

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Competition Bylaws

September 2023

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. General..... | 2 |
| 2. Bridge Committee | 2 |
| 3. Eligibility | 2 |
| 4. Visitors | 2 |
| 5. Sunday events..... | 2 |
| 6. Awarding of Masterpoints | 2 |
| 7. OBC Pairs Competition..... | 3 |
| 8. OBC Mixed Pairs Competition..... | 3 |
| 9. OBC Men's and Ladies' Pairs..... | 4 |
| 10. OBC Novice Pairs | 4 |
| 11. OBC Teams of Four..... | 5 |
| 12. OBC Swiss Teams | 5 |
| 13. OBC Individual Competition..... | 6 |
| 14. OBC Rubber Bridge Knockout Competition | 6 |
| 15. John Deech Challenge Trophy..... | 7 |
| 16. Roger Hughes Trophy..... | 7 |
| 17. Wessex League Teams | 7 |
| 18. NICKO Teams..... | 8 |
| 19. General Rules Regarding Competitions | 8 |
| A. Entries | 8 |
| B. Playing..... | 8 |
| C. Results..... | 9 |

1. General

Reference to the Oxford Bridge Club (OBC) within these bylaws is deemed to be to the OBC Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Any powers held by the Trustees may be delegated to the Bridge Committee (BC) or other suitable individuals.

2. Bridge Committee

The Bridge Committee (BC) shall be responsible for decisions regarding the interpretation of these bylaws, the rules of any competition within the scope of these bylaws, or any question raised by such competitions, and its decision shall be regarded as final. The BC may however decide to refer any matter to an Appeals Panel (which may be ad hoc) appointed for such a purpose by the Chief Tournament Director.

An Appeals Panel shall hear or otherwise receive appeals against decisions of any organising officials, provided that the Appeals Panel has jurisdiction over the competition or event in question as defined in later paragraphs. Should the appeal be against the decision of one of the members of the Appeals Panel then that member will be replaced by a Trustee or a suitable senior player for that particular appeal.

3. Eligibility

Any reference to "Full Members" includes Bridge for All, Foundation Life, Honorary Life, Life and Concessionary Members.

As a charity, the OBC welcomes all players to all sessions. For events other than novice events, players' speed of play must be sufficient (2 boards played in 15 minutes).

4. Visitors

Non-members are welcome to participate, but are not eligible to win competitions and trophies.

5. Sunday events

Special events may be held on a Sunday. Such events start at 1:00pm unless otherwise stated. When held face to face these events typically attract an extra fee to cover the cost of catering; the director and scorer are expected to cover this extra cost (ie they don't pay for the bridge, but do pay for the catering). When held on-line, the director only is not expected to pay for the bridge.

6. Awarding of Masterpoints

The club is affiliated to the EBU and Masterpoints are awarded at the standard rate in accordance with the EBU Master Points Handbook. Special competitions attract enhanced Masterpoints; see [OBC Pairs Competition](#) and [OBC Teams of Four Competition](#).

7. OBC Pairs Competition

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| Event | OBC Pairs Competition |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Pairs Champions for the year and the winners of the Beck Salver |
| Eligibility | Pairs of Full Members of OBC. If the entry is fewer than three full tables, the competition shall be cancelled |
| Date | A Sunday afternoon, or two weekday evenings, at the discretion of the BC |
| Boards | 36-40 |
| Entry fee | Face to face: standard table money plus a sum to cover the cost of tea if supplied. On-line: twice the normal entry fee |
| Movement | Howell movement if possible, so that all pairs play all other pairs; otherwise the Director will select a single winner movement from "OBC Recommended Movements" appropriate for the number of tables and time available |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | This is one of the Club Premier Events, attracting Blue Points, provided that <u>the competition attracts at least three full tables and at least 36 boards are played</u> |

8. OBC Mixed Pairs Competition

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| Event | OBC Mixed Pairs Competition |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Mixed Pairs Champions for the year and the winners of the Winnie Ling Trophy |
| Eligibility | Mixed pairs of Full Members of OBC. If the entry is fewer than three full tables, the competition shall be cancelled |
| Date | A suitable evening as close as possible to Winnie's birthday (22 February) at 7.15pm. |
| Boards | Normally 24 when there is an even number of tables and 26 when there is an odd number, but the number may be varied in special circumstances |
| Entry fee | Standard table money |
| Movement | Howell movement if possible, so that all pairs play all other pairs; otherwise the Director will select a single winner movement from "OBC Recommended Movements" appropriate for the number of tables and time available. In the event of a half table, a maximum of one single sex pair may play without standing, at the convenience of the director. Should more than one single sex pair turn up, they shall be matched into mixed pairs if possible |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

