

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number 29 December 2014

Ways to enjoy Bridge



Photo: the editor

Every 'bridgy' loves **taking tricks**, as our **Sunday pm** juniors do (*left with tutor Diane Coe*) and as you may do **online** (at all hours) versus opponents in the **UK** or **abroad**. You may test your **problem-solving** skills at 'tough' events locally or up to international level. For **uni students** the hook may be **bidding gadgets**. But whether you prefer, **duplicate**, **point-a-board** or **Swiss Teams** do say, "Thank you, partner." And at year end add, "**Happy New Year!**" — *David Bygott*

Some dates for your diary...

Tues Jan 6 OBA heat of **National Pairs**
at Oxford BC

Mon 12 Jan (second Monday) **Seniors Pairs (55+)**
11 am **Wallingford BC** Ox10 6JJ

Tues 27 Jan OBA's **Pro-Am** at **Oxford BC**. See:
<http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/joomla>

Sun 1 Feb OBA **County Pairs Semi Final**

Sun 8 Feb Abingdon **Blue Swiss Pairs** (6 x 6)
TD: Stephen Brown, £24 per pair
entries to:
<mailto:abingdonbluepointed@gmail.com>

Sun 8 Feb OBA **county match** v Leics (h)

Mon 9 Feb at Wallingford BC **Andrew Robson**
£13 pp contact Lyn Arnold 01491-836015
<mailto:lyn@thearnolds.co.uk>

Sun 22 Feb OBA **Swiss Teams** at Oxford BC

Wed 11 March OBA **MC** meeting in **Horspath VH**

* * * * *

See page 2 for good news
about our *Inter-County League* teams

* * * * *

At least one important vacancy will need to be
filled at the next OBA AGM, see page 4.
Might YOU enjoy the role?

Sunday afternoon Juniors Club...

plays at
Summertown Church Hall,
Banbury Road, Oxford,
2.30 – 4.30 pm.
"Bridge benefits concentration,
memory, arithmetic,
reasoning and judgement," says
chief organiser Holly Kilpatrick,
"and it's **fun!**"



* * * * *

See p. 3 and p. 4 for **your chance to win**
a **doubly tasty** quiz prize

Well done, OBA bridge clubs

Several OBA clubs ran events in aid of **Children in Need** (see newsletter 28). Summertown BC raised £910 in all, aided by **Maison Francaise** who kindly waived their rent for this event.



Sara Alden both ran a raffle and baked a cake as a prize. Here **Sara** (right) is presenting the cake to delighted winner **Sue Reynolds**.

Photo: the editor

Top spots at SBC's **Children in Need** event:

1	Christopher Sheppard & Erica Sheppard	65.23 %
2	Chris Dawe & Lorraine Jones	62.79 %
3	Peter Sherry & Hilde McIlvenna	61.12 %
4	Sandra Nicholson & Krys Kazmierczak	56.59 %
5=	Howard Arnes & Viv Stevenson	56.04 %
5=	Peter Owen-Smith & Betty Dick	56.04 %

Chester Cup 2014-15

In our **Chester Cup** comp the early joint leaders are Team **Cherrett** and Team **Dixon**. To see who this cup is named after, check our Aug 2010 newsletter, issue 10. It's in our OBA online **newsletters** menu.

Good news

OBA captain **Alan Wilson** must be pleased with our recent inter-county league wins. After a slow start to the season our A team lies **second** in the Dawes, our B and C teams **top** the Porter and Markham. A clean sweep in view...? The penultimate 14/15 match on Feb 8 against Leicestershire looks tasty. The crunch game rates to be the head-to-head in the very last match vs **Warwickshire**. In the meantime, for match reports to date, visit...

<http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/joomla>

Nick or Nicholas?

At our **2014-15 Swiss Pairs** (TD: Stephen Brown) Nick Smith & Alan Wilson were chased by 3 pairs who play at **Wallingford BC**, Geoff Nicholas & Debbie Roberts, Jo Murray & Richard Ford and Adrian Lambe & Norman Gascoyne. In a thrilling climax it took the final board to decide the winners. The tale gets told on 1 Jan 2015 in Nick's column of the Oxford Times. (If the OxT proves a sell-out, you can see the outcome at the foot of this page.)

Talking point: your views?

