



Welcome

The EBU is determined to put the interests of affiliated clubs at its heart. To this end a new Club Committee (CC) is being formed with members who are involved in running successful clubs of different forms, shapes and sizes. The CC will work for the benefit of all our clubs and club members at national, regional and local level. It will help develop new and better services for our members and will be consulted in all those aspects of the EBU's activities which involve clubs, particularly the implementation of Pay to Play, as well as other issues such as the new recommendations on doubling. Any changes that significantly affect club players will come before the CC before being approved. It will work closely with the EBU's Universal Membership Project Board and its other committees.

The Club Committee's members are your representatives, and it will be acting as a channel for members' interests throughout the country.

Focal Point

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

Improving play?

Barclay Stewart and Fred Rochelle from Malvern Bridge Club recently came first nationally in the Simultaneous Pairs on 15 May. Brilliant for them, brilliant for Malvern Bridge Club – especially as on 3 April, Barclay collapsed after a heart attack! An ambulance was called, but it was obvious that Barclay was turning blue and not breathing. Heidi Collins, a nurse twenty years ago, immediately started cardiac heart massage. She was then helped by Maurice Curtis, Chairman who took over while Heidi gave mouth to mouth. They kept this going for twenty minutes or so until the ambulance arrived. The hospital advised Barclay that he would have died had Heidi and Maurice not been there.

Barclay now has a pace maker fitted and was back to bridge very quickly afterwards, winning the Simultaneous Pairs only 5 weeks later.

This is not to be recommended as a way of improving play!!

Sue Lane

One of its first tasks will be to develop a system of regional and county representation, and we hope to be able to inform you of the structure of this in the November issue of Club Focus. In the meantime we are still looking for one more member from the Midlands to volunteer to join the Committee. If you or someone you know is a keen, forward-looking and successful club administrator from the Midlands, please contact Sally Bugden sally@ebu.co.uk.

If you wish to contact the CC regarding any other matter please email cc@ebu.co.uk. The Committee's first meeting is being held on 17th September 2008.

For an introduction to the members of the new CC, please see page 3.

Until the next issue,

Matt Betts and Krysz Kazmierczak

40th Anniversary

The Bradgate Bridge Club in Leicestershire held a charity evening on Monday 7 April at the Rothley Centre to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. 70 members and guests including 4 founder members (Mrs Pam Leeson, Mrs Betty Smith, Mr Mike Cockayne and Mr Doug Morris) were in attendance.

The guest of honour was Mr Hugh Cairns, Chairman of the Leicestershire Bridge Association.

The event raised £526 for the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Happy Birthday Bradgate Bridge Club!



Limerick Competition

The winner of the limerick competition from our July issue is Peggy Millidge from Carlisle with the following fine entertaining stanza:

There was an old man from Bar Hill

Who played bridge with both flair and with skill

His partners he chided

Scorned, mocked and derided

'Tis wondrous they play with him still!

Peggy receives a copy of the book *Ron Klinger's Master Class*.

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

Limericks for our next competition must have a Bridge theme and include the name of a place in the Channel Islands, e.g. Sark, St. Helier or La Planque. To find other place names, you can use the new EBU Map at www.ebu.co.uk/map/ – type in the name of, say, Jersey into the search box and then enlarge the map by double-clicking on it. Entries should be in to the address on page 5 by 15 October 2008. The winner will receive a copy of *The Golden Rules of Competitive Auctions* by Julian Pottage & Marc Smith.

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Introducing bridge into schools

Some ten years ago, Yorkshire asked my bridge partner Christine Asquith if she would take on the role of County Youth Officer. She replied in the affirmative, providing I would help. There wasn't a great deal of teaching material at that time, so we sat down and worked out some basic hands. We then went the route of most people and wrote to all the Secondary schools in the area and put notices in prominent places that we would be open for business at Harrogate Bridge Club for two hours on the following Saturday morning. We arrived full of hope and expectation but, after doing the crossword and drinking coffee, we went home.

