

## LEICESTER MERCURY BRIDGE TROPHY RULES 2019-20

**The Rules incorporate only the LCBA Pairs Events General Rules that are applicable to this event.**

Competition Controller (CC)  
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1. This is a 'no fear' style event open to both members and non-members of the LCBA, and is operated under Blanket Licence Provision 1.2.1.
2. a) The competition is for pairs.
  - b) This event is open to bridge players of all ages who are now receiving, or have received within the last two years, tuition in duplicate bridge.
  - c) This tuition may be, or have been, formally structured or otherwise, stylistically didactic, heuristic or otherwise, at a School, Community College, College of Adult or Further Education or other public institution of learning, at a Bridge Club, or by any recognised method of distance learning.
  - d) Players must not however, on the qualifying date of 1 January 2020, have been entitled to an EBU Master Point ranking of Club Master or above i.e. their total points, if any, must not at that date have exceeded 199. , whether registered or not –probably no longer applicable.
  - e) Each winter, details, including the procedure for making entries, will be circulated to all registered tutors and to centres and clubs where teaching or induction is known to take place.
3. a) Pairs are restricted to using Acol style bidding methods, such as are normally taught by accredited EBUTA teachers and others using the teaching materials developed by the EBU or variants thereof. [red added as many of potential entrants taught using Bowyer Variant – for want of a better term.]
  - b) More specifically only the agreements shown on the EBU Standard English Foundation Level Card may be employed.
  - c) No player may make a psychic bid or in any way wilfully deviate from the announced system and agreements recorded on his system card.
4. a) Each player will be issued with an EBU Standard English Foundation Level Card.
  - b) Any agreements shown which are not played by the partnership must be deleted.
  - c) Any such deletions must be drawn to the attention of opponent pairs prior to the commencement of each round of play.
5. a) The competition will normally be played over about 15 to 18 boards with play completed well within 3 hours and prizes distributed at about 10 p.m.
  - b) Each pair should arrive at least 15 minutes before the designated start time. The Director may disqualify later arrivals if necessary in order to facilitate a prompt start. .
6. All results shall be treated as provisional until confirmed by the CC after receipt of the event records and the determination of any appeal.
7. a) The winners of the competition will hold the Leicester Mercury Trophy for one year.
  - b) Monetary prizes of £20 and £10 will be awarded to the first two pairs. If neither of these is won by a first year pair then a further prize of £10 will be awarded to the highest placed such pair, unless placed last overall.
  - c) Ties will be split in accordance with standard EBU procedures.
8. The LCBA will award local Master Points on the District Scale.
9. The competition will be played on Tuesday 31 March 2020 at the County Bridge Club. The playing charge is £1.00 per player.

*The appendices below providing technical information and advice for the Director and Tutors are also on files held by the Tournament Secretary and the Competition Controller who will circulate appropriate details to them.*

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## Appendices – for Director and Tutors

### 1. SYSTEM CARDS (sometimes still called Convention Cards)

It is recommended that all potential entrants are given copies of the **EBU Standard English Foundation Level Card** and advised that this lists all the conventions that they and their opponents are permitted to play.

Note that whilst they should delete any conventions they do not wish to play, in fairness to all they are NOT permitted to add (play) further conventions not shown on the card in the Mercury Trophy.

### 2. MOVEMENTS

#### Recommended Movements for 4 - 9 full tables

(still being thought about)

**NB Reduced as previous targets proved too high.**

				Max Bds Played	(needed if more)
4	Full Howell	(incomplete)	6 rounds of 3 boards	18 boards	(21)
5	Simple Switched Mitchell		5 rounds of 3 boards	15 boards	
6	Skip Switched Mitchell	(incomplete)	5 rounds of 3 boards	15 boards	(18)
7	Simple Switched Mitchell	(incomplete)	6 rounds of 3 boards	18 boards	(21)
8	Skip Switched Mitchell		8 rounds of 2 boards	16 boards	
9	Simple Switched Mitchell		9 rounds of 2 boards	18 boards	

In all Mitchell movements the last round is arrow switched.

The period for each round should be consistent with above - about 25 min for 3 board rounds, 17 for 2 boards.

NB: Playing say 6 rounds of nominally 3 boards it is most important that the same board is not the 'third board' in each round. It is strongly recommended that each board be the 'third board to be played' by rotation one round in three.

### 3. SLOW PLAY

#### Board Removal for Slow Play:

**This should not be treated as a punishment but a necessity to enable the movement to be completed.**

If the pace of the movement was allowed to be that of the slowest pair it is highly unlikely that more than about 12 boards would be played.

However the appropriate removal of a single board where any table is playing too slowly will ensure that those playing at a generally acceptable pace are not kept waiting unduly and thus those who can keep pace are allowed the opportunity to play a reasonable number of boards.

**Although the rules used to say It is imperative that 2 board rounds are never scheduled, as this would in practice preclude the proper operation of board removal in fact they have been and having reduced the target number of boards it may on balance be better to have 2 bd rounds than pairs playing a very restricted fraction of an 8 + table field. – so suggest replacing by Yates wording**

Remember the decision to take away the last board of any round at any table must always be made in good time; and announced to the table before any player at the table has made a call on the board.

If neither pair has offended before, the Director is likely to judge that both pairs share the responsibility for the slowness. In this case both should be given an average (50%) on the board.

Only most exceptionally, and if quite sure one pair was totally innocent, that pair should be given 60%.

However if in a later round a board has to be taken away from a pair for a second time it would be quite reasonable to give them 40%. If 40% is given their opponents might if previous offenders be given either 40% or 50%. Otherwise opponents should be given either 50% or 60% depending on whether or not they are judged to be also partly responsible for the slowness.

### 4. APPEALS

Although it can be deduced from rule 6 that an appeal against a Director ruling can be made, it is unlikely any beginner would by himself instigate such action and these competition rules, unlike those of other events do not specify how this should be done.

Should any player be clearly upset by or appear sceptical of a decision or ruling he has made the Director is advised to refer that player to a 'suitable third party' with whom to discuss the matter. This person (akin to an EBU cuddly) will normally be able to satisfy the player that he has been treated fairly.

However on the rare occasion it seems appropriate the 'cuddly' may either invite the Director to review his ruling and/or prepare a suitable appeal on behalf of the aggrieved player to be sent, by email or post within 2 days to the Competition Controller for the attention of the LCBA L & E Committee.