

Chairman's Cup 2024 – Handicap Competition Rules

The competition is a pairs event with the scores adjusted by handicaps to give players of all standards an equal chance.

RULES

1. The 2024 competition will be played on Monday 17th and Thursday 20nd June.
2. Play will be as normal in the two sessions – scores will be calculated and Master Points will be awarded in the usual way. In addition, a handicap score will be calculated for participating pairs. The adjusted scores will be used to determine the winners of the handicap competition.
3. The handicap assigned to each partnership will be based on EBU NGS averages. Stronger players will have a negative handicap, reducing the score they achieve on the competition days; less strong players will have a positive handicap, increasing their score. The method of calculating handicaps is explained in the example at the end of these Rules.
4. To be eligible for the Chairman's Cup competition both players must be club members.
5. There will be a single winning pair. Handicap scores will be calculated for North-South and East-West partnerships, ignoring the direction of play.
6. If a player plays on Monday and Thursday, both scores will be included in the competition, whether the player has the same partner or a different partner in the two sessions.
7. The handicap results will be calculated after Thursday's play. The Chairman's Cup will be awarded to the winning pair at the AGM in October.

THE EBU NATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM (NGS)

The scores we report at Bookham and which are used to calculate members' averages for the year are simply the results of the play. If the players in a partnership are of different strengths the less strong player may have a good score thanks to the performance of their strong partner, the stronger partner might have a lower score than they might otherwise have had.

The EBU has a sophisticated method of calculating averages, adjusting a player's score for a session to take account of the strength of their partner. The scores for each player will be adjusted to make them equivalent to the score they would have had if they were playing with a partner of average (50%) strength. If the players in a partnership are of very different strengths the score for the weaker player may be adjusted downwards, reflecting the help they have had from their strong partner. The score for the stronger player may be adjusted upwards, compensating for the weaker play of their partner.

The EBU NGS system also makes an adjustment for the strength of the opposition in each session. For Bookham this adjustment is slight, the strength of the opposition in a Bookham session is normally quite close to 50%, depending on who is playing in the session.

EBU NGS scores are averaged over about 80 sessions with more weight given to recent results so as to show a player's current form.

EBU NGS averages therefore provide a more accurate and fairer way of calculating handicaps in the Bookham competition.

To see your NGS average go to the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk/ngs and enter your name in "Player Search".

CALCULATING THE COMPETITION RESULTS

Handicaps will be calculated from the EBU NGS averages. This is done automatically by the Bridgewebs scoring system..

Example

Player A has an EBU NGS average of 56%, Player B has an average of 60%. The partnership average is 58%, and their handicap is therefore $50 - 58 = -8$. Their competition score will be *reduced* by 8%.

Player X has an EBU NGS average of 42%, Player Y has an average of 46%. The partnership average is 44%, and their handicap is therefore $50 - 44 = 6$. Their competition score will be *increased* by 6%.

If partnership AB scores 60%, their handicap score for the competition will be $60 - 8 = 52\%$. If partnership XY scores 48%, their competition score will be $48 + 6 = 54\%$. XY will beat the stronger AB partnership on their handicapped scores.

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