

To all Farnham Bridge Club members

Whilst play in our local bridge clubs is suspended, many of us who are missing the enjoyment of duplicate bridge may like to play on-line. We are indebted to Tony Philpott, Gabriel Hearst and Douglas Wright for providing guides and advice to help members who wish to play online. It would also be great if we could play with and against other members of the Farnham Bridge club.

*Bridge Club Live (BCL)* is an online club, is UK based, has strong standards of behaviour and ethics and many members play Benji/Acol. Several members of our club already play on [www.bridgeclublive.com](http://www.bridgeclublive.com) which is offering a 30-day Trial for the princely sum of £1 plus Vat (normally £10) after which it costs £5.99 plus VAT a month. Please read the information below and look at the website. If you already play on BCL, or decide to join the 30 day trial, please let Gabriel Hearst and Mike O'Donnell know. If sufficient interest, we could set up a virtual club and agree a regular weekly event time – Monday afternoon has been suggested.

***If you are already a member of Bridge Club Live, or decide to join, please let Gabriel Hearst and Mike O'Donnell know and tell them the "Alias" that you will be using. Gabriel and Mike will then produce and update list of Farnham Bridge club members on BCL, to assist you in finding a partner you know.***

Gabriel Hearst has very kindly offered to help club members who wish to join and try Bridge Club Live. Have a go at registering by going to [www.bridgeclublive.com/](http://www.bridgeclublive.com/), and using the attached excellent guide (produced by Douglas Wright), then explore the facilities. Once you have registered, this link provides useful help information - <https://bridgeclublive.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/360000034264-NeXtGen>

Contact Gabriel if you need help (or just wish to know more about online bridge) at [hearstg@gmail.com](mailto:hearstg@gmail.com) or phone 01730 267487 or 07817 433698. Gabriel's online alias is Xerxes.

If you do decide to join, a few suggestions as to how to fill in your profile in order to make it easier for people to decide whether to invite you to play:-

- Select the basic system(s) you like to play. You may not be familiar with SAYC / Simple SAYC – it is basically like Acol but with a strong no trump, 5 card majors and three weak 2's
- Add any other conventions you like to play

- It can be helpful to put in a location (eg. Farnham, Surrey, England) – some people like to have an idea of where you are from
- Try to give a realistic estimate of your standard. BCL has 4 categories and roughly 60% of the membership is in the 2 lowest categories, Clubs and Diamonds. If you know your NGS ranking the corresponding BCL categories are:-
  - Spade - over 55% (NGS J or higher)
  - Heart - 51% – 55% (NGS 9 or 10)
  - Diamond – 46% - 51% (NGS 7, 8 or 9)
  - Club – less than 46% (up to NGS 6)

### *BCL facilities.*

For those used to playing duplicate Match Pointed pairs there is a Daily Match Pointed Pairs Room where one can play up to 96 boards every day with auto-movement every 4 boards. Affectionately known as DIDO, short for Drop In-Drop Out, you only commit to play 4 boards at a time but can return whenever you like. You can arrange to play with your normal Face to Face partner if you are both members. There are no robots and the site is well policed so quitting and abuse are not tolerated. One can also play Teams in the Teams of Four Room arranging to play in a team against another team for an 8-board match.

EBU members can also earn Master Points in the DIDO Room. Alternatively, you can just arrange to play as a group of four just sitting with your friends.

Benji Acol, Standard American and Basic Acol are the most common systems played, but anything at EBU Level 4 is allowed. To play in the competitive rooms you and your partner must complete a 5-line *Simple Systems Disclosure* card (a mini convention card) with your partner before you play. Hand records are available after you have played and you can even see how everyone else bid and played each hand.

Each day for the DIDO room a ladder is produced showing you scores from the day before. Note, however, that in the Match Pointed Pairs Room you will have played against people from all over the world.

### *Virtual Farnham Bridge club*

*We hope to start playing regularly on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon, starting 2:30pm on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Join us to assemble online in the MPS room, with or without a pre-arranged partner and will try to get some good bridge going. We'd play against pairs world-wide, but the next day would see a ladder showing how we did compared with just Farnham pairs, as well as the world-wide ladder.*

The EBU is also starting online bridge using the American website BBO [www.bridgebaseonline.com](http://www.bridgebaseonline.com) where joining is free but one plays a \$1 fee for each tournament you play.

Other sites that have a number of free facilities include Funbridge at [www.funbridge.com](http://www.funbridge.com) and No Fear Bridge at <https://www.nofearbridge.co.uk/> . Both have a range of learning and practise facilities that you can use on your own , without a partner.