

# MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER No.66 – July 2017

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

#### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in April and I was pleased to see a further improvement in the attendance of 50 members. Pam Jardine, Ann Madden and Jacky Russell Smith retired from the Committee and Tony Quilley agreed to join. As I had previously indicated, we were content to continue as a Committee of 9 members with the option of co-opting others if any particular problems arise during the year.

The Membership agreed to increase the subscription to £20 and gave the Committee a mandate to increase table money from £3 to £3.50 at some point in the future when it was considered necessary. The Club's policy on entry fees for representative teams was reviewed. Further details are available in the minutes published on the website.

#### The Pro-Am

We also discussed the future of this event where attendance has been falling over the last few years. The Membership narrowly voted to continue, and subsequently the Committee agreed that some changes needed to be made to the format to make it more attractive and easier to run. The Pro-Am will be run as a "No Fear" event and results will not be registered with the EBU so will not impact on NGS. Pairs will have the option of playing one of two simple bidding systems (basic ACOL or Benji). The top Pro's will be paired with Am's but, in the middle, we will retain a pool of club players who can be paired up at the last minute to accommodate any late arrivals. Nearer the date, Dave Norman will be contacting the top players, directly, to confirm their availability.

#### Friday-Night Bridge

For some time, we have been concerned about the low attendance on Friday evenings. Since the beginning of the year, the numbers have gone down again. When there are less than 4 tables it is difficult to organize a meaningful duplicate session. Members who play on Fridays need to consolidate their attendance and other members who may have played before on Fridays need to consider whether they want to renew their support. Any new players will be welcomed! We have tried initiatives on Fridays, such as a Guest Night, which have boosted attendance on the evening but did not provide any long-term improvement. If you have ideas on how to improve the Friday evening bridge experience, attendance or any other feedback, please let me know. As we have stated before, Mayfield will continue to support Friday evening bridge while members wish to play but if we feel this is not viable we will need to discuss at the 2018 AGM.

#### The 2017/2018 Calendar

You will find the latest edition of our Calendar attached to this Newsletter.

This year, we were unable to enter a suitable team for the Surrey Wanborough Cup, qualifying from our in-house Mayfield Teams Cup. This was a shame as we were the holders!

There were several reasons why we were unable to enter a team: some members had already qualified in other club teams for the Wanborough; some members were already committed to other events or matches; some members were on holiday. For this reason, we have made some adjustments to the Calendar to play the Teams Cup (and also the Norman Cup, qualifying for the

Surrey Mary Edwards), earlier in the year. We also ask that members put the dates of the Surrey events in their diaries so that if they qualify to represent Mayfield, they are available:

Mary Edwards	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Oxshott
Wanborough Cup	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Wimbledon

On a happier note, this year, Peter Lee and Mike Scoltock qualified from the Norman Cup and were available to represent Mayfield in the Mary Edwards – they won!!

In October, we will be holding our sixth Open Swiss Pairs evening, once again, directed by Richard Banbury.

The only other significant change is where Surrey have moved the Dorin Salver to December but we have been able to squeeze it in before the Christmas Party.

### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT by David Norman**

#### **Mayfield Competition Winners**

<b>Mixed Pairs</b> May	Pam Jardine and David Norman
<b>Dorothy Williamson</b> May	Bernard Pike, Roger Morton, Julian Hemsted and Neil Gayner
<b>Ladies' Pairs</b> June	Kerstin Tompsett and Norma McDowall
<b>Men's Pairs</b> June	Roger Sugden and Alan Bailey

#### **Surrey, County & London Competitions**

<b>County Pairs</b> April	Joint winner / 44	Mike Scoltock & Partner
	4 / 44	Arun Suri & Peter Lee
	7 / 44	Paul Chapman and Partner
	8 / 44	Charles Chisnall & Ian Swanson
<b>County Pairs Plate</b> April	Winner / 30	Bob James and Partner
	4 / 30	Neil Gayner & Adrian Patrick
<b>Selsdon &amp; Caterham Swiss</b> March	2 / 22	Alan Bailey & Roger Sugden
<b>Kent Swiss Pairs</b> March	4/58	Arun Suri & David Norman

#### **Inter County and National**

<b>Corwen Trophy</b>	June	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 100	Mike Scoltock & Partner
		11 / 100	Arun Suri & Peter Lee

#### **Club Representative Events**

<b>Mary Edwards Cup</b> May	Winners / 22	Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee
-----------------------------	--------------	---------------------------

## Bridge Hand

Mike Scoltock offers the following 'interesting' hand from the Corwen Trophy (inter-county pairs championship) in which he (& partner) came a highly creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

<p>♠ 97 ♥ Q107643 ♦ 109 ♣ KJ9</p> <p>♠ KQ6                      ♠ 105432 ♥ K52                        ♥ 9 ♦ -                             ♦ AQJ8754 ♣ AQ107654                ♣ -</p> <p>♠ AJ8 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K632 ♣ 832</p>	Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all
---	-----------------------------------

