

ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

PRESIDENT'S ROUNDUP

Dear Members,

Spring has sprung! The trees are looking affa bonnie - pink blossoms everywhere and with the sun making an appearance, the garden is springing into life (unfortunately so are the weeds!).

There's been no hibernation for the Board though and we have been very busy over the winter months working on a variety of initiatives. One of these is this new style newsletter, which we hope you like.

Some smaller changes have been featured in this newsletter, such as the "what's on" diary but we are working on some larger projects that will take time to plan and evaluate before we can share these wiith you.

Some changes are already visible and we have Sandra McIntosh to thank for arranging the purchase of new chairs and Donald (together with the Westhill Mens Shed) to thank for the collection and disposal of the old chairs. I'm sure you'll all agree that the new chairs have made a difference to the look and feel of the first floor card rooms.

With Spring in the air, we had a major spring clean of the building. Several trips to the tip were made and we were all exhausted by the end of the day but felt it was worth the effort.

Almost 200 bidding boxes were inspected and "made complete again" by Jim Hunter and Linda Topp. Look out for the article on how we can keep the bidding boxes in good order.

Andrew Robson came to town on the 1st April. It was a fantastic day and the feedback from everyone who attended was so positive that we may well invite him back again next year. See the photos from the day in the photo feature.

We have also arranged Tournament Director training for F2F and online tournaments. The response to date has been very encouraging so if you are interested and haven't signed up yet, please see the article in this edition.

Although we have been working away in the background on a range of matters, the one thing that is on everyone's lips is the three sessions on a Monday. We agreed at the AGM that we would leave the current structure in place until the start of the new season in September. This would give us time to survey members on what they want from the club and to look at how other clubs manage a range of abilities. I've been to Dundee Bridge Club and the Acol club in London looking for ideas and the Board will be considering these in parallel with the results of the Members survey. A short article on the members survey, appealing for help with this project, appears in this edition. We are aiming to have the results analysed and plans made before the start of the next season.

Oot and Aboot? We're a nosey bunch so if you've been playing bridge somewhere else - on a beach, on a cruise ship, in Tomintoul or Timbuktu, then send a photo of where you were (bridge related please - photos of bikinis and speedos won't make the cut) together with a few words about where you were and you could feature in the next edition of Aberdeen Bridge Club News.

Thanks to the Board for their assistance in getting this newsletter out (it's not as easy as it looks) and to Marie Mitchell, James Ross and Jim Hunter for their input on masterpoints and bidding box matters.

Until next time,
Carole



Aberdeen Bridge Club

Promoting friendly, competitive contract bridge for all ages

ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

MEET THE BOARD



Carole Lovie
President



Brian Dow
Treasurer



Brian Willox
Secretary



Linda Juroszek
Membership Secretary



Donald Campbell
Housing Convener



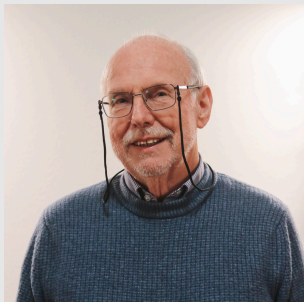
Steve Findlay
Tournament Convener



Mike Hodder
Education Convener



James Ross
IT Support



Jim Hunter



Sandra MacIntosh



Linda Topp

ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

ANDREW ROBSON

What a fantastic day we had at Curl Aberdeen.

This was the first time that the club had arranged such an event and, thanks to our members and guests from other clubs, we welcomed almost 120 delegates, far exceeding our expectations.

Andrew is a first class presenter and he expertly walked us through a range of topics from when to delay drawing trump, fourth suit forcing and some key tips for duplicate pairs. We were fascinated by the “magic” playing cards that were used on the day. Sadly not for sale but an excellent training tool. All in all, the day was an ideal blend of teaching, play and fun. One take away from the day was ... “1..2.. that’ll do!”. A good mantra for avoiding over bidding.