A different approach was obviously required, so we looked round for school teachers at the two local clubs where we were members and asked whom we should approach in their school. One such person was the Headmaster of a local primary school, and he was more than pleased to have us show his years 5 and 6 what our game was about. Two of the boys from that first school were Robert Myers and Mark Dessain, who now represent England at Under-19 level. We were also pointed in the direction of a secondary school, and here bridge was introduced to the sixth form. One of the early pupils was Robin Zigmund, part of the successful Durham University Portland Bowl team in 2006 and again in 2008.

Congratulations Phyl..

The Gladys Hakki award is made annually to a SCCBA member who has given their time, service and contributed generally to bridge. This year the award has gone to Phyl White of Eastbourne Bridge Club.

Phyl was born on 4 August 1908 in Gibraltar, the daughter of a serving officer, and lived in Bermuda and then in South Africa. At the onset of the Great War, the family returned to England in a ship pursued by a German U-boat. After the war, they lived at Bedford, where Phyl went to the local convent school, was captain of tennis, and married at 21. Since the 1930's, she has lived in Seaford and then Eastbourne, where her husband was manager of the Royal Exchange insurance group. They had two daughters, and she now has umpteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Phyl took up duplicate bridge only in her seventies after her husband died. She was briefly a member of the Whitehall bridge club, and when that died a founder member (with Bertie Wallace and Stella Furlonger among others) of the Eastbourne bridge club.

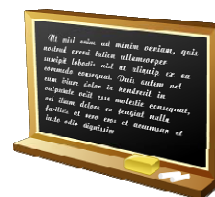
We now realised that the way to go was the personal route and we knocked on the door of one or two more local schools, and our offer to work for nothing to improve their pupils' maths was accepted. Unfortunately, about this time Christine was diagnosed with cancer and died in 2001, but her enthusiasm for Youth Work was infectious, and having carried it on I have found it great fun. It can be hard work, but the rewards of watching young people blossom into good bridge players are enormous.

From the very beginning I have had the full support of Harrogate Bridge Club which allows us to use the premises for our weekly Saturday meet and also for 2-3 competitions during the year. I try and use my school time as an incentive to come to the Saturday classes. At secondary schools, because the majority of children are bussed home at the end of the day, there is just the 45 minute break available to us. Primary schools are normally local and some can find an hour as an after school club. It can be difficult to be very constructive in these limited periods and only gradual progress is made. Young children who have trouble with very simple addition speed up in just a few weeks, and some teachers have been pleasantly surprised at the improvement.

If you have read this and feel prepared to have a go, here are a few things I would recommend. Most schools will insist on a police check (CRB Check). You can ask the EBU for advice about this: email john@ebu.co.uk. Try and arrange for one or two of your bridge playing friends to help, as at primary level it is advisable to have a helper at each table. Ask Mike Amos for the Schools Starter Pack: mamos@ebu.co.uk. There is also plenty of information available about MiniBridge on the EBU website.

If you want to start them young, speak to the Head of your local primary school and ask if you can show his year 6 how to play this game, which will help improve their maths and communication skills. If you want to work with older children, I would suggest you contact the Head of Year 7 at your local secondary school and ask if you can give a Bridge taster session to begin with. Please remember though, if you start something, it's not just a whim; it needs to be a commitment. Good luck!

Cedric Cockcroft



Bridge Tails



Morgan the Cat fails to understand the job of the Dummy when he starts to play a hand...

Joke Corner

Professional Opinion

Bill: My cardiologist says I can't play bridge.

Tom: Why not? Do you have a heart problem?

Bill: Nope. He's just played with me enough to know I'm hopeless.

During those 20 years of development, she has served on the committee in most capacities, including secretary and president; in recognition of which she was made a Life Member. She has also taught bridge for many years (and continues to teach), both at the club and at her home, partly with the aim of encouraging lesser players and making them feel wanted.

At age 94, Phyl won the Sussex County Ladies Pairs Trophy for the fifth time – twice with Joyce Rowbotham, once with her pupil Sandy Blunt, and twice with Marion Hart. She has also won the Sussex Mixed Pairs trophy twice, both times with Richard Coombs. Now aged 100, she is still playing several times a week at the club; and recently came second in the Lynne Armstrong Memorial trophy.

