

Dear members

It has been a very busy last few weeks and I'm not sure if this is a late September or early October blog.

My tutorial video that I promised has taken up some time and I'm not sure if I should circulate it. I didn't intend it to be a polished professional video when I was looking at other videos on YouTube, I just looked at tutorial gaps that needed to be filled. I can tell you that these videos aren't as easy as they are made to look and I have a new found admiration for the teachers who do these videos, it's not my *forte* that's for sure, if it helps someone with a bridge topic then that is what's important.

Speaking of tutorials, lessons restart at the club from this Monday the 30th September for beginners and Thursday 3rd October for 2nd year students, both start at 10am, tell all your friends and neighbours what a brilliant game it is, especially now the dark nights are coming. Some of the first-year students that started last year have been playing in the Thursday afternoon stepping stones session and more advanced lessons are being planned so don't worry if you find returning for the second-year classes are a bit "beneath you", there will be a suitable place to improve for you soon.

As we move up the tutorials rank, we get to the very top on Friday when Andrew Robson comes to talk to us at Oakdale. As a bridge club with every type of member we try to help everyone with their needs as a bridge player, even advanced bridge players like a chance to find a way to keep their brain stimulated. There are more intermediate/ advanced type lectures in the pipeline. **There are some standby places available for the Andrew Robson event on 27<sup>th</sup> September, so if you are now available or didn't get on the original list in time, please contact Justine Davies if you would like to come to the seminar!**

Other important events for your diary that are happening at the club soon include:

1. The second round of the teams of 4 evening league on Monday 30th September, don't worry if you didn't enter a team in round one.
2. After the success of the previous Swiss Pairs, we are putting on another one for Friday 1st November in the afternoon
3. We will be running 2 Children in need events this year, the afternoon of Monday 11th November and the evening session on Wednesday 13th November, all proceeds go to the charity.
4. The Christmas party will be held at Oakdale GC again this year on Friday the 13th December.

During the "Bridge - it's a big deal" week we hosted a successful session for the National Handicapped Pairs which out of 238 pairs entered was won by a pair from Harrogate BC! Well done to Catherine Thompson and Lesley Bridson with a handicap adjusted score of 64.03%

If you are looking for a partner for certain sessions, Pianola's partner finder is a great way to send an advert. You can even select to send out a message to just the people you play with or send out a general message and see who wants a game!

The car park at the end of the street behind Arlo and Jacob has been closed in the evenings for several months now, it looks to be due to local residents parking there. For those looking for parking spaces for evening sessions the nearest parking apart from on Robert Street is along West Park which is free from 6pm. If you do park on Robert Street, even with a blue badge please leave space for emergency service vehicles.

We have put a few hand sanitisers back into the club on the window by the TV screen (as near to the door as we could get them), these aren't to cause alarm that Covid is back but just to give us all confidence in cleanliness with the return of cold and flu season and it would appear to remove chocolate from your fingers! The air purifiers also help keep the germs at bay so make sure they are turned on.

Finally, I find with all the numbers that you need remember as declarer that counting the cards you are missing is the easiest. If you have 8 trumps between your own hand and dummy it's easier to count the 5 missing trumps than try to count the 13 as they go, you are less likely to miss any if say one defender is out after 1 round of trumps or you have to delay drawing trumps until you have ruffed in the shorthand!

Best regards  
Rob