

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 64 SUMMER 2016

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in April and I was pleased to see further improvement in the attendance to 46 out of 100 members. The current Committee agreed to stand for a further year and was re-elected en bloc. The new Constitution was formally approved and adopted by the Membership.

In Memoriam

In February, I was sad to hear of the death, after a long illness, of Roy Smith who had been a member of Mayfield for many successful years. Around the same time, we lost Edith Smollett, a retired member. Then, just a few days after the AGM, we had the untimely death of Richard Bass which was unexpected and particularly shocking.

The 2016/2017 Calendar

You will find the latest edition of our Calendar attached to this Newsletter. After last year's success, in September, we plan to hold another special Guest Night where members will be encouraged to bring along visitors to this club pairs event. In October, we will be holding our fifth Open Swiss Pairs evening, once again, directed by Richard Banbury.

A copy of the Host List for the remainder of this year is attached.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – June 2016

Congratulations to all of the following who have been successful this year since the AGM, April 2016. Apologies for any omissions!

MAYFIELD - CUP WINNERS 2016/2017

Mixed Pairs – 3 rd May 2016	Sylvia Clark and Alan Bailey
Dorothy Williamson – 24 th May 2016	Alan Bailey, Tony Turnage, Adrian Patrick, David Dick
Ladies Pairs – 7 th June 2016	Maria Martin & Ann Madden
Men's Pairs Pairs – 7 th June 2016	Roger Sugden & Alan Bailey

SUCSESSES – SURREY & LONDON COUNTY COMPETITIONS 2015

Surrey

Lady Rose (Championship Teams)	Winners	Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall & Team
County Pairs - 3 rd April 2016	3rd	Peter Lee & Arun Suri
County Pairs Plate – 3 rd April 2016	2nd	Julien Hemsted & Adrian Patrick

INTER COUNTY AND NATIONAL

National Pairs Final April 2016

Two Mayfield pairs played in the 50 pair final in April from an original entry of 244.
Bernard Pike & Rolf Alexander (34th) Roger Morton & Alan Bailey (39th)

The Corwen - 5th June 2016, for pairs qualifying from their County Pairs Championship
Arun Suri & Peter Lee - 8th, Mike Scoltock and partner - 9th. (from 98 Pairs)

The Pachabo - 12th June 2016, for county teams winning their County Teams Championship
Charles Chisnall, Ian Swanson & Surrey Team - 4th from 26 counties

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE EVENTS

Mary Edwards Cup for Surrey Club Pairs Champions - 8th May 2016

Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee – 2nd from 27 Club Pairs.

Wanborough Cup for Surrey Club Teams Champions – 26th June 2016

Tim Cook & David Norman, Roger Morton & Bernard Pike – 1st from 19 Club Teams

2015/2016 Nicko - National Clubs Knockout,

Mayfield A (Lee) were eliminated in Round 3.

Mayfield B (Morton) & Mayfield C (Patrick) were eliminated in Round 4.

Roger Morton 28th June 2016

Some Thoughts from the TD

Unlike poker, bridge is meant to be an equal, intellectual dual between the players. Because it is a partnership game, it would be relatively easy for playing partners to conceive covert signals or special understandings about certain bids or plays, giving them a likely winning advantage over players of a similar standard. We have all seen the consequences recently.

All 4 players around the table should be made aware of all methods used by opponents in both bidding and play. Any regular partnership should have a comprehensive Convention Card (EBU, or similar) which gives details of all agreements in both bidding and defensive carding. Any departure from these methods, whether accidental or intentional, should have an equal element of surprise for both partner and opponents.

Bridge is, or should be, a totally ethical game.

Convention Cards/Alerting/Announcing

In keeping with what has already been said your bidding (& card play) should not include any special agreements with partner which are not disclosed to your opponents. With this in mind, if you are playing in a serious event, it is required that both partners carry identical Convention Cards (EBU 20) which are exchanged with your opponents at the start of each round. In less serious events such as the weekly club duplicate there tends to be a more relaxed atmosphere but the ethics remain the same.

In addition to the information on the Convention Card, players are required to draw attention to any unusual bids which do not convey 'natural' information. This is done by use of the 'Alert' card or by 'Announcing' the meaning of the bid. It is the partner of the bidder who alerts or announces.