Many congratulations to Phyl on both achievements!



Bidding Tools: Responding to 1NT - Stayman

The vast majority of Bridge players are familiar with Stayman, one of the oldest of all Bridge conventions, but a little revision never hurts. After a 1NT opening, responder bids 2♣ (Stayman) as an asking bid; opener replies with his (lowest) 4-card major, or bids 2♦ to deny a 4-card major.

By far the most common use of Stayman is to find a 4-4 major suit fit, as an alternative to No Trumps, when responder has at least values to invite game (11+ HCP opposite a standard Weak NT):

- (1) ♠KJ94 ♥AQ87 ♦J86 ♣42
 (2) ♠QJ9 ♥AQ87 ♦AJ86 ♣42
 (3) ♠KJ94 ♥A87 ♦AJ86 ♣42

With all these hands, you would be happy to play in NT, but a major suit contract would be better if you have a 4-4 fit. Respond 2♣, and bid NT if you don't like the reply – just 2NT with hand (1), but 3NT with (2) & (3). If partner makes a favourable response, simply raise the suit to the appropriate level.

But there are occasions when you might use Stayman when you have a weaker hand:

- (4) ♠J982 ♥KQ875 ♦3 ♣942
 (5) ♠J98 ♥Q875 ♦J7632 ♣2
 (6) ♠2 ♥J843 ♦J6 ♣KQ9862.

Introducing the EBU Club Committee

The Club Committee will be chaired by **Graham Jepson**, retired owner of a successful bridge club and bridge holiday company and the EBU Board Member responsible for youth and education. The other members are:

- **Margaret Eddleston** – (Hertfordshire) President Hitchin Bridge Club and member of the Universal Membership Project Board
- **Tom Garrett** – (Berks and Bucks) Founder member and regular player at Chiltern Edge Bridge Club since 1967. EBU Shareholder representing smaller social-based clubs
- **Suzanne Gill** – (Norfolk) Established Horning Bridge Club in Norfolk in 2000 and is now its Life President, twice represented England, Tournament Committee Secretary and former press officer, newsletter editor and webmaster for Norfolk County
- **Phil Green** – (Wiltshire) Shareholder , ex Chairman Bath Bridge Club, set up Trowbridge County Town Bridge Club, EBUTA teacher
- **Barbara Herold** – (Sussex) Owner East Sussex Bridge Club, EBUTA teacher. Her late husband Ken Latty was the initiator at

With these hands you might simply make a weak take-out into your 5-card suit, but there may be a better spot. You can try Stayman first, as long as you are prepared for any response. With (4), you will play in whichever 4-card major partner holds, or convert a 2♦ response to 2♥.

With (5) bid 2♣ and pass whatever partner replies - if he hasn't got a 4-card major, it's almost certain that he has at least 3 diamonds! Even a 4-3 spade fit is likely to be better than playing in 1NT.

With (6) bid 2♣ first and then 3♣, unless partner happens to respond 2♥. This is understood in traditional Acoll to be a weak take-out, and partner should now pass.

When not to use Stayman

At club level, one occasionally sees Stayman abused, because players haven't thought ahead, or have forgotten why they're asking the question:

(7) ♠J9 ♥KJ87 ♦J763 ♣982. Responder didn't like partner's 1NT opening, and thought that 2♥ might be better if opener held 4 hearts, so he bid Stayman. But opener replied 2♠.

Now responder was stuck! He tried 2NT, but partner raised to 3NT – this was not a success! Responder should have simply

passed on his first turn. 1NT might not have been the best contract, but it was too risky to look for a better one.

(8) ♠A9 ♥KQ874 ♦J76 ♣K82. Responder pulled out the 2♣ bid 'just in case partner had 4 hearts'. When partner replied 2♠, responder realised that he still didn't know whether they had a heart fit, so tried 3♥. Opener was confused – why should his partner be bidding like this, if he hasn't got a 4-card spade suit? What would you think this bid shows? Using traditional Acoll, responder should simply have replied 3♥ immediately after the 1NT opening, showing precisely a 5-card suit, and forcing partner to choose between 3NT and 4H.

