



HAVE YOU DECIDED ON AFFILIATION YET?

IF SO, PLEASE SEND YOUR AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS IN NOW!!!

You will all have received your Pay to Play packs in the last week of April. You will also have received the club affiliation agreement and a pre-paid envelope for your reply. We really need to know whether you are going to continue to be affiliated to the EBU and take advantage of the services on offer to your club and its members as well as contributing to the development of duplicate bridge and its infrastructure.

Why do we need to know now? Because we need to make our financial plans in good time for next year, which means working on them this summer - and we cannot do that without this information from our clubs.

We recognise that some of you may not have had time to organise a meeting. But... if you have made your decision please let us know as soon as possible.

If you require any advice or information, or for some reason have not received your Pay to Play pack, please either phone our helpline on 01296 317200 or email us at paytoplay@ebu.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

DON'T DELAY, RETURN TODAY!

ASK US - THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW

If you need any information about Pay to Play phone us on 01296 317200 or contact us at paytoplay@ebu.co.uk for the correct information about universal membership and the EBU.

PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON UNOFFICIAL DOCUMENTS!

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Editorial

Now is the time of year when bridge clubs and bridge teachers up and down the country are planning and preparing for the start of their new classes in the autumn. When do your classes begin? With September being a very popular month for holidays it makes sense to delay the start of classes until October, but the month or two before that should see an increase in advertising for new students. How do you attract new students? Have you thought of getting a few club mates together and setting up a stall at your local village fete or in the forecourt of your local supermarket? (Most big supermarket chains these days have a policy of being community friendly. Try speaking to the manager.) You could have a real fun day out with four people playing (behind a windshield), while another serves drinks and one or two others are on hand to explain the game and take the details of anyone who may show interest in joining a bridge class.

Posters are, of course, a classic way of advertising your bridge club and its classes. The usual places to put them up are libraries, council offices, church and village halls, supermarkets, sports clubs and indeed any public noticeboards you can find. One club recently wrote in to say that it had had the most success in attracting new students by advertising at the local bowls club. Do you have any particularly effective ways of advertising your bridge classes? Why not write in and tell us about them?

One of the best ways of ensuring that your bridge club maintains its membership numbers is to have bridge teaching associated with the club. In his visits to bridge clubs around the country as EBU Club Liaison Officer, Krys has found that those clubs which have bridge teaching associated with them or nearby are generally thriving or doing reasonably well. Without

any bridge teaching in the area, the picture is often not so rosy.

The EBU's Partner Teacher courses are especially designed not only to teach new teachers how to teach bridge, but also to help new teachers recruit, retain and evolve their students into club players. Bridge teaching is fun and fulfilling. If there is someone at your club who might be interested in teaching bridge, why not encourage them to come on one of the EBU courses? Full details can be found on the EBU Website. Bear in mind also that when Pay-to-Play comes in next April the EBU will be offering clubs which remain affiliated one free teacher training session in any 24 month period. (Subject to availability; conditions apply.)

Matt Betts and Krys Kazmierczak

Down Our Club

Woodborough is a small village 8 miles NE of Nottingham. There is still a farming community but it is now largely a commuter village. This lively village has over thirty local organisations covering all age groups and many interests; one is the Woodborough Bridge Club.

There have been bridge classes held in the village for many years, and the Club was founded by local bridge teacher John Glass 23 years ago. There is still a handful of founder members attending the Club.

It originally met in the local Scout Hut but has since moved to larger premises at the Village Hall. The Club meets once a week in the evening. The Club membership has expanded every year and now hosts nine tables for most sessions.

Its success has been due to not only the friendliness of the members, but its ability to accommodate a wide range of abilities and experience. Many members also attend Bridge Clubs in other villages around the County.

The Club is fortunate to have members who teach Bridge and also trained Tournament Directors to ensure fair play!

Pay to Play Sessions and Master Points

Several clubs have contacted us and expressed their desire to be affiliated but not to have to award Master Points at their Pay to Play. In the light of their comments we would like to inform all clubs that they have the choice of whether to award Master Points or not. These sessions, Master Pointed or not, will still attract the Pay to Play payment.

For further details please contact Aylesbury on 01296 317200 or email paytoplay@ebu.co.uk.

Each week the results are published on the club's web site (woodboroughbridgeclub.org.uk) and individual and pairs' averages calculated.

At the annual Christmas Party prizes are awarded to the pair with the highest individual session score, and the pair with the most improved overall average.

The Club has two teams entered in the County Team of Eight; some members also enter their own team in the County Team of Four League, and some have represented their County in competitions. The Club regularly has pre-dealt hands so the keener can hold a thorough post-mortem at the end of the evening.

