

Happy New Year to you all!

I do hope 2025 has got off to a good start for you and your families.

Firstly an apology to Ingham Cambridge whose change from Windsor Nissan was missed for our programme book – this has been corrected in Compass so results will show the correct name.

From a bridge playing perspective, we have plenty to look forward to and just to highlight a few dates in your pink programme book.

So what is different this year?

Starting with our opening night on **Wednesday 15 January**, we have a **BBQ** to kick us off at the earlier time of 6pm. This is kindly provided by our sponsor, Property Brokers, before bridge at 7pm. No need to find a partner for this first event of the year.

Moving on to **Thursday afternoons**, we have a **series in May asking you to find someone new to you**. This could be someone who you have never or rarely played bridge with or someone who has not regularly played a Thursday afternoon before and you think may enjoy the experience. Playing with a regular or semiregular partner makes you ineligible to win the series. Also note that prizes for first place and first handicap place will be awarded for each series on a Thursday (but only handicapped place on handicap series) but the same pair or person can't win both overall and handicap.

On **Monday evenings**, we see a few changes based on the survey carried out in 2024. Starting with the Henry Davys championship, this is being held between series from March through September. The other stand out, is our new **Catch a Rising Star competition in September** where only one of the pairing can be an Open player.

Need a partner? We have a partnership steward (refer page 1) available for each session or you can use our Whats App Partnership Request page (please TEXT Nandy on 027 292 9658 if you want to be added to the group).

So in summary, there is quite a lot that is new to help our players develop while also meet the need of different levels of experience among members. We are very lucky having so many open players willing to help keen junior and intermediate players along their bridge journey. If you are wanting to learn something new this year or play with a more experienced player, do ask an Open player directly or chat with Ian Moore, Club Captain, who will do his best to help you.

A great way to improve anyone's game of bridge is to play tournaments, available for all levels of players regardless of your experience. Refer to page 3 for local tournaments and pages 31 and 32 for other regional tournaments.

I am very excited to see the return of **Bridge in the Garden on Sunday 2 March** thanks to Kim and Steve Grounds who have offered to host this. It is this sort of event that makes our club special. This is a lovely relaxed afternoon where members can come and play bridge, and their partners can join us for a BBQ afterwards. The Club supplies meat and drink and members come along with a salad or pudding to share, plus their own crockery, plates, bowl etc so the event is not too onerous on anyone. You don't need to find a partner as we usually play bridge with a different partner each round. All good fun!

We look forward to welcoming new and potential players to our **lessons**. Our members are our best advocates to encourage people to learn our favourite game. Please make use of the little leaflet inside your programme book and find one person - or even better more than one with their friends or partner - to join our 2025. **Lessons commence Tuesday 25 Feb 7-9pm with Josie or Thursday 27 Feb 9.30-11.30 with Pam.**

And if you would like to learn something new, or maybe refresh a bridge tip, come along to Kim and my **Improver lesson on Thursdays 7 to 9pm from 13 Feb through 20 March**. Details on page 19.

I encourage you to read the useful information on pages 4-5 as a reminder of our club “manners” and Rules!

Don’t forget to make use of our website – it aims to cover most of your likely enquiries so spend sometime checking out all the information that is available there – including our programme for the year which can be downloaded to your device. It is regularly updated with interesting information and notices that don’t fit with Whats App or that have been emailed to you.

Sadly we have lost our efficient cleaner, who has left Cambridge in pursuit of love! If you know of anyone who would be willing to clean for 1.5 hours per week at \$35 per hour, please let Anna Singlewood or me know as soon as possible. And while I am on the topic of our club rooms, it is so helpful to our cleaner if the room is left tidy by each of us when we finish playing each session.

Finally, I wanted to thank our **club sponsors**. Please do mention you are a bridge club member if you are supporting one of our sponsors’ businesses. It is little things like that, which can go a long way in our Cambridge community.

As your Club President, I wish to continue to nurture the special nature of our club. I do work fulltime so am unable to attend day sessions but please pass on any feedback or messages via a committee member or phone or email me - I always like hearing from our members. On most occasions I will be at evening sessions half an hour early if anyone wants to catch up with me.

Our club has a great team and I encourage you to refer to page 1 for a host of people who help in so many ways, especially Ian Moore who works in partnership with me to ensure we are all playing bridge in an environment that is friendly, happy and conducive to learning.

Happy bridging everyone!

Clare