

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

No.65 – FEBRUARY 2017

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Surrey Simultaneous Pairs for the Dorin Salver

The turnout for this event was 19 pairs – an improvement on the previous year. Very good!

Pro-Am Night

The attendance at this event was 14 pairs - down from 15 and 21 pairs in previous years. As there seems to be limited enthusiasm for this event, members will be asked at the AGM whether they wish to continue – either drop the Pro-Am from the calendar or consider a different format.

Guest Night

On the last Tuesday in September, we held a Guest Night. This was a pairs event where friends and, in some cases, less experienced players were invited to come along to the Mayfield. Attendance was down from the previous, first year of the event, we had few guests and we have decided to drop this from the calendar or consider an alternative format.

Open Swiss Pairs

On the last Tuesday in October, we held our fifth Open Swiss Pairs evening. Richard Banbury was our Director, once more, and the event enjoyed the same success as earlier years. 50 Mayfield members and 14 visitors took part. My thanks to Alan Bailey and the team that organized this event. We made a small profit, mainly due to Dave Norman preparing the sets of boards. We expect to hold a further Open Swiss Pairs in the autumn of 2017.

Convention Cards

You are all reminded that each partner should have a completed and matching convention card at the table. If the Director is called to your table and you have an incomplete card in the area under scrutiny, expect to be at an immediate disadvantage. This also applies to vague or incomplete descriptions of bidding or carding methods. You have been warned!

Christmas Party

This was once again well attended and enjoyed by all. I extend my thanks to Chris Pullan, who directed the bridge and to the members of the committee who organized the delicious buffet.

Subscriptions and Table Money

At the 2013 AGM, we agreed to invest in Bridgemates and the Duplimate dealing system. I believe that this was a great decision for the club. The effect of these purchases was to reduce Mayfield's financial reserves from approximately £10,000 to £3,500. The expectation was that, in each of the following years, we would make a small surplus from running the club and we would re-establish reserves for capital purchases, maintenance, or any unexpected expenses.

Examples: We have recently been able to replace some of the bridge tables with inexpensive, refurbished units from other clubs. We will probably soon have to buy more expensive, new tables as the existing ones continue to wear. We have previously been able to beg, steal and borrow laptops and IT equipment. We will need to buy a new laptop at some point. The reliability of Bridgemates and Duplimate is not well documented. Although we have had no problems to date; repair, refurbishment and eventual replacement of items is to be expected.

To date, everything has gone to plan and our financial position is solid.

We have been advised that the rental of St. John's Hall will increase by approximately 13% in April. This has not been increased since 2013 when we lost the discounted rate for Fridays. In negotiation, the church has again

agreed to discount the rent on Fridays in the short term but the impact will be to increase our annual costs by £400 in the short term and eventually £800.

The Committee believes, therefore, that we should increase the annual, individual subscription for members from £15 to £20 rather than increase table money at this stage. This will cover the rent increase and allow us to continue to generate an annual surplus. This new figure will appear on the renewal form prior to the AGM but will need to be ratified by the Membership at the AGM. We will also ask you to give us a mandate to increase table money from £3 to £3.50 at any point in the next two years as the Committee sees fit and necessary. This would probably only be necessary if we saw the full increase in the rent..

The Subscription has not been increased for at least ten years and table money increased in 2014 following the large expenditure on the Bridgemates and Duplimate.

Entry Fees for Mayfield Representatives

Historically, Mayfield has paid for Mayfield Representatives in Surrey and National events as follows:

SCBA entry to the Mary Edwards for the Club Pairs Champions qualifying from the Norman Cup

SCBA entry to the Wanborough Cup for the Club Teams Champions qualifying from the Mayfield Teams Championship

SCBA entry for Teams of 8 Championship (Initially 1 team but latterly 2)

EBU entry for the National Inter Club Knockout [the NICKO] (initially 2 teams but latterly 3)

When we started paying all these entry fees there were more members, less teams and the entry fees were proportionately low. The Committee has decided to cut back on some of these costs in the new season, after the 2017 AGM.

