

SECRETARY'S NOTE

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Open Swiss Pairs

On the last Tuesday in October, we held our eighth Open Swiss Pairs evening. Richard Banbury was our Director, once more, and the event enjoyed the same success as earlier years. 53 Mayfield members and 15 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 2020.

The Chairman's Consultation

In November, Roger Morton and I attended the SCBA Chairman's Consultation at Bookham. There were around 70 people there, representing most Clubs in our region. I have been to a few of these and although the name has changed – it used to be called "The Chairman's Lunch", the format has not changed. We play a little bridge; have a nice buffet lunch; and during the break there are a couple of break-out sessions to discuss issues of the day.

Roger joined a group discussing one of the main issues which occupies our own Mayfield Committee. Bridge Development – attracting new members; retaining existing members; training and development of players; accommodating advanced and less experienced players within the same Club structure. While our membership remains fairly constant at around 100 other Clubs are struggling and sometimes closing while the larger Clubs with greater resources such as Richmond and Wimbledon are able to address these issues on a grander scale.

My group was concerned with Making Bridge More Welcoming. This included SCBA's own slant on Best Behaviour at Bridge and how to treat visitors and new members, in particular:

- Everyone should try to have a happy, welcoming, face!
- Talk to new people – just be nice!
- Welcome new players, understand their Bridge experience, and introduce them to the Club members.
- Look up at people – make eye contact.
- Intros and welcome at each table. Don't hog Bridge Mate re names.
- Gently mention any protocol violations – give the reasons why a Stop or Alert card should be used.
- Explain any unusual systems at the start.
- Follow up and help develop.
- Don't offer opinions unless requested.
- Don't criticise/admonish partner.
- No negative comments about opposition.
- Be especially nice and sympathetic to people after they have played at a grumpy table.
- Excessively talking about last hand is rude to your new opponents.

We discussed how to deal with players who behave badly or are, indeed, just plain grumpy. It was remarkable that when asked if there was a grumpy member at their club, everyone in the group raised their hand (except me, of course!).

Christmas Party

For a number of years we enjoyed Christmas Party buffets arranged by Helen Seymour and assisted by other lady members. Sadly, Helen stood down at the AGM so this arrangement was no longer possible.

Once again, Alan Bailey filled the void and offered to organize the party food. My particular thanks to him (and daughter Catherine) and the members who helped to put a "peoples" buffet together:

David Dick, Richard Fedrick, Julian Hemsted, Keith Jackson, Ann Madden, Roger Morton, Tony Quilley, Mary Street, Rosemarie Thompson, Sylvia Timberlake (apologies if I missed anyone).

The party was well attended and Chris Pullen was able to direct, control and keep us all entertained.

The Storage Cupboard

Since the last newsletter, we have renovated and rearranged our storage cupboard at St. John's Hall with the agreement of the church management. Not only was the project orchestrated and conducted by Derek Ash but he also played many of the instruments. Not only were we able to rationalize the layout but also discard a lot of unwanted niff-naff!

Which leads me to.....

The Tony Lunn Memorial Shield

We were reminded of the Tony Lunn Memorial Shield which was stored in the old cupboards. This trophy is for the celebration of the success of Mayfield members at National level; either as individuals, as a pair, or as a team. Its first award was in 1985 and 1988 when Liz Philips and Evelyn Prichard won the National Ladies Pairs and was last awarded in 2011 when Peter Lee's Mayfield Team won the Gold Cup and Peter also won the Corwen Cup with Bob Rowlands.

I believe there have been one or two National awards for members which we have missed since then so please remind me so we can catch up at this year's AGM.

Which leads me to.....

