



West Midlands Bridge Club



Information and Bye Laws

September 2018

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AIMS OF THE CLUB

The aims of West Midlands Bridge Club (WMBC) are to promote the playing, improvement and enjoyment of the game of bridge at all levels of expertise in a pleasant and enjoyable environment, and to encourage others to join our Club. Our Club aspires to be at the forefront of bridge both locally and nationally and to this end our premises are also used for County, National and International competitions and events.

President: Margaret Wort

Honorary Life Members

Margaret Armstrong
Carolyn Fisher
Roy Moore
Patrick Wells
Brent Wormald
Margaret Wort

Board of Directors

Margaret Wort - Chairman
Elizabeth Court - Treasurer & Company Secretary
Penny Dawson - Chair Education Committee
Cathrine Everson - Partnership Co-ordinator
Darren Evetts - Chair Bridge and Rules & Ethics Committees, Licensee
Carolyn Fisher - Chair Bar Committee
Mark Johnson - Chair Admin Committee, Club Secretary
Myra Twyman - Chair Social Committee
Patrick Wells - Chair House Committee

Club Stewardess and Catering Manager - Jayne Crump

We do hope you will enjoy playing Bridge at our Club. It should be remembered that running a club such as ours demands input from a large number of volunteers who may act as host, direct sessions, score, teach, perform office duties or generally help with the work of the various committees. If you feel you can spare some of your free time to help, do make yourself known to a member of the Board.

AFFILIATION

WMBC is affiliated to the Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association (WCBA) and the English Bridge Union (EBU). The Club operates policies as laid down by the EBU, unless otherwise stated, and whilst the Club follows EBU rules and regulations, it does not rigorously enforce them. Members of WMBC automatically become members of, and membership data is shared with, WCBA (unless already a Primary Member of another County) and the EBU.

ATTIRE

Players are asked to dress smartly and refrain from wearing denim/trainers at suppers and lunches. Men's sleeveless shirts are not permitted and shorts must not be worn at evening sessions.

BAR

The Club operates a licensed bar for use by members and visitors. The bar closes at 11.00pm. Persons who are fortunate enough to look under the age of 21 may be required to produce proof of age before being allowed to purchase or consume alcohol on the premises. Anyone asked to leave the Bar by a Board or Staff member must do so immediately. Only drinks purchased on the premises may be consumed on the premises.

BRIDGEMATE ETIQUETTE

The Bridgемate is primarily the responsibility of the North/South pair (or stationary pair). However, East/West must confirm the scores before they are finally sent to the server, ie, the 'Accept' button is pressed. **Recommended Use:** North/South should enter the Board Number, Contract and Declarer into the Bridgемate at the end of the auction. If the player operating the Bridgемate is on lead then the lead must be made first (*the opening lead must be made before the player does anything else, and this includes completing his or her scorecard*). The final result is entered into the Bridgемate at the conclusion of play. The Bridgемate must then be passed to the East/West pair to confirm and accept the entry. When the score is accepted an East/West player may view the percentage and must then hand the Bridgемate back to the North/South player with the percentage still displayed. It is perfectly acceptable for either side to announce the percentage to his or her partner. The frequencies can then be reviewed by either side (pairs only). Discussion of the information displayed on the Bridgемate must be kept to a minimum and, most importantly, talk quietly! When there is a stationary pair, it is expected that this pair be responsible for the bridgемate.

CAR PARKING

- Entrance to the Club premises by car should be from the Warwick Road. Exit from the club premises should be via Hampton Lane.
- Park in designated spaces only. A number of spaces are marked 'Reserved', these must not be used before 6pm. There are disabled spaces available on the Hampton Lane side of the building. Spaces are reserved for the President and Chairman.
- To maximise parking spaces, there is a block of spaces 3 deep in the centre of the car park. Players are expected to park so that ALL spaces can be best utilised and not leave a gap in the middle row.
- An overflow car park is available behind the church next door and there is an entrance to those spaces behind the Clubhouse.

CATERING

Full catering facilities are available within the Club. Any special dietary requirements may be discussed with the Catering Manager. Only food and drinks purchased on the premises may be consumed on the premises. Under no circumstances should meals be consumed at the bridge table during play (ie during the course of a round).

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the Board and Club Members may be made informally via the Members' Forum Meeting(s). This gives members an opportunity to raise with the Board any matters of concern, and gives the Board an opportunity

to consult with members on important issues. More formal communication may be made via written or electronic mail to the Club office, or to any of the Committee Chairs or Board Members. A Club Newsletter (Bridge-the-Gap) also helps to keep members informed. It is the Club's policy for the Board/Committees/Teams to communicate via electronic means.

COMPETITIONS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday Suppers and Sunday Lunches, followed by bridge, quiz nights and other competitions, take place during the year. Details may be found on the Website and notice boards.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Club is committed to providing education and training opportunities for all players. The Club offers Associate Membership to learners in their first and second year of tuition (Associate Membership is further defined elsewhere but, in short, an Associate Member's rights only relate to table money and not requiring them to sign the visitors' book). A mentoring scheme is available for all players and for further details email: mentoring@westmidbridge.co.uk

HEALTH & SAFETY and EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Members are collectively responsible for health & safety and must familiarise themselves with health & safety requirements and emergency evacuation notices displayed around the club premises (eg safety requirements, emergency procedures, fire notices, the siting of fire extinguishers, emergency exits and emergency telephone).

HOST SYSTEM

The host system provides players with the opportunity to arrive without a partner up to 6 times per year (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Bridge Committee). Hosts are not required to be experts, nor are they required to know every system or convention in existence. If you arrive without a partner, and wish to use the host system, you should be prepared to play a simple system that you and the host understand.