Asking Questions

This is an area which causes much confusion and can lead to feelings, or even accusations, of unethical behaviour.

Each player has the right, at their turn in the auction, to ask questions about the opponents' bid(s). **However, it is important to remember that YOU SHOULD ONLY ASK QUESTIONS IF THE ANSWER(S) WILL INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION TO BID OR PASS.**

DO NOT ASK QUESTIONS PURELY FOR THE SAKE OF DOING SO OR, ESPECIALLY, TO DRAW YOUR PARTNER'S ATTENTION TO A PARTICULAR BID. IF YOU ASK & PASS YOU MAY WELL BE CREATING AN IMPRESSION OF INTEREST IN COMPETING.

ALSO, IT IS TOTALLY UNETHICAL TO ASK THE MEANING OF A NON ALERTED BID BECAUSE IT IMPLIES INTEREST IN THE SUIT, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR PARTNER WILL BE ON LEAD. If the opponents have failed to alert a conventional bid, you may well have recourse.

Each defender also has the right to ask questions at the end of the auction

- The player on lead may ask before selecting the lead, BUT
- The leader's partner may only ask questions after the lead is selected and placed, face down, on the table.

Calling the Director

If something goes wrong or there is an inadvertent mistake by any player, **always call the Tournament Director.**

As long as the call is made in a non aggressive manner, there is no need for your opponents to feel aggrieved. You are merely protecting the rights of both pairs and, if you try to apply your own 'justice' you may either be making a bigger error or making the situation harder for the TD to resolve. You also have responsibilities to players at other tables.

There may be different reasons for seeking to involve the TD:-

- Procedural
- Ethical

Procedural errors are easier to correct and will usually be done immediately at the table. Ethical matters require more care.

Procedural Errors

While the full Laws of Duplicate Bridge are fulsome and complex, there are relatively few situations which crop up on a regular basis and require the TD's attention. **DO NOT MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO CORRECT PROCEDURAL ERRORS YOURSELF, EVEN IF YOU FEEL CONFIDENT THAT YOU KNOW THE RULES. CALL THE TD.**

The common mistakes are:-

- An insufficient bid
- Pass, Bid or Double out of turn
- Lead out of turn
- Revokes

Ethical Matters

This is the most difficult and potentially unpleasant area of bridge for a TD to deal with because it implies some malpractice by your opponents.

There are three areas which may produce problems

1. Behaviour
2. Misinformation
3. Hesitation followed by a Pass.

1. The English Bridge Union has become concerned about poor behaviour at the table which can manifest itself in several ways and there is now a policy of disciplining players who do not follow the normal courtesies. Rudeness and the criticism of other players at the table are obvious examples but players should also acknowledge/greet incoming opponents and, for example, not be engrossed in discussion of a previous hand. The Best Behaviour at Bridge Code was adopted by the EBU some years ago and there was an excellent article written by EBU board member, Sally Bugden, which can be viewed via the EBU website.
2. Misinformation can occur in many ways. Inaccurate or incomplete explanations of a conventional bid, the failure to alert, psychic bids and even hesitations all fall within this field.

Look at this situation. Declarer leads from hand towards Dummy which holds

♠ K J 7

West holds ♠ Q 3 2

If West hesitates before playing low and the King loses to East's Ace, the TD will award an adjusted score. Conversely, if West hesitates holding the Ace, he/she is merely making Declarer's job easier!

3. Hesitations are a clear case of passing unauthorised information to partner, i.e. "I have something to think about!" You should remember that, if you hesitate and then "Pass", you are making **partner's** life more difficult. If partner now bids in anything but the most clear-cut circumstances, don't be surprised if experienced opponents cry "Foul!" Here is an example:-

South opens a vulnerable 12-14 HCP 1NT, West hesitates and passes, North passes and East doubles holding

♠ Q 4 2

♥ A K Q

♦ Q 7 3

♣ Q 4 3 2

1NT doubled goes 3 off for -800. If South calls the TD (which he/she should) the director will award the score as 1NT **undoubled** 3 off because East **knows** that the double is ‘safe’ since West had something to think about before passing. East has no recourse in the statement the “I always double if my point count is above their 1NT. **He has been ‘fixed’ by his partner’s hesitation and MUST pass.**

The judgement the Director will make is ‘Would 70% of players of East’s standard have made the bid without partner’s hesitation?’ If the answer is “No!” then the TD will adjust the score.

