

The Bridge Club Aberdeen

Newsletter August 2024



Festival of Bridge
It's a big deal!

Play bridge and help raise funds for Cancer Research UK this September.

Whether you're a novice club member or an experienced player, we'll have a special event for you. We'll have a special event for you. We'll have a special event for you.

Find out more: www.abrc.org.uk/festival

Join the conversation: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

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Aberdeen Bridge Club

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A word from the president:



Hello Friends.

This is the period of our open day at the beginning of September on the 91st birthday of the Bridge Club I will give an update a wee bit later in the Newsletter.

Festival of Bridge “charity” event coming up later in September, which I will also give details to a further on, so get ready to mark your calendar. Looks like September will be busy, busy, busy.

The club itself continues to be really active on a Monday night, with regular numbers of 20 plus table and this is during Summer. Imagine how busy we are going to be when its Winter and less to do outside! Thanks everyone really great to see you all.

Training has been completed for the year and will start again at the end of September/beginning October. Great job by Steve, as always.

If you know of anyone who would like to start to play, please ask them to contact us and join in for next series of classes.

Now the sad news. Despite the increase in the number of players, we do not cover our costs every month and have to increase our subscriptions and playing fees going forward. This is due to the increased council charges as well as repairs and maintenance. Thank goodness we have Donald to do all hard work here for meter readings and repair quotes. Thanks Donald.

The subscriptions for 2024/25 will be increased to £12 to SBU and £16 for ABC, due in September (£28 total). Our playing fee will also go up a little from £4.00 to £4.50 and BBO from \$2.50 to \$3.00. (BBO \$)

As mentioned on the last newsletter I am not experienced with the development and production of a Newsletter, so anyone who would like to assist/takeover, please let me know. Thanks to those of you who gave some input at the last minute.

TTFN (Tata Fur Noo) David



One of our latest Trustees

For those who haven't met me, James Ross, I am one of the Aberdeen Bridge Club Trustees, current captain of Phoenix Bridge Club and, more importantly for most of you, one of the ones who (sometimes) knows how the Bridgemates and scoring systems work.

Those of you fortunate enough to have listened to me try and explain my bidding system will have noticed that I'm not originally from Scotland. I first moved here from Northern Ireland about 20 years ago to attend university down in St Andrews. After graduating and following a brief spell putting my new degree in physics to good use as an ice-cream man on a beach, I moved up to Aberdeen to do a postgraduate degree in medical physics. Like most real-world academic careers, mine has been one of serendipity rather than particularly good planning and, following some good luck over the years, these days I'm a Principal Investigator at the University of Aberdeen.

I've had a long interest in card games since I was about 5 years old, when my father and I created our own little two player card game to play together. We even found a use for the Bridge contract scoring card that was often included in the deck which, when played, forced the opponent to lay down all his cards. Over the years I learned to play the standard suite of trick taking games – Hearts, Spades, and all sorts of local variations of Whist. Hearts was a particular favourite of mine at school, however the school took a rather dim view of the card playing den of iniquity I'd created at the back of the 6th form centre and an even dimmer view when they discovered that we were playing for money! (£1 table money per player if I remember correctly). I've lost track of the number of decks of cards that I had confiscated while I was at school, but I like to think I still made a profit over the years.

After leaving school I had fewer opportunities to play cards, except for the obligatory, and extremely competitive, Christmas game of Whist which my partner, Emma, no doubt dreads each year. It wasn't until 2016 that I decided to have a go at learning proper Bridge. I attended Steve Findlay's excellent beginner's lessons and have been coming back for more Bridge ever since. I think I played in my first Bridge Club tournament without having even reached the section of the lessons on how to bid slams but I still had a great time, despite coming bottom. Playing against more experienced players, both at the Bridge Club and Phoenix, has definitely helped improve my game

over these (relatively few) years I've been playing. I strongly recommend 'competing upwards' to anyone wanting to improve. The worst that can happen is you get a few extra 0%'s. Please also let me disabuse you of any notion that Phoenix is just for 'elite' players – a quick glance at some of my recent scores will back me up on that – and we're always happy to hear from players.

Cheers for now and hope to see you soon. James

New Events

Aberdeen Doors Open Day 7 September 10am-4pm

Once again, we are delighted to take part in Open day on the 7th September and will have our doors open for the general public to visit. We can both show them around the premises as well as an opportunity to explain about bridge.

We do need some members in the club during the day so if you are available to help out during this day please let us know.

Festival of Bridge.

