



Welcome

At our recent awareness day we had a very successful time teaching over a hundred people the basics of bridge. The game was taught so successfully, because we were using the introductory game of MiniBridge. But, what is MiniBridge?

MiniBridge is a simplified version of the game and is the route into bridge recommended by the EBU. As well as developing schoolchildren in their mathematical abilities, MiniBridge clearly shows a positive development in social skills too. A study commissioned at St Paul's School in Manchester showed that bridge and MiniBridge can teach skills in numeracy, probability, deduction, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more.

But MiniBridge is not just a game for the younger age group. It can also be taught to any age, to pupils and students in primary, secondary and tertiary education right through to adults.

In the past, many people learnt bridge amongst their families – why don't you rekindle this and use MiniBridge? In this Club Focus we challenge you to try some MiniBridge on your children, grand children and let us know how it went?

You can find full details on how to play and teach MiniBridge at www.ebu.co.uk/education/minibrIDGE/

Until soon,

Matt Betts and Krys Kazmierczak

Down our Club

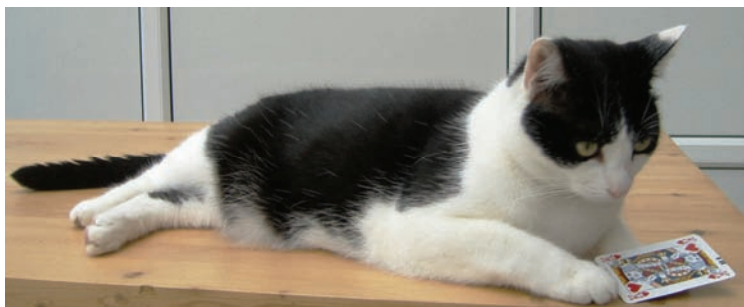
John Cox is a very popular Bridge teacher who has been active in the Broadstairs area for a while. His lessons are always both fun and instructive. Under his guidance, following the first year as a Partner-Teacher Learn and Play group, Broadstairs Bridge Club has just been born and has affiliated to the EBU as its youngest club. Our brand new Club is already firmly established with 40 members meeting every Wednesday evening. All members are required to be EBU members, but there is no separate club membership subscription.

Our Club has an excellent venue in the St Peter's Church Hall complex with ample room for up to 12 tables. There is good car-parking and good access for the disabled. We have the use of a kitchen, which allows us to provide free tea/coffee and biscuits at half time.

This is still a Learn and Play club with an emphasis on teaching. One evening a month is devoted to teaching, so that all members have a formal opportunity to continue learning. But the emphasis is now on play. We don't play too fast and aim for 18 – 21 boards a night with a break at half time for gossip. Everyone has an enjoyable evening, but we are fairly competitive with a monthly prize for the best pair and a running ladder competition. We entered the Spring Bridge for All Sim Pairs with our top two pairs gaining master points and we are thinking about entering the EBU Autumn Sim Pairs. We also hope to enter a team in the East Kent Teams league.

All boards are pre-dealt on our duplimate machine and the results uploaded to the Club website. If you are a relative newcomer to Bridge and live in the area, why not check our Club out?

Bridge Tails



Noodle the cat is so concerned about the game that he makes sure he keeps an intense eye on each card played....

Focal Point

If you're viewing Club Focus on-line, please note that all web addresses are clickable.

EGM Results

The strategy to introduce universal membership was accepted by almost 2 to 1 in favour by the EBU's shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 4 June 2008.

This decision will enable the EBU to revitalise duplicate bridge at all levels. The EBU Chairman, Peter Stocken said: "Universal membership for all members of our affiliated clubs will help us to develop our much loved game which has suffered a decline in recent years. We want to help our clubs attract new players. We have many plans and we will keep all our members and potential members informed of their progress over the coming 18 months." The new method of membership will be implemented in April 2010.

Please see **Call Up for the Club Committee** (on page 3) to see if you can assist your fellow clubs and club members to re-invigorate the game at club level.



This Issue

Bridge Tails	1
Down Our Club	1
Bidding Tools: Landy	2
Bridge on the stage	2
Limerick Competition	3
Open Evening	3
Bridge Tales	3
Call up for the Club Committee	3
Laws and how they affect you	4
EBU events	4

Bidding Tools: Landy

When the opposition opens a weak 1NT, and you have a shapely hand with opening values, it is usually best to overcall. A natural overcall of 2♣, however, leaves the opponents with plenty of scope to come back into the bidding with a suit of their own. Can we find a more useful meaning for the 2♣ overcall? Indeed we can.

