

Newsletter

Summer 2016



Summer is here – or soon will be! Holiday time, and if you are off on your hols soon I do hope you have good time. I know there are better things to do than play bridge on holiday but it can be quite fun going into a foreign bridge club. You will usually find a real mix of nationalities:- British; Spanish; German; French; Italian, American, Austrian etc but of course the game is a common factor and whilst one has to get used to competing against different systems (and alerting rules) you will find everyone pretty understanding. Bridge is bridge and the rules are set by the World Bridge Federation so across the world there is a great deal of similarity – remember, as here in little old Pershore, if you don't understand a bid ask what it means at your turn to play or at the end of the auction. So, if you go somewhere abroad why not try at least one evening at the local club. Its great fun.

On a more sombre note we mourn the passing of Roger Wood and Robert Strong – we shall miss them but remember their lively personality and love of the game.

NEW MEMBERS:

We have had a few new members recently – which is great for the Club – some are very new to duplicate bridge and others are really experienced players. We have always welcomed any players at Pershore from novices to Grand Masters – but we do insist that whatever level of player you are, you understand the others' needs. Some will take it more seriously, and that's fine, but the onus is on the experienced players to make the novices really feel at home and try to help and explain things when asked. I remember when Liz and I went to our first Green Pointed national event and at some point we were drawn against Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield – two International players. They obviously knew straightway how inexperienced we were (playing basic Acol and very few systems, plus general nervousness!!) and they bid to some game contract but along the way they were alerting a lot of their partners bids. Before I had time to ask "any questions" Bernard said "you really should ask me what that 3 club means before you take a card out of your hand". I did so and it was really helpful to me in determining the lead. On another board Rhona was declarer; again this time both of them said how well we had defended. I have never forgotten their kindness and I do hope our more experienced players can show the same generosity of spirit to those who are fairly new to competitive bridge. Pershore is a happy club for all levels of player and the Committee is determined to keep it that way!

COMMITTEE CHANGES:

We welcome Sally to the Committee which will bring some flair, style and common sense to our meetings! Roger will shortly be taking over from Martin as Treasurer in addition to his current host and opening up roster duties. The club owes Martin a great debt of gratitude for all the hard work he has done as Treasurer and I will be saying more later in the year at our AGM.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Championship Pairs ladder is well underway and finishes on 21st September. It looks as though it will be a close contest again this year. Remember, detail of current rankings of all competitions is on the web site.

26th JULY is the Weir Teams Trophy – our premier teams event but don't let that dissuade you from entering!! We need a lot of teams to enter as that ensures a close contest. There is NO HOST for this event and it is MEMBERS ONLY.

28th SEPTEMBER is our next Swiss Pairs event - do mark your diaries now please as this event takes a lot of organising which is only worthwhile if it well supported.

STOP PRESS: Gill and Duncan are exploring the feasibility of a short away break for members and partners. Clearly bridge orientated, but not exclusively so that everyone, player or not, can enjoy the break. More news if they are successful in their investigations!

Thank you for your support

GIFT AID:

Thank you! I now have received completed forms from everyone, so I have submitted out first schedule for Gift Aid relief to HMRC. This should be over £100 rebate and when that is received I shall be sending HMRC the schedules for previous years. All in all, registering as a charity has been highly beneficial to us.

BRIDGEMATES

These are proving to be very useful and to have the result when you go home is marvellous but please don't let that stop you frequently accessing our web site. Not only can you see the results, hand record and full analysis but the web site contains all sorts of other useful info which gets regularly updated. I hope the battery issue is now behind us, but if not I will take it up with the supplier. For our part we ask everyone to ensure the Bridgemate shows END OF SESSION at end of play and then you can press the OK box which should blank the screen or return to the start screen. Either way if doesn't matter as long as you have seen the END OF SESSION message. If you do not see this message, or think you might not have done, then tell the director who will log the Bridgemate off by going into the TD Menu. Thank you.

		PDBC Board 7 : Dealer South	All Vul
N		This caused some fun! 11 tricks only for each side. Some Souths opened 4S; some 2C Game Force; some a strong 2S (or similar in Benji), promising 8 tricks.	
♠ 7		Over a 4S opening West has a straightforward bid of 4N (take out) and EW can find the making 5C though S may well push on – and so may EW leading to impossible slams or sacrifices being bid by both sides!	
♥ AK986432		Over a 2C (or other game force) bid West knows S has bid on distribution not points and can wait for NS bidding to unwind before doubling for take out or bidding 4N over 4S; some West's made an immediate double over 2C which is possibly ambiguous but West will get another chance to take some action. Over a 2S opener West will at least double for take out. Whatever North or East bids South will bid a number of spades. Again, West should make a take out call if South rebids 4S. 4N by W cannot be natural, so that should do!	
♦ J642		The travellers showed 5HX – 3 by N; 6CX – 1 by W; 6S by N making (!!)	
♣		(after 2S response to 2C by); 5S by S making; 4S by S making; 5S by S making; 6SX-3 by S; 5S by S making.	
♠ T42	♥ T	I think most will open 4S by South but what would you do?	
♥ QJ75	♦ T95		
♦ AKQ8	♣ QT8732		
♣ AJ965	♠ AKQJ98653		
♥	♦ 73		
♣ K4			

Why can't we always play a Mitchell Movement?

Players often prefer a "straight" Mitchell movement because its easy to remember where you have to move to - usually Boards go down 1 table and EW Pairs go up 1 table. NS have an exercise free evening and remain at their start table. Directors like a Mitchell movement – because it causes them less hassle as the players know where they are going and it takes less time between rounds for the moves to take place and players come to the table in a consistent order. So why not have Mitchell's all the time? The principal reason why a Club would not wish to play a Mitchell movement would be when the balance (ie fairness) of the movement would be compromised. For example, this occurs where there are 11 tables. To hold a Mitchell movement would mean having 33 boards in play but where each pair each played a different 27. Not only that, but as there would only be 9 rounds each EW pair cannot play against every other NS pair and vice-versa. Good – if you then miss the two best pairs in the club; bad, if you have to play them! Also, because you play a different 27 boards from your opponents it might just be your bad luck to have to play the only 6 really difficult boards to bid all evening! (and, who knows, you may have had them against the two best pairs!!). In short, the result owes more to the Lottery than to fairness so a different movement is used that combines the best mix of fairness, speed, ease etc. Sometimes other movements are also used to reduce any sit out time. Sitting out for 3 boards, let alone 4 is unwelcome! So, next time the director sets a Howell or Hesitation Mitchell movement, please remember he does so to ensure a fair competition for all! And, of course, as long as fairness is achieved there is a lot of merit in variety!

Thank you for your support – if you have a new or changed email address please let me know