

May 2020

Dear Member,

I hope you are well and keeping safe.

Online Bridge

If you have not given online bridge a go yet then I would recommend you give it a try. Many of you are already active. It is really easy to register with Bridge Base Online (BBO), at no cost, and believe me if I managed to do so with my very limited IT skills, all members will be able to do so likewise! If you are feeling a bit nervous about online play then we can help. Just contact Srimath, who can be available at the end of the phone to help while you set things up. He can also arrange a gentle introductory session with him and some friendly members from the club to try things out and help you get started. A free trial. With a bit of practice, it's not bad at all.

Many organisations are facing challenges due to the lockdown and the English Bridge Union (EBU) the governing body for Bridge in England, is no exception. We recently received a communication from them explaining that their revenues were severely reduced and they wanted to ensure that any games played should still be counted as part of the Universal Membership Scheme (UMS) and that under the scheme clubs should be registering games and remitting funds. We are an EBU affiliated club and are keen to do our bit to ensure that the EBU survives.

I'm pleased to announce the following:-

Teams

We established the first league season with 26 Teams on a no cost basis as a trial and for the benefit of our membership. We said we would try things out and adjust things in the next season.

The existing Teams season will conclude within a couple of weeks and we are proposing a monthly competition from 15th June to 13th July (4-weeks). The idea is divisions of 4 Teams playing one match of 16 boards per week with a "play off" during the last week so, all Teams will have four matches. We are introducing a relatively small cost of £5/person, (£20/team) for each season. The Captain of each Team will be responsible for payment to WGCBC and collection from their Team Members.

From these fees we will make payments to the EBU UMS in the same way as if we were playing at the Club. We will continue to use the BBO platform which is free to join. Srimath has kindly agreed to administer the league and to provide TD services at no cost. I know Srimath wishes to involve others so If you are able to help, please contact Srimath accordingly.

So, we are now taking Team entries for the above and would Captains please register with Srimath as soon as possible. The £20 can be paid direct into the Club's Bank Account, the details of which is as follows:-

Account Name: Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club

Account Number: 41057847

Sort Code: 40 23 11

Please make sure you quote the Team Captain's Name and reference this payment "June/July Teams".

PLEASE let me have your comments and suggestions copied Srimath, Sheila and John (Eyre) on any aspect of the Teams set out above. For example, would you prefer more or less boards, larger Divisions with a longer competition period or a different arrangement for Table Money? These will all be reviewed, and changes made for the period commencing 13th July as appropriate.

Duplicate Pairs

We will establish the following:-

GENTLE DUPLICATE playing 12 boards on Wednesday afternoons every week at 2pm. We will use the BBO platform and the cost will be \$3 BBO dollars per person. per session. Payment is online through the BBO platform. This session will have no master points and will not be NGS ranked. From this fee (\$3 BBO is the minimum that can be charged) and the fees for the other sessions detailed below there will be a payment to BBO (important to provide them with some funds in support for the services offerings they are providing to the bridge world – they do have running costs after all). We will be able to pay a proportion to the EBU, helping them and we also need to meet the cost of an external TD.

In order to make the payment you will need to purchase BBO dollars and I'm sure some of you will have already done so. If not, there is a link to do so on the BBO system.

LAZY SUNDAY DUPLICATE playing 16 boards on Sunday afternoons every week at 5.30pm. As above, the cost will be \$3 BBO per person per session, payment online. The session will not award master points or count towards NGS. There will be with an external TD.

CLUB DUPLICATE playing 18 boards on Friday mornings every week at 10am. As above, the cost will be \$3 BBO per person ,per session, payment online, the session will not award master points or count towards NGS. There will be an external TD.

Details of how to enter will shortly be on our website and the first sessions will be:-

Gentle Duplicate – Wednesday 10th June at 2pm

Lazy Sunday Duplicate – Sunday 14th June at 5.30pm

Club Duplicate – Friday 12th June at 10am

Please have a word with your partners and put these weekly dates in your diaries. We really would like WGCBC members to support our online bridge sessions weekly and to the maximum extent you can, particularly bearing in mind Club Bridge may not recommence for some time yet.

As with Teams PLEASE let us have your comments and suggestions.

With all good wishes and stay alert!

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey Green

Chairman

Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club

[www.bridgewebs.com/welwyngardencity](http://www.bridgewebs.com/welwyngardencity)

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