Alan Bailey

Little Cards Matter!

Two hands from the Wanborough Cup Final illustrate how important it can be for Declarer to sow doubts for the defence. Two little cards earned 20 IMPs on two hands. It is easy to criticise defenders for clear errors but, unless they are extremely strong players with advanced carding techniques, giving them a chance to err can pay huge dividends.

<p>♠ Q103 ♥ Q962 ♦ KJ5 ♣ Q63</p> <p>♠ 5 ♠ J98762 ♥ K743 ♥ - ♦ 9764 ♦ Q82 ♣ 9854 ♣ AKJ10</p> <p>♠ AK4 ♥ AJ1085 ♦ A103 ♣ 72</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass Opening Lead A♣</p> <p>Thankfully, we have ‘right-sided’ this contract and the best defence(found by teammates) holds Declarer to 8 tricks, however....</p> <p>On the A♣, Declarer dropped the 6 which persuaded East to think that West had encouraged. The K♣ continuation saw the contract home. 13 IMPs</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbf	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dbf										
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥										

<p>♠ 1042 ♥ J953 ♦ 9742 ♣ A5</p> <p>♠ 7 ♠ AQJ95 ♥ 1042 ♥ 87 ♦ AJ653 ♦ 108 ♣ K1042 ♣ Q863</p> <p>♠ K863 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ KQ ♣ J97</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass Opening Lead 7♠</p> <p>To Declarer the lead is a clear singleton and the play of a smooth 6 under the A should be routine (not the 8 unless opponents are playing ‘top of nothing’). At our table, East, believing partner to hold a doubleton ♠, saw the urgent need to play a ♦ which, with some crazy discarding, enabled Declarer to emerge with 10 tricks. Teammates duly defeated 3♥ (Q♠ continuation). 7 IMPs</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
	Pass	Pass	1♥										
Pass	2♥	2♠	3♥										

**MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
TUESDAY HOST LIST 2016**

MONTH	DATE	NAME	MONTH	DATE	NAME	
2016 JULY	Tues 5	CHARLES CHISNALL	OCTOBER	Tues 4	PETER LEE	
		01784 465535			020 86422970	
	Tues 12	CLIVE ALLUM		PRO AM	Tues 11	HELEN SEYMOUR
		01737 813324				01372 727482
	Tues 19	DEREK ASH			Tues 18	DAVID PHILLIPS
		01737 213770				01737 552370
	Tues 26	FIONA CLARK			Tues 25	NO HOST
01737 812840		OPEN SWISS PAIRS				
AUGUST	Tues 2	PETER COGLIATTI	NOVEMBER	Tues 1	TONY SCOULLER	
		01737 210252			01737 350626	
	Tues 9	JULIAN HEMSTEAD		Tues 8	MARY STREET	
		01737 244302			01372 728524	
	Tues 16	JOHN FROSZTEGA			Tues 15	ALAN RAINBOW
		01293 772249				020 8395 7484
	Tues 23	TONY TURNAGE			Tues 22	GEOFF WHITEHEAD
01883 345989		01372 720100				
Tues 30	NO HOST	Tues 29	NO HOST			
	TEAMS		TEAMS			
SEPTEMBER	Tues 6	MIKE COWLEY	DECEMBER	Tues 6	BILL HODGKISS	
		01737 354874			01372 726339	
SURREY SIMS	Tues 13	PEGGY GRIFFIN	Tues 13	NO HOST		
		01737 371296		CHRISTMAS PARTY		
SURREY CLUB PAIRS	Tues 20	SEAN O'NEILL	Tues 20	RICHARD WHEEN		
		020 8668 6365		01737 842193		
Tues 27	NO HOST	Tues 27	NO HOST			
	GUEST NIGHT					

If you are unable to host on your evening please change with someone on the list above.