

East Wales Bridge Association

EWBA Teams League

- 1) The EWBA Teams League is a competition for teams of 4 players who compete against every other team in their Division over the months of October to April each season. The purpose of the League is to bring bridge players from clubs throughout East Wales together for friendly, sociable competition.
- 2) Any member of the EWBA may form a team of (a minimum of) four players and, as captain, enter it in the EWBA League. It is not necessary that the team members, other than the captain, are members of EWBA. All that is required is to notify the League organiser, by 5th September, of the intention to play. It is not necessary for all members of a team to be members of the same Bridge Club, or of any bridge club.
- 3) Captains may add additional players to their team during the course of the season, subject only to the limitation that no-one may play for more than one team in any one season. There is no limitation on the number of different players who may play for a team.
- 4) The League will be divided into as many divisions of 5 to 7 teams per division as is most convenient to ensure that every team plays 4, 5 or 6 matches per season. As far as possible the divisions will be of equal size.
- 5) Each match shall be between 4 players representing each team. Matches shall consist of 24 boards, played in two stanzas of 12 boards each. The pairs playing E-W for the home team shall move, for the second stanza, to play against the opposing pair whom they did not meet in the first stanza. Scoring is by IMPs. The net IMP difference is converted to Victory Points according to a 20-point scale issued to all captains by the League Organiser. (printed on the Results Form and also viewable with the results tables on the EWBA website www.bridgewebs.com/eastwales)
- 6) The team winning each division shall be the team scoring most Victory Points in the season. If two teams have the same number of Victory Points the tie will be resolved in favour of the team that won the match between those two teams. In the event that that match was tied, the tie will be resolved in favour of the team with the greater net IMPs score over the whole season.
- 7) The team finishing first in each division (other than division 1) is guaranteed promotion to the next higher division. A team finishing second may, exceptionally, be promoted if this is necessary to help equalisation of the number of teams in each division. The team finishing last in each division (other than division 3) will normally be relegated to the division below. Exceptionally, there may be no demotion from a division if this is necessary help equalisation.
- 8) The League Organiser will, immediately following the entry date notify all captains of the names of all the teams comprising each division, including contact details of the captains of the other teams in their division. He will also provide a fixture list showing in which month each team in a division should play each other team and which team shall be the "home team" for each fixture.
- 9) It is the responsibility of the home team captain to contact the opposing captain to arrange a mutually convenient date on which to play. It is advised that captains should not delay in arranging matches. It is not necessary to wait for one match to have been played before arranging the next. It is the home team's responsibility to provide a venue for the match together with two bridge tables, bidding boxes, boards and an individual score-card for each player.

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- 10) A venue may be a bridge club, a private home, or anywhere else where appropriate conditions for the match can be provided. If in a private house, separate rooms for the two tables are very desirable. In any venue, including in a bridge club, ensure that the distance between the tables is sufficient so that events at one table will not be overheard or overseen at the other. The home team should provide some refreshments between stanzas. It is understood that the scale of these will depend on the facilities of the venue.
- 11) Matches in the EWBA League are played subject to the Laws of Contract Bridge and under Welsh Bridge Union Regulations. It is advisable that a copy of the current Laws be available whenever a match is being played. If a match is played in a location where there is no non-playing Tournament Director on hand (i.e. for virtually all matches played in private houses) players are asked to resolve questions that arise, so far as possible, by consulting the Laws, and by agreement between captains at the end of the stanza. If it should happen that an issue cannot be resolved by agreement between the captains, the WBU Competition Journal (which can be downloaded from <https://welshbridgeunion.org/competition-journal/>) paragraph 25b provides the contact numbers of TDs who may be consulted by telephone. Alternatively, the captains may agree to refer the matter to the League Organiser who will act as final arbiter as provided by paragraph 25c.
- 12) At the conclusion of the match, the two captains shall agree the IMP scores and the Victory Points won by each team. Both captains are responsible for informing the League Organiser of the result of a match, including the names of the players, the IMP scores and the VP score for each team. Match Result Report forms are available from the League Organiser who will email one to each captain at the start of the season.
- 13) The League Organiser will maintain records of the results of all matches and will arrange for a current league table for each division to be published on the EWBA website www.bridgewebs.com/eastwales . Captains are asked to view this site for information about the progress of the League and for any notices about the competition.
- 14) All teams playing in the East Wales League will also be entered into a Knock-out Cup competition. In the Cup, teams in lower divisions will receive a starting bonus of 25 IMPs per division difference if playing a team from a higher division. The League Organiser will make the draw for the KO Cup in January. Captains should give priority to completing their League fixtures in good time, but subject to that, Cup matches may be arranged and played as soon as the teams find it convenient.
- 15) All matters not covered by these regulations may be determined at the discretion of the League Organiser whose decision shall be final. The League Organiser for 2019-2020 is Adrian Trickey who can be contacted at adriantrickey1@gmail.com and by telephone 01446 793779.