

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in April with a healthy attendance of 51 members. Helen Seymour retired as Secretary and Roger Morton agreed to take over this role. With the sad loss of Tim Cook, the two vacancies on the Committee were filled by Fiona Clark and Julian Hemsted. I welcome the new Committee members and thank everyone for their continuing support.

Sylvia presented the Prizes and Trophies including the new Timberlake Teams Cup: another of Tim's good ideas!

Membership numbers have increased a little to just over 100 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.

Dave Norman has subsequently agreed to take over from Tim as the Editor of this Newsletter.

The 2019/2020 Calendar

The Calendar is very similar to last year. We have decided to slip Norman Cup and Timberlake Cup Team events by one week to help members who may be taking winter holidays. We have also decided to replace Pick-Up Team events on "fifth Tuesdays" with Cross-IMP Pairs. In October, we will be holding our eighth Open Swiss Pairs evening, once again, directed by Richard Banbury.

2019		2020	
Tue 30 Jul	Cross-IMP Pairs	Tue 14 Jan	Timberlake Teams Cup Pt 1
Tue 10 Sep	Surrey Club Pairs Challenge	Tue 28 Jan	Norman Cup Pt 1
Tue 8 Oct	Pro-Am Night	Tue 11 Feb	Timberlake Teams Cup Pt 2
Tue 29 Oct	Open Swiss Pairs	Tue 25 Feb	Norman Cup Pt 2
Fri 15 Nov	NO BRIDGE (Art Exhibition)	Fri 13 Mar	Cliff Street Trophy
Tue 3 Dec	Surrey Sim. Pairs (Dorin Salver)	Tue 31 Mar	Cross-IMP Pairs
Tue 10 Dec	Christmas Party	Fri 10 Apr	NO BRIDGE (Good Friday)
Tue 24 Dec	NO BRIDGE	Tue 14 Apr	AGM followed by Bridge
Fri 27 Dec	NO BRIDGE	Tue 5 May	Mixed Pairs Cup
Tue 31 Dec	NO BRIDGE	Tue 19 May	Dorothy Williamson Teams Cup
		Tue 9 Jun	Ladies' and Men's Pairs
		Tue 30 Jun	Cross-IMP Pairs
		Tue 14 Jul	Liz Phillips & Committee Cups

Tournament Director's NOTES

Announcing vs Alerting

All artificial or non-standard bids are either alerted or announced.

The purpose of announcing is to speed up the bidding in the most common situations, rather than have opponents needing to ask questions after an alert. There is a comprehensive explanatory chart on the EBU website, but the general principles (thanks to Frances Hinden) are:

Alert

- if it isn't natural
 - if opponents might be surprised by what it means
 - If you aren't sure whether or not it needs alerting (e.g. because you aren't sure what it means)
 - if it's a penalty double of a natural bid
- BUT don't alert above 3NT after the first round of the auction

Announce

- Natural 1NT and 2NT openings, and Stayman/Red Suit Transfers in response
- Short 1-minor openings
- Natural 2-level openings

One example (thanks to Keith Jackson) which often arises is that over a 2NT opening bid, Stayman is announced, Puppet Stayman is alerted and a transfer bid such as 3H is announced. However, after a more protracted Benji-sequence such as 2C-2D-2NT-? Stayman, Puppet and Transfers are all alerted as unnatural bids.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mayfield Competition Winners

Norman Cup	February		Adrian Patrick & Neil Gayner
Mayfield Teams Cup	February		Peter Lee, Andrew Southwell, Mike Scoltock & Richard Fedrick
Cliff Street Trophy	March		Elizabeth Johnson & Sylvia Timberlake
Mayfield Cup	March		Dave Norman
Mayfield Handicap Cup	March		Ann Madden
Kath Coward Cup	March		Peter Cogliatti
Kath Coward Handicap Cup	March		Val Busby
Mixed Pairs Cup	May		Pam Jardine & Dave Norman
Dorothy Williamson Cup	May		Tony Turnage, Alan Bailey, Robin Griffiths, Adrian Patrick
Ladies' Pairs Cup	June		Sue Chapman & Fiona Clark
Men's Pairs Cup	June		Bernard Pike & Dave Norman