During the year the Club competes in at least two National Simultaneous Pairs events and the occasional Charity event. The Club is a member of the English Bridge Union and Master Points are awarded.

If you are ever in the area, please feel free to come and join us.

Jane Hall, Woodborough



Bridge Tails



Jonty doesn't like being Dummy

CCPR Sports Survey

Club Administrators, would you like to win a weekend in a top class London hotel? If so please help with this survey, which is being conducted with bridge clubs on behalf of the EBU in partnership with the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR).

CCPR is the umbrella organisation for national governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK. Its mission is to 'protect, promote and provide' for sport and recreation. The information you provide will be extremely useful for CCPR as it lobbies Government to promote the welfare of sport and argues for increased support and funding for sports clubs.

Please answer the questions as completely as you can. They are about your club - including its membership, volunteers and finances. You will need a copy of your club's annual reports and accounts from the last two years in order to answer some of the questions. Please make sure you have this information to hand before you start to fill in the questionnaire.

Please be assured that your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous. The survey is being administered for the CCPR by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University. If you would like to know more about SIRC, and the type of work they do, please visit <http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/sirc/>.

Please note that Question 1 asks you to state which sports your club participates in. Please select 'Other' and specify 'Bridge' in the adjacent text box. This will allow the research team to analyse responses for the sport as a whole.

If you have any queries about the survey, or require any further assistance, please telephone David Barrett on (0114) 225-2298; or email d.barrett@shu.ac.uk.

To begin the survey, please click on the following link: [CCPR Survey of Sports Clubs](#)

Pay to Play Online Management System

From now until April 2010 there will be ongoing updates on how things will work with Pay-to-Play. In the first of these documents available on the EBU website, we discuss the new online membership management system we are currently developing for members and clubs.

Please visit: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/pay2play/P2P%20Systems.pdf>

Focal Point

Does your club run any duplicate events, charity drives or lectures open to non-members? If so, please drop us a line, and we can advertise them in Club Focus and on the EBU Website under "Club Events".

Bidding Tools: Responding to 2NT - 5 Card Stayman & Puppet Stayman

In the last issue we looked at Stayman & Red-suit Transfers in response to 2NT, allowing responder to show his 5-card major suit, or to locate 4-4 major fits. However, increasingly, today's players are opening 2NT (& even 1NT) on hands containing a 5-card major. Often the alternative (such as an Acol 2-of-a-suit) is undesirable. This does mean, though, that you could potentially miss out on 5-3 major fits.

This week, therefore, we will look at a variation on Stayman in which we can still find our 4-4 fits, but also find out if opener holds a 5-card major:

5-card Stayman

The response of 3♣ asks whether Opener has a five-card or four-card major. Opener's replies are then as follows:

- i) 3♦ = I have at least one 4-card major (hearts, spades or both)
- ii) 3♥/♠ = I have a 5-card suit in ♥/♠
- iii) 3NT = I have neither a 4-card nor a 5-card major

It is fairly easy to see how Responder should continue over 3♥ or 3♠. With a three or more card fit for Opener's 5-card major, raise to game, or if strong enough to explore for slam, make a cue bid or ace enquiry. Without a fit and no wish to explore for slam, sign off in 3NT.

In response to Opener's 3NT rebid, Responder would normally pass, unless interested in slam.

But how should Responder proceed over Opener's 3♦ rebid? If Responder doesn't hold a 4-card major (he might have simply been hoping that opener held a 5-card major), he should simply sign off in 3NT. Otherwise he should bid his (lowest) 4-card major. It's easy to proceed from there

– Opener raises if responder has bid his suit, or otherwise bids (3♠ or) 3NT.

5-card Puppet Stayman

The slight problem with the basic form of 5-card Stayman is that when a 4-4 fit is located, it is usually the 'wrong' hand that ends up as declarer. It is generally better that the strong hand is declarer, so the following 'Puppet' variation has been developed, in order that the 2NT opener always gets to play the hand. After the first three bids of 2NT - 3♣ - 3♦, responder continues by bidding **the suit that he doesn't hold**:

- i) 3♥ = I have 4 spades, but not 4 hearts
- ii) 3♠ = I have 4 hearts, but not 4 spades
- iii) 3NT = I want to play in 3NT (I don't have a 4-card major)
- iv) 4♦ = I have both majors – bid the one that you have (you said you have one!)

There are variations on this theme, but this is the simplest to remember. As always, though, you must check with partner that you are memorising the same system!

Some examples will help clarify the use of 5-card Puppet Stayman. Partner has opened 2NT showing 20-22 high-card points. You, as Responder, hold:

1) ♠AJ1098 ♥104 ♦K963 ♣53

You have game values, a good 5-card spade suit and no interest in hearts. Bid 3♥ as a transfer to spades, showing your 5-card suit. When Partner bids 3♠, you then bid 3NT to give Partner the choice between 3NT and 4♠. (Just as with Stayman, 5-card Puppet Stayman is normally

played in conjunction with Red-suit Transfers.)

