

DEVA BRIDGE LEAGUE

RULES

1. The Deva Bridge League is a “Teams of Four” competition run by the Deva Bridge Club & is open to members of the Deva Bridge Club and also their Guests.
2. The League will be managed by a League Sub-committee, comprising a Chairman and one representative (both nominated by the Deva Bridge Committee) & the Secretary and a representative from each of the divisions of the League, who must all be members of the Deva Bridge Club.
3. All League matches are to be played in accordance with the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge and the directives and recommendations of the English Bridge Union as set out in their current “Blue Book” (Permitted Understandings – revised 2017).
Level 4 conventions as defined in the “Blue Book” (Permitted Understandings – revised 2017) may be played in all League matches.
4. Local Points will be awarded for the League competition in accordance with the scale laid down in the English Bridge Union (EBU) Master Points scheme.
5. The season for the league matches will normally commence on 1st September each year and end on 31st May in the following year.
6. Teams wishing to compete in the League must register, including the names of all of their players, with the League Secretary at least one month before the start of the season, to enable the fixture list for the forthcoming season to be drawn up. Additions to the team squads can only be made during the season with the approval of the League Secretary. All registrations are subject to the approval of the Deva Bridge Committee.
7. Membership of the League gives permission for officials of the League and EBU to maintain whatever computer records are necessary for production of League tables, Master Points and Captains’ addresses and telephone details. The Data Protection Act will apply to these records.
8. All matches are to be between two “Teams of Four” played over twenty four boards in two sessions of twelve boards each & scored by International Match Points (IMPs).
9. Matches for Division 1 & 2 will normally be played at the Deva Bridge Club on a Thursday evening in accordance with the fixture list drawn up by the League Secretary. Ideally there will be a maximum of four matches played on a Thursday evening at the Deva Bridge Club.
10. Matches for Division 3 & the “Knock-Out Cup” will normally be played at the Deva Bridge Club on a Wednesday or Thursday evenings where possible. Ideally there will be a maximum of four League or “Knock-Out Cup” matches played on any evening at the Deva Bridge Club

11. "Knock-Out Cup" matches between teams in the same division will start off on a level basis but teams in the second division playing against a team from the first division will receive a +15IMP start. In the event of a tie after 24 boards then rule 33 should be followed
12. The home team is the first named in the fixtures. Matches played at the Deva BC are expected to start at 7:00 pm unless agreed otherwise. However, the starting time must not be later than the starting time for the normal competition being played at the Deva Bridge Club on the same evening, in order to minimise any inconvenience to that competition.
13. The home team Captain is responsible for initial contact with opposing team captain confirming availability to play on designated date.
14. For every match normal table money is to be paid by each member of the teams playing, currently £2 for members of the Deva Bridge Club and £3 for non-members. The home team Captain to collect these fees.
15. Teams not playing their home matches at the Deva Bridge Club premises will **not** be required to pay the normal table money; **however** the home team Captain is required to collect a fee of **50p per head**.
16. A player registered for one Team cannot play for another team.
17. The home team shall ask their opponents to choose their positions at the start of the match and they shall retain these positions throughout the twenty-four boards. The home team will change their positions after twelve boards.
18. Where matches are played at the Deva Bridge Club the results should be entered on the appropriate sheet on the club notice board. Otherwise they should be notified to the League Secretary by the Saturday morning following the match. **This is the home team Captain's responsibility.**
19. In the event of an irregularity occurring in the bidding or play, which cannot be resolved between the two teams themselves then the designated Tournament Director for evening can be called; otherwise if not possible the Principal Tournament Director, or other qualified Tournament Director should be contacted within twenty-four hours from the end of the match and asked to give a ruling (which may affect the result of the match). The teams may approach the Deva Bridge Club Principal Tournament Director after normal play has finished. All such rulings may be appealed.
20. Appeals against a ruling in a match must be made by the relevant Team Captain to the Deva Bridge Club Principal Tournament Director or, if not available, the Deva Bridge Club President within forty-eight hours of the end of the match.