Mayfield Representative

Garden Cities Regional Final	April	3 rd / 8	Charles Chisnall, Bob James, Rolf Alexander, Ian Swanson, Peter Lee, Andrew Southwell, Arun Suri, Dave Norman
Wanborough Cup	June	Winners	Mike Scoltock, Peter Lee, Richard Fedrick. Andrew Southwell

Surrey, County & London Competitions

Surrey Mixed Pairs	February	3 rd /41 4 th /41	Maria Martin & Alan Bailey Christine Dyer & David Dawson
Surrey Senior Pairs	March	8 th /38	Charles Chisnall & partner
Surrey County Pairs Cup	March	1 st 5 th	Christine Dyer & David Dawson Arun Suri & Peter Lee
Surrey County Pairs Plate	March	6 th 1 st 2 nd	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman Bob James & Charles Chisnall Steve Irwin & partner
Surrey Men's Pairs	April	1 st /16	Alan Bailey & partner
Lady Rose Cup	May	Winners	Mike Scoltock & team
Surrey League Div 1	June	Winners	Ian Swanson, Bob James, Charles Chisnall, Bill Hodgkiss, Sean O'Neill

Inter-County & National

National Masters Pairs	March	1 st	Alick Fraser & partner
National Pairs Qualifier	March	17 th /158	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman
National Pairs Final	April	5 th	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman
Mixed Pairs (Portland Pairs)	March	20 th /246	Christine Dyer & David Dawson
Spring Bank Holiday Pairs Final	May	4 th	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman
Berks & Bucks Swiss Pairs	June	9 th / 103 11 th	Roger Eddleston & Dave Norman Charles Chisnall & partner

A USEFUL CONVENTION ?

Two-Suit Keycard

“Two Suit Roman Keycard” is a convention used by some pairs in situations where a second suit is deemed critical to the play of the hand, and is an extension of Roman Keycard (where the King and Queen of the trump suit form part of the responses to 4NT). In Two Suit Keycard the King and Queen of the second suit are included, so there are 6 Keycards and 2 Queens.

What constitutes a second suit being “deemed critical” is down to partnership agreement and understanding, and there are also variations in the response structure, but perhaps the most straightforward is:

5C = 0 or 3 (of the 6) [5D then asks for how many of the two Queens]
5D = 1 or 4 [5H (unless the trump suit) then asks for how many of the two Queens]
5H = 2 or 5, and neither of the Queens
5S = 2 or 5, and one Queen
5NT = 2 or 5, and both Queens

A hand from the EBED Simultaneous Pairs, May 2019:

♠ A Q J	♠ 9 5
♥ A K 10 4 2	♥ Q 8 3
♦ 7	♦ A K J 4
♣ K 8 6 4	♣ A Q 9 5

1H 2C
3D (splinter) 3H
3S 4C (in this sequence, Two Suit Keycard with Clubs as Trumps)
4H (1 or 4 of the 6 Keycards)
 7C

Roger Eddleston bid 7C reckoning that, with Clubs 3-2 (or dummy holding the Jack of Clubs), 13 tricks had a reasonable chance even if Hearts broke 4-1 (and (a) partner should have extra values beyond AK,K, A, (b) might have the Jack of Hearts, or (c) count on an additional Diamond ruff).

There are other methods to find specific Kings, so others might reach 7C on this hand; but swap the two Key Kings with the two Key Queens, and the sequence 4C – 5C (2 Keycards and 2 Queens) arrives in 7C when others might find it much more difficult.

THE PLAY OF SOME HANDS

A DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM (Solution at the end of the Newsletter)

Tuesday Pairs, June 25th

West arrives in an optimistic 6S, and North leads the Spade 2. Plan the play.

♠ 6 5 2	
♥ A 9 5	
♦ K 10 5	
♣ 10 7 4 2	
♠ K 10 9 4 3	♠ A Q J 8 7
♥ K Q 6 3 2	♥ 7
♦ A 6 2	♦ Q J 7
♣ ---	♣ K Q 5 3
♠ ---	
♥ J 10 8 4	
♦ 9 8 4 3	
♣ A J 9 8 6	

TWO UNUSUAL SQUEEZE SITUATIONS

Tuesday Pairs, Mayfield, 18th April, 2017

<p>♠ K J 6 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 6 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 4 ♥ K Q J 10 ♦ 7 ♣ K Q 9 8</p>	<p>♠ A 7 3 ♥ A 8 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 7 6 4</p>
<p>♠ 9 5 ♥ 7 6 4 3 ♦ 8 5 4 3 ♣ 10 3 2</p>		

West arrives in 3NT after North had doubled West's 1D Opening bid, and North leads the King of Hearts.

