

Victoria Park Bridge Club - becoming a member

Victoria Park is a very friendly club and we really like welcoming new members. Contact the membership secretary, Morag Reeve, at moragreeve@gmail.com or on 07478213386 if you are interested. At the current time we cannot offer 'beginners' or 'improvers' sessions and so a certain level of experience will be necessary to enjoy club evenings. We have two membership levels:

Full membership is appropriate for experienced duplicate bridge players (see below). Full members can play on any club evening. **Associate membership** is appropriate for less experienced players and/or those who prefer a more relaxed atmosphere. Again, see below for clarity on what the expectations are. Associate members can play on Wednesday evenings only.

In order to ensure that all our prospective members are ready and able to play at the appropriate level, and are treated in the same way, we always invite them to play with a committee member on two or three occasions before agreeing their application. The membership secretary will arrange this. Prospective members are, however, welcome to come along on their first time with their own partner, or with another club member.

As a **Full Member** you will need to be able to:

- Bid and play hands at the average pace of VP club sessions ie 8 hands per hour on Thursdays or 9 hands per hour if you wish to play on Mondays.
- Comply with the basic protocols of duplicate bridge including bidding and playing without undue hesitation or speed, deciding on your bid before touching the bidding cards, asking questions only at appropriate times, leaving all bidding cards on the table until the lead card has been faced.
- Understand the purpose and mechanics of certain basic Bridge conventions. There is, of course, no requirement that you necessarily use these conventions, just that you know enough to follow the 'conversations' taking place at the Bridge table. The conventions we expect you to know about include: limit raises, weak and strong no trump openers, weak take outs, Stayman, transfers, strong and weak two-level openings, pre-emptive bids, doubling for penalties and take-out, Gerber and Blackwood conventions asking for aces, kings etc, fourth suit forcing.
- Develop your competence with regard to the conventions so that in time you will be able to play with any other member of the club.

As an **Associate Member** you will need to be able to:

- Comfortably bid and play around 24 hands per session (usually 3 and a 1/4 hours including 15 minute break)
- Understand basic bidding including:
 - Basic pre-emptive bids Strong bids including the use of either Gerber or Blackwood
 - How to show no-trump hands inc. point count
 - Standard Acol overcalls
- Be aware of, but not necessarily play, other basic conventions such as Stayman.
- Be happy to play in a social atmosphere with a relaxed interpretation of the detailed EBU-endorsed rules of play.