If your right-hand opponent opens 1NT and you hold, say, ♠108 ♥AKJ1074 ♦A73 ♣95, the choice is clear – you overcall 2♥, but what if you hold ♠AQ62 ♥KJ1074 ♦K93 ♣9? In this case you don't have much bidding space but you have a nice hand and would dearly like to be able to show partner that you have both majors. In this situation many pairs play the 2♣ overcall as showing both majors, thereby giving partner a choice between hearts and spades. This conventional use of the 2♣ bid over 1NT is known as Landy after its inventor Alvin Landy of Connecticut in the United States.

Landy can be used in any position and over any strength of 1NT opening, but the strength and length requirements will obviously vary accordingly, and the vulnerability must also be taken into account. As with most conventions, there are a number of variations, and you should discuss how you play it with your regular partner. The usual requirement is that the majors should be at least 5-4 or 4-5, although some partnerships insist on at least 5-5, and others may allow a minimum of 4-4 at favourable vulnerability with all the points concentrated in those

Bridge on the stage

A young people's acting group from North London is busy rehearsing a show called Bridge Night, to be staged at the Tristan Bates Theatre in the West End of London in July. The show is set at a bridge night in a community centre, and uses bridge as a backdrop against which the show's characters interact with some possibly surprising outcomes. Bridge, of course, is not the only partnership game!

To get a better idea of how a bridge club operates, director Daniel Hoffman-Gill brought some of the young cast to the Ruff Bridge Club in Camden in May. The actors were shown a bridge tournament in action and given a brief crash lesson in bridge by the Ruff Club teacher and director Ned Paul.

two suits.

The upper limit for a Landy 2♣ overcall over a weak 1NT is usually set at 15 HCP. With more points, it is normal to double (first). Let's look at some examples:

A) ♠KQJ109 ♥AKJ109 ♦6 ♣42

B) ♠QJ1098 ♥KQJ109 ♦6 ♣42

C) ♠QJ1098 ♥KJ109 ♦65 ♣42

D) ♠K8754 ♥A743 ♦QJ ♣J2

With A you have two strong 5-card majors and can overcall a Landy 2♣ in any position at any vulnerability.

With B you don't have many points but you have two solid 5-card majors which are worth showing. Bid 2♣.

With C you should be wary of overcalling immediately over the opening 1NT, since opener's partner may have a good hand and choose to double, but if you are in the fourth seat and opener's partner has passed, you could risk re-opening with 2♣ if you are non-vulnerable.

With D, some aggressive players would risk a 2♣ bid non-vulnerable in the protective position, but in spite of the 11 HCP, there is little playing strength in this hand, and a pass might generally be safer.

Partner's responses also need to be agreed. A reasonable set may be offered by the following based largely on Alvin Landy's own scheme:

Pass: weak; 6+ cards in ♣

2♦: weak; no 3-card major

2♥/♠: weak; 3+ cards in ♥/♠

2NT: artificial invitational; asking for better major

3♣: artificial game forcing; asking for better major

3♦: natural; 6+ cards in ♦ & values

3♥/♠: invitational; (3)4+ cards in ♥/♠

4♥/♠: to play

There are a number of other conventional defences to an opening bid of 1NT which we shall be exploring in future issues of Club Focus, but Landy is the original and perhaps easiest to learn, so a good one to begin with.



Focal Point

A little plug for the Junior Teach-In on 29-31 August at Loughborough University.

It's a great opportunity for all youngsters to build on their bridge skills or make a start completely from scratch.

Can your Bridge Club encourage, and perhaps even sponsor some young people to come along? Children from nine or ten upwards can learn MiniBridge and after this weekend will be playing game and part-score contracts. It would be a great present to a niece or nephew or grandchild. For more information, click here or see the EBU website.



Limerick Competition

The winner of the limerick competition from our May issue is Robert Sassoon from Reading with the following entertaining rhyme:

*There are lots of juniors in Reading
For the national squad we're all heading
Older members shout "Yikes!"
At our young players' psyches
As we know the next bid they are dreading*

Robert receives a copy of the **British Bridge Almanack** by Peter Hasenson.

Thank you very much to Robert and all of those who entered the competition.

Limericks for our next competition should have a Bridge theme and include the name of a place in the (Bridge) County of Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire. Here you can choose from some wonderful place-names like Ely, Histon, Stow-cum-Quy and Wendy! Entries should be in to the address on page 4 by 15 August 2008. The winner will receive a copy of the book **Ron Klinger's Master Class**.

The judges also liked the following anonymous entry:

*A well-off bridge player from Burnham
Had diamonds tattooed on her sternum
When asked why this was
She said "It's because
It saves me the bother of wearin' 'em!"*

For those who have less experience of limericks, it might help to know that they always have five lines and put simply:

Lines one, two and five all need to rhyme with each other and scan, i.e. have the same number of syllables (usually between seven and ten).