The feedback from members was all positive so who knows, we might see him again next year.

Without an official photographer, Carole took some photos on her phone as a record of the day and here they are...



ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB



MEMBERS SURVEY

At the AGM we agreed to survey members to find out what members really wanted from their club. It's been a busy few months so we are just getting around to this now - better late than never, so they say!

We have engaged the services of Grace, a marketing specialist who will help design, manage and analyse the results of a survey. Our plan is to form a small working party of trustees and members (perhaps someone from each section?) to work with Grace on this project. This will ensure that views from a range of members are represented at the design stage of the survey and that we ask relevant questions.

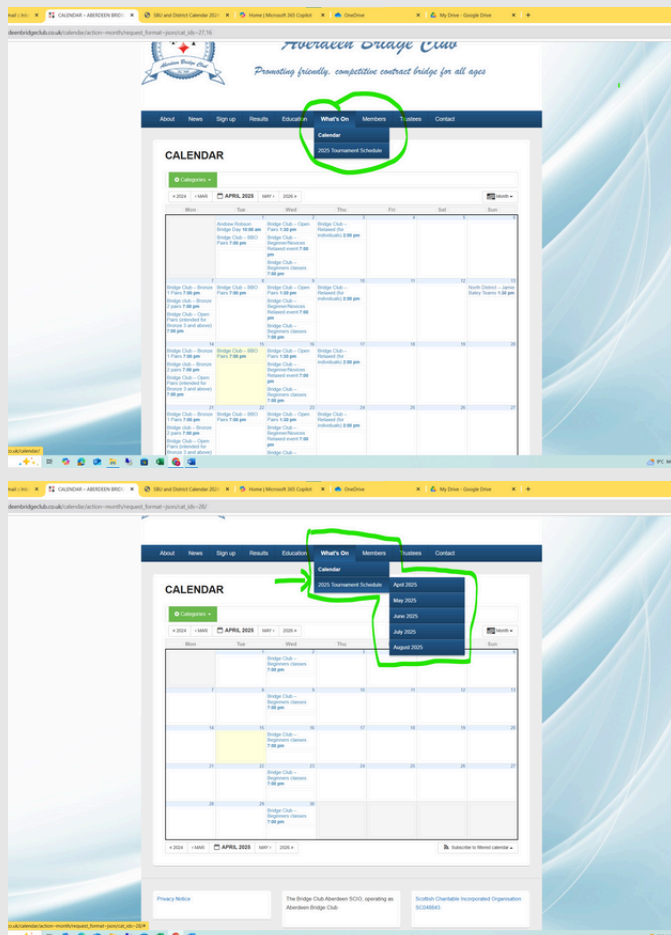
If you feel that you would be able to contribute to this project, then we would love to hear from you. Please email president@aberdeenbridgeclub.co.uk for more information or if you would like to help. **Closing date... Monday 19th May.**

WHAT'S ON?

The schedule for May through to August 2025 is now on the website.

You can find it by clicking on the "what's on" option on the blue bar and selecting a month from the drop-down menu.

We are also working on producing a calendar that will be populated for all events held in or by the club and hope to have more news on this shortly,



ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

MEMBER PROMOTIONS

AUGUST 2024 - MARCH 2025



Steve Pomery (pictured left) has achieved **Gold Category** status with his promotion to the rank of Life Master. Huge congratulations from everyone in the club.

Silver Category Promotions:

- Sandra Schwitz who is now a **National Master**
- Margaret Hodder and Ian Petitt who are now **Scottish Masters**

Bronze Category Promotions:

- **5* Master:**
 - Joyce Morris

Master:

- James Ross

District Master:

- David Hunter
- Estelle Hunter
- Neil Scott
- Sandra Skilling

Local Master:

- Julie Brimble
- Amanda Powe
- Margaret Rennie
- Simon Sawyers
- Carolyn Skidmore
- Linda Topp
- Ellie Whyte
- Sheena Wood

Club Master:

- Iain Dowell
- Neva Haites
- Liz Hoskins
- Maureen Melvin

Our congratulations to all who have earned a promotion in the last few months. Promotions are based on black and red Master points. See the article below to find out how to check your current ranking and points.

