

GENERAL INFORMATION.

PLAYING VENUE AND TIME

Congleton Bridge Club plays at The New Life Church, West Road, Congleton.

Play begins promptly at 7.30 P.M. each Monday. Players are requested to be seated at tables by 7.25 p.m. to enable the Tournament Director (T.D) to work out the movement.

Normally 24 - 28 boards will be played over a 3 hour period

The club does not run a 'hosting' system and therefore players should attend in pairs. The club's website has facilities for requesting partners.

The club is not affiliated to the E.B.U.

Non-Members are welcome to attend.

Table Money is payable according to the amounts set at the A.G.M. or an E.G.M

COMPETITIONS

Two trophies are awarded bi-annually.

The Club is a Founder Member of the South East Cheshire Bridge League. Teams of 8, chosen by the Team Captain, play each other club in the league each year.

TABLE RULES

LAWS

Play is conducted according to the current edition of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge* and subsequent amendments promulgated by the World Bridge Federation. It is each player's responsibility to be familiar with the Laws at least to the extent which will enable play with confidence and without blatant errors.

THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (T.D.)

The T.D. is in total charge during each tournament. The T.D's function is-

- (a) to arrange the movement to be played and its timing.
- (b) to assist when irregularities arise.
- (c) to arrange for each session's scores to be calculated and published

If an irregularity arises or a player believes that a law has been inadvertently contravened (an infraction) by an opponent the T.D. should always be called. Such action carries no stigma and is in no way an 'accusation' (We all make mistakes!). The rules ensure that your opponents are not accidentally disadvantaged.

All rulings of the T.D. should be accepted graciously. If a player disagrees with a ruling an appeal can be made through the T.D.

The Chief TD will hear all appeals convening an appeal panel if he thinks it necessary.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NORTH

The player sitting in the North position should:

- (a) Check that boards are received in the correct order.
- (b) At the end of play agree with opponents the number of tricks made, fill in the score sheet, and allow E/W to check it as; errors cannot be rectified after the board has been moved.
- (d) Ensure that the cards are replaced in their correct slots
- (e) At the end of the round pass the boards to the table due to receive them

BIDDING SYSTEMS

Any recognised bidding system which is readily explained and easily understood by opponents may be played. Prior Committee approval must be obtained for the use of more unusual systems. (This is not intended to stifle innovation, but to protect the membership at large from bidding methods which may be seen as unfair in their application).

BIDDING METHOD

Bidding shall be by Bidding Boxes.

Each call is made by placing that call on the table facing their partner. (It is normal to stack the call to be made on top of lesser bids so that only one card is visible)

Subsequent calls are made similarly by placing the new call partly overlapping the previous one so that the sequence of bids can be seen

A call has been made once the intended bidding card has been removed from the box.

At the end of the auction all bidding cards should be left on the table until dummy is exposed.

Once dummy is exposed and declarer has had the opportunity to ask any questions the bidding cards should be returned to the box.

The card showing the contract (plus double or redouble if necessary) can be left on the bidding board so long as neither the vulnerability or dealer information are obscured

DISCLOSURE OF BIDDING SYSTEM

Particular attention must be paid to the 'alerting and announcing' of system' calls and to their explanation on the request of an opponent whose turn it is to bid or play. All unusual/conventional partnership agreements should be disclosed to the opposition in line with the regulations of the English Bridge Union.

A brief description of calls needing alerting/announcing is to be found on the Club Web Site

Alerting or Announcing is done by the partner of the player calling

Alerting is done by showing the Alert card to both opponents

TABLE ETHICS

Players should be courteous, cheerful and good tempered (especially when things go wrong!). The principles of BBB (Best Behaviour at Bridge) as promulgated by the EBU and available on the club website should be adhered to.

'Attitudes' should be avoided during bidding and play especially that of hesitation.

'Jump' bids must be prefaced by the 'Stop' card. The next player should pause for at least 5 seconds before the next call is made.

The opening lead must be made face down and cannot be retracted without the permission of the T.D. It is faced after the partner of the leader has had an opportunity to ask questions

Any player (other than dummy) is permitted to ask questions about opponents' bidding or play conventions whether they are alerted or not. It is good practice only to ask questions if it will affect your bidding/play or at the end of the auction.

Loud discussion of boards should be avoided as should any action which holds up play.

After removing their hand from the board each player should ensure there are 13 cards before looking at them

Players should not handle any cards other than their own, but may ask to see all cards after play has ceased.

The board in play must remain on view throughout the bidding and play.

After play and before returning the cards to the board each player should count and shuffle their hand.

If you break a law inadvertently there is no obligation to draw attention to it but you should not try to conceal it.

When explaining your partner's bid/play only tell the opponents what you have agreed either by explicit discussion or by mutual experience of each other's bidding/play.

If you have never discussed this or a similar situation then it is correct to say 'no partnership understanding'.

If you are very unsure it is correct to suggest possible alternatives ("I am not sure whether it is Gerber or natural" or "I am not sure if it is forcing") but if the doubt is only small say what you think and be prepared to call the director if you are wrong

It is not correct to say 'how you will take it' if you are unsure as this gives information to your partner.

It is good practice to call the director yourself if opponents suggest there has been an infraction. Do not make your opponents do it.

If your partner gives an incorrect explanation of your bid or play you may disadvantage your opponents. To minimise this you must inform the opponents at the end of the auction if you are to be the declaring side or at the end of the play if you are the defending side. If it is possible that your opponents have been disadvantaged you should call the director

SPEED OF PLAY

The time for each round is fixed to allow the session to end at approximately 10.30. The T.D. may cancel boards that have not been started near to the time the round is due to end. An average is given to all players in such a case, though a pair in no way at fault may be awarded an 'average plus'.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Scores shall be displayed during playing hours on succeeding club nights. They are also available on the club website. Applications for correction can be made up to the end of the first evening they are displayed.

THE RULES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee shall keep these Rules and the appeals procedure under review.

Notes:

The Current Laws of Duplicate Bridge are those of 2007.

Dealing of the boards is done by players prior to each session. The cards should be thoroughly shuffled and thereafter dealt singly in rotation into 4 hands before being placed in the board.

The current fees are: Annual membership £5. Member table money £2; Non-Member Table Money £3

The Club's website may be found at
www.bridgewebs.com/congleton

Notes

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Annual membership £5.
Member table money £2;
Non-Member Table Money £3

The Present Committee is

Chairman	Roger Slack
Secretary	Amanda Kirk
Treasurer	Sheena Adam
Chief Tournament	
Director, Team Captain	John Whitelock
Other Committee	
	Derek Creasy
	John Piggott
	Glenys Lowery

At the present there is no rules sub-committee

The Club Directors are

John Whitelock
Roger Slack
Derek Creasy
David Messham
Don Cole
Lindsey Cuff
John Hennam