

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB – Chairman’s Blog, October 2018

I’ve been toying with the idea of a chairman’s blog for a little while and, this month, there’s so much to tell you all about that I’ve decided to give it a go. I suspect its frequency will be irregular at best, as the amount of information is irregular as well, but let’s at least make a start. Feedback will be welcomed!

Bridge Tuition

We had a great session on **overcalls** last month, with positive feedback from the 30 students telling me they gained a great deal from Martin Holcombe’s excellent teaching.

Martin’s next session will be on Monday, 12 November, kicking off at 2:00pm. We’d talked about that being on opening leads but have decided that a session on **doubling** will greatly complement the session on overcalls, given that your opponents opening bid coupled with what’s in your hand can often give you a choice between doing one or the other! Doubling as a subject is much wider than that of course and I’m sure Martin will be sending everyone away with as positive a view of the session as they had of the last one. As usual, there will be handouts and practice hands, so we do **need to know in advance** how many will be attending. Just send me an email please and your place will be reserved.

Two more great education opportunities coming up are Caroline Macpherson’s **FREE** session in Street on Sunday week, 21 October, and Andrew Robson’s session at the Webbington on Wednesday, 5 December. Andrew is widely recognised as one of the best bridge tutors on the planet and, in my opinion, Caroline’s sessions would be excellent value, even if you had to pay for them!

More information on both sessions are on the SCBA website but, to make it easier for you, just click [here](#) for details of Caroline’s session and [here](#) for details of Andrew’s.

Caroline will be running another session at the Ring O’Bells in Nailsea on 16 February. More details nearer the date but put in your diary now.

West of England Congress

Quite a few of our club members played in one or more of the competitions at the West of England Congress in Weston-super-Mare over the weekend of 28-30 September.

Amongst them, Tony Bowler and I put our toes in the water for the first time, taking part in the Swiss Pairs and thoroughly enjoying ourselves – finishing a little further from the bottom than we had thought likely! There were 138 pairs in the competition, playing seven rounds, each of seven boards, and our very first round (randomly drawn) was against the pair who finished second on the day. Needless to say, they beat us but both players were friendly and

offered us good advice on how we might have bid or played a couple of the hands. We did beat two of the seven pairs we played (including the pair who finished thirty-first) and gained our first green points – or at least half of one! Everyone was friendly, the Swiss Pairs format meant we played most of the rounds against players who were more likely to be in the same half of the table as ourselves and **we will do it again** – and would encourage others to join us.

Children in Need

We've entered the club to play in a nation-wide simultaneous pairs event to be played in aid of Children in Need on Tuesday, 13 November. We play in exactly the same way as a normal club evening but using the same hands as many other clubs around the country. Our results are produced and published as normal, but they're also consolidated with the results from all the other clubs and an overall result then produced – giving you two chances to earn master points! Hand records will be published with a commentary on how they might have been bid and played. All the proceeds of the evening will go to this very worthy charity.

More details will follow, but please put the date in your diary now.

Best Practice Reminders

You wouldn't expect me to miss a chance to remind you of some of the things that often go wrong, or slow up play, on a club evening – so here are two of my favourites, both covered in the club's etiquette document:

1. When you move to a new table, do make sure that's where you should be, that you're sat in the right orientation and that you're playing the right opponents with the right boards – and that the boards are in the right order and the right way around.
2. When you're on lead or are dummy, make your opening lead or lay dummy's cards **BEFORE** you put your bidding cards away or write up your score card. Little things like this all take time and disciplining ourselves to avoid them does help speed up play.

It's perhaps worth adding that, when I produced the club handbook a few months back, I said that the one section of it I urged everyone to read, inwardly digest and then regularly read again is the one on our club etiquette or code of conduct. It's the things in it that do most to keep a club evening going as smoothly as it can and encourages courtesy to the hard-working people who've organised it and your fellow players – helping us all to enjoy the game and the interaction with our friends. You can find it by clicking [here](#).

End of sermon; enjoy your bridge!

Graham Daniel

Chairman, Kingston Seymour Bridge Club