

# Newsletter

Summer 2019



## A THANK YOU FROM ME TO YOU!!

*It is almost a year since I wrote in the Newsletter that we were going to try a new teaching initiative and to seek members help in various ways. I was delighted with the response with all members being fully supportive and many members prepared to not only give up their time at weekends but also to regularly assist with the follow up supervised play sessions. As the students progressed they have gradually been absorbed into the main club environment and, again, I have been delighted with the way that members welcomed, helped and assisted the newcomers at the table, and continue to do so. I ended last September's Newsletter with the following "Please support this initiative – it is OUR club and we can all help in some way" but could not have wished for more than was forthcoming. So, a sincere thank you from me and the Committee to you.*

Our newcomers have really impressed me and others. They are all really keen and have tried hard to succeed. Bearing in mind that many had not played the game at all, they have come a long way in just five months which is a great credit to them. I think it is also a vindication of the course(s) and the subsequent supervised play sessions. The weekend courses are intensive and challenging to students, but they do provide a really viable alternative to weeks of evening classes! I will of course be reviewing how we can improve our courses etc for next year and what we might do slightly differently, but it is clear that not only do they offer an opportunity for newcomers to learn the game – and thereby increase the bridge playing community whether or not they ultimately join a club – but also aid the recruitment of members to the club which is essential for its continued success. I also hope that next year we will have a larger pool of resources to call upon re finding helpers for the courses, supervised play and buddying etc as I am sure some of our newcomers this year will be able to provide their support along with more experienced members. In a couple of months we shall be advertising our courses for early next year but meanwhile members can start spreading the word about them and suggesting that if anyone is interested they might like to contact me early as the 2019 courses were oversubscribed. Our web site has all the details.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**25 SEPTEMBER**

**13 NOVEMBER**

**27 NOVEMBER**

**18 DECEMBER**

**SWISS PAIRS**

**CHILDREN IN NEED SIM PAIRS**

**AGM – 6.45pm start**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6.45pm – further details to follow**

**CLUB DINNER – to be arranged.**

### MEMBERSHIP

Club membership currently stands at 64 which is healthy but more would be better! Better still would be if ALL members could attend at least once a month if they are able to do so. I am aware of course that some members, for perfectly understandable personal reasons, are not able to do at the present time but for those of you who could come along, albeit occasionally, I urge you to do so. All members receive requests for partners and if you can assist it not only helps the club generally but also your fellow members, particularly if they are new to the club. I do appreciate that playing with a strange partner can have its downsides – but it also has upsides. One or both of you in the partnership will gain from the others experience and it is good opportunity to meet and talk with other club members and get to know them better. I have played with a lot of different members this year and gained something from them all whether experienced players or not – so why not try it?

**P.T.O**

**Thank you for your support**

## DID YOU KNOW ?

### DUMMY / DECLARER

Dummy is aptly named. Dummy must say nothing during play except if any other player asks for a review of the auction which has to be the **entire** auction, not just another player's bidding. Dummy must **not** point to a card, **nor** must Dummy float his hand over a card(s), **nor** must Dummy put his hands on the table near the cards. All dummy can do is play the card specified by Declarer. Declarer must specify BOTH rank and suit. If rank is not specified Dummy MUST play the lowest card in the suit. He cannot ask Declarer which card – that is the same as Dummy prompting “do you mean the highest or lowest?” Declarer can say “run the Clubs from the top” and dummy can then play highest, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest etc but far better is for declarer to specify each card, every time. That way there is no possible confusion or contention. Dummy can give factual information to a Director when asked, but not to other players. Dummy cannot call for the director unless another player has noticed an irregularity; nor draw attention to a possible irregularity during play although he can ask **declarer** when he has failed to follow suit whether he has a card of the suit led. After play has concluded Dummy can draw attention to any irregularity. **A good dummy keeps his hands BELOW the table until asked to play a card by declarer.**

### ANY QUESTIONS? The Clarification Period.

The player making the opening lead can ask opponents for explanation of their bids made during the auction prior to making his opening lead. Having done so (or not) he must then place his lead card FACE DOWN and ask “Any Questions?” This is known as the clarification period and is the opportunity for declarer and the other defender to seek clarification / explanation of any bid and the **partner of the person who made the bid** is required to answer. It is also the opportunity for **anyone** at the table to try and prevent the opening lead being made by the wrong person. If any irregularity occurs call for the Director. Whether or not defenders ask questions please remember if you are declarer or dummy and are aware of a misbid, mistaken explanation or failure to alert by your partner you are obliged to tell defenders at the **end of the auction**. This is another reason to not face the lead card as you can retract it in the light of declarer correcting a failure to alert or explanation etc. If you had faced the card you cannot retract it. If you are a defender and are aware of a misbid, mistaken explanation or failure to alert by your partner you must stay silent **until the board has been played**.

### MOVEMENTS

I know I have covered this many times previously but it is a topic that frequently gets raised by experienced and new members alike. Movements for pairs events are either Mitchell or Howell, or derivatives of each such as Bowman. Club Directors seek the best ‘trade-off’ between fairness, ease, speed (28 boards is the maximum that time would usually permit) and sit out time. In a well run club Fairness is the most important factor. In **Pairs** competition is fairest if all pairs play all boards. But there also needs to be equal opportunity for each pair. If a movement achieves both it is a complete and fair (or *balanced*) movement. For that reason a Mitchell movement where EW move up a table each round until all boards are played is balanced. A Skip Mitchell, where by virtue of your starting position you may be lucky or unlucky in the opponents and / or boards you “skip” half-way through, is clearly not as balanced though it may be the best compromise available for, say, 10 tables where 30 boards are in play but the skip reduces this to playing a ‘time favourable’ 27. Full Howells are excellent balanced movements but are more often found when the number of tables is low as moving between rounds takes a lot of time as players search for their next table! For this reason Howells are not popular with Club players, but they are balanced. TIP: - always identify which pair you will follow throughout an event, **whatever the movement**.

Nobody likes to sit out but when there is a half table, this is unavoidable. A movement which otherwise might be played as its fair may require the sit out pair to remain idle for 4 boards (30 minutes!!) or more in some cases. The director will then decide that with a very slight compromise on fairness, the sit outs might easily be reduced to 2 or 3 boards by using a different movement, eg Hesitation Mitchell. For 9½-11 tables a normal Mitchell would need 30- 33 boards so a Bowman (a Mitchell derivative) or ¾ Howell can be used so that the evening gets finished on time with no “skipping”. Finally, some movements are designed for a single winner, some designed for two (EW and NS) winners. The Director will ensure that the number of arrow switches produces a fair result for single winner movements.

### A FINAL THANK YOU!

I started this newsletter with a thank you – and will finish with one!! A personal thank you for responding so positively to my plea for help in ensuring everything was put away etc etc at the end of the evening. That has been a really big help to Liz and I, as is assisting in taking the cases down to my car (they get heavier as I get older!). If any of you can help with the opening up, that too would help Brian and Roger – please let ROGER know.  
See you soon!!

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