Our OBA team again didn't survive the **Tollemache** quali stage. It's OK for a tiny county to finish 3/8 in a tough event, yet we have pairs good enough to go to the Finals. The recurring problem, it's been said, is that over the qualifying w/e one pair or other dips below form. So **not try** next year? Instead, look to youth? Save the **£400** Tollemache fee and use it to send some **juniors** to a weekend training camp?

In your *Ed's* opinion the OBA should foster bridge at all levels where its budget allows. Yes to juniors' camps, but also yes to supporting regular 'tough' sessions to give our stronger pairs greater consistency under pressure. What do **you** think?

Please **send** us your views.

Congratulations (see above)

1	Nick Smith & Alan Wilson	90
2	Adrian Lambe & Norman Gascoyne	87
3	Geoff Nicholas & Debbie Roberts	79
4	Jo Murray & Richard Ford	77

Issue 26, quiz

Solutions: a, b, d, a

The lucky winner of a meal for two at

Cibo!

South Parade,
Summertown,
Oxford
is **Amanda Potter**.

Photo: the editor



That hand again...

In issue 28 you had to defend as South after N's opening lead of ♥8 against 3NT. Get it right (as **Robert Procter & Michael Robinson's** team did) and you may win the tournament! West dealt and, say, bid 1NT (12-14) with the brief auction going: 1NT – 2♣; 2♦ – 3NT.

♠ AJT		
♥ 84		
♦ T83	♠ K986	
♣ 97652	♥ T72	
	♦ K962	
♠ 7532	♣ AK	
♥ AK953		
♦ QJ5		
♣ 8		

Declarer's 2♦ response to Stayman denied a 4-card major. Trusting N to hold a doubleton, S can duck at trick 1. As soon as N or S wins a trick in spades or diamonds, the defence can take 4 heart tricks. (Yet, on the day, most declarers made 9 tricks.)

Worth reading...

Browse back issues of **Oxfordshire Bridge** at:

<http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/joomla>

Follow: **Administration** (top menu)
to a left menu: **Newsletters**.

Do try it.

A mere glance at page 1 of issue 28
may help you to solve
this issue 29's special **Prize Quiz**
see page 3.

What's the EBU good for?

Some players ask: why an EBU?. Weren't the laws of the game fixed 50 years ago? Well, as elsewhere in the world, the old ways are reviewed to meet the needs of new generations. Plus the EBU sells bridge kit at prices to keep other suppliers on their toes; it trains club directors and runs events, including sim pairs; and it manages a national grading scheme. It also supports bridge classes in schools and coaches our strongest players to pit themselves against other nations. And...it needs the support of its members to keep doing all of this.

Well done to...

...a keen non-expert pair, **Howard Arnes & Ursula Bowler**. They didn't just gather moss after their sterling efforts in the EBU Brighton Congress but scored 59.17 % in the Mixed at the recent EBU Congress in Montenegro which drove them to a fine 6/32 in a 57% field.



photos: the editor

Ambassadors abroad

In the recent Channel Trophy in Lille our England under-25s (OBA's **James Paul & Alex Roberts** on board) finished a close third out of four, while our under-25 women (including OBA's **Laura Covill**) were pipped by 1 VP. Our under-20s stayed in touch to the end, helped by Oxon's **Freddie Illingworth** (b. 1995) who was the EBU's young player of the year in 2012. Details via: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/>.

OBA newsletter editor

At the last OBA management Committee meeting it fell to *your Editor* to mark the passing of **Malcolm Simpson** (1937-2014) life member of Abingdon BC, member of Wantage and Wallingford, and founding editor of *Oxfordshire Bridge*.

Abingdon's website carries a moving tribute by Malcolm's long-time partner and friend, **Clive Keep**: "always extremely courteous at the table, often complimenting the opposition on their defence or declarer play."

The OBA online archive still offers **Malcolm's** earliest digitised newsletters.

<http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/joomla>

An old clipping

This fine defence, vintage 1995 (*rotated*) is courtesy of **Eric Bowtell**, Oxford Times predecessor of columnist **Nick Smith** (see p. 2). Dealer: S

W	N	E	S
			1♦
P	P	x	P
2♣	P	P	x
xx	P	P	2♦

What do you think England star **Tony Forrester** led from these West cards against 2♦?

West		
♠ 85	♠ T73	♠ AK42
♥ 643	♥ Q97	♥ K52
♦ 8532	♦ 64	♦ AT7
♣ AQJ7	♣ K9632	♣ 854
	♠ QJ96	
	♥ AJT8	
	♦ KQJ9	
	♣ T	

On the day, declarer went off by 3 tricks after Forrester (to quote the reporter) "led a sneaky ♣Q, which held the first trick, then switched to ♠8."

