

Braunton Bridge Club (BBC) Procedures for Playing Sessions including Competition Rules
Version 2 dated 27th January 2020

Braunton Bridge Club holds Bridge sessions every Wednesday at 1900, except when circumstances do not permit. Players are requested to be seated by 6.50pm to allow the movement to be chosen and entered into the computer in time for a prompt 1900 start. Players arriving after 1855 without prior notice may be unable to play.

Braunton Bridge Club welcomes members and non-members alike. While non-members are welcome to play in most competitions (see below) only members are eligible to win titles, prizes and silverware.

All sessions will, where possible, comprise 24 to 27 boards depending on the movement and the nature of the session. The TD will make every effort to start the final round in time for the session to be fully completed before 2230. At the discretion of the TD, and where possible, the final round may be abandoned in order to achieve this.

Throughout the year, a variety of sessions are played as detailed below. All sessions are subject to change by the Committee as and when necessary.

1. TEAM COMPETITIONS

The League Teams

Silverware – Two League Teams Cups, one for the winning team in each of two divisions.

Date – Matches are played no more than monthly from October through to April (or May if seven rounds needed). Depending on the calendar and the number of teams, there may be no rounds in December and/or January.

Format – The competition comprises two divisions made up of an equal (or near equal) number of teams. Over the course of the competition, each team will play every other team in their division. Depending on the number of teams in each division, there may be a 'sit-out' week for each team. At every session, each team plays 26 boards, switching opponent pairs in the same team after 13 boards are played.

If one division has more teams than the other, that division may require an extra match. If this is the case, an open pairs session will run alongside the team event to allow players not in that division to also play on that evening. The results of this open pairs session **will not** be included in the Pairs Ladder Competition.

Scoring – At the end of each session, teams score the match in IMPs and convert these to VPs using the scale on their scorecard. Captains must agree the VP score before both scorecards are handed in to the scorer.

Boards – Pre-dealt boards.

Eligibility – Players nominate teams of four in advance of the start of the competition and in time for the publication of the new calendar year in July. Players must nominate a captain who is responsible for scoring each match and ensuring a full team is available for each session.

Substitutions – Captains are responsible for finding substitutes for unavailable team members. The Chair should be informed of all substitutes as they are arranged. An established pair from the First Division should not play in a Second Division match, although one First Division player could play with a new partner in the Second Division. Second Division players and pairs may substitute for a First Division team. If all attempts at finding substitute(s) from members has failed, at the discretion of the Chair, non-members may play instead.

Replacements – Each league team will have only four named players at any one time. If a team member is no longer able to play in a team, the team captain should allocate a replacement and inform the secretary asap. The replacement team member should, where possible, be someone who has already played for the team as a substitute.

The League Teams, cont

Forfeited Matches - If a team fail to raise a team for a match then that match is forfeit and the non-offending team is awarded 12VPs or the average of their VP scores at the end of the competition whichever is the higher. No master points are awarded for a match that is won by default.

Winners – At the end of the competition the team with the most VPs in each division will win the title and the four players from the winning team will have their names put on the trophy provided they have played in at least one match. In the event of a draw, **see Note 1 below**.

Master points – As per EBU rules, all members playing in a team who have played in a third of the matches are eligible to receive any additional master points won by the team. This applies whether the players are original team members, substitutes or replacements.

Promotion & Relegation – Every year, at least one team will be promoted from Division 2 to Division 1 and at least one team will be relegated from Division 1 to Division 2. The exact number of teams to be moved will depend on the number of teams entering for the next year and for this reason, promotion and relegation will be decided in July prior to the publication of the calendar for the next year. First Division teams not relegated may stay in the First Division provided they retain three or more team members or two team members including the captain (who have played at least 50% of all matches), otherwise they must start again in the Second Division. All newly formed teams will start in the Second Division.

If at the end of the year there are fewer eligible teams than places in the First Division then the number of teams may be maintained by promoting one further team from the lower division.

Swiss Teams

Silverware – Stanley Lane Memorial Salver.

Prizes – Four bottles of wine will be presented to the winning team, the team in second place and the rising team.

Date - Two sessions played on consecutive weeks in July.

Format - Each session comprises three eight board matches. Teams playing in the first round are assigned randomly: numbered score sheets are placed face down and each team's captain selects one as they arrive. The EBU Score Swiss Teams program used to score the session will assign teams in all of the other matches.

