

Doncaster Bridge Club

Newsletter

July 2008

Urgently Wanted

More Bridge players

The club is suffering from a shortage of players. Financially we are just about breaking even at the moment and some improvements we should like to make are having to be deferred.

If every member played once a week our finances would be much healthier and our hard-working treasurer much happier.

Some nights are thinner than others but the decline in numbers is pretty general so come on all of you! It's your Bridge Club!

Let's have some bottoms on seats.

Stay Alive: Play More Bridge

It now appears that playing bridge does help people stay alive much longer because medical evidence points directly to a link between complex thinking and an improved immune system function.

Part of the cerebral cortex is stimulated when memory, judgement and planning functions take place and this causes people's CD4 T cell levels to go up quite significantly. Since these cells fight off infection, it clearly establishes the positive impact that playing bridge can have on one's immune system.

It is not known how long T cells remain elevated, or whether or not these increases are large enough to have a real effect on a person's health in the long term. It is however certain that the average life expectancy of bridge players significantly exceeds that of the average citizen. **So there's another reason to play more often.**

Remember, there is a spare player on Monday and Tuesday evenings and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The McLean Trophy

This popular competition has been re-scheduled to be played on Friday July 18th this year.

There is a very good reason for this..... Doug and Celia McLean who started it all, will be with us from America for the last two weeks in July and hopefully will be playing.

We look forward to seeing them both again.

Please sign up for this Pro-Am event on the notice board. It is important that you let David Dunsby know once you have signed up, if you are unable to play.

Summer Party

Those of us who enjoyed last year's party will need no urging to get their names down for this year's repeat on Sunday July 20th.

Please see Shaune Chapman or any member of the committee to book a ticket, £13 for lunch with wine and friendly bridge with prizes.

Contributions to Bring and Buy Book and Plant stalls and raffle prizes will be welcome.

Sheila Dunsby will always do her best to help you find a partner. Ring 01302 342178.

Visit by EBU Club Liaison Officer

At last month's extraordinary meeting of EBU the long-discussed proposals involving the new method of financing EBU called Pay to Play (or P2P for short) were approved for Implementation in 2010 - (it's closer than you think!)

The main impetus behind the changes, however, is not financial but is to improve the EBU's service to clubs and to grass root members. To this end, Krystof Kazmierczak visited the club in June and met members of the committee.

He outlined several ways in which clubs are combating declining membership, including some low-cost methods of advertising. His most telling message was that clubs which are currently thriving are those that run classes, an area of greatly reduced activity for us recently. **See the adjacent column.**

He was very impressed by our club and said it was one of the best he had visited.

New Classes for Beginners

We are hoping to start new classes for beginners in October. If you know anyone who might be interested, please pass on their details or ask them to contact us.

Yorkshire Inter-City League

The Yorkshire inter-city league matches begin again in October and it's now time to finalize the Doncaster Club Teams for the 2008-09 season.

Five teams will be playing and we shall keep the format of 5 pairs in each team – this allows for holidays, illness etc and hopefully avoids last minute panics on match day mornings for the Match Secretary!!! Also teams enjoy the companionship of regular team members especially when travelling to away matches.

Last season we were blessed with 6 excellent team captains David Ward, Nigel Bean, John Hale, Colin Kingston, Margaret Woodford and Linda Burdett- Thank you captains for all your hard work –it makes my job a doddle.

Last season 2 teams, A and E were top in their divisions and Team D were 2nd and were also promoted.

Thank you to all who give up their Sundays to play and we look forward to a successful and enjoyable season.

Gail Foster

It's the Law etc.

Laws change from time to time to reflect developments in the game. A few revisions come into effect on August 1st 2008. The main changes are:

- Defenders may now ask one another whether they have revoked. (Dummy may still ask declarer, declarer may still ask a defender.)
- Dummy or defenders may point out that a card from a quitted trick is pointing the wrong way, until the lead to the next trick is made. Declarer may do so at any time.
- Shuffle your cards before replacing them in the board. Many of us already do it and that's fine.

Full details can be found on the EBU website.

Some other reminders:

Announce only

- The strength of partner's **opening** 1NT
- Stayman, transfer to hearts or spades, all at the 2-level only.
- Opening bids of 2 of a suit as either 'strong' 'weak' or 'intermediate' if natural, otherwise alert them.
An opening 2♣ is always alerted.

All other non-natural bids up to 3NT are alerted. The only alertable bids above 3NT are conventional opening bids.

Finally **do** please try to observe what it says on the back of the 'Stop' card. There is a good reason for it.

This newsletter has been produced as a trial to see whether members feel that it is worth repeating. We would be interested in any comments from readers and would welcome any suggestions/ contributions.

Editorial team: Sheila Dunsby; Gail and Peter Foster; David Butler