

LEICESTER MERCURY BRIDGE TROPHY RULES 2011-12

Competition Controller
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1. The competition is for pairs.
2. a) This is a 'no fear' style event open to both members and non-members of the LCBA, and is operated under Blanket Licence Provision 1.2.6 (b).
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 2012, have been entitled to an EBU Master Point ranking of Club Master or above i.e. their total points, if any, must not then have exceeded 199, whether registered or not.
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.
b) More specifically only the agreements shown on the Standard English (Foundation) Card may be employed, and no psychic bid is permitted.
4. a) Each player will be issued with an LCBA Standard English (Foundation) System 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. The competition will normally be played over 18 to 21 boards with play completed well within 3 hours and prizes distributed at about 10 p.m.
The playing charge is £1 per player.
6. All results shall be treated as provisional until confirmed by the Competition Controller 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 20 March 2012 at the County Bridge Club.

An Appendix – for Director and Tutors is printed on a separate page

This includes details of suitable movements and special guidance for Directors on handling slow play. These provide for 3 board rounds with slow pairs/tables playing just 2 of them = 12/14 boards.

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Appendix – for Director and Tutors

<u>Recommended Movements for 4 - 9 full tables</u>			Max Played (needed)
4	Full Howell	7 rounds of 3 boards	21 boards
5	Simple Switched Mitchell	5 rounds of 4 boards	20 boards
6	Skip Switched Mitchell	5 rounds of 4 boards	20 boards (24 needed)
7	Simple Switched Mitchell	7 rounds of 3 boards	21 boards
8	Skip Switched Mitchell	7 rounds of 3 boards	21 boards (24 needed)
9	Simple Switched Mitchell	7 of 9 rounds of 3 boards	21 boards (27 needed)

In all Mitchell movements the last round is arrow switched.

The period for each round should be consistent with above - about 30 min for 4 board rounds, 23 for 3 boards.

NB: Playing the expected 7 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.

Board Removal for Slow Play:

This should not be treated primarily 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.

It is imperative that 2 board rounds are never scheduled, as this would in practice preclude the proper operation of board removal. 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.

Exceptionally, if quite sure one pair was totally innocent, that pair should be given 60%.

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

Appeals

Although it can be deduced from rule 4 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 General Secretary for the attention of the LCBA L & E Committee.