9. OBC Men's and Ladies' Pairs

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| Event | OBC Men's and Ladies' Pairs Competition |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Men's Pairs Champions for the year and the winners of the John Simpson Trophy and the Club Ladies' Pairs Champions for the year and the winners of the Doreen Simpson Trophy |
| Eligibility | Full Members of OBC, playing as single-sex pairs. For each competition, if the entry is fewer than three full tables, the competition shall be cancelled |
| Date | A Wednesday evening at 7.15pm |
| Boards | Normally 24 when there is an even number of tables and 26 when there is an odd number, but the number may be varied in special circumstances |
| Entry fee | Standard table money |
| Movement | Where practicable, each event shall be run as an independent movement, with different board sets: if possible, a Howell movement so that all pairs play all other pairs otherwise the Director will select a single winner movement from "OBC Recommended Movements" appropriate for the number of tables and time available. In the event of a half table, a maximum of one mixed pair may play without standing, at the convenience of the director; such pair shall be allocated to one of the events to make up a full table. Should more than one mixed pair turn up, they shall be matched into single-sex pairs |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

10. OBC Novice Pairs

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| Event | OBC Novice Pairs |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Novice Pairs Champions for the year and the winners of the Morrie Marsh Trophy . If the entry is fewer than three full tables, the competition shall be cancelled |
| Eligibility | Open to 'Novice Pairs' who are Full Members of OBC. In this context a 'Novice Pair' is a partnership in which both players have fewer than 200 Masterpoints (below Club Master) and have not previously won this or any other club trophy, excluding the Roger Hughes Trophy. Players with previous experience of playing duplicate bridge who have returned to the game after a long gap, and those holding a significant number of masterpoints from a non-EBU organisation, are not considered Novices for this event. The Novice pair with the highest score will win the Trophy. The Trustees reserve the right to review the status of all competing players. To that end, the winners will not be announced on the night. Pairs who are not eligible to win the competition are welcome to play in the session but they cannot win the Trophy |
| Date | A Thursday evening at 7.15pm, replacing the usual Learn and Play session |
| Boards | 14-18 boards |
| Entry fee | Standard table money |
| Movement | Howell movement if possible, so that all pairs play all other pairs; otherwise the Director will select a single winner movement from "OBC Recommended Movements" appropriate for the number of tables and time available |
| Conventions | Level 2 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

11. OBC Teams of Four

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| Event | OBC Teams of Four |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Teams of Four Champions for the year and the winners of the Rose Bowl |
| Eligibility | Teams of four Full Members of OBC. Players in any Qualifying round should also be Full Members of OBC. Teams containing non-members may play without standing. If the entry is fewer than three teams, the event shall be cancelled |
| Date | A Sunday afternoon |
| Boards | 36-40 |
| Entry fee | Face to face: standard table money, plus a sum to cover the cost of tea if supplied. On-line: twice the normal entry fee |
| Movement | All teams play all other teams. If 4 teams enter, each plays 3 x 12-board matches. If 5 teams enter, each plays 4 x 9-board matches. If 6 teams, 5 x 8-board matches. If 7 teams, 6 x 6-board matches. If 8 teams, 4 x 5-board matches and 3 x 6-board matches. If 9 teams, 8 x 5-board matches. If 10 teams 9 x 4-board matches. If 11 teams 10 x 4-board matches |
| Scoring | If matches are of 4 boards or fewer, scoring is by total IMPs. If matches are of 5 or more boards, the IMP difference is converted to Victory Points (VPs) according to the correct scale in the White Book. Where the number of boards in matches played varies, the VP scale for the higher number of boards shall be used for all matches. Ties shall be split according to recommendations in the White Book |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | This is one of the Club Premier Events, attracting Blue Points, provided that <u>the competition attracts at least three full tables and at least 36 boards are played</u> |

12. OBC Swiss Teams

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| Event | OBC Swiss Teams |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Swiss Teams Champions for the year and the winners of the Eve Stockwell Bowl |
| Eligibility | Teams of 4 Full Members of OBC. Teams that include non-members may play without standing. If the entry is fewer than 7 teams the competition shall be cancelled |
| Date | A Wednesday evening |
| Boards | 24 or 25 boards, depending on numbers. If 7 or 8 teams enter, each plays 4 x 6-board matches. If 9-16 teams enter, each plays 5 x 5-board matches. |
| Entry fee | Standard table money |
| Scoring | VP scoring and assignment according to standard Swiss rules. Ties shall be split according to recommendations in the White Book |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