21. Matches are to be played over twenty-four boards as two sets each of 12 boards and to be scored by International Match Points (IMPs) then converted to Victory Points according to the following scale: -

IMP Margin	VP`s
0 – 3	6 – 6
4 – 8	7 – 5
9 – 15	8 – 4
16 – 24	9 – 3
25 – 35	10 – 2
36 – 48	11 – 1
49 upwards	12 - 0

22. In the event of two or more teams tying for first place at the end of the season with the same number of Victory Points the tie will be split on the basis of two points for a win and one for a draw. If the teams are still level, the tie will be further split on the basis of the greater IMP margin and as a last resort on the basis of the results of the matches between the two teams.
23. Normally, the teams finishing in the first two positions of all divisions below the first shall be promoted to the division immediately above them, and the teams finishing in the last two positions of each division, except the lowest, shall be relegated to the division immediately below them. Fewer or more teams may be promoted or relegated in order to facilitate the organisation of the League.
24. Exception to Rule 23: If there is a major reorganisation involving changing the number of teams in each division then the League Committee will be empowered to arrange promotion and relegation as they see fit.
25. New teams joining the League will commence in their first season in the lowest division.
26. In the event of a postponement, the home Captain should notify the League Secretary of the date of the rearranged match as soon as agreement is reached. If no agreement is reached, the matter should be referred to the League Secretary for mediation. If agreement still cannot be reached the matter will be referred to the League Sub-committee, who will decide the outcome of the match.
27. Any team failing to complete their fixtures by the end of the season, as defined in rule 5, will forfeit their outstanding matches. VPs will be awarded as set out in rule 29.

28. Any team failing to attend a match without at least 48 hours notification shall be regarded as having lost unless there are exceptional circumstances which satisfy the League Sub-committee.
29. When a team has been declared winners by default, the VP award will be calculated at the end of the season and will be the greatest of: -
- The average VP score of their winning matches rounded to the nearest whole number
 - The complement, rounded to the nearest whole number, of the average VP score of their opponents' defeats
 - 7 VP.
- The defaulting team will receive zero VPs.
30. In the event of a match being restricted to twelve boards by mechanical error, the result will be converted to Victory Points on this scale: -

IMP Margin	VP`s
0 – 3	4 – 4
4 – 8	5 – 3
9 – 15	6 – 2
16 – 24	7 – 1
25 upwards	8 – 0

Other numbers of boards will be treated similarly.

31. Two teams will be will sponsored to enter the Merseyside Cup usually on the first Sunday in November after completion of the League session.
 The “A” Team will be selected by the Captain of the winning Team of Division One or delegated by the League Secretary.
 The “B” Team will be selected by the Captain of the winning Team of Division Two or delegated by the League Secretary.
 Both Team Captains will select a team from their respective division (but not limited to their own team) & within the entry conditions of the Merseyside Cup; at present “no more than one player in each team of National Master or higher” rank as designated by the English Bridge Union or the Welsh Bridge Union. The entry fee (currently £10 per player) will be fully refunded after the event, but limited to Deva Bridge Club members.

32. The following conversion rate is to be used to enable inclusion of Deva Bridge Club members in the Thursday Monthly Prizes for their match on the same night:

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VP`s	%
12 – 0	62 - 38
11 – 1	60 – 40
10 – 2	58 – 42
9 – 3	56 – 44
8 – 4	54 – 46
7 – 5	52 – 48
6 – 6	50 – 50

33. In the event of a tie in a “Knock-Out Cup” match after 24 boards then the match will be resolved by playing three extra boards in a single stanza with no seating rights. Each Team Leader will submit their line-up by compass direction simultaneously without knowledge of the other team’s intentions and then abide by them for the extra boards. If the teams are still tied the procedure will be repeated.