**BRIDLE CUP 2018/19**

The paperwork is now available on the website for this year’s competition.

Briefly, the changes are as follows:

1. As last year, the fixture list has allocated a week for first round matches to be completed. However, team captains are now asked to **keep Tony Sampson fully informed** as to the progress of arranging ties as the competition progresses. This is in order to ensure that the deadlines are adhered to.
2. Teams may only be represented by **three players**. The option to play a fourth player in the doubles has been removed. This facility was not used last year, and removing it simplifies the scorecard.
3. There is no facility to recalculate handicaps based on only two players turning up to play. **Any team unable to raise a full team must concede the tie.**
4. Whilst we have applied handicaps against players as we did last season, we have introduced an additional level of handicap in the form of **a bonus for lower-ranked teams**. This applies only when teams are drawn to play against teams from different divisions, when a bonus will be awarded to the lower-ranked team. This is as follows:
* **24 points** awarded to a Division 3 team v a Division 2 team
* **48 points** awarded to a Division 2 team v a Division 1 team
* **72 points** awarded to a Division 3 team v a Division 1 team.
1. A team is at liberty to field reserves from within the same club. However, the team’s designation remains as it is in the League. In other words, for the purposes of the divisional bonus, **a team which regularly plays in, for example, Division 1, is still considered as a Division 1 team**, even if in the competition the players representing that team are drawn from lower divisions.

The rules have been amended to reflect all these changes, and a new scorecard has been devised, together with full explanation as to how to calculate the handicaps, and a worked example.

No doubt, as is always the case in handicap competitions, there will be some close matches and there will be instances in which the handicaps do not work as well as we would have wished. We hope that you will enjoy the new format of the competition, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Good luck, and thank you for your support.

Bob Landberger

Tony Sampson

Bridle Cup sub-committee