

December 2023

# 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 2024.*

Virtually all the 2023 Competitions have now finished and the winners' names are engraved on the Trophies. The Slammer of the Year is very exciting this year with at least four (or more!) at the top of the leader board. You can see all Trophy winners in the ROLL OF HONOUR on our PDBC home web page and the COMPETITION RESULTS page contains the details of non-trophy events as well, some of which are still running.

## CHARITY EVENT

You may have noticed that we did not hold a Children In Need session this year, for the first time since CIN Sim Pairs was introduced. Quite a few members wrote to me last year saying that they would not support CIN in future but would support an event for a local Charity. Accordingly, in the New Year, we will hold a Charity evening in support of Acorns Children Hospice.

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Please note the Club will be open for the playing of RealBridge on our normal Wednesdays and Fridays over the festive season.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Regrettably, due to a number of factors, I am a little behind this year on Club business and therefore the AGM will not take place until early in the New Year. We are investigating whether to hold the AGM by Zoom or at the Hall, where we can turn the event into a more social meet up and also make the Trophy presentations. If the latter, the club would provide some suitable refreshment.

## MEMBERSHIP

YOUR ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES ON 31 DECEMBER; The annual subscription will be maintained at £5-00, so please renew your membership asap by sending an internet bank transfer (BACS) of £5-00 to

Payee: Pershore Duplicate Bridge Club Sort Code: 09-01-55 A/C: 11652089 Reference: **SUB2024**

**Please do not include any RB table payment - keep the subscription payment totally separate!** Please contact Mark Poxon if you wish to pay by any other method.

If it is not your intention to renew we shall of course be sorry to see you go (and hope it is not too long before you return) but please drop me a line to prevent you receiving renewal reminders.

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 the RB table fee will be maintained at £1-25 for members and £2-50 for non-members. **PLEASE NOTE: There is no "Grace Period". YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION MUST BE RENEWED BY 31 DECEMBER IF YOU WISH TO PRESERVE RB TABLE FEE AT £1-25 from 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024.**

No change is currently planned for F2F charges but F2F fees will have to be reassessed should we wish to try it again next year. We may have to revise RB table fees during the year if RB and EBU increase their charges.

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

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

I think all members will agree that your Committee strives to keep membership and other fees to an absolute minimum, despite rising costs, whilst providing excellent bridge playing opportunities but we can only do this with your continued, REGULAR, support so please do make the effort and recommend us to your friends – wherever they are!

Our latest innovation is all thanks to Mark, who has devised an ongoing automatic computerised method for every member's RB accounts – a great step forward in how we administer RealBridge – and I know from members feedback how appreciated it is.

### REALBRIDGE – some reminders

We are all now well familiar with RealBridge but some matters do keep arising:-

- UNDO's. Are allowed for genuine misclicks but not for changes of mind. If you make a genuine misclick or mistake please do NOT call out saying something like "I didn't mean that". Simply click the UNDO request button; then speak. If the UNDO is refused or not answered, then say something but make sure your UNDO request is made again, if needed. Even if your opponents and partner have played to the next card (your partner shouldn't if there is an outstanding UNDO request, but no matter) make sure that **you** do NOT play to the next card. If necessary hold up play and call the director. It is much better to call the director, rather than try and sort it out and discuss with your opponents.
- NO CAMERA OR MICROPHONE. There is no reason why these should not work; even if you have an external camera and microphone (£7-00 upwards on Amazon). These really should be working. If they are not then check you have allowed RealBridge to access them in your computer or browser (eg Google / Chrome / Safari) settings. You may have to do this frequently as **a general computer update will often remove the permissions and / or your personalised RB settings**. Regularly check the Camera and Microphone test incorporated in the PDBC GUIDE TO REALBRIDGE and follow any instructions.
- SLOW PLAY. This is a Directors nightmare! The Directors will be tolerant, but if slow play persists – whatever the cause – the Director has to intervene to ensure the game can continue. The director will normally end a board and award an adjusted score. If both parties are to blame the adjusted score will be 40%/40% (or - / -) or if one pair is to blame it will be 60%/40% (or + / -). If there is a dispute as to which pair is slow (or to blame), the director may end the board and temporarily award 40%/40% but undertake to review that board later, after the event. A recent feature of RealBridge is that a timed record is kept of every card played, accessible by a Director.
- BACKGROUND NOISE. Unfortunately most computer microphones have a high gain – simply put the microphone will amplify weak sounds. This results in background noise being transmitted at a louder volume and is very distracting. So – please shut door to rooms that have the TV or radio on; to musical instrument practice sessions; to others in the household doing the washing up; and **no muttering** about your partner's play or opponents!! And so on.
- SYSTEM UPDATES. Some players still seem to experience system (eg Windows) updates during play. To avoid this please alter your update settings to only allow updates at times when you know you will not be on RB. It might help if you carry out updates when you shut down, else you will find they might occur when you start up!

Finally, your RB directors are unpaid but should not be unloved. They do the best they can. Please accept their decision. If you feel really aggrieved please tell the director who will discuss the problem with other directors later. Thank you.

*My thanks to you all and I hope you stay safe and well this winter.*

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