




# West Midlands Bridge Club



## *Information and Bye Laws*

**April 2026**

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### **AIMS OF THE CLUB**

The aim of West Midlands Bridge Club (WMBC) is to promote the playing, improvement and enjoyment of the game of bridge at all levels of expertise in a pleasant and enjoyable environment, and to encourage others to join our Club. Our Club aspires to be at the forefront of bridge both locally and nationally and to this end our premises are also used for County and National competitions and events.

**President:** Patrick Wells

**Honorary Life Members**

Margaret Armstrong  
Carolyn Fisher  
Patrick Wells  
Brent Wormald  
Elizabeth Court

**Board of Directors**

Christine Killeen - Chair  
Annmarie Wallis - Treasurer & Company Secretary  
Penny Dawson - House (Maintenance & Repairs)  
Mark Johnson - Education, Membership, Club Secretary  
Vacancy - Social, Bar & Entertainment  
Mike Lynn – Player Development  
David Robinson – WMBC Bridge  
Peter Abbott – External Bridge & IT

We do hope you will enjoy playing Bridge at our Club. It should be remembered that running a club such as ours requires input from a large number of volunteers who may act as host, direct sessions, score, teach, perform office duties or generally help with the work of the various committees. If you feel you can spare some of your free time to help, do make yourself known to a member of the Board.

**AFFILIATION**

WMBC is affiliated to the Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association (WCBA) and the English Bridge Union (EBU). The Club operates policies as laid down by the EBU, unless otherwise stated, and follows EBU rules and regulations. Members of WMBC automatically become members of, and membership data is shared with, WCBA (unless already a Primary Member of another County) and the EBU.

**ATTIRE**

Players are required to dress smartly and refrain from wearing denim/trainers at suppers and lunches. Men's sleeveless shirts are not permitted. Tailored shorts may be worn. However, not allowed are shorts which are or similar to Bermuda shorts, beachwear, football style or sports shorts.

**BAR**

The Club operates a licensed bar for use by members and visitors. The bar closes at 11.00pm. Persons who are fortunate enough to look under the age of 21 may be required to produce proof of age before being allowed to purchase or consume alcohol on the premises. Anyone asked to leave the Bar by a Board or Staff member must do so immediately. Only drinks purchased on the premises may be consumed on the premises, except that the Board may, on occasion, approve the consumption of alcohol bought onto the premises upon payment of a corkage fee.

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

In line with the Articles of Association the Board has established a Bridge Committee which is responsible for implementing the policy set by the Board for the playing of Bridge at the club.

The activities of the Bridge Committee encompass hand generation, duplimating, organising the TD and host rotas, bridge room housekeeping and liaising with the IT and Education teams.

Members are encouraged to bring any suggestions they have for improving the playing of bridge at the club to any member of the Bridge Committee.

**BRIDGEMATE (including other electronic scoring devices) ETIQUETTE**

The Bridgemate and the Boards are the responsibility of North-South

**1. At the start of a Round, North should**

- Check players names against the Bridgemate - call the TD if incorrect
- Check the Boards are the correct Boards and are in the correct order - call the TD if incorrect
- Check Boards are correctly oriented, particularly where there is an arrow switch involved where the "North" responsibility lies with the "East" player

2. At the start of a Board
  - Check Board is correctly placed in the middle of the Table with the North hand facing North
3. At the end of the auction, the Auction Review commences when the lead is placed on the Table face down
4. North should enter the following details into the Bridgemate and announce
  - the contract
  - the declarer
  - who is to lead

If the face down opening lead is from the wrong player, it can be returned to that player's hand and the correct player can then lead with no penalty. If the opening lead has been prematurely faced by the wrong player, call the TD for rectification

The opening lead must be turned face up before the player on lead completes his or her scorecard or, if the leader is North, before the details are entered to the Bridgemate.

5. At the end of the play of a board, North should enter the following details into the 'Bridgemate'
  - the result (currently plus or minus tricks)
  - the Bridgemate is then passed to East or West (ask which?)
  - East or West must check all these details before confirming these details by pressing the accept button.
  - The East or West player then announces the percentage and passes the Bridgemate back to 'North' with the percentage still displayed.
  - North then presses OK and shows all players the results for the board at other tables.
  - Discussion of the information displayed on the Bridgemate must be kept to a minimum particularly if there are more Boards to be played in the current Round and most importantly - talk quietly!
6. At the end of the Round, North (or South) is responsible for moving the Boards. This should never be delegated to East/West as they are moving in a different direction from the Boards!
7. If playing any movement with Movement Cards, North should tell the moving Pair or Pairs which Table they are moving to and consult the Movement Card for the Table to which the Boards go.

