

Following the AGM there has been further discussion regarding the format of Gentle Duplicate evenings. The Committee has consulted with a number of members and there has been much positive consideration for change and improvement in terms of a better learning approach and a more social ambiance generally. Our suggested format follows, some aspects of which have already been put into place.

Fewer hands will be played and, as on every Tuesday night, there will be a short break half way through the evening with time to socialise. We will revert to a former format of less experienced players being paired with more competent players, if they wish to do so. When replying to participate in Gentle Duplicate please indicate if you prefer to play with your usual partner.

The movement for the evening is usually dictated by the numbers playing.

There will be time for a short postmortem and on each table there will be a more experienced player to help. Where there are partnerships of experienced and beginners it might be appropriate for the beginners to play all the hands, even if they haven't bid the contract so players can if they wish change places and the experienced player can guide through the play if necessary. A Helper/Director will be available for further help at any time on any hand if called on to do so, but that person will not be a floater.

It is necessary to score each hand but only pair numbers (no names) will be published on the website. This allows everyone to see how other players bid and played the contract and can help the learning process.

Thursdays

Firstly I must clarify, as I thought I had explained at the AGM, that Thursday was not our choice but the only day that the room at Les Michelettes is free for our use.

The idea is that Thursday will become a social day for all players.

Sue Russell has volunteered to run a Beginners session with help from other experienced players, possibly twice a month, but further details will follow with dates. There are teaching sheets available which will be worked through on a regular basis. This should be helpful to everyone as Gentle Duplicate Tuesday once a month seems insufficient for helping members improve their play.

A small payment for beginners lessons, perhaps 10 Euros for 10 lessons, may be introduced as an incentive to attend.

It would be helpful if members confirm attendance on a Thursday (as with Tuesdays) so we do not have one or two people waiting for a game!

There is a library of books and CDs available for anyone to borrow and also access to 'No Fear Bridge' at a reduced price.

Robin has offered to be Members Liaison Representative on the committee so that should any member have a suggestion or a request they should feel free to speak to him at any time.

Isabelle has been co-opted onto the Committee to help with scoring.

We are currently working on a new set of leaflets to help find new members. We would be very happy if all members would help with distributing these in any places which seem appropriate, e.g. Tourist Offices, supermarkets, shops, golf clubs or any other clubs to which you belong.