

Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club: Governance and Club Policies (November 2025)

At Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club, we have several documents to support us in running the club fairly and efficiently:

- Constitution (May 2023)
- Rules and Procedures (September 2024)
- EBU's Best Behaviour at Bridge (2021)
- Privacy Policy (2024)

In addition, the WGCBC Committee makes decisions on the running of the club at our bi-monthly meetings. These decisions are listed below in alphabetical order and the date on which they were agreed:

Topic	Detail	Date agreed
Attendance at a subsidised event, club competition or a members' only event	To participate in any subsidised event, club competition or a members' only event anyone taking part must be a member for a least three months prior to that event being advertised. This can only be waived in exceptional circumstances and will need approval by the Chair.	May 2025 CM October 2025 CM November 2025 CM
Attendance at teaching sessions	Access to the club's teaching programmes (e.g. post-mortem pairs, supervised play, seminars etc) is restricted to club members only.	November 2025 CM
Boards unplayable due to potential sight of scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both pairs awarded adjustment of 40%/40% • All players are responsible for ensuring boards are scored in the correct order 	July 2023 CM
Camera (when playing online)	If possible, members should keep their camera switched on when declaring or defending.	March 2023 CM
Cashless accounts protocol	Please click here for this document.	September 2023 CM
Convention cards	See system cards.	January 2025 CM
Death of a club member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Officer, Treasurer and Membership Team are informed • Brief notice placed on homepage by Secretary if family agree • Message may be posted in WhatsApp groups • Welfare Officer liaises with family and arranges card and charity donation • Treasurer arranges refund of any outstanding cashless balance, unless relatives request any credit to be transferred to a named charity • One minute silence at relevant session(s) at discretion of TD • Death of ex member of the club – to be dealt with on an individual basis; a card will be sent to the family 	May 2022 CM January 2023 CM March 2025 CM
Destroying a pair on RealBridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one player from a pair is having difficulty with internet connection, end the board they're currently playing, if necessary, skip the remainder of the boards in that round • Investigate the issue and see whether they can get back in and, if necessary, skipping some more boards • If it becomes clear that the pair cannot participate for any reason (e.g. internet issues or leaving early) 	September 2023 CM May 2024 CM May 2025 CM

	<p>and they have played fewer than 50% of the boards, the pair should be destroyed (this means their scores are removed, and they are effectively taken out of the movement and scoring)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If they have played 50% or more of the boards, the director will skip their future boards at each table and change the score for that board to average +/- (the average minus for the missing pair, and the average plus for their opponents). 	
Etiquette	Click here for this document.	September 2023 CM
Half tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online – because of uploading to BriAn, it must be N/S sit out F2F – default is E/W sit out, but the TD can alter this to N/S and so this needs to be shared out 	January 2023 CM
Illegal bids	<p>Illegal bids typically refer to bids that violate the club tournaments' rules, misrepresent the player's hand, or are made without proper announcements. Below are some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing conventions not allowed at L2 sessions Opening a 1-level bid with less than 8 HCP Psyching bidding agreements between partners Undisclosed partnerships agreements Insufficient bids Bid/pass out of turn Double/redouble violations Calling after the auction is over Any bid that is in violation of the EBU's Blue Book <p>Any such bids described above will see a score adjustment by the director.</p>	May 2025 CM
Late arrivals (f2f and online)	TD given discretion to issue a warning.	March 2022 CM
Late start (with f2f bridge)	If there is a late start due to weather conditions, traffic etc and the session will overrun, the last round will be removed.	November 2022 CM
Less than 3 tables	No table money charged for regular duplicate sessions (not GD).	July 2023 CM
Less than 5 tables	No NGS awarded (EBU code 12), apart from Wednesday morning when NGS will be awarded when 3+ tables.	September 2022 CM November 2024 CM
Membership fees – sliding scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 01 to June 30 - £10 July 01 to September 30 - £7.50 October 01 to November 30 - £5 December 01 for 13 months - £10 	May 2025 CM
Non-student buddies at GD	A member acting as a buddy can play for free, at the director's discretion. The host need to inform the Treasurer.	July 2024 CM
Overcalls – Light one level	Light one level overcall - click here to see the document	January 2025 CM
Pairs leaving session early F2F or online	Pairs leaving session early for any reason i.e. sickness, emergency, misunderstanding of movement (i.e. thought were sit out), 40%/60% will be awarded to the non-offending pair.	September 2023 CM May 2024 CM