Scoring – After each round, teams score the match in IMPs and convert these to VPs using the scale on their scorecard. Captains must agree the VP score before both scorecards are handed in to the scorer.

Boards – Shuffled at the table before each match.

Eligibility - Members should enter as a team in advance of the first session. Teams should not duplicate league teams. Each team may have a maximum of six players to allow for substitutions. Non-members may take part but their team cannot win the competition.

Winners – The team with the most VPs at the end of the second session. In the event of a draw, **see Note 1 below**.

The riser's prize – the four teams at the bottom of the leader board after four matches have been played are eligible. The team taking the riser's prize is the team who gain the most VPs on their last two matches.

Multiple Teams

Silverware – None

Prizes – None

Date – One session, played on or near the last Wednesday in August.

Format – Teams play a number of matches comprising two or three boards each against other teams.

North/South remain seated throughout. The session is scored using the EBUScore Teams program.

Scoring – IMPs.

Eligibility - Members should enter as a pair in advance. Pairs will sit as usual on arrival allowing those players who prefer to stay sitting to sit N/S. Prior to the start of play the TD or Chair will throw a dice and the E/W pairs will move up that number of tables to meet the other pair in their team. Teams will take the table number. The TD will then move the E/W pairs to meet their first opponents.

Winners – The team with the most IMPs at the end of the session. In the event of a draw, this will stand.

2. PAIRS COMPETITIONS

Ladies' Pairs and Gentlemen's Pairs

Silverware – Eric Robertshaw Memorial Salvagers: one for Ladies' Pairs and one for the Gentlemen's Pairs.

Date - Both competitions to be played during the same session in June.

Format – For each competition, any two movements that give one winning pair each can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages.

Boards – Shuffled at the table.

Eligibility – Members should play in a same sex pair. If a mixed sex pair attends, they should be prepared to swap with another mixed sex pair to make two same sex pairs. If there is only one mixed sex pair, they can play in either competition but cannot win silverware. The TD will assign the mixed sex pair to either competition in order to avoid a half table where possible. Non-members may take part but their pair cannot win the competition.

Winners - The top Ladies' pair and the top Gentlemen's pair by percentage. In the event of a draw, **see Note 2 below.**

Brenda Martin Handicap

Silverware - Brenda Martin Handicap Trophy

Date - One session played on or near the first Wednesday in August.

Format – Any movement that gives one winning pair can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages. At the end of the evening the EBUScore software will assign handicaps automatically based on players NGS scores (updated that day) to determine the handicap winner.

Original scores with Master Points but without the handicap applied will appear on the website and be uploaded to the EBU.

Boards – Pre-dealt boards.

Eligibility - Non-members may play but cannot win the competition.

Winners - The pair with the highest percentage at the end of the night after handicaps have been added. In the event of a draw, **see Note 2 below.**

The Pairs Ladder

Silverware – League Championship Cup

Date - This competition runs for a calendar year, currently commencing on the first week of December and finishing no later than the last Wednesday in November.

NB. The competition beginning on the 4th December 2019 will finish no later than the last Wednesday in August 2020. This is to bring this competition in line with other yearly competitions. All subsequent competitions will run from September to August.

Format – This competition includes all open pairs sessions NOT included in any other competition. Eligible weeks will be marked on the calendar with an asterisk. Any movement can be played at the discretion of the TD, including those giving one or two winners.

Scoring – Percentages

Boards – Shuffled at the table.

Eligibility - Only member pairs are eligible to win this competition. Pairs must play a minimum of 15 sessions to qualify (or 10 sessions for the shortened competition beginning December 2019).

Winners - The pair with the highest average percentage at the end of the competition. In the event of a draw, the pair with the lowest averaged NGS score will win.

The Pairs Championship

Silverware – The Pairs Championship Shield

Date - Four sessions, first session in September, final session in November.

Format – For each session, any movement giving one winning pair at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring - Percentages

Boards – Shuffled at the table.

Eligibility – Non-members may partner other non-members or members. However, only member pairs can win the competition.

Winner - The pair with the highest average percentage from their best three rounds played together. In the event of a draw, **see Note 2 below**.

3. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The Singles Competition

Silverware – The Ashcroft Shield

Date - Four sessions, first session in January, final session in May.

Format – For each session, any movement that gives one winning pair can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages.

Boards – Shuffled at the table.

Eligibility – Non-members may partner members but cannot win the competition.

