

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER No.57 – JANUARY 2013

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 16 April 2013

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place in St John's Hall on the above date at a **start time of 7.15pm** followed by bridge as soon as possible. The usual format will apply, and it is planned for Officers' reports to be either on the website or on the notice board in advance of the Meeting. It is hoped that these will be taken as read at the Meeting.

Any business you wish to raise at the Meeting should be advised to the Secretary, Adrian Patrick by 8th April. This will enable him to include the item on the Agenda. A copy of last year's minutes has been available at the Club for the past 11 months and will remain on the board until after the Meeting. If you require an individual copy please speak to Adrian Patrick. It is hoped that the accounts will be available in advance of the Meeting.

Nominations for the Committee should be made no later than 9th April 2013 and a list will be displayed on the notice board. There will be vacancies to be filled on the Committee, so if you might be interested and want to know what would be involved, please speak to Keith or Adrian – don't hold back!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Norman Cup – 5 Feb/5 Mar (final): The first 10 pairs in the preliminary round on 5 February will be invited to contest the final on 6 March. There will also be a normal session on 5 March for those not involved in the final. The winners of the Norman Cup will be invited to represent Mayfield in Surrey's Mary Edwards Cup.

Mayfield Teams Cup – 19 Feb/19 Mar. Teams may have up to 6 members but no player may play in 2 different teams. The results of the two sessions will be amalgamated to produce the winning team, who will be invited to represent Mayfield in Surrey's Wanborough Cup.

Cliff Street Trophy – Friday, 22 March. Any member can play in this event, but only those who have played a minimum of 6 times on a Friday over the last year will be eligible to win it. Those members who are eligible will be notified in advance.

Mixed Pairs Cup - 7 May. Members should note that although unmixd pairs may turn up to play, they will be expected to pair up with other unmixd pairs where possible. Any pair left unmixd will still be able to play but without standing.

Dorothy Williamson Handicap Teams – 28 May. As in previous years we will introduce a handicap for this event.

Men's & Ladies' Pairs – 11 June.

Committee and Liz Phillips Cups - 23 July.

Pick-Up Teams – 30 July.

MEMBERS' SUCCESSES

National Results

Lederer Memorial Teams Best Defence Award:	Peter Lee
Middlesex Swiss Pairs:	4 th Roger Morton & Partner
Tollemache Qualifier Group C:	1 st Surrey – Peter Lee, Bill Hodgkiss & Team
London Year End Open Pairs:	3 rd Arun Suri & Partner
NICKO	Both Mayfield Teams through to Round 3

Surrey Competitions

Victor Ludorum:	1 st Peter Lee
Surrey Swiss teams A flight: Non Expert Prize	Roger Sugden, Lynne Hiorns, Alan Rainbow, Chris Lemon
Senior Pairs:	4 th Pam Jardine & Ulla Adilz
Midweek Cross IMP Pairs:	1 st Arun Suri & Partner

Club Competitions

Liz Phillips Cup:	1 st David Dick & Adrian Patrick
Committee Cup:	1 st Inu Kassam & Phil Brooks
Pick-up Teams September:	1 st Pam Jardine, Joan Cullen, Sean O'Neill & Ian Swanson
Pro Am:	1 st Phil Brooks & Ian Swanson
Dorin Salver Heat:	1 st Phil Harris & Dean Morley
Open Swiss Pairs:	1 st Stephen McNeill & Guy Abelman 2 nd Roger Morton & David Ould

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Clock

Alan Bailey started using a laptop computer to act as a clock to give a countdown to the end of each round. It seems that this, together with a 'four minutes to go' warning from him, has reduced the incidence of slow play and so we aim to continue the practice. There is currently a delay while Alan gets his laptop repaired or replaced!

Surrey Simultaneous Pairs for Dorin Salver

The turnout for this was a disappointing 6 tables, but turnouts generally in September were lower than average. Given that two thirds of respondents to our questionnaire in 2011 were in favour of the event, the table money is only £1 more than usual and the extra money goes to Surrey's nominated charity, the Committee has decided to take part in it again this year.

Pro-Am Night

The turnout was only 8½ tables, and members will be asked at the AGM whether they want the event to continue.

Swiss Pairs Event

A lot of work was put into organising this event by Alan Bailey, helped by Tim Cook and Peter Cogliatti, and as a consequence it ran very smoothly and successfully. Those taking part enjoyed it. We managed to attract 25 visitors, in addition to 43 members, and the club has received publicity by a short article on the event in the recent Surrey Newsletter and we have been promised a mention in the February issue of the EBU magazine.

The main aim of the event was to try to attract new members. So far we have not had any by this route, but I am very glad to say we have recently had 5 new members. A very warm welcome to: – Neil Gayner (Mae's son), Phil Harris, Janet Davies, Graham Walker and Dave Norman - in addition to Richard Bass last autumn, through 'recruitment' by existing members and other routes.

There was a loss of £50 for the event. The Committee has decided to run such an event again this year probably with an increase in the entry fee to £5 to avoid a loss. This assumes the event Director, Martin Lee, is available and with no significant increase in his fee although some rise is expected.

Christmas Party

This was attended by 56 members and the feedback I have had suggests that it was greatly enjoyed, due no doubt to the excellent food provided by Helen Seymour and several other ladies.

