

## **Rules for the Premier Pairs Competition**

Premier pairs competition is the flagship of our monthly tournaments and rightly so. Its purpose is to attract the best players, but also allow good players to qualify for the competition and compete against the best.

The rules of the competition are somewhat complex and the committee is always reviewing these rules in order to satisfy most people and upset the least number of players. Such a review has again taken place and, as from 1<sup>st</sup> September, the following will apply.

1. A list of **pairs** who are qualified to play in the competition will be published. This will be based on past results. **Qualification is as a pair**, not as individuals.
2. An individual can qualify with more than one partner
3. Each competition will consist of 14 pairs
4. If the competition is oversubscribed on a particular day, the secretary will inform the extra pairings that they will not be able to participate for that day. This will be based on recent results. However the pairings who are asked to withdraw on a particular occasion will retain their status as a premier pair and will be guaranteed a place the next month.
5. Premier pair "individuals" will not be allowed to play with substitute partners, unless the event is under-subscribed.
6. If the event is under-subscribed in a particular month, any premier pair individual may be asked to play with a substitute partner, but such a pairing will not qualify for future events unless they come in the top 3 on the night.
7. If the event is under-subscribed, a club pair may also be asked to substitute. This club pair will again only qualify for future events if they come in the top 3. Club pairs who wish to be considered as possible substitutes should inform the secretary.
8. **Two** premier pairs will be relegated each month. These are premier pairs who come last, **excluding** substitutes.
9. Two pairs who come top in the club section on the night will be promoted to the premier pairs. If one winning pair is not willing to join the premier pairs, the 3<sup>rd</sup> pairing will be promoted. If out of the top 3 in the club section, two or more pairs do not wish to be promoted, the relegated pair(s) in the main tournament will be reprieved. Note that promotion will not go beyond the first 3 in the club section in order not to dilute the premier pairs too much.
10. In order to facilitate the Secretary's task, a list of Premier pairs will be posted on the Notice Board, and Premier pairs are asked to indicate their availability on that list. Club pairs who would like to be considered as substitutes should also inform the secretary.

**Table money remains at £4 and the prize remains at £60 for the winning pair.**