The first-ever Festival of Bridge – It's a Big Deal!, taking place 9-15 September this year across Scotland and England, promises to be an exciting celebration of the game for all bridge enthusiasts. The Festival aims to foster awareness and interest in bridge as a mind sport for all ages and abilities, as well as raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

Each and every club will be running a club arranged event that will be a very social evening that attracts both members and non-members.

We have arranged our fun night for Friday 13th September (what could go wrong on this date?) where we offer canapés and fizz along with some funny bridge hands and challenges. How long before you win a trick with the 2 ♣ ??? Other fun hands will be in play. Do come along, no need to have a partner, a chance to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere, with a spot of bridge included.

Cost for the evening will be £10 per person for the snacks, fizz and bridge. Any profit made on the evening will be donated to the cancer research charity.

Please use our sign up page to join in. The more the merrier. (See you all then)



Bidding Challenge from SBU

Bronze Bidding Challenge: August 2024

You are kindly filling in as a last -minute substitute in a Teams match.

You have agreed to play the SBU Standard system: weak no -trump, 4-card majors, weak 2s in $\heartsuit\spadesuit$. You are West.

What is your call?

Entries by **August 26** to Troy: t.vandelisle@gmail.com

Results and top scores will be published at the beginning of September

Problem 1 Teams: NS Vul, Dealer North

\spadesuit Q3	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
\heartsuit K52	-	2 \spadesuit	X	3 \spadesuit
\diamondsuit AKT863	?			
\clubsuit 74				

Problem 2 Teams: EW Vul, Dealer South

\spadesuit T943	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
\heartsuit J95	-	-	-	P
\diamondsuit QT52	P	1 \clubsuit	X	P
\clubsuit K9	1 \spadesuit	P	1NT	P
	?			

Problem 3 Teams: NS Vul, Dealer South

\spadesuit AJ97		NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
\heartsuit A4				\heartsuit 10
\diamondsuit 3	2 \clubsuit	\heartsuit 10	P	\heartsuit 3
\clubsuit AKJT76	X	\heartsuit 10	P	P
	?			

WEST

Problem 4 Teams: Love All, Dealer West

♠ K8 ♥ J87 ♦ AT542 ♣ 765				
	P	P	2♣*	P
	2♦**	P	2♠	P
	?			

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

* Shows a strong hand

** Waiting bid

Well done to Quinton for winning the July challenge!!

Bridge Etiquette and Protocol

Our second protocol info

SBU BIDDING BOX REGULATIONS

At the end of the auction the calls should remain in place until the opening lead has been faced and all explanations have been obtained, after which they should be returned to their boxes.

Note – this includes pass and double cards!

[USE OF BIDDING BOXES \(sbu.org.uk\)](http://sbu.org.uk)

PRINCIPLE OF FULL DISCLOSURE

- The philosophy of active ethics tells us that winners should be determined solely by skill, flair and normal playing luck. Actively ethical partnerships take pains to ensure their opponents are fully informed.
- A major tenet of active bridge ethics is the principle of full disclosure. This means that all information available to your partnership must be made available to your opponents.
- Full disclosure requires that all these inferences, restrictions and tendencies be made known to any opponent who inquires about their style.
- If you are interested in knowing these things about your opponent's bid, merely say to the bidder's partner, "Would you tell me more about your style?" You may use the style inquiry to ask about any bid your opponent makes.
- The actively ethical player will often go beyond what is technically required in volunteering information to the opponents. Quite often, the declaring side

in an actively ethical partnership will volunteer such information before the opening lead is made. (But remember, when there has been misinformation given, such as a failure to alert or a mistaken alert, there is a LEGAL obligation on the player whose partner misinformed the opponents. He, the bidder, must give the opponents the correct information at the end of the auction if his side is the declaring side or at the end of the play if his side is defending.)

- New players or infrequent partnerships usually will not have understandings about the items discussed here and, of course, it will be perfectly proper for them to reply "We have no agreement as to style."

Looking for some help...

BBO Directors.

Would you like to be trained as a BBO director?

As you know, we are busy on a Tuesday evening with online bridge having 10-12 tables. While the event is really popular, we are a little short on Directors to run the competition. Please let us know if you would like to be trained to take a turn in Directing the competition.

Our IT System.

The Club relies quite heavily on its IT systems, for managing tournaments, supporting the activities of the Board and communicating with members.

