

Host System

Purpose

To provide players with the opportunity to arrive without a partner and still have a game. Whilst no limit is placed on how often players require a host, it is preferred that players find regular partners rather than make regular use of the host system.

Hosted Sessions

A host will only be available for the following sessions:

- Monday afternoons
- Saturday mornings

Additional teaching and “assisted play” sessions (e.g. Tuesday morning) will also have hosts (usually the teacher).

Role of the Host

Hosts are not required to be experts, nor are they expected to know advanced systems or conventions. The host is not required to play anything other than a simple system – Standard English Acol. The player arriving without a partner must accept this, unless they both agree on different conventions.

The host should not leave until play commences, and the TD confirms that he or she is not required. The host does not pay for a session in which they are acting as a host. If the host turns up, but is not needed for that session, they are able to claim a free session the next time they play (you must notify the treasurer).

Neither the host nor the partner of the host should either coach or criticise each other. The Host is there to accommodate a friendly, gentle, non-judgemental, game of bridge to members or visitors who would otherwise not have a game.

Multiple Players Arriving to use the Host System

If the number of people who turn up requiring a host is:

- Zero - the host leaves.
- One - the host plays with that person.
- Two, Four, etc - the players partner each other (the TD decides how they will be paired), and the host leaves.
- Three, Five, etc - the host plays with one; the others are paired as decided by the TD.

NB It is important that the host is not simply paired off with the first person to arrive without a partner, as there may be other players arriving who require a partner, which will then make the situation difficult to manage.

The host must remain 'available' until moments before play commences. This does not mean, however, that a tentative pairing cannot be made, but on the explicit understanding that if anyone else arrives requiring a partner then the host must withdraw.

Host Rota

For some sessions, currently Monday afternoons, the TD will also act as a Host.

For other sessions:

Every few months (typically four), the Host Coordinator will post a blank Host Rota on the notice board. Members are then requested to volunteer to be host. Regular attendees at Hosted Sessions, especially those who live locally, are expected to volunteer as a way of making a contribution to the successful running of the club. If, for example, your regular partner is known to be missing a session, then that is a good opportunity to volunteer.

Each month the host rota will be copied to the Club Website. The rota displayed on the notice board will be considered Master until copied across to the Website in which case the website becomes Master.

Changes to the Host Rota

It is the responsibility of hosts to find substitutes if they are subsequently unable to host (perhaps by arranging to swap a session with another host). If the rota has not yet been copied across to the website then simply amend the paper list. If it has been copied across then notify the Host Coordinator (who will ask our Webmaster to update the website).

The Host Coordinator will indicate on the paper list which dates & hosts are finalised (i.e. published on the website).

Please remember that it is your responsibility, as host, to ensure that you attend, or arrange a substitute. It is not the responsibility of the Host Coordinator to find replacements.

If at the last minute (force majeure) you find you are unable to attend the Club, please notify the Club via the WhatsApp group (or ask a friend with access to it to do so for you). Anyone attending the session seeing such a notification is requested to gently inform the TD.

Host Coordinator

The Host Coordinator is: Phil Pink - philpink51@icloud.com

Finally, thank you to all members who provide host services to the Club.

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