

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

No.68 July 2018

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in April with a healthy attendance of 50 members. The current committee had all agreed to continue and I thank them for their hard work and loyalty. This was a “peaceful” AGM with no contentious issues to discuss.

Membership numbers are stable and the financial position of the club continues to strengthen. There was no need to increase subscriptions and table money. Further details are available in the minutes published on the website.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The new GDPR came into operation on 25th May. This is the first major review of data protection laws for 20 years and, although aimed mainly at commercial organisations and fundraising charities, will have some consequences for the way in which we manage our bridge club.

Your committee has carefully considered the requirements of GDPR and published our approach in the Privacy Notice available on the club website.

The main change you will have noticed is that the Membership Renewal Form issued for the 2018 AGM provided a number of options for you to agree to share your data with others. Each year, when you renew, you will be asked to re-confirm your selections so that filling out the form will be mandatory.

The 2018/2019 Calendar

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

The Calendar is very similar to last year. In October, we will be holding our seventh Open Swiss Pairs evening, once again, directed by Richard Banbury.

New Bridge Magazine

If you like to read bridge magazines, then the “New Bridge Magazine” has been recommended to me. I believe it has been available from the beginning of the year and is completely free. The editor is Mark Horton and his team includes: Ron Tacchi in charge of layout along with contributors, David Bird, Alan Mould, Larry Cohen, Alex Adamson & Harry Smith, Sally Brock, Julian Pottage, Liz McGowan and Kit Woolsey. So, take a look:

www.newbridgemag.com

Captain's Report: Newsletter July 2018

Congratulations to all:

Mayfield Competition Winners

Teams Championship	February		Peter Lee, Arun Suri, Tim Cook & Dave Norman
Norman Cup	February		Arun Suri & Dave Norman
Cliff Street Cup	March		Malcolm Channing & Ron Maclaren
Mixed Pairs	May		Maria Martin and Robin Griffiths
Dorothy Williamson	May		Bernard Pike, Roger Morton, Julian Hemsted and Neil Gayner
Ladies' Pairs	June		Pam Jardine and Helen Saunders
Men's Pairs	June		Bernard Pike and Dave Norman

Surrey, County & London Competitions

Surrey Men's Pairs	February	6 th / 20	Arun Suri & Peter Lee
Surrey Ladies' Pairs	February	1 st / 14	Ulla Adilz & Joyce Munns
		5 th / 14	Maria Martin & partner
County Pairs	April	3 rd	Mike Scoltock & Partner
		4 th	Ian Swanson & Partner
Surrey Seniors Pairs	April	2 nd / 37	Arun Suri & Dave Norman
		3 rd	Roger Eddleston & Alan Bailey
County Pairs Plate	April	7 th	Roger Morton & Bernard Pike
Lady Rose Cup	May	Winners	Peter Lee, Arun Suri & team
		Runners-up	Mike Scoltock & team
League Division 1	July	1 st	Mike Scoltock, Peter Lee + team
		2 nd	Ian Swanson, Charles Chisnall, Bill Hodgkiss, Rolf Alexander, Bob James + team

Club Representative Events

Wanborough Cup	June	2 nd / 17	Peter Lee, Arun Suri, Tim Cook & Dave Norman
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Inter-County & National

Harrogate Swiss Pairs	February	33 / 100	Sue & Paul Chapman
National Masters Pairs	February	5 th / 10	Tony Quilley + partner
National Pairs Final	April	13 th / 50	Peter Lee + partner
		20 th	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman
		22 nd	<i>Alan Bailey & Roger Morton</i>
Kent Swiss teams	May	7 th / 20	Paul Chapman & partner
Sussex Swiss Pairs	May	4 th / 48	Charles Chisnall & partner
		9 th	David Dawson & Dave Norman
		11 th	Roger Eddleston & Alan Bailey
Corwen Trophy	June	6 th / 92	Ian Swanson & partner
Pachabo Cup	June	4 th / 25	Peter Lee, Arun Suri & team
Oxfordshire Congress - Pairs	June	1 st / 120	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman
Oxfordshire Congress - Teams	June	1 st / 62	Mike Scoltock & team

Describing Your Hand – Opening Bids

My thanks to Tony Scouller for the following hand which raises important questions about how to describe your hand accurately to partner so that you reach the best contract. You are playing Benji Acol, at pairs, and as dealer, vulnerable, you pick up:-

♠ Q9
♥ AKQJ10873
♦ K86
♣ -

What do you bid?

My guess is that many would open the Acol equivalent of a ‘strong two’ without giving the consequences much thought. The auction proceeds... 2C – P – 2D(relay) – 3C - ?. You are now faced with the same problem as with the opening bid, but at the 3 level! You have done nothing wrong but your system has forced you to this level with no description of either hand (except your strength). Given that the objective is to describe your hand to partner, the job is not done! Your only ‘crime’ is to have concentrated solely on your own hand. The auction has developed in a quite regular way (it could have been worse!).

The purpose of a ‘strong’ bid is to create a forced response from partner, as well as telling of your strength, and the often-perceived danger with hands such as this is the fear that the auction may go 1H-P-P-P. Surely it will not. Your hand is very unbalanced and, if partner does not have enough to respond, there are 25 HCP missing and you will hear from opponents who have at least half of the pack in high card strength.

