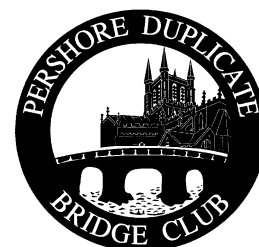


Newsletter

September 2021



It is quite a while since I wrote a “normal” Newsletter – whatever “normal” is in these still strange times but there are a few things that hopefully you will find of interest and there is a very important message which will require some attention from you! I am also sending this Newsletter to our non member friends who play with us on a Wednesday.

Firstly, on line bridge:

I know a number of you are still arranging your own friendly evenings on BBO and deriving a lot of fun from that. I personally prefer two teams of four on BBO - I think BBO is ideal for such team matches and of course one isn't subject to the vagaries of the bidding and scores of a lot of other players; simply its one team versus another. By the way, some of you are logging onto BBO anonymously. Please take note that if you do that and then leave the lobby and either play or kibitz you are no longer anonymous – you cannot be anonymous once you are in a room!!

Our Wednesday evening duplicate is going well, though I confess to being slightly disappointed that more members are not playing with us. We ideally need more tables and perhaps as the evenings draw in and the holiday season ends we can see a few more of you playing regularly which would be good. We are obviously doing what we can to keep the club going but as with F2F it does need your support please. Next March, if not before, we will definitely try and re-open if we can and also perhaps think about continuing RealBridge on another day or for a specific competition.

So, I appeal again to all of you to support us when you can and if you have not yet played on RB please try it! You may be pleasantly surprised as to just how easy it is to use and how much enjoyment you can get by seeing and chatting to your fellow members and friends.

VERY IMPORTANT: CHILDREN IN NEED SIM PAIRS

The date when PDBC will be playing this year's CIN Sim Pairs is **WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER**. PLEASE, PLEASE, support this Charity event as we always have done in F2F and note the date in your diary **NOW!** We will run the event on RealBridge. For those unfamiliar with Sim Pairs it is simply a duplicate pairs event played across the country where everyone plays the same boards at pretty much the same time. Scores are compared and a national ranking is established. Each club preserves its own local result and masterpoints in the usual way, but as so many players enter the 'main event' this attracts considerable masterpoints!

The organisers Ecats are suggesting a minimum charity donation of £3-50 from each player. They are also charging 50p plus vat to cover their own costs so your minimum payment should be £4-00. RealBridge are maintaining their fee so the usual PDBC charge of £1-00 will apply in the normal way. However, the club will make its own additional donation to the charity of £1-50 per player. To make life easier for players, clubs and Ecats ALL payments are to be made through the club and we do require the minimum charity donation of £3-50 and 50p entry (total £4-00) IN ADVANCE. If you wish to pay more than £4-00 please do so and we will ensure it is passed on to the Charity. Please pay by bank transfer – see PDBC RealBridge Guide on our web site - but use as reference “CIN surname” eg CIN BOYES. If you cannot pay by bank transfer please speak with our Treasurer, Roger Wady. Over the years bridge players, via Ecats CIN Sim Pairs, have raised £1,166,381.60 – a fantastic sum. Thank you.

Thank you for your support

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS

This is hotting up nicely! Hopefully Ross and I will complete the minimum of 15 matches shortly and then we can put in a serious challenge to the current leaders, Sally and Steve! But its still wide open with Gill and Yvonne now able to ditch their lowest scores and with Roger and Liz still having a few matches to go to make the minimum of 15.

OPEN LEAGUE

This is really getting exciting! Lots of pairs are feverishly ditching their lowest scores and will a club member pair or a visiting pair end up on top? Quite a way to go yet.

MICHAEL FAREY TROPHY

Gill and Yvonne are out in front and will no doubt do all they can to stay there. Can anyone catch them?

SLAMMER OF YEAR

This is just for fun – no prize is awarded but I find it curious that so few slams are actually bid and made considering the distributional hands we all seem to get!

LOOKING AHEAD

With Covid cases rising again, despite the vaccine, its difficult for everyone to plan with certainty but it would be nice if we could resume our traditional evening meal at or around the Festive Season. I have asked the Committee to consider and will let you know of any developments shortly.

After the present competitions have ended I will set up a Winter Pairs League (open to non members) to last us through until end of March or earlier if we re-open sooner. Last winter I also organised a Teams of Four League on BBO. If we were to have a Teams League it would be teams of your own choice and played just for fun; so it matters not if you are in a “strong” team or not – the more that enter the better. I will write further on this in a month or so.

AGM: We will be holding our AGM via Zoom, probably on 24th November – pencil in for now and I will confirm later but please make an effort to attend the AGM whenever its held. It doesn't normally last longer than 20 minutes but that doesn't lessen its importance for members to have their say and vote on matters such as annual subs etc.

Finally thank you for continuing to support the Club and let's look forward to F2F next April if not before.

STAY SAFE

Thank you for your support – if you have a new or changed email address please let me know