

♠♥ **Wolverhampton Bridge Club** ♦♣
Newsletter Number 55, July 2015



Chairman's Chat

I have mentioned several times in my "chat" the importance of being a friendly and welcoming bridge club.

A recent letter from a loyal member reminded me of the unintended impact that an individual's behaviour can have on the confidence of less experienced or new players and on the image of the club.

I am sure the member concerned will not object to being described as mainly a social player, who was left distraught after a recent game when the opponents called the Director immediately after a minor mistake in bidding.

Let me say at this point I am not qualified as a Director and I am not advocating in any way that a Director should not be called if the opponents think it is warranted. However, I do believe that new, or primarily social players, should be given considerable leeway by the more experienced players in dealing with situations that are obviously not threatening to the ultimate result.

If the opponents still feel that a Director should be called then it should be done in a considerate, polite and gentle manner - not in a way that leaves a member feeling that they have committed a major crime.

I know I once felt mortified when I started bridge not many years ago, and the Director was called. I had the impression that my opponents thought I had cheated.

Whilst acknowledging that bridge is a competitive game, it is important that we all remember that calling for the Director can be intimidating. Therefore, when you come across a bidding mistake at the table, and you will, please don't immediately shout "Director" across the room. Firstly ask opponents if they would object if the Director were called. Then politely and quietly ask for the Director who will then give an opinion and ruling.

I am only repeating what has been said before but it is all about good behaviour at the bridge table and, hopefully, by being more considerate we might encourage experienced, new and social players to mix more and play in other sessions as well as in Tuesday Gentle, downstairs.

Here endeth the lesson for today.

Yours in Bridge,
Ron Stevenson



Captain's Report

Improver Course – Weak Two Openings

In response to requests from members, I am proposing to run two lessons on Thursday 23 and 30 July 2015, from 9.30 to 12.30 pm on:

- Weak Two Openings and why these should be part of your system
- Responding and defending Weak Two's.

Open Handicap Teams

As you are probable aware, we started a new Open Handicap Teams event in May. It would be nice to see more pairs enter, including those with less experience. The competition runs on the first Thursday of each month.

Anyone interested in either or both of these events is asked to sign the relevant list on the club notice board. If you are interested in playing in a team and do not have a partner or have any other queries, please email me at icalice@btinternet.com or just call me on 01902 765027.

American Supper

This is becoming an increasingly popular event on the third Saturday of the month. It was good to see new and past members attend recent sessions and enjoy catching up with friends over social hands of bridge and plate(s) of tasty food.

Linda Curtis



Club News

Calendar

- ♠ The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was well attended on Sunday, 17 May 2015. Ron Stevenson reported that the club remained financially and socially on a solid footing despite the popularity of bridge clubs decreasing both nationally and locally.

A healthy financial operating balance continues and no changes to table money or subscriptions were recommended.

Ron thanked all members who had contributed in ensuring that a high standard of bridge play had been maintained. In particular, he thanked Sue Martin and Jackie Dwyer who were standing down from the roles of club secretary and committee member after many years of excellent service.

Jackie Bannister and Pat Embrey were elected onto the committee. Members were consulted whether evening sessions should start earlier. A significant majority considered that the start times should not be varied.

- ♠ **The notes of the Committee meetings** held on 2 May and 30 May 2015 are available on the website. Committee roles and responsibilities were agreed. Jackie Bannister was welcomed to the role of club secretary.
- ♠ **Start times.** The committee, meeting on 30 May 2015, agreed that the start times of evening sessions should not be varied.

Members

- ♥ **Congratulations** go to club competition winners....
 - **Linda Curtis and Alma Richards**, AGM Pairs on 17 May 2015;
 - **John Whilton and Barrie Jones**, Johnny O' Friendship Cup on 2 June 2015.

..... and to County competition winners:

- **Pat Embrey and John Higgs**, No Fear Pairs on 12 April 2015;
- **Pam Booth-Jones and Sue Yardley**, Ladies Pairs on 14 May 2015;
- **Dan Crofts and Celia Day**, Mixed Championship Pairs on 10 June 2015;
- **Celia's Team**, comprising *Celia Day, Pat Poxon, Sue Yardley, Gillan Allsop, Dave Clarke, Colin Draper, Kevin Seager and Linda Ralph*, winners of County League Division 2 and promotion to Division 1.