LOST PROPERTY

Property left at the club with no known owner will be considered as lost property. The item(s) will be recorded in the lost property book and stored for a period of 3 months, after which it will be donated to charity.

MASTERPOINTS & NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME (NGS)

EBU Master Points are awarded for all sessions and are directly credited to a player's EBU account. Unless specifically agreed with the Chair of the Bridge Committee, all relevant session data counts towards NGS ranking (ie no exemptions).

MEMBERSHIP

Applications - It is important to remember that when proposing or seconding an applicant the proposer and seconder are vouching for the applicant's suitability to become a member of the Club. It is the responsibility of the proposer and seconder to introduce the applicant to member(s) of the Board of Directors. This may be impractical when, for example, a player only attends a session where no Board members are present. Under those circumstances it is possible for the session leader, or teacher, to countersign the form in support of the application. Please note that the counter signatory cannot be the proposer or seconder. If an applicant is unknown to the Board, and does not have a suitable counter signatory, then the application will be held in abeyance until the above conditions are met. Unless agreed by the Board, there is no facility for member anonymisation or pseudonyms. Applicants are required to sign the visitors' book, and pay the additional visitor supplement, until such time as they have received written confirmation that their subscription payment has been received. These conditions are in addition to those contained in the Articles of Association.

All Members (with exceptions, as determined by the Board) are required to contribute some time in support of the running of the Club. This could be as simple as hosting or as complex as TDing or joining a committee.

Bridge Sessions are available for players of varying levels of experience and skill. The Bridge Committee has the right to issue guidance to members as to which sessions are most suited to their level of experience and skill and if, in its opinion, a member is attending a session that is inappropriate for his or her level of experience and skill, may request that a member refrain from attending specified session(s). If, after such a request, a member persists in attending the aforementioned session(s) the Bridge Committee reserves the right to issue a formal ban in respect of the aforementioned session(s) and refer the matter to the Board who may, should further transgressions occur, deal with the matter under Article 12 of the Club's Articles of Association.

PARTNERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR

The partnership co-ordinator is available to assist players who are looking for partners up to 6 times per year (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Bridge Committee), and subject to the same conditions as the Host System. Email: partner@westmidbridge.co.uk

PERMITTED SYSTEMS & CONVENTIONS

Unless otherwise indicated by the Bridge Committee EBU Level 4 Systems are permitted at all sessions.

PRIVACY STATEMENT – Please see the Club's Privacy Policy on the Website, or on the Club notice board.

Member details are stored electronically, as well as in paper form. Information will be shared with the EBU and WCBA. Where members have opted in, names, telephone numbers and email addresses may be shared with other members.

Members are responsible for ensuring that the Club holds accurate and up-to-date information. Members serving on the Board, a committee, or within a team, will become part of an email group to enable essential communications and discussions between committee/team members. If you do not wish your personal email address to be used in this way please inform the Club of an alternative email address for this purpose.

ROOMS FOR HIRE

The Club has a policy of offering rooms for hire, and this can be transacted through the office or the Stewardess.

SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES

The selling, or soliciting the sale, of food and drink items and any form of goods on WMBC premises is, unless specifically preapproved by the Board (eg a charity event, or similar activity), strictly prohibited.

SEATING

- All players are asked where possible to be seated 10 minutes before the published start time, in order that the Tournament Director (TD) may make the necessary arrangements. Late arrivals will be accommodated where possible.
- A member of the partnership must be on the premises in order for a seat to be reserved, and the Stewardess is not to be asked to reserve seats. However, this does not apply to members who have been granted special dispensation (seating rights).
- The TD may reserve seats for players who have been granted special dispensation and those with mobility issues.
- Only the TD may remove a seat reservation; any member with concerns about seat reservations should write to the Bridge Committee.
- One table in each section will be reserved for the TD.
- Players who are asked to move by the TD should do so promptly, please.

SMOKING (including electronic cigarettes)

There is a NO SMOKING policy throughout the Club premises. Those smoking outside are asked to discard cigarette butts in the bin provided and not to sit or lean on the hand rails.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions become due on 1 April of each year and membership will be deemed lapsed if payment is not received by 31 May of the same year.

TABLE MONEY

Members pay table money of £3.50 per session unless otherwise stated. Universal Membership payments to WCBA and the EBU are included in this fee. Unless otherwise indicated visitors pay an additional £1.50 supplement to the table money. Junior members pay table money of £1 and junior visitors pay table money of £2. Junior is a person under 25 years of age.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (TD)

- The instructions of the Tournament Director should be followed at all times. Any pair or team may appeal a TD's ruling up to 30 minutes after play ends. Appeals must be made through the TD. The TD will either: 1) form an appeals committee, should sufficient (3) experienced players be available to hear the appeal and the TD is experienced enough to manage an appeal, or 2) forward the appeal to the Chair of the Bridge Committee. The scores may be subject to change if there is a local appeal. Should any pair or team wish to appeal the local appeal committee decision, this may be done via the EBU, but this will not affect the local result.
- The Club operates a TD Training policy. Any members who would like further details should contact the Chair of the Bridge Committee.
- Complaints (not appeals) relating to a Tournament Director should be made in writing to the Chair of the Bridge Committee.

WEBSITE

Members can access the 'Members Only' section of the website by entering a password which can be obtained from the office. Results are normally uploaded immediately after each event. Various articles of interest may be found on the website. The Club accepts no responsibility or liability for any links from its Website.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome to attend the club up to 6 times per year (exceptions may be made by the Board). With the exception of 'Open' events visitors must sign the Visitors' Book on each occasion and pay the supplement as indicated under Table Money.