

December 2022

# Newsletter



*Wherever you are and whatever you are doing this Christmas, I wish you a very enjoyable time with peace, good health and happiness in 2023.*

Virtually all the 2022 Competitions have now finished and the winners presented with their Trophies. The Slammer of the Year has yet to conclude but it looks as though Mark and Chris will be worthy winners. You can see all competition winners in the ROLL OF HONOUR on our PDBC home web page.

Please note the Club will be open for the playing of RealBridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> November.**

This took place over Zoom and was well attended. Everyone had received advance notice of the Accounts and Reports and I am pleased all were accepted unanimously. Alan outlined that he is shortly to have a meeting with the Hall to discuss possible options regarding Face to Face next year. Following on from that meeting club members will receive a short survey form. Please do complete and return when you receive it, as your answers will greatly assist the Committee in finalising F2F arrangements for 2023.

YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES ON 31 DECEMBER. At the AGM it was agreed to keep the annual subscription at £5-00 and so please renew your membership asap.

If it is not your intention to renew we shall of course be sorry to see you go (and hope it is not too long before you return) but please drop me a line to prevent you receiving renewal reminders.

If paying your renewal by cheque then send to Roger Wady, 22 Fairwater Close, Evesham, WR11 1GF; else BACS

Payee: Pershore Duplicate Bridge Club    Sort Code: 09-01-55    Account: 11652089

Reference: SUB2023    **Please quote reference SUB2023**

The Club currently loses money running RealBridge events, and given that next year will see increases in costs it was unanimously agreed at the AGM to increase the RB event fee.

**From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 RB event fees will be £1-25 for members and £2-50 for visitors.**

No change is currently planned for F2F charges but F2F fees will have to be reassessed in the light of how well supported it is and, of course, the cost of providing it. Hopefully I will know a little more when I speak with the hall.

I think all members will agree that your Committee strives to keep membership and other fees to an absolute minimum but we can only do this with your continued, REGULAR, support so please do make the effort!

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

♣ ♦ (if you have changed your phone number or have a new email address, please notify Alan) ♥ ♠

**WHAT IS A SQUEEZE PLAY? NO** – it is not something you got up to in your youth; it is a play of the cards where declarer (usually) can force the opponents to discard potential winners thereby securing his (or her) own winners.

**FINESSE: DO YOU PLAY “EIGHT ALWAYS – 9 NEVER”** when deciding whether to finesse or go for the drop? What about the theory (some say Law) of **VACANT SPACES**?

Both these points were well illustrated when a classic example(s) cropped up recently.

		Dealer South – ALL VUL
<p>♠ 9642 ♥ 2 ♦ 4 ♣ AQJ7643</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ AKJ10983 ♦ J8753 ♣ void</p> <p>♠ AKJ53 ♥ 54 ♦ A62 ♣ K109</p> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ Q86 ♦ KQ109 ♣ 852</p>	<p>Bidding is likely to start P - 1♥ - 3♣ - 3♠ (100% forcing on W) and probably result in West playing in 6♥. (it actually matters little whether its E or W who declares in 6♥ or 6NT) but we will assume 6♥ by W. It isn't a great slam but of course the contract is easy if opps lead a club but if N is on lead the 4♦ seems pretty good. W will have to play the A♦ - now what? How can you play for 12 tricks? There is no entry to the East hand except for overtaking the Q♠ and the last thing W wants is to end up in his hand having to play losing diamonds. Anyway – firstly what does W do about the Q♥? The bidding helps here, along with the law of vacant spaces. If N has 7 clubs and has led a diamond he only has five remaining spaces to hold 3 hearts to the Q. Probability wise therefore Qxx will be with S, so the 8 always, 9 never rule should NOT be followed. There is not the luxury of playing from dummy to the A♥, back to dummy and another ♥ to minimise the risks of N having a singleton Q♥ so W has to make the highest probability choice at the outset.</p> <p>BUT, how can W secure 12 tricks even if he does get the finesse correct? N has shown 7 clubs; the diamond looks ominously like a singleton and when he shows out in hearts on the second round you know N almost certainly has 4 spades. That is bad news as there are apparently only 3 spade tricks available due to dummy's lack of entries. And North is almost guaranteed to also hold AQ♣.</p> <p>A SQUEEEEEEEEEZE !! Take the A♦; play S for Qxx♥ and play out <b>all</b> the trumps forcing discards on N. As you near the last trump Declarer may glimpse N moving uncomfortably around in his seat but, whatever, Declarer now has 8 tricks and needs four more. If S has 4 spades and keeps them and K♦ the contract is doomed but if, as seems very possible, N has 4 spades then the squeeze can come to the rescue. When the last trump 3♥ is played this is the position (opposite):- If N throws a spade dummy discards the 10♣ and makes 4 spade tricks = 12 in total; if N discards the Q♣ then dummy overtakes the Q♠ and plays 10♣; again ensuring 4 of the last 5 tricks!</p> <p>There is a lot to commend a good squeeze!!</p>	
<p>♠ 9642 ♥ ♦ ♣ AQ</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 3 ♦ J875 ♣ void</p> <p>♠ AKJ5 ♥ ♦ ♣ K10</p> <p>♠ 1087 ♥ ♦ KQ ♣ 8</p>		

*My thanks to you all and I hope you stay safe and well this winter.*

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

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