The AGM

Please make every effort to attend the AGM on Tuesday 14th 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.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mayfield Competition Winners

| | | | |
|------------------|------|--|-------------------------------|
| Liz Phillips Cup | July | | Arun Suri & Tony Scouller |
| Committee Cup | July | | Derek Ash & Stephen Goldman |
| Pro-Am Cup | Oct | | Audrey Kolbe & Arun Suri |
| Open Swiss Pairs | Oct | | Julian Hemsted & Tony Turnage |

Surrey Representative

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------|--|
| Metropolitan Cup | Sept | Winners | Bob James, Charles Chisnall, Richard Fedrick, Mike Scoltock, Arun Suri, Dave Norman & team |
| Tollemache Cup (Group C) | Nov | 2 nd / 9 | Mike Scoltock & Peter Lee, Ian Swanson & team |

Surrey, County & London Competitions

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|--|
| Surrey Swiss Pairs | Sept. | 1 st / 146 4 th 8 th | Arun Suri & Dave Norman Roger Eddleston & Alan Bailey Sue & Paul Chapman |
| Surrey Swiss Teams | Sept. | 5 th / 54 6 th 8 th 9 th | Arun Suri & team Charles Chisnall&Bob James, Ian Swanson& partner Robin Griffiths&Peter Cogliatti, Julian Hemsted& Neil Gayner Richard Fedrick&Mike Scoltock,Peter Lee &partner |
| Surrey Club Pairs Challenge | Sept. | 3 rd / 35 4 th 5 th | Fiona Clark & Peter Cogliatti Roger Eddleston & Arun Suri Tony Quilley & Harry Figov |

Inter-County & National

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|--|
| Summer Seniors' Pairs 'B' | July | 2 nd | Steve Irwin & David Elvin |
| Summer Mixed Pairs | August | 2 nd / 150 | Christine Dyer & David Dawson |
| Summer Mixed Pivot Teams | August | 1 st / 61 7 th | Maria Martin, Alan Bailey, Neil Gayner, Adrian Patrick Christine Dyer, David Dawson, Steve Irwin, David Elvin |
| Summer Swiss Teams | August | 8 th / 66 | Mike Scoltock, Richard Fedrick & team |
| Crockfords Plate Finals | August | 2 nd / 8 11 th | Peter Lee, Mike Scoltock & team Charles Chisnall & partner |
| Seniors Congress | Nov | 2 nd | Arun Suri & Dave Norman |
| Premier League 3 rd Div | Nov | 2 nd / 12 | Mike Scoltock, Richard Fedrick, Andrew Southwell,Peter Lee & team |

THE PLAY OF SOME HANDS

Playing the side suit first (by Ian Swanson)

My regular partner Ken Ford has always told me that when playing a hand where you might get forced, it is important to play the side suits first.

Here is an example from the County teams of eight qualifying round in Richmond earlier in the year.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | North | |
| | J6 | |
| | AQ7 | |
| | K9732 | |
| | JT2 | |
| West | | East |
| AT972 | | Q53 |
| - | | 9865 |
| AQ864 | | JT |
| Q96 | | AK85 |
| | South | |
| | K84 | |
| | KJT432 | |
| | 5 | |
| | 743 | |

Dealer West and E/W reach 4 Spades after a weak 2H opening by South (supported by North)

After a Heart lead which my partner ruffed, he led a small Spade towards the Q and K. A further Heart forced another ruff and he entered dummy to play the J Diamonds running it to the K.

The Defence found the best play of a third Heart to give him few options. He cashed A Spades and tried to get the 10 Diamonds out of the way so that he could discard a Heart on the Q Diamonds but this was ruffed by South and a Heart cashed (declarer is out of trumps and dummy still has a Heart) for -1.

His play all seemed natural – playing the hand with shorter Hearts and probably more points outside Hearts for K Spades. This was also good defence from Jeffrey Allerton and Frances Hinden.

Let us look at it if he plays the J Diamonds first (he has to ruff the Heart lead and cross to dummy with a Club, risking a later Club ruff, but that is likely to be from a hand with 3 trumps, and he could then probably restrict losers to K Diamonds and 2 trumps).