Lines three and four need to be shorter but both with the same number of syllables (usually between five and seven) and again rhyme with each other.

Note that "syllable" is used a bit loosely here. It can depend on how you read the verse. E.g. to get the last line of the above limerick to scan with the first two lines you would read "saves" as one syllable, "bother" as two and "wearin' 'em" as two.

Limericks are read to a definite rhythm with three beats to each of lines one, two and five, and two beats in each of lines three and four. E.g.

A WELL-off bridge PLAYer from BURNham

Had DIAMonds tattOOED on her STERNum

When ASKED why this WAS

She SAID "It's beCAUSE

It SAVES me the BOther of WEARin' 'em!"

If your limerick doesn't quite scan properly, try fiddling with the words a bit. E.g. in the first line of the above the author might have started with the first line as

A rich bridge player from Burnham

but found it didn't quite scan with lines two and five, so changed the word "rich" to "well-off".

Our judges definitely prefer limericks which both rhyme and scan well!



Call up for the Club Committee

Your country needs you! Do you think you can make a contribution that will be to the benefit of clubs in England? Do you have experience of the administration of a bridge club or clubs - whether they be small, large, social, competitive, proprietor or committee run? If so you may like to consider volunteering for the EBU's first Club Committee.

This committee will be consulting and consulted in all club bridge matters, whether it is in aspects of implementing the new Pay to Play system, or regulation of the game or new tournaments or the services and benefits that clubs need and want from the EBU.

In its first form the new Club Committee will be an interim committee made up of eight volunteers from around the country. We already have three volunteers and we are looking for five more. One of the important jobs that this team will also undertake is setting up a formal structure which will provide representation from clubs through regions to the national Club Committee itself.

So if you would like to take part or need further information please email me at sally@ebu.co.uk explaining how you think your input and experience can help this vital new group. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Bugden

Open Evening at Aylesbury Vale

Aylesbury Vale Bridge held its annual Open Evening at one of its twice-weekly club sessions on 17 June. Over twenty visitors joined club regulars to sample the delights of duplicate bridge for the first time, having first enjoyed supper and a glass of wine.

Aylesbury Vale Bridge (AVB) specialises in teaching beginners and introducing social players to club bridge. The Tuesday night sessions provide a relaxed transition from classroom to clubroom, where graduating bridge students can continue to enjoy learning the game.

Since the club's foundation five years ago, over two hundred beginners have learnt to play with AVB, with most going on to play regular club bridge at one of its two club nights. Twenty five players now play in the county league, and many go on to play at other clubs in the area which meet on different nights.

Club proprietor Sue Maxwell says "Our Open Evenings provide an opportunity for those people who have done a bit before, maybe learnt on a cruise, or who are social rubber bridge players, to enjoy our regular club sessions, where bridge is just an excuse for a great night out with friends!"



Did you know?

The great fictional detective, Hercule Poirot played bridge. In Christie's book, *Cards on the Table*, bridge is used to disguise a murder. Luckily Poirot understood the game and noticed there was something wrong!

Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 and how they affect the club

You will already know that the new laws of bridge come into effect on 1 August. Your club will also be receiving a free copy of the new laws courtesy of the EBU through your County.

There is an article on the EBU website and there will be one in the August *English Bridge* on how the law changes will affect players and TDs. This one tells you about how it will affect your club.

Luckily the answer is "not that much!"

Tournament Organizer

The main change is in the wording of Law 80 – out goes the Sponsoring Organisation (which had the possibility of being confused with sponsorship – which wasn't the intention) to be replaced by two bodies – the Regulating Authority and the Tournament Organizer. In England the Regulating Authority is the EBU itself, which makes decisions where the laws give a choice. E.g. Law 61B3 – where defenders may ask each other about re-vokes.

The Tournament Organizer assumes the responsibility for setting up the tournament and for creating supplementary regulations for the purpose, and this is one of the things the club will do – so the club becomes a Tournament Organizer.

Law 80B2 lists some of the principal duties and responsibilities of the Tournament Organizer. The list is not exhaustive and is rather in the nature of a reminder of the most important matters to be covered. In any case 80B2(f) gives a general authority to cover matters not specifically listed. In 80B2(l) the TO is reminded that elsewhere in the laws there are requirements to be met in the regulations.

The EBU will often be a Tournament Organizer as well as the Regulating Authority – well it does run a lot of tournaments! But it also runs events played in clubs – such as Simultaneous Pairs events and heats of the National Pairs and it will have the power (as TO) to lay down regulations which will apply to clubs. That is actually no different to now – for example starting times for Simultaneous Pairs events are strictly controlled to ensure the security of the event. But by and large clubs will be free to act as they do now.

