

February 2026

### Congratulations

You may have read in the latest English Bridge Magazine that our very own Andy Cope has been awarded the EBU Young Player of the Year for 2025. The list of his achievements in the bridge world is extensive and I won't go into details as you can read it all [here](#). What the article fails to say is that the year also saw him graduate from Nottingham University and find a job! Not only is Andy a great bridge player, but he is also a nice young man and has been a great help to us in the club over the last few years. Well done and thank you Andy, we wish you great success in your future career.

### Local News

Let's start with our last event first. For those of you who missed it – Our New Year Party, prize giving, carvery dinner and bridge session on 25<sup>th</sup> January was an enormous success – 40 attended the dinner with 12 tables for the bridge. Whilst waiting for the soup Maggs Pyner (*who organized and provided the prizes for the evening*) gave us a quiz to get each table involved and probably like my table everyone was able to provide at least one answer. After an extremely tasty dinner we made our way to the Bridge room for the Trophy winners to be announced. Unfortunately, only the winners of the Three Spires Trophy were present and for the second year running the shield went to **Larry Lau and Mei Tso**. We subsequently handed out the remaining Trophies the following Saturday morning – Godiva Trophy to **Ian Henson** and **Peter Phillipson** and the Summer Masters Cup to **Walter Green**. The lively atmosphere continued during the bridge session, with the balloon for winning a trick with a 2 being passed around the room and finally being won by **Ken Powell**. **Melody Lau** and **Edwin Mak** were the overall winners with second place going to **Allan** and **Beryl Dowdy** and the prize for nearest to 50% went to **Steve Jewell** and **Jean Wilson**. It would be great to see even more of our members at next year's event.

The Christmas Buffet on 22<sup>nd</sup> December was again a resounding success – we had 11½ tables –it was a truly jolly Christmassy atmosphere – members provided the splendid buffet lunch with Mike Sallis directing the bridge and his granddaughter Evie again providing the singing entertainment. Christmas jumpers were the order of the day. Following its success it has been decided that this will be an annual event. The date this year will be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December so please put it into your diary/calendar/phone now.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Three Spires** – Please note that on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> the meal will start at **18:00** and the bridge will start at **19:00** for these two dates only – this is to accommodate the players who are attending TD training in Solihull that day. If you wish to play please make sure your names are on the list and tick the box if you are eating.

The Pro/Am Cup – It has been agreed that we will hold this event bi-annually. The initial date is set for 14<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to take part, please contact **Ann Ridgway** who will be able to judge if you are eligible. This is an opportunity for novices to the game (the ams) to take part in a friendly competition, partnered by a more experienced player (a pro). It is a great opportunity to improve your game, and maybe even win your first trophy.

**CPL (Coventry Pairs League)** – is organized in conjunction with our county association, Warwickshire County Bridge Association. It runs in 2025/2026 on the fourth Thursday of each month, one five month and one four-month series: September to January and from February to May. In each series, each pair plays every other pair in the division twice. We currently have four divisions and pairs are relegated and promoted within the divisional structure – now if you are still awake – I would urge more of our players to join. If you want to get a taster as to what it is like put your name down as a substitute because if for some reason a player cannot play a substitute has to be provided. If you are interested in entering or being a substitute, please contact **Mary Wood** ([marywood22@icloud.com](mailto:marywood22@icloud.com))

**Easter Afternoon Tea – Sue O’Gorman** has agreed to organize this and the suggested date is April 24<sup>th</sup>. We will confirm the date and other details in the next Newsletter – for now make a provisional note in your diary/calendar/phone

**Café Bridge** – Yes, it is happening again in June – once we have firmed up the plans we will let you know.

**Swiss Pairs**– this was so successful last year that we are running it again on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – again more information will follow nearer the date.

**EBU Masterpoint Promotions** - Congratulations to the following club members who have gained Masterpoint promotion in December

**Nick Stevens 3 Star Grand Master** (*now that is something for us all to strive for*)

**Margaret Upson** County Master

**Phil Pink** Master

**Stuart Beamish** Area Master

**Barbara Evans** Area Master

**Giulio Martinat** Area Master

**Martin Wilkinson** Local Master

*Well done Martin on your first promotion*

**2026 Host Rota – Monday Afternoon Session** – With only a small pool of players it has been decided that this session will not be hosted with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Players should arrange a partnership before coming to the club, either by using ‘find a partner’ on the website, or using the ‘Coventry Bridge’ WhatsApp group. If you do not belong to the WhatsApp group and would like to join please contact Mary Wood (07921773636)

**Saturday Mornings** – First of all thank you to all 8 members who put their names down for January and February. I now need to ask another 8 of you to step forward and complete a Saturday in March and April.

**Wednesday Evening On-Line Bridge** – Although the last couple of weeks we have increased to 5 tables we really would like to see more members taking part. If you have not played before it is almost like being at the club as you can see and chat to your partner and opponents via the magic of RealBridge. If you would like further information please contact [Ann](#) who would be happy to answer any questions.

### **Teaching & Recruitment**

Lessons continue with Ann and the team as follows:-

Book 1 - Friday mornings, 10.30 – 12.30

Book 2 - Monday Evenings 6.45pm – 8.45pm

### **Important message from your Chairperson Ann Ridgway regarding Bridge Etiquette**

I would like to think we are a friendly club who welcome visitors and encourage newcomers to the game of bridge, and most of our sessions run smoothly with no ruffled feathers. However just occasionally we all need to be reminded of the EBU guidelines as set out below:

#### Best Behaviour at Bridge

This guide serves as a brief reminder of how to behave at the bridge table. We are sure that all players naturally follow this code of conduct but there are times when concentration and pressure can take their toll and it is for these situations that we issue this as a reminder.

- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
- Be a good “host” or “guest” at the table.
- Make your convention card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely.
- Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.
- Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.
- Take care of your personal grooming.
- Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- Enjoy the company as well as the game.

Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results or object to a call for the tournament director or to dispute or argue about a director’s ruling, or generally to make any personal and disparaging remark.

Please call the Director if you think you may have been affected by bad behaviour. You will be helping others as well as yourselves.
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