# Getting Teaching going in a small face to face duplicate club

**Nicky Bainbridge, August 2023**

Market Harborough is a duplicate club in Leicestershire. In early 2023 they were offering one formal duplicate session a week, and a second less formal one. Both were held at a Baptist church.

Numbers after the pandemic had recovered, but not to pre-Covid levels. There was no obvious source of new members. The club decided to offer a course for beginners. The club had no teaching experience of its own, but one of its members, Graham Logan, had learned with Nicky Bainbridge, based in Rugby, and approached her for advice. Nicky was (is) very keen to help and discussions started with MHBC.

Nicky agreed to lead the first ten lessons for beginners. The club agreed to do everything else, with Nicky’s help and advice.

The start of the course was set in July. The club found a venue and helpers. The club conducted a particularly successful marketing campaign pursuing many channels including local radio. The club did the budgeting, managed the money, organised helpers.

There were thirty enquiries, rather more than expected. These were whittled down to twenty accepted for the first session. These naturally declined to eighteen. As a full turn out to every lesson is unusual, there were usually four tables at each lesson.

Nicky led the lessons, with MHBC members acting as helpers, particularly having at least one per table for playing. Others provided the vital tea, coffee, and biscuits at the break. The helpers chatted to the participants helping with any learning points, telling them about bridge and getting to know them.

The materials used were those of “Bridge For Pleasure”, available free of charge from that web site. There was a set of pre-dealt boards for each table The club provided the boards and cards. Dealing them started with the club, but Nicky doing it was easier.

The leaners were invited to sign up for an extended free trial of No Fear Bridge. After each lesson suggested exercises on NFB, notes, and a quiz were sent to each participant. Subsequent lessons started with going over the previous lesson’s quiz.

The learners enjoyed the course, and most of them have indicated interest in follow on practice sessions or a further course, or both.

The club helpers enjoyed supporting the course, generally looking after a table each during the practical exercises. One has taken EBED teacher training. They will carry on with practice and the next course without Nicky. Teaching is hopefully firmly established in the future of the club.