Club Website

In today's age of electronic communication where people are increasingly turning to the Internet for their main source of information, a club website has become an essential for any bridge club. Club members nowadays expect to be able to refer to the club website for the results of the latest duplicate, previous results, club ladders, team results and all the news of what the club and its members have been up to recently…. and to do this at their leisure at a time that is convenient to them.

Not only that, but people looking for a new club to play at will often turn to the Internet when researching possible clubs in their area. An attractive website that is kept up-to-date will give prospective new members a good impression of your club. As someone recently commented when asked why they chose one neighbouring club over another "Looking at that club's website, it seemed to have more 'oomph' than the other one!"

The BridgeWebs community of websites

Many clubs have a website individually designed and maintained by a club member. These are fine, of course, but the disadvantage is often that only the member who designed the site knows how to maintain and update it, and when he or she goes away, falls ill or loses interest, the website and the club suffer. Many clubs have therefore moved their websites to the BridgeWebs community of websites. BridgeWebs provides websites especially tailored for use by bridge clubs. These are so constructed that they are very easy to use and can be maintained and updated by a number of different club members simultaneously. In addition, the BridgeWebs websites integrate very well with ScoreBridge, the most popular bridge scoring program, and the one recommended by the EBU. Using BridgeWebs with ScoreBridge means that result uploads are trouble-free and practically instantaneous. The website also automatically calculates various kinds of ongoing competition results, such as club ladders, from the uploaded duplicate results. These can be tailored to suit the club's usual competitions.

What to include on the Club Website

A good attractive website will include the following essential elements together with a few photographs to liven up the pages:

- Front page with basic club information and latest news

- Results

- Club venue details

- Location map

- Instructions on how to find the venue and where to park

- Club session details including day, time and type of session

- List of committee members

- A primary contact with phone number and email address

- Calendar of events

- Details of EBU and County Bridge Association affiliation with links

It is a good idea to appoint a webmaster to take overall charge of the website. Whilst a number of members may be given authority to update the site, the webmaster should ensure that a house style is maintained. If the webmaster and other club members have the time, some of the other information and articles which can be of interest to members and website visitors include:

- Club History

- Club Constitution

- Club Etiquette

- Rotas for scorers, TDs and hosts (can be incorporated in the Calendar)

- News of members' achievements, anniversaries, etc.

- Best Behaviour @ Bridge

- Honours Board

- Match reports

- Interesting hands

- Instructional articles

- Local league tables

- Items on matters of bridge law and procedure

- Funny stories from the bridge table

- Book reviews

- Links to other sites of interest

- AGM and committee meeting minutes

The above list is by no means exhaustive and there is plenty of scope for creativity. Don't be afraid to include items of personal interest to members – many people like to read about their friends. Liven the site up with plenty of photographs.