

Learning and Good Practice From Disability Access Scoping Exercise

Introduction

The YCBA Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Committee would like to warmly thank all the clubs who took part in our Disability Access Scoping Exercise.

Receiving information and feedback in this area from 90% of our clubs has been invaluable in enabling us to establish a baseline position across clubs and to better understand what support clubs might need to improve their disability access arrangements.

We are pleased to announce that the YCBA Grants Committee intend to use the YCBA grants process to support greater access to clubs through match-funding grants. Further information regarding this will be published in due course.

As a result of your responses, we are also now able to share the following learning and good practice from the completed templates and other sources to support clubs in their consideration of disability.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)

A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) is a customised plan for people who may need extra help to leave a building or reach safety during an emergency. Clubs should have arrangements in place to ensure that a PEEP is in place for any person with conditions that may affect their ability to evacuate, such as: Mobility issues, Sight issues, Hearing issues, Mental health conditions and Neurodiverse conditions.

Accessibility Statements

It is good practice for clubs to be clear about the accessibility that they are currently able to offer. As such information regarding disability access arrangements should be published on club websites with an appropriate point of contact.

This information should use inclusive language and cover both Physical Access (including Main entry, Playing Areas, Refreshment Areas, Toilets and Parking) and any equipment or alternative processes that the club can make available to facilitate the playing of bridge.

Guidance regarding the use of inclusive language can be found via the following weblinks:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-communication/inclusive-language-words-to-use-and-avoid-when-writing-about-disability>

<https://gmcdp.com/terminology-and-language>

In order that this information, be easily available it is recommended that, where possible, clubs create an item called Accessibility in the left-hand pane of the home screen of their club website.

Two examples of Accessibility Statements and Guidance regarding how to create an Accessibility Menu Item on BridgeWebs can be found below at Annex A and Annex B respectively.

Reasonable Adjustments

We have previously circulated guidance regarding the legal requirement for private clubs to make reasonable adjustments

It is important for clubs to have an appropriate mechanism and culture in place so that individuals feel able to make a request for a reasonable adjustment and these can be considered.

A reasonable adjustment could relate to wide number of things including physical access, bathroom facilities as well as to certain equipment or alternative processes to facilitate the playing of bridge.

With regards to equipment, many of our clubs had access to card holders and some also had High-Visibility Cards available for use where required. These cards are the same sized as standard cards and so compatible with duplicating machines although unfortunately they are significantly more expensive.

Section 2.1 of the EBU White Book details the regulations regarding the use of alternative processes to accommodate disabled players. We would encourage clubs to familiarise themselves with this information can be found below at Annex C.

Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Page on YCBA Website

We have recently launched a Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Page on the YCBA Website where we intend to publish helpful resources and other relevant documentation. Do please head over there and have a look.

Feedback

We are very keen to have input from our membership to help inform the scope of our work. Please do get in touch in you have any suggestions, comments or queries. These can be directed to any of the following individuals: –

- Ruth Kerr – ruthvkerr@gmail.com
- Ron Millet - bridgeron@bridging-thegap.co.uk
- Robin Jepson - robinjepson1951@gmail.com
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Annex A: Two examples of Accessibility Statements

Example A

Ashfield Bridge Club is based in its own premises which is a single-storey newly built building which provide excellent physical access to all aspects of the club to including Playing and Refreshment Areas. Our premises have two accessible toilets and three accessible parking spaces.

We can provide access to card holders, low vision playing cards and an induction loop. Our sessions are organised so that people who need to remain seated do not have to change tables. We also have several sets of low vision playing cards which can be used

For further information regarding our accessibility arrangements please contact (name / role) on (email and/or telephone number).

Example B

Bishopsgate Bridge Club is based in its own premises which are on the first floor, up steep stairs. A stairlift is in place. Once on the first floor, all areas are level, but access is narrow. Emergency exits are via the stairs (not stairlift) and a standard, stepped fire escape. There are no specifically provided accessible toilets and in particular, the men's toilets are down a few stairs. The club does not have its own car park. Blue badge holders can park on the double yellow lines next to the entrance to the club.

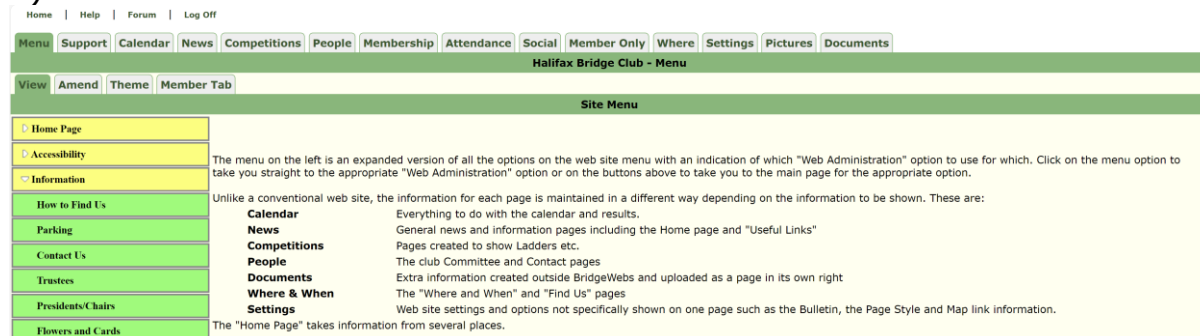
We can provide access to card holders. Our sessions are organised so that people who need to remain seated do not have to change tables.