Jim Hunter has provided support for our IT systems for the last three years and intends to stand down at the forthcoming AGM this year. Someone to take over is therefore urgently needed! You don't have to be an IT expert, but a certain familiarity with the web and with the use of PCs is desirable. Beyond that, a willingness to learn is always a good starting point!

To be more specific, the main areas requiring support are:

- The web site: this is based on WordPress – probably the most used content management system for web sites world-wide; leaning WordPress would provide you with a useful transferrable skill.
- Google Drive: The Board maintains its documentation, forms and databases on a shared drive and this needs to be maintained from time to time.

- PCs: The office computer (and two laptops used by Board members) run Windows 11 and need to be maintained.
- Email: Board members have individual email accounts, and there is a mailing list for members; these need to be maintained.

By and large, the job consists in keeping existing systems going, but, who knows, there may be new requirements beyond the horizon. Jim is more than willing to meet with anyone who thinks they might be able to contribute to the running of the Club in this way and to provide any necessary training.

Please get in touch if you will take over from Jim who has done an excellent job.

Our News Letter.

As mentioned on the last newsletter I am not experienced with the development and production of a Newsletter, so anyone who would like to assist/takeover, please let me know. Need someone who is happy to badger people for latest info.

We are only looking at 3-4 newsletters a year so let's make them a great document to read.

Congrats to all below

Life Master

Joe Duxbury

1 Star Master

Margaret Dow

Master

Richard Coleman

District Master

Beatrice McCann, Joe McCann, Neil Scott

Local Master

Phil Beaton, Fiona Henderson, Helen Paul, Simon Sawers

Club Master

Ian Dowell, Alaister McIntosh, Norris Rennie

Novice

Alan Cable, Neil Cable, Liam Ma, Mark Peel

New tournament structure.

As you may remember, on our return after Covid, there was a large difference on the number of tables upstairs and down. The downstairs players were all above the Bronze 3 grade and there was a shortage of that level.

What was decided, due to the number of different grades, was that Bronze 2 and 3 would go downstairs and Bronze 1 would stay upstairs. This worked out really well.

What has been discovered is that some players who moved downstairs have improved their bridge but due to the standard of the opposition they are not winning or getting placed to get more points and improve their status.

Now that the number of tables has increased, we have as many as 24, we would like to look at the system so that we create a middle level giving Bronze 2 players a better opportunity to win more points and move up a level.

LEVEL	Player status	Number of boards to be played
Bronze 1	Novice and club master	18 boards max
Bronze 2	Local and district master	no less than 21 or 24 boards?
Bronze 3	Master level and above	no less than 24 boards

Players can play up the levels but not down. So for example, if a B1 player prefers to play more than 18 boards, then they can play in a B2 tournament. However, if a B2 player prefers only 18 boards, then they can't go down the ladder to join the B1 group.

Once the top of a level has been reached a player can continue to play at that level providing that their partner is still eligible to play at the lower level.,, i.e. a B2 player can partner a B1 player and play in the B1 session

There will be no minimum numbers for each session and in the event that numbers for one session are low, then 2 sessions will be merged so that the tournament is viable. We are looking at a minimum of 6 tables per session to make it viable. I'm assuming this would be done by reallocating any B1 players signed up for B2, to the B1 tournament and the B2 players to the B3 tournament?

The intention is that B1 and B2 will play upstairs (main card room plus side room) and share a TD.

We will start this at the beginning of September and give it a 3 month trial.

Tournaments from SBU

Join in our Summer Programme of Online Nationals:

[Sunday August 11th Bronze and Silver Players only](#) On this Sunday.

This event will be run similar to the Bronze only event to encourage Bronze and maybe some Silver players who have not played this format before. There will be an extra prize for the best Bronze pair.

The event will start at 12 noon and there will be 7 x 5 board rounds, 35 boards in total. Time allowed will be 8 minutes per board – longer than normal. It will be played on RealBridge. If you have not played on RealBridge there is information [here](#) and there are [Taster Sessions](#). There will be helpers around before the start to provide help to get online if you need it.

[Sunday September 15th Festival of Bridge Swiss Pairs](#)

This event takes place at the end of the Festival of Bridge and all proceeds will go to Cancer Research UK.

National Online Swiss pairs 8 x 6 boards, 7 minutes per board, played on RealBridge. The entry fee will be £30 per pair and there will be a facility to add an extra donation for this excellent cause.