Team selection remains the prerogative of the Club Captain apart from the NICKO where entry of a team squad is sanctioned by the Club Captain but final selection left to the Team Captain.

Entry for the Mary Edwards and Wanborough is by direct qualification and payment of the entry fee by Mayfield is, therefore, sacrosanct.

Entry fees for the SCBA Teams of 8 will only be paid for one Mayfield team. A second team may be entered but players will be expected to subsidise this. However, should either Mayfield team progress to regional and national finals, then the club will pay entry fees.

Entry for the NICKO will now be paid for by the individual teams.

The AGM

These issues and others will be discussed further at the next AGM on Tuesday 11th April at 07.15 pm. One disappointment last year was that several members who had won prizes were unable to attend the presentation of trophies. If you are a winner, this year, please try to attend. As in previous years Table Money will be waived at the AGM to encourage members to attend.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – January 2017

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 – 7 th June 2016	Roger Sugden & Alan Bailey
Committee Cup – 19 th July 2016	John & Sylvia Timberlake
Liz Phillips Cup – 19 th July 2016	Tony Quilley & Harry Figov
Pro-Am Cup – 11 th October 2016	Fiona Clark & Alan Bailey
Swiss Pairs – 25 th October 2016	Peter Lee & Mike Scoltock

SUCSESSES – SURREY & LONDON COUNTY COMPETITIONS 2016

Surrey

League Div 1	Winners	Ian Swanson & Team
League Div 2A	Winners	Peter Cogliatti & Team
Lady Rose (Championship Teams)	Winners	Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall & Team
County Pairs - 3 rd April 2016	3 rd	Peter Lee & Arun Suri
County Pairs Plate – 3 rd April 2016	2 nd	Julien Hemsted & Adrian Patrick
Bracketed Pairs – A Final – 3 rd July	Winners	Peter Lee & Partner
Tues Sim. Pairs – 13 th Sept 2016.	4 th	Tim Cook & Sylvia Timberlake from 100
Wimbledon Swiss Pairs – 9 th Nov 2016.	1 st	Alan Bailey & Roger Eddleston from 24
Chairman’s Lunch – 16 th Nov 2016	4 th	Peter Cogliatti & Adrian Patrick from 32
Senior Pairs – 4 th Dec 2016	5 th	Roger Eddleston & Partner from 42

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

Eastbourne Summer Congress August 2016

Senior Pairs - 1st Charles Chisnall & Partner, 4th Arun Suri & Partner (from 67 partnerships)

Brighton Bowl – 1st Peter Lee & Team (from 71 teams)

Harold Poster Pairs, best Mayfield player, Bob James & partner 15th (from 269 partnerships)

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

Surrey Pairs Challenge, 30th October 2017 (for qualifying pairs from Surrey Clubs)

Main Final; Alan Bailey & Roger Eddleston 12th, Roger Morton & Bernard Pike 13th, Arun Suri & Tony Scouller 19th from 35 pairs. Consolation Final; Peter Cogliatti & Fiona Clark 7th. From 23 pairs.

2016/2017 Nicko - National Clubs Knockout,

3 teams entered

Mayfield A beat Wimbledon A, Round 1

Mayfield B lost to Sussex A, Round 1 and have reached Round 2 in the Plate

Mayfield C beat both Walton & Hersham A in Round 1 and then Beckenham A in Round 2.

Garden Cities Trophy - Surrey Affiliated Clubs Heat - 15th January at Richmond BC

2 Teams entered.

Mayfield Red. 2nd Place (for the third successive year!) from 13 teams, narrowly missing qualification.

Mayfield Blue 12th.Place

Roger Morton 25th January 2017

EDITOR'S NOTES

Acol & Benjamin Strong Two's

In recent months there have been several rulings and discussions about the values required for opening a hand with eight playing tricks either via the traditional Acol two bids or using Benjamin 2C – 2D – 2?.

There is a very important difference between the two systems in that the Acol system defines the suit whereas a Benjamin opening delays naming the suit. Thus, two different sections of the EBU Blue Book apply. They are reproduced below. Section 5C3 covers Benji and 6D covers the Acol bid.

