



# Bristol Bridge Club

February 2012

## Happy New Year for 2012!

I know it's a bit late but with so many members finishing cruises late or enjoying long family breaks I kept the greeting back until the end of the month. 2011 was a great year for the Club, enjoying our improved premises, growing membership and busy bridge sessions. We will always have a few glitches but let's hope 2012 can be equally successful. If we ask for feedback in this Newsletter please respond; it's your Club and it runs best when we know what you like.

Finally, a big welcome to all our new members since the summer. Many have joined our Tuition courses and many as experienced players. Enjoy your bridge and I hope to meet you all before too long.

Phil Seymour Club Chairman

## New Spring Seminars

Following on from our successful seminars last year we have three seminars scheduled over the next two months.

These courses are intended for Bristol Bridge Club members who have completed their tuition course, have been playing for a while and would like to improve parts of their bridge skills. It's also intended for those of us who have been playing for quite a while and have never quite mastered the topic in question.

The cost for each seminar is £5.00 which includes tutoring on the subject matter followed by practice play and discussion with set hands for approximately 2 hours. The cost also includes tea and biscuits

See the Club Notice board to enter your names for the seminar.

Wednesday 8th February 2012 7:15pm

### Responding to interference bidding

Mike Elliot

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 9.30am

### Benji Acol Part 2

Gill Davies

Wednesday 7th March 2012 7.15pm

### One no Trump opener, by partner or the opposition. What now?

Mike Elliott



## Annual Membership Fees



Don't panic they are not due just yet. We are setting up a new bank account to enable members to pay their membership fees online. Every year we have problems identifying cash payments and we would prefer payments online or by cheque.

If you feel you have to pay by cash please remember to put the payment in an envelope with your name and postcode on it so we know to whom it belongs.



## Bridge Competitions at Bristol Bridge Club

There are various monthly and annual competitions held at the club along with events we host for the Avon Contract Bridge Association (ACBA) and the English Bridge Union (EBU). Mostly they are played on Tuesday and Thursday nights but there are some competitions for members who play at other times. This article summarises the BBC events and asks for feedback on whether or not you would like to see anything changed.

Currently we have monthly aggregate competitions which run from May to April each year, and are based on a player's best eight scores over that period. They are:

the **Mendela Trophy** and the **Austwick Cup**, the latter being a handicapped event.

There are 2 monthly competitions which attract cash prizes. They are:

the **Premier Pairs**, for which pairs have to qualify in the normal pairs event on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and the **Challenge Pairs**, which uses IMPs scoring and is open to any pair.

We also have monthly a **Handicapped Pairs** event and the **Hicks Teams** which is also handicapped. At both of these bottles of wine are awarded to the winners.

The annual events we hold are:

the **Spielman Cup**, the Club Pairs Championship, the **Everett Cup**, the Club Teams Championship, the **Hockey Cup**, the Clubs Mixed Pairs Championship.

For this year the **Ladies'** and **Men's Pairs** have been successfully reintroduced after a gap of a few years, and last year we introduced a new competition, the **Premier Pairs Silver Cup** for those who finished in the top 3 in the **Premier Pairs** throughout the last two years.

There are several competitions for members who play on days other than Tuesday or Thursday. These are:

the **Janet Haynes Trophy** for Friday night regulars, the **Madge Kirk Trophy** for those finishing the beginners' course, and the **Afternoon Cup** for Monday and Wednesday afternoon players.

We also have a mixture of other competitions:

the **Bernard Shannon Trophy** played after the AGM (see the article 'Draw for Partners'), the **Helmore Salver**, which is a knock-out rubber bridge competition, and the **Cyril Samuels' Swiss Teams** handicapped event that is played at the Christmas Party each year.

There is one other competition, the **Curtis Cup** which is sponsored by Bob Curtis. It was not played last year. Bob and the committee would like to reintroduce it this year. In the past it has been played as a teams competition where handicaps were used to team stronger pairs with weaker pairs. It was played over 3 Wednesdays in the summer with a 2 session final in September. Any ideas you have for a new format would be welcome.

