

The Duke of Devonshire Cup and Plate: A Duplicated Rubber Bridge Competition

Procedures

The Competition is a series of knock-out bridge matches for invited teams of four from the premier London Clubs and Societies;

Each team's partnerships play 14 duplicated boards against the other team's partnerships. The boards must be played in order, and when either table completes a rubber, the Director will stop play at that hand at the other table. Players at each table will agree the rubber score and start a new rubber.

Before the third and each subsequent hand of each rubber, North should check with the Director whether it is appropriate to continue with that hand or to wait for the other table to finish playing the previous hand.

After completing 14 boards, partnerships change. At the end of play, the team with the highest aggregate score is the victor. In the event of a tie, captains will cut for the victory.

Rules

Teams must be made up of bona fide members of the invited Clubs, and although in an emergency, and with the agreement of the opposing captain, exceptions to this rule are permitted, such emergencies should not recur or the offending team in question will be asked to withdraw from the Competition;

No player may compete for more than one team in a season;

Matches of 28 boards start promptly at 6:45 pm at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall on the dates notified by the Director. Teams more than 10 minutes late will be fined 500 points: teams more than 15 minutes late will forfeit the match.

Visiting team members must dress and behave in accordance with the standards specified in the RAC membership rules; failing which they forfeit the match;

Only simple bidding systems and defensive carding methods are to be used, i.e. **those familiar to players in London High Stake Rubber Bridge Clubs**. A summary of the systems allowed is attached. Should both teams wish to play other methods, they may not do so. **Partnerships who persist in playing other methods or who psych will be reprovved, and penalised in accordance with the Laws of Bridge. On a third occasion of disallowed methods by any partnership, their team will be withdrawn from the Competition;**

Players must sit at the compass directions specified by the Director, and at each table, North must display a correct, up-to-date, and legible Rubber Bridge scorecard for the Director's checking;

Each player's cards must be returned intact to the correct pocket of the bridge board after a hand is played, and North must stack completed boards neatly for the Director to collect and move.

No player may visit another table that is still in play or scoring up until after the net score for that 14 boards has been given to the Director;

The Director will apply the most recent Rubber Bridge Rules and a copy of the 'The International Laws of Rubber Bridge 2014' will be available;

The Director will make any rulings necessary for harmonious play. Any appeals against the Director's decisions may be made in writing to the RAC Bridge Circle Committee.