

Dear Members,

There is loads of exciting stuff happening at the bridge club at the moment. We have another special event on Friday the 13th of March. The Illingworth Rose Bowl is a one-off mixed pivot teams event, you enter as a team of 4 and play some of the boards with each of your 3 other team mates. The trick is to stick with a simple system that you're all familiar with..... So get yourselves 3 friends (including one member of the opposite sex) and come along for a fun afternoon. To kick off the new 2026/27 competition season we are starting the Evening League teams competition on Wednesday the 1st of April to give players who don't usually play teams bridge a chance to get some experience. So don't forget to get yourselves a team of 4 together for this event.

The mixed pairs competition (the Paton trophy) was won by Sue Bevington and Tim Emmott with the handicapped competition being won by Margaret Brien and myself.

Well done to all the players who have qualified for the national pairs regional finals, you automatically qualify if you get a 55% or higher score at the club during the qualifying 2 weeks from the 1st of February. I hope to see as many of you play as possible and maybe get a Harrogate pair to the national finals! Those who qualified will have received their own email about this event.

Well done to those who entered the Spring Congress at Cedar court hotel earlier in February. A special mention to Sue Boden and Lyn Aldous for coming 3rd in the 9 high and Julie Robinson and Gillian Oliver who gained their first blue points!

The Northern Easter festival is at the Crown plaza in Harrogate on the 4th and 5th of April and includes the usual 9 high event on Saturday as well as the pairs and teams events. <https://www.ycba.co.uk/events/ebu-northern-easter-festival-3/>

ADVANCED SEMINAR ALERT. the YCBA have arranged for Michael Byrne the England international to do a seminar on Saturday the 14th of March at York BC. He will concentrate on weak 2s, including via the multi 2d and also the 2c opening. <https://www.ycba.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Advanced-Bridge-Seminars-flyer-seminar-7.pdf>

Looking further into the future: the YCBA have organised another cafe bridge event, this time in Easingwold on Wednesday 20th of May, see the link for more information. <https://www.ycba.co.uk/cafe-bridge-in-easingwold/>

I hope all the swallows have enjoyed their trips to warmer climates. I'm not jealous at all.

We should all do our best to bid in "tempo", not always easy but at least think about your bid before you go to your bidding box! If you fiddle with it and half pull something out and then have a change of heart and pass you are clearly giving your partner some information, either to bid on or what to lead if you end up defending. This is unauthorised information (UI) that partner must not act upon.

See you soon.

Rob