2024/25 – Tournament Programme September to December

Sat 21st Sept	Stirling Pairs	Melville
Sun 22nd Sept	Edwin Berry Swiss Teams	Carlton
Sun 5 th /6 th Oct	1st National League Teams Weekend	Carlton
Mon 14 to Thur 17 th Oct.	Lord Thomson SIMS	In Clubs
Sun 27 October	1st National Online Swiss Pairs	RealBridge
Sun 10th November	2nd National Online Swiss Pairs	RealBridge
Sat/Sun 16 th /17 th Nov	2nd National League Teams Weekend	Glasgow Bridge Centre
Sun 24th Nov	Thea Teale Bronze Pairs	Face to Face Heats in Selected Clubs
Sun 1 st Dec	Ranked Pairs	St Andrews and Carlton Sun
8 th Dec	3rd National Online Competition	RealBridge

Scottish Online League

SOL 14 will start on Monday 16 September, would new or returning teams please contact sol@sbu.org.uk

Bronze League

BL-4Q24 will start on Wednesday 18th September (Registration will open in mid-August)

National League

Weekend 1: Saturday 5 Oct 2024 11:00 - Sunday 6 Oct 2024 20:00 Carlton Bridge Club

Weekend 2: Saturday 16 Nov 2024 11:00 - Sunday 17 Nov 2024 20:00 Glasgow Bridge Centre

We are re-introducing the National League this year to provide high level competition for stronger players. The format will be teams playing round robins. If there are enough entries the first weekend will be used to sort teams into divisions.

This is a team of four event, it is not for three pairs to swap in and out. You can use subs if players are not available on any particular day but the core four players must play at least 50% of the matches. Substitutes do not need to be named for now.

All the play will be recorded on Bridgemates

Mike Ash, who is in charge of International Selection, has indicated that performance in this event will be taken into account for future selections. The winning team over the two weekends will be guaranteed a place in at least one weekend of the 2025 Camrose.

If you are a pair looking for team mates then contact Angus

Macdonald: angus1430@gmail.com

Enter on the SBU Website [here](#). Please enter by Saturday 7th September so we have an idea of numbers. You can pay later.

Forthcoming Club and District Events

[Central District Congress 16th to 18th August](#)

Held on the Park Hotel, Montrose

[Dunbar Congress Sunday 29th September](#)

Maitlandfield House Hotel, Haddington

[Highland District Congress 1st to 3rd November](#) Coylumbridge

Hotel, Aviemore

Training Hotspot History

The Bridge Club has always been a centre of excellence for teaching and was indeed saved in the late 70s and early 80s by the efforts of Mike Hodder who began teaching beginners. Mike is humble and probably does not realise how his efforts kept a club from possibly closing. So dire was this once thriving and buzzing club of the 30s and 40s that by the late 70s, the club was open only once a week, on a Monday and other players at this time were playing in other venues such as the Northern Arts Club in Aberdeen's Bon Accord Square, the Arts Centre which became the base for the Bon Accord Club till they decanted to Curl Aberdeen, the Fish Club which met in the Bridge Club and latterly Northern Arts. The Fish Club was the oldest bridge club in Scotland but sadly had to close due to lack of members. The Phoenix Club still meets every Thursday at the Club.

Those were the days when our players were young and could visit each other's clubs for matches arranged through North District Committees who managed great national and district tournaments which were hugely enjoyed throughout the North East of Scotland. Our longer members will also tell you about the fun to be had playing in congresses throughout Scotland which I am sure many of you would enjoy. New to events since just before the pandemic, are the cafe bridge tournaments where competitors play in cafes and pubs and hotels in venues such as Plockton, Dunkeld, Perth, Prestwich, Strathaven, with more venues being added each year. These are one day events and great fun.

Getting back to teaching, Jim Mason and Eddie McGeough taught beginners for a time, and they passed on the baton to Sally and Gibby Reid. Sally was responsible for introducing the game to children in the city and it is hoped that we can begin teaching our juniors again this coming session. Anne Brodie Allan began teaching and then Dinah Borghesi took over. Dinah was succeeded by Steve Findlay who has taught many of our existing members since then and continues to do so for us.

Today, having survived the pandemic, the club still thrives and we have learners who were taught online on Real Bridge, and over the last two years we have a lovely new group of players who are regularly enjoying their bridge. We have 6 tables playing on a Wednesday now and I am seeking a rota of mentors who can come along and partner or just sit at a table giving advice. Three mentors a week would be wonderful. I already have some volunteers to help with both children and our relaxed Wednesday evening tournament, but would welcome more.

Do let me know if you can help. We play 15 boards. Finish at 9.30. Mentors are not charged for playing.

Lorraine Findlay