

WoE Bridge Club: Membership Secretary's Report 2019/2020

All the figures in this report relate to the situation up to 31 March 2020.

We currently have 220 members, a figure which includes 16 life members and 6 country members.

We have amended the date for the early payment discount (£20) to payment by 31 March, and have reduced the annual fee to £24 to make it simple to charge a pro rata sum for new members joining throughout the year (i.e. effectively £2 per month). Full details are on the website. Existing members who do not renew by 31 March (a change from 30 April) will be charged the full rate of £24. It was felt that this was fair because reminders are now being sent by email and post. (Note that members have been asked several times to check their Pianola records to ensure we have their correct email address/postal address and other contact details. If there is anybody who still does not know how to do this please contact Alan or myself.)

We have made substantial changes this year in the way that annual subscriptions are dealt with. This change was necessitated by the increased number of members and the running of multiple sessions, making the former 'verbal reminder' system totally impractical. The Pianola database has been used to send out subscription reminders and record payments. Members have been encouraged to pay online, but unfortunately a substantial minority appear to have been reluctant to do this (74 had paid online up to end March and 54 by cash or cheque; 75 had still to pay).

Due to the Lockdown and the uncertainty about when or if we will reopen, no reminders were sent out to members who had not paid by the end of March. We will ensure that no members who have already paid will be out of pocket should they be unable or unwilling to return to the club. Any members who have not paid but who wish to return when/if the situation improves will probably be charged a pro rata sum (all to be decided in due course).