



Dear Club Secretary

You may already be aware that three long-established Glasgow based bridge clubs (Buchanan Bridge Club, Glasgow Bridge Centre and St Andrew Bridge Club) are amalgamating to form a new super Bridge Club, named the **Clyde Bridge Centre**.

I am writing to keep you, and your members, updated on progress and outline opportunities for your club and members to become involved in 2025.

Here is a little more background on the Clyde Bridge Centre.

The Clyde Bridge Centre has been formed as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which has been approved and registered under the name The Hillington Bridge Club Ltd, trading as “Clyde Bridge Centre”.

The home of the Clyde Bridge Centre is a 10,000 square foot, two-storey light, bright building, which was formerly the headquarters of The British Red Cross in Scotland. The upper floor, which will be home to the Academy, is serviced by a lift. When first considering the area of Hillington as a possible location for the new club, it was quickly realised that Hillington was ideal as it could be reached by car from the North and South of Glasgow in less than 20 minutes. Moreover, it was also easily accessible from towns such as Paisley, Dumbarton and Greenock and surrounding areas. This means the building is well located for travel from wide areas across the west of Scotland. The club has 28 private car parking spaces and includes designated disabled spaces. There is also plentiful free, well lit “on street” parking adjacent to the building. A poll of the members of the three clubs found that the vast majority were happy with the location as it resolved many previous issues with access and parking. The club is well served by two railway stations, Hillington East and Hillington West, which are each less than a 10 minute walk away. Various buses pass the building.

Prior to the opening of the new club, scheduled for May 2025, a substantial re-modelling of the new premises will be undertaken, to create a tailor-made environment for a large bridge club.

The new club will promote bridge to young and old, particularly in the West of Scotland and will have its own teaching and playing Academy. A range of

courses will be offered to players at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels and most importantly the aim is to provide outreach to schools and encourage young people to play bridge from an early age.

For avoidance of doubt, we are not suggesting that your members cease membership of their existing club but are welcome to come as a visitor to the Clyde Bridge Centre and try out the facilities for themselves with no requirement to join. However, as our membership is only £40/annum some of your members may wish to join the Clyde Bridge Centre as well as their existing club. The only stipulation is, that if not already a member of the SBU, they would require to also join the SBU at an additional cost of £12/year.

Visitors do not need to be members of the SBU. Members will pay reduced table money.

The facilities of the Clyde Bridge Centre will include:

- A wide choice of playing times including morning, afternoon, evening and weekend sessions
- A variety of standards of tournaments to meet the needs of a range of players: eg “Play & Learn” for players just out of lessons where mentors will be on hand for support; “Relaxed sessions” for those still a little nervous about ‘moving up’; Bronze level; and Silver for advanced players.
- A new Training Academy offering training and seminars for all levels of players
- Use of tailor-made premises, designed to be Scotland’s best equipped Bridge centre
- A comfortable refreshment and time-out area
- A warm, friendly welcoming playing environment.

If you wish to join the Clyde Bridge Centre, the Membership Application Form can be found on our website –

www.bridgewebs.com/clyde

Please feel free to share this information with your members.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please don’t hesitate to contact me by email at Trustee.Chair@clydebridgecentre.org

Kind regards

Bobby Dickson

Chairman of SCIO Trustees, on behalf of Clyde Bridge Centre