

Other Things for Clubs to Consider

Following the “Making Bridge More Welcoming” session at the SCBA Chairman’s Consultation in November 2019, there were various other points that the group considered would make bridge more welcoming:

- Have the next version of this document reviewed by your newest members. We need fresh memories and experiences. Plus, it will give them a stake in your club.
- Consider free play for first session.
- At least one club will be “inserting” a couple of their most friendly players into some teaching sessions They will play boards with the learning players and overtly encourage the better novices to come to an evening in the main club. This is a great strategy and could also be used on new players’ first nights in clubs.
- Offer shadowing to new players (where they can watch an established player and have some quick coaching at the end of the hand).
- If you have gentle sessions – ensure grumpy members don’t attend!
- Use social events to ease novices into your clubs.
- Be well organised – can be very off-putting for new people to see poor organisation.
- Director welcome new members – inc in teaching material
- Do club constitutions/rules state there is a duty to host? This is important as:

1. We want to make sure that we always have a host at every session to ensure that we are welcoming to single visitors.
2. Hosting also provides a service to other club members whose normal partners may be unavailable. This helps keep table numbers up and therefore helps the playing atmosphere and our reputation as an active healthy club, as well as club finances.
3. Some members were refusing to host, which made life very difficult and unpleasant for our host organisers, as well placing an unfair burden on those who were hosting sessions.
4. Finally, we want every member to contribute in some way to the operation of the club, and not just be consumers of the benefits of membership.

A suggested clause for Constitutions is:

Members of the Club undertake to volunteer to host at least once a year for each of the playing sessions that they attend on ten or more occasions in a year. The Club’s Committee members, Directors, Scorers, Dealers and Host Coordinators are automatically exempt from this obligation to host. Other exemptions on personal grounds may be granted to individual members by agreement with the Chairman of the Club.

- Some clubs use a Whatsapp group to find partners – great idea for the more technically savvy.
- Share resources in SCBA – there should just be one membership covering all Surrey clubs. We think this is an interesting concept, but too big a leap for now...
- If you have other points you would like to add, please email the editor, by clicking [here](#).