

Newsletter

September 2022



I hope all members have enjoyed the long, hot Summer though at times I personally found the heat oppressive. It has however given us all the welcome opportunity to have holidays, meet up with friends and general socialise after the covid restrictions of former years. Unfortunately Covid has not disappeared with Worcestershire still being above the national average and I know of several members who have been pretty poorly, some for weeks, but fortunately the vaccines limit the hospitalisations. I hope those that are affected get well soon.

As the Autumn approaches I hope that more members will be able to join us again at our RealBridge sessions on Wednesdays and / or Fridays. Several members, unprompted, have contacted me over the summer stating their intention to join us for RealBridge and it is a little disappointing that we have yet to see them! Please don't be nervous – the games are very friendly and the system is very straightforward and being able to chat with each other so much (far more than in F2F) is a real bonus. So, if you have not played with us for a while or if you will be new to RB please do come along – **the club needs the support of its members else you will lose it!!**

VERY IMPORTANT: CHILDREN IN NEED SIM PAIRS

The date when PDBC will be playing this year's CIN Sim Pairs is **WEDNESDAY 9th 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 CIN 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 and Ecats ALL payments are to be made through the club and we do require the minimum donation of £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 "**CIN2022**". If you cannot pay by bank transfer please speak with our Treasurer, Roger Wady. Thank you.

MICHAEL FAREY TROPHY

This will be held next Wednesday **21 September**. This is a handicapped competition, so the field – at least in theory – is level so any pair can win! The normal result will still be valid for masterpoints.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of our AGM will be **30th November** followed by bridge. We will be holding our AGM via Zoom. Please make every effort to attend the AGM. It doesn't normally last longer than 20 minutes but that doesn't lessen its importance for members to have their say on matters such as annual subs; return to F2F etc.

LOOKING AHEAD

I have asked the Committee to consider whether to hold another coffee morning at Croome during October – the previous meetings have been much enjoyed by all who came along – or to perhaps arrange a lunch or evening meal at a local hostelry. I will write to members shortly

Thank you for your support

COMPETITIONS

Ross and I have won the Championship Pairs Trophy for 2022. At the time of writing the Friday Summer Handicap is proving extremely competitive! Currently only 0.5 separates Chris and Mark from Liz and Jean and will conclude on the 30th September. Chris and Mark however are well in front of everyone on the Slammer of the Year and whilst there is still some way to go they look unstoppable. Denise and Sally have significantly improved upon their average for 2021 but are headed in the Ascendancy league by Judy and me.

NEW ANNOUNCING AND ALERTING RULES

The EBU have made a few changes to the alerting and announcing rules.

1) Partner no longer needs to announce a 2NT opener, as long as it is a strong balanced opener; eg. 20-22.

2) Currently you announce partner's 2D & 2H transfers over your 1NT opener; by saying 'hearts' & 'spades'. Some people also play 2S as transfer to clubs and 2NT as transfer to diamonds. If you play this, then you should now announce these as 'clubs' and 'diamonds'. If your 2S bid is a transfer to an unspecified minor (clubs or diamonds) or – say – showing 11 hcp's or clubs, then partner should alert.

The summary of alerting and announcing rules are:

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/convention-cards/announcements-table.pdf>

Common mistakes in alerting & announcing

- 2C opener (very strong hand) - Do not announce. Alert it.
- 3 level preempt opener - Do not announce. Do not alert.
- Jump overcalls – If the overcall shows a long natural suit do not announce; do not alert. Opponents can ask if they want to know if it is weak, intermediate or strong. Alert all others (eg Ghestem)

REAL BRIDGE UPGRADES

Most recent RB upgrades concern additional features for directors and teachers but a couple are for everyone:

APPLE iOS 15.6.1 and 16

The latest version of iOS is 15.6.1. This works well with Realbridge, so iPad users should upgrade from earlier versions of iOS 15.

Apple say that iOS 16 will be released in the next few months and RB are testing a beta version. When iOS 16 is released, RB will tell us whether it is a good idea to upgrade or not.

Echo problems when there is an iPad at the table – updated advice Apple have now fixed the echo problem. We suggest that iPad users who have had the echo problem should upgrade to iOS 15.6.1. If they do this, they will no longer need to use the audio jack.

Unwanted icons in front of the bidding box, when using Microsoft Edge

If you use the Edge browser and it has just been updated, you may notice strange icons in front of the bidding box. These are caused by a feature of Edge called “Visual Search”. You should disable this feature for the RealBridge site. To do that, hover over the icon (or the upper of the two icons), so that you can see the lower icon with three dots in it. Click on the three dots, and then do “Hide for this site”. (If you want to disable this feature for all websites, you can instead do “Hide always”.)

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