2) ♠AJ108 ♥1094 ♦Q963 ♣53

With seven HCP opposite Partner's 20-22, game should be easily on. With a balanced hand, 3NT should be fine, but 4♠ would be better if Partner has four or five spades, and 4♥ would be better if partner has five hearts. Bid 3♣ (5-card Puppet Stayman). If Partner replies 3♠ (showing 5 spades), raise to 4♠. If Partner replies 3♥ (showing 5 hearts), raise to 4♥. If Partner replies 3♦, showing an unspecified 4-card major, bid 3♥ to show your 4-card spade suit; Partner will bid 3NT if his four-card major is hearts, but 4♠ if that is his suit.

3) ♠J108 ♥KQ7 ♦98632 ♣53

With a combined point count of at least 26, game should be available. Bid 3♣ and if partner bids 3♥ or 3♠ (showing 5 cards in the suit), raise to 4 since you have an 8-card fit; otherwise sign off in 3NT.

4) ♠KJ94 ♥QJ106 ♦63 ♣1053

With enough points and two decent four-card majors, you would prefer the partnership to be in game in one of those. Bid 3♣ to ask Partner about his majors. If he replies with 3 in a major, raise the major. If he replies 3♦ to show he has a 4-card major, bid 4♦ to show you have both majors and let Partner choose between them. Otherwise pass 3NT.

National Grading Scheme (NGS)

The EBU has promised to introduce a National Grading Scheme, which is very popular in other countries such as France, where a similar scheme has been in operation for some time. Work on the NGS is under way, and at the recent EBU Shareholders meeting a presentation was given on the progress so far. An overview of the progress can be found on the EBU Website by clicking on this link or visiting our website.

Please note that the NGS is not replacing the Master Point Scheme. It is complementary to the Master Point Scheme,

whose existing arrangement is unaltered by the NGS proposal. The two schemes are independent. The Master Point Scheme provides an indicator of an individual's aggregated lifetime achievement in Bridge, whereas the NGS indicates an individual's current playing ability based on the last 40 (or so) playing sessions.



Focal Point

Does your club have a website? Why not put a link in to Club Focus? Our permanent web-address is: www.ebu.co.uk/cf/

Corrections & Clarifications

Club Affiliation Info Packs: Corrections and Clarifications

1. Some Information Packs were sent out with an erroneous sentence. At the bottom of page 2 of the "Further Questions and Answers" section, it stated that "up to three designated party or celebratory events per annum" are exempt from pay-to-play charges). **This should read "1 session a year designated as a party/social event" is exempt.** This item has been removed from this section in later issues, since the correct version is given elsewhere.

2. There was also an error in some of these copies of the "Further Questions and Answers" section where on page three the answer to "How much is the current annual support fee for a single user license of Scorebridge?" should read £9. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

3. Please note that the Master Point scheme will not be discontinued. There

will be no charge for Master Points or the proposed National Grading Scheme. Both schemes will run independently of each other.

4. Please note that the EBU has no vested interest in either Scorebridge or BridgeWebs, which are both totally independent commercial products that happen to be the clear leaders in their respective fields, work well with each other and integrate well with the EBU's requirements for pay-to-play. Full details of their products and pricing can be found on their respective websites at www.scorebridge.com and www.bridgewebs.com



Bridge Is Fun

I am a beginner. Three years ago, at the age of 41, I decided to learn to play bridge. This was a bit of a departure from my normal activities of full time Mum and part time tennis coach, but it seemed like a good idea at the time! I enrolled on a Beginners Course with an EBU teacher at the Wimbledon Bridge Club.

My greatest bridge achievement to date is that last month I won the *Club Focus* limerick competition. My prize was a book called *Bridge Is Fun* by Ron Klinger. My sister was highly entertained. She has a mental image of bridge involving a room full of cantankerous individuals from the days before Asperger's Syndrome was invented. Not a juggling ball or glass of pink fizz in sight. I haven't read my copy of *Bridge Is Fun* yet, but I have promised to share any amusing excerpts with my sister. We have already shared a few laughs over the following stricture from the EBU Book One beginners course book: While bidding and playing bridge "you are not supposed to pull faces"!! Unfortunately, pulling faces is what my sister and I do best. It is the only way you can tell we are related.

