



# Bristol Bridge Club

## News Letter

## December 2009



### Chairman's Report

Dear Members

#### Clubhouse Refurbishment

Many members must be wondering what is happening about the plans to improve the Clubhouse, as well as when they will be able to have appropriate toilet facilities. The committee has been working hard on these issues, but managing reluctant builders and reaching the right compromise between what we want and what we can afford has not been easy. However progress has been made.

The committee has approved a final proposal and selected a builder. Negotiations with the builder are currently taking place to agree the specification and define a final price. The committee will meet on 17<sup>th</sup> December to approve the programme. Plans and programmes will then be displayed immediately in the Clubhouse for members to become conversant with the committee proposals. We then will call an Extraordinary General Meeting (currently planned for mid January) for the members to vote on whether the development should go ahead.

These are exciting times for the Club. Members are increasing, the Club has become a friendlier place and if the Clubhouse development is approved by the membership, we can look forward to a few weeks disruption followed by facilities of which we can all be proud.

#### Etiquette

Some members who play in the more relaxed sessions at the Club are on occasion reluctant to join the more serious games for various reasons. They may just enjoy the more informal sessions, which is fine, or they may be a little nervous about joining the more experienced players.

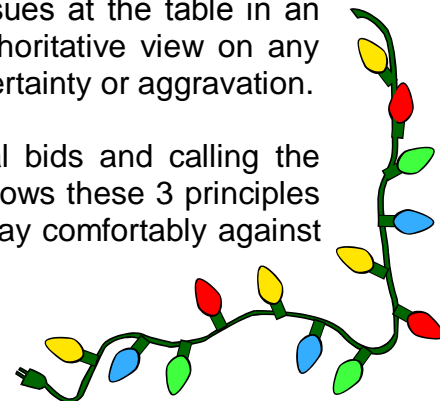
It has been suggested that one reason for this nervousness may be their lack of knowledge of Etiquette, and that this subject should be included in the teaching at the Club in a more formal way. We encourage members to let us know what they think about this issue, and a good channel would be to use the **Forum** on our new Website. The Forum should indeed be used more to voice members' views on any subject.

Etiquette is an important part of the game but it is actually rather simple. First of all those sitting North South should greet the East West players who join their table as soon as they arrive. Politeness at the table cannot be over emphasised. During the bidding any non natural bid up to 3 no trumps should be alerted either by announcing the strength of a no trump bid, a stayman or a transfer, or by using the alert card for more complicated non natural bids. Play should be relatively quick although there is nothing wrong with spending some time planning the play once the initial lead has been made and dummy is visible.

If there is any problem at the table, the Director should be called. Many non experienced players are reluctant to do this but they should not be. There is no stigma attached to "Calling the Director". It is the job of the Director to solve any issues at the table in an amicable way and it is infinitely better to call him and get an authoritative view on any issue rather than argue with fellow players or retain a feeling of uncertainty or aggravation.

There is more to Etiquette than being polite, alerting non natural bids and calling the Director to solve a problem at the table. However anybody who follows these 3 principles can be confident that they are a long way towards being able to play comfortably against the best pairs at the Club.

*Oli*



## Secretary's Section

### PLAY AT CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

There will be no bridge on Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> or Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>. We may also be closed on Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup> – it depends on whether enough people want to play then to make opening the club viable. Please sign up on the notice board by December 13<sup>th</sup> if you would like to play on December 31<sup>st</sup> if we were to open on that evening. There is no Hicks team in December and the Premier Pairs competition is earlier than usual on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SOCIABLE SATURDAYS

Dates for the next Sociable Saturdays are

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### PREMIER PAIRS

There is now a notice on the notice board for pairs to indicate whether they are available to play. This shows the current pairs who are entitled to play, ie: following the 2 promotions and relegations from last month's competitions. It would be helpful if people could put their availability on this notice rather than wait to be phoned!

## **CHALLENGE PAIRS**

In the Premier Pairs people gain entitlement to play, by contrast the Challenge Pairs is open to all. There is an extra £1 on top of the normal table money and the top pair wins £40. The Challenge Pairs uses IMP scoring so the tactics are similar to playing teams with making your contract a greater priority than overtricks. It is usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, but in January the Challenge Pairs is on January 19<sup>th</sup> because the BGB Simultaneous Pairs is being held on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Stephen Royal***

~

### **Editor's Note:**

## **Christmas Parties**

The Swiss Teams event is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December and the Wednesday afternoon party on 16<sup>th</sup> December. If you can contribute a raffle prize for either event this would be much appreciated.

