



2010 AGM: Proposal for the Future of Friday Bridge

Overview

Numbers attending on Fridays have been in decline. The low attendance means that Friday sessions are often unsatisfactory from a bridge point-of-view and are frequently played with an unpopular Howell movement.

The committee wishes to encourage as many members as possible to support Friday sessions. At the same time, the committee proposes to establish targets for average and minimum attendance for the 2010 – 2011 year.

Should these targets not be met, the committee will propose specific changes at the 2011 AGM: these might for example be to discontinue Friday bridge entirely or only to play on Fridays at those times of year where attendance reaches the target levels.

The Targets

Average attendance on Fridays should be 6 tables or more.

Other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g. adverse weather), the minimum attendance should be 5 full tables. This equates to the number currently used to decide whether the club will open on public holidays.

Current Attendance

Support for Friday Bridge has shown a steady decline over several years. In the period from 1 April 2009 to 5 March 2010, average attendance has been 5.24 tables.

In 13 out of 44 sessions, attendance has been below the 5 table limit applied to public holidays and has on 3 occasions been as low as 3 ½ tables.

Increasing Friday Attendance

The committee's preferred solution would be to see increasing levels of Friday attendance and there are a number of signs that this might be achieved:

- several recent new members are playing on Fridays;
- the committee is looking at ways of recruiting newcomers to duplicate bridge to the club and encouraging them to attend on Fridays;
- the playing of matches in the Busbridge Teams League on Fridays will henceforth be strongly discouraged.

Other Factors

In considering the future of Friday bridge, members may also wish to consider the following:

- Based on the period from April to December, the cost per player per session on Fridays (based on hall hire, master points and heating) has been £1.01. This compares with 53p across Mondays and Tuesdays. To put it another way, Friday bridge currently accounts for around 30% of our costs, equating to £12 of our £40 subscription for 2009-2010.
- A clear majority (66%) supports a flat rate subscription for all members irrespective of how often and on which days they chose to play.
- Discontinuing Friday sessions may increase numbers attending on Mondays which are already often at or above the maximum comfortable capacity of the hall.
- Discontinuing Friday sessions may result in a loss of members and subscription income.