

Merseyside Bridge Centre  
Newsletter January 2016

Dear Member

It is some time since we produced a newsletter and, as we have received over 50 new members over the past two years, we thought it worthwhile bringing everyone up to date with various aspects of club affairs and our aims to provide an enjoyable place to play bridge. We have divided this letter into various sections in an effort to highlight each topic.

1. Premises: We lease our building on a short term full repair basis and our current lease is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. We are presently in contact with our landlord to negotiate our annual rent and renewal of our lease for a further term.

2. Bridge sessions: We are open for bridge every weekday with afternoon and evening sessions on some Tuesdays and Thursdays. Unfortunately, primarily due to lack of support, several weekend events have been discontinued but last year for the first time we introduced a new one session pairs event for a local charity which was a huge success. Full details of our annual calendar are displayed at the club and also on our website ([www.merseybridge.org.uk](http://www.merseybridge.org.uk)). These are some of the special events coming up in the near future:

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Annual charity pairs in support of Motor Neurone Disease. Your support in attending, providing raffle prizes and buying tickets would be much appreciated. We also need a standby pair who would be available to make up a full table if needed.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Annual mixed pairs. There will be no standby, just turn up on the night with a partner of the opposite sex.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February: “Jean Keen” annual ladies teams

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March: Annual Dinner at Prenton Golf Club.

3. Who does what: As you enter the building you will find a notice in the foyer showing a detailed list of some 45 members who voluntarily give up their time to perform the many tasks that are required to run the club. The general and disciplinary committees are appointed annually and there is no stipulation within our constitution as to how long each member serves. Some of us have been in office for many years and it would be good to have some more new blood to share the load. Jill is retiring as your chairperson this September and John Fay will take over the chair. We are therefore looking for a new vice chairman and are also looking for someone to take over the role of membership secretary. Many of us give our time in different ways but special mention should be made of those who pre-deal the hands each week. This takes up most of Tuesday

mornings and also our treasurer spends a similar time weekly counting and banking our takings and maintaining records of our finances. At the present time we are particularly concerned at the reduced number of directors available to run our sessions (we need a minimum of 6 each week). In an effort to solve this issue we have arranged four training sessions on Saturdays at our club during the coming months which are run by English Bridge & Development. The club is willing to meet the individual cost of the courses with the proviso that those attending will be available to run sessions at our club. Full I.T. support will also be available for those completing the courses. Please speak to John Griffith if you are interested.

4. Forthcoming Seminars: Many of the recent new members have come to us following the efforts of John Wooton, Mike Greatbatch and a team of helpers who provided beginners lessons and thereafter our Wednesday “gentle bridge” section. John & Mike have now arranged four seminars on basic defence and there are fliers at the club giving you full information of these Tuesday evening sessions.

5. Claire House Appeal: Many thanks to those who contributed to our Christmas appeal. Your donations together with the monies raised by Brenda in making and selling greeting cards and George who sells second hand books raised £388.70

6. Renewal Subscriptions: If you pay yours by cash/cheque your payment is due by 1<sup>st</sup> April. Checking that everyone has paid is very time consuming and therefore, if you are able, please consider payment by bankers order.

7. Something Different: Why not try our monthly teams (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) and pairs (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)? You play two matches each evening against the team/pair nearest your cumulative score. No need to enter – just turn up.

8. Reminders:

a) It would be useful if one from each partnership maintains a score card. Please make your opening lead and/or table the dummy before recording the contract on the Bridgemate and your score card.

b) If you are unsure which bids need announcing/alerting there are notices on our notice boards to clarify these.

c) On evenings when we do not have bar staff please help with emptying/loading the dishwasher. Tidying up at the end of every session would also be appreciated.

d) Please be considerate in your parking and, if you do not have a disabled badge, park at the front of the building whenever possible.

We hope you find the above information useful and, if you have any suggestions or comment, please speak to someone on the committee.

Yours sincerely     Jill Oddie (Chairperson)     John Griffith (Secretary)