



Sheffield Bridge Club

Sheffield Bridge Club - how it operates

Sheffield Bridge Club is a large, very active club of around 300 members with its own premises based in the Nether Edge suburb of the city. The activities of the club cover all levels of play from beginners to national and international standard players with an active training programme and a full schedule of play sessions each week.

The club is owned and run by its members; there are no paid members of staff with the club being run entirely by volunteers giving their time and expertise for free. It relies on all members playing their part in the care and maintenance of the club.

Brief History of the Premises

- 1936 - Sheffield Bridge Club opened as rented property
- 1939 - Bomb damage to roof - closed for three months - members paid for repairs
- 1944 - Landlord put property up for sale - bought by 4 members and rented back to the club
- 1948 - Bought by members as a whole - Cost £1800
- 1955 - 1986 Various building developments, e.g. garages demolished to allow car park
- 1984 - Planning permission for expansion of Club refused - high numbers of members
- 1986 - Major reconfiguration of premises into current state
- 2014 - Change from employing a steward to a full self-help operation
- 2015 - New kitchen installed and bar transformed into lounge

Trustees

The Club currently has three Trustees, appointed by the Committee, who are responsible for the Club Premises. However, the Trustees must deal with the Club Premises in line with resolutions of the Committee.

Committee

The Committee is responsible for the Management of the Club. It comprises:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Chief Tournament Director
- House Manager
- Committee Members x 6

Committee members are elected at the AGM. Committee members can be re-elected a maximum of three times consecutively. Within the Committee different individuals lead on building maintenance, communications, cleaning, events, IT, marketing, membership, teaching and development. A non-

Committee member acts as the Club website and IT Administrator. A sub-committee, the League Operating Group (LOG), organises the two Monday night leagues and Yorkshire League teams.

Membership

Membership is open to all without regard to age, disability, race, gender, sexual orientation or religion. A candidate for admission as a Member has to be proposed by one Member and seconded by another stating for how long they have known him/her. It is for the Committee to officially decide if an application is accepted.

Member Voluntary Help

The Committee acknowledges that the Club could not operate at all without the massive amount of voluntary help provided by so many members. The decision to operate without a steward necessitated big changes including the need for volunteer assistance in running the Club.

In particular, the Treasurer is supported in banking arrangements; the Chief Tournament Director by the team of scorers and sessional Tournament Directors and the House Manager in the procurement of supplies and buildings maintenance and development.

This short list fails to do justice to the great many who carry out other regular and one-off pieces of work. This includes volunteers who open and close the Club and act as cashiers with this activity being managed by a non-Committee member. Also, the website administrator does a fantastic job and is super awesome.

The drinks and tea and coffee bar are run on an "honesty" payment system. Food for catered events is arranged and provided by members of the Club usually led by the House Manager. Additional help from members with this would always be very welcome.

Member Responsibilities

The club runs smoothly when all members "do their bit", as indeed many do, in particular:

- Parking considerately, using the car park from the back wall forwards and leaving road spaces near the Club for the use of members with mobility issues.
- Clearing away after themselves in the kitchen
- Returning used crockery to the kitchen and placing in the dishwasher
- Tidying tables at the end of play
- Reporting any maintenance issues to a committee member for resolution
- Welcoming and encouraging new and less confident players

Finance

The income of the club comes entirely from subscriptions and table money, with a small percentage of table money going to the English Bridge Union and the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association as part of the club's affiliation fees of these vital organisations. The level of income covers the running costs of the club and provides a small surplus which accumulates to allow the committee to plan and carry out maintenance and improvement projects for the club.

Communications

The Committee has instigated a regular news note which is distributed electronically. The ease of communication with members electronically has been enhanced with the adoption of a bought in IT system called Pianola. Pianola provides a Club management system, a website builder, a results service, a targeted email system, a membership database, a competitions manager and a find a partner service. It is important to remember that not all members have e-mail addresses.

There are a number of website documents which give comprehensive information regarding the Club and how it works in practice. See the [Club Admin](#) for these.