

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER No.67 – February 2018

Just as we go to press the sad news reaches us of the passing of John Timberlake who, together with Sylvia, has done so much towards the strength of the Club today. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with Sylvia and the family.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Competition Entry

Wherever possible, we ask members to enter club championships and other special events in advance by adding their names to the appropriate notice. This does, indeed, assist the committee in organizing events and selecting an appropriate movement, in advance. We understand that there will be last minute changes in plans or circumstances and will rarely turn away members at the door. However, please try to plan ahead and help us where you can.

Pro-Am Night

This year we tried a slightly different format where most the players were advised of their partner in advance. Simplified systems were played. The attendance at this event was 20 pairs – a marked improvement on previous years.

Open Swiss Pairs

On the last Tuesday in October, we held our sixth Open Swiss Pairs evening. Richard Banbury was our Director, once more, and the event enjoyed the same success as earlier years. 46 Mayfield members and 22 visitors took part. My thanks to Alan Bailey and the team that organized this event. We expect to hold a further Open Swiss Pairs in the autumn of 2018.

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 Helen Seymour who organized the delicious buffet.

Playing Cards

Since its introduction to the club, the Duplimate system of pre-dealt hands has been very successful and popular despite having its initial doubters. The main, on-going, expense is the occasional replacement of the bar-coded playing cards compatible with the machine. It has been noticed, recently, that the playing cards have not been lasting quite so long. We feel that this is not a quality issue but ask members to look after the condition of the playing cards. As the end of the hand, carefully shuffle the playing cards and replace them in the board. Do not "fiddle" with the cards or bend over the corners. I mention no names!

The AGM

Please make every effort to attend the AGM on Tuesday 10th April at 07.15 pm. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of the club. As in previous years Table Money will be waived at the AGM to encourage members to attend.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

You probably know that Poker is just a gambling game that is played by individuals who use a large amount of bluff. If you've seen the James Bond film, Casino Royale, then you'll also know about "Tells" but if you haven't.....

...."Tells" are where a player unintentionally let's other players know the kind of hand he's holding. A raised eyebrow, a quick look down, a dilated pupil are all examples of "Tells". By observing an individual's "Tell" you can guess whether he's bluffing or not. There are books written on this subject so if interested look up "Tells" on Amazon.

Of course, it's just not in Poker that "Tells" come into play. It happens in Bridge as well. I'm not suggesting you should study "Tells" to help you deduce an opponent's holding. In Bridge that would be not in the spirit of the game but we all unconsciously do it. Experienced partnerships will read their partner's "Tell" without realising it. This is probably one of the reasons why they have screens at major International tournaments.

The point I'm emphasising is that we all create unauthorised information unintentionally, hopefully without it being noticed by partner. The danger comes when we knowingly read our partner's "Tell" and we act on it either subconsciously or consciously.

The biggest problem comes in competitive auctions when partner goes into a long think before bidding or passing. When this happens, you know something about partner's hand - he hasn't a straightforward pass or bid and this is unauthorised information. There is no problem about partner thinking for longer than usual, but you have to be very careful about your next bid. If you bid or double then you should not be surprised if the opponents "Reserve their rights" and call the director at the end of the auction.

You may not even have noticed partner's pause or hesitation, although the opponents will have. The director will now make a judgement ruling based on the evidence. Judgement rulings are the most difficult for a director to give and sometimes they will be wrong. If you think that is the case, then say you are appealing the ruling. There is no problem in doing this. At the end of the session the director will form a sub-committee of usually three of the top players present to discuss the hand. A final ruling will be given which you are expected to accept. Should you find it difficult to accept the ruling it is in your rights to appeal to Surrey although there may be a cost associated with this.

So, don't forget your lessons:

1. Try to plan your calls in advance so you don't have to think when it's your turn.

2. There is nothing wrong in taking a long time to think about a bid, but you must realise that such thinking will put undue pressure on partner. He has received unauthorised information particularly if you pass.
3. No-one is accusing anyone of cheating - this is one of the most common reactions I've found when called to a table where a pause or hesitation takes place.
4. Don't get upset if the director is called. That's why he's there - to take any emotion out of the situation.
5. There is nothing wrong in challenging the director's ruling. You can get further adjudication on the hand at the end of the session.
6. The main thing we hope to provide is a great evening of Bridge. Accept that we, the Committee, are doing our best. Follow the rules as much as possible and enjoy yourselves.
7. Don't forget "Best Behaviour at Bridge".
8. The rules are there to protect everyone. Testing Tuesdays are where players have come for a tough game and where the laws and rules are expected to be followed almost to the letter.

CAPTAINS REPORT

Congratulations to all of the following who have been successful since last July's Newsletter.