We have set up a sub-committee to review all the competitions we run at the club with a view to dropping any that are no longer appropriate and introducing new ones if there is a demand. We plan to ensure that the rules for the competitions are clearly defined and review the club handicap system. We will also look at ways of incorporating Blue Point events into our calendar (see 'EBU Matters' in this newsletter).

We would very much value your views as this is your Club, so do let us know which competitions you like. Are there any you would like to get rid of or do you have ideas for new ones you would like to see introduced? Send your feedback to [sue.ohara@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.ohara@btinternet.com) or put comments in my pigeon hole or talk to me at the club.

Sue O'Hara



## Friendly Thursdays

We introduced our Friendly Thursdays a couple of years ago, when we have a free 5th Thursday in the month, to encourage Monday and Friday night players to play on a Thursday night. As not many new players are trying this, we are going to change to a different format for the next event on **March 29th** (see the article on 'Draw for Partners').



## Hosted Events



ACBA and EBU events are hosted at the club. The county events include a heat for the **County Championship Pairs**, the **Mixed Pairs Championship** and the **County Men's and Ladies' Pairs Championships**.

A heat for the **National Pairs** will be held on Tuesday **31st January** and for those that qualify the regional final will be held at our club on Sunday **18th March**. The **Portland Pairs** on Sunday **25th March** is a mixed pairs event that is played simultaneously at various venues throughout the country. Green Points are awarded for the leaders in these events. This is a good chance to play in an EBU event against players from other clubs without having to travel.



## Draw for Partners

Currently the only competition where there is a draw for partners is for the Bernard Shannon Trophy after the AGM. This is always a pleasant evening, played in a good spirit. We thought that we would offer another opportunity to have a draw for partners on Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month, so this is in the calendar as a "Friendly Thursday". You can still play with a partner of your choice on this evening. We give a cash prize of £20 ( £10 each ) to the winning pair, to encourage the stronger players to play.

**Sociable Saturdays**

**American Supper and Friendly Bridge**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> .**

**7.15 pm**



## Special Competitions

See the calendar for full details of special competitions coming soon. Please note especially:

the club's **Men's Pairs** and **Women's Pairs** on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**,

the club's **Mixed Pairs** competition on **Thursday May 3rd**,

and the **ACBA Mixed Pairs** qualifier on **Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

You need a partner of the correct gender if you want to play on these evenings.

The **Everett Cup Qualifier**, a teams event, is on **Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>** and there will be only teams on that evening.

Stephen Royal



## Notable Achievements in 2011



### Club Competitions

In May the **Madge Kirk Trophy**, the competition for the beginners, was won by Jane Thomas and Mo Timms, with Jan Bull and Ken Guy as runners-up.

Also in May Irene Robinson and Mike Huggins won the **Hockey Cup**, with Chris King and Steve Tomlinson the runners-up.

In June **The Bernard Shannon Trophy** was won by Sheila Montgomery and Brian Dyde, Colin Cheek and Maureen Dickens being the runners-up.

In July Colin Cheek and Bob Curtis won the **Phil Jones Bowl**, with Betty Simpson and Joyce Wilson the runners-up.

The **Spielman Cup** was won in November by Jack Terry and Robert Covill with Gwen Spear and Jackie Lawless as close runners-up.

The Christmas Monday competition was won by Anne Huddleston and Joy Fowles, with Susan and Raymond Griffiths as runners-up.

### Other Competitions

The Avon Counties Men's and Ladies Pairs Competitions were held at the Club in November. Congratulations to Judy Archer and Pauline Hart on winning the Ladies event, and Nelson Stephens and Aidan Schofield on winning the Men's event.

In the summer, Irene Robinson and Mike Huggins won a Seniors event at Brighton, a fine achievement as the competition in Brighton is very intense.

In July Gwynn Davis playing with Sue Ingram won the Championship Pairs at Aberystwyth from a very strong field containing a number of international players.

Also in July The Welsh Seniors Congress Open Pairs was won by Nelson Stephens and Sue O'Hara.

Derek Fey



### Honour Boards

As you can see in the main Club room the Honour Board is full and we need to do something about it. The committee has discussed this and we are going to seek the views of our members in March when we tell you about the various options.

## Soroptimist International

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BRIDGE DAY

On **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February** the Club is hosting the Bristol Soroptimist Club's

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Charity Bridge Day.