#### **CAR PARKING**

- Entrance to the Club premises by car is from the Warwick Road. Exit from the club premises is via Hampton Lane.
- Park in designated spaces only. Several spaces are marked 'Reserved' these must not be used before 6pm Monday - Friday. There are disabled spaces available on the side of the building opposite Hampton Lane. A space is reserved for the Chair.
- To maximise parking spaces, there is a block of spaces 3 deep in the centre of the car park. Drivers are required to park so that ALL spaces can be best utilised and not leave a gap in the middle row.
- Overflow parking is available at the church next door (but not on a Sunday). We have been asked by the church to **only** use the spaces at the **front** of the church (on Hampton Lane). This means turning **left** as you go through the gate connecting our two properties.

#### **CATERING**

Catering facilities are available within the Club. Any special dietary requirements may be discussed with the Catering Manager. Only food and drinks purchased on the premises may be consumed on the premises. Under no circumstances should meals be consumed at the bridge table during play (i.e. during the course of a round).

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Informal communication between the Board and Club Members is encouraged. More formal communication may be made via written or electronic mail to the Club office, or to any of the Committee Chairs or Board Members.

From time-to-time, the Board may arrange a Members' Forum Meeting. This gives members an opportunity to raise with the Board any matters of concern, and gives the Board an opportunity to consult with members on important issues.

The Club website and the Club's WMBC Community WhatsApp group are used extensively by the Board to keep Club Members up-to-date.

## **COMPETITIONS AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

Suppers, quiz nights and other competitions, take place during the year. Details may be found on the Website and notice boards.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The Club is committed to providing education and training opportunities for all players. Details will be advertised on the notice board and website. Our regular schedule of lessons for beginners and intermediates are a crucial element in our drive to increase membership of the Club. Any of our more experienced members who are interested in becoming a teacher are invited to contact the Board member responsible for Education. .

## **HEALTH & SAFETY and EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

Members are collectively responsible for health & safety and must familiarise themselves with health & safety requirements and emergency evacuation notices displayed around the club premises (e.g. safety requirements, emergency procedures, fire notices, the siting of fire extinguishers, emergency exits and emergency telephone).

## **HOST SYSTEM / FINDING A PARTNER**

The Club operates a WhatsApp group that enables a Club Member to seek a partner for any of the regular Club sessions.

The Club also operates a host system for certain sessions. Details of which sessions provide a host can be found on the website.

A player may arrive at a hosted session without a partner up to 6 times per year (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Board). Hosts are not required to be experts, nor are they required to know every system or convention in existence. If you arrive without a partner, and wish to use the host system, you should be prepared to play a simple system that you and the host understand.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Property left at the club with no known owner will be considered as lost property. Unclaimed items will be disposed of periodically.

## **MASTERPOINTS & NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME (NGS)**

EBU Master Points are awarded for all sessions and are directly credited to a player's EBU account. Unless specifically agreed with the Chair of the Bridge Committee, all relevant session data counts towards NGS ranking (i.e. no exemptions).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Applications** - It is important to remember that when proposing or seconding an applicant the proposer and seconder are vouching for the applicant's suitability to become a member of the Club. It is the responsibility of the proposer and seconder to introduce the applicant to member(s) of the Board of Directors. This may be impractical when, for example, a player only attends a session where no Board members are present. Under those circumstances it is possible for the session leader, or teacher, to countersign the form in support of the application. Please note that the counter signatory cannot be the proposer or seconder. If an applicant is unknown to the Board, and does not have a suitable counter signatory, then the application will be held in abeyance until the above conditions are met. Unless agreed by the Board, there is no facility for member anonymisation or pseudonyms. Applicants are required to sign the visitors' book, and pay the additional visitor supplement, until such time as they have received written confirmation that their subscription payment has been received. These conditions are in addition to those contained in the Articles of Association.

**All Members** (with exceptions, as determined by the Board) are required to contribute some time in support of the running of the Club. This could be as simple as hosting or as complex as acting as a TD or joining a committee.

**Bridge Sessions** are available for players of varying levels of experience and skill. The Education Committee has the right to issue guidance to members as to which sessions are most suited to their level of experience and skill and if, in its opinion, a member is attending a session that is inappropriate for his or her level of experience and skill, may request that a member

refrain from attending specified session(s). If, after such a request, a member persists in attending the aforementioned session(s) the Committee reserves the right to issue a formal ban in respect of the aforementioned session(s) and refer the matter to the Board who may, should further transgressions occur, deal with the matter under Article 12 of the Club's Articles of Association.

