

Chairman's Blog

Welcome to this blog, which I hope will be a quarterly affair to update the members as to the salient happenings throughout the county and to celebrate successes.

First and perhaps foremost, is the introduction, devised and initiated by the YCBA board, of a technology grant. Details of this can be found on the website but if you are unsure what this involves, please do not hesitate to contact any one on the committee. Whilst as a county we are relatively well off, the finances involved in something like this are not limitless, hence the necessity for the form. What I can assure you though is that there will be no discrimination in terms of looking at and assessing all applications, so I really do encourage all clubs and their committees to seriously think about how they may be able (if needed) to access this opportunity.

I have attached the link to Best behaviour in bridge as a reminder to all of us playing the game how we should behave at the table. At a time when we trying to attract new members to clubs and county, it seems right to me that we should have an environment that welcomes newcomers to the game together with all their twitches/hesitations/misunderstandings etc. How we can help these players improve, not only their bridge but their behaviour at the table, will be through being courteous, encouraging and helpful ourselves.

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/articles/best-behaviour-at-bridge.pdf>

Whilst I will mention more about the Yorkshire league at the AGM in June (please try and attend, there is even food!), I feel that it would be remiss of me not to mention a couple of successes from this years' competition. Settle BC only became affiliated in 2017/2018 and David Guild (our regional development officer and board member) and myself went along to encourage them to join, pointing out the benefits of joining and of course mentioning the league. For the 2018/2019 season they decided to enter a team and averaging around 15 a match they swept to the title without losing a match (as did Halifax A and Leeds D, I should add) and so gained promotion for next year. Their membership has increased a little and I would just like to thank all the officers involved at the club for the efforts they have put in and being rewarded with this success. The other is Leeds A, who won division 1 for a second season and then the regional heat of the garden cities trophy. We wish them luck in the final on 15th June in Solihull. Other notable county and individual successes I will endeavour to cover at the AGM.

As a county we were pioneers in introducing 'improvers' events at congresses. It is satisfying to see that these numbers especially in the pairs' events are increasing to an extent where we are introducing teams' events as well. This is a form of the game which is not really explained for new starters to the game and it is nice to see some clubs providing taster sessions for these events. For those playing in the pairs events, see if you can find a like-minded pair to make up a team with and enter these events, trust me they are great fun. We are also looking to hold county seminars for those wishing to pick up tips to improve their game. Hopefully these will be hosted by well-known players.

Finally, can I remind all county members that the members of the board can be contacted via their e-mails on the website. If there is anything that you feel you draw to our attention, please do not hesitate to contact us. The website (always up to date, thanks to Rob and Lesley) is also an excellent starting point for checking out the latest news, events and other general items.

I would also encourage you to try and attend our excellent congress in Harrogate on 8-9th June and of course the AGM if you can, which starts on the Saturday(8th) at 11.00 am (and is surprisingly short!)