

Spring 2015

Newsletter



EXCITING NEWS!

As most of you are aware since its inception PDBC has always striven to be a professionally run, welcoming club and to provide first class facilities wherever possible. Of course as a small club we are limited as to what we can achieve but we were the first local club to have our own web site; the first to provide a 'next day' results service, pre-dealt boards, hand analysis and so on. Indeed we were the first bridge club nationally to successfully apply for lottery funding. As I have said to members at the last two AGM's, we have to continue to attract new members and to take advantage of the technological progress where we feel it to be to the Club's advantage. These two aspects are by no means separate – indeed in my view they are complementary.

Your Committee has therefore considered in depth the options for wireless scoring and I am delighted to inform you that we hope to commence introducing it at our evening events from the 22nd April. Having evaluated the various options we have decided upon the Bridgemate II system. At the same time we shall be trialling a new scoring program (unexcitingly named "Scorer"). The system is easy to operate and each Bridgemate has an excellent screen display.

I realise that a lot of members are already familiar with wireless scoring systems – I am sure they will be ready to help others if needed – but to those who are not used to them please be reassured that we shall make certain that full guidance will be available at all times from any of the Directors. To those as yet unfamiliar with Bridgemates they provide the facility whereby players contracts and scores are entered at the table, round by round, and where at the conclusion of play your ranking will be displayed on a lap top computer screen. It therefore gives an immediate result. Of course our web site will continue to show the hand record, theoretical makeable contracts on a double dummy analysis and detailed travellers for you to study at your leisure.

There are a number of advantages to using wireless scoring besides just giving a final ranking before you leave the club:- Incorrect entry of scores (a rather familiar problem lately with paper travellers) is much lessened as your opponents have to carefully examine the contract and result before accepting it; at the end of each round the Bridgemate displays which table you will be moving to next; and at the commencement of each round players names and board numbers are displayed so there really is no excuse to be playing the wrong opponents or boards. Rarely some things can still go wrong – we are all human – but when they do the Director has access to a set of functions that will put them right.

I should mention that YOU WILL NEED YOUR EBU NUMBER. This is required prior to start of play each week as you identify yourself to the system. If you do not know your EBU number you can obtain it by going into the Members Area of our web site (click on Membership and input your name and password).

Unfortunately the 'Scorer' software will not easily permit us to continue with our twice yearly Most Improved Pair and Player competitions and these will be discontinued after 15th April when the winners of the current competitions will be known. However, the good news is that we shall be introducing very similar type of competitions for stratification ranked players of C and below from 3rd June. We need a name for these – please send your views to me asap. The best suggestion I've heard so far is "Challenge Trophy – Pairs (and Player)" but I'm sure there are others, just let me know please.

So, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible every week but of course particularly on the 22nd April.

Alan

***** IMPORTANT INFORMATION OVERLEAF *****

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Championship Pairs Ladder started - 1st April
Ina Godwin Trophy (Droitwich 16th June)
Weir Trophy (teams) - 8th July
Swiss Pairs - 30 September

WCBA

Our County Association strives hard to offer a wide variety of matches & meetings to appeal to players of all standards. Why not go along one Monday at 7pm and join them?

See the WCBA web site, via our own web site Links page.

The Ina Godwin Trophy is an event in memory of Ina who loved her bridge at both PDBC and Droitwich and whose family donated a rather excellent trophy for the clubs to use as they saw fit. Each club holds an event every two years and this year it will be Droitwich who will be having a special event. Please do try and go along as the event is open to Pershore members with no 'visitor supplement' to their usual members table fee. Next year we will be designating one of our Swiss Pairs evenings. The winners of the competitions will hold the trophy for a year.

NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME (NGS)

The NGS is now fully established and is becoming more widely used in competitions, and I anticipate that trend will continue as it provides a far more up to date ranking of a players current ability rather than a historical one like masterpoints. To put another way – at an extreme level – you could play for many years and reach the exalted heights of a Grand Master but as your ability wanes you clearly will not still be playing at that level so the NGS ranking will be more accurate for current competitions than Masterpoint level. PDBC currently uses Masterpoint levels to determine some competitions, handicap events and the Michael Farey Trophy. We will keep this under review but I thought I should mention now that should we ever move to using the NGS ranking then if in your EBU Members Profile you have elected not to disclose that ranking then any competition will make your default the highest! Put simply, as an example only, if the handicap result was calculated on NGS rank and not masterpoints you would have the greatest possible handicap – the same as Grand Master! If you wish further information on this please contact me. You can check your NGS ranking if you have elected to disclose it by clicking on NGS GRADES on our own web site.

VILLAGE HALL / CAR PARKING

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. The storage room is without doubt an improvement but great care is needed in getting out and (particularly putting away) the tables and chairs. Please ensure that only one person at a time enters the storage room. If you do have cause to comment about any aspect of the Hall, or notice any defect, please contact Martin.



HOSTING

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 Tim. Everyone benefits from the host system and it has proven to be a major factor in attracting visitors.

FINALLY – a big thank you to you all for hosting /opening up / clearing away etc – many hands make light work! Please continue to advertise the club to your friends – we need more members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

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