**![playing-cards[1]]()Lymington Bridge Club**

**Information for Prospective Members**

Thank you for your interest in the Lymington Bridge Club. These notes are intended to give you some information about our joining/assessment process and help you decide whether or not to apply for membership. You may play as a Visitor up to three times and we strongly recommend that anyone thinking about joining comes along as a Visitor first.

The Lymington Bridge Club is affiliated to the EBU (English Bridge Union) and offers a number of sessions each week. We aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment for players across a range of abilities. However, we do require all members to be able to play bridge to an acceptable basic standard such that they can:

* bid and play with confidence demonstrating the ability to employ basic conventions, including slam bidding
* play at a reasonable pace – we generally play around 24 boards during a 3-hour session
* follow the EBU Best Behaviour at Bridge[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Club’s Bridge Etiquette[[2]](#footnote-2) guidelines;
* demonstrate awareness of the EBU’s announcing and alerting requirements[[3]](#footnote-3)
* be prepared to partner someone they have not played with before – so that they can act as host twice a year. NB Being prepared to act as host is a membership requirement for all our members.

Although most of our members play ACOL (or a variant of this) you can play whatever bridge system you and your partner like. However, we ask that when acting as host, all members are able to play basic ACOL as the default method (as currently taught in EBU courses, eg weak 1NT, 3 weak two opening bids, strong 2♣, Stayman, transfers and standard Blackwood). We also ask all members (and their partners) to complete a system card showing the features of their partnership agreement. For regular partnerships this should be a typed-up document (templates are available on the EBU website[[4]](#footnote-4)).

We offer the following duplicate pairs bridge sessions. All times shown are “start times”. Members should arrive at least 15 minutes early. Members should generally arrange a partnership in advance, however there will usually be a host (other than when the Club is open on Bank Holidays).

* Monday – 1:45pm
* Wednesday – 1:45pm
* Thursday – 7:00pm (currently on line)
* Friday – 1:45pm

The session on Thursday evening is generally more competitive than the afternoon sessions (average NGS around 52%, while afternoon sessions have average NGS of around 48%). In addition to social occasions, we also offer a variety of other bridge events, including SIM pairs, county-wide and national competitions plus occasional teams.

**I would like to apply – what happens next?**

You need to be aware that the Club’s primary method of communication with its members is by email and the Club website. We therefore require that all new members have an email address.

All prospective members must be proposed and seconded by members of at least two years’ standing. If you are new to the area and don’t know anyone, speak to the Secretary. Your proposer should obtain the application form. In completing the form, please be aware that the Lymington Bridge Club is the name used by The Lymington Club Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, and you are applying for membership of the company. Also, please read our Privacy Notice and bear in mind that some information you provide will, subject to your consent, be published in the Club contact list (provided to Club members only).

After the completed form has been returned to the Secretary, your form (without your personal information) will be placed on the Club Noticeboard for a period of one month, so that members are aware that you are applying for membership. You will be contacted by the Director of Bridge who will arrange for you to play with an experienced club member. During this “waiting period” you must play at least twice more either with a partner of your choice or with the host of the day. This will give both you, the club and our members, the opportunity to get to know you. This is not something to be concerned about as it is in our mutual interest that you feel that the Club is for you and we think that you will fit in. The next step is for the Director of Bridge to get feedback and make a recommendation to the Membership Secretary and the Board. The Board will make a decision, taking into account all information available to them, and the Secretary will contact you. If all is well, the Secretary will invite you to pay the joining fee (currently £40) and the subscription (currently £40 for a full year or £20 if joining July-December).

As a member, you may play as often as you wish. If you are not joining with a partner, don’t be afraid to just turn up – you will either play with another member who hasn’t got a partner or with the host. This is a good way to meet members and to find players who you can play with regularly. All members pay table money (currently £2.50 per session) and this includes tea and biscuit. If you wish to invite visitors to the Club you may do so, but please introduce them to the Director of the session and be sure to sign them in.

Finally, please be aware that the Club is run by volunteers. We look to all members to do what they can to keep the Club running well.

Lymington Bridge Club

March 2020

1. https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/articles/best-behaviour-at-bridge.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.lymingtonbridgeclub.co.uk/bridge-etiquette [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/convention-cards/announcements-table.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.ebu.co.uk/laws-and-ethics/system-cards [↑](#footnote-ref-4)