“One way to prosper in pairs events is to play well and keep self-enforced errors to a minimum : another way, as in so many things in life, is to be outrageously lucky – it really helps. Board 1 of session 2 of the 2017 Corwen was, in Pianola classification, both my and my partner’s “Best Score”, that is the one on which we scored the most matchpoints (all of them), and also our “Most Interesting”, by which is meant the board with the greatest variability. The full kaleidoscope of the scores ranged from

+3200 to NS, for 6NTX -12 (one is intrigued as to the play on this board as -12 is going some) to +980 to EW for 6S making

including doubled variations, there were 15 different contracts ranging from 3H by NS for NS - 50, though 3S, 3NT, 4C, 4D, 4S, 5C, 5D, 5S and our “selection”, 6S.

The play was key at our table, where my partner managed a coup one has only read about- The Slavenburg (or Pigeon) Coup...here’s what happened.

The "auction" was a mixture of injudicious gadget and slam "try", as in "bid a slam and try to make it".

North kicked off proceedings with an innocuous 2H...at which point I wheeled out the "leaping Michael's" gadget, with 4D (diamonds and spades, albeit about an Ace below partner's minimum HCP expectation : for which I saw the bonus diamonds as compensation)...S produced an exemplary pass and my partner, wearing his rose-tinted spectacles - recently polished with special "trust-in-partner Floribunda extract" - leapt majestically and optimistically to 6S. *South's failure to double (there must be a red suit winner to go with 1 or 2 trumps. Even the S 8 looks a good card.) possibly foretells a less than dynamic defence to follow. Perhaps he gets nervous when this partner opens a weak 2! Ed.*

As ever, the play's the thing. Most Ns would have fished out a heart and justice would have been done. However, our N was in a benevolent mood and led a small club, on which disappeared

dummy's heart. Even so, it is not immediately apparent from where declarer's remaining 11 tricks would come : ruff a club, spade to the K, which holds, ruff a heart, second spade from dummy, on which S rose with the SA and returned the SJ. Partner ran the now set-up clubs, on which S, playing his partner for the HK, discarded all his hearts, including the Ace, coming down to two diamonds, as, for reasons which are not entirely obvious, did N, who also discarded all his hearts. Partner cashed the HK, which now good, as was the H5, which was the 12th trick. Partner never scored the DA, a bewitching coup - where the power of the closed hand convinces the defence to keep dummy's suit, in which declarer is void, a coup first ascribed to or at least named after the late Bobby Slavenburg.

Easy game.

### **Table Presence**

Whatever your technical skill level at the bridge table, you will never fulfill your potential unless you possess an indefinable quality known as 'Table Presence'. What does this mean?

I like to think of it as AWARENESS – what is going on at the table! Here is a very common situation:-

	Dummy
	♠ KJ7
West	
♠ A93	
	Declarer
	♠ 2 ?

Declarer leads the ♠ 2. Do you play the Ace or do you duck? If you pause to think, you are too late because you have told Declarer all there is to know – you hold the Ace! Don't be surprised when Declarer guesses correctly.

(There is an important ethical point to note here in that it would be wrong to dither without the Ace because you do not have a decision to make).

The hardest players to play against are those who maintain an even tempo in their bidding and card play. Try to do the same!

Here is an interesting hand from one of Terence Reese's many excellent books.

<p> ♠ A64  ♥ A75  ♦ QJ953  ♣ 43  ♠ 9532      ♠ 1087  ♥ Q83      ♥ 9642  ♦ 74      ♦ A8  ♣ J1096      ♣ Q852  ♠ KQJ  ♥ KJ10  ♦ K1062  ♣ AK7 </p>	<p> Dealer South  <b>West</b>      <b>North</b>      <b>East</b>      <b>South</b>  Pass      3♦      Pass      2NT  Pass      6NT      All Pass      3NT  The bidding is unimportant and West leads the ♣J. Once the ♦ Ace is driven out, Declarer can count 11 tricks and the 12<sup>th</sup> can only come from the ♥ suit. This requires Declarer to ‘guess’ the Queen with no real guidance available. Reese saw the possibility of testing West’s table presence. After forcing out ♦ Ace, he led the ♠J from hand and watched West’s reaction. There was a slight (unethical!) pause before a low card was played. He then led ♥J and the ♥3 was played with undue haste. He let it run and won the contract! </p>
---	---

And finally, a recent example that I can recall. I was playing in a contract of 6 ♠ and needed to draw trumps for only one loser. The trump holdings were:-

Dummy  
♠ Q632

Declarer  
♠ K109874

The only danger is that one defender holds all three missing trumps (♠AJ5). The lady on my left commented at the end of the auction that they were having a bad time with no cards and she was exhibiting little interest in the hand which she seemed to have no hope of beating. I decided that she was most unlikely to hold ♠AJ5 and played a small ♠ towards the Queen. Sure enough, the lady on my left discarded and I made the contract which had failed at several other tables.

**Tim Cook**