



Thanks to everyone who has welcomed me in taking over the Bridge Chair from Julie. This is my first blog and hopefully I can provide as good and lively a coverage of events as Julie has been doing over the past three years.

Julie has played an outstanding role in chairing the Bridge Section and especially in handling the difficult Covid and post-Covid period. There is no doubt that the Bridge Section is now in much better shape these days. Attendances are well up and there is a very healthy number of potential and actual new players coming through the system from the different teaching groups that Julie and the team have put in place. Julie's organisation has created a website that rivals that of leading Bridge Clubs like Richmond and Wimbledon and managed an excellent system for communication and marketing of events through different media. Much credit also deserves to go to the team around Julie on the Committee and the voluntary support provided by a number of keen and experienced players in running some of the sessions such as the Supervised Play, Chicago, and Teams games. Fortunately for me, Julie is staying on the committee for now as well as most of its other members so I believe we should be in good shape moving forward.

Annual General Meeting

The Bridge AGM was held on 16th October in the Garden Room. Julie was able to report on the steady recovery in attendances while Ellie profiled the various matches and events held during the year. These included a number of notable Roehampton Club successes including winning the Devonshire Cup, winning both the Roehampton Club and Hurlingham Swiss teams, and finishing second in the Centenary Cup and the London Business House League (Div 1) – among a number of other achievements. There is a wide variety of competitive bridge going on for which I have been asked to write a note or two in my future blogs. Sue was able to report a very healthy state for the section's finances which in turn led to a debate around the table money. The Committee has agreed to look into this issue in discussions with the Club Management.

Autumn Teaching

For those of us who follow Paul Mendelson there will be some disappointment that he has suspended his online teaching in order to focus on his award-winning novel writing. However, we are well covered in having no less than three other teachers covering a range of different standards. Hopefully we will see Paul before not too long on one of his regular visits.

No Fears Trophy

Congratulations to Lorna Bhasin and Gina Danon for winning the No Fears Trophy last Thursday in a well contested field. Well done also to Diane Bricknell and Sue Dundas in finishing second and Anne Rix and Jinni Featherstone Witty for third place.



Dates for October/November

Rubber Bridge Winter Knockout

The form to sign up for the Rubber Bridge Winter Knockout has now gone up on the noticeboard. This is one of the Club's long-standing competitions and offers an opportunity to play rubber bridge competitively as opposed to the usual club duplicates.

Sunday 22nd October – Roehampton Club Annual Swiss Teams

Roehampton Club will welcome more than 20 teams to compete in the Roehampton Club Annual Swiss Teams competition on Sunday 22nd October. Roehampton remarkably managed to get both first and second place last year (as well as winning the Hurlingham Swiss Teams event) but we can expect strong competition from the many different clubs competing again this year.

Good luck to the team representing Roehampton Club against the AELTC competing next week for the Irene Hough Trophy. It has always been a very enjoyable fixture and offered the chance to meet some of the tennis greats such as Ann Jones and Buster Mottram. Good luck also to the Ladies for their match against Hurlingham on 26th October which will also be a lively event.

Other dates for the diary are the Simultaneous Pairs being run on Monday 6th November in support of Children in Need and the Annual Christmas Dinner planned for Saturday 2nd December.

Royal Mid-Surrey invitation

Royal Mid-Surrey are inviting participants from clubs they engage with, including Roehampton Club, to join them on a Thursday evening, once a month for a social game of duplicate bridge and buffet dining. Dining will be at their members' prices where one main course is currently £15.50 and two courses at £23.65. Coffee is included. They start the bridge (£5 per person table money) at 6.30pm playing 12 boards and then dinner and then another 12 boards finishing at around 10.30.

The first of these open events is on 26th October then 30th November and then 14th December.

Interested parties can contact Pip Smitham on pipsmitham@yahoo.com with their names, their Club and the dates they wish to participate.

Bridgewebs

In addition to this newsletter our Bridgewebs site includes up-to-date information, including the bridge calendar, duplicate results, teaching schedules, and other information.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/roehamptonclub/>

The link can also be found under the Bridge section of Roehampton Club's Members' website at www.roehamptonclub.co.uk

Malcolm Bricknell, Bridge Chair