Mayfield Competition

Winners

Liz Phillips Cup	July	Tim Cook & Dave Norman
Committee Cup	July	Chris Pullan & Mike Cowley
Pro-Am Cup	October	Jack Feld & Peter Cogliatti
Open Swiss Pairs	October	Robin Griffiths & Adrian Patrick

Surrey, County & London Competitions

Lady Rose Cup		Winners	Mike Scoltock & team
		Runners-up	Ian Swanson & team
League Division 1	July	2 nd	Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall, Bill Hodgkiss, Rolf Alexander + team
League Division 2	July	2 nd	Peter Cogliatti, Adrian Patrick, Neil Gayner, Julian Hemsted, Rosemary Rice & Roger Sugden
London Congress Swiss Pairs	July	4 th / 68	Paul Chapman & partner
Guildford Swiss Pairs	September	5 th / 154	Alan Bailey & Roger Morton
		6 th	Ian Swanson & Charles Chisnall
		17 th	Julian Hemsted & Neil Gayner
		25 th	Maria Martin & partner
Guildford Swiss Teams	September	1st / 62	Peter Lee, Mike Scoltock & team
		14 th	Robin Griffiths, Neil Gayner, Peter Cogliatti & Tony Quilley
		19 th	Maria Martin & team
		24 th	Alan Bailey, Roger Morton, Roger Eddleston & Rolf Alexander
Club Pairs Challenge	October	3 rd / 36	Alan Bailey & partner
		9 th	Peter Cogliatti & Fiona Clark
		11 th	Joan Cullen & partner
		15 th	Roger Sugden & Chris Lemon
		16 th	Richard Wheen & Peter Slot
Woking Swiss Pairs	October	6 th / 38	Paul & Sue Chapman
Petersfield Swiss Teams	October	8 th / 20	Arun Suri & team
Dorin Salver	December	1 st	Ulla Adilz & Joyce Munns

Inter-County & National Summer Seniors "A" Pairs	July	3 rd	Charles Chisnall & Bob James
Summer Seniors Swiss Teams	August	5 th / 22	Arun Suri, Dave Norman & team
Summer Swiss Teams	August	1 st 8 th / 84	Mike Scoltock, Richard Fedrick & team Charles Chisnall, Bob James, Ian Swanson + partner
Eastbourne Stratified Swiss Pairs	August	4 th / 52	Tony Turnage and Adrian Patrick
British Summer Sim Pairs	July	4 th (nationally)	Rosemarie Thompson & David Elvin
Metropolitan Cup (Surrey Div A)	October	2 nd / 6	Peter Lee, Sean O'Neill, Mike Scoltock, Bob James, Charles Chisnall, Arun Suri, Dave Norman
Metropolitan Cup (London Div A)		4 th / 6	Roger Morton
Metropolitan Cup (Surrey Div B)		2 nd / 6	Rosemarie Thompson
Metropolitan Cup (Surrey Div C)			Adrian Patrick & Robin Griffiths
Crockfords Plate	September	2 nd	Peter Lee, Arun Suri & team
Autumn Congress Teams	October	9 th	Paul Chapman & team
Seniors Congress Pairs	November	6 th / 65 7 th / 74 (q) 8 th / 70	Alan Bailey & Roger Eddleston Tony Quilley & partner Arun Suri & Dave Norman
Seniors Congress Swiss Pairs			
Tollemache (Surrey)		6 th / 9	Peter Lee, Mike Scoltock, Ian Swanson & team
Porthcawl Congress	December	3 rd / 70	Arun Suri & Dave Norman

Safety First?

Most of us at the Club play the majority of our sessions on Tuesdays at Match Pointed Pairs.

With this form of scoring, safety plays should not figure too prominently in our planning unless we have reached a very good game or slam contract unlikely to have been bid by the rest of the room.

So, when we do play teams occasionally, there is a danger is that we play on 'autopilot' and don't change our strategy!

Here is a simple example that came up in the first round of the Gerald Faulkner Senior Teams National knockout competition in July 2017.

I was South as dealer and Opened 2 No Trumps. Partner raised me straight to six (!) and opponents led a small diamond.

Plan your play before reading on.

North

S Q J 10

H K Q J

D K x

C 10 x x x x

South

A x

A x x

A Q x x

A Q x x

This is a quite a good contract, about 60%.

Instinctively, one would immediately go for a maximum score by taking the Club finesse, hoping for Kx on your right, and that's exactly what I did at trick 2.

WRONG! My line is 'pairs autopilot'. A careful count of tricks will tell you that you only need four Club tricks if the spade finesse is working. So you take the Spade finesse first;

a) if it loses, you need all five Clubs and you take the Club finesse.

b) If it wins, you can play safe on the Clubs by cashing the Ace first, later leading up to the Queen. This safety play catches singleton King on your left (a 6% chance). Matches are often won and lost by such small chances! Who cares about missing a one IMP overtrick in a slam contract?

I was lucky, West held Kx Clubs but East held the Spade King!

Roger Morton

And on the Same Theme.....

♠ Q984
♥ Q1087
♦ J985
♣ K
♠ 75
♥ AKJ6
♦ KQ2
♣ QJ104

You arrive in 4H and receive the lead of a small trump. What is your line?

Your first question should be 'are we playing IMPs or Pairs?' Playing IMPs, you should take any reasonable line to make the contract. On this hand, if you can clear the Ace of Clubs and induce a further trump lead, 10 tricks may be possible and you should follow this line.

Playing Pairs, the thinking should be different. There are 4 clear losers. The contract is likely to be a common one and is unlikely to make against most defences. The correct line is to play for one off and hope for a score of about 50%. I failed!

Tim Cook