The J Diamonds is taken by the K and a second Heart played – declarer ruffs again and plays a Diamond to the 10, which South has to ruff. Now South can play the third Heart and declarer cashes the Ace of Spades giving this situation

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | North | |
| | J | |
| | - | |
| | 973 | |
| | JT | |
| West | | East |
| T | | Q53 |
| - | | 9 |
| AQ8 | | - |
| Q9 | | A85 |
| | South | |
| | K | |
| | JT4 | |
| | - | |
| | 74 | |

Declarer has to judge the situation – but given the bidding and Heart and Diamond cards already shown in the North hand, it is probably more likely that if South has a remaining trump it is the K. And if he only had two trumps and four Clubs it is always right now to play Ace of Diamonds throwing the Heart, followed by a Spade through North's K. The defence has no answer on the Ace of Diamonds – South is forced to ruff with K Spades for the third and last trick for the defence.

So even having a good second suit and pretty good trumps, it was still best to play the second suit first – running into a Diamond ruff was not a disaster.

Making all your Trumps (by Ian Swanson)

The play of the following hand could have been fascinating in a recent Gold Cup Match; unfortunately we got it wrong and, with various other calamities, lost badly.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | North | |
| | xxxx | |
| | AKQxxx | |
| | x | |
| | Qx | |
| West | | East |
| QJ9 | | Tx |
| 9 | | JTxxx |
| Q8xxx | | J9 |
| Kxxx | | Jxxx |
| | South | |
| | AKxx | |
| | x | |
| | AKTxx | |
| | Axx | |

At both tables the contract was 6 Spades.

The lead of a Club at one table (probably the correct lead with a certain trump trick and no particular desire to ruff) gave the contract immediately (five (six if a top Heart is ruffed by defence) trumps, 3 Hearts, two Diamonds and two Clubs). It has to be handled a little carefully, but is essentially about cashing 2 top Spades, other top tricks and cross ruffing the remaining trumps in such a way that LHO is not left with a master trump and a cashable trick.

On the lead of the 9 of Hearts however, the hand becomes very interesting and looks impossible since neither Hearts or Diamonds can be set up for the crucial twelfth trick; but both suits have surprising power
In the first instance it seems correct to try and set up the Hearts – hoping that the lead was from a doubleton and only losing only to a 5-1 break. If they are 5-1 you are still not down immediately as long as the leader has 3 Spades.

So ruff a small Heart with a small trump, and the secret of the hand becomes clear, because West cannot afford to overruff. We would have two long Spade entries to dummy after trumps were drawn and could set the suit up by drawing trumps and ruffing another Heart good. West discards a Club. You can tell West had 3 trumps because otherwise he would overruff.

So now think about the hand. If the Hearts are breaking this badly and the trumps appear to be 3-2, there is a good chance of always making the hand. It has become more unlikely now that the Diamonds are 4-3 (we can assume that West has four cards in Spades and Heart leaving nine to be found in Clubs and Diamonds).

So draw two rounds of trumps, bringing us to this position

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | North | |
| | xx | |
| | KQxx | |
| | x | |
| | Qx | |
| West | | East |
| Q | | - |
| - | | JTx |
| Q8xxx | | J9 |
| Kxx | | Jxxx |
| | South | |
| | x | |
| | - | |
| | AKTxx | |
| | Axx | |

You can now aim to make 12 tricks through 6! trumps, and your top Hearts, Diamonds and Club

Play Ace and ruff a Diamond – noting the J drop. This guarantees the contract if the King of Clubs is with West

Play K Hearts discarding a Club. If West ruffs, he is endplayed to give you the twelfth trick. This can be repeated with Q Hearts throwing a Diamond if they have not been ruffed.

You can then ruff back to hand with another small Heart. Again West cannot overruff without setting up the 12th trick in Hearts. So now you can make the contract with Ace of Diamonds, Ace of Clubs and a Diamond for a trump en passant in that order. West has no answer – any ruff by him promotes dummy or he can only wait until the last trick to score his Q Spades.

So the line of ruffing a small Heart at trick 2 will work whenever the singleton Heart is accompanied by 3 Spades and the king of Clubs.

