

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Nine

April 2010

NO EXCUSES!

To Malcolm Simpson, my predecessor as editor, all good wishes. To my readers, a warning. In Malcolm's valedictory editorial he noted a lack of input from OBA members. Well, guys, that's over. On the foundations that Malcolm has laid we shall together build a house of cards with people inside. No excuses! Edition by edition I shall report on bridge players and/or events in every part of our county. Yes, that's right, I'm coming to find you. And there is no defence. You will be end-played. - *David Bygott*



County Swiss Pairs Champions 2009

Too late to make it into our last edition, the 2009 County Swiss Pairs was played at the Oxford Bridge Club. Continuing the good form they have shown all season, Oxford Times bridge correspondent Nick Smith and Alan Wilson ran home comfortable winners. The only trick that caught them out was your editor's swift move with his camera!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

26-29 April 2010: OBA SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS
played at clubs around the County

Sun 16 May 2010: OXFORD TIMES CUP
an event for genuine Novices
1.45 for 2.00 pm (Oxford BC)

Sun 13 June 2010: OBA MIXED PAIRS
1.45 for 2.00 pm (Oxford BC)

26-27 June 2010: COUNTY CONGRESS
at Steventon Village Hall
1.00 pm Saturday 26 June: Green Pointed Swiss Pairs
11.00 am Sunday 27 June: Green Pointed Swiss Teams

**ALL OBA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE OBA AGM
ON MONDAY 14 JUNE 2010 – 7.30 p.m. AT OXFORD B.C.
FREE REFRESHMENTS AND BRIDGE**

Entries for all events to Alan Grunwald,
1 Elm Tree Cottage, Grove Rd, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7BS
e-mail: AlanG@nurdglaw.demon.co.uk
Tel: 01235 760488

GOOD BRIDGE IN HADDENHAM

OBA members often play bridge for a good cause, Children in Need, say, or survivors of the recent earthquake in Haiti. In January 2010 an annual charity event in Haddenham, run since 1996 by Aylesbury BC stalwart, Dr Mike Webley, as ever supported a body seldom in the news. Yet it funds medical research that Mike rates highly. I asked him how it had started.

“A charity golf event couldn't continue,” he said, “so we started a bridge one. I organise the bridge; volunteers do a fantastic tea (worth coming for that alone). It's for teams of four and is enjoyed by players of all standards. With the help of a raffle we usually raise around £1000, all of which goes to the Arthritis Research Council.”

Mike points to recent strides in understanding the many types of arthritis and in the development of new therapies, “Which are revolutionising the lives of many individuals. Our next event will be 1st or 2nd Sunday in January 2011, a fun afternoon. Why not put it in your

diary now and perhaps win a raffle prize or even the Jean Kent Trophy?”



The first Haddenham Swiss Teams was won by A & D Lintott, M Kane and R Lonsdale. The 2010 title was won by John Slater, Malcolm Currie, Jo Murray and Helen Lawton-Smith (photo, courtesy D. Talbot).

A bold bidder in the Haddenham 2010

“The event was played and run in the right spirit,” Jo Murray said later, “Bill McCarthy coping good humouredly despite seeing our table shuffling the pre-dealt boards on the first round. But our team began the last round far behind the leaders. To catch up we needed to score heavily. Then I picked up ♠10743 ♥Q1032 ♦K9 ♣AK2.”

Jo heard the dealer pass. She opened 1NT (11-14). But, after her partner replied 2NT, why with a flat 12 hcp did she raise to 3NT? “My only excuse,” Jo said, “is the need for a big win.”

Those of us familiar with Jo and Malcolm's fearless bidding expect such boldness. But after the opening lead of ♣5, how would Jo play to trick 1? And at trick 2... ?

♠ Q98

♥ AK75

♦ 8742

♣ Q3

♠ J62

♥ 84

♦ AQJ

♣ J8654

♠ AK5

♥ J96

♦ 10653

♣ 1097

♠ 10743

♥ Q1032

♦ K9

♣ AK2

“On the lead of ♣5,” Jo told Oxfordshire Bridge, “I saw 7 top tricks (clubs 3, hearts 4, I hoped). So I needed 2 in spades.”

Jo won trick 1 with ♣K and at once finessed ♠8, forcing ♠K. Her right-hand opponent played a club back to dummy's ♣Q.

Returning to hand with ♥Q, Jo finessed the spades again, hoping ♠A would be on her left (and thus her ♦K safe from a switch). Oh, her RHO had ♠A. Would the diamond switch come now to kebab ♦K? Phew, no -

“My RHO rather persisted with clubs,” Jo said.

Thus Jo made her 9 tricks: 4 hearts, 3 clubs and 2 spades.

A touch lucky? Perhaps. But didn't Jo earn her luck?

Excuse me?

Which of these five men, as his excuse for replying late to a letter, said he'd been part of a foursome playing cards all day and night?

Find the correct answer in the next edition of *Oxfordshire Bridge and, before then, along with bulletins, on the OBA website:*

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

1. **John Slater**, our recent OBA chairman.
2. **John Terry**, Chelsea and England footballer.
3. **John Keats**, a poet, e.g. Ode to Autumn.
4. **Félix-Julien-Jean Bigot**, co-author of the Napoleonic Code.
5. **John Hampden MP**, with a statue in Aylesbury.

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