♥ Master Point Promotions

Congratulations also go to members promoted in the national Master Point scheme:

3 Star Regional Master: Jane Charnell;

5 Star Premier Master: Jeff Jones;

County Master: Jim Marchant;

District Master: Trevor Adams, Mike Burke, Gerald Griffin, Sally Griffin, John Higgs and Pauline Jones;

Area Master: Caroline Scarth;

Club Master: Sally Dyas Brown, Sara Shepherd and Barrie Tykiff;

Local Master: Alwyn Edwards, Helen Edwards, June Jones and Richard Shortridge.



Management arrangements

◆ The Club's Organisational Structures

If you attended the club's AGM you will be aware that there were reports on two organisations; Wolverhampton Bridge Club, which is an unincorporated association, and Wolverhampton Bridge Club Ltd, which is a limited company. So why the need for both?

An 'unincorporated association' is an organisation set up through an agreement between a group of people who come together for a reason other than to make a profit, e.g. a bridge club. Unincorporated associations should state clearly in their constitution that they are not for profit, i.e. any surplus made through member activities is used for the benefit of the club. The law looks on an unincorporated organisation as a collection of individuals. The club has no legal existence.

This enables the club to open a bank account, as banks often ask for a copy of the group's constitution before providing an account. Other advantages are flexibility; the rules and constitution can be whatever the members want within the constraints of the law and can be easily changed, little administration and no requirement to file annual returns. There is NO outside scrutiny for an unincorporated organisation.

However there are disadvantages: individual members of the management committee are personally responsible for the debts and are liable if, for example, the club is sued, liability is unlimited. The club cannot enter into contracts so if it wishes to rent premises or employ people this is done in the eyes of the law, by individuals holding the assets in individual names, which then need transferring if the member leaves. The club cannot own property in its own right.

So, when WBC decided to purchase its own premises, it had to become a legal entity by forming a company limited by shares (Wolverhampton Bridge Club Ltd).

This has several advantages. The company's liability is limited to the issued share capital of £183 should things go badly wrong. It is easier for the Company to enter into contractual arrangements e.g. to borrow money, own buildings, or stage large events. The Company itself, rather than the individual members, is responsible for the Company's obligations and debts (unless one of the officers has acted negligently or fraudulently, in which case the individual remains personally liable). The disadvantage of incorporation is that the regulation and administration of Limited Companies is more onerous, the company has to file annual accounts, an annual return and director's details at Companies House. There are legal penalties for failure to comply. The directors have duties and responsibilities in company law i.e. to act in the best interest of the company and to comply with its Articles of Association.

When members join Wolverhampton Bridge Club they also become shareholders of Wolverhampton Bridge Club Ltd. So the bridge club enjoys the advantages of simple administration and its members are protected from the risk of significant liability relating to contracts, debts, personal injury claims etc., but remain in control of the club's assets through their role as shareholders.

John Withers

◆ Website

Bridgewebs upgrade

Following a central upgrade, members can now replay hands on the website from sessions, that use the duplimate system and have had the results published.

This addition enables members to select the hand, select a makeable contract, and then play it on the site. The system is compatible with PCs and Mac systems.

The process is:

Select results, date and scorecard;

Choose number of hand;

Select "Play it Again"

In the pop up window, Bridge Solver Online, select the contract you wish to replay;

Selecting the "Help" button provides an explanation of the colour code used to show which cards could provide winning tricks;

Selecting the "Options" button enables you to remove the colour code if you wish to.

Media, Facebook and Twitter

The club has enjoyed some good coverage of competition results and the AGM in local newspapers and publications, including 'Express & Star', 'Chronicle', 'What's On' and 'Tettenhall Clock'. The articles usually feature in sections covering local club news.

