

You've heard of FIGHT CLUB. Well now there's **BRIDGE CLUB**

On-line Bridge Booms during Lockdown in Chelmsford!

Founded in 1952, Chelmsford Bridge Club faced potential collapse in March 2020, in the face of the pandemic. Chairman, Valdie Pater, faced a dilemma: Should Chelmsford Bridge Club close its doors, as six other Chelmsford based bridge clubs had done, or re-invent itself and embrace the challenge that the Covid pandemic presented?

Bridge online seemed to offer some alternatives to the face-to-face game, so Chelmsford BC decided to put its faith in technology and develop the club around it. Yet this was no light decision. With most players aged between 60 and 90 years old and barely familiar with technology, all and sundry faced quite a challenge.

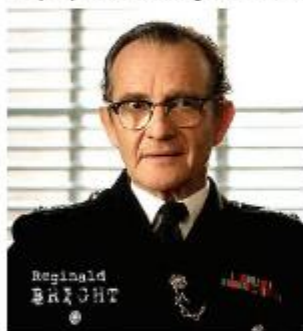
For instance, Ann, a player in her 80s, swore she would never play bridge online. But she not only mastered the game on her iPad but also taught some of her 80-90-year-old friends to play.

Audrey, also in her 80s, not only mastered the game, but went on to direct and help launch a new video-savvy on-line bridge playing platform called RealBridge. A product of the pandemic, RealBridge has allowed bridge players to emulate the true face-to-face game.

The spin-off has not only been the chance to play a great game with friends during lockdown, but has also given many elderly folk confidence to use technology for zoom calls, shopping and other necessary activities.

Indeed the take-up of on-line Bridge has been incredibly popular, so it was not long before Chelmsford moved from just a Monday night club to offering bridge play to members almost every day of the week. And get this, Chelmsford Bridge Club even ran a session on Christmas Day to support members who were sadly alone and had seen all the reruns on TV.

One player said: "I like the scope of playing whenever I'm free to do so. Whilst I enjoy the discipline of playing at a regular time at a regular club, I also now have access to other clubs within my local area. So I would definitely say that online bridge has been my saviour during lockdown."



Surely an online bridge player if ever there was one?

with members ranging from complete beginners and improvers to those who have represented bridge at both a county and national level. That said, everyone is welcome and they look forward to meeting you all.

To learn more or to learn Bridge visit
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/chelmsford>



"Shall we put our keys in the fruitbowl next, arf-arf?"

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