



**ENGLAND WOMEN'S TRIAL 2012
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

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ENGLAND WOMEN'S TRIALS 2012

Conditions of Contest

1 Authority

- 1.1 These Conditions of Contest are established by the Selection Committee of The English Bridge Union Ltd. References in these Conditions to “the EBU” or “the Union” mean The English Bridge Union Ltd., and references to “the Committee” mean the Selection Committee of the Union. The Committee acts on behalf of, and is responsible to, the Board of Directors of the English Bridge Union Ltd.
- 1.2 The decision of the Committee in relation to the interpretation of these Conditions of Contest shall be final.
- 1.3 The Committee reserves the right to determine a course of action at its discretion in the event of any matter arising which is not covered by these Conditions of Contest, or in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.
- 1.4 Subject to Condition 1.5, any decisions requiring to be made by the Committee under these Conditions of Contest may be made on the Committee’s behalf by the Chairman of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman (if any) of the Committee. Alternatively, the Chairman may nominate another person or persons to make a decision on the Committee’s behalf. Such decisions shall have the full force of a decision by the Committee. Except as provided in Condition 1.5, a reference to a decision being made at the Committee’s absolute discretion does not prevent a decision being made on behalf of the Committee under this Condition.
- 1.5 Any decision to select, deselect or disqualify a player or official from representing England must be made by the Committee itself, notwithstanding Condition 1.4.
- 1.6 In the event that a decision under these Conditions of Contest is required during the course of play of the Trials, a decision may be made on the Committee’s behalf by the Tournament Director in Charge and/or by the On-site Referee.
- 1.7 These Trials are played under the current Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, with such modifications as have been approved by the World Bridge Federation.
- 1.8 Any interpretations of Law and any regulations published or adopted by the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee or by the Union in general shall apply to these Trials unless they are in conflict with these Conditions of Contest, in which case these Conditions of Contest shall prevail.
- 1.9 The Committee reserves to itself the power, only to be exercised in exceptional circumstances, not to select a player who has qualified for selection or to withdraw an invitation already issued.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 To select a team to represent England in the 2012 Lady Milne Trophy, to be held in Wales, over the weekend of Friday 13th to Sunday 15th April 2012.
- 2.2 Entries have been invited from eligible pairs. The 18 pairs accepted for the Trial are as follows:

Catherine Seale & Catherine Jagger
Sarah Teshome & Anne Rosen
Heather Dhondy & Dinah Caplan
Sandy Davies & Carole Kelly
Marietta Andree & Janet Cahm
Susanna Gross & Sally Brock
Frances Liew & Belinda Bridgen
Gillian Fawcett & Jane Moore
Terry Hewett & Gitte Hecht-Johansen
Alice GC Kaye & Bryony Youngs
Sandra Penfold & Nevena Senior
Lorna Vestey & Sue Shaw
Nicole Cook & Christine Duckworth
Pauline Cohen & Lizzie Godfrey
Rowena Clow & Millie Jones
Carrie Eden & Jacqui Lund
Sarah O'Connor & Lavinia Constantin
Maureen Dennison & Audrey Hartley

3 Eligibility

- 3.1 All players must be female members of the Union in good standing.
- 3.2 Subject to Condition 3.3, all players must be eligible to represent England in the Lady Milne Trophy under Bridge Great Britain regulations.
- 3.3 If a player loses either her good standing or eligibility during the course of the season, then that player will be disqualified from further participation in the event and from ultimate selection.

4 Conditions of entry

- 4.1 It is a condition of entry that all players disclose to the Committee any limitation that would in any way restrict the freedom of the Committee to select a team to represent England.
- 4.2 It is a condition of entry that players entered in the Trials must not have a beneficial financial interest in the performance of any pair in the Trials other than their own. This does not preclude relatives from playing in a different pairing.
- 4.3 Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute an offence under the EBU Disciplinary Rules and may jeopardise participation in the Trials or selection to represent England in future years, in addition to other possible sanctions.

5 Registered players and Substitutes

- 5.1 If a pair loses one player as a result of death, serious incapacity or other exceptional circumstance, then the remaining player may apply for a permanent replacement. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with regard to such application, and may grant it subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.
- 5.2 A pair which is unable to field both players may apply to the Committee for authorisation of a substitute. The Committee shall have absolute discretion with

regard to any such application, and in particular may attach such conditions as it thinks fit relating to the use of a substitute.

- 5.3 The tournament director may authorise an emergency substitution on the day itself, in which case a full report shall be made to the Committee, who will decide to what extent (if any) the results of the match(es) affected should be allowed to stand and whether the pair in question will be allowed to continue in the event.

6 Withdrawal

- 6.1 If a pair withdraws during the course of a weekend, then a full report will be made to the Committee, whose arbitration of the result from the weekend will be final (which may include expunging the results of the withdrawn pair or assigning adjusted scores for sessions not actually played.).