As an additional means to communicate with and seek new members, the club has opened a Facebook (FB) page and a Twitter account. These are at an experimental level and aim promote the club and its activities but do not replace the website. They will only work if members join and share the news items posted on the sites. The process is:

- **Facebook.** You need to have a FB page in your own name to access this. The FB website has joining instructions which are easy to follow. It advisable to input only the information you are comfortable to share and that you choose the share option for friends only. The club's page is found by entering the name Wolverhampton Bridge Club in the search box. Whenever you like, comment or share a news item, the news item will appear on your own page and be notified to your own friends.
- **Twitter.** This is for mainly for those who feel at home in cyberspace! You need to have a Twitter account to access this. Joining and sharing details can be accessed from the Twitter site. The address for the club's account is @BridgeWton.



Forthcoming events

Please put the following key club events, to be held in the next three months, into your diary now.

- ♣ The club will host the "No Fear" pairs competition on Thursday 9 July, 2015, starting at 11:30am. This is a County event that is open to both EBU and non-EBU members. If you have not already booked your place, please complete a joining form, available on the website. Queries should be made directly to Linda Curtis on tel 01902 765027.
- ♣ Summer Teams competitions continue on 16 July and 20 August and finish on 17 September 2015.

- ♣ American Supper Evenings will take place on 18 July, 15 August and 19 September 2015.
- ♣ The ninth Anniversary Pairs Competition takes place on Sunday 30 September.
- ♣ Summer Handicap finishes on Wednesday 23 September 2015.

Tips For Improving Your Play

Captain's Tip:

When to use the Losing Trick Count

The Losing Trick Count (LTC) is a very useful method of hand evaluation. It is more accurate than high card points in identify the level of the contract. However, it should only be used when three conditions exist:

1. **Opening side** – you cannot normally use LTC as an overcaller's partner because you do not know how many Losing Tricks to put partner with.
2. **Fit** – you hold four or more cards in the agreed suit - THE MOST IMPORTANT CONDITION.
3. **Unbalanced hand** – Stick with points when your hand is balanced (4432, 4333, 5332).

Examples:-

Hand 1		Hand 2	
West	East	West	East
♠KJ9852	♠AQ74	♠KJ9852	♠AQ74
♥32	♥A6	♥A3	♥62
♦AK4	♦85	♦AK4	♦85
♣75	♣J9652	♣75	♣J9652

Hand 1

West opens 1♠ and East can use the LTC because the hand satisfies the three conditions above.

East counts his LTs in each suit (assuming the Ace, King and Queen take the 1st, 2nd and 3rd rounds in each suit) therefore ♠one, ♥one, ♦two, ♣ three, and adds these together (1+1+2+3 =7).

East adds this number to his partners presumed number (an opener should be presumed to have a minimum of seven LTs) and gets 14, subtracts this number from 18; (18-14 =4). This final number shows the level that East can bid to. East now bids 4♠.

Hand 2

West still opens 1♠ and East still uses the LTC. However the number of LTs is different ♠one, ♥two, ♦two and ♣ three = eight.

East adds his to his partners known seven LTs and gets 15. After subtracting, (18-15 = 3); East bids 3♠.

West now bids 4♠ because his hand is better than advertised; it holds one fewer LT.

Roy's Tip

Plan your play

When playing in a No Trumps contract, run through this useful checklist when planning your play:

- *Am I in the right contract?*
- *How many top tricks do I have?*
- *What other possible tricks are there?*
- *Can I get from hand to hand?*
- *Can I use any information from the opponents bidding, lead or play?*
- *If I need a card or suit to be in the right place, then assume it is so;*
- *Beware of suits breaking badly.*

Now use the list to help you plan how you can secure the maximum number of tricks you can make in this 3NT contract?

North	South	Vulnerability : All			
♠ 872	♠ KQ104	Dealer: South			
♥ AKJ103	♥ Q2	S	W	N	E
♦ 74	♦ AK6	2NT	P	3♦	P
♣ 1082	♣ AJ95	(19-20)		(Transfer)	
		3♥	P	3NT	P
		P	P.		

West leads 2♠. East wins with the A and returns 2♦.

You are lucky you did not receive a diamond lead right at the start. You now have 10 top tricks, two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and one club. Do you settle for this? Or can you risk trying to make more? **See how on page 8.**



How would you bid this hand?

