



Newsletter

May 2020



Online Bridge Club- Where does my \$4 go?

I thought members may be interested to know what happens to the \$4 entry fee paid to BBO for a virtual club session.

Firstly BBO take 30% (a much better deal than the 50% charged before the pandemic). Competitions such as the Cheltenham sessions and advertising allow BBO to give us all free access at other times.

The balance of \$2.80 is converted to sterling and paid to the EBU. Approximately £2.25.

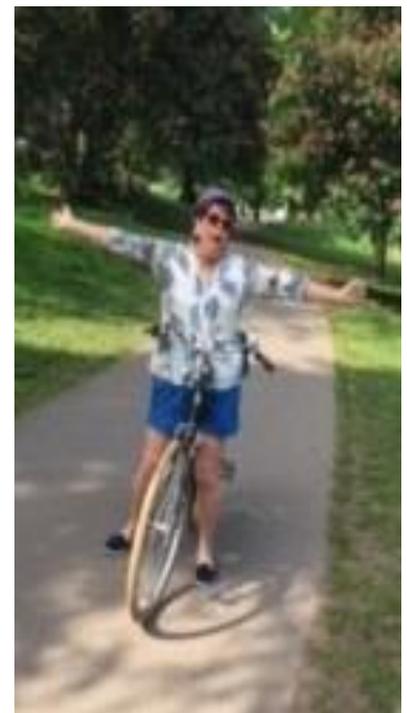
From this the EBU will take the normal "pay to play" fee of 45p. Of the 45p, 40p is a subscription to the EBU by the player (rather than the EBU collecting an annual subscription). The other 5p goes to GCBA (the County Bridge Association) who use the funds to promote bridge in the County and who support smaller Clubs, particularly important in the current environment.

The club will receive £1.80 of your \$4. From this we need to pay a BBO approved director. The fee is £40. A normal BBO session takes about 4 hours work to set up, run, score etc. It is very different to running a club session.

Provided we can achieve 7 tables per session we can cover the costs. The more tables that play then the smaller the fixed cost element (director's fee) per player becomes and we begin to make a more significant contribution to Club costs.

The committee initially decided to offer prize money where table numbers reached 10 but as lockdown continues we believe now that any surpluses should be used to maintain the Clubhouse and cover any ongoing costs. I hope members will understand.

In the next newsletter I will update members on Club finances. In the meantime take care, please support us through the online sessions and I hope to see you all again as soon as it is safe, Caroline



On Friday I was walking through Pittville Park and met Penny Stanbury.

**See overleaf for
FAQ about BBO
and playing on
line.**



Playing Bridge on BBO

1. Help it's 3 minutes to the CBC game starting and I am locked out!

If you have problems with being blocked, the answer is to send a BBO message to "vEBU2052733" so that Sarah Amos can sort it out.

2. When there are 17 tables and only 8 rounds why did we meet the same pair twice?

The largest section BBO can run is 16 so when there are more than that the field is divided into an 8 and a 9. We could change to 3 board rounds so that both sections played the same 6x3 board rounds but Sarah thought it was better to stick to 2 board rounds so that one section played a revenge round but the other section played 9 different opponents.

3. Why is there more than one robot? There were 4 on Friday.

Robots are available to anyone who wants to hire them. We do not allow them on the teaching or gentle bridge sessions. However, we do allow them in other bridge sessions. Robots do not play Acol and players results vary when using them. This is a player choice and we leave it to the individual. We would rather see people playing in the club than not.

4. Why do rounds get cut off when there is still time on the clock?

The only time rounds get cut off with time still on the clock is when the last board has not been started with less than 3 minutes on the clock. BBO judges that there is not time to bid the hand and it stops it. If this happens to you and it was clearly not your fault ask the TD to look at it. TD can award A+.

Remember to support **GCBA's Swiss pairs** if your NGS ranking is 9 or below.

It starts on 17th May and runs for up to six weeks. You will play one 12 board round a week which you can organise at your own convenience. There is no charge for this! You just need to send your BBO user name and your real name to online-swissp@gcba.org.uk

You will be playing with other club players around the county who are NGS 9 and below.

Register your interest by Friday 15th May. Full details are on the GCBA website (www.gcba.org.uk).



CHELtenham
BRIDGE
CLUB



Idea from our Newer Members



Peggy Phillips, Ro Kaye and Jan Kinane at Bournemouth 2020

Are there any members out there who would like a stepping stone onto online Bridge with the club? We have a very successful group of nearly 60 Year 2/3 members playing every day of the week. As long as they can make a 4, people can play as often as they like with other club members. We've found that rather than playing X number of boards we usually play for 1 hour to 1 hour 15mins which for most people is enough time in front of the screen!

Jan Kinane, who is one of the people who set this up, met Peggy Phillips on the Bournemouth trip earlier this year and they've kept in touch since. Peggy had a few hiccups on the club site but has now been playing 3 times a week in groups organised by Jan and friends. Now, Peggy is introducing her partners to our system, and we wondered if there are any other members out there who would be interested. This would be separate to the Year 2/3 group and open to all members. You don't need a partner but, if you have one and want to play with them, then that's fine. We will give you support if needed and hopefully, once you're up and running, you'll feel confident to join one of the Bridge Club sessions.

For more information please contact Jan:

Mobile 07988 810990 or email jankinane02@gmail.com



CHEL TENHAM BRIDGE CLUB



Member's news

This is part of an email I received from Anne Swannell about how she and her family are coping in lockdown:

but with the beautiful sunny weather, and an acre of garden to look after, there have been other priorities. Luckily, the gardener is still coming once a fortnight to cut the lawns, which is a big help. The children and grandchildren have kept in touch all the time, which has been wonderful. The boys have ordered plants from Suttons, instead of Easer Eggs, which will start coming at the end of the month, which is a big plus, but will keep us busy. I am spring cleaning the house, room by room, but also getting side tracked by books, photos, and things I had forgotten I had. I go shopping to Tesco's at 6a.m. to miss the crowds, and the shelves are well stocked. I did see Martin Renshaw at our fish shop last week. It was so nice to have a chat. Our local pub is doing takeaways, so on Saturday I ordered our evening meal and went and collected it. It was timed, so it is collected from a table at the front door, and the containers returned at some point. They are also doing this where our eldest lives in Chiltern, but he was able to get a pint as well!! One up Manship!!

I have also heard from so many friends. One who I have not seen or spoken to since I was 18!! She studied to become a Doctor and then a Nun. She was posted to Ethiopia and mostly did paediatrics. She retired a couple of years ago and is back in the Mother House in Ireland. It was such a surprise and shock to hear her voice, as we had only written to each other now and again over the years!! What a story she has to tell. A friend from my days at BP in the City also rang. She lives in Greenwich. She never married, so stayed on at BP till she retired. I had to leave, once I was having Richard, never to return, sadly. But that was the way it was, in those days. My nephew from Australia rang. He is still working, but they are in lockdown, and so it goes on all around the world.