7 Entries

- 7.1 Entrants must provide such evidence as the Committee may require as to their eligibility under Condition 3, and their compliance with Condition 4.

8 Selection

- 8.1 Subject to the requirements and conditions set out in these Conditions of Contest, the leading three pairs in the Trials will be guaranteed selection. If one or more of the leading three pairs is not able to play in the Lady Milne Trophy, the Selection Committee will select another pair or pairs from the trialists to complete the team.

9 Format & Timings

- 9.1 The Trial will be played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, London, and will comprise one weekend of 17 x 7-board matches, with screens.
- 9.2 Scoring will be by 'cross-imps' divided by the number of comparisons (usually 8). All results will be displayed correct to 2 d.p.
- 9.3 There is a maximum limit of +28 IMPs in any given 7-board round. There is no minimum limit.
- 9.4 **Friday 13th January**
19.30 – 22.45 : 3 matches
Saturday 14th January
10.45 – 15.05 : 4 matches
15.45 – 20.05 : 4 matches
Sunday 15th January
10.45 – 14.00 : 3 matches
14.30 – 17.45 : 3 matches

10 Notices and communications

- 10.1 Any notices to be given to, or communications for the Committee should be in writing and sent to the Secretary to the Committee (Sandra Claridge) 31 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury HP18 9DG. Email claridge31@tiscali.co.uk.
- 10.2 Email is an acceptable means of communication, but attachments sent by email will not be taken to have been received by the Committee until confirmation is available that they have been received and can be read and (if necessary) printed.

11 Systems and conventions

- 11.1 Systems and conventions which are authorised at 'EBU Level 5' are permitted throughout, whether or not categorised by the WBF as 'Brown Sticker' or 'HUM'. Other Brown Sticker methods and HUM systems are not permitted.
- 11.2 WBF convention cards may be used as an alternative to EBU convention cards.

12 Miscellaneous

- 12.1 Bidding boxes and screens will be in use throughout. See Appendix A for regulations regarding the use of screens.
- 12.2 Ties will be split in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix C.
- 12.3 Penalties for late arrival will be assessed in accordance with the regulations set out in Appendix D.
- 12.4 Details of the time allowed and of the penalties which will be assessed for slow play are set out in Appendix E.
- 12.5 Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages of any nature in the playing area is prohibited. No player may leave the playing area during a session in order to smoke or consume alcohol. There is an automatic penalty of 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.
- 12.6 Mobile telephones, pagers or other electronic equipment may not be brought into the playing area. There is an automatic penalty of 4 IMPs for a breach of this regulation.

APPENDIX A Screen regulations

1 Description of the Operation

a. Basic

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture.

b. Sequence

North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

Players should refrain from touching any cards in the box until they have determined their call. However, any call selected and taken from the bidding box may be changed provided it has not been placed and released from the hand (but Law 73F may apply).

Note that when left-handed bidding boxes are in use the calls are placed in a row from right to left. After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes. A player who removes his bidding cards from the tray instead of passing will be deemed to have actually passed.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

2 Changes to calls made

A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:

- (a) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screen-mate is aware of this; or
- (b) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognises his error.

3 Alerts and Explanations

(a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined in Appendix D must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.

The WBF Alerting Policy (see Appendix B) shall apply with regard to which calls require an alert. There are no announcements behind screens.

(b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen-mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.

(c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screen-mate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made.

4 Modification of Rectifications

4.1 Basic

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 are in effect except as specified below..

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

(i) an inadmissible call – see Law 35 – must be corrected.

(ii) if a player infringes the law, and inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screen-mate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

(b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screen-mate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen.

No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

(c) The screen-mate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:

(i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.

(ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.

(iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.

(iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.

(d) When an alertable call is made see section 3 above.

4.2 Spectators

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.

5 Tempo

5.1 Variation in tempo

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced, in front of, but not on the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray.

5.2 Drawing attention to a variation in tempo

When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screen-mate, however, shall not do so.

If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.

Failure to call the Director thus may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

5.3 "Hot seat" actions

In the case of a player confronted with a wholly unanticipated situation or a high-level pre-empt a hesitation may be found not to suggest one action over another if the extra time taken may be occasioned by the need of the player to consider what options he has, added to any time he may then take in choosing among them.

5.4 Skip bid warnings

These are not used with screens.

APPENDIX B

Alerting policy

WBF Alerting Policy as outlined below applies when playing with screens

Preamble

- 1 Full disclosure is vital. However, players who participate in WBF events are to protect themselves to a large extent. They are also expected to observe the spirit of the Laws as well as the letter.
- 2 The Policy has been made as simple as possible. Players are, however, expected to alert whenever there is doubt. (NB where screens are in use, an alert on one side but not on the other does not necessarily imply an infraction).
- 3 Players must respect the spirit of the Policy as well as the letter.