This hand appeared on Board 27 in the Wednesday Handicap on 22 April 2015. It can still be accessed on the website.

Nearly all players bid 3NT and made 12 or 13 tricks. One pair bid 4♠ and also made 13 tricks.

	North ♠Q7 ♥32 ♦K954 ♣AKJ103	
West ♠J105 ♥87 ♦AQ10863 ♣92	Declarer –South Vulnerability - None	East ♠864 ♥J654 ♦J72 ♣765
	South ♠AK932 ♥AKQ109 - ♣Q84	

The website showed the optimum score for the hand to be 7♠ or 7♥. 7♣ and 6NT also make. No partnership managed to find a slam; so how do you bid it? See solutions on page 8.

Solutions

Solution to Roy's tip (Page 7)

If the club honours are split, and the hearts break, you can win the diamond, overtake the Q♥ with your Ace, lead 10♣ and run it if it is not covered. If it loses, and a diamond lead comes back, win it, lead your 2♥, cash your hearts, discarding a spade, a diamond and a club; then lead a club and finesse again. If not covered, you will win 11 tricks and will get a top score. If both or either is wrong, you have gone off or made the contract with nine tricks. NB People playing in 4♥ may also make the contract.

The decision is yours to make.

Solutions to "How would you bid this hand?" (Page 7)

Three of the club's most experienced players bid the hand with their partners. They all found a slam but and reached different bidding sequences and conclusions:

1. Gillian Allsop suggests that she and her partner, Dave Clarke agree that it is easier to find a slam when the opening bid is game forcing, rather than at the one level. She would have found a small slam in 6♣ but would not have found the grand slam. She would bid the hand:

South	North
2♣	3♣
3♠	4♣
4NT	5♥
6♣	

The opening bid is game-forcing and South uses Roman Key Card Blackwood to ask for Aces when searching for a slam.

2. Linda Curtis and Roy Edwards suggest that when there is a void, as in South's hand, it can be more productive to cue bid than to ask for Aces. They think that it is likely that East/West would enter the bidding and suggest the following:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	3♣ (1)	P
3♥	P	3♠ (2)	P
4♦(3)	P	5♣ (4)	P
5♥(5)	P	6♣ (6)	P
7♣	P	P	P

1. Shows five or more clubs and points to bid at 3 level
2. Showing preference, knowing partner has longer Spades than hearts
3. First round control in diamonds
4. First round control in clubs
5. First round control in hearts
6. Second round control in clubs

3. James Vickers bid the hand with his partner and reached 6C. If EW don't bid, he offers the following Acol auction and comments:

South	North
1♠	2♣
2♥	3NT
4♣	4♠
5NT	6♣

The first three bids are self-explanatory. It's customary to play 2♥ as a one-round force these days. North could try 3♦ as the fourth suit, but doesn't have extra strength, and 3NT is the practical bid. South cannot stop here, the hand is suitable for a slam in any of several denominations, so bids a natural forcing 4♣. North can now show belated support for spades, and South could either cue-bid now in diamonds, but that would commit their side to playing in spades, so 5NT "pick-a-slam" might be better. North chooses clubs, but might go for spades as a higher-scoring contract at pairs.

If West overcalls a weak 3D, the auction is more cramped, but it might go:

South	West	North
1♠	(3♦)	3NT
4♦		5♣
5♥		5♠
5NT		6♣

Again, North makes the most practical bid, South makes an artificial forcing bid to get more information from partner. North bids his suit, South bids 5♥, might not always be understood as a second suit by North. North shows secondary support for spades, South says "pick-a-slam", and North does so. (James is not recommending a jump overcall on the West cards, it's very risky, but it happens to work here.)

James considers that the best contract here (despite what Deep Finesse says you can make) is 7♣, and 6NT by North is odds-on to make. He thinks it has about a 72% chance of making on a non-diamond lead, 100% on a diamond lead. At pairs, he expects 6♣ to score badly, as many pairs would and should be in 6♠.

Editors Note

All articles, comments and questions from members are very welcome. If you would like to contribute, please do not hesitate to contact me either on Tel 01902 831199 or by email: lisbarrow@aol.com