13. OBC Individual Competition

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| Event | OBC Individual Competition |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Individual Champion for the year and the winner of the Thompson Trophy . If the entry is fewer than two full tables, the event shall be cancelled |
| Eligibility | Full Members of OBC |
| Date | A Sunday afternoon |
| Boards | 24-40 |
| Entry fee | Face to face: standard table money, plus a sum to cover the cost of tea if supplied. On-line: twice the normal entry fee |
| Numbers of participants | Once a minimum number of tables has been filled, additional entries will be placed on a waiting list until another full table is made up. This is to avoid running the event with a fraction of a table |
| Movement | Where possible, all players play all other players |
| Conventions | A convention card is provided so that everyone plays the same basic system |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

14. OBC Rubber Bridge Knockout Competition

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| Event | OBC Rubber Bridge Knockout Competition |
| Trophy | This competition shall determine the Club Rubber Bridge Champions for the year and the winners of the Meltzer Trophy |
| Eligibility | Pairs of Full Members of OBC |
| Dates | Agreed by the competing pairs, within a timescale set by the Tournament Secretary in the first week of October. Pairs should make every effort to arrange a suitable date; it is not permissible to offer only daytime weekdays unless agreeable to both parties: i.e. players should recognise that participants may work and require a match during the evening or weekend. In the case of failure to agree a date, the Tournament Secretary shall arbitrate, awarding the match to the pair deemed not at fault. Late matches may incur a carry-forward penalty of minus 300 points for the offending pair. The default is that matches will be played face-to-face; matches can be played on-line with the agreement of both pairs (note that scoring will still need to be done by hand taking account of the correct vulnerability for rubber bridge). |
| Boards | Each match will be 30 boards or 6 rubbers, whichever is the shorter. Players must decide before the match starts whether or not a passed-out hand will count towards the total of 30 boards |
| Entry fee | £5 per pair. Players may use the OBC premises free of charge to play their matches |
| Draw | A draw shall be made to determine the order of play. The Chief Tournament Director or Tournament Secretary shall furnish all pairs with details of the draw and closing dates for each round at least four weeks before the date by which the first round is due to be complete. Where the number of teams entering is not 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc., byes shall be introduced in the first round only. Byes shall be spread through the draw; as far as possible, the same number in each half, each quarter, each eighth, etc. If sufficient pairs enter for the competition, there will be a plate competition for those who lose their first match The draw for the plate competition will follow the rules outlined above |
| Scoring | The event shall be a knockout competition with rubber bridge scoring, including honours |
| Masterpoints | Not relevant |

15. John Deech Challenge Trophy

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| Sessions | 4th Wednesday evenings between September and May, excluding December. A total of 8 sessions |
| Trophy | A ladder will be created with the 5 best scores counting towards the final result. It will be an individual ladder and will use positional scoring. The ladder winner will receive the John Deech Challenge Trophy. |
| Ladder prizes | Cash prizes will be awarded to the ladder winners as follows: £125 to the winner, £75 to the runner-up, and £100 to the highest placed player with an NGS below 10. NGS rankings will be based on each player's NGS as recorded by the club on 1st October each year. |
| Session prizes | Cash prizes will be awarded at the end of each session as follows: £20 to the winners, £10 to the runners-up, and £20 to the highest placed pair with an NGS below 10. NGS rankings will be based on each player's NGS on the day of the session |
| Eligibility | Only Full Members of OBC may win the Trophy and ladder prizes. Any players, whether Full Members or not, may win the cash prizes awarded at the end of each session. |
| Boards | 24-26 per session |
| Entry fee | Standard table money |
| Conventions | Level 4 conventions may be played |
| Masterpoints | Masterpoints shall be issued at the standard rate |

16. Roger Hughes Trophy

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| Trophy | There is no event to determine the holder of the Roger Hughes Trophy |
| Eligibility | Full Members of OBC who have not previously won the trophy and who play regular duplicate sessions that are submitted to the EBU for NGS grading |
| Dates | 12 month period ending 31 st March |
| Entry fee | None |
| Criteria | The Bridge Committee shall determine the most improved inexperienced player using the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • played at least 25 times at OBC during the period • NGS rank below x% at the start of the period • NGS rank above x% at the end of the period • highest rise in NGS rank over the 12-month period • NGS rank below x% 24 months ago (to avoid yoyo awards) • fewer than 5000 Masterpoints (County Master or below) at the start of the period • x is currently set at 46 but can be varied by the BC as it sees fit to determine an appropriate winner of the trophy |
| Masterpoints | Not relevant |

17. Wessex League Teams

Teams shall be selected to represent OBC in the Wessex League. The aim of Wessex League representation is to field as many teams as can be comfortably maintained, such that the club maintains a presence in the league in as high a position as is possible for current members.

