

**CONGLETON BRIDGE CLUB  
HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS**

**and**

**CONSTITUTION**

**VERSION 4.00**

**March 2019**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION.**

### **PLAYING VENUE AND TIME**

Congleton Bridge Club plays at The New Life Church, West Road, Congleton.

Play begins promptly at 7.30 p.m. each Monday. Players are requested to be seated at tables by 7.20 p.m. to enable the Tournament Director to choose the movement.

Sessions may be cancelled on Public Holidays. The club's [website](#) should give further information.

Normally 20 - 26 boards will be played over a 3 hour period.

The club does not run a 'hosting' system and therefore players should attend in pairs. Non-members are welcome to attend. The [website](#) has facilities for requesting partners.

The club is not affiliated to the English Bridge Union (EBU)

Table Money is payable according to the amounts set at the AGM or an EGM

Tea and coffee are available and included in the table money. It is expected that players will help in 'domestic arrangements' such as clearing away tables and washing their own cups etc.

### **COMPETITIONS**

Three trophies are awarded twice a year: 'individual'; 'pairs' and 'handicap'. Current standings are shown in the competition section of the [website](#).

Occasional special and charity events are held on club nights. These may be restricted to club members.

The Club is a Founder Member of the South East Cheshire Bridge League. Teams of 8, chosen by the Team Captain, play each other club in the league each year.

## **SESSION MANAGEMENT**

### **LAWS**

Play is conducted according to the current edition of [the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge](#) and subsequent amendments promulgated by the World Bridge Federation. It is each player's responsibility to be familiar with the Laws at least to an extent which will enable play with confidence and without blatant errors. Further regulations as allowed by the laws are detailed in this document.

The purpose of the laws and regulations is to provide common procedures; ensuring that no player is unfairly disadvantaged.

### **THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (TD)**

The TD is in total charge during each tournament. The TD's functions are-

- to arrange for the boards to be dealt;
- to arrange the movement to be played and its timing;
- to assist and make rulings when irregularities arise;
- to arrange for each session's scores to be calculated and published.

If, when called to assist, the TD is playing a hand they may delegate another of the Club's directors to attend.

All rulings of the TD should be accepted graciously. If a player disagrees with a ruling an appeal can be made through the TD. The Chief TD will hear all appeals; convening an appeal panel if he thinks it necessary.

If the TD subsequently realises an incorrect ruling has been made they can adjust scores to ensure no player has been disadvantaged.

A list of club TDs is included at the end of this document.

# TABLE ETHICS AND PROCEDURES

## GENERAL

Players should be courteous, cheerful and good tempered (especially when things go wrong!). The principles of [BBB \(Best Behaviour at Bridge\)](#) as promulgated by the EBU should always be adhered to.

Before the start of each session, the boards for the evening will need to be dealt. Usually this is done by the earlier arriving players at their table but the TD may direct differently.

**Before dealing, the pack should be thoroughly shuffled and then cards dealt singly into four hands before placing in the board.**

## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NORTH

The player sitting in the North position should:

- a. Check that boards are received in the correct order;
- b. Ensure that the board being played is left visible on the table, preferably near the centre and orientated correctly. It is permissible to place bidding cards on the board to indicate the final contract;
- c. At the end of play agree with both opponents the number of tricks made, fill in the score sheet, and allow all players to see it; errors cannot always be rectified after the board has been moved;
- d. Ensure that the cards are replaced in their correct slots;
- e. At the end of the round pass the boards to the table due to receive them.

## **DURING THE AUCTION AND PLAY**

After removing their hand from the board each player must ensure there are 13 cards before looking at them.

Players should not make comments about plays or calls since they may inadvertently give illegal information to partner or mislead an opponent. Loud discussion of boards should be avoided as should any action which holds up play.

It is best practice to make calls and plays at an even tempo but prolonged thinking ('hesitation') is unavoidable at times. Hesitating is not itself wrong (unless it is done purposefully to inform partner or to mislead an opponent – such as hesitating with a singleton), but the TD may adjust the score if their call or play could have, even subconsciously, been influenced by it.