The day starts with coffee at 10.30am and an excellent 2 course lunch is planned with afternoon tea at the end of the day. There will be morning and afternoon Bridge sessions and prizes for the top pairs. The cost is £22.50 per head. Programme details and application forms for the Soroptimists' Charity Bridge Day can be found on the Club Notice Board.

Maureen Dickens is the co-ordinator for any queries and ticket sales.

Please contact her on 0117 9043008

Email: [159jmd@gmail.com](mailto:159jmd@gmail.com)

### EBU Matters

You may have seen in English Bridge that the EBU are introducing some new initiatives. The National Grading Scheme will run alongside the current Master Point system and will allocate a grade to everyone based on their performance in their most recent games. They are also introducing Blue Points which are valued between Local Points and Green Points. From January 1st 2013 Clubs and Counties will be able to run events that will award Blue Points.



## PROBLEMS WITH 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 put in your result stating that it is the wrong board for that round. 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 indicates 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 put in, e.g. forgetting to put in the double, and the input is agreed by East or West.

As a director I am frequently called to the table and asked to erase an incorrect input, and I would like to emphasize how important it is for East or West to check the details before pressing OK. I suspect that a lot of players sitting East are so keen to find out what other results there are on the board that they do not properly check. I would like East to assume that North has made a mistake – they often do. If for example board 11 is played but then the result is put in as board 12 ( perhaps because board 12 has already been put on the table ) then East must not agree this. If you do, then you will get to see all the results for a board that you are about to play, and the director may well not let you play board 12.

The recommended procedure to use 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 while dummy is put down, North can input the contract and who is declarer, so that only the result has to be input 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 input is correct – board number, contract, who is declarer and the result. You do not need to check that the score indicated eg –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, do not press OK but keep pressing cancel to go back to what has to be corrected.

Stephen Royal



At this time of the year coughs, colds and other bugs are in abundance and we all handle the cards. Please wash your hands while at the Club to reduce the spread of ailments.

From Nanny Chairman



## Handicaps

Since arranging to streamline the handicapping system so that the results for the prize handicap pairs can be produced at the end of the evening, there have been a number of queries about how the handicapping system works. It is very similar to the handicapping system used in golf.

There are two pairs handicap events each month, the Austwick and the Prize Handicap Pairs. The results of these are used to alter players' handicaps in the following way.

1. If a player's score after applying her current handicap falls in the top quarter, then her handicap is increased by 1%.
2. If the handicapped score falls within the bottom quarter, her handicap is reduced by 1%.
3. If in the middle half, the handicap remains the same.

This procedure is carried out after each of the handicap events. The handicap is subtracted from the actual score, so that the better players have positive handicaps, and the less experienced have negative handicaps.

As an example, if Mrs Green has a handicap of +5%, and she scores 56% in the Handicap Pairs, her score is adjusted to 51%. Her handicapped score falls within the middle band, and so her handicap remains unaltered.

Mr Pink, on the other hand, has a handicap of -8%, and he scores 56%. His score is adjusted to 64%. This falls within the top quarter and so his handicap is adjusted to -7%; that is he would have to score 57% next time to achieve the same handicap score.

The other handicap event is the Hicks Teams, and here the handicapping process is essentially the same, but at present this is done separately from the Pairs. This is for a purely technical reason, and it means that a player at present has two handicaps, which may or may not be the same.

The handicap method has been running for a number of years, and over the coming months it will be reviewed to see if any anomalies have crept in over time, if the process itself needs improvement, and if the Pairs and Teams should be combined.

If you have any further questions about the current handicapping process, then e-mail Mick Brown at [mbbrown@talktalk.net](mailto:mbbrown@talktalk.net).



### Bristol Bridge Club Master Points Champions 2011- Congratulations!



Peter Owens 3077 MPs



Steve Tomlinson 2986 MPs



Bob Curtis 2267 MPs

**Editor's Note** We are trying to make the Newsletter informative and interesting, and so we would like your comments both on whether the content can be improved and in what way, and on whether this lay-out is suitable. It is your newsletter, and so we would like ideas and contributions from members of the club. You can e-mail the editor, Mick Brown, at [mbbrown@talktalk.net](mailto:mbbrown@talktalk.net)