



The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

To the Clerks of the several Livery and Guild Companies

December 2007

THE 2008 INTER-LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION (26th YEAR!)

sponsored and subsidised by

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MAKERS OF PLAYING CARDS
and run for**

THE BENEFIT OF THE LORD MAYOR'S CHARITY

I am writing to confirm my earlier communication giving notice of this well established, popular event, in sufficient time, I hope, for you to be able to bring it to the attention of your Members in one of your mailings or newsletters. If your Company has entered in previous years, you may prefer to send on the details to the Liveryman/Freeman responsible for co-ordinating your entries. If you have already informed us of your representative I shall be sending him/her a copy of this letter direct.

Would you please note that there are a few points that have been amended since my earlier notice.

The 2008 competition will be the twenty-sixth that we have mounted! Details are as follows:-

Date: Monday, 3rd March 2008 (applications by Monday, 4th February 2008 please.)

Venue: Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2DQ

Time: Reception 5.00 p.m. Start of competition 5.45 p.m.

This year we are again adopting the successful format that we introduced last year. The Bridge will be played in the two Reception Rooms which have much better overhead lighting than the main hall. The Dinner will be served in the main hall, and will be a waitress-service. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served after the Competition while awaiting the results and prize-giving. This should begin at about 10.10 p.m. and the evening will conclude at about 10.30 p.m. Competitors are asked to remain for the presentations.

We are delighted that the Worshipful Company of Drapers can again accommodate us in March, and we are extremely grateful to The Master Draper for his kind permission for the use of the Hall in 2008.

As in previous years, individual prizes will be presented to the top three pairs and to the most 'improving' pair between the 1st and 2nd sessions. There are additional prizes: The Thorpe Tankard for the top Livery team (i.e., the top two pairs representing the same Livery or Guild) and The Actuaries' Trophy for the top 'Flich' married couple. The Maurice Trophy is for the highest-placed pair from The Makers of Playing Cards.

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 Trophy member of the Committee, having been engraved, ready for presentation at the next competition.

We should like to remind all gentlemen that the dress code is lounge suits, with ties please.

It is up to each Company to decide how to choose its pair or pairs but one of the participants in each pair must have a *bona fide* connection with the Company they represent. A spouse or son or daughter or other close relative of the Liveryman/Freeman would be permitted to pair with him/her and there is no limit to the number of pairs a Company may enter (see the rules attached). Widows and widowers of past Members of your Company may also partner a Member of your Company (this allows them to continue playing in the Competition after the demise of the Competition-qualifying Member).

All Members of a Company may participate – Liverymen, Freemen, Apprentices, Yeomen, Clerks, Assistant Clerks and Beadles – in other words we hope to be as inclusive as possible.

The charge for entering the 2008 competition will be £110 per pair, inclusive of VAT, and is unchanged from last year.. **The closing date for entering the Competition is Monday 4th February 2008, but we will make every effort to accommodate any entries received after that date, although we can not guarantee acceptance.**

Should your Company decide to participate, would you, or your Assistant Clerk, please complete the enclosed Entry Form and return it to me by the 4th February 2008, together with your appropriate remittance cheque made payable to WCMPC. All applications must be countersigned by you or your Assistant Clerk, to ensure that the eligibility of players conforms to the rules, and to show the partnerships in which they will play. A separate invoice or receipt will be supplied upon specific request.

Attached to this letter are notes on the Competition and the Rules, in which will be found the name of the Liveryman of this Company to whom all technical questions should be addressed.

Enquiries have been received during the year from Liverymen and Freemen of several Companies who had only learned of this annual competition by chance, often from friends in participating Companies. I realise the effort entailed in a full mailing but I would be most grateful if all Clerks, but especially those who have not done so in previous years, could do their best to inform their Members of the Competition.

May I take this opportunity of reminding you of our other contact for the 2008 Competition, the Secretary of the Bridge Committee, Liveryman Neil Morley. (You may receive communications from him or from me, please give them both equal attention – I promise that we will do our best to avoid duplication. Neil's address is: 121 Hacton Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 2NL. Telephone: 01708 505865. e-mail: neilmorley@hotmail.com)

In hopeful anticipation, thank you very much for your help.