If you break a law inadvertently ('an infraction') there is no obligation to draw attention to it, but you must not attempt to conceal it.

Any player, including dummy, may try to prevent an infraction, but dummy may not draw attention to one that has already occurred until play is concluded. After attention has been drawn to a possible infraction the TD should be called to rectify the situation. Preferably the offender should call the TD; do not make your opponents do it.

Calling the TD should carry no stigma and is in no way an 'accusation'; (we all make mistakes!). The laws ensure that your opponents are not accidentally disadvantaged and that the same standards are applied on all tables.

**The TD must always be called immediately if there is any disagreement regarding the facts of the situation or the correct rectification is unclear.**

## **BIDDING SYSTEMS AND AGREEMENTS**

Any recognised bidding system which is readily explained and understood by opponents may be played. Prior Committee approval must be obtained for the use of more unusual systems/conventions.

This is not intended to stifle innovation, but to protect the membership at large from competitive bidding methods which would require extensive discussion to counter.

The Committee is empowered to prohibit any convention/agreement which it believes is detrimental.

## **THE RULES SUB-COMMITTEE (at the present time non-extant)**

The Sub-Committee shall keep this handbook, the regulations, and the appeals procedure under review.

## **DISCLOSURE OF AGREEMENTS**

Particular attention must be paid to the alerting and announcing' of system calls and to their explanation on the request of an opponent whose turn it is to bid or play. All unexpected/conventional partnership agreements should be disclosed to the opposition in line with the regulations of the English Bridge Union.

A brief description of calls needing alerting/announcing is to be found on the Club Web Site. 'Alerting' or 'Announcing' is done by the partner of the player calling. An alert is made by showing the 'Alert' card to both opponents.

When explaining partner's call/play only tell the opponents what you have agreed either by explicit discussion or by mutual experience of each other's bidding/play.

If you have never discussed this or a similar situation then it is correct to say 'no partnership understanding'.

If you are very unsure it is correct to suggest possible alternatives ("I am not sure whether it is Gerber or natural" or "I am not sure if it is forcing") but if the doubt is only small say what you believe and be prepared to call the TD if you are wrong. It is not correct to say 'how you will take it' if you are unsure as this gives information to your partner.

Any player (other than dummy) is permitted to ask questions, at their turn to play or call, about opponents' bidding or play agreements whether they are alerted or not. It is good practice only to ask questions if it will affect your next call/play or at the end of the auction.

If your partner gives an incorrect explanation of your call or play your opponents may be disadvantaged. To minimise this you must inform the opponents:

- at the end of the auction if you are to be the declaring side; or
- at the end of the play if you are the defending side.

If it is possible that your opponents have been disadvantaged, you should call the TD.

Departing from a partnership agreement, whether purposeful or not, is not an infraction. However you must not take into account any information, given by your partner in a requested explanation, by their demeanour, or by any comment they might make.

After an irregularity described above, and if all players agree, you may delay calling the TD (referred to as 'reserving your rights'). The TD may be called subsequently if it is believed the irregularity has caused damage.

**However, the TD should be called immediately if there is any disagreement regarding the occurrence.**

## THE AUCTION

The auction will use Bidding Boxes as described below.

- Each call is made by a player placing that call on the table facing their partner. (It is normal to stack the call to be made on top of lesser bids so that only one card is visible).
- Subsequent calls are made similarly by placing the new call partly overlapping the previous one so that the sequence of bids can be seen.
- A call has been made and may not be withdrawn once the intended bidding card has been removed from the box.
- 'Jump' bids must be prefaced by showing the 'Stop' card. The next player must pause for at least 5 seconds and until the Stop card is removed before making their call.
- If all four players pass on the first round of the auction the cards are returned to the board and a score of zero recorded. **Boards are never redealt.**
- At the end of the auction all bidding cards should be left on the table until dummy is exposed.



## **THE PLAY**

The opening lead is made face down and cannot be retracted without the permission of the TD. It is faced after the partner of the leader has had an opportunity to ask questions. Leader's partner should not indicate that they have no questions until the lead has been made.

Once dummy is exposed and declarer has had the opportunity to ask any questions the bidding cards should be returned to the box.

