

The 2026 Bournemouth Holiday

On 25th January, 62 bridge club members left for our annual holiday to Bournemouth. The Bournemouth holiday was started 15 years ago by Allan and Judy Sanis, and for the last 8 years Martin and I, with a team of helpers, have slightly tweaked the programme and, importantly in 2026, moved to a new hotel. The Hotel Miramar had hosted the bridge club holiday for 13 years and had mostly done this very well. When Marcin, who was manager at The Miramar, moved to the Hotel Collingwood, we decided to take the very difficult (indeed risky) decision to move hotel. Our rationale was that there are more rooms, most of them refurbished and with a walk-in shower. There is a small spa and pool (with sauna and jacuzzi) and the plumbing works (unlike The Miramar). We totally trusted Marcin to do all he could to ensure everything went smoothly. The hotel met our needs in almost every way and we had very few glitches. The rooms were comfortable and clean, the food good, especially the breakfast, and the playing area spacious. The pool, spa and games rooms were a great bonus. The hotel had a very nice bar area, which was perfect after the evening's play with many taking advantage of 'happy hour'. This was probably our most sociable holiday yet.

The hotel is well located to catch a bus to coastal towns and most of our players went off on walks – either along the beach, into Westbourne (nicer shops and cafes) or further afield to Studland, Swanage or Hengistbury Head. The weather was good – even sunny on one day.

I have yet to mention the bridge! We have a varied programme including individual and teams events. The bridge has always been conducted in a great spirit of fair play. All holidaymakers are paired up so there is never an issue of anybody being left out or made to feel awkward because they have come alone. Martin ran three themed morning seminars – teams bridge strategies, leading and competing the part score. He tied analysis of the hands into these themes. The seminars were attended by over 50% of the players and conducted in a way that all could contribute – if they wished.

If you would like to come next year, then look out for the club email in May where the application process and dates will be explained. Those who came this year have priority, however, every year, a significant number on the waiting list come on the holiday – so if you are keen, and do not immediately get a place, it is worth joining the waiting list from the start. Please contact any of the organisers – Neil Smith, Mark Giard, Martin or Nicola Renshaw if you would like to know more.

Thank you to the group of 2026 – you made the holiday not only successful but great fun!

Nicola Renshaw