



# **Bristol Bridge Club**

## **News Letter - December 2010**

### **Chairman's Report**

I wish all our members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2010 has been a year in which substantial physical changes have been made to improve the Club and may I, on behalf of the Committee, express my heartfelt thanks to everyone with ideas, finance, supervision, constructive fault finding and, of course, thanks to you all for stoically putting up with the inconvenience when the work was being undertaken.

The Club looks far better and it has been a delight to receive so many favourable comments from members and visitors to the Club. From all your favourable comments it is clear that the new Directors area with the glass shelving and trophies looks exceptionally good.

The latest addition to the Club has been the new "Bike Rack" installed by the Council. Please use it as bikes are no longer allowed on the Club premises.

A warm welcome to our latest group of new members, many having joined through our tuition scheme.

Next year will be a busy one for the Committee (what's new?) with a review to be taken at the January meeting on the level of our subscriptions and table money charges. We have held our current fees for a number of years and for the last year we have waited to see if the level of funding required by the EBU and Avon for the "pay to play" was going to change significantly; currently it hasn't. However V.A.T. will go up in January 2011 and we also have to make provision for the repayment of the refurbishment loans. If you have a view then please talk to a Committee member before the meeting.

The first round of the "Garden Cities" competition will be played on 9th January 2011. I think it important to have a good entry for this competition as a Club of our size should be able to field a number of teams with our good players. Please fill in the entry list on

the notice board as soon as possible.

Following requests from members we are going to run a series of short seminars on various aspects of Bridge. The aim is to start them at 6 pm on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday night. They will be of forty-five minutes duration and the topics will depend on what you want. Longer sessions with practice play will be run on Saturday morning if there is a demand. Please see the questionnaire by Steve's desk and let us know.

Finally two requests:-

\* **Mobile phones.** If you must have them switched on for urgent calls, please switch to silent mode before play starts otherwise please switch off.

\* **Car sharing** If you travel to the Club by car alone please will you try to find someone else who lives by you to car share or at least the last stage of the journey. This will greatly ease the on-going car parking problems.

**Phil Seymour**



## **Secretary's Section**

News of bridge competitions and dates:

**Play at Christmas** - There will be no bridge on Friday December 24th, Saturday December 25th, Sunday December 26th or Monday December 27th. However there will be normal evening play on Tuesday December 28th. The Hicks teams will be later than usual on December 30th and the Premier Pairs is earlier than usual on the December 21st.

**Sociable Saturdays** - There will be no "Sociable Saturday" in December. The dates for the next Sociable Saturdays are January 8th and February 5th.

### **Using The "Bridgemate" Scoring Boxes**

Typical examples of what can go wrong when using the "Bridgemate" scoring boxes are:-

1. The box will not let you enter your result stating that it is the wrong board. The reason is that the last board from the previous round has not been entered.

2. You try to put in a result for, say, Board 12 and the display says that the board has already been played. The reason is that the result for Board 11 was put in as Board 12.
3. An incorrect result is entered; e.g. forgetting to put in the double and the input is agreed by East.

The recommended procedure is as follows:-

North checks the box at the start of the round to see which pair number is expected and which boards should be played. You do not start to play until both are correct and if you have made mistake 1 above, then that would come to light at this point. You can also put in the first board number now.

Once the bidding is finished and whilst the dummy is being put down, North can input the contract and who is playing, so that only the result has to be inputted after the end of play. This saves time. Put the result into the box before recording everything on your scorecard.

When the box is passed to East to verify, you need to check carefully that what has been the input is correct; ie board number, contract, who is playing it and the result. You do not need to check that the score indicated, e.g. -140, is correct. The computer will have worked out the score correctly if the input is accurate. If any of the input details are incorrect keep pressing "cancel" to go back to what has to be corrected.