Paul Bowen
Clerk to the Company

Clerk to the Company: Paul Bowen, WCMPC, 2 Cannon Way, WEST MOLESEY, Surrey, KT8 2NB
Telephone: 020 8979 5407 Facsimile: 020 8783 0581
E-Mail: clerk@makersofplayingcards.co.uk



The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

26th INTER-LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION

Administrative Notes - PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

- VENUE: DRAPERS' HALL
THROGMORTON STREET
LONDON EC2N 2DQ
Telephone: 020 7588 5001
- DATE: MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008
- IN FUTURE YEARS: FIRST MONDAY IN MARCH
- APPLICATIONS BY: MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2008
- RESTRICTION & RULES SEE RULES attached
- please circulate to all participants.
- PRIZES Pairs Trophy for the Top winning pair..
Prizes for the first, second and third pairs.
- Thorpe Trophy,,: Top two pairs representing the same Livery (by lowest aggregate position) – The Thorpe Tankard Trophy.
- The Worshipful Company of Actuaries' 'Flich' Trophy for Top married couple.
- The Maurice Trophy for the highest-placed pair from The Makers of Playing Cards
- The Improvers prize for the pair with the largest change of position from the first to the second session

IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT ALL COMPETITORS ARE FAMILIAR WITH AND CONFORM TO THE RULES ATTACHED.

IT IS A SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT THAT ALL ENTRY FORMS ARE COUNTERSIGNED BY THE CLERK, OR OTHER OFFICER OF THE COURT, CONFIRMING ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS AND PARTNERSHIPS.



The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

NOTES

FOR COMPETITORS AT THE INTER-LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION
TO BE HELD AT
DRAPERS' HALL, THROGMORTON STREET, LONDON EC2.
on MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008

1. The evening will start at 5.00 p.m. with a Reception followed by a short introductory talk by the Tournament Director who will describe the *modus operandi* of the Competition for the benefit of those who usually play Contract Bridge and might therefore be unfamiliar with the format of Duplicate Bridge.
2. The Competition is a Duplicate Pairs' Competition played over a limited number of boards. Time will be the primary factor but it is hoped to achieve 24 boards being played by the field.
3. Play will start promptly at 5.45 p.m. The break for dinner will be at approximately 7.15 followed at 8.15 by the second session of play, ending at approximately 9.45 to allow time for the correlation of results and prize giving. Please ensure that you are on time. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served after the Competition while awaiting the results and prize-giving. This should begin at about 10.10 p.m. and the evening will conclude at about 10.30 p.m. Competitors are specifically asked to remain for the presentation of the Trophies & prizes by the Master Maker of Playing Cards. Thank you.
4. Depending upon the time and number of entrants, the field will be divided into two or more sections by the tournament director, but the scoring will be overall. The hands will be pre-dealt by computer with the **total** hands in play meeting the 'CHI squared' test on card distribution as applied by the EBU. Each score will be recorded on the 'traveller' accompanying the board, as individual scores will be entered on a computer by the scorer. It is hoped that the results will be forthcoming within ten minutes or so of the end of play.
5. The standard Laws of Duplicate Bridge will apply and the Tournament will be directed by two senior accredited Tournament Directors from the English Bridge Union, who will be identifiable by their red blazers. An EBU scorer will operate the computer. The decision of the senior Tournament Director on all matters relating to the Competition shall be final and binding.
6. Any technical question regarding the Competition you would like answered (or if you have any query or observation) should be addressed to our Past Master Brian Maurice, whose telephone number is 01892 537919, and whose e-mail address is brian.maurice@dial.pipex.com
7. Closing date for entries: Monday, 4th February 2008, but we will make every effort to accommodate any entries received.
8. The Competition will be licensed by the English Bridge Union for the award of (local Black) Master Points.



The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

INTER-LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION

COMPETITOR AND PARTNERSHIP RULES

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COMPETITORS BY LIVERY COMPANIES – please.

General

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.

Additionally we have **re-stated** the rules pertaining to members of Livery or Guild Companies and their team members. To ensure that these rules are adhered to, it is a specific requirement that applications and entry forms are countersigned by the Clerk or Assistant Clerk to the Company they represent.

We regret any inconvenience that this may cause but assure all competitors that the application of these rules is in the interests of the majority of competitors and is intended to engender the true spirit of friendly, inter-Livery competition.

1. The pair (team) captain will be a current member of a Livery or Guild Company. He/she will be a
 - a) Member of the Court.
 - or b) Liveryman, Freeman, Yeoman, Journeyman or Apprentice.
 - or c) Clerk, Beadle or other officer.

2. His/her partner will be
 - a) Similarly described as in rule 1.
 - or b) A close relative of the captain of the pair (e.g. spouse/life partner, mother, father, son or daughter).
 - or c) A widow or widower of a person who would have qualified under rule 1.
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. All partnerships will comprise qualifying members of the same Livery or Guild Company (see rule 5).

