

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

EDEN CUP 2006-2007 COMPETITION RULES

1. Heats will be played in individual clubs and all Clubs wishing to run a heat should notify the County Secretary before the AGM at the start of the new season. Dates for the heats can then be added to the County calendar. Any Club failing to so advise the Secretary may find their heat to be invalid although generally any additional heats will be permitted provided they have been well advertised and are played before 31st January. In addition the County Competition Secretary must be notified of their existence before the result of the last heat in the County calendar is played.
2. Heats can be incorporated into a normal club duplicate session but only pairs where both players are current members of the NCBA/EBU will be considered as eligible for qualification to the Eden Cup final. Players can play in more than one heat and may play with different partners in different heats if competing in the normal club duplicate session. HOWEVER, the first heat that they play in, and the partner that they play with, will be considered as the qualifying heat and score for the two players.
3. There will not be any additional table money at qualifying heats only the normal club charge. Qualifying pairs will be charged an entry fee, determined at the AGM by the NCBA Committee, when confirming their availability for the final (See Rule 8 below).
4. All heats must consist of at least three tables and each competitor must play a minimum of 18 boards. Organisers are required to run a one winner movement to determine the result. In all heats Level Three Conventions will be allowed.
5. Players should always try to play in the heat run by their home club. If this is not possible, players may approach another club for permission to play in their heat. Provided that such permission is sought of the club secretary at least one week before the heat is run, a club should permit members of other clubs to play in their heat, unless it is full. A club has the right to refuse to allow a non-member to play in their heat if such prior permission has not been sought and granted.
6. Full results of all heats should be submitted to the County Competition Secretary within one week of the heat being played. If qualified pairs state clearly that they cannot play or do not wish to play in the final then this should be written on the bottom of the result sheet. The club does not need to delay sending the result sheet in order to confirm each qualified pair (See Rule 7 below).
7. In January each year the County Competition Secretary should obtain from the EBU a copy of the up-to-date list of NCBA members. After excluding all pairs who cannot qualify for the final under rule two, the top third in each heat will qualify to play in the Eden Cup final, all fractions will be rounded up and pairs sharing the lowest qualifying place will both qualify. If the next placed eligible pair in a heat have a score of 50% or more, then they will be the reserve pair for that heat (See Rule 9 below).
8. Once the results of all heats have been received and collated by the County Competition Secretary invitations will be sent to each qualified pair asking them to confirm their place in the final by returning the agreed entry fee.
9. Pairs can only play in the partnership which qualified, no individual substitutes are allowed. If a pair is unable to take up their place in the final the County Competition Secretary will offer this place to the reserve pair from the same heat.
10. The final will consist of as many tables as justified by the total number of qualified pairs from all the heats, including reserve pairs where applicable. In the event of this producing a half-table situation, the County Competition Secretary will offer the vacant place to the remaining reserve pairs in all heats in rank order of their percentages in the heats.
11. In the Eden Cup final Level Four Conventions will be allowed.

12. Black Master Points will be awarded by the County for the qualifying heats at Regional status. These will be direct credited to the EBU by the County Master Point Secretary before the end of June each year. Clubs do not need to allocate MPs for the qualifying heats, to do so would duplicate MP awards.
13. In the final Green Points will be awarded. The total number of awards will depend upon the number of pairs playing in the final.
14. The winners and runners-up in the Eden Cup final will be invited to represent Northamptonshire in the Corwen Trophy. If EBU regulations allow the third placed pair may also receive an invitation.

THE MURCHIE-LERNER

1. This is a consolation pairs competition **played at the same time as** the Eden Cup final.
2. Entry to this consolation event will be OPEN to all NCBA/EBU members. Players do not have any other restriction on entry. This means that they do not have to play in an Eden Cup qualification heat to be eligible for the Murchie-Lerner. Nor do they have to play with the same partner if they did play in a heat and failed to qualify for the Eden final.
3. In the Murchie-Lerner Level Three conventions only will be allowed.
4. Black Master Points will be awarded at County level.
5. The first three pairs will be awarded cash prizes which will be set by the NCBA Committee.