The 1995 clipping also reported how "The Oxford Club Tournament Director, **Jeffrey Luck**, again brought enjoyment to the field competing for the Thompson Shield Individual Tournament for which a very difficult movement is essential."

This reminded *your Ed* how enjoyable it was to play against **Jeffrey's** widow, **Patsy Luck**, her kind face lit by twinkling eyes as she set about taking yet another top off me. Since autumn, alas, no more.

Issue 29, Prize Quiz p. 3

Having enjoyed tasty dishes and attentive service at **Thai Restaurant Suwanna**, *your Ed* is delighted that a prize meal-for-two is kindly offered by

Suwanna

44 Market Square **Witney** OX28 6AL
tel: 01993 770771

1. Boris... won many world bridge titles.
Yamo - Schapiro - Becker
2. Michal... is a world series bridge champ at 18.
Kazmudski - Klukowski - Korzykanski
3. A Thai cat breed linked with good luck is a...
korat - kanratchka - skiamese

OBA members are invited to send answers
by 23 Jan 2015 as shown on p.4

A key committee vacancy

The current OBA Secretary, **Sandra Nicholson**, will be standing down at next June's AGM after 6 years in post. Could **you** be the OBA member to take her place? Perhaps if you knew what was involved, in addition to note-taking?

Sandra will happily give you her take on the fun bits and the qualities sought, additional to the obvious organisational/admin skills. Or you can wait to read more in the next OBA newsletter, issue 30.

Bringing folk together

At very short notice, four bridge players, each from a different background, formed a team to play in the 1987 Reisinger **Board-a-Match** Teams in the USA: **Zia Mahmood** from Pakistan; **Jaggy Shivdasani**, a CPA from Bombay; **Ron Smith**, an options trader from Chicago; **Billy Cohen**, a Canadian businessman from Santa Ana CA.

"It's good to show how bridge can bring together people from different backgrounds," said **Zia**. "It shows a special magic about the game of bridge."

The scratch team went on to win and **Patrick Jourdain**, doyen of Welsh bridge, there to edit a bulletin and familiar to many OBA members through his Telegraph columns, wrote a poem. "May not seem PC now," he told *your Ed*, "back then it was accepted as it was intended."

A Fair Wind

by Patrick Jourdain

At America's major tournament,
Held in Anaheim's Hilton Hotel,
The winners of the Reisinger
Had a touching tale to tell.

Bridge brings together nations,
Races, colors and creeds.
Hear the make-up of the champions.
(who were nowhere near the top seeds).

A friend said to Zia, the captain:
"Tell us how this was done."
He replied: "All the Gods were behind us,
For this is the team that has won:

A Pakistani Muslim,
An Indian Hindu,
A black American Christian,
And a white Canadian Jew!"

Extra... Extra... read all about it...

At the Seniors' trials 19-21 December to decide who might play for England in the 2015 Teltscher Trophy **Robert Procter & Michael Robinson's** team (Bob Holder, Phil Thornton) faced other hopefuls and a host of stars such as **Tony Forrester, Paul Hackett, Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Rob Sheehan, Brian Senior...** yet were leading as the tenth and final session began, only to be nudged aside by the team with **Forrester**. "Hard luck," says *your Ed*, "but what a superb try! Surely... next time?"

Stop press... Stop press... Stop press...

Watch out for **extra** bridge opportunities available soon at venues in the north of our county.

An extra quiz...

Issue 29, Extra Quiz p. 4

In the OBA's NE border region, handy for a trip to Waddesdon Manor or Bicester Shopping Village, easy to spot, easy to park, is an **Italian** restaurant (good cooking and service with style) so confident they put the **Oxford Times review** on their website.

The owners of

Canaletto

Restaurant & Public House

Bicester Road

Kingswood HP18 0RB

are kindly offering a meal-for-two.

Check for details and photos at

<http://canalettorestaurant.com/>

A. The Bicester Road where Canaletto stands is the...
A40 - A44 - A41

B. Who has won more BGB Gold Cups than Schapiro?
Forrester - Friday - Robson

C. Canaletto painted the Grand... in Venice.
Canal - Old Duke - Slam

OBA members are invited to enter either prize quiz or both, *with your EBU no*, by Fri 23 January **to the Editor or** to the Summertown BC secretary by email:
<Blisses@waitrose.com>