Policy

The following classes of calls should be alerted:

- (i) Conventional bids should be alerted, non-conventional bids should not.

(ii) Those bids which have special meanings or which are based on or lead to special understandings between the partners. (A player may not make a call or play based on a special partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side discloses the use of such call or play in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring organisation). See Law 40(b).

(iii) Non-forcing jump changes of suit responses to opening bids or overcalls, and non-forcing new suit responses by an unpassed hand to opening bids of one of a suit.

APPENDIX C

Split tie procedures

- 1 Ties will be split where necessary in accordance with standard EBU procedures as described in the White Book 2004 (The EBU Tournament Directors Guide), save that neither paragraph 143.7.1 (e) ('point-a-board count back') nor paragraph 143.7.1 (f) ('random ballot') will apply. Full details are available on request and the full text of the White Book is available on the EBU web site (www.ebu.co.uk) in the 'Laws & Ethics' section.
- 2 A tie which cannot be resolved by these means will be deemed to be an unforeseen circumstance (in which case the Committee will determine a course of action).

APPENDIX D

Late arrival

- 1 A pair is late if one or more playing members of that pair is not seated and ready to play at the advertised starting time. Warnings and penalties apply to the pair rather than to any individual.
- 2 A pair advised, warned or penalised for late arrival retains the full time in which to play that stanza, i.e. the starting time for that table is officially delayed.
- 3 For the purposes of paragraph 4 of this Appendix, a single offence is anything from 0+ to 5 minutes late. Thus, for example, a first offence of eight minutes late would constitute two offences, and would receive an official warning.
- 4 Penalties for late arrival are as follows:-

First offence	no penalty (but the TD shall advise the pair that it is late)
Second offence	official warning
Third offence	penalty of 2 IMPs
Fourth and subsequent offences	penalty of 2 IMPs, and see also paragraphs 5 and 6 regarding the removal of boards
- 5 In the event of a fourth or subsequent offence, in addition to the penalty provisions of paragraph 4, the tournament director will remove one board from the match after more than 15 minutes of lateness, and further boards at the rate of one board every five minutes thereafter. The non-offending pair will receive an award of 2 IMPs per board removed. The penalty for the offending contestant will be as above (i.e. 2 IMPs per board in addition to the penalties for the earlier offences).

Example: for a first offence of 22 minutes late, two boards would be removed from the match and scored as +/- 2 IMPs each. There would also be an additional fixed penalty of 2 IMPs for the offending pair. Note that a pair which has already received an official warning during the weekend, but which is no more than 15 minutes late, does not have boards removed but does receive a penalty of 2 IMPs for each delay of five minutes or part thereof.

- 6 However, there is a limitation on the number of boards which may be removed before the match is abandoned. No match will take place once half of the boards scheduled to be played have been removed owing to late arrival. So, if a pair is more than 30 minutes late for a 7-board match, then that match will be abandoned.
- 7 The provisional score to be allocated for an abandoned match shall be +/- 1 IMP per board as per section 6 above, in addition to any of the fixed penalty provisions of section 4. However, a full report will be made to the Committee. The Committee may take such action as it thinks fit. In particular it may adjust the provisional score of either or both pairs, and may disqualify the offenders if it considers any impropriety to have taken place. The decision of the Committee under this paragraph shall be final.
- 8 The penalties and warnings contained in this Appendix may be expunged for cause either in part or in whole for late arrival for the start of the weekend. A pair which feels that it can demonstrate good cause for late arrival for the start of the weekend may apply to the Chairman of Appeals for a waiver or relaxation of these penalties.

APPENDIX E

Slow play

- 1 The time allowed for each match is as follows:-

Number of boards in match	Time allowed
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7	1 hour & 5 minutes
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- 2 Automatic penalties will apply to any table which runs over the allotted time. The penalty on the table involved will be 4 IMPs per five-minute delay or part thereof.
- 3 The tournament director will apportion the responsibility for the slow play between the two pairs involved and will assess penalties separately to the pairs involved on this basis. All penalties will be expressed in terms of whole numbers of IMPs only.

Example: a table is three minutes late. One pair is held to be approximately three-quarters responsible and the other approximately one-quarter responsible. The penalty is 3 IMPs to the one pair and 1 IMP to the other.

- 4 If a suitable person is available to act as a time monitor, the tournament director may appoint such person to monitor the speed of play at any table (either at the request of one of the pairs or on his own initiative). Otherwise the responsibility for monitoring the speed of play lies with the tournament director personally.
- 5 Approximately half way through each match and approximately ten minutes before the scheduled time for the completion of play, the tournament director shall notify each table of the time remaining. Although the tournament director will endeavour to warn a pair when they are in danger of a penalty being imposed, any failure to do so shall not preclude them being penalised.
- 6 The tournament directors have been instructed to apply the penalty provisions of this Appendix strictly.



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