When I signed up for bridge lessons at Wimbledon Bridge Club nearly three years ago, I already had some idea of what the game involved. My Father and his partner had been runners up in the Surrey County Pairs one year, and his team had won the London Trophy. He would often return home from a competi-

tion elated, reeking of cigarettes and clutching another ash-tray. For some reason the prizes in those days always seemed to be ash-trays. Unfortunately, he refused to teach my sister and me to play. The task was once delegated to a friend from whom we learned that the order of priority of the suits was Diamonds, Hearts, Clubs, Spades. On discovering that our first bridge lesson had been a complete waste of time, we gave up. Perhaps being in our early 20s the lure of juggling balls and champagne was just too great. Twenty years and three children down the line, my ideas of what constituted "fun" had changed a little when I decided to start proper lessons.

I've made a lot of new friends through learning and playing bridge but one thing that has surprised me is how many of my existing friends have absolutely no idea what bridge is. A typical conversation on the school run:

Other Mum: Are you free tomorrow morning?

Me: Sorry, I'm playing bridge.

Other Mum: What's bridge?

Me: It's a bit like whist.

Other Mum: What's whist?

Me: It's a card game where you take tricks.

Other Mum: Tricks???

Club Committee

Club Committee Regional Representatives

Need some advice regarding club matters? Why not try contacting one of your helpful volunteer Regional Representatives from the Club Committee (details below) or Krys, the EBU Club Liaison Officer on krys@ebu.co.uk or 01296 317 206.

Margaret Eddleston:
mee_hitchin@ntlworld.com
Beds, Essex, Herts, Middx

Tom Garrett:
gtomgarrett@tiscali.co.uk
Berks and Bucks, Glos, Hants, Oxon

Suzanne Gill:
suegill@btinternet.com
Cambs/Hunts, Lincs, Norfolk, Suffolk

Phil Green:
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Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts

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Lesley Millet:
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Cumbria, NEBA, Westmorland, Yorkshire

Stefanie Rohan:
daisy_duck@btopenworld.com
London

Me: Like Top Trumps

Other Mum: It's taken you nearly three years to learn to play Top Trumps??!

Perhaps bridge needs its own evangelist to do for the game what Jamie Oliver has done for school dinners and home cooking. I'm going to make a start by suggesting a minibridge club at my daughter's primary school. Now **that** should be fun!!

Elisabeth Bingham

Really Easy Brighton

The English Bridge Union offers beginners the chance to play with other beginners in our Really Easy Summer Congress 2009. The congress provides a unique opportunity for all bridge students and beginners to learn and improve their play.

We know that it's not easy to go straight from learning the game to playing in a Tournament, but the Really Easy Congress gives you an excellent chance to try out bridge in a tournament environment. Last year over 100 people took part and played with other students and beginners.

It's only £24 per person for all this fun

For more information, please visit:

www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/august/brighton/reallyeasy.htm

Limerick Competition

Our winner this month of the Devon-themed limerick competition is Richard Wheen from Surrey with the following excellent submission:

*My former bridge partner from Devon
Considered that absolute Heaven
Was bidding to six
And making 12 tricks.
(There's no way he'd bid or make seven).*

Congratulations to Richard. His prize, a copy of *Adventures in Card Play* by Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey, will be on its way to him shortly. Many thanks to everyone who sent in entries for the competition. Limericks for our next competition must have a Bridge theme and include the name of a place in the (Bridge) County of Dorset. Entries should be in to the address on this page by 1 September 2009. The winner will receive a copy of *The Golden Rules of Competitive Auctions* by Julian Pottage and Marc Smith*.

EBU Sim Pairs

This year's EBU Simultaneous Pairs will be taking place on Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 September. Entry fee is £3.00 per player. The Pairs are Green pointed.

Any clubs interested in playing (and not already entered!) should contact Anna Gudge – either by email (Anna@ecats.co.uk) or by phone (01787 881920).



*Visit the EBU Shop (www.ebu.co.uk/shop) for many useful bridge books!

Forthcoming EBU Events

English Riviera Congress: 26 - 28 June, Torquay

Summer Seniors Congress: 10 - 12 July, Eastbourne

Northern Summer Congress: 23 - 26 July, Scarborough

Brighton Summer Congress: 14 - 23 August, Brighton

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

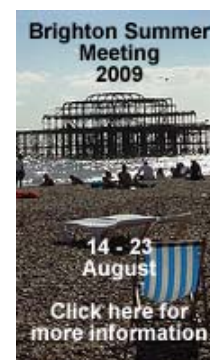


THE 43rd BRIGHTON CONGRESS

2009 sees the 43rd EBU Summer Meeting, which will be staged at the Brighton Metropole.

The event will incorporate the Seniors Congress and the Really Easy Congress designed for beginners or less experienced players.

For alternative accommodation in Brighton, please visit: www.conferencebookings.co.uk, using our event reference - **BTNEBU2009**.



Contact 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 1 September 2009.