Dealing Machine

Currently we are spending about £1,000 a year to buy-in machine-dealt hands. The Committee feels that we should use some of the club's funds to purchase our own machine and produce the hands ourselves. The likely cost of such a machine would be nearly £3,000 with a relatively small annual depreciation. The current expenditure would then only be for insurance, periodic servicing, and paper and printing ink for the printouts.

A proposal to buy such a machine (probably a Duplimate) will be put to the AGM in April.

Bridgemates

Many of you who play at other clubs, or who took part in our Swiss Teams event, will have come across Bridgemates which are used instead of travellers to record the contract, result and score for each board. This information is collated by a laptop to give the overall results at the end of the session. This does away with the need for someone to produce the overall results manually at home at the end of the evening.

A proposal to buy about 20 such Bridgemates (or similar units) – again at a cost of around £3,000 - will be put to the AGM in April.

Table Money

Early indications are that the 2012/13 accounts will show the loss forecast at last year's AGM. Therefore it is highly likely that the table money will have to go up to £3 sometime this year.

Explanation of Bids

One of the main things which can irritate players is when they feel they have not understood their opponents' bids through no fault of their own. Therefore a layman's guide to the main aspects of asking for, or correcting, explanations is given below.

EXPLANATION OF CALLS – A REMINDER

Everyone knows you can ask for an explanation of an opponent's bid at your turn to call and the explanation is given by the opponent's partner. At the end of the auction, the opening leader may ask questions of either opposing player but his/her partner must only ask questions after the lead is placed face down. Perhaps less well known is that:

- * you can ask about any of the opponent's prior bids not just the latest bid
- * throughout the play period after the auction a defender (at his turn to play) or declarer (at his or dummy's turn to play) may request an explanation of an opponent's bid.

If asked for an explanation, you have a duty to describe your partnership's agreements, nothing more or less. Incidentally, you should continue to do so even if by looking at your own hand you know the explanation cannot be what partner has in his hand.

If you are unclear about partner's bid, then the explanation would be either 'no partnership agreement' or 'not sure'. Regarding the latter you should not supplement it with something like 'but I think it means...' as this gives unauthorised information to your partner. As either of the aforementioned responses may just mean you have forgotten your system, your opponents at their turn to bid can ask your partner if his bid was part of a partnership agreement. If it was not, then he does not have to explain the bid.

If your partner gives an explanation of your bid and you then realise you have not bid according to your partnership agreement, you must not make use of that information.

If you think your partner has given a mistaken explanation - which includes failure to alert - during the auction, you must inform your opponents but only at the first legal opportunity, which is:

- * for a defender, at the end of play
- * for a declarer or dummy, after the final pass of the auction.

Again, you must not make use of that mistaken explanation.

Everyone now knows about announcing the range of partner's bid of 1NT, and announcing a Stayman or transfer response to 1NT. However you should not announce the range of partner's opening bid of 2NT, and a Stayman or transfer response to 2NT should be alerted not announced.

More on this topic can be found in section 3 of the Orange Book (Google Bridge Orange Book).

And finally, DO NOT ask questions if you have no intention of bidding. If you do ask a question and then PASS, three possibilities arise:-

1. You may alert opponents to a mistake in their understanding of the auction.
2. You WILL put pressure on your partner only to bid if he/she has a clear case to do so (your question implies that the answer will affect your decision to bid/pass and shows a hand with values. This becomes unauthorised information if you pass. Ask your questions at the end of the auction).
3. Your question may compromise partner's choice of lead.

Bid Up Partner? (by Tim Cook)

This hand occurred at a recent pairs evening at Mayfield Bridge Club.

East is the dealer with E/W vulnerable. North's hand is :-

♠ 9
♥ K106543
♦ K97
♣ Q76

East opens with a weak 2♠, South doubles (take out) and West, after some hesitation and a little fiddling with the bidding box, bids 6♠! Over to you.

Three possible courses of action:-

1. Pass in tempo, leaving any further action to partner
 2. Double
 3. Bid 7♥
1. The 'obvious' choice, especially as any undue pause (after the STOP card is removed) is likely to inhibit Partner.
 2. Surely unsound with no guaranteed defensive trick.
 3. Given time to think, this must be the winning choice. Unless West is crazy, the bid of 6♠ announces a big hand with a huge ♠ fit and a (semi) solid minor suit. 7♥ will be cheap if 6♠ is on and this looks distinctly possible because West will surely not 'punt' a slam at this vulnerability.

If you do try 7♥, the hand still retains considerable interest because the contract can be made if East leads anything but his singleton ♣ - six hearts, spade ruff & 6 diamonds using the principle of restricted choice after the ♦Q drops on the first round (assuming the K is cashed!). But wait! 7♠ will also make if South leads the 'wrong' Ace.

<p>♠9 ♥K106543 ♦K97 ♣Q76</p> <p>♠K108765 ♠AQJ432 ♥- ♥987 ♦Q ♦J54 ♣AKJ1032 ♣9</p> <p>♠- ♥AQJ2 ♦A108632 ♣854</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2♠*</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>6♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>*weak 5-9 HCP 6 card suit</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			2♠*	Dbl	6♠	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
		2♠*	Dbl										
6♠	All Pass												

Sadly, I opted for choice 1, but partner at least saved some of our matchpoints by cashing the Ace of diamonds.