

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

2017/2018 LEAGUE & CUP DETAILS

This booklet contains the rules, suggested fixture schedule and details for the Manchester County League and Roy Higson Cup & Plate. In the event of any circumstance arising not covered by these regulations, the League Secretary reserves the right to add to or amend these regulations as required. Any dispute or difficulty should be reported to the League Secretary and may be referred to the MCBA Conduct & Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final.

Invitations for the League and Cup/Plate will be sent out by Email in July with the matches played between September and April. All players must be current members (Primary Allegiance/Secondary) of the Manchester County & EBU before they play in the league or cup (unless there is an emergency in which case you must contact the League Secretary before the match). Any team fielding a player who is not a member of the EBU & Manchester County will lose their points for that match.

MCBA/EBU entry fees are as follows:

League Team	£35 per Team of 4 players
Cup Team	£15 per Team (Free for teams in Division 6 and 7)
Additional named player	£5 per player
Substitutes	£5 per player
Players with Primary Allegiance to another County	£6

Notes:

The Team entry fee covers only the first 4 named players on the entry form (whether or not they subsequently played)

The following clubs are currently known to be available as Match Venues:

Altrincham BC:	charge £20, Wednesdays only, BYO refreshments, time constraints.
Manchester BC:	charge £44 for members, refreshments included.
Cheadle Hulme BC:	free for members, £20 for non-members, BYO refreshments, time constraints
Stretford BC:	charge £15, includes tea & coffee. Contact Linda Williams:- 07813 408095

Interim league results will be automatically posted on the EBU website accessible from the League page on the MCBA website (<http://manchesterbridge.org.uk/league.html>).

Sept 1 st 2017	Start of League Season
Sun April 15 th 2018	End of League season
Sun April 29 th 2018	1:30pm The Roy Higson Cup/Plate Finals

Kath Nelson
Hon League Secretary
Mobile: 07817 602381
e-mail: manchesterleague@gmail.com

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

Match venues must be within the boundaries of the Manchester CBA area (except by mutual consent). For matches over 15 miles distance from the centre of Manchester, a team may insist on a halfway venue with shared costs.

A list of Teams is published each season on the Website at <http://www.manchesterbridge.org.uk/league.html>

A league fixture list is enclosed which (given your team number within the division) suggests how you should schedule the matches you have to play between now and April. However, the order in which you play opposing teams is only a suggestion. Team captains should check the information provided which indicates the preferred days of the other teams in your division

Either captain may initiate the arrangement of matches, though the onus is on the home side who need to arrange the venue for the match.

Consult with your team members to identify which dates are free and email the other teams in your division with these dates. Any unusual starting time or dietary requirements should be mentioned at this stage.

The opposing captains should contact their team members and reply as soon as possible.

The Home Team is responsible for paying all costs (unless a match is switched to a club for good reason) and should provide light refreshments.

Weekday dates should be offered for matches (although some teams may be able to play at weekends). At least 24 hours notice of cancellations should normally be given. Persistent cancellations by a team may be treated as a default.

After a match is arranged, it may prove necessary to rearrange it. If a match is cancelled with less than 24 hours notice, the League Secretary should be informed. The match should be rearranged if at all possible - however, if such a cancellation occurs in the last 2 weeks of the season, rearrangement may not be possible and a default may be awarded).

If you have recurrent difficulty in arranging a match, you should contact the League Secretary at an early stage (and definitely before April 15th) to allow time to resolve the problem. After April 15th, you are unlikely to obtain a default no matter how strong your case is.

Note that Cup & Plate matches are limited to 24 boards except for Cup Round 3 which by agreement can be played over 32 boards (in which case the match will take at least an hour longer than a league match).

In all cases of difficulty, please contact the League Secretary.

Playing Conditions

1. All players must abide by the EBU Best Behaviour at Bridge guidelines. Anyone who thinks they have been affected by bad behaviour should report back to the League Secretary asap.
2. No animals other than guide dogs may be brought into the playing area
3. In private matches, smoking (including electronic cigarettes) is prohibited in all playing rooms throughout the match. However, the match host may designate an area where smoking is permitted during scoring breaks.
4. Players are expected to dress properly and appropriately.
5. Players are requested to turn off mobile phones, iPads, Ipods etc during matches. If a mobile phone rings during play a pair or team may be penalised.
6. No food or crisps should be consumed at the table during play.

