prevent members reaching the club.

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