

OXFORD BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Five

December 2008

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please note that in order to play in most County heats and Sunday events, applicants must be members of both the EBU and the OBA.

HARWELL CUP (also qualifier for Beck Cup Final)

Saturday 18th January 2009, at Oxford BC, 1.45pm for 2.00pm start
Entries to Alan Grunwald: AlanG@nurdglaw.demon.co.uk
1 Elm Tree Cottage, Grove Road, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7BS

PRO-AM

Tuesday 27th January 2009, at Oxford BC, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Entries to Alan Grunwald, details as above
“Ams” must hold fewer than 5,000 Master Points. Partners will be assigned on the night

NATIONAL NEWCOMERS SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS

Sunday 22nd March 2009, at Oxford BC, 1.45pm for 2.00pm start
Entries to Richard Sills: Tel. 01865 721644, richardsills@btinternet.com
Entrants must hold fewer than 5,000 master points and have been playing for no more than 5 years
Note: EBU/OBA membership is not obligatory for this event

ANDREW ROBSON SEMINAR

Thursday 23rd April 2009, at Oxford BC, 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Entries to Brenda Harris: Tel. 01865 511136, brenda.buckgate@yahoo.co.uk

FOCUS ON PLAY – My Downfall

Love All Dealer South

NORTH

♠ 954
♥ 9862
♦ KJ4
♣ J74

WEST

♠ 6
♥ AQ107
♦ 109732
♣ K93

EAST

♠ K3
♥ J54
♦ A865
♣ Q1086

SOUTH

♠ AQJ10872
♥ K3
♦ Q
♣ A52

Readers are asked to cover up the East-West hands to see things from my perspective. This deal occurred many years ago during, if I remember correctly, a President's Cup match against the Menagerie. Clive Keep (N) and I were opposing Rob Procter (W) and Sandra Claridge (E). Playing in four spades, I was “booked” at trick three when a diamond was led to the ace (dropping my queen) and a heart returned through my king to the ace and queen. Rob now led a diamond. Your turn.....

Without this lead, I had no opportunity to reach dummy, therefore no chance to finesse trumps. Being aware of the County-wide reputation of the Menagerie, I was convinced that Rob was holding the singleton king of spades and I was being sold a Trojan Horse, so I played off the ace of trumps. Any sympathisers out there please? No sympathy from Mr Keep I'm afraid, but then, it is always easy to be wise after the event!

The Restricted Choice deal covered in the last Newsletter produced interesting comments from both Jeremy Bygott and Nathan Piper. These are too extensive to reproduce here, but are available from the Editor for interested readers.

AROUND THE CLUBS - 4

WITNEY

The Club meets each Wednesday for play at 7.30pm in Burwell Hall, Thorney Leys, Witney. We recently held a very successful Open Evening which we expect to make an annual event, and have been delighted to welcome 10 new members as a result. Our details are on the Web at

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/witney/home.html> where weekly results and coming events are published. We take part in Simultaneous Pairs and hold Teams events on a regular basis.

(Marion Hebblethwaite)

BANBURY

The Club meets every Thursday at Banbury Cricket Club at 7.15pm for match-pointed duplicate, with an average of four tables. If you are looking for a partner, please phone Pat Hughes (Tel No. 01295 750939). For directions to the Cricket Club, e-mail [DavJFlower@AOL.COM](mailto:DavidFlower@AOL.COM). The Club enters one team in the Wessex League, which usually finishes somewhere in the middle of Division One.

(David Flower)

AN INVITATION

Wantage Bridge Club is pleased to receive visits from other OBA members to their weekly duplicates on Thursday evenings at the Comrades Club. Visitors are asked to contact Alan Parker (Tel:01235 763842) in advance.

MARCHAM

The Club was formed in November 1991. Duplicate Bridge is played every Monday evening at the Manor Farm with four or five tables. Table money is £1 per person and the annual subscription is £5. The winners of the previous week's session do not have to pay table money. Pairs are formed randomly, so bringing a partner is not necessary. Visitors and new members with some experience are welcome. The accent is on playing friendly duplicate bridge and tea or coffee is served during the evening.

Each year at Christmas a knock-out tournament is organised to play for the "Con Powell Trophy" in memory of a founder member who did so much in forming the Club and organising the first knock-out tournament.

(Thomas McDermott)

(The Club does not field a team in the Wessex League. Ed.)

Erratum

Apologies to Michael Allen and the Blewbury Bridge Club for the erroneous statement that the Club meets on Wednesday evenings. The Club meets on TUESDAY and THURSDAY evenings. That is why they have a TUESDAY ladder competition! - Malcolm

*I wish all members of the
Oxfordshire Bridge Association
a Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Prosperous New Year -
Malcolm Simpson*

TROPHIES YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT

4 THE BECK CUP

The Beck Cup is an invitation county teams-of-four event instigated by Mickey and Renee Beck in the mid 1960's. They ran both the OBA and Oxford BC at that time.

Invitations are sent to clubs in the surrounding counties, who compete with several teams from Oxon at the Oxford Bridge Club. Now the Harwell BC has disbanded, the Harwell Cup is used as a qualifying round for Oxon members and this is currently held at the Oxford Bridge Club, usually in January (*see Forthcoming Events*).

*Oxford Bridge is edited by Malcolm Simpson. He can be contacted at:
7 Kennet Court, Wokingham, Berks RG41 3DB. e-mail: malcolm648@btinternet.com*