



Fyfield Bridge Club – Handbook

Club History

The Fyfield Bridge Club opened its doors on 6th November, 2008 at the Fyfield Village Hall, Fyfield, Essex.

The opening of the Club came about as a result of the success of running a 30 week Bridge For Beginners Course which followed the English Bridge Union (EBU) Bridge For All Programme.

The initial idea of running a Bridge Course came from a demand in a questionnaire which was part of a Parish Appraisal conducted by the Village of Fyfield. This demand was explored by a resident of Fyfield, Cheryl Hadley, who got the initial Beginners Course off the ground and due to the excellent Tutor (Dennis Hicks) the course got the endorsement and support of the delegates and this led to the running of an Intermediate Course and a secondary Beginners Course. Having provided an introduction, and in some cases a more structured re-introduction and update to the World of Bridge, the natural progression was to set-up a Bridge Club.

Objective of the Club

The objective of the Club is to provide its Members, Guests and Visitors a friendly and sociable evening of Duplicate Bridge. The initial, and primary, focus of the Club was to provide this facility to the delegates of the Bridge For Beginners Course – the Fyfield Bridge Club's Core Membership.

However, the Club has gone from strength to strength and we have attracted Bridge Players of mixed ability not just from Fyfield but Ongar and surrounding villages with 7/8 tables running on a Club evening. We have put the success of the Club down to the friendliness of its Members and the comprehensive Bridge Programme we provide which includes Duplicate Bridge, Social Bridge Evenings, Bridge Courses and Bridge Workshops.

Club Management

The Fyfield Bridge Club is a non-profit making Proprietary Club. The Club's Proprietor and Manager is Mrs. Cheryl J. Hadley.

Club Sessions

The Club will provide a weekly 3 hour Duplicate Bridge Session on Thursday evenings at the Fyfield Village Hall, Houchin Drive, Fyfield, Essex. CM5 0RG. From time to time the Club will replace the Duplicate Bridge Session with a Teams Session or Social Bridge Session (Including Members Only Evenings). Please refer to the Calendar on the Club's Website (www.fyfieldbridgeclub.org.uk) for full details of the Club's programme.



The Club doors open at 7.00 pm and all Bridge Players are to be seated and ready to play at 7.25 pm prompt. To enable the Session Director time to establish the table arrangement all Bridge Players are to arrive no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of play (7.15 pm).

All Duplicate Sessions shall be managed by a Director whose decision in all matters of play shall be final. See the Laws of Bridge section for more details.

A Partner Hosting system is available on as needs and as available arrangement. The Club Manager or Club Steward will make every effort to provide a Bridge Partner but this cannot be guaranteed on all occasions. In all cases play priority will be given to Members. Please see the Club's Website (Contact Section) for who to call if you need a partner.

Club Session Cost

Please see Subscriptions and Fees for details.

Club Facilities

The Fyfield Bridge Club holds all its activities at the Fyfield Village Hall which can accommodate up to 50 tables. Free parking is available in the Fyfield Village Hall Car Park which is adjacent to the Hall.

Tea & coffee and homemade cakes, will be available during the 15 minute break (approximately 9.00pm).

Membership

Members

Membership to the Fyfield Bridge Club shall be open to all Bridge Players. A Membership Application Form should be completed and submitted to the Club Manager. The applicant will play at the Club as a Guest or Visitor for a minimum of 6 times within a 3 month period prior to their application being considered. In all matters of Club Membership the Club Manager's decision is final and in declining an application the Club Manager may give a reason but shall not be obliged to do so.

Honorary Members

Honorary Membership shall be granted by the Club Manager and this will be based, in the main, on such a membership being provided to someone who has provided exceptional/special support to the Club. Honorary Membership will consist of free Life Membership and complimentary Session Play for the Honorary Member.

Guests

Members may invite guests to Club sessions but it is the responsibility of the Member to ensure the guests have playing partners for the session and are aware of the rules and etiquette of play at



the Club. Members wishing to introduce more than 2 guests to a session should obtain the prior agreement of the Club Manager.

Visitors

Visitors may be permitted to play at the Club at any time, but in the event of the playing facilities being inadequate to accommodate all those who wish to play, priority shall be given to Members and the Guests of Members.