At the table the winning action was to open 4H, but this risks a missed slam even if partner has modest values. On balance, I think the best opening bid is 1H, deferring the problem until your rebid but you will, by then, be much better placed to make your decision.

My thanks to Peter Lee for the following...

“One hand of possible interest is this from the decisive Surrey Premier League match of the season, where Mayfield members were on both sides.

After 6 of 7 matches, Swanson/Ford Chisnall/James had won all 6 matches. So had the Hinden team Hinden/Osborne Allerton/Lee (with me replaced by Scoltock or Paula Leslie in other matches) and we had 7 more VPS than them. Swanson had to win 14-6, but in the event Hinden won 13/7.

One very useful result was when I held

S Axx H xx D AQ C AKJ10xx

I elected to open 2NT (good 19 or 20) and Jeffrey bid 3C (Simple Stayman) I bid 3D and he now surprised me by bidding 4C which is typically 5 clubs 4 of a major and at least some slam interest. I cue bid 4D and Jeffrey now bid 4NT, non-forcing - clearly denying the Ace of hearts.

Anyway, having amazingly good club support, and thinking it unlikely he would be making slam tries with no Aces, poor trumps and no King of hearts I shut my eyes and bid 6C.

The lead was the Ace of hearts which was disastrous for them, as Jeffrey held

S Kxxx H KQx D x C Qxxxx

and my third round spade loser disappears on the hearts.

As you can see the slam is cold if the Ace of hearts is in the other hand, and on the lie has no chance if 6C is played from my hand

In the other room they also started 2NT - 3C - 3D but then Jeffrey's hand simply bid 3NT.

A bit lucky!"

And, finally, some slams from Dave Norman...

Bidding a Slam with some "Gadgets"

Playing in the Dorothy Williamson Teams, you hold as dealer:

AJ9853

-

KJ3

AK32

You open 1S and partner responds 2N – Jacoby, promising 4 card Spade support and values for at least 3S.

You bid 3C, and partner 3D showing a feature of some description and better than a minimum.

You're interested in some specific cards – the King of Spades, Ace of Diamonds and two minor suit Queens.

Luckily, you have a couple of gadgets to do just this – a jump to 5H is "Exclusion Key Card", asking partner to show Key Cards outside of Hearts. But, in addition, because you introduced a second suit (Clubs) which partner should consider material to the play of the hand, your version of Key Card includes both suits – so there are six "Aces" and two "Queens of trumps".

Partner replies 6D, showing two Key Cards outside of Hearts (so must be Ace of Diamonds and King of Spades), and at least one of the two Black Queens.

You bid 6H. asking partner to bid 7S if he has anything extra, and he bids 7S knowing that his Queen of Clubs is an important card, and his Queen of Diamonds is likely to be as well:

KQT7

742

AQ4

Q65

The full auction:

1S 2N

3C 3D

5H 6D

6H 7S

You might ask two questions: do the opportunities for these types of gadget arise very often? And did the auction really go smoothly, with both players knowing what they were doing ?

Answer to both: A very similar hand had come up the week before at another club, so it was fresh in our minds !

Your lead against a Slam

Playing in the Tuesday pairs, you hold:

T6
K986
J853
K97

The bidding:

2C 2S [2C is the opponents' strongest bid]
3C 3S
6C

Before reading on, decide for yourself - what do you lead ?

You might think along the following lines:

- It's unlikely that they have a primary Spade fit, or they might well be playing in 6S
- It's rare that a slam is reached at every table, so to achieve a decent score we need to defeat this
- I have a definite Club trick, so where's the other one coming from ?
- Opener must have 7 or 8 Clubs (maybe six solid bar the King but, if so, why didn't he introduce another suit ?)
- He didn't introduce Blackwood, so presumably has all the Aces - or all except for a void suit
- So he's either got:
 - o 4 or 5 top tricks outside Clubs – maybe with solid Hearts missing the King, or maybe with AKQ Diamonds
 - o or secondary Spade support (Ax ?) and expecting the suit to give him any discards he needs (If that's the case, I know Spades are breaking 3-2 at worst)
- If the Spades are going to provide his discards, I need to create the setting trick before my King Clubs is played – in which case Hearts are the best bet, playing declarer for something like: Ax, Ax, AQ, AQJ10xxx and his partner for KQxxxx, xxx, xxx, x
- If he doesn't have a Spade fit (a singleton Ace), then he may still get a discard on the King of Spades – so Hearts still look the best bet
- If his source of the other tricks are in the Red Suits, this most likely based on AKQx Diamonds – but maybe AQJ Hearts, AK Diamonds or AQ, AKQ

Summing this all up, it looks as though (a) we need to defend aggressively, not passively, and (b) a Heart looks the best option

A KJ9853
-- J432
AKQ10 92
AJT86543 Q

It transpires that the contract is only beatable by a Club lead [*thanks to Roger Eddleston's analysis*] because of the ruffing value in Dummy – but next time it will have a third Diamond (or no trumps) and you've found the killing lead !

Tim Cook