## **Dates for your Diary**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March** [McMillan Cancer Support Day](#), here at the Club. A day of bridge including coffee, lunch and tea. Tickets £18.50.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** Mens Pairs and Ladies Pairs

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** Hockey Cup Mixed Pairs

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May** 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Curtis Cup

Do check your calendar for other events. Collect one from Steve if you've mislaid yours.

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## **Membership Secretary's Report**

An especial warm welcome (it is winter now) to all our new members; many of whom have joined our tutorial classes since the last Newsletter. They are the Ms's Dickinson and Reed, the Mrs's Cossey, Gregg, Hart, Herlihy, James, Kibby, Taylor, Watson and White and the Mr's Bagust, Bradshaw, Brandon-Joyce, Flay, Johnston, Newman, Partridge, Peak-Payne and Phillips.

**Address changes** – Please remember to advise the Membership Secretary of any change to your address, phone number or email address by an email to [theseymours@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:theseymours@blueyonder.co.uk) or by a note left in Phil Seymour's pigeon hole by the Club entrance door.

## We need YOUR help!

The current Officers and Members of the committee have been in office for a number of years and have been functioning with one committee member short for some time. The Club functions on the paid services of our excellent staff and on the voluntary help from many members. We need more **help now** and especially when we get to the elections at the AGM next year.

### Please can you volunteer to help us?

#### The following 'positions' are up for grabs!

#### Committee member

#### An Officer!

#### Membership Secretary

– you will need to be a competent computer user and particularly so with Excel and Word.

**Supervisor** of Pay 2 Play requirements

**Can you help Finding Playing Partners** – you need a phone and regularly use email.

**Dealing the weeks cards for play** – this is by machine for which training would be given and takes half a day per week (or less!)

**Tournament Director** – After training you will be running a room full of docile players hanging on your every word!

**Checker of Bidding Boxes**

**Servicing Bridge Mate Machines**

If you would like to have a chat in more detail about what any of these roles involve please email Phil Seymour on [theseymours@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:theseymours@blueyonder.co.uk) or telephone on 0117 3301548

### Directors Courses

Mike Ingham suggests that we arrange for a basic Directors course to be run at the Club. We would provide the venue and pay for the instruction. If several members qualified we should be able to provide a Director for all our sessions. Any views?

### How To Keep Fit!

Doctor – You look very fit for your age; do you play golf or swim?

Patient – No I do nothing like that, I play bridge.

Doctor – Surely that's not very good exercise?

Patient – I always sit East / West!



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

This edition we shall take a look at scoring.

When the concept of duplicate bridge was introduced, some form of artificial bonuses were needed to imitate the values of part scores and games at rubber. This gave us the 50 for part score, and 300, 500 for games.

Many duplicate players still have little idea of how the rankings are actually obtained, so here is a short guide.

At teams, your score is compared directly with that of your opponents. It is the SIZE of your score that counts. Initially these are simple aggregate scores. Those scores may be converted (from a chart) to International Match Points. Finally those IMPs can be converted to Victory Points, usually (but not always) on a scale of 0-20. These two conversions compress the scores in order to lessen the impact of one enormous or ridiculous result giving more weight to consistent quantity of gains.

At pairs, we need at least 2 comparisons to our score, which equates to 3 full tables (anything less can not be "duplicate pairs").

Here, the boot is firmly on the other foot. The size of your score compared to each opponent doesn't matter. What is important is how many opponents are better / worse than you. A bit like a cricket match...you may win by 1 run, 4 wickets or an innings and 200 runs...but you won, that's it. (O.K. these days there are sometimes "bonuses"), but to the question "how did you get on", the answer is the same... "we won".

You get 2 points for every pair that you are better than, plus 1 for every pair that is the same as you.

So, with 5 tables, if you have the best score, you get  $4 \times 2 = 8$  points.

Note however that those scores could be  $-800, -1100, -1370, -2200, + 1700$  (you) = 8 points.

Likewise  $-90, -90, -90, -90, -80$  (you) still = 8 points.

At teams, the second version is totally insignificant, but the first is enormous. At pairs they are exactly the same.

Ideas for this column, comments and queries to: [larry@charmschool.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:larry@charmschool.orangehome.co.uk)

Larry B

*P.S. The master points sent electronically to the EBU for May and July disappeared down a "black hole". They will be re-sent with those for November*

# FUN AND NONSENSE FROM YOUR EDITOR!



## Mini Quiz

(Answers can be found on the last page!)