## **PERMITTED SYSTEMS & CONVENTIONS**

Unless otherwise indicated by the Board, EBU Level 4 Systems are permitted at all sessions.

**PRIVACY STATEMENT** – Please see the Club's [Privacy Policy](#) on the Website, or on the Club notice board.

Member (for the purpose of this statement, member(s) encompasses non-members, and all users of the premises) details are stored electronically, as well as in paper form. Information relating to bridge will be shared with the EBU and WCBA. Where members have opted in, names, telephone numbers and email addresses may be shared with other members. Members are responsible for ensuring that the Club holds accurate and up-to-date information. Members serving on the Board, a committee, or within a team, will become part of an email and / or WhatsApp group to enable essential communications and discussions between committee/team members. If you do not wish your personal email address to be used in this way please inform the Club of an alternative email address for this purpose.

## **RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE**

In line with the Articles of Association the Board has established a Rules and Ethics Committee to investigate allegations of improper conduct by a member. After investigating the matter and having given the alleged wrongdoer the opportunity to state his case, the Rules and Ethics Committee will provide a report to the Board with recommendations (if any) of any proposed actions.

## **ROOMS FOR HIRE**

The Club has a policy of offering rooms for hire, and this can be transacted through the office.

## **SALE OF GOODS OR SERVICES**

The selling, or soliciting the sale, of food and drink items and any form of goods on WMBC premises is, unless specifically preapproved by the Board (e.g. a charity event, or similar activity), strictly prohibited.

## **SEATING**

- All players are asked where possible to be seated 10 minutes before the published start time, in order that the Tournament Director (TD) may make the necessary arrangements. Late arrivals will be accommodated where possible.
- A member of the partnership must be on the premises in order for a seat to be reserved, and the Stewardess is not to be asked to reserve seats. However, this does not apply to members who have been granted special dispensation (seating rights).
- The TD may reserve seats for players who have been granted special dispensation and those with mobility issues.
- Only the TD may remove a seat reservation; any member with concerns about seat reservations should write to the Bridge Committee.
- One table in each section will be reserved for the TD.
- Players who are asked to move by the TD should do so promptly, please.

## **SMOKING** (including electronic cigarettes)

There is a NO SMOKING policy throughout the Club premises. Those smoking outside are asked to discard cigarette butts in the bin provided and not to sit or lean on the handrails.

## **SECURITY**

The building is alarmed overnight and is kept locked during the day when empty. If the shutter at the front door is down, any member with access to the rear door should assume that the building is alarmed and be prepared to turn off the alarm when entering.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions become due and payable on 1 April of each year.

## **TABLE MONEY**

Members pay table money of £4.50 per session unless otherwise stated. Universal Membership payments to WCBA and the EBU are included in this fee. Unless otherwise indicated visitors pay an additional £1.50 supplement to the table money. Junior members pay table money of £1 and junior visitors pay table money of £2. In line with EBU rules, a Junior is classed as a person under 27 years of age.

## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (TD)**

- The instructions of the Tournament Director should be followed at all times. Any pair or team may appeal a TD's ruling up to 30 minutes after play ends. Appeals must be made through the TD. The TD will either: 1) form an appeals committee, should sufficient (3) experienced players be available to hear the appeal and the TD is experienced enough to manage an appeal, or 2) forward the appeal to the Chair of the Rules & Ethics Committee. The scores may be subject to change if there is a local appeal. Should any pair or team wish to appeal the local appeal committee decision, this may be done via the EBU, but this will not affect the local result.
- The Club operates a TD Training policy. Any members who would like further details should contact the Chair of the Bridge Committee. Club TDs must be approved in order to sit on the panel of Club TDs.
- Complaints (not appeals) relating to a Tournament Director should be made in writing to the Board.

## **WEBSITE**

Members can access the 'Members Only' section of the website by entering a password which can be obtained from the office. Results are normally uploaded immediately after each event. Various articles of interest may be found on the website. The Club accepts no responsibility or liability for any links from its website.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors are welcome to attend the club up to 6 times per year (exceptions may be made by the Board). For those who wish to visit 7 or more times a year an 'enhanced' Visitors fee will be charged. With the exception of 'Open' events, visitors must sign the Visitors' Book on each occasion and pay the supplement as indicated under Table Money.