The 'Extended Rule of 25' is defined as the total of the hand's HCP plus the number of cards in its two longest suits.

Blue Book

"5 C 3 Strong openings are often described as 'Extended Rule of 25' or 'Extended Rule of 24' which means the minimum allowed is any one or more of: (a) any hand of at least 16 HCP, or (b) any hand meeting the Rule of 25 (or Rule of 24 where applicable), or (c) subject to proper disclosure, a hand that contains at least 10 HCPs and at least eight clear cut tricks.

Clear-cut tricks are defined as tricks expected to make opposite a void in partner's hand with the second-best suit break. ♠ A K Q J x x x x ♠ x x ♠ x x ♠ x does count as 8 clear-cut tricks ♠ A K Q x x x x x ♠ x x ♠ x x ♠ x does not

Further examples:

AKQxxxx (7CCT), KQJxxxx (5), AQJ98xx (5), KQJT_x (3), KQJT_{xxx} (6), AKT9xxxxx (8), KJT_{xxx} (2)"

"6 D Two Level Opening Bids

6 D 1 Any opening that shows 4+ cards in the suit opened is allowed (e.g. Acol Twos, Lucas or Weak Twos, a Precision 2D opening), as is any meaning or meanings showing a hand conforming to ER25 (e.g. Benjamin 2C and 2D openings)."

There is a further important point to be borne in mind in that the 'announcement' of these bids must be clear and complete, i.e.-

"Intermediate"

"Strong, not forcing"

"Strong and forcing", etc.

Please make sure that your methods conform to these rules.

This article has been shown to Tim Rees as Chair of the EBU Law & Ethics Committee. His comments are:-

"Your article looks OK to me. We decided at the last L&E meeting to keep the regulation as it is until at least August, but we will be reviewing the regulation and how we describe it in the Blue Book before then.

If anyone asks why the regulation is as it is, the general principle we are following is that artificial bids described as "strong" can deter players (particularly club players) from coming into the auction, and the regulation was put in place following several complaints from members. We also have a defined line so that players and TDs don't have to second-guess whether a bid is allowed."

Pre-empting and Overcall Pre-empts

As a bridge teacher, I see many examples of inexperienced players failing to grasp the principles of bidding to show partner the true value (& limit) of an unbalanced hand when either pre-empting or overcalling.

Pre-empting is rather easier to define. In first or second position, my view is to make pre-empts at the 3 level and above fairly sound following the rule of 500 (you should be within 2 tricks of your bid when vulnerable and 3 tricks when not). This helps partner to judge whether to proceed when holding a strong hand. Third in hand pre-empts (after 2 passes) are 'open season'! However, there are some follow up rules...

- If your opponents bid over your pre-empt and partner is silent – **don't bid again!** If you feel you are worth another bid, your first bid was wrong!
- If partner raises your suit it is a further pre-empt or a limit bid (maybe game) and you should not bid again.
- If partner bids a new suit, this is **forcing** and you **must bid** again. Partner should be showing his/her own strong suit, possibly with a minor fit in your suit.

Pre-emptive overcalls require some extra judgement. Initially, you may decide to make an overcall as a perfectly sound means of competing in the auction. If partner bids and you finally win the auction, this is good bridge.

However, in some instances, your side may well benefit from a bolder course of action. Here is a hand.

Partner deals and passes, RHO (vul) opens 1♠ and you (nv) hold the following:-

♠ 2
♥ AKQ109763
♦ 53
♣ K3

What are your thoughts and what do you do?

I think we can all agree that you are going to bid ☺. Opponents must have game values and the spade suit is already in the auction. In situations such as this I firmly believe that your decision should be based on the level to which you are prepared to be 'pushed'. Thus, I would bid 5H and let them guess.

One final thought. Don't get drawn into 'tennis' auctions such as :-

N	E	S	W
1H	1S	2H	2S
3H	3S	?	

If, as South, you are now prepared to bid 4H, your initial raise to only 2H was wrong!