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

GENERAL RULES

TEAMS

Every player must be a current (Primary Allegiance or Secondary) member of MCBA (except for school students). Any league team fielding a non-eligible player will be subject to a fine. A team squad up to 8 players is permitted. A player may only represent one league team and one cup/plate during a season (except as an emergency substitute).

SYSTEMS

All players must follow the rules and guidelines of the English Bridge Union.

Each player must have a System card for opponents to refer to, and the alert procedure should be followed.

WBF Convention Cards are NOT allowed. Level 4 conventions are permitted in the Divisions 1-3 and the Cup Final.

For any 'unusual' bidding system the team pair should make available a convention card to the opposing team captain, prior to any match.

BIDDING BOXES

Bidding boxes must be used in all matches (except in the case of disability).

DEALING

Boards are dealt at the table in the presence of at least one player from each team. Pre-duplicated boards may be used as long as **both** captains agree and are satisfied with the security arrangements.

RULINGS

A TD or a suitably qualified player present but not playing in the match may give a ruling. If no TD ruling is attainable or you wish to appeal the TD ruling, send all the agreed details to the League Secretary who will make suitable arrangements with reference to EBU regulations.

Send full details about the hand using an Appeal Form which can be downloaded from the EBU site (google "EBU appeal form"). Please inform the League Secretary about any rulings.

INCORRECT SEATING

Both pairs at the table are equally responsible for sitting in the correct positions. If a pair sits in the wrong direction in one stanza, that set will not be scored. Any completed stanza will determine the score according to the VP scale.

FOULED / CANCELLED BOARDS

If a board is fouled or cancelled in the first stanza of a 2-stanza match, a substitute board is added to the second half with the same dealer/vulnerability. If a board is fouled or cancelled in the second stanza a substitute board may not be played if the final score without that board is known.

LATE ARRIVAL

If a team's fourth player arrives more than 15 minutes after the agreed starting time, the other team MAY opt before the match starts to both remove a board and claim 2 IMPS for each complete 15 minutes that the player is late. The IMP fine can be appealed against if the delay was due to traffic or inadequate directions to the venue. If however a team is an hour late and at fault, it concedes the match. If the second half starts later than 10pm, then **any player** may insist that a board is removed and not played for every complete 7 minutes beyond 10pm.

MASTERPOINTS

Local Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBU Masterpoint Handbook.

SUBSTITUTES

If fewer than 4 regular players are available for an arranged match, a team may ask another MCBA member to act as an emergency substitute provided that the substitute

- a/ does not play regularly for another team in a higher or the same division
- b/ does not improve the team

Please obtain the agreement of the opposing captain and the League Secretary.

A VP penalty for an inappropriate substitute may be imposed.
In extenuating circumstances, the League Secretary may relax these rules

Please make an effort to play your normal team as substitutes may affect the standing of teams close to you.

CUP/PLATE FINALS

Substitutes are allowed if the following conditions are met:

The substitute

- is a member of MCBA
- has not played for another Cup team
- does not improve the team

Please obtain the agreement of the League Secretary

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE RULES

DIVISIONS

Each division will normally contain 9 to 11 teams. There will be around 6 to 7 Divisions each consisting of about 9 to 11 teams. Promotion and relegation between the top two Divisions will be 3-up and 3-down. Promotion and relegation from the other divisions will normally be on a 2-up and 2-down basis between Divisions except that may be varied when Divisions are resized with new teams and dropouts. Additional promotions/non-relegations may be made by the League Secretary (based on the average number of VPs scored per match) to balance the divisions.

The league position of a team which splits up will be retained by the larger contingent or by the captain if the contingents are equal in size. In order to retain their place in a division in the following season, a team must either retain at least four players or retain at least two players who each played at least half of the matches. Newly formed teams are positioned at the discretion of the League Secretary (normally just below their perceived ability level or in a vacant league slot reasonably appropriate to their perceived level).

All teams winning a Division will receive a commemorative glass. Winning team members who played in at least 1/3 of the matches will also receive this glass.

Ties in terms of Victory Points will be split by the result (in IMPs) of the match between the teams, and then by total IMPs over the season.

MATCHES

Each match will consist of 24 boards (2 sets of 12 boards) with opponents being exchanged at half-time. Only 4 players may represent a team in a match except a player may be replaced due to illness at any time. Matches are decided on International Match Points (IMPs).

