

Education Committee's Annual Report April 2020

The bridge school has seen a number of changes this year, with Shirley Rawlings taking over as Education Secretary and the appointment of a new Education Administrator, Jenny-Lee Economou. Susan Fletcher has taken on the role of Learn & Play organiser.

In its 4th year of operations, the education programme has continued to expand and develop, with a record number of students taking classes (over 140!). A new 'Refresher course' began in January, for experienced players who felt the need for a structured revision of modern Acol. It clearly fulfilled a demand we had been unaware of, becoming fully booked within days of being advertised.

The January Fast Start Bridge weekend proved highly successful, with 10 out of the 12 participants immediately signing up for term 2 of the year one course. Practice Hand sessions, Learn & Play and Gentle Duplicate continue to be well attended, providing a structured progression of development for students, allowing them to consolidate their skills and gain confidence.

A new and important innovation this year has been our use of the No Fear Bridge website, which has allowed us to draw from their wide range of teaching resources to set up a programme of weekly revision activities for each teaching group. Since the premature cessation of lessons in March these activities have proved invaluable in helping to keep our students involved in bridge. Other measures taken to support students during the period of social isolation include the provision of interactive online lessons for those students who missed lessons because of early self-isolation and support for students who wish to play bridge online.

We are particularly pleased to report that many of our student graduates are not only playing regularly in all club duplicate sessions, but they are also participating in the wider running of the club, helping with education administration, finance, marketing, scoring, directing and organising rotas.

Shirley Rawlings, April 2020