

Pip-Pip!

Pip-Pip! can be quite a noisy game, so it's perfect for a party.

Number of players

Any number may play up to about 12, but six to eight players is probably best.

Cards

Two standard packs are shuffled together. The cards rank as usual, except that 2 acts as the top card in each suit.

The players draw cards and the highest deals first, the card they drew determining the trump suit. Thereafter the deal passes to the left, and the trump suit is determined by the player to the right of the dealer cutting the pack.

Seven cards are dealt face down to each player, and the remainder of the pack is placed face downwards in the centre of the table (the stock).

How to play

The object of the game is to win tricks containing 2s, Aces and court cards. Players score as follows: 2 is worth 11 points, Ace 10 points, King five points, Queen four points and Jack three points.

The player on the left of the dealer leads the first trick. Thereafter the player who wins a trick leads the next. A player must follow suit if he can; if not he may either discard or trump. If two players play identical cards, the player of the second takes precedence.

Immediately after a player has played to a trick he draws a card from the stock; if he now holds in his hand the King and Queen of the same suit, other than of the trump suit, he may call 'Pip-Pip', and place the two cards face upwards on the table in front of him, instantly scoring 50 points. At the end of the current trick, the trump suit changes to that of the exposed King and Queen.

'Pip-Pip' may be called and 50 points scored if a player is dealt the King and Queen of a suit – other than of the trump suit. The trump suit is then changed before the first trick is played. If two or more players are dealt the King and Queen of a suit (other than of the trump suit) each scores 50 points if he calls 'Pip-Pip'. The trump suit is changed to that of the player who was first to call. 'Pip-Pip' may be called twice in the same suit provided the player has both Kings and both Queens of it. A King or a Queen once paired cannot be paired a second time.

Drawing cards from the stock continues until there are fewer cards than players. The remaining cards in the stock are then turned face upwards and the players play the last seven tricks with the cards left in their hands.

The game ends when every player has dealt an equal number of times.