



Newsletter

End of April 2020

**Happy 100th Birthday
Captain Tom**

A message from the Committee:

We are delighted that we now have three regular Club sessions on BBO. Please look at the website and follow the directions on there if you wish to play. If you are experiencing difficulties then please use one of the bridge buddies to help you.

If a non-member of CBC wishes to play with you we are offering a £10 rate for them to join CBC as on-line members and play in CBC matches with you or another CBC member for as long as this situation continues.

We do still require funds to keep the Club building running and the monies from these three events help.

Please note that all this week (Monday-Friday at 10.15 hours) Surrey County Bridge Association is running a pairs event on BBO specifically to raise funds for the NHS. The entry fee is £6 per person and details of how to enter are on the Surrey website, www.bridgeweb.com/surrey

21 board matches , please have a go for an excellent cause.

Thanks to Tim Russell for his article on the unusual hands he experienced this week.

Keep safe,

The Committee

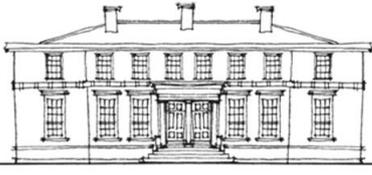


We have all been inspired by Captain Tom's positive attitude and delighted that his efforts have raised so much money for the NHS.

Caroline, our hard-working treasurer's, sister is the Bursar at Bedford School which Captain Tom's grandson attends.

The GPO are delivering all the birthday cards to Bedford School because the sheer volume would not fit in the family home. Her job one day last week was to open 70,000 cards delivered that day to the school. They are been displayed in the Great Hall. At the moment there are over 600,000 cards. Caroline's other sister has offered to assist in this task too.

Answers to last newsletter quiz: Jim Simons with Sybil Davies and Enid Castle ,and Margaret Hyde with Anne Haussherr and Roger Williams



A Spectacular Swiss Stanza

As many of you will know Gloucestershire Country Bridge Association is currently running a Swiss Teams online competition (organised by Patrick of course to whom many thanks) and not surprisingly several Cheltenham based teams are taking part. The second half of one match played recently comprised a spectacular set of eight boards in that each one was a game going hand, in two of them either side could make game and there were a set of extremely unbalanced distributions. To be pedantic one out of the sixteen contracts we did not bid to game, but this was due to a bidding accident.

Neither team did as well as they would have liked to on every board so this piece is definitely not about consistent spectacularly good bidding or play – it is the hands that were amazing. In order to avoid anybody being embarrassed by their mistakes the account is anonymised. Looking at two of the boards:

Do you trust your partner?

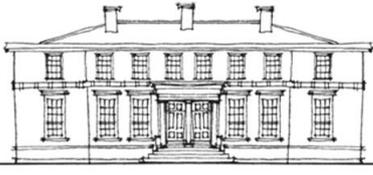
The screenshot shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Contract:** 3D (3 of Diamonds)
- North (N):** ♠ 108752, ♥ K, ♦ J532, ♣ Q83
- West (W):** ♠ [redacted], ♥ QJ1087, ♦ 109, ♣ AK9762
- East (E):** ♠ AKQJ6, ♥ 64, ♦ KQ4, ♣ J104
- South (S):** ♠ 943, ♥ A9532, ♦ A876, ♣ 5
- Bidding:** W: 3♣ Pass; N: Pass; E: 4♠ Pass; S: Pass Pass
- Tricks:** 4♠ East, 0 (West), 0 (South)

South's 2H showed a weak hand with 5 hearts and a 4 card minor (Lucas). West's 3C showed a six card suit. It might have been quite tempting for west to pass in the hope that a high level heart contract could be doubled but the vulnerability argued against this. After east's 4S bid west might have thought either

1. I trust my partner with my life so will pass or
2. Partner will just have to stew in his own juice or
3. Help! I hope that this is not some left field cue bid or splinter or ace asking thing that we agreed to and I have forgotten.

Anyway 10 tricks were made for 620 to EW.



CHEL TENHAM BRIDGE CLUB



At the other table west was not such a numpty.

W	N	E	S
	1♥	2♠	4♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This made for 650 to EW so the board was a double game swing.

EW had a ten card fit in diamonds and the suit was not bid at either table. North South's nine card heart fit resulted in a single heart bid between the two auctions. If I were a red card in this board I would feel rather neglected.

These were the two biggest swings in the eight boards. There were opportunities for big swings in all the other hands of course, all being games but amazingly after eight game boards the end result was just 2 IMPs to one team. Even more amazingly in the first half of the match (held earlier in the week and abandoned at half time due to BBO being overloaded) the other team came out 2 IMPs up so the overall result was an honourable draw.

I am looking forward to some boring 4333 hands next week.

Tim Russell

I have heard of many members who are running up scrubs, making laundry bags or inserts for face masks and knitting hearts.

Well done one and all!