



Hexham Bridge Club

December 2025 Newsletter

Interclub Teams of 8 Competition

In the first match of the season, our team secured a well-earned 10-10 draw vs. Morpeth (a team who were in the top division last year). We were significantly behind after half-time, but an excellent 3rd set pulled us back to take a small lead. Morpeth closed that gap in the final 8 boards. And a draw felt like a fair result.

On 16 November the results were Wearside A 19 – Hexham 1 (leaving Hexham in 5th place of Division B)

At the weekend, the team had another good result, beating Castle Morpeth A by 14-6 on Sunday.

Bryce Watson Trophy – Postponed until 4th December

This was the first time that this trophy was a handicapped event, with the pairs with the highest and lowest teamed up, etc, giving us all an equal chance of winning. However this is bridge, so there is always room for variation, lapses in concentration (or is that just me), etc. Unfortunately due to the weather we had to take a last minute decision to postpone this event., but thankfully it went more or less to plan on the amended night, when the winning team were Bob and Jen Horton playing with Rowan Duggan and Viv Kirchin.

2026 Club Calendar

At the last Committee Meeting we finalised the calendar for 2026 which has been added to the club website, so that you can keep an eye on what is going on and when. It is also be posted on the noticeboard.



10th December – Festive Night

We had a record (since 2020) 12 full tables playing which was great to see. Everyone seemed to have a fun evening and to enjoy themselves.

Various prize categories were awarded, but the winning score N/S was Peter Davies and Alec Ramsay and E/W was Ann Rooke and Tom Tomaszczuk.



Save the Date - HBC 51st AGM

Our 51st AGM will be held on Thursday 5 March 2026. As usual we will be sending out further information nearer to the date.

NEBA Summer Pairs – Sunday 14th June

Once again HBC will be hosting the NEBA Summer Pairs event at Hexham Community Centre, so we hope to see plenty of Hexham players there for an afternoon of bridge. This year our club was represented by 9 pairs and with Ann Rooke and Peter Davies coming third.



Summer Social Night – Thursday 25th June

We are planning another fun night next summer so this might be another date to pencil into your diaries. Further details to be circulated nearer the time.



Respiratory Infections

Particularly in view of the current rate of infections, but also in consideration of any “vulnerable” members, can people think carefully about coming to bridge if they have an infection please?



That said, I hope that everyone is healthy and currently infection free.

Bridgemates III

In the New Year, the Club will be upgrading our scoring equipment to Bridgemate III. The new gadget's features include a 7" full-colour touchscreen with a sharp 600 x 1024 resolution. The display is bright and clear, even in challenging lighting conditions. Colours are vivid, text is sharp, and every detail stands out.



Hopefully this will improve efficiency and clarity, with intuitive tools that support smooth and stress-free sessions at the bridge table for players and directors.

Resolution Proposed at the 50th AGM

Those who attended the 50th AGM earlier this year, will remember that a proposal was put forward to amend the Club Constitution. Subsequently the original resolution was withdrawn

and an alternative resolution proposed by Alan McKendrick and seconded by Andy Prior, However as it had not been received in time for consideration prior to the meeting, the members voted for the Committee to consider any amendment to the Club Constitution necessary based on the suggested resolution.

The Committee have discussed this at length over a number of meetings and decided not to make changes to the current club constitution.

Scottish £5 and £10 notes

Unfortunately, now that the local Lloyds bank has closed, we have to bank via the Corbridge Post Office. They do not accept Scottish paper money, and we therefore are no longer able to accept them as payment for table money. Please ensure you have English notes for club nights.



Bridge Etiquette & Alerts/Announcements

If anyone is unsure about bridge etiquette and Alerts and Announcements at the Bridge Table, you may like to check out a couple of EBU documents available on our website: one on general etiquette and another covering alerts and announcements. They are in the "Useful Links" section on the left-hand side menu. While we take a more relaxed approach to this, if you play at other clubs, they may be less flexible and some take the consequences seriously,



- Please ensure when making comments at the table, you do not say anything about a hand during the auction/play apart from any specific questions eg the meaning of a bid. Any such questions should only be posed when it is your turn to "call".
- Players should not take too long in making a bidding decision, should not touch the contract cards then pass, or other indications that they may or may not make a bid. (This may give your partner additional unauthorised information to your partner/or the opposition)
- Dummy should only play a card once the declarer has asked for it.
- Dummy should not hover over or touch the cards they think should be played next.
- Be careful not to give unauthorised information to your partner - either by commenting during play or waving their hands at dummy etc.

We have recently received one or two comments from members about behaviour at the bridge table including the need to be courteous to your partner, opponents and the director. I am sure any slight was unintentional!

In order to reduce delays in moving to a new table, and to improve fairness of the night's play by completing play of all the boards, it would help the directors if players could leave discussing the hand/bidding until all boards have been completed.

If you have any issues, please call the director. Ideally this should be done at the time but if you are unsure or uncomfortable about calling the director, please have a quiet word with them during the evening or contact the Chair/Secretary by e-mail. Calling the director if anything goes wrong isn't to "punish wrongdoers" just to ensure that the situation is resolved as fairly as possible - both to the table involved and everyone in the room (or the country in the case of a sims competition!).

In addition, we are expecting updated guidance on weak jump overcalls once the new Director's blue book has been published. In the interim,

In the newsletter on the club website, I will attempt (or rather ask Peter Davies if he can do it) to include a link to the documents.

Very best wishes from the Committee
to all our members for a
Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

