

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

Hi, Everyone

We hope you are keeping warm as winter takes hold in Johannesburg. It's hardly worth calling it winter yet – the days are still beautifully warm and the highveld sunshine at this time of year is the envy of the rest of the country (and much of the world!).

We thought this would be a good time to reflect on the year so far and to bring you up-to-date with what's happening at Bridge @ Orchards.

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

It's been a busy first half of the year and we hope you will have noticed the improvements that have been made at the Club. For those who haven't, here is a brief summary:

- Repainting parking bay lines in carpark
- Repairing cracks in exterior walls
- Repainting entire exterior of the buildings, including doors and window frames
- Trimming of trees and hedges running around the property
- Cleaning interior carpets
- New bidding boxes
- Planting flowers and shrubs in beds around the carpark and entrance
- New table cloths
- Renovation of outbuildings
- New refrigerator for kitchen
- New coffee mugs

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Club's main activity is the Saturday afternoon walk-in Duplicate Pairs. In order to simplify the registration and collection of playing fees, each table has a plastic envelope with a form for completion prior to the commencement of play.



It's a simple procedure to enter your name, indicate whether you are a Member or Visitor and place the correct amount of money in the envelope for collection. We ask that, between you, the four players at your table figure out how much is due from the table and ensure that the correct amount is in the envelope when it is collected.



Just to remind everyone, the current playing fees are:

Members R60 Visitors R70



Please do NOT pay R60 unless you are a member and have paid your R180 membership fee for the current year. Believe it or not, it does happen! If you are not sure if you are a member, or cannot remember if you have paid your 2018 membership fee, please speak to Lily on the next occasion when you arrive to play.

Remember that, at the beginning of the year, Members are asked to pay a total of R410. This comprises:

Club membership R180 GBU affiliation fee R 30 SABF membership R200

GATE CLOSURE ON SATURDAYS

To ensure we can start promptly at 1:45pm on Saturdays, the main gate will be closed and locked at 1:35pm. Please ensure you arrive before that time. We regret that we cannot make exceptions, even if your partner has already arrived.



MONDAY MORNING

In addition to Saturday afternoons, Lorna and Debbie run an increasingly-popular Monday morning club, starting at 9:15am and ending around 12:30pm. At only R30 for the session, this has to be the most competitively-priced Bridge available in Johannesburg.



THE RITA JACOBSON TROPHY



Our next "Major" is the Rita Jacobson Trophy which will be held a little earlier than usual this year, on Sunday 19th August. The Rita Jacobson is our most important event of the year and is always well-attended. Bookings are now open via the GBU website (www.gbu.co.za) and we urge you to book EARLY to avoid any disappointment. The event will follow the usual format: AM and PM sessions, with morning (savoury) and afternoon (sweet) teas, lunch and snacks and wine during/after prize-giving. Generous cash prizes are on offer.

THE HALFWAY TOYOTA ROAD TO ORCHARDS

This year has seen the introduction of a brand-new event at Bridge @ Orchards. Made possible through the incredibly-generous sponsorship of Halfway Toyota Fourways, the competition is called "The Road to Orchards". This is an individual, eclectic, handicap competition. Very simply, all your scores from any qualifying event at Bridge @ Orchards are captured in chronological order. A handicap is then calculated for each event, based on your previous 8 scores. Your handicap-adjusted score is then recorded and your best 20 count towards your overall score.



We are only half-way through the year and still have about 70 Qualifying Events from which you can score. There are some amazing cash prizes to be won. So, why wait any longer? Speak to Lorna or Lily, pay your R100 entry fee (that's all it costs!) and "get on the Road"! The current log table is available on the Bridge @ Orchards website – see www.bridgeatorchards.co.za

FUTURE PLANS/DREAMS



Our list of future plans is constantly being added to! Many are just "dreams" and others are within reach, depending on finances. If you have any ideas, please do share them with the Committee so we can evaluate them and put them on the list. If there is anything you feel you would be able to assist with, in any way at all, please don't feel shy about putting your hand

up! Some current dreams include:

- Installation of electric gates at entrance
- Replacement of kitchen floor tiles
- Re-paving/extension of patio area
- Creation of "kiosk" at back of hall for supply of sweets, snacks, cool drinks, books, magazines, etc.
- Replacement of carpets
- New chairs (wooden/upholstered) to replace existing plastic chairs
- Replacement of toilet cisterns and tiling of ladies' cloakroom
- Upgrade of interior lights
- Repainting of kitchen
- Garage door repair

SA VS USA



In April, we were asked if we would host a visiting group of players from the USA who were on a safari trip to Southern Africa. Under normal circumstances they would have played at The Links but, happily for us, The Links had the SAWBA Congress on the date



in question and so Bridge @ Orchards was approached.

What a great day we had! Our guests were delightful and seemed to enjoy themselves. We arranged a pre-Bridge lunch for our visitors as well as the Bridge @ Orchards players who had entered as part of "Team SA". Then, given the events at The Links, we had a surge of additional players wishing to join us in the afternoon. Sadly, we were faced with having to turn people away – a first for Bridge @ Orchards! – as we hit our absolute maximum capacity of 32 tables.

NOISE LEVELS

One unfortunate consequence of the design of the that can be created, particularly towards the end of waiting to move to their next table. This is for the general enjoyment of all players and we owe which has seen a significant drop in noise levels recently.



building, with its very high ceilings, is the noise a round as players discuss the hands whilst something that we need to keep under control you all a huge "Thank You" for your co-operation,

MONTHLY WEBSITE COMPETITION

Hopefully, you have all visited our website from time to time. If you look carefully (beyond the opening page!) you will find a monthly competition. Why not enter and see if you can win a prize?

That's all for now, folks! If you are enjoying your time at Bridge @ Orchards, please tell your friends. If you aren't, please



tell us! We really would ask you to encourage your friends to come along and join us at Bridge @ Orchards, regardless of where they currently play their Bridge, competitive or social. As our motto says: "It's for the love of the game" and we do strive to be the friendliest and most relaxed club in Johannesburg.

Best wishes

The Bridge @ Orchards Team