

CAMBERLEY BRIDGE CLUB

JUL19 NEWSLETTER (007)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Geoff has written the item below about our new Transition Group courses and supervised play sessions. This is a major effort towards increasing our membership, and one in which the EBU is interested, with a view of suggesting the idea to other bridge clubs countrywide. If you have any bridge-playing friends who may feel they aren't ready for club-play yet, perhaps you will suggest this initiative to them to encourage them to take part. All in all, this has been a "club effort" with many members helping to provide mentors at each table during the course - the main thing that was requested/appreciated by those taking part. We very much thank each of them.

I ask that you make these new players welcome when they attend Club sessions and, as they find their feet, to be understanding and helpful if they get something wrong. There's a lot to learn, and we all had to start "somewhere".

Best wishes, Val Foster

HELPING TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS TO THE CLUB, BY GEOFF WILLIAMS

In the past 6 months, the committee has taken three initiatives to attract new members to the Club. We have advertised extensively in the area to encourage people who already play bridge, but not at an EBU club, to come along to our Club and take part in competitive bridge in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

One thing we realised early on was that many bridge players were nervous about playing in a club, wondering whether their standard of bridge would be good enough, and whether they would be criticised if they got something wrong. They were also concerned that their opponents would be so competitive that they would not feel welcome.

This caused us to introduce an eight week programme, devised and led by Penny Moody, to introduce such players to the requirements of club bridge. This focused on topics such as bridge etiquette, alerting and announcing and pace of play, as well as bridge topics like leads, discards/signals and use of system cards.

The first of these programmes with 21 new members was completed at the beginning of July, and another programme starts on 9th September.

The September course is nearly full, please sign up on the [website](#) if you or any friends are interested. Please also e-mail [Penny Moody](#) if you are able to offer any help and support in running the sessions.

We realised during the first course that some players would need a little longer to practice before joining standard Club sessions. We have therefore introduced Supervised Play sessions, where people who felt that they weren't quite ready to play at the club, could have further practice, particularly to reach the required pace of play. These will run every Monday afternoon, and will allow people to seek advice from established Club members on how to bid or play particular hands.

CONVENTION CARDS

We are again asking each pair to comply with the request to have a convention card, at least one between each pair, on the table at all times. This is necessary, not only for your opponents' use, but also so that if the director is called to adjudicate on a problem and s/he has to decide on a fair result, your convention card may provide essential information

IN THE WRONG SEAT?

We have recently had several incidents of pairs playing the wrong boards or the wrong opponents. This can arise when a pair does not arrow switch as the table card directs. Our rules of etiquette require pairs to physically move position so as to minimize the risk of this happening.

Other cases have arisen because one or both pairs have sat down in the wrong position – at the wrong table, the wrong orientation, or both!

These errors affect the results of all pairs in that day's competition and are easily avoided. The new bridge tabs show at the end of each round where the two pairs move to next. Similarly, the next page shows which pairs should be playing at the table next, and whether N/S or E/W. It is the responsibility of both members of both pairs to ensure that they are sitting in the right place and playing the correct opponents.

This should have removed any excuses for getting it wrong. Therefore, with effect from 5th August onwards, the Director will apply the standard EBU penalty in such cases – 25% of a top.

Following on about scoring errors, many of you will be aware that during Friday 19th July's competition, there was a fouled board - two cards being switched between hands part way through the session - which proved a significant error and which resulted in scorers (Alan and Jim in particular) spending many hours over the weekend to produce a fair and accurate result. This is an example of how much time can be spent by scorers when members get things wrong, particularly in this case, when it was a competition event.

HOSTING/ATTENDANCE

At our last committee meeting, the committee was pleased to note that we had had more hosts in the 2nd quarter, hitting 91% of all sessions covered in April. It was agreed to ask that, ideally, members should try to volunteer to host 2 or 3 days ahead of the session, so that people have advance warning, although in the case of, say, a late cancellation by your partner, last minutes volunteers would still be welcomed.

It was also reported that, comparing the same period last year to this, average weekly attendances rose from 29.2 to 31.0 tables (+6.1%) per week. This is encouraging and is in part because of the increase of hosts whose help in keeping up attendance is very much appreciated.

LEAGUE (SURREY)

Division 1 team captained by Jane Green – 2nd

Division 2 team captained by Ian Lewis – 1st

Division 2 team containing Alan Coales, David Pinder, Colin Bailey – 2nd

Division 2 team captained by Trevor Hobson – 6th

Division 3 team captained by Geoff Williams – 1st

Division 3 team captained by Penny Moody – 3rd

Division 3 team captained by Karen O'Riordan – 2nd

Well done to Jane's team only losing 1 match to the winners. Ian, Geoff & Karen all had teams in the league final's, unfortunately none of us were successful but all had a great season.

Jane's team were also runner up in the Lady Rose Cup (losing to the Hinden team) – a great season overall!

LEAGUE (BRACKNELL)

Division 1 team captained by Margaret Watson – A strong finish but not quite enough to stay up.

We are attempting to enter 2 teams for the 19/20 Season but will enter at least 1 team

NICKO

We have 2 teams with CBC representatives, Ian's team lost their first match and due to play their first plate match in Jan. Jane's team won their first match and had a bye in round 2 before losing to a tough team.

3RD BLUE POINT EVENT

All went very smoothly! Well done Simon & David for winning in style too! In 2020, we are planning for the second bank holiday at the end of the month due to the first weekend being moved to the Friday for VE Day celebrations. The hall is booked, director confirmed and Surrey and the EBU have confirmed the date now too (Monday 25th May 2020).

Val and the CBC Committee