Subscriptions and Fees

Annual Subscription

Each Member of the Club shall pay an Annual Subscription. The Annual Subscription fee is £10.00 per Member. .

The Club will review subscription fees on an annual basis – usually in September.

Joining Fee

There will be no Club Joining Fee for 2009/2010 and the Club will review this on an annual basis – usually in September.

Club Session Fee

The Table Money Charge at a Club Session is:

Members - £2.00, Guests - £3.00, Visitors £3.00

The Club will review Club Session Fees on an annual basis – usually in September.

Club Conduct and Bridge Etiquette

For the Benefit of all Members of the Club and the reputation of the Club, The Fyfield Bridge Club promotes correct and friendly behavior at the bridge table and will expect all Members, Member's Guests and Visitors to adhere to good etiquette at the bridge table at all times. The Club's main (but not limited to) 'Good Etiquette Practices' are:

- Always greet new opponents courteously and in particular do not carry on talking to your partner as though your new opponents do not exist.
- When you are dummy, keep silent; don't touch any of your cards unless your partner names it and don't look at your opponents' hands. However, it is quite in order for dummy to question partner if dummy thinks partner is not following suit from dummy or not playing from dummy. This shall be expressed in a polite manner by dummy as 'Having none Partner' or 'I think its from the Table Partner' respectively.



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- Don't say anything about a hand while it is being bid or played.
- Don't offer unsolicited advice or criticism to your partner or opponents.
- Talking loudly about hands just completed only irritates other people but can give advantages to sharp-eared players in other parts of the room.
- Avoid looking at any other player's hand, no matter how carelessly he/she exposes it.
- Using bidding boxes, make every call in the same smooth way and take as long to make a simple bid as you need to make a difficult one. Don't let your hand hover over the box.
- When you alert your partner's call make sure your opponents see the alert card.
- When you use the STOP card leave it on the table while you count to 10.
- At the end of the auction leave your bidding cards on the table until the opening lead has been made (or faced).
- When your partner takes longer than usual to pass don't make any positive bid unless it is more than justified by your own holding.
- When you are defending, take the same length of time over the play of each card.

All issues relating to the conduct of a Member, Guest or Visitor shall be referred to the Club Manager. In the event of a complaint being made to the Club Manager it will be at the Club Manager's discretion whether to investigate the complaint. If on investigating the complaint it is in the Club Manager's opinion that the Member, Guest or Visitor has behaved in an unacceptable manner, the Club Manager will suspend or expel the offender from the Club. The Club Manager's decision is final.

The Laws of Bridge

Bridge is a game. For most people at a Bridge Club their main objective is to make friends and have an afternoon or evening out which is socially pleasant but also intellectually challenging. Any game has rules and it is the nature of bridge that however good you are you occasionally and accidentally break these rules:

- Perhaps you make a bid, and then find it wasn't your turn.
- Perhaps your opponent bids 1 Spade, which you didn't notice, so you bid 1 heart which is called an; 'Insufficient Bid' because it isn't high enough.
- Perhaps you play a card when it wasn't your turn.
- Perhaps your opponent leads a spade and you follow suit with a club even though you have a spade, which is called a 'Revoke'.



The Club Director's job is to help you out when something like one of the above goes wrong at the table. If a problem arises call him/her over to the table where you are playing; just call 'Director Please'. It is important to understand that if your opponents call for the Director you should not feel embarrassed as the Director's role is to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by an accidental mistake.

Additional Bridge Activities

Special Events

The Club holds a number of Competitions and Social events throughout the year to promote Bridge play within the area and to promote and raise funds for the Club, Community Related Projects and local Charities.

A Calendar of Events is available on the Club's Website and on the Club's Notice Board at the Fyfield Village Hall.

Bridge Courses and Workshops

The Club provides Bridge Courses for Beginners and Improvers, Supervised Bridge Sessions and Workshops for most levels of Bridge Play. The Beginners and Intermediate Courses follow the EBU structured programmes and the Club only uses EBU experienced and qualified Tutors. Please refer to Tuition on the Club's Website for details and current offerings.

Supervised Play Sessions

A two hour supervised play session can be arranged through the Club Manager. This will be conducted by an EBU qualified and experienced Bridge Tutor. A Supervised Session can be arranged for a minimum of 8 people, maximum 16 people – fees available upon request.