

Spring 2018

Newsletter



This is our Spring edition – but we have yet to see any real improvement in the weather to anything like resembling Spring, but we do have the light evenings! However, we are hopefully now over the worst of the winter and can look forward to some exciting things happening at the Club. There are several events coming up shortly so mark your diaries now with these dates as "not to be missed"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: see below for details

Championship Pairs Ladder starts - 4th April

PDBC Charity event - see below - 4th April

WEIR TROPHY (teams) - 9th May

SWISS PAIRS - 26th September

The **PDBC Charity Event** is an opportunity for members to play a normal pairs evening but to also make a contribution to our charity - this year it is Acorns Children's Hospice. Please come along and support this very worthwhile cause. We will only charge normal table money but ask members to consider making a donation of at least £2-50 with ALL the proceeds from table money going to the Charity. NOTE: There is no host for this evening.

The **Weir Trophy** is our principal Team of 4 Event - you may wish to consider trying to team up now! Although a major club competition, the evening is always relaxed and friendly (as it should be) and past winners have not always come from the "best" players - that's an advantage of teams bridge.

So - lots to look forward to in addition to our normal pairs evenings!

DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY POLICY – IMPORTANT

Thank you to the many of you who have returned the GDPR form duly completed. As this is a matter of LAW in a month or so, it will be necessary for me to chase those of you who have not yet responded (something I intensely dislike doing) so – please – return the forms to me asap if you have not already done so.

MEMBERSHIP

As you know the club has had a really sad time lately with many regular players no longer being able to come due to their health or that of their life partners, or have moved away for other reasons. We really miss them and thank them for their past support. This has naturally resulted in a drop in table numbers and so can I please urge those members who have not come along lately to try and attend at least one Wednesday a month as WE NEED YOU!!

However, we do now need MORE MEMBERS - so please, do make every effort to come along yourselves and to recommend us to others. We are a small club and we need more members to survive. Sadly a lot of bridge clubs can be rather stuffy and serious, often unwelcoming - but this is not the case at PDBC and we always endeavour to make the evening enjoyable for everyone, so do your best to advertise us at every opportunity.

WEB SITE / RESULTS and ANALYSIS

If you have not yet done so can I thoroughly recommend that you use the new feature of BRIDGE SOLVER on the web site – it is not just for the ‘experts’, but everyone can gain by looking at the data available and “playing around” with it. There are too many features to go into detail here but try some of the options and see what happens – to access go into your personal scorecard and click on BSOL Analysis icon near top left of screen. Then why not try clicking on a GO TO arrow or PLAY IT AGAIN.

HOSTING / OPENING UP

Please check REGULARLY the web site host roster and note when you are expected to host. If you can't make a particular date then please re-arrange with another on the roster and THEN tell Jan. Similarly please tell Jan as soon as you can if for any reason you cannot make your due date and have been unable to find a substitute. Everyone benefits from the host system and it has proven to be a major factor in attracting visitors and those who want a game but don't have a partner but we now do have the Bridgewebs facility of “partner wanted” so use that as well! *Roger is keen to have more names willing to open up. Remember, all you have to do is unlock the car park and lock it up again afterwards. Others will put out the tables when they arrive and Betty always brings the milk.*

GIFT AID

Just a brief reminder that if your tax status changes such that it becomes possible for the Club to claim Gift Aid on your subscription please let me or Roger know; similarly if you become no longer eligible for us to claim Gift Aid.

CAR PARKING / LIGHTING / HALL

Can I take the opportunity of reminding you that car parking in the road should be restricted to those of limited mobility and persons unloading equipment for the Club. At the end of the evening please check that all radiators are turned off and the **hand set** control (next to kitchen hatch) for main heaters is reset to 19° C. Do NOT turn off main heaters by pressing the central button on hand control.

Talking to a member of the Lower Moor Parish Council recently, I learned that the Council is optimistic about installing lighting along the footpath from the Car Park to the Hall – something I have long asked for on our behalf. So – fingers crossed. Members hopefully will also have noticed the improved lighting of all the steps.

USEFUL, SIMPLE “GADGET”

I suppose that virtually all of you play an opening 2♣ as Game Force; 23 ish HCP's. (or some might use an opening 2♦ if they do not (yet!!) play weak 2's in 3 suits. Whatever, all of you will be familiar with the standard type responses but might I suggest you try using Honour Controls as a response? They are far more informative. So, after a 2♣ opening your partner counts up his honour controls – count 2 for an Ace and 1 for a King and responds:-

2♦ = 0 or 1

2♥ = 2 (may be one Ace or 2 kings)

2♠ = 3 (may be one Ace and 2 kings or 3 kings)

2NT = 4 (etc) *

3♣ = 5 and so on

You can play the 2NT response as 6-9 points but no A or K and then 3♣ = 4 honour controls. As opener has a big hand he can easily work out what you have in the way of Aces or Kings and will now have a very clear idea of the combined strengths. After the honour control responses opener and partner can bid normally. Clearly after a 2♣ - 2♦ ; 2NT rebid showing balanced 23 count partner can pass if holding less than 2 points. Try it – its simple to remember and preferable to the more usual responses after a 2♣ opener.

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

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