**Stephen Royal**



## **Hubert Phillips Bowl**

You may have noticed that Jeremy Dhondy was a recent visitor to the Club. He and his team from London played a team from Plymouth in a round of the Hubert Phillips Bowl. It seems he was impressed with our facilities. The Hubert Phillips Bowl is a National Team Competition in which the team has to have at least one female member and one male member. Also they have to play a third of the boards with each other member of their team. If you contact the EBU regarding a problem about the Rules then you will receive an answer from Jeremy Dhondy. He is a regular contributor to the English Bridge magazine.

## Double Dummy Problem

The hand below was composed many years ago.

D 1	N North	W N E S
	♠ A432 ♥ A107543 ♦ A73 ♣	
W West		E East
♠ Q ♥ 962 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ1098653		♠ QJ8 ♥ KQ1086 ♣ AQ742
	S South	
	♠ KJ1098765 ♥ K ♦ J954 ♣	

The contract is 6♠ by South after East has opened 1♦. West leads his singleton diamond. How does South make the contract? There's a surprising solution that you might enjoy finding before skipping to the answer at the end of the Newsletter.

----- ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ -----

## How can improve my play?

This is to play with the same partner most of the time. You then get used to each other's style of play and your bidding system becomes more accurate. If you play against very strong opposition you can "survive" by bidding accurately.

The main problem is finding a partner who you enjoy partnering and whose bidding and play you trust. The trust must not waiver even if one of you makes a bad mistake. One method is not to discuss any problem at the table. Just remember what happened and discuss it next day. In a competition both players can generate high levels of adrenaline and an outburst can ruin the partnership. Before coming to Bristol I formed a partnership with a colleague and we both enjoyed playing together. I have to confess that he was a better player than myself and had considerable "flair".

The "mix" of the partnership can also be important. I have played with players who tended to be similar to myself and have not done very well. When playing with more "aggressive" bidding partners I have done better. This will not suit everyone.

Editor Derek Fey --- [Derekfey@aol.com](mailto:Derekfey@aol.com)

## History of the Club

The Bristol Bridge Club in 1964 was based in the Promenade, Clifton, next door to the Royal Marines premises. At this time it was also the Headquarters of the Somerset Contract Bridge Association. Nearly all Somerset League matches were held at the Club. However Bristol and Gloucestershire residents could also join the Gloucestershire County Bridge Association. I did myself and played with Felix Rich representing the Gloucestershire Second team in a match against a Wiltshire Second Team at the Swindon F.C. ground. This was a match between two teams of eight.

In 1970 when Avon County was formed, this caused problems for Bristol and Somerset. A.T.M. Jones (a leading player at the Club) was in favour of the Club continuing being the Headquarters of Somerset. He tended to follow the cricket situation, having played county cricket for Somerset (and scored a century) when still at school!

The Avon County Bridge Association was formed and players were chosen to represent the County. In 1995 Avon County was abolished as a political entity. All three City Council parties voted for its abolition. The reason being that Bristol had been a City and a County since 1373, and it was difficult getting voters in Bristol out to vote for a County which had taken the County status away from Bristol.

Because the setting up of Avon was done to make all Counties to have roughly equal populations the Avon County Bridge Association has continued. The other two organisations which have retained the name of Avon are the Police and the Ambulance Service.

**Derek Fey**



## Some Bridge Quotes

Apologies that these quotes are unattributed. Since I didn't know all the authors I decided to omit attributions entirely.

1. I say, let's banish bridge. Let's find some pleasant way of being miserable together.
2. Every day you play worse and worse but today you are playing like it's tomorrow.
3. If you are accused in a court of law of being able to play bridge I'll defend you for free.
4. Question - how should I have played that hand? Answer - under an assumed name!
5. I can see that you learnt to play today but could you tell me at what time today?
6. We believe that bridge is particularly attractive to people with a scrappy

- disposition.
7. Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster.
  8. Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a substantial number of antisocial people.
  9. Where's the hand you held during the auction?
  10. South: Alert!  
East: Yes?  
South: I'm requested to further mis-describe my hand.
  11. The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.
  12. I'd like a review of the bidding with all the original inflections.