If the J Diamonds does not drop allowing West an exit when he ruffs a top Heart, declarer can still fall back on 4-3 split in Diamonds. This is likely to become apparent on the King of Hearts, and a second Club would be discarded on Q Hearts

2NT “Challenges”

Playing a fairly sophisticated set of continuations after a 2NT opening, you’re confident that you’ve got all the mechanisms available for some difficult hands in the Seniors Pairs – well, maybe not all

First a Dummy Problem. You’ve confidently propelled the partnership to 7C which is then doubled on your left, and you realise a wheel has come off in the auction. [The sequence has been withheld because both players are pleading the 5th Amendment, but you’re confident partner has shown Hearts and longer Clubs]. You put down the following dummy:

East:

K863
AK
KJ75
AQJ

North leads the Spade 10, partner considers for a while before playing the King from dummy. Back to dummy’s problem – you’re trying to work out what hand partner can have to have some chance of making the contract, given that South has so confidently doubled. Consider your choice before reading further....

South covers with the Ace of Spade and partner ruffs. When he then plays a Club to the Ace, North shows out, and he cashes Ace and King of Hearts to which all follow. My guess was now: void, QJxx, Axx, K10xxxx, and he’s going to throw Diamonds on his winning Hearts and ruff a Diamond in dummy.

But when partner leads a low Diamond from dummy, South plays the Ace and you mentally notch up another bottom – until he ruffs, leads the Heart Jack, covered by the Queen, ruffed in dummy, and claims. Unsurprisingly, this was a top, half the room in 6C but no others reaching 7C. Partner’s hand was:

-
J10654
-
K10876532

We agreed afterwards that our methods did not adequately cater for 8-5-0-0 hands.

Second, you hold the West hand:

| West | East |
|----------|-------|
| - | AQ105 |
| AJ109754 | K6 |
| J1098 | AKQ |
| QJ | K865 |

The bidding:

2NT (20-22)
4D (single-suited slam try in Hearts)
4S (Spade control in a suitable hand)
4N (RKCB) 5C (0 or 3 – must be 3)
6H (with reservations.....)

You’ve already realised that your methods aren’t as good as you would have liked, as:

- (a) If you play in Hearts, it's going to be "wrong-sided" – you'd like to bid 5D asking for HQ in the hopes he hasn't got it (5H), but this effectively guarantees that you've no Keycards missing and you may propel the partnership to 7 as a result.
- (b) 7H is still a remote possibility, though very unlikely after the 4S bid, and
- (c) You're in control of the auction, but have no idea whether 6NT is as playable as 6H is likely to be.

North leads the Diamond 5 without a great deal of thought, and you suspect this is a singleton.

As you wondered, 6NT by East looks like the place to be; for 6H to be better, you need to find the Heart Queen when the rest of the field doesn't, or you need to avoid a Club loser.

Firstly, how to play Hearts? The late Terence Reese was of the view that, with a singleton or void in Declarer or Dummy's hand, defenders' four trumps are more likely to break 3-1 – so finesse for the Queen unless you have a good reason not to do so. Secondly, you can throw two clubs on the Ace and Queen of Spades if the King is ruffed out – but (a) this can only be achieved if the Defence can't ruff the Spade Queen with a small trump, and (b) there are limited entries to dummy before trumps are drawn if it really was a singleton Diamond led.

You can increase your chances slightly in the instance where the King of Spades is doubleton, by playing the Ace of Spades at trick two throwing a club, then ruff a small Spade; South plays the King (yes, it was doubleton), and you ruff. Now you can't afford the Heart finesse as, if it loses to North's Queen, the defence will cash the Ace of Clubs – so cash Ace and King of Hearts, and discard the second club on the Spade Queen.

Hearts are actually 2-2, and we make +1 - a top, beating the pairs in 6NT and the one in 6H not seeking the extra chance.

Diamonds did break 5-1, so early entries to ruff out the Spades were very limited; note that if North held Qxx of Hearts, it wouldn't have been good enough to play King then Ace, as he'll then ruff the Diamond led towards dummy and the defence will cash the Ace of Clubs. Playing Ace then King only loses when the hand with the singleton Diamond holds all four trumps.