

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Twelve

May 2011

TOP SPADE AND TRUMP KING

Bridge players in our county will miss Bill McCarthy (d. February, 2011). But as Bill would wish, we'll carry on, mixing good efforts at the table with a bit of fun. In this issue, some fine slam bidding and (on page 2) a tasty quiz for you to enter. — *David Bygott*

The dog that didn't bark

In *Silver Blaze* Sherlock Holmes deduced why a stable dog didn't bark in the night-time when an intruder took a racehorse away. Can you guess what the ace detective deduced? (See page 2.)

Still time to enter?

The OBA Mixed Pairs is on Sun 12 June. Our green-pointed congress in Steventon OX13 6AA has Swiss Pairs on Sat 18 June (including non-experts prize) and Swiss Teams on Sun 19 June. Details: <http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/>

Stop press... watch the stars!

Fri 27 to Sun 29 May an international match for the Camrose Seniors Trophy will be played in Abingdon Rd, Oxford OX1 4PS. For venue, see: <http://oxford-spires-hotel.four-pillars.co.uk/>.

Spectators are welcome to watch at tables – free – as England take on Wales, N.I., the Republic, Scotland & Great Britain. A chance to see Tony Priday, Victor Silverstone, David Price, Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, Paul Hackett, Tony Waterlow, John Holland... One match will be shown online with commentary. See: www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk.

No fear of burnt cakes in here!



Bygott Photos, Oxford



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Alfred the Great, born in Wantage in 849, was King of Wessex from 871 to 899.

Your county needs you!

All OBA members are warmly invited to our

County AGM

**Monday 13 June, 7.30 pm
at Oxford BC.**

The AGM normally takes about an hour, including elections and presentation of cups and prizes. It's followed by a free bridge session and refreshments. One election will be for the **new role** of

County Club Representative

to liaise with OBA clubs and represent them on the EBU's new Regional Club Committee, meeting 1-2 times a year. The reps will have a chance to speak for the views of clubs and all members within each county. One rep from each Regional Committee will be elected to the National Club Committee (a sub-committee of the EBU board).

Ideally our rep should be a regular club player with the interests of "grass roots" members at heart.

Might this be you? If so, please contact

County Secretary, Sandra Nicholson:
sandra@krys.net ☎ 01865 842204

Oxfordshire Bridge is edited by David Bygott. He can be contacted temporarily c/o the Oxford Bridge Club, Banbury Road, Oxford; or by telephone ☎ 01865 556256.

Best thing about Wantage BC...?

I asked Gaye Kyle, who from Sept 15 will run a Thursday afternoon beginners' course. With no hesitation she said, "It's friendly." She added, "And it's got a bar."

Club games are at the Old Comrades' Club on Thurs evenings, but Gaye's classes will be at the Methodist Church Hall from 2 to 4 pm.

Details from: gayekyle@tiscali.co.uk.

During the summer keen members will be in training for the next Wessex League season, the A team having just romped back to Div 2, the B team determined to go up from Div 5.

(1) How to check for threats

On the way to a suit slam, many pairs make a "cue bid" in a side suit to show first-round control. This can be really helpful in auctions where either hand contains a void.

The side suits are bid "up the line". So, if West "skips past" hearts, say, and cue bids in spades, East may deduce that West lacks a control in hearts but has one in spades.

If East drives on, despite West's inability to control hearts, will West deduce that East is worried about the heart suit? Not at all... surely East holds either ♥A or a void?

Prize Quiz

Which is the odd one out?

- A. Not a common term in English bridge?
1 *singleton* 2 *shortage* 3 *wantage* 4 *void*
- B. Not a court card (or honour card) in bridge?
1 *King* 2 *Queen* 3 *Jack* 4 *Wills*
- C. Not an English county cricket team?
1 *Essex* 2 *Surrey* 3 *Sussex* 4 *Wessex*
- D. Not a common term in English bridge?
1 *astro* 2 *bistro* 3 *dopi* 4 *ropi*
- E. Not famed for playing top-level bridge?
1 *Hackett* 2 *Lamington* 3 *Pszczola* 4 *Zia*

Get your five answers with name, EBU no and address by Mon 20 June 2011 to the Editor or to OBA membership secretary: viccy@octon.eu

Enter our prize quiz below!

free entry for OBA members

For the winner a voucher worth up to £30 off a meal for him/her + guest(s) at

King Alfred's Head, Wantage,

perhaps a summer barbeque in the secluded courtyard?

For location, menus and other details see

<http://www.kingalfredshead.com/>

(2) Holmes: not a threat

Holmes deduced that the guard dog didn't bark (*page 1*) because it didn't see the intruder as a threat; probably a person it saw at the stables every day.

(3) Hearts: not a threat

Like Sherlock Holmes, English stars Bryony Youngs and Alice Kaye can deduce. Let's see them explore slam chances in April's home international known as the *Lady Milne*. Take West's hand:

♠ AQ104 ♥ Q974 ♦ K52 ♣ 73

W	N	E	S
P	P	1♦	(1♠)
x	P	3♣	P
3NT	P	4♦	P
4♠	P	6♣	P
7♦	P	P	P

East's 4♦ is a move towards a slam. West's 4♠ shows control of spades but denies control of the "skipped" heart suit. Far from signing off, East leaps to 6♣. The spotlight shifts to West. What can she deduce?

To her partner, it seems, the hearts pose no threat. So, holding ♦K, can West bid the grand slam?

If Bryony Youngs is sitting East and Alice Kaye is sitting West, the answer is YES!

East holds: ♠ 97 ♥ void ♦ AQ10876 ♣ AKQ102

Their 7♦ brought in +11 (oppo stopping in 6♦) and helped England to joint first place. Well done to England (and the Scots) but especially to Alice and Lizzie Godfrey (who have played for Oxon) and Bryony, who for some years has been anchoring the OBA's A team with County captain Chris Cooper.

For the full deal and comment by the great Zia, check:

www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2011/apr/28/zia-mahmood-bridge-lady-milne-trophy-slam

NB: North holds ♠8 (not as shown in the Guardian).

Why not note down the West and East hands and see how well **you** can bid them with your fave partner?

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