4. In 2001 we introduced a restriction based on the EBU 'Gold Point Register'. A 'gold-pointed player' may only partner a **non** gold-pointed player'. The register, as available to us on the 1st of January of the year of competition will be referred to for these purposes (i.e., only one player in any pair may be on the EBU Gold Point Register as available to WCMPC).

5. In the event that one member of an accepted partnership is forced to withdraw after the final closing date (that being the Tuesday before the event) and that it is not possible to replace him/her with a qualifying replacement, the WCMPC will endeavour to provide a 'host player' from among their number to play and to represent in every respect the Livery or Guild of the guest player. This includes the winning of trophies and award of prizes.

Note: 'Host players' from among the WCMPC and their families will also play on behalf of late arrivals to avoid last minute partnership withdrawals or a late start, until the arrival of the registered player. The use of all such 'host players' will not affect the award of Trophies and prizes to that pair.

6. Companies may enter as many pairs as they wish. Qualifying applications will be accepted in strict order of receipt by the WCMPC.

In the unlikely event that applications exceed capacity, Companies submitting more than two pairs might be scaled down to two pairs (in reverse order of receipt) to accommodate pairs from other Companies not previously represented. However, given the venue, this is believed to be highly unlikely and should not preclude Companies from entering more than two pairs should they so wish.

7. As in previous competitions the winning Pair receives the Winners Trophy and Prizes. The second and third pairs also receive prizes. The Thorpe tankard Trophy is awarded to the top Livery team and the Actuaries Trophy to the Winning Flicht* married couple. The Maurice Trophy is awarded to the top Pair from the Company of Makers of Playing Cards. There is also a prize for the pair showing the greatest improvement of position from the first to the second session.

All Trophies will be held for one year; prizes are for winners to keep. Please note that the Trophies are to returned to the Trophy member of the Committee, having been engraved, ready for presentation at the next competition.

We should like to remind all gentlemen that the dress code is lounge suits, with ties please.

8. Permitted bidding systems and conventions will be up to and including Level 3 as published in the EBU 'Orange Book'. No other systems and conventions are permitted. Any entrants requiring clarification are advised to contact the EBU direct at:-

Broadfields,
Bicester Road,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP19 8AZ

Tel No: 01296 397851 or 317200
Fax No: 01296 317220

9. Any excess of income over expenditure will be presented to the Lord Mayor for his chosen Charities. The event is sponsored and subsidised annually by The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards.

*We are frequently asked for an explanation of our use of the term 'Flicht'. It is derived from the ancient local tradition of the award of a flicht 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 flicht is a side of bacon. Please note that for the purposes of this competition 'married' means any couple legally bound together.

ANNUAL INTER-LIVERY DUPLICATE BRIDGE COMPETITION (2008)

PLEASE COPY AS REQUIRED (The number of applicants is not restricted)

APPLICATION & ENTRY FORM

LIVERY or GUILD:

TEAM CAPTAIN (FULL NAME)

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ON THE EBU GOLD POINT REGISTER.....

MEMBER OF COURT, LIVERY, FREEMAN, CLERK, OTHER (please state)

.....

Please state any dietary requirement

PARTNER (FULL NAME)

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ON THE EBU GOLD POINT REGISTER.....

MEMBER OF COURT, LIVERY, FREEMAN, CLERK, OTHER, NONE (please state)

IF 'NONE' Please state Family Relationship with team captain (e.g. spouse/life partner, son, daughter, etc)

.....

Please state any dietary requirement

*NOTE While competitors may apply (or change) by application to the Clerk prior to the 4th February 2008, no competitor may be substituted after the 26th February 2008. N.B. The same partnership and player rules apply to a substitute player as apply to all other players and partnership.

(see separate rules).

ALL the above named persons conform to the competitor/partnership rules as specified by the WCMPC and DISTRIBUTED TO COMPETITORS

Signed { CLERK
ASSISTANT CLERK TO THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY

NAME DATE

CONTACT TEL NO..... CHEQUE ENCLOSED: £110.00 (INCL VAT) PER PAIR.....

CONTACT ADDRESS

.....

PLEASE RETURN TO

Clerk to the Company: Paul Bowen, WCMPC, 2 Cannon Way, WEST MOLESEY, Surrey, KT8 2NB
Telephone: 020 8979 5407 - Facsimile: 020 8783 0581
E-Mail: clerk@makersofplayingcards.co.uk