



Malahide Regional Bridge Club

PO Box 1990, Broomfield, Malahide, Co Dublin. K36 K728

MRBC JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WE WISH EVERYONE GOOD HEALTH AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL AND OUR RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS. Please watch website for details of the Annual Club Remembrance Service which we hope to hold shortly.

RETURN TO LIVE PLAY

The first questions on nearly everyone's lips when meeting a Council member is – 'When is live play coming back?'

First up, Council would like to gratefully acknowledge with heartfelt thanks the huge contribution of Graham Cure as Covid Advisor during the current hiatus.

The previous work done to make provision for live play under restrictions means that the club is well placed to reintroduce live bridge once the full details of the recent reduction in restrictions are understood. We anticipate, based on experience from our two previous attempts, that take up may be slow. For sessions to be effective ideally a minimum of 4.5 tables is required. This presents challenges for scheduling multiple grades on the same night, so it may not be possible to accommodate everyone's preferences in the first instance. Once live play is resumed, virtual play will continue for an interim period although a rescheduling of events is likely.

One permanent change that is being introduced for live play is cashless payment of table money.

Additional captains are urgently required to service both virtual and live play.

Members can expect an announcement regarding reintroduction of live play fairly shortly.

MEMBERS OPEN SUCCESSES.



The absence of live play has not stopped many MRBC players achieving success both at home and in open competitions. Special mentions go to DNR Intermediate Team winners Sheena Duffy, Evelyn Doyle, Kitty and Michael Kelly; DNR Master Team winners Mary Deane, Alan Roughneen Rosemary O'Brien and Paul McDermott; McLoughlin Cup (B Pairs) winners John Joyce and Patricia Kinsella; Revington Cup (CBAI National Pairs) winners Dave Terry and Tom Gilligan; Cork Congress Intermediate A Pairs winners Peter Wilson and Dorothy Arthurs. Michael O'Mahoney and partner won the Congress Pairs in Kilkenny while Michelle Hickey and Paula Oliver were winners of the Intermediate B/Novice Pairs in both Waterford and Tralee. Numerous other pairs also qualified for national championships so watch out for further updates. Very impressive all round!

NEED ANOTHER OR NEW PARTNER?



If you are looking for a partner contact

Tom Gilligan, Tournaments Officer

(tournaments@mrbc.ie / 087 272

7610), who will do his best to help.

AGM

The AGM will be held on 26th May. Formal notice and resolution/nominations submission deadlines will follow closer to the time, as will confirmation on whether the meeting will be virtual or in person.

A combination of mandatory and personal considerations mean that there will be a significant turnover of Council membership at the next AGM with the following positions up for replacement: Treasurer, Technology Officer, Social Affairs.



Council earnestly requests all members to give urgent consideration to volunteering to help develop the club by running for council.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Membership levels have held up very well. We currently have 521 members, comprising 83 Masters, 186 As, 237 Bs and 15 Novices. A recent survey of those on the waiting lists indicates that there is healthy demand to join the club, although at this stage Council are holding membership at current levels.

Just over 2/3rds of our membership have joined our online database, with ~50% of these active on a weekly basis.

PREMISES

Having our own premises under normal circumstances is normally a tremendous asset and a fitting legacy to our foundation members who had the foresight and dedication to put this in place. Council has ensured that the premises are maintained, heated and inspected on a regular basis.

HELPERS

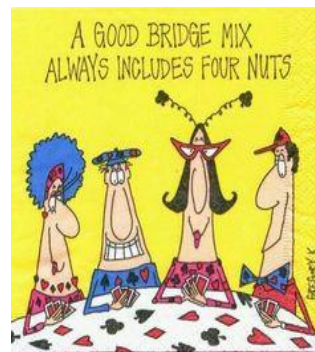
THE CLUB NEEDS HELP and Council is extremely anxious to extend the list of volunteers in all aspects of the club's activities – tournament direction, social, facilities



Tournament Direction



Facilities



Social Affairs

While volunteering may seem daunting at first glance, there is tremendous goodwill from both Council and members to help people find their feet and efforts are extremely rewarding both in terms of making a contribution to your club and in extending one's social network.

Nominations Committee Members, JOE CAULFIELD (086 852 1784) and LIZ MAGUIRE (087 650 4757) ARE AWAITING YOUR CALL.

TECHNOLOGY

One of the consequences of Covid has been the gradual move towards a cashless society. The Council is currently engaged with an external partner with a view to implementing a Smart card system for the club. Our hope is that ultimately members will be issued with a smart card, which can be used to enter the building, pay your annual subscription, pay your table money, pay for purchases at the bar, etc. etc. Top ups to your account will be via debit/credit card and day-to-day prize winners will receive a credit to their account, rather than a paper voucher. (Larger prizes may still be awarded via some form of voucher.) The system will also streamline and facilitate easier management of club administration.

FINANCES

On behalf of its members, the Club made a Christmas donation of €500 to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

CBAI wrote to us in November warning of a likely increase in their share of BBO table money, to address a shortfall in their funding. MRBC resisted an increase but did engage with CBAI with a view to finding a more equitable funding model. In the end CBAI and BBO agreed a rebalancing of fees resulting in a minor increase in CBAI 'take' of table money which Council has decided to absorb.

The normal \$3 BBO table money is split as follows: 40% to BBO, c.5% to CBAI, leaving the club with approx. €1.40, out of which professional tournament fees (Eamon Galligan), if due, are deducted.