Appointment of captains should be made by the Teams Secretary. Captains shall be assigned to teams according to ability. Eligible players (Full Members who do not play for another club) shall be assigned to one of the teams, according to ability, normally as a partnership. Team selection should take into account factors listed below and should occur as a consultation between the Teams Secretary and the team captains, normally as a series of individual meetings/correspondence, sometime in the early summer such that team selection should be complete by the end of July. However, every effort should be made to accommodate any players expressing an interest late.

Assignment of players to teams shall be made in as objective a way as possible. Thus, the following should be taken into consideration: performance in recent Wessex League matches, NGS standing, XIMPing for teams nights, performance in the duplicate pairs as may be indicated by the ladders; performance in external events. To this end, captains should record scores for all Wessex League matches and obtain cross-imping and Butlers as an assessment of player performance. Note that NGS standing will give an indication of players' abilities in match pointed pairs play but will not reflect on teams' performance; care should be taken in its interpretation.

An effort shall be made to accommodate all willing participants in a suitable team squad, unless there is a good reason not to accommodate them; such team to be in accordance with the individual's standard.

Entry to the Wessex League shall be made by the Teams Secretary and paid for by the OBC. OBC shall normally field at least six teams in the evening league and at least four teams in the daytime league.

18. NICKO Teams

Teams shall be selected to represent OBC in the National Inter-Club Knockout (NICKO). Entry to the NICKO shall be made by the Teams Secretary or Tournament Secretary. OBC shall aim to field at least three teams. Teams will be part-funded by OBC.

Team selection should be made by the Teams Secretary. Eligible players are those who are bona fide club members and normally those whose primary allegiance is to OBC, i.e. Wessex League players. Players whose primary allegiance is to another club may be selected at the discretion of the Bridge Committee.

Interested players should inform the Teams Secretary of their interest in playing. They may put themselves forward as teams, pairs or individuals. Teams should then be selected according to suitability. The Teams Secretary reserves the right to rearrange team composition.

Occasionally, where teams have difficulty with availability of players, they may call upon OBC members who are otherwise ineligible as substitutes, provided that permission to add one or more players is obtained from the EBU Competitions Department.

19. General Rules Regarding Competitions

A. Entries

- a) Calendar. The Bridge Committee shall approve a calendar of events for the forthcoming season.
- b) Notice of Entry. Some competitions require pre-entry, specifically those taking place on Sundays and the Rubber Bridge Knockout Competition. For Sunday competitions entries shall be made at least 24 hours (or two days if we're providing refreshments) before the event, via the website. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary.
- c) Entry Fees. The entry fees for all competitions shall be determined by the Bridge Committee at the beginning of each season.
- d) Defaulting Teams. In team events, a team shall be deemed to have defaulted if they contravene any of the conditions set out in the detailed rules for the teams' events.
- e) Expenses for Representative Events. Where a team or pair is invited to represent the Club in an outside event (e.g. the National Inter-Club Knockout), no expenses for travelling or accommodation shall be paid by the Club.

B. Playing

- f) Venue. The BC will determine whether a competition is to be played face-to-face or on-line on a case-by-case basis.
- g) Competition Director. The Director shall have absolute control of each session, though appeals against the Director's decisions may be made in accordance with the OBC Bridge Appeals process. The Director has all the restrictions, responsibilities, duties and powers as specified in Laws 81–91

of The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017. Directors may delegate any of their functions, should they see fit, though the responsibility remains theirs.

- h) Conduct of Play. Play shall proceed in accordance with the latest edition of The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, and with regulations laid down by the EBU. Interpretation of the laws and the implementation of any penalties or bonuses shall be the responsibilities of the Director.
- i) Best behaviour at bridge. Play and general conduct should at all times and all sessions be in accordance with the EBU's "Best Behaviour at Bridge" policy.
- j) Penalties. The Director shall assess penalties as provided in The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 and in the Directors' Guidelines. Penalties may result in an adjusted score, and/or in an award of penalty points. In the event of a disqualification, the offending player(s) shall receive no prize or Masterpoints, the facts shall be reported to the Trustees in serious cases, and all scores involving the offender(s) shall be discounted.

C. Results

- j) Competition Results. All results announced on the day of the event shall be considered as provisional, even though the results are published. The Correction Period expires seven days from the scheduled start of the event. The final result shall be declared at the end of the Correction Period although the final result must be delayed pending the outcome of any appeal properly made under the OBC Bridge Appeals process.
- k) Prizes. As OBC CIO is a charity, no cash prizes are awarded if standard table money applies. However, the Bridge Committee may from time to time introduce competition prizes, such prizes to be paid for out of a supplement to the standard table money. The John Deech Competition is an exception to this rule, as it is funded by an external donor.
- l) Masterpoints. The Chief Scorer is responsible for the uploading of the results to the EBU such that Masterpoints shall be issued according to the correct scale as outlined in the current "Licensing and Master Points Handbook" published by the EBU.