

Bridle Cup - Revisions to competition

Summary of changes:

1. The competition is to remain a handicap system, but the handicaps are calculated at the outset as **team** handicaps, (taking into account the individual ranking of each player) rather than individual handicaps. Teams calculate the handicaps in advance of the match being played, as explained in worked example. (See note 5 below.)
2. Individual handicaps will be worked out at the start of the season, taking note of TTE rankings and any prior knowledge of the players.
3. When calculating doubles/team handicaps, any half-point scores are rounded **UP**.
4. Teams may again consist of either 3 or 4 players. The handicaps are applied according to which players feature in the singles and doubles legs.
5. Individual handicaps are noted on the scorecard, and then worked out and agreed by both captains. They are then entered on the scorecard as team aggregates **before** the match commences. This enables teams to be aware of the total points difference from the start of the match (further detail can be found on worked example.)
6. Reserves may replace higher-ranked players on one occasion only without the reserve then being cup-tied. Reserves may not represent the same team on more than one occasion, but may represent different higher-ranked players in a different team, and still not be cup-tied.
7. Matches consist of 12 sets. Service remains as in normal league matches, i.e. the player serving alternates every two points. Each set consists of two legs, and players change ends following the first leg. Each leg is played **until the first player reaches 20 points**, meaning the maximum points either team can score over the set, excluding handicap points, is 40.
8. **In the rare event of a match being tied, the match is awarded to the lower ranked team.** The onus is on the higher-ranked team to overcome the handicap. The lower ranked team is the one which starts the match with the higher handicap score. Example: Team Red has handicap of 150 points, Team Green has a handicap of 100 points, then Team Red is deemed the lower-ranked team.
9. Individual handicaps, which are part of the calculation of the team handicap, have greater scope to reflect actual differences in players' abilities. (from 0 to the high 30s).
10. Progress through all rounds of the competition, along with the draw, will be published in advance on the website.

Bob Landberger
Tony Sampson

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