

Hi Duplicate Lite Enthusiasts,

The main purpose of this update is to clarify the plans regarding location for the Duplicate Lite club and the Surrey Duplicate Bridge Club over the next number of months extending well into the new year.

As you are aware, since September, 2017 our Club games have been based at East Delta Hall due to the closure of Elgin Hall for major renovations. Just recently, the City of Surrey informed us that the renovation work at Elgin Hall had been delayed yet again and that the project would go ahead at a later date. As a result of these changed circumstances, it was further indicated that Elgin Hall would be available to our Clubs on a short term rental basis until the renovation project begins.

After a careful review, both the Duplicate Lite Club (Thursday) and the Surrey Duplicate Bridge Club (Wednesday) have decided to continue at East Delta Hall until the Elgin Hall project is complete. The reasons are as follows:

1. East Delta Hall is able to accommodate us for a longer period of time. We definitely do not want to jeopardize our arrangement with East Delta Hall by moving out for a relatively "short time" and then expecting to return again when the renovation work at Elgin Hall gets underway.

There are no guarantees that East Delta Hall would be available to our Clubs once we left. What would we do if East Delta Hall was not available during the time of Elgin's renovation? There is a scarcity in our area of suitable sites which can accommodate us and searching and securing another facility is an onerous and challenging task.

2. Moving the Clubs back and forth to different sites is a major undertaking. The reality of transferring all of our supplies and equipment several additional times when Elgin is renovated is overwhelming. The Peace Arch Duplicate Club moved very little of their equipment to East Delta Hall as we had an agreement that they would use our equipment at an agreed upon rental charge.
3. We have made a good transition to East Delta Hall and our numbers are increasing. The thought of up to 28+ tables of players sharing the wash room facilities at Elgin is not comfortable for our female players. Elgin Hall cannot accommodate comfortably more than 28 tables.

When and if we move back to Elgin Hall, we will be seeking more scheduled time slots to accommodate our expected growth in members. It is anticipated that Elgin Hall will be much improved with an added wash room for the ladies and we are hoping that the City of Surrey will be able to accommodate our desire and need for additional time periods during each week.

There are many factors to consider in finding the best future home for our two Clubs. We have added some new players from the Delta and Vancouver areas. We will also need support from members to help persuade the City of Surrey that our Bridge Clubs warrant increased time allocations at Elgin.

For now, we will remain at East Delta Hall and sincere thanks to all of you for making the extra travel time to enjoy your games on Wednesdayafternoon and/or Thursday morning.

Cheers

John Demeulemeester, Ed L'Heureux, Jane Youngberg