

Bridge News March 2026

1 message

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9 March 2026 at 12:53

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March 2026



I'm Back



www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk

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EBU (Including AGM Update)

Thanks to everyone who gives feedback about the newsletter!

Did you receive this from a friend? If you would like to have it delivered directly to you, you can subscribe at:

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NEWS

This newsletter launched in August 2020 during the pandemic to provide information and support for duplicate bridge clubs. Back editions on the web site.

CLUB DATA

Bridge club data is collated to provide a picture of life, and trends, in club life. Analysis. Taster below. Full analysis on the web site.

TEACHING SCHEME

A teaching scheme is available, entirely free of charge.

DISCUSSION

For almost four years we held monthly Zoom meetings to discuss anything of interest to clubs. Recordings on the web site.

WEB SITE (Hosted by BridgeWebs)

<http://www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk>.

Please forward the letter to anyone in the bridge world who might be interested. Anyone can subscribe for free, no adverts.

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Changing Roles

After fifteen years of running face to face duplicate in a village hall, Jim and I decided we were no longer up to the constant movement of furniture, equipment, boards and dealing with venue issues..

We tried to establish bridge in a new permanent venue but failed. We learnt a lot from that! I may write up some of the lessons learnt in a future edition.

We stopped in June last year. It turns out that something you took fifteen years to build takes quite a bit of effort to wind up and move on.

Many of our players have moved to a local club.

We are still teaching and running a weekly gentle bridge session.

Thinking I would have more spare time, I responded to advertising by EBED and have become an EBED trustee. This is not the EBU board. I will write on the distinction and bridge development in general in May.

I will continue to collect data and publish information about duplicate bridge clubs. This is updated every two weeks on the Bridge For Pleasure website.

I plan to resume publishing this newsletter roughly every two months. I hope you find it interesting, and that you will respond with comments and suggestions.

Low Tech Teaching



Bridge teaching can be high tech with laptops, projectors, touch screens and other amazing equipment. But it's not the only approach.

If you teach in more than one venue it may be easier, or you may prefer, or your class may like, a simpler approach.

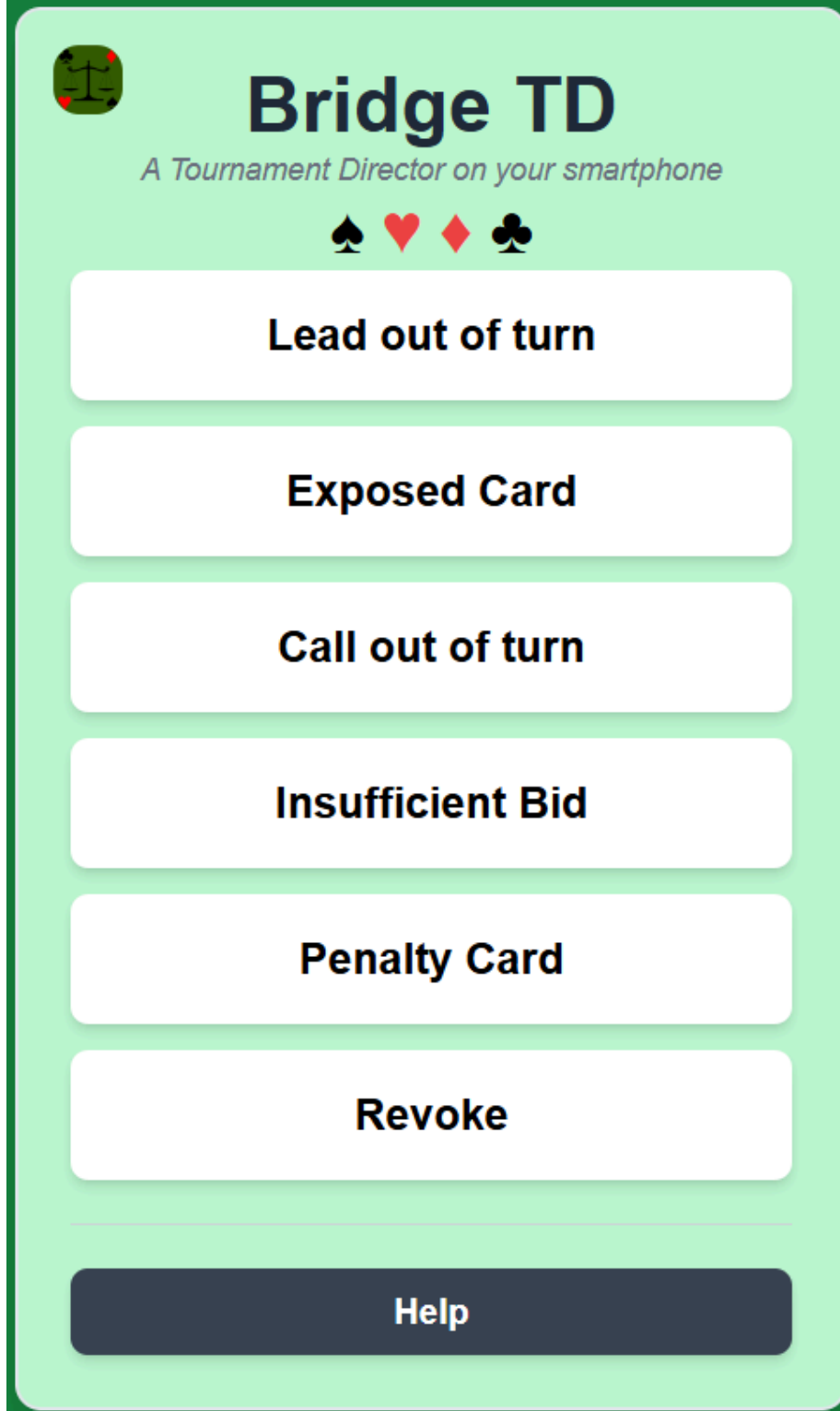
It's low tech, so you don't need internet, Wi-Fi or even power. You can set up in any part of any room. It's easy to pack up and transport. As you can see, I usually put the boards on piles of chairs (I find six is best). There are usually chairs in any venue.



