

What's News at the TBA – December 2019

The TBA Committee met on Tuesday December 3rd from 7.30pm.

PRESENT : J Rhodes (Chair), K Marsden, S Falkingham, M Sherlock, M Gibbs, E Gee, J Grosvenor, G Poulton, A Paton, S Edler, J Bills

The following matters were discussed :

Progress on Club Extensions

Ann Paton and I met with the architect on December 2nd to discuss the overall objectives of the expansion. We are seeking to have an additional acoustically separate teaching area which can also double as an expanded playing area, as well as significantly enhancing the kitchen/dining amenity. We also want to retain a meeting room/library facility and provide additional storage. When we have received the concept drawings from the architect we will display these for member feedback.

Any grant or bequest to assist in the funding of these extensions would be gratefully received by the Club. This could be done anonymously, or you could have a part of the extension named for yourself or a loved one such as is the case with the Vera Houdek room.

Please see Julie Rhodes about this if you would like to participate in the funding of the extensions. A grant or bequest of this nature would expedite the construction program and/or save the club having to borrow additional funds.

Membership Renewal

Each year, our Members are asked to pay an annual renewal fee which contributes to the running and maintenance of our club facilities. Our fees are due from January 1st and part of them must be forwarded to the ABF by the end of the following March. Each year, most of our members pay their fee promptly which enables continuity of both their TBA and ABF membership.

However, there are always a few members who for various reasons delay paying their membership renewal until their membership defaults with the ABF and the TBA must therefore pay a financial penalty to reinstate that member. There is also a lot of following up and extra

paperwork required necessarily undertaken by people who are volunteering their time to do this.

It does not seem fair that the majority of members who renew their membership promptly should subsidise the membership of those who let their TBA and/or ABF membership lapse. Consequently, we are canvassing the introduction of some sort of late payment fee. I am interested in feedback from members, particularly those who are regular late payers. If you have any suggestions as to how to address this problem, please share them with John Grosvenor or myself.

Christmas Activities

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 14th from 12 Noon, followed by FREE Bridge afterwards. If you are attending please bring a plate of food to share.

We will be encouraging our new beginners to participate in this event and will be running a separate section for them. Please make our new members feel welcome at all times.

In the meantime, please give consideration to helping us to assist one of our designated charities, Colony 47 which provides a variety of services to our local community. You can help by putting a gift under our tree which will be delivered to Colony 47 in time for Christmas. Colony 47 have specifically asked for gifts for adults as they usually receive plenty for children. This year they have asked for gifts of toiletries for men and women and/or basics such as socks and undies for men and women. They do not prefer cash or gift cards.

Over Christmas the club will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve.

We will be running one session on Boxing Day (Thursday Dec 26th) commencing at 10.30 am with a short lunch break – a great opportunity for turkey sandwiches! On New Years Day (Wednesday Jan 1st) only daytime bridge will be held.

Otherwise sessions be held as usual.

Beginners Classes 2020

The next series of Beginners Classes will commence on March 3rd (Monday afternoons 1.00pm - 3 .00pm) and 4th (Tuesdays 7.00pm – 9.00pm).

If you know anyone who you think would be interested in taking up bridge, please advise them to register their interest with Sue Falkingham.

Thank you and Happy Christmas

A big thank you to all those who have assisted in the running of our Club in 2019.

We would not be able to function without you and your contribution is noticed and appreciated.

I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2020!



Happy Bridging

Julie Rhodes

TBA President