Responder might have had a similar problem if he held ♠Q9 ♥KQ874 ♦J76 ♣K82, or ♠Q9 ♥KQ8742 ♦J7 ♣K82. Neither hand is quite strong enough to force to game with an immediate 3♥, and Stayman would be asking the wrong question. Read in the next issue how 'Red Suit Transfers' could solve responder's problems in these situations.

In Summary

Use Stayman only when you have invitational values and at least one major suit of **precisely** 4 cards, or a weaker hand with the ability to cope with any reply that partner might give.

Charity Bridge Drive

Charity Bridge Drive will be taking place on Monday 22 September in aid of Mercread Youth Centre, Seaford - all proceeds go direct to the charity.

The Downs 60+ Club, Sutton Road, Seaford BN25 4QW

6.15 for 6.30 prompt - finish 9/9.30. £8 per pair. Light refreshments available

Contact Sheila Smith 01323 492146 or 07989226259 or e-mail: s.k.smith@btinternet.com

Committee members fund prizes and small admin costs.

East Sussex BC of zero tolerance, which was developed into Best Behaviour at Bridge. Barbara attributes the continued success of the club, with new members monthly, to its strict adherence to zero tolerance.

• **Terry Jacobs** – Representing Sheffield, Secretary of Sheffield Bridge Club.

• **Lesley Millet** – Treasurer of Yorkshire County and Chairman of Leeds Bridge Club.

The EBU representatives on the CC are **Sally Bugden**, Vice-chairman, **Barry Capal**, General Manager, and **Krys Kazmierczak**, Club Liaison Officer. Their photos and profiles, along with that of **Graham Jepson**, can be found on the EBU Website by **clicking here**.



The EBU shop has recently donated some playing cards for the shoe box charity, "Operation Christmas Child". Please visit

www.samaritanspurse.uk.com for more information on this great initiative.



YC Charity Sim Pairs

As part of its 40th Anniversary celebrations the Young Chelsea Bridge Club has organised a Simultaneous Pairs event with a difference on 23 September. With help from long-time member and all-round genius David Burn, they have selected 33 hands of interest using records and notes going back to the early '70s. There is a good balance between part-scores, games and slams and there are no dull little flat boards.

Each hand has a short commentary by David Burn, and participating clubs have a choice of getting the printed or electronic hand records (and duplimate is available for clubs that can use this).

Part of the proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Society.

Scoring and MP awards will be done nationally, using the ECats service.

It's just £1 per person for a typical 9 table duplicate. Clubs who normally play on a Monday may be able to compete on 22 Sept.

The winning pair nationally will receive crystal tumblers commemorating the Anniversary.

If your club wants to participate, please contact Gordon Rainsford at info@ycbc.co.uk or on 020 7373 1665.

Hand of the Month

Mike Wright returned from holiday recently to play at Chelmsford Bridge Club and was surprised to pick up the following hand:

♠ AKQ109

♥ -

♦ -

♣ AKQJ10865

He writes: After two Passes, the bidding came round to me. I was not thinking very clearly!! At the time it seemed that we should probably be in 7C or 7S. Clearly I needed to show a Spade/Club two-suiter. But instead of bidding 2C to start with (strong hand) and then showing the two-suiter, I weirdly bid 1S!! My punishment should have been to see it passed out but, fortunately, the hand on my left bid a Michaels 2S. My partner Sue passed and the hand on the right bid 3H.

I sat in a bit of a trance trying to think what to do next. The only bids I considered were 7C or 7S, as Sue was clearly rock bottom and after my insipid one level

Universal Membership Committee

Up and Running!

The committee that has been set up to deal with the transition to universal membership via Pay to Play had its first meeting on 7 August. Much time was spent discussing the requirements to implement the project with both the committee and the project team at Aylesbury working hard to ensure that clubs have as little work to do as possible.