♥♣♦♠ MASTER POINTS ♥♣♦♠

What are they?

Master points awarded by the Scottish Bridge Union (SBU) come in two types: black points, also known as local points, and red points, also known as national points. Red points are more valuable - one red point is equivalent to 100 black points. On Mempad (the SBU's online master point database), black points are displayed using the same scale as red points so, for example, if you earn 30 local points you'll see 0.3 master points on Mempad. Master points are used to calculate your SBU ranking. Only black points are needed for promotion through Bronze rankings but for promotion to Silver and Gold ranks a minimum number of red points are also needed.

How do I check my rank?

Click on this link to access Mempad. Log in with your SBU number and password. If you have any problems logging in, please email Linda at membership@aberdeenbridgeclub.co.uk.

How Do I Earn Them?

Black points are awarded at our weekly club sessions. Red points are awarded at national-level events, whether played face-to-face or online, and also at SBU Simultaneous Pairs events held within the club.

Where Can I Earn Red Points?

You can earn red points by participating in qualifying tournaments, like the Celtic Sims or the Lord Thomson Trophy.

Rank	Total Points Required	Minimum National Points Required	Category	Eligibility for Ranked Events	
				Individual	Pairs
Novice	0		Bronze 1	Fairlie	Kennedy
Club Master	2		Bronze 1	Fairlie	Kennedy
Local Master	10		Bronze 2	Fairlie	Johnston
District Master	25		Bronze 2	Fairlie	Johnston
Master	50		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
1 Star Master	100		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
2 Star Master	150		Bronze 3	Shenkin	Jesner
3 Star Master	200		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
4 Star Master	250		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
5 Star Master	300		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
Senior Master	400		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
1 Star Senior Master	450		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
2 Star Senior Master	500		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
3 Star Senior Master	550		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
4 Star Senior Master	600		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
5 Star Senior Master	650		Bronze 4	Shenkin	Jesner
Regional Master	100	25	Silver	Farquharson	Alan Fairlie
Scottish Master	200	50	Silver	Harrison	Alan Fairlie
National Master	300	75	Silver	Harrison	Alan Fairlie
Life Master	600	150	Gold	Harrison	Bowman
Senior Life Master	900	300	Gold	Harrison	Bowman
Grand Master	1,200	600	Gold	Benjamin	Arthur

ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB



TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR TRAINING

We are delighted to be welcoming Matthew Robb (SBU Director) to our club on **Sunday 18th May** to share his knowledge and experience on how to be an effective Tournament Director.

Registration is now open and is free for club members. To find out more, [please click here](#).

TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL?

From time to time, the subject of selling the building and moving to alternative premises with disabled access and parking, has been raised by members. It has also been some time since this question had been fully considered by the Board. As some of the Board's longer term plans would be affected by a decision to stay or sell, the Board conducted a review of the building, the pros and cons of staying, the options for where we would move to and the pros and cons of a move.

It was a wide ranging discussion and for a variety of reasons, not least of all being the significant reduction in the sale value of the building, it has been decided that we're staying put. The Board has instead decided to invest in upgrading the building for the benefit of the members. We are considering various options and hope to be in a position to share our plans with you by the summer.



ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB

BIDDING BOX HOKEY COKEY

*It's your turn to bid...It's your turn to choose
No in out, in out or shakin' the box about
Make your mind up quick, before you touch the box
That's what it's all about - HA!*

But seriously... touching the cards while making your select a bid card, gives unauthorised information to your partner, which is not allowed.

