

Harrogate Bridge Club – Members' Newsletter

Dear Member,

Although our membership is stable and our club is financially sound, our attendances are gradually declining like most bridge clubs. We recently invited the Development Officer of the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association to come and talk to us. He stressed the importance of providing opportunities for new players and students to be able to play and practice bridge in a comfortable environment without the pressure that some people can feel in a typical duplicate.

We have therefore set up a sub-committee (see below) to introduce some new sessions and hope that new players will join and then become permanent active members.

On three Saturday mornings in March (10th, 17th and 24th) we will hold free introductory bridge sessions for people who have played before and for those who would like to learn, assisted by experienced players. Given enough interest, after Easter starting on April 7th we then plan two new regular sessions on Saturday mornings:

- **“Gentle” bridge at a slower pace and with help available, from 10am till 12-30pm**
- **Bridge lessons for Beginners, from 10am till noon**

Rob Cave will take over the teaching of Beginners from Catherine Thompson. We would like to thank Catherine for all her hard work over eight years. In future, she will instead give occasional seminars to Improvers who have completed her classes in recent years. There will also be more frequent seminars from outside expert players, hopefully starting with one on Teams play in September.

On Saturdays Rob will run ten new classes per term. Students will receive free membership of the EBU for one year, together with the regular EBU magazine, an EBU diary and a copy of the EBU Improvers magazine called The Ruffian. As part of the new term-cost of £60 they will also be given a personal copy of the standard EBU Beginners book called Beginning Bridge, which normally costs £26. Tea and biscuits are included as usual. In line with many other major bridge clubs in Yorkshire, the teacher will start to receive an income for giving these classes.

Our publicity will include flyers for local distribution (available in the Bar), an article in the Harrogate Advertiser Clubs section, an e-mail campaign, Facebook advertising and we will have an article in the Vixen magazine for the Duchy area. There will be information on our own website, which has recently been much-improved and now has a Photo Gallery section. Also, we are now listed on the Stray FM website (via the Local/What's On section).

See link <https://www.strayfm.com/listings/whatson/?start=0&day=2018-03-10>

We now seek your assistance with distributing or e-mailing these flyers.

We invite you to give them to your friends and neighbours, and especially any bridge clubs, social clubs and societies in the area, plus surgeries, offices, shops etc.

We hope that you will actively support these initiatives. Feel free to discuss them with members of our sub-committee, namely Catherine Thompson, Rob Cave, Judy Cope, Gill Molloy, Janet Latham, Kath Crebbin or me. Ideas for where to distribute flyers (or send promotional e-mails) would be particularly welcome, especially if you know people there and can take them yourself.

Best wishes,

Stan Robertson
Chair – Club Development Committee

Date 28th January 2018