

DEALING MACHINE

I propose that the club buy a duplicate dealing machine. This machine deals hands into boards by recognising bar codes on the playing cards. Most of the progressive clubs have their own machines, some share and/or hire them out to other clubs.

Advantages

1. The hands are truly random, which does not happen with decks routinely shuffled and dealt manually. Our bridge would be more varied and interesting.
2. This will help us to attract new members and visitors to the club.
3. A print out of the hands is available at the end of each session - enabling you to assess and compare your results – this is often very interesting, and may improve your bridge!
4. Simultaneous competition hands can be dealt by the machine from a CD, eliminating the need to find a non playing member to perform this tedious task each time.

Cost

These machines cost approximately £3000, including 3 sets of specialised boards and cards. To fund this I propose that the annual subscription be raised by £18 to a total of £50 for the coming year (07/08), this will raise approximately £1800. The club has roughly £2000 in the bank that would fund the difference, leaving a balance of some £800. In order to cover depreciation on the machine, the subs for subsequent years would be increased by £5 – that's £37 per annum, all other things being equal. If membership levels rise this increase may be lower.

Other Clubs

The ongoing cost of playing bridge at Busbridge – even after the purchase of a dealing machine - would still be the cheapest in the area by a long way. For comparison, a list of other clubs in the area, with their approximate charges, is as follows: -

<u>Club</u>	<u>Annual Cost £s</u>	<u>No of days played</u>
Farnham	160	2
Guildford, Merrow	60	1
Chapel Lane (40 weeks)	100	2
Guildford Institute	60	1
Old Woking	180	3
Cobham	88	1
P Shannon	222	3
BUSBRIDGE	37	3

As both your Chairman and a regular player at several other Surrey clubs, I strongly recommend the adoption of this proposal. I believe it can only benefit the club and it's members. It will improve the quality of bridge on offer, and help us protect the future of our club. And, if any of you know anywhere else that will be offering three nights quality friendly bridge – **for 71p a week** – I want to know about it!!

Gerald Searle