Directional Asking Bid?

[Click for a full article on Bridge For Pleasure](#)

Online Laws



You may remember this online laws app. This app is provided by Steve Dooley.

The app is only available on Amazon devices and can be downloaded from the Amazon app store. It was removed from both Apple and Android app stores as it was uneconomic to comply with all their updates and security policies.

There is a web app which has the same functionality and you can use for free.

Thanks to Artificial Intelligence I have been able to recreate BridgeTD for use in a web browser. If you follow the link below you will have a

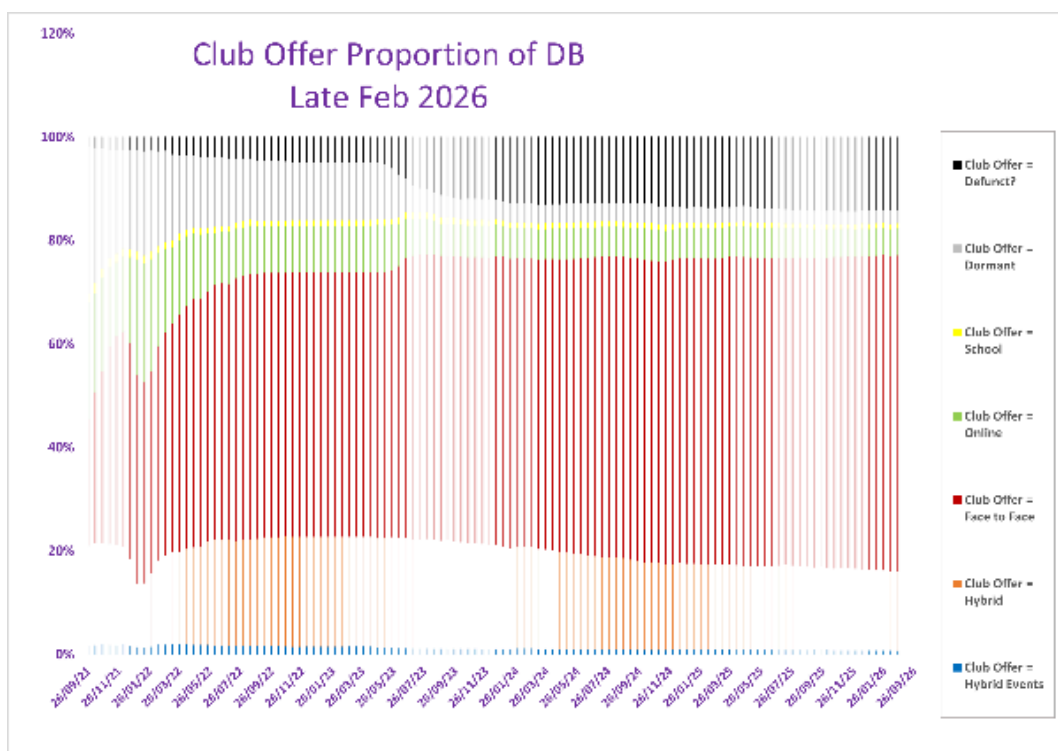
fully functional application.