Here are some **DO'S** and **DONT'S** (courtesy of SBU)

DO

- Make the Call you Intended to Make
- Alert promptly and clearly
- Respect the Stop Card

DONT

- Don't fiddle with the cards or the box. It might help you to concentrate but...it may be possible for your partner or the opps to see which calls you are considering and that is therefore unauthorised information which will put partner in an awkward and unethical situation.
- Do not touch the Bidding Box until you have decided which call to make.
- Do Not Call Out of Turn. Even touching a bidding card before your turn to call may put partner under pressure. Be patient.
- Do Not Remove the Stop and Alert Cards. They belong in the Box. If you keep them there they will not get lost!

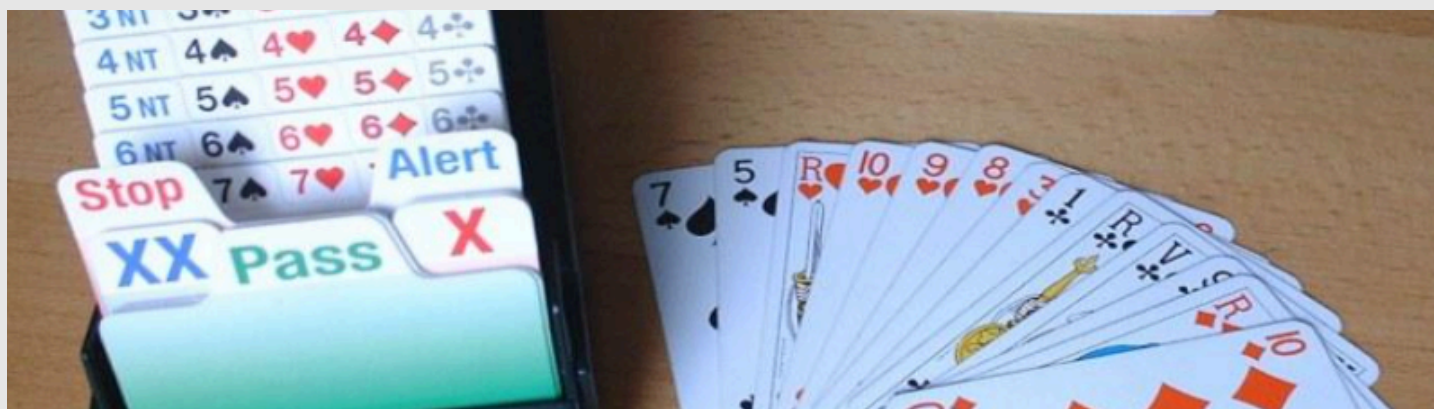
STOP! ALERT! WHAT'S IN A BIDDING BOX?

Most of us only think about the bidding box when there's a card missing. Otherwise – well they're just there ...

But do you know what cards should be there? Apart from the 35 Suit and No Trump bidding cards (work it out!), the standard complement is: 6 passes, 3 doubles, 2 redoubles (how often have you redoubled twice?) and, of course, STOP and ALERT. It's annoying when one is missing.

So, your Board recently arranged for all 150 boxes (yes, 150) to be checked, and any missing cards replaced. But cards do go missing. We don't want to carry out a complete check more often than we have to - it took several hours. And this is where you can help us.

If you come across a bidding box which is missing a card, take it to the table in the bow window of each of the main card rooms and put it next to the MISSING sign; then take a box next to the COMPLETE sign. This way you'll get a full box and you'll be saving someone a lot of time and effort. WIN/WIN



ABERDEEN BRIDGE CLUB



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

As this is the first edition of our new Aberdeen Bridge Club newsletter, we welcome you to provide feedback.

If you would like to suggest an article for the next edition, or have some feedback for improvements, please get in touch with Carole at president@aberdeenbridgeclub.co.uk.

REMEMBERING....

Pat Hearn who sadly passed away in February.

Sheena Gray, who following a long illness, sadly passed away last month.

Bridge played a large part in the lives of Pat and Sheena and they will be remembered fondly by everyone at the club who partnered or played opposite them.

