

Spring 2019

Newsletter



This is our Spring edition with an important update regarding our Teaching Courses. Hopefully we are now over the worst of the cold snap and can look forward to warmer evenings and also some exciting things happening at the Club. There are several events coming up so mark your diaries now with these dates as "not to be missed"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: see below for details

Championship Pairs Ladder started - 3rd April

PDBC Charity event - see below - 24th April

WEIR TROPHY (teams) - 3rd July

SWISS PAIRS - 25th 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 **Guide Dogs for the Visually Impaired**. 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.

The **Weir Trophy** is our principal Team of 4 Event. 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!

CLUB ATTENDANCE

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. This has naturally resulted in a drop in table numbers and it is disappointing that some members whose partner is on holiday or unwell do not try and pair up with others in a similar position so that table numbers can be maintained. Can I please urge you all to SUPPORT the club by coming along on a Wednesday evening. Use the Find A Partner feature, or simply contact another member who has not come along lately.

TEACHING INITIATIVE & SUPERVISED PLAY UPDATE

As you know the Club has embarked on a major teaching and training initiative to teach bridge to others who may not previously have played at a club. Whilst I have led the teaching sessions, I have been greatly assisted by various helpers without whom the teaching weekends and supervised play would not be possible and everyone who has helped is due a great deal of thanks for giving up their time and making sessions such a success. Sixteen "students" attended the Stage 1 course on the 2nd and 3rd March and fourteen the Stage 2 on the 6th and 7th April. Virtually all have followed up with the supervised play sessions and in a couple of weeks I am hopeful that some will gradually make the transition to the main club! This will be a remarkable achievement in only eight weeks from the Stage 1 course. When we introduce a student into the main club they will be partnered each week with an experienced club member (buddy), initially a helper on the course they attended. They will not be able

to play at the same speed as club members, so a board or two each round will have to be entered into the Bridgemates as NOT PLAYED as this will not affect main club members score or averages - please do NOT enter 0 or PASS (unless you wish your average to be affected!!). They will also receive limited prompting from their "buddy" regarding conventions such as Stayman and transfers. Whilst the students have learned the basics of bridge it is unreasonable to expect them to know the Laws of the Game, Announcing and Alerting and all club members should, please, exercise tolerance and understanding in this regard. Over time of course, these matters will be learned but **for several weeks the Directors will not enforce the usual rules in these aspects for them.** Our aim is to make students feel as comfortable and at ease as we can as they make the transition to club duplicate so please play your part! I will be writing to some members and helpers shortly to find helpers to either assist the Supervised play students or to Buddy a student in the main club but **if you wish to volunteer pleased let me know by email and the dates on which you could assist.** All helpers will be given notes regarding the bidding systems known to the students, including a convention card, and those helping the supervised play will also be given the recommended bidding for each of the pre-dealt boards. Supervised Play will shortly be renamed "Gentle Bridge".

OPENING UP / CLOSING

Brian has kindly offered to be our main person responsible for opening the car park and hall – but he needs a rest sometimes! Please let Roger know if you would be able to relieve Brian (for a 3 week period or more) every now and then. Closure of the hall is usually done by myself, Liz or Roger but we do need someone each week to take the padlock from the computer table and lock the gate – it doesn't have to be the same person each week, just help whenever you can.

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 know; similarly if you become no longer eligible for us to claim Gift Aid.

LIGHTING / HALL / CAR PARKING

I think we can all agree that the footpath lighting is a great improvement. I know that the Hall Committee are looking at ways to improve the lighting on the steps and I also understand that the hall will be refurbished soon and the kitchen improved. 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 pack away all tables and equipment and 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.

REMINDERS

- There is no need to keep a personal scorecard as this will be shown on the web site result, but if you do then please complete it AFTER you have led (if you are on lead) and AFTER you have laid down dummy (if you are dummy).
- If you are dummy please keep your hands BELOW the table until declarer tells you which card to play
- Please call for the Director as soon as a possible problem arises and at that stage leave all exposed cards (or bidding cards) on the table; please do not remove any back into your hand or the box!
- If you claim that the remaining tricks are yours PLAY CEASES. At the time of making your claim you must lay down your cards and **immediately** say how you will play them. If challenged you must call the director – not start to play them out, even if opponents agree to that; play has STOPPED.
- Partners (and dummy) are allowed these days to remind their partner "having none" if they do so immediately their partner fails to follow suit. If partner now finds he could follow suit, the initial card played becomes a major penalty card unless he is declarer. If in doubt call the Director.

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

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