

While we did not collect membership subscriptions for the club year just ended, the committee has decided that subscriptions should resume for the new club year, which started on 1st April 2021.

The amount will remain at £20 per annum and is now due.

Why are we asking for money?

There are several reasons that we believe seeking subscriptions this year is appropriate. (If you are not interested in the reasons, please skip to the Who Should Pay section below).

Firstly, the club is still operating, albeit online. We are providing the value of the main thing that the club exists for which is the opportunity to play competitive bridge in a friendly, regulated environment where everyone has the chance to develop.

Secondly, we are continuing to contribute to the running costs of the Rhiwbina Memorial Hall, which is our physical home. The bridge club is constituted as a section of the Rhiwbina Memorial Hall and Community Association and we pay a capitation fee to the hall in respect of each active member of the club.

Thirdly, the Welsh Bridge Union (WBU) is resuming its collection of subscriptions this year. Each member of Rhiwbina Bridge Club is automatically enrolled into the WBU and into the East Wales Bridge Association. As the national organisation for the game we love, the WBU represents and regulates bridge in Wales. What you might not know is that it also provides funding to support the development of bridge clubs and has, twice in recent years, provided matching funds to those spent by the club on maintaining our equipment and playing environment.

Between the Memorial Hall Capitation and WBU/EWBA membership, the club actually makes a loss on each subscribed member but that's covered by the money that is made through regular club activities. i.e. our table money.

Who should pay?

We understand that many members have not taken advantage of the opportunities to play online and for those members the club is not currently providing its usual value. If you are in that position and feel that paying a subscription is not appropriate then that will not be a problem. Your membership of the club and the WBU will lapse, but they can be picked-up again whenever you next become active in the club, whether online or face-to-face.

We would expect everyone who plays in club sessions online, whether duplicate sessions on Realbridge or in the Pairs League run by Arthur Sylvester, to renew their club membership.

How to Pay

Payment can be made by direct credit (e.g. via online or telephone banking) using the following details.

Account Name: Rhiwbina Memorial Hall and CA Bridge Club

Sort Code: 40-38-13

Account No. 90701882

Reference: This must be filled-in as described in the note below

In the reference please put the word SUB followed by your club Membership number and then your surname, e.g. "SUB 322 BLOGGS". It is important to include the word SUB so we can distinguish these payments from the top-ups for table money. It is also important to include your club number. So if there is not enough room overall, please just abbreviate your surname.

Please pay individually even if both members of a couple are paying from the same bank account.

For those who cannot easily access online or telephone banking, payment can be made by cheque. Gwyn Evans, the committee chair, has offered to act as intermediary for cheque payments. So if you want to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Mr T G Evans and post it to 55 Abernant Road, Aberdare, CF44 0PY. Please include a note or write on the back of the cheque to tell us what the payment is for and who it is from.

Thanks

The Club Committee