Volunteers on the committee joining Board members, **Sally Bugden**, **John Carter**, **Mike Hill** and **Andrew Petrie** are:

Angus Clark, a Merseyside and Cheshire County Committee member and shareholder. Angus is also a Tournament Director at Wirral Duplicate BC and Merseyside Bridge Centre. He is active in County Leagues and a frequent player in County Events.

Margaret Eddleston, from Hertfordshire, has been actively involved with club administration since 1996 as a treasurer and president. She founded and is now President of Hitchin Bridge Club. Margaret will be our club member liaison between the Project Board and the Club Committee.

Megan Taft from Lancashire is Secretary of Brierfield Bridge Club. Megan is actively involved with county and club bridge organisation and played an important role in the purchase and development of the Brierfield Bridge Club premises.

Jeff Smith from Manchester is active in county bridge administration and is the recently retired Chairman of Manchester County Bridge Association. Jeff has used his computer software design and programming skills to create a scoring program which the EBU has used for its tournaments during the last few years.

Barry Capal is heading up the project team at Aylesbury which includes both **Krys Kazmierczak** and **Colin Porch** who will attend committee meetings as and when necessary.

The next meeting is to be held in November. We will update our readers with more news in the January issue.



100 and still playing

A member of a number of Worcestershire bridge clubs – Ada Hampton – will enjoy her 100th birthday in October.

On 21 November we have organised a Team of 8 match between a Worcestershire selected team and a West Midlands Bridge Club selected team at the refurbished West Midlands Club premises. Ada still plays extremely well and will be a member of the Worcestershire team.

This does show that age is no barrier to playing good bridge!

We'll let you know how we get on in the next Club Focus.

Ian Thompson



Did you know?

It seems that politics and bridge have always mixed well. Famous bridge players include Gandhi, Churchill and Eisenhower. Every year there is also a bridge match between the House of Commons and the House of Lords.



Education Strategy Volunteer

The EBU is looking for a volunteer who can help the Board and its Education Manager formulate a strategic approach to bridge education in England resulting in a coherent policy that will encourage more individuals to play bridge.

This will involve advising the Board on a way forward after researching and assessing current activities covering the following:

Education of young people: Methods, Schools, Universities, Extra curricular, Home

Education of adults: Methods, Adult Education Institutes, Clubs

Education of teachers: Methods, Qualifications, EBUTA

Education of Tournament Directors: Nationally, Regionally, Locally

Communications: For students, For teachers, For all other stakeholders

Staffing and resources

Accreditation of training programmes

The ideal candidate will have experience in education and/or training but importantly will have proven success in strategic analysis resulting in effective policy making.

It is hoped that this project should be completed within a maximum 6 months.

Candidates should send an up-to-date CV together with a covering letter describing how their experience matches the requirements of the job via email to Sally Bugden, Vice Chairman, EBU Sally@ebu.co.uk.



Forthcoming EBU Events

Guernsey Congress: 19 - 28 September, Guernsey

Great Northern Swiss Pairs: 4 - 5 October, Risley near Warrington

Autumn Congress: 17 - 19 October, Bournemouth (see right)

Seniors Congress: 7 - 9 November, Daventry

Year End Congress London: 27 - 30 December, London

Year End Congress Blackpool: 28 - 30 December, Blackpool



For more information, please email comps@ebu.co.uk or see the EBU website.

Write to us

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of Club Focus. Are you interested in writing for the next newsletter - number six? 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 15 October 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 EBU website. Note that all team members must join the EBU before playing in the event.

THE AUTUMN CONGRESS

**Carrington House Hotel
Bournemouth
17 - 19 October 2008**

The focal point of the Autumn Congress is the prestigious 4-session Two Stars pairs event, commencing Friday afternoon. Players who prefer a more relaxed style may choose to enter the Satellite Pairs starting on the Friday evening. Other events are a Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and the Teams-of-Four-Championships on Sunday, which is a sectional Multiple Teams event leading to two 14-team finals; the Eastbourne Bowl (Premier) and Burlington Cup (Secondary). All non-qualifiers play in the Sussex Cup.

For more information, please visit the EBU website.



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.

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