Victory points are awarded on the following scale:

Diff.	VPs	Diff.	VPs	Diff.	VPs	Diff.	VPs
0-2	: 15-15	16-19	: 19-11	32-35	: 23-7	48-51	: 27-3
3-7	: 16-14	20-23	: 20-10	36-39	: 24-6	52-55	: 28-2
8-11	: 17-13	24-27	: 21-9	40-43	: 25-5	56-59	: 29-1
12-15	: 18-12	28-31	: 22-8	44-47	: 26-4	60+	: 30-0

i.e. Every complete 4 IMPs gains 1 VP, except that a 3 IMP win is also worth 16-14 VPs.

For any match actually played, EBU Local Points will be shared for a 15-15 VP result, and otherwise awarded to the winners.

REPORTING RESULTS

Full details of the match including the name of the winning team and the net IMP difference should be noted and uploaded to the EBU website <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/v2/> within 24 hours of a match being played by either captain. To submit a League Result:

- Click My EBU and enter your EBU No and Password
- Click Utilities and EBU League
- Find your team and division corresponding to your Team registered entry
- Click on the specific match and enter the results and tick players accordingly

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE RULES

DEFAULTS

All matches must be completed before the announced "End of Season" date unless approval to play after that date is granted by the League Secretary. Any outstanding matches will be **void** (no VPs for either team) unless the League Secretary was consulted by **April 15th** and one team made reasonable efforts to arrange the match (when the other team will default the match). In particular, the onus is on the **home** team to make reasonable attempts to arrange the match.

If a match is abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances with neither team at fault, then:

- If at least half of the boards have been played at both tables, the match is considered complete and the VP scale for the number of completed boards is used.
- If fewer than half of the boards have been completed, the match should be replayed.

If a team is awarded a match, it will receive the average based on the difference between its own results and the defaulting team's results. Artificial VP scores from other defaulted matches are not included in this calculation. In an unplayed match:

The defaulting team (or teams) receive no VPs.

The other team (subject to a minimum 15 VPs and a maximum 30VPs) will be awarded $15 + [(Their\ VP\ average - Opponent's\ VP\ average) / 2]$ VPs

However the League Secretary reserves the right to change this according to circumstances e.g.

- if they have cancelled a previous match,
- the lateness of the season
- the effect on other teams who have played all their matches, in deciding a score.

WITHDRAWALS

If a team withdraws from the league having played fewer than half its scheduled matches, the results of that team's matches will be ignored for the purposes of the league table. If the team has played at least half its scheduled matches, results in the remaining matches are calculated using the Default Match formula above. The League Secretary reserves the right to refuse entry in the following season on some or all the members of a team who default on a match or withdraw during the season.

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ROY HIGSON CUP/PLATE RULES

The Cup and Plate consist of up to 3 knock-out rounds, and a multiple-team final.
The finals are staged alongside each other at the Manchester Bridge Club late April.

All teams start off in the Cup.

Teams surviving the Cup knock-out rounds qualify for the Roy Higson Cup Final.
Teams surviving the Plate knock-out rounds qualify for the Roy Higson Plate Final.
Only teams from Division 3 and below are eligible for the Plate.

Byes will be determined by the draw.

The Cup and Plate winners will hold their trophy for 1 year. Prize money will be awarded (£60, £40 and £20 to the first 3 teams in the Cup, and £40, £20 to the first 2 teams in the Plate, with an additional prize for the highest placed team in Division 5 or lower.

MATCHES

Every Cup & Plate match will consist of 24 boards (in 2 sets of 12 boards) except that Cup Round 3 may consist of 32 boards (4 sets of 8 boards) if BOTH captains agree.

In a 32 board match, up to 6 players may represent a team. Exchange opponents at half-time in 2-set matches. In 4-set matches, the winner of a toss chooses who to play against 1st & 4th, the other chooses 2nd & 3rd.

Matches are decided on International Match Points (IMPs). In the event of a tie, additional sets of 4 boards should be played until a result is achieved

REPORTING RESULTS

Results should be entered at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/members/v2/> *Knockout*. Both captains are responsible for entering the number of boards each player of their team played. The winning captain should enter the score.

DEFAULTS

The League Secretary reserves the right to award a match to one team if it wasn't played in time for the next round according to circumstances e.g. if they have cancelled a previous match, the lateness of the season or the effect on other teams who have played all their matches.