For further information regarding our accessibility arrangements please contact (name / role) on (email and/or telephone number).

Annex B: Guidance regarding how to create an Accessibility Menu

To add an Accessibility tab to the menu

- 1) Sign into BridgeWebs admin.
- 2) Click on the "Menu" tab.



- 3) Click on the "Amend" tab.
- 4) Click on "Home Page" in the menu.
- 5) Click on "New News Page".



- 6) Highlight the words "News page?" and type in Accessibility.
- 7) Above the menu click "Save".
- 8) Click on the "View" tab.
- 9) Click on "Accessibility" in the menu.
- 10) Click on "Add News Item".
- 11) Add your accessibility information to the white area at the bottom of the screen and click "Save".

To add a link to the home page

- 12) Click on the "Menu" tab.
- 13) Click on the "View" tab.
- 14) Click on "Home Page" in the menu.
- 15) Click on "Add Main Box Item".
- 16) So that it's at the top of the homepage, make "... and the sequence within that page." "1".
- 17) Don't add an "Item Title".
- 18) **Link** "Page in Web Site" click on the down arrow and select "Accessibility".
- 19) Add words to the effect of "For information on ACCESSIBILITY click here" to the white area at the bottom of the screen, choose your own font colour, size, etc, and click "Save".

Annex C: White Book – Regulations - Accommodating Disabled Players

2 Regulations

2.1 Accommodating Disabled Players

1. 2.1.1 Principles

Disabled players are welcome at EBU tournaments. Occasionally they will have difficulty with the mechanics of the game as normally played. The following regulations are intended to assist when difficulties arise. They apply in all EBU tournaments, and other Tournament Organisers are encouraged to adopt them to apply in their tournaments; for clubs, see §6.3.

2. 2.1.2 General

1. 2.1.2.1 Over-riding consideration

If it is impracticable for these regulations to be followed in whole or in part, the TD is authorised to specify the manner in which the bidding and play shall proceed.

2. 2.1.2.2 Requirements in advance

Players requiring stationary positions, strong lighting, pre-sorted cards or any other special assistance are requested to notify their needs in advance when entering tournaments, and arrangements will be made for the TDs on site to deal with the practical arrangements.

3. 2.1.2.3 Authority

The L&EC has formally given the DIC the authority to modify any regulation if considered appropriate to accommodate a player with a disability. Other Tournament Organisers are encouraged to give their DICs the same authority.

4. 2.1.2.4 Matches played privately

In the case of a match played privately, the same principles apply. For example, if a player requires longer breaks between stanzas because of a medical condition, the L&EC believe that the opposing captain should be informed in advance and should be prepared for such breaks.

3. 2.1.3 Sorted hands

The TD may arrange that a player receives their hands sorted, for example by asking the corresponding player at the table passing the boards to sort their hand, when returning it to the board.

4. 2.1.4 Commencing play

Any player is entitled to require that the dealer and vulnerability be stated at the commencement of each board.

5. 2.1.5 Bidding

1. 2.1.5.1 Use of bidding boxes

Bidding boxes are to be used where this is possible.

2. 2.1.5.2 No bidding boxes

If the use of bidding boxes by one or more players is not possible, then all players should call their own bids (where this is possible).

3. 2.1.5.3 Alternative approach

The opponents of any player unable to use a bidding box have the option to require that bidding boxes are used in addition to spoken bids, in which case the bidding box of the player unable to use it should be operated by one of the opponents.

2.1.6 Play

1. 2.1.6.1 No difficulty

When all players except dummy can see cards played normally, play continues as normal.

2. 2.1.6.2 Vision problems

When a player, other than dummy, is unable to see cards played normally, then (subject to the option in §2.1.6.3) all players are to call their own cards as played.

3. 2.1.6.3 Alternative approach

The opponents of a player unable to see cards played normally have the option to require that all cards (but not the cards of one or more players to the exclusion of the others) are called by dummy as played. It is recommended that in this situation aces are designated as “top” rather than “the ace”, to avoid possible confusion with “the eight”.

4. 2.1.6.4 Naming of cards

Cards must be named in full and in a consistent manner.

2.1.7 Announcements

1. 2.1.7.1 General approach

The TD may be asked for assistance by disabled players. If so the TD can act as follows:

2. 2.1.7.2 Suggested solutions for hearing problems

Since announcements are in a few well-known positions where an announcement is expected, e.g. a 1NT opening, a player with hearing problems can:

- . (a) Ascertain various details like NT range, style of 2-bids, at the start of the round.
- . (b) Anticipate an announcement after a bid like 1NT by turning the head, and lip-reading, or listening carefully.
- . (c) Ask for an announcement to be repeated: this action never provides unauthorised information.
- . (d) Ask for an announcement to be written.

3. 2.1.7.3 Suggested solutions for speaking problems

A player with speaking problems can:

- . (a) write announcements;
- . (b) let partner make announcements for both of them.