



# The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

## INTER-LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION

### COMPETITOR AND PARTNERSHIP RULES

Since the inauguration of the Inter-Livery Bridge Competition in 1983 it has been the intention of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards to hold a relaxed and friendly competition for members of Livery and Guild Companies and their close family members. The Company sponsors and subsidises the event, which is held in support of The Lord Mayor's Charity.

In furtherance of the friendly nature of this competition, and to maintain a 'level playing-field' for all, it is believed by the organising committee to be desirable to implement rules pertaining to the EBU ranking of competitors and the partnerships in which they play.

**The competition will comprise qualifying members of the SAME Livery or Guild Company. Qualifying members of different Livery or Guild Companies may enter but will not be eligible to win prizes and may be asked to withdraw if the competition is over-subscribed.** In the spirit of the competition non-livery members are not permitted to play except as described in 2 below.

1. The Lead Contact will be a current member of a Livery or Guild Company. He/she must be any of the following:
  - a) Member of the Court.
  - b) Liveryman, Freeman, Yeoman, Journeyman or Apprentice.
  - c) A Clerk, Beadle or other Officer.
  
2. His/her Partner must be any of the following:
  - a) Similarly described as in rule 1.
  - b) A close relative of the Lead Contact of the pair (e.g. Spouse/life Partner, Mother, Father, Son or Daughter, or Siblings).
  - c) A widow or widower of a person who would have qualified under the rules.

*This is specifically to accommodate the surviving spouse of a deceased member of your Company who may not qualify to play in their own right.*
  
3. No two players, both graded King or Ace as at 30 September in the year before the competition under the EBU National Grading System may partner each other.

- 4 In the event of a player or pair arriving late such that there is insufficient time for them to play either or both of the first two hands, then they will be awarded 40% and their opposition 60%. **This rule will be strictly applied.**

After the first round, members of the WCMPC and their families will also play on behalf of individuals who have still not arrived. The use of all such 'host players' will not affect the award of trophies and prizes to that pair.

5. In the interests of fairness no pair will be permitted to win more than one prize/trophy, other than the Company (Thorpe Tankard) trophy. In the event of a pair winning more than one prize the Committee will reallocate the second ranking prize to the runner up in that category. The prizes (and trophies) are ranked in the following order:

- 1) Champions & Winners trophy; highest placed pair
- 2) Second Pair prize
- 3) Third Pair prize
- 4) Company Team Award; 'Thorpe Tankard' trophy; the 2 pairs from the same Company with the highest combined placing\*
- 5) Flitch Pair; 'The Actuaries' trophy highest placed married/civil partnership couple
- 6) The Improvers' Award\*\*
- 7) WCMPC top pair 'Maurice' trophy

\*In the event of a tie, the winners of this trophy will be the two pairs with the highest combined scores.

\*\*Improvers Award for the pair whose ranking moves up the most from the end of the first half to the end of play. In the event of a tie, the highest-ranking pair would win the prize.

All trophies will be held for one year; prizes are for winners to keep. Please note that the trophies are to be returned to the Clerk after the presentation ceremony for engraving and arrangements will be made for them to be returned as soon as the engraving has been completed. Trophies must be returned in time for presentation at the next competition by the 28 of February in the year of the competition or trophies may be returned on the evening of the next event by prior arrangement only.

6. Any excess of income over expenditure will be presented to the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the chosen Charities.

\*We are frequently asked for an explanation of our use of the term 'Flitch'. It is derived from the ancient local tradition of the award of a flitch to any **married couple** who are resident in Great Dunmow, Essex, and can 'prove' they have had no argument between them in the preceding 12 months. A competition of all qualifying couples is undertaken by way of an oral examination. The term is in general use throughout East Anglia in respect of any competition or prize restricted to married couples, although more commonly restricted to golf, tennis and duplicate, Chicago & progressive bridge competitions. A flitch is a side of bacon. Please note that for the purposes of this competition 'married' means any couple legally bound together.