<https://www.stevedooleywoodart.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/BridgeTDwebappV1.html>

You do of course need Internet access to load the application. However BridgeTD uses no external resources so if you don't close the browser tab you can still use the program without an Internet connection.

Thanks Steve

Club Data Latest





A slanted bidding card to remind the player of the current contract is reassuring and helpful to learners and novices.

Law 40B2(d) states that: "Unless the Regulating Authority provides otherwise a player is not entitled to any aids to his memory, calculation or technique during the auction period and play."

However, Law 41C:"... After it is too late to have previous calls restated (see B), declarer or either defender, at his own turn to play, is entitled to be informed as to what the contract is and whether, but not by whom, it was doubled or redoubled. "

These days, playing online, the contract is displayed throughout the card play.

Years ago I asked a national TD if this meant that tipping was lawful, the informal opinion was yes.

I allow players to tittle during lessons, practice and gentle bridge. I remind them occasionally that they will not be able to do this when representing England at European level. :-)

Teachers and clubs should be clear on this. In my view this separates teachers and clubs who are welcoming to learners and novices from those that put the strictest interpretation of the laws and regulations first.

BFP Club Newsletter Item Library

CLUBS! - POTENTIAL LEARNERS MAY VISIT YOUR WEBSITE

Please put information about your teaching or a link or contact details for lessons elsewhere.

Over 60% of club website home pages make NO reference to lessons or teaching.

Your club may not teach, or have any intention to teach, but you could put a referral to a local teacher on your home page. If there is no local option you could put a link to your county page, the EBU teacher directory, or to the information on learning on the Bridge For Pleasure website.

There are about 1,000 duplicate club websites, please make sure yours has information on how to learn bridge. If we all did that there would be 600 new sites on the net with information for potential learners. At no cost!

NO FEAR BRIDGE - Free Mini-bridge Site

The amazing No Fear Bridge service includes a free area where learners can follow lessons, quizzes and practice to learn minibridge.

Do you get queries from beginners just after the course has started?

Do you prefer learners to know basic card play and hand evaluation and contract selection before they join your course?

Do you wish to check the commitment of students before they join your class?

Point them to this site, offer to help with problems, ask them to self certificate.

<https://www.nofearbridge.co.uk/minibridge/>

The image shows a document titled "EBU Board Commitments for 2025" with handwritten notes in pink, blue, and green. At the top right, there are three lines of text: "ASPIRATION" (pink), "ASPIRATION WITH TARGET" (blue), and "PLAN (ISH)" (green). The document content includes:

- Our Mission:** To welcome, help and support all players on their own personal journey into and through the world of Bridge. To promote the game of Bridge in England as an inclusive Mind Sport, working with and through our Bridge Clubs and County Associations.
- Our Values:** Five boxes containing values such as "We will build on our foundations and promote diversity and inclusivity of all players across all skill levels, ages and cultures" and "We will look for smarter ways of working".
- Plan of Action for 2025:** Five columns of action items:
 - Our Members and Clubs:** Includes "Sustainability of our Clubs and growing our membership is paramount" and "Our plan is to help our clubs grow our membership by 5% from 40,000 to 42,000 in 2025".
 - Our Junior Members:** Includes "Aim to improve engagement with Junior members and encourage affiliation to local Clubs" and "Roll out a Junior Council to include Squad Leaders and Squad representatives".
 - Our People - Staff:** Includes "Well-being and enjoyment of their role" and "Look at smarter ways of working".
 - Our People - Volunteers:** Includes "Ensure we meet our commitments in terms of compliance and recognition of the time they give" and "Review our Policies and appoint a co-ordinator".
 - Our Finance:** Includes "Make a plan to upgrade administrative and book-keeping systems so they are less paper dependent and to reduce input time" and "We will provide a Draft budget for the year ahead at the AGM".
 - Our IT:** Includes "Expand the available resource within the IT team" and "Complete a review of the EBU legacy systems by March 2025 and agree an IT roadmap".

