

May 2024

News

We are pleased to welcome several new members to the club this month: Chris Stanley, George Godwin, Martin Wilkinson, Tony Addis and Pramila Aggarwal. This brings the membership to 145.

Afternoon Tea was a resounding success. What a spread it was, as good (if not better) than any London hotel, plus we enjoyed an array of homemade cakes baked by our members with extra to take home. A big thank you goes to Sue O’Gorman for organising it and the before mentioned members who made the cakes. Not only was it a great success but it brought in a healthy profit of £362 for the club.

We are hoping to persuade Sue to organise another later in the year, so watch this space. We will try and give you plenty of notice so you can make sure you get it marked on your Calendar.

Our 3 Spires competition ended on 21st April. Congratulations to Larry and Mei who claimed the trophy this season. This is a competition that is run through the winter and takes place once a month on a Sunday. There is an option to have a two course home made meal before playing. Look out for the start date later this year, new players are always welcome. In the meantime we would like to take this opportunity to thank Debbie Page our Master Chef plus all the contributors for the desserts.

Upcoming events

Café Bridge 11th June – we still have a few places available – see the list on the noticeboard – Everyone who attends each year really enjoys it so don’t miss out and add your name.

Graham Cope’s **Intermediate Lessons**. I attended the lesson on Red Suit Transfers on 15th April and realised how much I didn’t know. I strongly recommend coming to the next two which are: -

20th May - Lebensohl
17th June - Playing suit contracts

There is a list on the Noticeboard for you to add your name if you would like to attend.

The EBU are promoting bridge in their ‘Bridge – It’s a Big Deal’ events later this year, in aid of Cancer Research. To support this we are holding an Open Day on the Friday 6th September – we are hoping to attract new members to the club. Visitors will be able to play mini bridge – and enjoy free coffee and cakes in return for a small donation to the charity. Keep this date in your diaries as we will be requesting your help on the day. More importantly we are asking all members to promote this amongst your friendship groups

Other Bridge information

TD COMMENTS – ALERTING AND ANNOUNCING

When to alert and when to announce? Announcements only apply on the first round of bidding. It is a player's duty to be transparent with all bids.

The basic rule on when to alert is if the bid is:

- A. Conventional
- B. Different from the expected norm in its shape/HCP etc. or
- C. It's forcing / non-forcing nature is not as expected (e.g. 1NT – if it is forcing over 1 of a suit.)

New rules came into force on 1st September last year. The basic changes are:

1. Do NOT alert a 2NT opener. Only alert if it shows a specific feature or 5/5 in the minors as some do play.
2. Alert 2S bid by responder if it shows the minors or range enquiry. If the partnership plays full transfers over 1NT ie: 2S – clubs or 2NT – diamonds; then these must be announced as are the red suit transfer bids.
3. If a 1NT bid over a suit bid is forcing it must be alerted as the expected norm is that it is non-forcing.
4. A 2 level bid response over a one level suit bid by opener is expected to be forcing for one round. If it is not then it must be alerted. Also, if the 2 level bid is forcing to game and not just one round.
5. All bids that are not natural (conventional) must be alerted.

All bids above 3NT are not alertable except artificial bids above 3NT and ONLY on the first round of bidding.

More details can be obtained on the EBU website. There is an up-dated table on alerting / announcing displayed on the noticeboard at the club.

What do you do if you are not sure about alerting?

Blue Book 4A1 states that if a player is uncertain whether the regulations require an alert, but believes it will help the opponents then they should alert.

Players do come unstuck with conventional bids where partner has not alerted and they expect the bid to be natural. Be careful about using the Unauthorised Information from your partner's failure to alert. This scenario will be dealt with in future newsletters.

Editor Patsy Watson