One point worth reminding clubs about is the need to have well defined club rules – in particular in the field of disciplinary matters. None of us like to think about unpleasant disciplinary problems, but it is often the case that when something happens at the club, the rules are found wanting. You can email john@ebu.co.uk for a copy of the EBU Model Club Constitution.

John Pain

Forthcoming EBU Events

Northern Summer Congress: 31 July - 3 August, Scarborough

Brighton Summer Congress: 8 - 17 August, Brighton

The National Women's Teams: 5 - 7 September, Hinckley

Guernsey Congress: 19 - 28 September, Guernsey

More information, please email comps@ebu.co.uk



Write to us

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of Club Focus. Are you interested in writing for the next newsletter? Have you started learning bridge? Have you got any funny stories about bridge? Does your club have any interesting ideas or solutions to common problems which other clubs might benefit from? Would you like to publicise any special events open to non-members and members? Do you have a special pet who likes to play cards? Please let us know!

If you would like to contact us or send us your articles, feedback or comments, please email: clubfocus@ebu.co.uk or post to: **Club Focus, English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ.** Deadline for submissions is 11 August 2008.

National Inter-Club Knock-Out

The NICKO, as it is affectionately acronymed, is one of the most popular tournaments in the bridge calendar. It is open to teams from all *bona fide* bridge clubs (or bridge sections of other clubs), and each club may enter as many teams as it wishes. In the early rounds matches consist of 24 boards each, and the draws are regionalised so that teams do not have to travel too far. Each team is guaranteed at least two games: if a team loses its first match it goes into the parallel NICKO Plate competition. Green points are awarded for matches won.

Why not get together with your regular partner and a couple of teammates from your club and ask your club secretary to enter your team for the NICKO? Entries should be in by 6 October 2008. For further details see the competition entry form attached to this newsletter. Note that all team members must join the EBU before playing in the event.

The EBU and Mercian

DUBROVNIK

CONGRESS

9 - 14 October 2008

Hotel Excelsior, Dubrovnik, Croatia

- Pre-congress Pairs
- Open Pairs
- Pivot Teams
- Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Pairs
- Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams

Bridge Fees: £104.00 per player

**Entries to EBU Competitions
Department**

**For travel and accommodation, please
contact Mercian Travel
Centre Ltd on 01562 887 557**



If this newsletter is printed, please don't forget to recycle it afterwards.

Information contained in this edition is correct at time of going to press. Production schedules mean that entries listed or reviewed may change between going to press and publication.

Published by the
English Bridge
Union



NATIONAL INTER-CLUB KNOCK-OUT
2008 – 2009
ENTRY FORM



CLUB NAME _____

Contact name _____ ☎ (daytime) _____

Address (or EBU N°) _____

Team A	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue

Team B	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue

Team C	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue

Team D	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue

If you wish to enter more than four teams, please copy this form, or request an additional form from the EBU Competitions department on 01296 317203.

Conditions of Entry

All players must have been a bona fide member of the club for at least 3 months prior to the date on which they first represent the club, and they must all be EBU members. At least 4 players must be nominated for each team when the entry form is submitted. **Please give EBU numbers for all players.** If you cannot provide EBU numbers, then it is essential that you give their postcodes.

Extra players may be added, up to a maximum of 6 players per team, at any time during the competition provided:

- (a) they satisfy the entry conditions,
- (b) they have not represented another team in the competition this season, and
- (c) they are nominated to the EBU Competitions Department before they play.

Payment Details

Cheque enclosed : £ _____

Vouchers enclosed : £ _____

Credit Card payment (please see below) : £ _____

ENTRY FEE SCALE: £ £62 for 1 team
 £ £46 per additional team thereafter

Junior players are entitled to enter at half price. To qualify, they must be under 22 on 6th October 2008, or under 25 and studying for their first degree. Discounts only apply for juniors nominated on original entry. Further information on this can be obtained from the EBU competitions department.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 6th October 2008

All entries will be acknowledged

Please send entries to the Competitions Department,
English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ

Credit Card Payment Details

Please tick the appropriate credit card symbol



Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Issue No (Switch Only)

Amount: £ _____ Signature: _____

(Daytime) Telephone Number: _____



NATIONAL INTER-CLUB KNOCK-OUT
2008 – 2009
SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRY FORM



CLUB NAME _____

Team E	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue
Team F	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue
Team G	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue
Team H	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue
Team I	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue
Team J	Players' Names	EBU NO	Captain's Address:
Captain			
Player 2			
Player 3			Tel: (Eve)
Player 4			Tel: (Day)
Player 5			e-mail:
Player 6			Post code of home venue