Partnership agreements	See system cards.	January 2025 CM
Post-Mortem discussion – how to manage them	Click here to see the document.	May 2025 CM
‘Revenge’ rounds	In the event a revenge round has been created (either in error or by RealBridge recalibrating the movement), relevant players will play one another again and the score will stand (there will be no adjustment).	March 2024 CM
Score adjustment online when a player loses connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first two boards in a session where a pair cannot play them due to technical issue with one or other of the pair, an adjusted score of 50%/60% will be awarded If it continues, all boards become 40%/60%, including first two boards For teams 0-0 imps 	July 2022 CM May 2024
Score cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that each pair keep an accurate scorecard If either pair cannot produce an accurate scorecard, both pairs awarded adjustment of 40%/40% if there is a missing score 	July 2023 CM
Scoring errors	Email the club within 48 hours of the published start time of the session with full details.	June 2022 CM
Slow Play (Adjusted scoring for removed boards) (Click here to see full paper)	This will depend in the situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TD unable to establish blame AVE/AVE ie 50%/50% OR 0 IMPS/0 IMPS in teams Both pairs at fault but with extenuating circumstances (unlikely – but maybe both pairs have had connection issues on Realbridge for the first time that session) AVE/AVE ie 50%/50% (0 IMPS for Teams) At fault pair vs non-offending pair AVE-/AVE+ - i.e. 40%/60% OR -3 IMPS/+3 IMPS in teams 2 non-offending pairs (this could be the case when a board has to be removed at a subsequent table) AVE+/AVE+ i.e. 60%/60% (+3/+3) Both pairs at fault AVE-/AVE- 40%/40% (-3/-3) 1 pair non-offending the other pair “at fault but with extenuating circumstances” AVE+/AVE ie 60%/50% (This could happen ONLINE when 1 pair has suffered connection issues for the first time that session – OR could apply at the playing directors table – where the director is unable to play the board due to their director’s duties) 	March 2024 CM
SIMS competition on RealBridge	The club will always play 20/22 boards to allow for dropouts.	May 2024 CM

Strong two-level openers	<p>If you open a strong bid at the 2-level during a L2 or L4 session, here's what you need to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option (a): You can make a natural bid, meaning you have at least 5 cards in the suit you opened e.g. 2S announced by your partner as 'strong' • Option (b): If your bid shows a strong hand, it must have at least 16 HCP, or 13 HCP concentrated in two suits containing 10+ cards • For more information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Click here to see Level 2 ○ Click here to see Level 4 ○ Click here to see EBU Blue Book 2024 	May 2025 CM
System Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that each pair have an accurate system card • On RealBridge, each pair need to post a summary of their system in the chat screen, including anything unusual that the opponents need to know 	January 2025 CM
Teams, end of month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click here to see the A Flight Teams' policy • Click here to see the Level 2 Teams' policy 	March 2024 CM
Tempo, playing in	Click here to see this document.	January 2025 CM
WhatsApp group policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club WhatsApp groups' purpose is for club to communicate information to participants regarding club, HBA and EBU events, and for important updates e.g. cancellation of a session etc and for participants to source ad hoc partners etc • In urgent circumstances any WhatsApp Admin can remove a participant immediately e.g. where they have been abusive, threatening etc. The person concerned can always be reinstated following investigation by the Conduct Chair. A screenshot needs to be taken of the relevant post(s). • Where a participant has posted an inappropriate message, a club admin can remove the message (after having taken a screenshot). The post needs to be deleted within 48 hours under WhatsApp restrictions. If necessary, the post can be recreated following investigation by the Conduct Chair • When a member leaves WGCBC, they will be taken off the WhatsApp groups by the Membership Team 	March 2024 CM July 2024 CM January 2025 CM
Withdrawn Pair at F2F Pairs Event	<p>The regulations relating to Withdrawn Pairs are covered extensively in the EBU's White Book 2025. If a player withdraws for any reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before half of the session is completed, all scores obtained against that pair are cancelled; and • After completing half of the session, all scores obtained against the withdrawn pair will stand. Any pairs required to 'sit out' because of the withdrawal pair, will receive Average Plus for all the remainder of the boards to be played 	May 2025 CM