EBU goal 1: MEMBERSHIP The board has announced its own goal of increasing membership by 5%. This is 2,000 more on an unclear base.

This goal has proved overambitious. Lower figures are discussed in various documents. It was not reported on directly at the November AGM.

It has become apparent that achieving growth in the numbers of active participants in EBU affiliated sessions requires long term strategies, including some of the following.

EBU goal 2: PUBLIC AWARENESS The public awareness of

bridge needs to be raised for bridge to survive.

EBU/EBED have invested in campaigns on Restless and Facebook. Somewhere between 1 and 2 million "impressions" have been generated. Social media impressions are the total number of times your content is displayed on a user's screen, regardless of whether it was clicked or engaged with.

A new "micro site" has been created for clicks from the campaigns. There have been ten of thousands of such clicks. In September bridge teachers listed over a hundred beginners courses, and in January around 90 more.

<https://enjoybridge.co.uk/>

It is hard to be accurate, but some estimate that two/three new learner joined classes as a result.

Lessons have been learnt and further campaigns are planned.

EBU goal 3: NEW LEARNERS

March 2026: Total entries (if you untick "Has vacancies") seems now to be 320, a slight fall. This directory remains an effective year-round source of leads.

You need to untick the "has vacancies" box. Otherwise you see fewer. This box relies on listed teachers keeping their vacancies status up to date. It seems rather hopeful to expect they will.

EBU goal 4: CLUB COSTS The EBU to manage its costs rather than let them grow and simply pass them on to the affiliated clubs.

The 2025 EBU AGM November 26th at York Bridge Club and online.

The meeting included: award presentations, previously published reports, and unopposed board member appointments.

The accounts from the past and an unprecedented budget for the future were presented by the treasurer. The proposed rates for 2026 charges by the EBU were presented for approval and there were questions. The measure included an increase in the UM (P2P) rate for most sessions in clubs of 2p taking it from £0.46 to

£0.48 per player.

For many years this increase has been held to 1p, Clubs also pay a county fee of between 0p and 10p.

Out of an average table money of £3.07 in affiliated clubs this is a heavy toll on bridge club revenue.

There were questions, one question including the feeling that the EBU treat the clubs as “cash cows”. The treasurer, treating all questions with courtesy and respect, explained that alternatives had been carefully considered, the EBU expected to lose money and dip into reserves, and that the level of UM, since introduction, had kept below inflation.

There was also a question about the level of fees for licences for county green point events. A table will now be subject to a fee of £9.52 as opposed to £8.76. The treasurer commented that more income had to be raised from somewhere.

With some votes against, the new “rate card” was approved.

IMHO these increases in levies on events largely run by volunteers for the good of the game should have been avoided by better cost control. However, the treasurer is credibly in charge of the facts and the issues and may well present a better picture next year.

Feedback

I really like to hear your views on what's going on, and what's covered here.

From the July 2025 issue focusing on teaching, I had some positive generally supportive comments. The subscribed list grew a little.

There was comment on the variety of systems taught. Some years ago English Bridge published two articles on facing pages. One was in support of five-card major systems, and one against. It might be time to repeat this, with side orders of two over one.

Personally I play a strong one club system (I wouldn't dream of teaching it). Rare, but not entirely unique. I enjoy the bafflement of younger opponents and the nostalgia of older ones.

New contributors

If you would like to contribute an item, please send it.
Please make it no more than 200 words.
Please make it positive, and supporting the goal of
keeping grass roots bridge alive.
That will keep elite bridge going.

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Your Feedback

You can provide likes, dislikes and comments on the content of the Bridge For Pleasure website by registering on it.

Click on this link to send an email to register:
bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com

To quote the wonderful "Sorry Partner", BE NICE, or we'll call the director.

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