



Seaford Bridge Club



Dear Club Members,

Your Committee has continued reviewing various aspects of the operation of the Club and exploring alternatives which might enhance enjoyment of our meetings. These include:

- 1) Introduction of the new Bridge Laws to Club Members
- 2) An overhaul of the Club's Constitution (which will require a Special General Meeting)
- 3) Carrying out a Bridgmate/Table Money Increase consultation with members to enable the Committee to gauge members interest in introducing the Bridgmate electronic scoring system

As we are approaching the mid-point in our club year we would like to take the opportunity to report on these reviews and our conclusions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW BRIDGE LAWS

Members will be aware that new Bridge Laws have been introduced for 2017 and that both Seaford Club and Southdown Club have agreed a common start date of 1st September 2017. Hopefully the number of changes that actually affect play at our Clubs will be small in number. In order for members to familiarise themselves with some of the changes both Clubs have agreed to:

1. *Circulate some notes outlining key changes.* These notes have kindly been prepared by Colin Graham-Hyde and convert 'difficult to follow jargon' into a simple understandable format. These notes are also available to consult on both club noticeboards. **Would all members please read these notes.**

2. *Starting week beginning 21 August 2017* Directors on duty will briefly go over these law changes at the beginning of Bridge sessions. Changes will be dealt with in small 'bite-sized' chunks over a period of weeks. The same topic will be dealt with at each of the Tues (Seaford), Wed (Southdown) and Fri (Seaford) Bridge sessions. For those of you who attend more than one session please be patient. It is important that Directors re-enforce Law changes for as many members as possible and some members only attend one session per week.

THE CLUB CONSTITUTION

It was felt that a general overhaul of the Club Constitution was due. A new draft of the Constitution, developed by a sub-committee consisting of Hugh Basden-Smith, Alan Hughes and John Gillespie, was approved by the Committee at their June meeting. The Committee consider it desirable that the management restrictions implicit in the new draft Constitution be in place for the 2018 AGM. Therefore a Special General Meeting of Members will be required to approve the changes and the Committee have **agreed the date 14th November at 1.15pm** prior to the Tuesday playing session. This should be a simple procedure taking no longer than 10 minutes. A copy of the draft Constitution will be available from the website and the Club noticeboards no later than 28 days prior to the SGM.

THE BRIDGEMATE QUESTION

At their August meeting the Committee considered all the encouragement and concerns received from members. As a result of those responses the Committee agreed the following:

1. To increase table money from the 1st September (to £1.50)
2. To increase weekly prizes to £1.50 in line with table money increase (thanks to Pete T. for reminding us!).
3. To investigate further those concerns raised by members regarding the implementation of Bridgemate.
Should these concerns be resolved to the Committee's satisfaction it was agreed that the Committee will put forward a recommendation to Members at the 2018 AGM to invest in the purchase of Bridgemate.

Would members please note that should the Committee agree to make such a recommendation their reasons for doing so, together with a plan for implementation, will be outlined in a paper available prior to the AGM. All members will therefore have the opportunity to consider the information and a full discussion will be held at the AGM prior to a Members' Vote.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST..... FROM THE MEMBERS

- i) *Website Logo Competition.*
The Committee had a difficult task choosing between a number of very creative and interesting logos sent in by three members. The Secretary displayed them anonymously and the winner, of the lucrative £5.00 club playing token, by garnering more of the Committee's votes is.....ta-da.....Alan Hughes! Congratulations Alan! And grateful thanks to the two other members for their excellent contributions. The new logo, a depiction of Seaford Head painted by Alan (as seen in header of this newsletter), now also adorns our website.
- ii) Ruth (Skinner) sent in a suggestion that the Club think about introducing pre-paid books of playing tokens. The Committee thought this a very interesting idea and could see how it might help avoid always having the correct coins at a playing session. They could also see that for some clubs it would be a useful way of receiving money 'up-front'. After some discussion the Committee decided that the present system works well – so keep those coins coming!
- iii) Trish (Howlett) suggested having a 'hand of the week/month' and/or bite sized bits of information regarding bidding/playing practice etc. The Committee thought this an excellent idea and approached member Colin to ask if he would be prepared to organise various bits of information for us. He has kindly agreed to do so. A 'Colin's Corner' will appear on the website in the near future.

We hope you continue to be happy with our management of the Club. We would like to thank all those members who continue to encourage and support us with their responses, thoughts and ideas. It is much appreciated.

We look forward to any feedback you might care to give now or at any time prior to the AGM in February. Please contact the Secretary in the first instance or use the contact link on the website.

Best wishes to you all,
Alan, Carol, Hugh, Hugh, John, Pam, Tony (your Committee)

Dates for your Bridge Diary

Next Competition(s):	Tuesday 5 th September / Friday 1st December	
Special General Meeting:	Tuesday 14 th November	1.15pm
Christmas Party:	Friday 15 th December	6.00pm
January Wine & Nibbles:	Tuesday 9 th January	
Annual General Meeting:	Tuesday 27 th February	1.00pm followed by Duplicate Bridge