

The Busbridge Guide to Bridge Happiness

At Busbridge we pride ourselves on being friendly and welcoming, whilst playing competitive bridge. Sometimes issues arise which can spoil our enjoyment. The purpose of this note is to set out some simple guidelines to help ensure we all continue to enjoy our bridge to the full.

Speed of Play

We aim to play at least 24 boards whilst ensuring we finish on time at 22.30. To achieve this, it is important to maintain a sensible pace since slow play at one table holds up the whole room. Remember also that if you hesitate over a bid or a play then your partner must not take any action that may have been suggested by the hesitation unless it is clear cut. Of course, there are always hands that may take a little more time and thought.

- at the start of each round, move to the next table promptly, greet your opponents and get proceedings underway – discussions or arguments about previous hands must cease;
- at normal pairs events only keep a personal scorecard if you can do so **without delaying other players; for example this means leading first and writing down the contract second;**
- at the end of each hand, North should score promptly, East then checks the score telling the percentage and other results. Do not conduct post-mortems.
- When playing a Howell movement, **both** pairs should check the Howell card at the beginning to make sure that they are playing at the correct table, against the correct pair, and using the correct boards.

If a table has fallen behind, the director may ask that a board be played in the break or at the end of the evening, or apply an average.

Noise

Discussions over hands should be conducted quietly as those nearby will probably be playing that hand next. Noise is a distraction to everyone. If one table is still playing, the crescendo of noise from other tables is not going to help them catch up! Similarly, if you are sitting out, talk quietly or leave the room.

Courtesy at the Table

Insulting, arguing or bickering is unacceptable. This will not help your bridge and more importantly is unfair and embarrassing for your opponents.

Accurate Scoring

If the score is not correct then *both North and East are responsible*. Although it is not our practice to punish inaccurate scoring, it is the scorer's right to do so and may be necessary if the correct score cannot be established. If you see an incorrect score, please resolve it by taking it to the director or scorer or to the table concerned.

Calling the Director

If something significant goes wrong at the table then it is important to call the director *immediately*. It is NEVER wrong to call the director.

Start Time

The official arrival time is **19.20** latest. This is to allow time for the director to fix the movement and prepare the boards ready for play by **19.25** to commence at **19.30**. Please sit at your table.

Setting Up etc.

Setting up the room and tidying up afterwards is not the responsibility of the Committee. All able-bodied members are asked to help. Only you are responsible for washing up. The hall is usually open by 7 and help is always welcome.