Of the four card suits which represents the following:

- (a) Soldiers (b) Merchants (c) The Peasant Class (d) The Upper Classes

## Largest Scores

The largest possible score you can get for making a contract is 3160.  
1NT redoubled with six vulnerable overtricks. Work it out!

The largest possible score you can concede is 7600.  
Bidding seven redoubled, vulnerable and not making any tricks!

## One Liners

Advert in 'English Bridge' for a Blackpool hotel – ***All rooms en suite, partners provided!***

**North** – can I get you a coffee? **South** – No thanks it might keep me awake.

Seven days without bridge makes *one weak*.

**Player** – my bridge partner is an angel. **Opponent** – You're lucky, mine's still alive!

Bridge players exist mainly to make life difficult for each other.

Good bidding makes for dull bridge.

Of the most common addictions: tobacco, alcohol and drugs – bridge is clearly the most socially acceptable.

There are said to be only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often you get one of them as a partner.

The difference between a brave bid and a foolhardy one is a matter of result!

The road to hell is paved with good conventions.

## Competition

The last Newsletter invited you to design a logo for the  
Avon County News Reports in English Bridge.

Sadly I have received not a single entry. Over 400 members and no budding artists!?

### You Cannot Win!

If a man is after your money he's MONEY MAD  
If he keeps it he's A CAPITALIST  
If he spends it he's A PLAYBOY  
If he doesn't get it he's A NEVER-DO- WELL  
If he doesn't try to get it he LACKS AMBITION  
If he gets it without working for it he's A PARASITE AND  
If he accumulates it after a lifetime of hard work people call him  
A FOOL WHO NEVER GOT ANYTHING OUT OF LIFE!

*A quote by Vic Oliver. Contributed by Faith.*

### The James Bond Hand

(This featured in the film Moonraker)

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>S</b> A K Q J<br/><b>H</b> A K Q J<br/><b>D</b> A K<br/><b>C</b> K J 9</p> | <p><b>S</b> -<br/><b>H</b> -<br/><b>D</b> Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2<br/><b>C</b> A Q 10 8 4</p> | <p><b>S</b> 6 5 4 3 2<br/><b>H</b> 10 9 8 7 2<br/><b>D</b> J 10 9<br/><b>C</b> -</p> |
|  | <p><b>S</b> 10 9 8 7<br/><b>H</b> 6 5 4 3<br/><b>D</b> -<br/><b>C</b> 7 6 5 3 2</p>   |  |

Our hero, South, won £15,000 from Drax playing in 7C doubled.

Not many of us would have been in this contract!

### A Useful 'Rule'

When opener rebids 2 of a suit and responder has less than 8/9 points eg: 1S 1NT 2S responder should subtract the number of cards he holds in opener's suit from the number of cards in his long suit. If the answer is less than 6 then he should pass but if it is 6 or more then he should bid 3 of his long suit.

## A Hand for you to Puzzle Over

Faith gave me this and assured me that 5 Diamonds can be made by South. Q Spades lead.

|               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|               | S A K 10      |             |
|               | H A 10 3      |             |
|               | D K J         |             |
|               | C K 5 4 3 2   |             |
| S Q J 9 8 7 6 |               | S 4 3 2     |
| H K           |               | H Q J 9 8 7 |
| D Q           |               | D 10 8 3 2  |
| C Q 10 9 8 7  |               | C J         |
|               | S 5           |             |
|               | H 6 5 4 2     |             |
|               | D A 9 7 6 5 4 |             |
|               | C A 6         |             |

### *A Bridge Player's Prayer*

*LORD, Grant me a partner who won't trump my aces*

*Deliver me from short suits and cards without faces*

*Grant me finesses that work as I've planned*

*And just ONCE today, LORD, a nice GRAND SLAM HAND.*

*AMEN*

Contributed by Sheilah Da Silva

**Finally** – If it looks like fun and doesn't break the Ten Commandments, do it.

*(From a Clifton Cathedral Newsletter)*

My thanks, once again, to Barbara Bush for typing the Newsletter.



Barbara and I, and your Committee, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of health and prosperity for the New Year.

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**Answers to the Mini Quiz on Page 6:** (a) Soldiers - Clubs (b) Merchants - Diamonds (c) The Peasant Class - Spades and (d) Hearts - only the Upper Classes appreciated love!