

Chair's Newsletter February 2024

As we begin to emerge from winter let's look at what is happening in bridge around Manchester and beyond.

Events

The County held a very successful Congress at the Cresta Hotel in Altrincham at the start of the year. International players rubbed shoulders with club players in pairs and teams of 4. On the Sunday there were 160 players at the Congress including a less experienced players tournament. We have 2 events coming up; the Cantor Cup for those new to bridge on Sunday 25th February and for more experienced players we have a Swiss pairs on Saturday 2nd March. There are places left in both these events. If you are interested go to the Manchester Events website; <https://www.bridgewebs.com/manchesterevents/>

Teaching

Beginners bridge classes in Manchester are really taking off, with some clubs having several classes going on at a time. Manchester, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme, Ashton and Trafford & Sale are the clubs doing the teaching and they are working with over 200 new bridge players. They have funded players to qualify as teachers also involving lots of club helpers. These are exciting times for these clubs who we hope are securing their futures.

National Pairs

Did you get more than 55% at your local duplicate between 4th-18th February? If you did, well done. You have qualified for the regional final of the National Pairs on Sunday 24th March. The EBU will send you an email about this. The regional finals will be on BBO and RealBridge. You can choose which you prefer.

Other events

You can see Internationals playing from all the home countries at the Camrose 2nd weekend which is being held at the Cresta Hotel in Altrincham on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of March.

We have arranged a Face to Face match with Lancashire on 30th June at Bolton bridge club. We will field a team of experts and a team of club players to be selected by the County.

Bridge...Its a Big Deal

Looking forward the EBU along with Cancer Research UK are organising a Festival of Bridge in September. The aim of the event is to raise the profile of bridge and to also raise £60,000 for Cancer Research. There are lots of ideas for clubs to consider on the EBU website. My favourite ideas are having a relaxed duplicate with your local non-affiliated club (with cake and a raffle) and organising an online match with a club in your twin city. Espen Gisvold is our festival manager and you can contact him on [Espen Gisvold](mailto:espen.gisvold@gmail.com) espen.gisvold@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you at the bridge table.
Irene Davies (Chair MCBA)

BRIDGE



IT'S A BIG DEAL!