## People News

Congratulations to Mike Davies and Cathy Walker who tied the knot in November.

Our Bar Manageress, Malgosia, has only been with us a short time and will be leaving in December as she is expecting her second child next year. Our best wishes to her. Sarah, who has been helping Malgosia out some evenings, is going to take over this role and Annie will be the regular Tuesday evening bar staff.

Our club members were well represented in the Avon Team playing in the qualifying round of the Tollemache Cup, the inter-county teams-of-eight championship. The team was:

**Mike Elliott & Tim Brierley, David Jones & Trevor Ward, Robert Covill & Aidan Schofield, Paul Keightley & Peter Sampson, and Mike Huggins & Myles Ellison. (NPC: Mike Letts)**

Congratulations to them all.

Sadly Dan Gluxton passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> November. He had been a member of the club for over 40 years.

Finally welcome to our new members:

Mrs Sarah Avery, Mrs Anne Stygall, Mrs Terence Stygall, Mrs Neil Purchase, Ms Christine Moore, Miss Gillian Pocock, Mr Shaun Day, Mr Jonathan Storz, Mrs Jenny Denny, Mr John Kimber, Mr Alan Burnell, Mrs Carole Price, Mr Giles Duncan, Mrs Hilary Montgomery, Miss Joanne Partridge, Mr David Gist, Ms Janet Bull, Mr Ken Guy, Mr Robert Dooley, Mr Lee Webb, Mrs Teresa Hardy, Mr David Thomas, Mrs Janet Thomas, Miss Lorraine Palmer, Mrs Maureen Timms, Mr John Steeds, Mrs Patricia Davies, Miss Nicola Renner, Mrs Sue Purchase, Mr Nick Purchase, Mrs Margaret Webb, Mrs Margaret Crowson, Mrs Sue Keefe,

Ms Sheila Askham, Mrs Susan Papier, Mr Desmond Baker, Mrs Alicia Cash, Mrs Sue Whitely and Mr Terence Bowers



## Double Dummy Solution

South wins the first trick with the A♠. The issue is how to establish the heart suit in the absence of more than one entry to dummy. The ingenious solution is to win the first trick, play a heart to the King, and then play a low spade towards dummy. When West plays the Q♠ let him hold the trick! Whatever West plays next then gives you the needed entry to dummy to play A♥ followed by a heart ruff. This hand was composed over 50 years ago by Terence Reese and Harold Franklin for a par contest at Selfridges hotel in 1957.



## Best Behaviour at Bridge

The English Bridge Union produced their policy on behaviour at the bridge table back in 2006. As part of our commitment to ensuring there is a pleasant and friendly environment for our game; the committee endorse this policy and wish to see it implemented in our club. It is reproduced here and has also been posted on the club noticeboard: \_



**BEST BEHAVIOUR AT BRIDGE**



*Bridge is an extremely enjoyable game. Courteous behaviour is an exceptionally important part of that enjoyment.*

*This guide serves as a brief reminder of how to behave at the bridge table. We are sure that all players naturally follow this code of conduct but there are times when concentration and pressure can take their toll and it is for these situations that we issue this as a reminder.*

- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
- Be a good “host” or “guest” at the table.

- *Make your convention card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely.*
- *Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.*
- *Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.*
- *Take care of your personal grooming.*
- *Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.*
- *Enjoy the company as well as the game.*

*Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results or object to a call for the tournament director or to dispute or argue about a director's ruling.*

Please call the Director if you think you may have been affected by bad behaviour. You will be helping others as well as yourself

*As in all games that our governed by rules and regulations, bad behaviour will be penalized ....*

*If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. This can include immediate disciplinary board penalties, and if a future violation is incurred at the same event, disqualification from future competition in that event. Any further violations may result in a disciplinary hearing where player(s) future participation in tournaments will be considered.*

**English Bridge Union  
August 2006**

