

Bridge Blog – 8th February 2024

It has been encouraging to see the Bridge Section in full swing as we have started the New Year. Our numbers in the Bridge Room are continuing to recover post covid with one Monday session at almost full capacity. Attendances to the Teams and Supervised play have been especially good.

It is also encouraging to see the range of competitive Bridge being played in the Club through our scheduled club matches, internal competitions and the four different League competitions which Roehampton Club teams play in. Many thanks to the organizers of these wide-ranging fixtures which offer our Members these great opportunities to play competitive Bridge.

Competition results

Our individual competition, The Miller Cup, was held on Sunday 14th January with Loulou being the very popular winner from a strong field. It was a pleasure to award the trophy to someone who has done (and is doing) so much for the Bridge Section.



The Roehampton Club teams put up a strong showing in the Hurlingham Swiss Teams event on 13th January. Having led throughout the whole competition, the Roehampton Diamonds team was just pipped into second place by a Hurlingham team on the very last round.



Nevertheless, a creditable second place in a field of 22 teams and a very enjoyable event for us all to play in.

Lessons

Lessons are now well underway for the Spring term with Niall Igoe running two Intermediate sessions at the club and James Thrower taking the beginners class. There are also online options with Tim Chanter and Paul Mendelson for people used to their teaching.

We are currently organising an online booking system for some of these classes. We hope to have this up and running smoothly quite soon which should be helpful for classes where booking is for individual lessons rather than for a whole term.

Upcoming Events

The Club's pairs competition will be played on Mondays 12th and 19th February for the Founders Trophy. The winners can represent the Club in the Surrey pairs tournament for the Mary Edwards Cup, which we have won on a number of occasions.

On Thursday 15th February we will have our match against Hurlingham Club competing for the Hurlingham Cup. This should be a good competition as always and we are fielding a strong team accordingly.

As mentioned in the last blog, we are running the Lady Golf Captain's Charity Bridge event on Tuesday 13th February. This will involve Ladies Golf in the morning and Bridge in the afternoon. The aim this year is to support the Captains charity Small Steps, which supports parents and carers with children who have motor and sensory impairments. Further information is posted on the noticeboard.

Finally, we are continuing in our efforts to support less experienced players in improving their bridge with the aim of steadily increasing the numbers who want to play in the duplicate sessions.

We have bought a range of new books for the Bridge Room library and we will selectively add to these in future. I think that these can be a very useful resource to players who want to improve their game – for example the Andrew Robson Bridge lessons series covers a wide range of different issues that Members might well want to prep up on. I must confess that I am already using these. There are also the new books out from Paul Mendelson and Zia Mahmoud as well as quite a few others.

We are also considering having some regular workshop sessions which we think will be very suitable for intermediate players aiming to improve their game, but more on this later.

Malcolm Bricknell, Bridge Chair