

TD Courses

Tournament Directors are needed at every level of the organised bridge game. Highly expert directors are needed to run international and national events, but at the other end of the spectrum even the smallest club game needs a director to be in control and sort out any problems that may arise.

The Welsh Bridge Union organises 5 courses for Tournament Directors according to demand. The courses are described as Essentials, Book Rulings, Judgment Rulings, Assessment, & the Area Course.

Club Directing - Essentials. This covers the role of the Club Director, the basics of movements and scoring and an introduction to the Law Book. There is now a greater emphasis on people-handling issues and the skills needed to ensure a harmonious and happy atmosphere is maintained within the Club duplicate. Correspondingly, there is less emphasis on scoring, as even the smallest club usually now uses computer scoring. Players new to directing are now strongly recommended to attend this course as the first in the series. A 'WBU Club Directors Certificate of Attendance' will be issued to all who attend this course.

Club Directing - Book Rulings. This workshop explains how to deal with all the everyday problems which arise at the table - revokes, leads out of turn, insufficient bids and so on, using lots of simulations and role-playing to give valuable practice in handling rulings. A 'WBU Club Directors Certificate of Attendance' will be issued to all who attend this course.

Club Directing - Judgment Rulings. This course deals with the trickier rulings, where you can't usually make an automatic decision but need to exercise judgment. Though arising less frequently in most clubs, judgment rulings can cause much bigger problems than book rulings and the club director must know how to handle them correctly. A 'WBU Club Directors Certificate of Attendance' will be issued to all who attend this course.

Club Directing - Assessment. Though also giving lots of useful practice in rulings, this day is primarily to assess performance, successful participants being awarded a WBU Club Director's Certificate of Competence. A new 'Pass with Distinction' is being introduced this year for those who do particularly well on the Assessment course, to recognise high levels of performance. To achieve a Distinction, participants will need to show a good attitude towards players and the right way of approaching the table, as well as a good knowledge of the Law book.

The Assessment course can be taken only if you have previously taken Book Rulings and Judgment Rulings, and it is advisable to have at least several months experience of directing before attending. As the name suggests this course is made up entirely of tests and simulations, and at the end candidates that pass are qualified as WBU Club Tournament directors. A 'WBU Club Directors' Certificate of Competence' will be issued to all those who are successful on the

course in being assessed as fully qualified. These courses are generally held at Club venues across Wales. Price per course is dependent on numbers.

The Area course (our equivalent of the EBU County course) is there for people who want to direct congresses, area and national events. Qualified Club directors who want to improve their knowledge are also welcome. In Wales we often combine the Area Course with the Area Refresher course. This course is mainly simulations and exercises and runs over two days. More advanced training is also provided for Area Directors. The Area courses will be run as a weekend residential event, once a year. All enquiries and bookings are made through the CEO. Courses are only open to qualified Club Directors or previously qualified Area Directors or those who have completed an EBU County Directors Course. The course starts on Saturday afternoon at 2pm, with other sessions on Saturday evening, Sunday morning and afternoon, finishing at 4pm. The WBU Area Directors' course is for qualified Club Directors who will normally have at least one year's experience of directing and some experience of organising events at Area level. The prime objective of the course is to assess candidate's experience to become fully qualified Area Directors, based on their performance in the exercises therein. To enrol on the course an endorsement from your Area Association is preferred. Participation is also a learning experience - those attending will, on completion of the course:

- * have answered a pre-course test on the Orange Book;
- * understand the role and responsibilities of an Area director;
- * have a good understanding of the Laws and Directives governing duplicate bridge;
- * be able to deal confidently with common table situations;
- * have participated in an appeal
- * have dealt with harder judgment rulings
- * appreciate the changes in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007

The course is a mixture of table simulations, lecture and written assessment. A Certificate will be awarded on successful completion. Area Refresher training courses are also held once each year for qualified Area Directors, at the same location and at the same time as the Area course. The Area Refresher course is for those who have already attended and passed the Area, or equivalent Course. The course content is identical to the Area Course and participants will be 'unofficially marked' on the same scale so you can see how you have improved since you did the original Course. For more details of the WBU Director Courses contact Neville Richards on 01597 850050 or email bridge@deepvault.com.