Declarer has 11 top tricks and, with North holding all the picture cards, North can be squeezed in Clubs and Hearts for the 12th trick by losing one trick at some stage during the play. This could be done by ducking the Heart lead [the squeeze is worth one trick (the 12th), so you lose the outstanding trick (the 13th) to "rectify the count"]

But if North also held the Heart 10, a "repeating triple squeeze" would operate to give declarer two extra tricks. If Declarer guesses that North has the Heart 10, win the Heart Ace and run the first six Diamonds:

<p>♠ K J 6 2 ♥ - ♦ 6 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 8 ♥ Q ♦ - ♣ K Q</p>	<p>♠ A 7 3 ♥ 8 ♦ - ♣ A J</p>
<p>♠ 9 5 ♥ 7 ♦ - ♣ 10 3 2</p>		

On the final Diamond, whichever card North discards will cost the 12th trick; East discards a Spade.

If North discards a Club, a Club to East's Ace and Jack then squeeze North again in the majors for the 13th.

If North discards the Heart Queen, a Club to the Ace, and the Heart 8 then squeezes North in the blacks for the 13th

And if North discards a Spade, West cashes Spades from the top for 13 tricks.

Mixed Pairs, 7th May 2019

With East-West vulnerable, South arrives in 4S after the auction:

North	East	South	West
	1C	2S (weak)	Pass

4S passed out, but East considering (presumably a penalty double) for a short while

North	♠ J 3 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A K 10 4 ♣ A Q 10
South	♠ K Q 8 6 5 4 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ 2

The 3 of Clubs lead (lowest from 3) is won by the Ace, and a Spade to the King holds. It looks as though South needs to guess the location of the Diamond Queen to avoid Two Down.

South enters the North hand with the Diamond Ace and leads another Spade; East wins the Ace (West discarding an encouraging-looking Heart 5), cashes the Ace and King of Hearts, and exits with a Spade.

The distribution of the hand is now clear, East is 3226, West 1543. If East has the doubleton Diamond Queen, the suit is blocked and there's no entry to dummy to reach the Diamond 10, so it looks as though South has to play West for the Queen; on the last of the Spades, West is squeezed in the red suits in the position below.

But, slightly counter-intuitively, the location of the Diamond Queen doesn't affect the squeeze:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ -
♦ K 10 4	♦ ?
♣ Q	♣ x x x
♠ -	♠ -
♥ Q	♥ -
♦ ? 7 6	♦ ?
♣ -	♣ x x x
♠ 8	
♥ 10	
♦ J 5	
♣ -	

On the last Spade, West discards the Heart Queen, North throws the Club, and East a Club, holding onto the remaining Diamond, of course. The Heart 10 forces West and North to throw another Diamond, and East a Club – so South has to finally decide whether the Diamond Queen is now singleton with East, or doubleton with West.

Based on the flimsy evidence that (the usually aggressive) West did not support Clubs with 1543 shape with what would have been QJxxx Hearts and Diamond Queen, East's consideration of doubling the final contract, and West now seeming a little disinterested in the end position, South dropped the Queen in East's hand, the full hands being:

♠ J 3 2	♠ A 9 7
♥ 9 6 4	♥ A K
♦ A K 10 4	♦ Q 8
♣ A Q 10	♣ K J 8 7 6 5
♠ 10	♠ K Q 8 6 5 4
♥ Q J 5 3 2	♥ 10 8 7
♦ 9 7 6 2	♦ J 5 3
♣ 9 4 3	♣ 2

A TOP IF YOU MAKE IT

Tuesday Pairs, 25th June. North-South Game, Dealer North (with thanks to Roger Eddleston).

North	East	South	West
Pass	1NT	Double	2C (lowest 4 card suit)
Pass	2D	Double	2H
Double	2S	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass (All Doubles are penalties)

♠ 4 3	♠ Q 10 9 8 5
♥ A J 6 4	♥ K 8 2
♦ J 8 2	♦ A K 5
♣ 10 9 7 2	♣ 8 4

South starts with the Ace and King of Clubs, North suggesting 3, then switches to the Heart Queen. So South is likely 3244 or 2254, with one of the Spade honours for his original Double.

