

October 2025

Newsletter



SPECIAL 25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Yes, the club really is celebrating its 25th Anniversary and the first thing I should like to do is to thank all members – past and present – for their support. Without you, the members, the club is nothing so you really are appreciated!!

BRIEF HISTORY OF PDBC

In April 2000, Alan Boyes suggested to three rubber bridge friends that it might be fun to try out something called Duplicate Bridge; a more competitive game that was played at a club. After probably too much liquid refreshment it was decided they would try and set up such a club in Pershore – even though none of them had ever played duplicate! A small steering group was established chaired and led by Alan. Also present were Liz Boyes; Michael Farey; John Rosier; Neil Richardson; Michael and Jean Hill. Start up costs of £600 were covered by unsecured loans from the Steering Group and a few founder members in the sum of £50 each. These loans were repayable by free membership of £10 per annum but actually were repaid by the club within 3 years. Equipment was bought, premises – the Working Mens Club – booked, table tops made from MDF (Michael Hill again!); cloths from Liz Boyes and so on. The Club launched under Alan's chairmanship on the 11 October 2000 with 59 paid up members. Directing and scoring was done by Michael Hill whilst Alan



and Liz 'got up to speed' with it! The club soon gained a reputation for friendly but competitive games and although a small rural club, it managed an average of seven tables once a week playing on a Wednesday evening. In August 2002 the Club moved to its current location of Lower Moor Village Hall. *pictured*

The Club has pioneered a number of innovations that have led to national recognition and adoption. In 2002 the Club had its own bespoke web site, a first locally and pretty rare nationally at this time, and it was several years later *Bridgewebs* became the adopted standard. In 2005 we were among the first clubs in

the country to Beta-submission of EBU. In 2007, after the Chairman a Lottery grant of pounds for the automated dealing appropriate software, This was the first time a obtained a lottery attempts by others had was not considered a and Pershore's publicity in the Bridge to other clubs nationally March 2015 saw the



Test electronic masterpoints to the over a year of trying, succeeded in obtaining several thousand purchase of an machine, and plus further equipment. bridge club had ever award (previous been refused as Bridge sport by the Lottery) success received great press, which gave rise being able to benefit. introduction at the club

of electronic recording of scores using *Bridgemates* and instant results via computer. In 2016, after three rejections, the Chairman finally succeeded in obtaining Charitable Status for the club enabling it to claim Gift Aid - a 25% boost to annual subscriptions courtesy of HMRC! This was again a matter of great interest to the EBU for national benefit but was particularly helpful to small, rural clubs. Sadly since the onset of the Covid pandemic the club has had to curtail its training programmes but the closure of all clubs provided an opportunity to experiment by playing games on line - first with Bridge Base On Line but quickly thereafter to utilise the RealBridge platform. Two surveys of members have confirmed that the majority prefer RealBridge and whilst it was of course to sad to lose some members who would only play Face to Face the Club has gained many new members. Currently the Club plays on line twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday evenings and welcomes membership from across (and even beyond!) the UK.

Despite the rather traumatic events of the past few years the club is thriving and hopefully that will continue! As our membership is now geographically spread the Club will be making a small anniversary gift to every current member of free renewal for 2026 – so no annual subscription to pay until 31 December 2026!



For more pictures of the club over its history click here: <https://flic.kr/ps/3RaPtJ>