

# OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

*Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association*

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## UP FOR THE CUP?

For readers still puzzling over my last quiz (man playing cards all night) the answer was John Keats, see the poet's letter to Fanny Brawne, 25 July 1819. In his famous Ode to a Nightingale, Keats wrote of "a beaker... with beaded bubbles winking at the brim".

In this newsletter can we tempt YOU to try a cup?

Two tasty team-of-4 events are now on offer. Don't delay! - *David Bygott*

### ***Which teams cup will you enter?***

In **four** ways these two events are **the same**.

- ✓ Any 4-6 OBA members can form a team; they needn't all belong to the same club.
- ✓ The total entry fee is £21.00, whether you have 4, 5 or 6 in your team.
- ✓ Each match is played at 2 tables, so matches are normally played privately; no need to book a hall.
- ✓ The winners get to hold a cup!

***Would you prefer a league or a knockout?***

***Or will you enter both?***

### **The President's Cup (knockout)**

This event is like the later stages of football's World Cup. Lose a match, you're out. Win and you go through to the next round. (No kicking under the table, please! No fouls!)

- ❖ You get to play at least 32 boards.
- ❖ You may win green points.
- ❖ The winners are invited to play for the Pachabo Cup in June 2011.

### **The Chester Cup (league)**

As in the World Cup's early stages, teams are in small all-play-all divisions (of 4-7).

- Each match is over 24 boards.
- Matches are generally played between Christmas and April.
- Division winners compete on a knockout basis to determine who wins the trophy.

### **A hot tip on Abingdon BC's website:**

"Why not enter a team? The Chester Cup is a very sociable event."

*Enter by 31 August 2010*

### **Chester Cup**

£21 per team

### **President's Cup**

£21 per team

*Plus two October championships to think about...*

**Sun 31 October 2010: LADIES' PAIRS**

1.45 for 2.00 pm (Oxford BC)

**Sun 31 October 2010: MEN'S PAIRS**

1.45 for 2.00 pm (Oxford BC)

## **Goals galore!**

In June, Geoff Nicholas and Debbie Roberts won the 2010 OBA Mixed Pairs. Geoff already held the Harwell Cup won with Debbie, Kathy Talbot & Denis Talbot plus the Men's and Senior titles won with Krishan Jalie. To all our winners: three cheers!

*The 2010 Chester Cup is held by Mike Brown, Nigel Wilkes, Clive Keep, John Slater and (shown with the cup) Gillian Lonsdale.*

*Terrific!*

*(photo: Mike Brown)*



## The Chester Cup (history)

We have an Oxford academic, Sir Norman Chester, to thank for this cup, first won in 1968. In 1976 it was won by the knight's own team, including OBA stalwart Sandy Constable, Keith Harrap and Roger Van Noorden.

Sandy's bridge successes in Oxon are legion. Roger won the Restricted Pairs and Men's Pairs more than once, first in 1968, finally in 2009.

Roger died very recently, see obituary under News at <http://summerbridge.org.uk/>.

In 1965 Sir Norman and his wife won the Mixed Pairs Fitch. Thanks no doubt to Eva's support he also found time to run an Oxford college, serve on Oxford City Council and chair a national committee on footballing matters. There are indications that he didn't favour left-wingers, preferring to strike from the right (*see photo*).



Members of Headington Conservative Club relax in 1969 at the opening of their new skittle alley by Norman Chester, right.  
(Photo: courtesy of Oxford Mail)

## The President's Cup (history)

Over the years OBA cups have attracted county bridge legends – international figures such as Reese, Landy, Rigal, Sheehan, Liggins, Walker (Smith) – rising stars such as Suzanne Cohen, Ed Jones, Bryony Youngs – and the greatly missed meteor or comet, Amit Badiani.

This year, hats off to Rob Procter of the 2010 winning team. Since 1983 he has won the cup a record ten times!

### Enter your team by 31 August!

Fee plus names to Geoff Nicholas. For details see the OBA Prospectus and/or our OBA website.

[www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk)

## Should the Faroes, Wales or Malta play in football's World Cup?

"Yes!" you say. "Minnows add zest and love the test. Oh, to score just once against a fancied team such as – er, England?"

So how about *you* in the President's Cup or Chester? **"Come oooooon, OBA!"**

Some players fear they aren't "strong enough" to do cups. And rules are to be followed. But the more teams that enter, the wider the range of skill. In other words – **the more the merrier!** So what if a team wins hands but no match? Like a footballer who scores yet loses, you may still inspire a great-grandchild, "You know, I doubled Rob Procter once. He was in..."

## Just for fun, have a guess

1. Which long-time Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford won the Chester Cup?  
**A Norman Chester                      B Alice Liddell                      C Beryl Bainbridge**
2. To whom did Henry VIII sell St Edmund Hall, Oxford in 1546?  
**A First Earl of Chester              B Robert Bygott                      C Jeffrey Nickhall de Coupes**
3. Who has won the Chester Cup six times, most recently in 2010?  
**A Jilly Cooper                      B Gillian Lonsdale                      C Talbot of Kidlington**
4. Who is famed for stealing a march on his opponents in north, south, east or west?  
**A Rob Procter                      B Robert the Bruce                      C Robin Hood**

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