To make the contract, Declarer must make 3 trumps to add to 2 Diamonds and 3 Hearts (the third of which he can only enjoy after South's trumps have been drawn). North-South are top players, and have started with the best defence – Declarer must decide how the trumps are divided.

With trumps 3-3, if North has AKx, North will win the first round and play a Heart, then win again and give South a Heart ruff with the Jack for 1 down. If North has AJx or KJx, South will win the first round, play a Heart, and North will win the next round of trumps with the Ace to give South the Heart ruff – again 1 down. Only AJx or KJx with South avoids the same effect.

With trumps 4-2, if North has AJxx or KJxx, East cannot capture North's Jack – so losing 3 trumps, 2 Clubs and 1 Diamond.

It is when South has Jx of trumps that the play becomes most interesting, as was the actual distribution:

♠ A K 6 2	
♥ 10 9 7 5	
♦ 4 3	
♣ 6 5 3	
♠ 4 3	♠ Q 10 9 8 5
♥ A J 6 4	♥ K 8 2
♦ J 8 2	♦ A K 5
♣ 10 9 7 2	♣ 8 4
	♠ J 7
	♥ Q 3
	♦ Q 10 9 7 6
	♣ A K Q J

Win the Heart Queen in dummy and lead a small spade. North must duck so as to not mangle partner's trump trick and Declarer wins with Spade Queen. Cash the Heart King and exit with a small trump which South wins with the Jack in the following position:

♠ A K	
♥ 10 9	
♦ 4 3	
♣ 6	
♠ -	♠ 10 9 5
♥ J 6	♥ 8
♦ J 8 2	♦ A K 5
♣ 10 9	♣ -
	♠ -
	♥ -
	♦ Q 10 9 7 6
	♣ Q J

A Diamond would give dummy's Jack a trick, so South plays a Club which Declarer ruffs. Ace and, King of Diamonds, and a Heart to dummy's Jack, and a Club allows Declarer to make a trump "en passant", so one of North's trumps and South's winning Diamond Queen fall on the same trick.

A UNIQUE (?) BIDDING SEQUENCE

A hand from the Wanborough Cup, where the Mayfield Team (Mike Scoltock, Peter Lee, Andrew Southwell and Richard Fedrick) won by a landslide

With North-South vulnerable:

North	East	South	West
	3C	Double	?

Peter Lee decided to muddy the waters by bidding 3H, holding the following:

♠ Q 10 9 6
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ J 8 7
 ♣ A 6 4 3

At this stage, both opponents doubled at the same time ! The Director was called, and determined that the player who had doubled correctly should thereafter be silenced for the rest of the auction. The auction then continued:

North	East	South	West
	3C	Double	3H
Double	Pass	Pass	4C
-	Pass	4S	Passed out

4 Spades, Down 2, was not a success when 6H is straightforward, the full deal being:

♠ 4 ♥ Q 10 5 4 2 ♦ K Q 10 9 4 3 ♣ Q ♠ Q 10 9 6 ♥ J 6 ♦ J 8 7 ♣ A 6 4 3	♠ 8 7 5 2 ♥ - ♦ 6 5 ♣ K J 10 9 8 5 2
♠ A K J 3 ♥ A K 9 8 7 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ 7	

DOUBLE DUMMY SOLUTION (with thanks to Julian Hemsted for the precise winning line)

♠ 6 5 2 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ K 10 5 ♣ 10 7 4 2 ♠ K 10 9 4 3 ♥ K Q 6 3 2 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ ---	♠ A Q J 8 7 ♥ 7 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ K Q 5 3
♠ --- ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ 9 8 4 3 ♣ A J 9 8 6	

The winning line is subtle. After a trump lead, at trick 2 you must play Club King, ruffing the Ace (if not covered, discard a Diamond and continue with a Club), then Heart King to North's Ace. Win the spade continuation (best) in East's hand and ruff two further Clubs and two further Hearts ending in the East hand to draw the last trump and cash the Club Queen, before returning to West with Diamond Ace to enjoy the Hearts.

Playing a heart at trick 2 leaves you in the West hand after the same ruffs with no entry to dummy to draw the last trump. And playing a small heart instead of the King means the Diamond Ace entry is knocked out early.