Winner - The player with the highest average percentage from their best three rounds played with different partners. If two rounds are played with the same partner, the earliest round is counted. In the event of a draw, **see Note 2 below**.

Master Points Champion

Silverware – Blackwell Cup

Date – This competition runs for a calendar year, commencing on the first week of September and finishing no later than the last Wednesday in August.

Format – In previous years, all sessions except the North Devon Section Swiss Pairs have been included in this competition. From September 2019, this competition will also exclude all team events.

Scoring – Master points won by each individual member.

Eligibility – Open to members only.

Winners – The individual member with the most Master Points for the year. In the event of a draw, the player who has played fewer sessions will be the winner

4. CHARITY EVENTS

Margaret Curtis Charity Evening

Silverware - The Margaret Curtis Charity Shield

Date – One session, played on or near the 1st Wednesday in March.

Charity – The charity will be chosen one week prior to the event. Members will be asked to nominate a number of charities (other than DAAT, the Devon Air Ambulance Trust which benefits from another charity evening) followed by a show of hands by members to decide.

Table Money – This will be set at £1.50 above the usual rate. All table money collected will be donated to the charity along with the proceeds from the raffle.

Format – Any movement that gives one winning pair can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages.

Boards – Shuffled at the table.

Eligibility - Non-members may take part but their pair cannot win the competition.

Winners - The pair with the highest percentage at the end of the night. In the event of a draw, **see Note 2 below.**

Devon Air Ambulance Simultaneous Pairs

Date – Organised by the Devon Bridge Association, this takes place in January.

Charity – Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT).

Table Money – This will be set at £1.50 above the usual rate. A deduction of £1 per player will be made and the remainder will be sent to the charity.

Format – Any movement that gives one winning pair can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages.

Boards – Pre-dealt boards.

Eligibility – Members and non-members may play.

Winners - The pair with the highest percentage at the end of the night. In the event of a draw, this will stand.

The results from Braunton will then be added to those of players from other participating clubs to give an overall leader board. This will be available along with the played hands on the Devon Bridge Association website www.devonbridge.co.uk

Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs

Date – Organised by eCatsBridge, this takes place in November.

Charity - Children in Need

Table Money – This will be set at £1.50 above the usual rate. A deduction of £1 per player will be made and the remainder will be sent to the charity.

Format – Any movement that gives one winning pair can be played at the discretion of the TD.

Scoring – Percentages.

Boards – Pre-dealt boards.

Eligibility – Members and non-members may play.

Winners - The pair with the highest percentage at the end of the night. In the event of a draw, this will stand.

The results from Braunton will then be added to those of players from other participating clubs to give an overall leader board. This will be available along with the played hands on www.ecatsbridge.com

5. NORTH DEVON SECTION COMPETITION

North Devon Section (NDS) Swiss Pairs

Prizes – Cash prizes for the winning pair and the highest placed non-expert pair on the night and overall for those playing in all four sessions.

Date – One Wednesday in February TBA with the NDS.

Table Money – £3.50

Format – The evening is organized and run by the NDS. Each pair will (usually) play five 5-board matches during the evening. Pairs are randomly allocated on arrival for the first match. In subsequent matches, opponents are assigned based on previous round results using the EBU Score Swiss teams software.

Scoring – Each match is scored in VPs out of a maximum of 20.

Boards – Pre-dealt boards.

Eligibility – Pairs must sign up in advance for this competition, as there are no entries allowed on the night.

Winners – The pair with the most VPs at the end of the evening will win the cash prize. There is also a cash prize for the highest ranked non-expert pair.

Note 1 – Braunton Bridge Club uses EBU Rules in Swiss, League or Multiple Teams and Swiss Pairs Master Points and Prize Money are shared. Championships, Trophies and Prizes are not shared and teams or pairs are separated as follows –

1. The VP result between the two teams.
2. The IMP difference in the match between the teams.
3. The number of wins and draws in VPs giving one point for a win and half for a draw.
4. The Tie-break points each team got, by adding up separately the final scores of the teams that team A and B played against. NB Not applicable in an all play all events.
5. The total IMP difference for each team.
6. The number of individual boards each team has won (if available).
7. Finally, if none of the above separate the two teams and the tie MUST be broken, the captains cut cards for the win.

Note 2 –

As above, Master Points and Prize Money are shared. Championships, Trophies and Prizes (other than cash) are not shared and pairs are separated as follows –

1. The result from the boards that the two pairs played against each other.
2. The pair with the lowest averaged NGS score.