

November 2019

# Newsletter



*Wherever you are and whatever you are doing this Christmas, I wish you a very enjoyable time with peace, good health and happiness in 2020.*

I am writing this Christmas Edition a little earlier this year as we have a lot of events coming up and I know that quite a few of our members will soon be going on extended holidays; hope they all have good flights and safe journeys – and enjoy Christmas, of course!!

## A.G.M 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

As usual we will be congratulating our Prize Winners – see below – and going through the normal formalities. For those new to the club, we don't place a time limit on the AGM but we start a little earlier (6.45pm) and for the past 19 years we have not had an AGM that lasted longer than 35 minutes(!)

### We congratulate our final prize winners for 2019:

*Lawrie Hunt Cup:*

*Dorrie & Alf Manders*

*Doug Stainton Cup:*

*Lyndsey Parsons*

*Michael Hill Cup:*

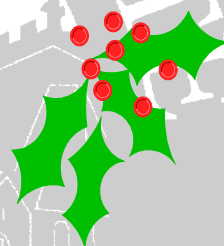
*Chris Kelly & Sheena Gibbons*

*Slammer of Year:*

*Chris Davies*

*Championship Pair:*

*Liz Boyes & Roger Wady*



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS – mark your diary now!!

27 November – A.G.M (6.45pm start)

6 December – Christmas Meal at the Flyford (Thanks to Jan Garratt for organising)

18 December – Party Time!! (Thanks to Liz & Sally for organising) **remember we have a host for this event so "singles" welcome!**

31 December - **SUBS DUE – please pay early!!!!!!**

5 February – Michael Farey Trophy

19 February – Swiss Pairs (6.45pm start)

26 February – Championship Pairs begins

28 Feb to Mar 1 – Stage1 Beginners Course Weekend

**The Club will be CLOSED on 25th December 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

### TEACHING – STAGE 1 BEGINNERS COURSE End February / Mar 1 weekend 2020

Some completed entries and deposits have been received but we do need, PLEASE, for you to spread the word so that we get a full register of attendees. As you are aware next year we are holding the initial 10 weeks of supervised play on a Tuesday evening to avoid clashing with the club night and only thereafter introducing the newcomers to experience the club. Many of you have already volunteered to help on the course and thereafter but nearer the date I will be contacting everyone to get some more volunteers to assist. The 2019 courses were very successful indeed and much of that is down to the helpers but it is really the dedicated "students" who are to be congratulated. It is barely nine months since their Stage 1 course and they have really done well.

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

♣ ♦ (if you have changed your phone number or have a new email address, please notify Alan) ♥ ♠

## VILLAGE HALL

I am told that sometime soon the Kitchen will be refurbished and when I know the details I will pass the information on. I was also told a while back that the chairs were going to be replaced (or at least the older ones) but that has gone rather quiet so I am endeavouring to find out some more . . . . .

## DID YOU KNOW?

**DEALING MACHINE et seq:** We purchased our Dealing Machine ("Dealer 4") in March 2007 with the help of Lottery funding. It took over 15 months to finally get some funding as the cost was c£3500 which is about the cost today. Since that time it has not required servicing and (I hope I am not tempting fate!!) has performed faultlessly. Since purchase it has dealt 24257 boards. Our machine, unlike some makes, does not require bar coded playing cards. The machine only deals the cards – it needs a computer program to tell it what cards to deal to N,S,E and W. The program we use is called Big Deal – it is recognised and used world wide in Mind Olympics and World Bridge Championships as it is considered the very best random dealing program. It has been exhaustively tested by statisticians and mathematicians. As a completely random dealing program it could *very* occasionally produce a set of hands whereby, say NS had 70% (or more) of the HCP's and EW only 30% (or less). To mitigate against this happening the only control I can exercise is to redeal the hand if the variance between NS and EW is extreme; I try to aim for about 2% variance so that both polarities have some decent cards. I cannot control the balance between N and S nor the balance between E and W. Every 12 months I run a check on the statistics and – no real surprise – this shows that whether you are N, S, E or W had you played in that position over the year your average HCP would be 10 or so close to it as to make no difference! The dealing program conforms extremely well to the expected mathematical probabilities of suit distribution and length of suits.

Once a year I manually set up a few "fun" hands for our Christmas party and incorporate them but as it takes over an hour to contrive just one hand this is not something trivial!! So, contrary to some cynics, the hands we play at our normal events are truly random and I do not fix them! Nowadays most bridge clubs have pre-dealt hands as with them comes the added value of exhaustive personal stats such as can be found on our web site results and by using programs such as BSOL (also on our web site) which should help everyone improve their game. The club has six sets of duplicate boards and the cards in each last about 3 years before requiring replacement. They would keep going longer but I think new cards are nice to play with so we don't wait until they are falling apart!

## 2020 SUBSCRIPTION – NOW DUE

This is **due BY 31 DECEMBER**. Hand your cheque or cash to ROGER **with the slip below** or you can pay electronically – **quoting your surname as reference**: If you pay electronically please email me or Roger to say you have done so. Annual subscription renewal cost is £10-00 Please renew in good time – there is nothing we dislike more than chasing "stragglers".

BANK: SANTANDER  
ACCOUNT: PERSHORE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB  
A/C NUMBER: 11652089  
SORT CODE: 09 - 01 – 55  
REFERENCE: your surname

✂ -----  
I enclose my / our annual subscription for 2020. (£10-00 per member)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cheques payable Pershore Duplicate Bridge Club*

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

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