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MATCH PLAY GUIDELINES

1. Agree the date & starting time & venue for the match. Note the venue's address and telephone number when travelling to away matches. Check with your team and the opposing captain the day before the match.
2. Introduce team members and offer tea and coffee at the start of match.
3. The Home team distributes score cards.
4. Nominate two tables (preferably in different rooms) as 'Home' and 'Away' tables. The Home side will sit North-South at its table, East-West at the other table, and will return to its table whenever it is time to score up.
5. Share the first half boards between the tables, and take your seats.
Each pair should have identical System cards available. System cards can be downloaded from the EBU web site (www.ebu.co.uk). They should be exchanged with your opponents. You should memorize their basic methods ("ACOL, 12-14 NT, McKenney discards, Intermediate Jump Overcalls" is an example of the system aspects most worth remembering).
6. Deal the boards at your table and play them. Do not re-deal any board which is passed out (passed-out boards are a part of the game, and anyway someone in the other room may choose to make a light opening bid and probably go down in the final contract).
When these boards are finished, exchange them with the other table and play those boards.
Check that your version of the scores matches the opponents' version.
7. When play in the first half is completed, combine your scores with your team-mates, convert the net difference to IMPS and add up the IMPS.
[At this stage, the IMPS score might be 30-24, or +6 IMPS net to your side].
8. After light refreshments, share the second-half boards between the 2 tables and take your seats with the visiting pairs changing rooms.
9. Deal the boards at your table, play them, exchange the boards with the other table, play those boards, and check your scores.
10. Return to your team-mates, combine your scores, convert the net difference to IMPS and calculate the total IMPS over the whole match.
[The score might typically be 70-46, or +24 IMPS net to your side].
11. The winning captain (or the home captain in the event of a draw) should upload the result to the MY EBU website. Both captains have to tick the players for each match.
If a new player joins or acts as substitute for a league team, please send their full name and EBU number to the League Secretary.
12. Thank the hosts for their hospitality. Leave before having any protracted post-mortems because your hosts may need to be up early next morning!

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST

These suggested dates and matches apply to all divisions. This is only a guide – You are free to arrange your matches in the most suitable way.

10 / 11 Teams				
SEP / OCT	NOV / DEC	JAN / FEB	MAR	APR
H / A	H / A	H / A	H / A	H / A
1 v 2	1 v 4	1 v 6	1 v 8	1 v 10
2 v 3	2 v 5	2 v 7	2 v 9	2 v 11
3 v 4	3 v 6	3 v 8	3 v 10	3 v 1
4 v 5	4 v 7	4 v 9	4 v 11	4 v 2
5 v 6	5 v 8	5 v 10	5 v 1	5 v 3
6 v 7	6 v 9	6 v 11	6 v 2	6 v 4
7 v 8	7 v 10	7 v 1	7 v 3	7 v 5
8 v 9	8 v 11	8 v 2	8 v 4	8 v 6
9 v 10	9 v 1	9 v 3	9 v 5	9 v 7
10 v 11	10 v 2	10 v 4	10 v 6	10 v 8
11 v 1	11 v 3	11 v 5	11 v 7	11 v 9

9 Teams			
SEPT / OCT	NOV / DEC	JAN / FEB	MAR / APRIL
H / A	H / A	H / A	H / A
1 v 9	1 v 8	1 v 7	1 v 6
2 v 1	2 v 9	2 v 8	2 v 7
3 v 2	3 v 1	3 v 9	3 v 8
4 v 3	4 v 2	4 v 1	4 v 9
5 v 4	5 v 3	5 v 2	5 v 1
6 v 5	6 v 4	6 v 3	6 v 2
7 v 6	7 v 5	7 v 4	7 v 3
8 v 7	8 v 6	8 v 5	8 v 4
9 v 8	9 v 7	9 v 6	9 v 5

MANCHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST

8 Teams			
SEPT / OCT	NOV / DEC	JAN / FEB	MAR / APRIL
H / A	H / A	H / A	H / A
1 v 2	1 v 3	1 v 4	1 v 5
2 v 3	2 v 4	2 v 5	2 v 6
3 v 4	3 v 5	3 v 6	3 v 7
4 v 5	4 v 6	4 v 7	4 v 8
5 v 6	5 v 7	5 v 8	
6 v 7	6 v 8	6 v 1	
7 v 8	7 v 1	7 v 2	
8 v 1	8 v 2	8 v 3	

7 Teams		
SEPT / OCT / NOV	DEC / JAN / FEB	MAR / APRIL
H / A	H / A	H / A
1 v 3	2 v 7	4 v 6
4 v 7	6 v 3	2 v 5
6 v 1	5 v 4	7 v 3
3 v 2	7 v 6	5 v 1
7 v 5	4 v 1	6 v 2
2 v 4	3 v 5	1 v 7
5 v 6	1 v 2	3 v 4