The card showing the contract (plus double or redouble if necessary) may be left on the bidding board so long as neither the vulnerability or dealer information are obscured.

Players should not touch any cards other than their own during play. At the end of play a player may ask to see all hands but may only handle them with the owner's permission.

## **SPEED OF PLAY**

The time for each round is fixed to allow the session to end at approximately 10.30. The TD may cancel boards that have not been started near to the time the round is due to end. An 'average' is usually given to all players in such a case. If the TD is called a pair in no way at fault may be awarded an 'average plus' and if a pair is the sole cause of a delay then they may be given an 'average minus'.

## **PUBLICATION OF RESULTS**

Scores should be available during playing hours on succeeding club nights. They are also available on the club website.

Applications for correction of errors can be made up to the end of the first subsequent Monday session.

Notes:

The Current Laws of Duplicate Bridge are those of 2017.

The Club's website may be found at  
[www.bridgewebs.com/congleton](http://www.bridgewebs.com/congleton)

The current fees are:  
Annual membership £5.  
Member table money £2;  
Non-Member Table Money £3

The Present Committee is

Chairman	Roger Slack
Secretary	Amanda Kirk
Treasurer	Sheena Adam
Chief Tournament	
Director, Team Captain	John Whitelock
Other Committee	
	Derek Creasy
	John Piggott
	David Thalrose

At present there is no rules sub-committee

The Club Directors are

John Whitelock  
Roger Slack  
Derek Creasy  
David Messham  
Don Cole  
Lindsey Cuff  
Susan Adderley



## **THE CONSTITUTION**

1. The Club shall be known as Congleton Bridge Club.
2. The object of the Club is to provide facilities to play Duplicate Bridge in congenial company.
3. The Club year shall run from 1st April to 31st March and subscriptions are due on 1st April each year. Membership may be deemed to have lapsed if subscriptions are not paid by 1st May.
4. Membership shall be subject to the approval of the Committee, which shall have the right to refuse, restrict or, subject to ratification at the next A.G.M. withdraw membership if this should be considered necessary.
5. Management of the Club shall rest with an annually elected Committee, comprising Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Tournament Director and five other members. A quorum shall consist of five.
6. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on a regular playing night in May or June of each year. Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary at least two weeks before the A.G.M. If insufficient nominations are received, extra nominations (to the number required) may be taken at the A.G.M. The Committee shall have the right thereafter to co-opt members to fill vacancies or for any specific purpose.

7. The Treasurer shall be responsible for producing the Accounts and arranging the Audit. An auditor (who is not a member of the Committee) shall be elected at each A.G.M. The audited Accounts shall be published prior to the A.G.M.
8. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary on a regular playing night at the request of the Committee, or on receipt of a written request (from not less than six members) specifying the purpose of the meeting.
9. A copy of the agenda shall be made available two weeks before any A.G.M. or Extra-Ordinary General Meeting. Binding votes, or resolutions cannot be taken in 'Any Other Business'.
10. At any General Meeting, each paid-up member shall have one vote only. A simple majority of members present shall be accepted. Where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
11. The Minutes of the last A.G.M. and Committee Meeting shall be displayed in the Club premises and be available, on request, from the Secretary.
12. The Committee shall approve a list of suitable Tournament Directors.

13. Rates of subscription, table money and visitor's fees shall be approved at each A.G.M. or at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting.

14. Visitors shall be admitted, on payment of the appropriate fee, at the discretion of the Committee.

15. This Constitution may be amended only at the A.G.M. or at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting called for that purpose, subject to written notice of any such motion reaching the Secretary at least three weeks before the date of the meeting. Any proposed amendment shall need a two-thirds majority of the members present for approval.

16. If the Committee decides that it is necessary to wind up the Club they shall propose a resolution to that effect to be voted on at the AGM or EGM called for that purpose.

If the resolution is passed by two thirds of the members present the Committee shall be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Club. Any surplus assets and funds shall be transferred to any registered or recognised charitable body as the Committee may think fit.

The original constitution of July 1995 was amended by the Club AGM June 2015.