

Dear members.

Now the redecorating project is almost complete, the new table cloths will be with us shortly and we have a surplus of 6 of the old-style bridge tables if anybody would like to take one to use at home, or set one up on the Stray and get the cards out! They aren't in the best condition but would be good if they had a cloth on, we have some spare of those too, I will leave them out with the tables. They are in the upstairs kitchen, please help yourself. Also, the original pictures from the playing room have been donated to the members with the permission of the original artist Roger Litton. A sheet will be put up in the bar for you to show your interest in each picture. If more than 1 person is interested in 1 picture, lots will be drawn. Click on the link below to view the pictures and make a request.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-QbZ1BR04meX3ambR5PpuNIUo4ydK1JpMpBPSryXyFreKIA/viewform>

The Swiss Pairs has been rearranged for the afternoon of Friday 6th of December. A new electronic sign-up sheet will be sent out soon.

After consultation with the second year students, most of whom are playing in the continually growing stepping stones group on Thursday afternoons and staying with tradition, we are going to put on more autumn seminars this year to continue with the education of the members. These sessions will be kicked off by a seminar on "counting" by eminent bridge player Nick Woolven on Wednesday 13th of November at 10:30. Nick's seminar will be aimed predominantly at improving club players but is open to all. The cost will be £5 and include the usual tea and biscuits, a sign-up sheet will be available soon. After this, there will be more seminars on the following Wednesdays on "more doubles" and "forcing bids", all subjects I get many enquiries about, these will be aimed at 2nd/ 3rd year improvers but again most people will learn something. More emphasis will be put on the play of the cards rather than trying to learn and understand any more conventions.

The mixed pairs event is coming up on Friday 15th November starting at 1:15 so grab a member of the opposite sex (metaphorically speaking) and come along to play. (No signing up needed). As well as playing for the Paton trophy there is also a separate prize for the best pair after each handicap has been applied. Well done to the individuals flying high in the new improver competition, Lynda Partridge is on top form at the halfway stage.

Christmas party planning is in full swing, it will again be held at Oakdale GC, the cost will be kept the same as last year at £25, it will be on Friday 13th December in the afternoon. Keep a look out for the menu and sign up quickly to avoid the disappointment of missing Dave's new joke.

I would like to finish by thanking the bridge club committee for all their continued hard work. The committee tends to hear the complaints from the members, be it about the many facets of the redecoration, the eternal too hot/ too cold debate, behaviour issues or the mysterious disappearance of the dried flowers from the ladies' toilet! These complaints are a tiny minority of comments that are received but tend to take up most of the time in committee meetings. Also, thank you to the vast majority of the members who tell me, it tends to be me but other committee members do receive feedback whose comments of thanks and gratitude make the job worthwhile.

Don't forget the rule of 7 when deciding how long to hold up an ace in a no trump contract. Add the number of cards you hold in both declarer and dummy hands and take that from 7, this tells you how many rounds to "hold up". It's only a rough guide.

Enjoy your bridge
Rob