



Newsletter

April 2020

A message from the Committee:

This week we have an interesting article from Nicola Renshaw explaining the superb teaching programme as well as a message from Carole Foulkes and an advert for the free teaching sessions offered by Mr Bridge.

A warning to members:

We have heard that while bottles of liquid soap and hand cleanser can still be made in the UK, the pump action part, which is sourced from another country is in short supply. Please do not throw away the pumps but keep them and refill your dispenser.

We are very grateful to Patrick Shields for enabling the Club to play on BBO and this coming week the games will be on Tuesday and Friday. Both sessions start at 13.00 hours. Details of how to join these sessions can be found on the website.

We would like to include items from you in the Newsletter.

Please send in your photos and articles to rokaye@hotmail.com

Best wishes,

The Committee

Can you name the members featured here?

Bonus points if you know the occasion too.

Guess Who?





Learning to play bridge at CBC

Most of us will remember a time when we learnt the rudiments of bridge, whether it be with parents around the kitchen table, with friends at school/university or in more formal lessons at a club or night school.

Many of you are aware that CBC offers a comprehensive programme for learners, from learning from scratch to playing at mainstream sessions at the club. It is always heartening and motivating for the teaching team to see 'our learners' becoming full members of the club, enjoying playing and doing well.

The club committee, about 8 years ago, had a great deal of foresight in setting up a teaching team - John Botting, Roger Hughes and Mark Rogers. They were our pioneers and we still use some of John's slides! The team was joined for a year by the late and much loved Jenny Clifford. In 2015, Kate Maxwell, a committee member and former teacher, was asked to lead the teaching team and gradually the team, consisting of Kate Maxwell and Nicola Renshaw (Year 1 teachers) and Lesley Harrison and Martin Renshaw (Year 2) and programme we now offer has evolved.

For our beginners, we offer two pathways - a two-year course with 48 2-hour lessons or learn to play, from scratch, over two intensive weekends. For the last 4 years we have typically hosted between 100-120 learners, each year.

The teaching team aims to teach the basics of bridge enabling our learners to eventually join mainstream sessions, in a relaxed and appropriately challenging environment. We want people to learn the basics, enjoy playing, feel confident and to socialise.

We teach –

Year 1 simple bidding sequences (this takes 75% of the time), leads, 2NT/2C and Stayman.

Year 2 revision, pre-emptive bids, slam bidding, unassuming cue bids, losing trick count, signals, transfers, doubles

Integral to the whole programme are playing techniques, whether you are declarer or defender, etiquette and scoring. Plenty of time is given to playing, practicing and revision. Learners experience Duplicate bridge and how to play bridge at home – Chicago scoring.

The weekend course is the Year 1 course in four intensive days.

A team of volunteers also play an important part in making our learners feel welcomed, encouraged and confident – Jane Allison, Richard Bestall, Steve Betteley, Carol Cowlshaw, Sally Pendry, Cathy Scott and Wendy Leich.



CHEL TENHAM BRIDGE CLUB



Once lessons finish, learners can come to a Consolidation Day, attend Deal and Play and Learners Duplicate - all of which help bridge the gap between lessons and club sessions. Russell Barter has done a wonderful job of supporting the teaching team. For several years he has run Deal and Play every Tuesday morning. Russell is much appreciated for his guidance and encouragement and respected by our learners.

The lessons are important, but it is also essential we offer progression. CBC is very fortunate to have the space and capacity to offer sessions that are more appropriate for Newcomers. Alan Richards and Steve Furtado direct and host Gentle Bridge. This session is very important for our learners and Alan and Steve's skills and advice are very much appreciated and valued.

The club offers so much for learners from lessons to sessions and it is great to see more of our Newcomers are joining in other activities like Cafe Bridge, the Newcomers event at the congress and some Newcomers came on our Bournemouth holiday.

Being mentally active and keeping up social links are very important at the moment. Many thanks to Jan Kinane, Cath Jack, Val Barbour and Beverley Graham-Jones, who have set up the Corona Bridgemates Club. Many of our ex-students/Year 2 students are playing BBO, with over 50 joining. We now have more than 30 members of our Year 1 BBO club online - playing, practising and socialising.

We hear of bridge clubs all over the UK struggling and closing. Many EBU editorials, including one recently written by Jeremy Dhondy, are strongly encouraging clubs to set up a teaching programme to bring in new members. Our learners, the majority of whom do join the club, become the established players who are the key to the future growth of the club.

Thanks to our pioneers, support from club committees over the years, Kate's careful guidance, the welcome and support offered by established players, CBC has developed a teaching programme which is helping the club to not just survive, but to thrive.

If you are interested in joining the team (teaching, helping in lessons, coaching) please contact Kate Maxwell.

Bernard Magee Live Broadcasts

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 11.00am

Click on the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQm7vGI3lul>



A message to CBC members from Carole Foulkes

It's an ill wind

Are you alone and self-isolating, feeling miserable, frustrated, worried, lonely etc. etc.? well now is the time to COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

All of us

Stay in bed til noon. Why not? No-one will know.

Don't get dressed – be comfy all day

Don't shower (well not every day)- save on soap and water.

Save yourselves the stress of driving, and thus save on petrol.

Do you want to ignore a nosey neighbour? Well, now's your chance. Cross the road when you see them coming (with the Government's approval!) No guilt whatsoever.

Have you noticed how quiet the streets are? Nobody yelling, no crying babies, no children screaming, no dogs barking, no noisy motorbikes, etc. Relax, enjoy the peace and quiet.

Worry ye not.

Ladies

Put your make-up away. Show the world your natural face- you can't scare the milkman. Save loads of money. The last time I bought a lipstick I paid£2.99. Now I have to use a card.

Get use to doing your own nails- that's a real money-saver.

Hair: Let your roots grow out. Save a bundle on hairdressers. Or, try cutting your own hair. Be risky. You've got 3 months to grow it back.

Men

Don't shower or shave. No-one to impress. And if Julia Roberts does drop by, you can't let her in anyway. Don't dress – wear a smoking jacket and pretend you are Noel Coward.

Have a beer for breakfast, with a whiskey chaser. Ooh, the decadence! And then have a whole tub of ice-cream for lunch. Nobody to say 'uh uh' – you are all alone. Nobody to see you throw up and say 'you b....y fool'. Complete privacy- enjoy!

So considering the savings in all this isolation, I have made a rough total for you which includes soap, water, petrol, barber, hairdresser, sundries amounting to £500 (well, you can't have Julia for less), and cosmetics. Total £1,000 for three months.

So, sit back and COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS