

# THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

## Newsletter - April 2021

### A. G. M. Report

#### Elected as Trustees

President - Mark Goddard  
Chairman - David Dunford  
Treasurer - Phil Gross  
Marc Gaudart  
Sue Hollins  
Gerry McCormack  
Pauline Payne  
Stefka Samus  
Andrew Scott  
Mel Shepherd  
Dave Treharne

#### Prize Money

A vote was taken on whether to discontinue giving prize money. The motion was passed, with no-one dissenting.

#### Lucy Shillito Trophy

Ian Dovey was awarded the trophy in recognition of his contribution to bridge in the county. Ian is a long-serving member of the County Bridge Association and is currently its treasurer. Over the past year he has organised two swiss teams of four competitions for all players in the county. Also, at our bridge club, he has been helping to teach beginners online and giving coaching feedback to players at our Wednesday evening tournaments.



#### Harry Lodge Memorial Cup

The Cup is awarded for the club member of the year. It was an easy decision this year to award it to David Dunford for his work in taking the club so quickly online after 401 Mansfield Road was closed down the day after he was elected Chairman at last year's AGM. We were the first club to be running tournaments on BBO, long before the EBU came onto the scene, and since then he has overseen the development of a range of online teaching offerings.

#### Cullen Cup

The Cullen Cup is our winter handicap competition, run on Friday evenings. (The handicapped scores have been available on the club web site.) The best twelve scores count after the handicap has been applied. This year's winner was Bernard Scanlon who sportingly played with a different partner one evening to put a little distance between himself and his regular partner.



### BROADHEAD BOWL

The 2021 competition was won by

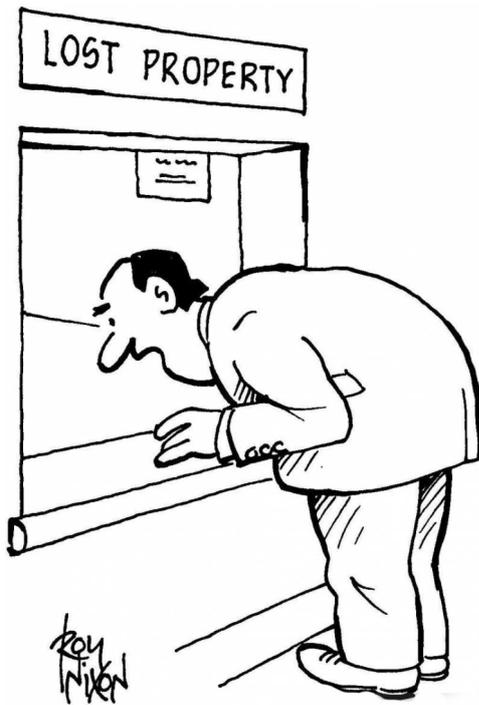
Patrick Gaudart

and

Andrew Scott



# Alerting



But it's a whole year!  
Are you sure it's not there?

It has recently become necessary to remind players to alert and explain “conventional” bids. Everyone acknowledges that at times we forget – and it is important to remember that our partner is not aware the bid has not been alerted.

Some simple guidelines:

- Explain your bid, especially if it is something the opponents may not be aware of – it is NOT sufficient to simply name the convention, e.g. there are several variations of the multi-2D.

- Explain your response to the conventional bid, e.g. ‘natural’ or ‘relay’ or ‘forced’.

However, it is worth knowing that “The EBU White Book”, (which essentially advises Directors how to run tournaments and interpret the Laws of Bridge), states – “A player’s claim to have been damaged because the opponents failed to alert or announce a call will fail if the player was aware of its likely meaning, and they had the opportunity to ask without putting their side’s interests at risk. The player’s awareness of the likely meaning will depend on their experience.”

So, if you believe the opponents have not alerted a bid, then if you simply click on it, the bidder will be asked “to explain”. You should NOT ask via “table chat”.

Ian Dovey

## Looking for a partner?

If you are without your regular partner and looking to play in one of our BBO tournaments, there are various options open to you.

### FACEBOOK

If you are a member of Facebook, you can post a message on our private facebook group. Several people have found partners this way and even formed lasting partnerships.

If you want to contact specific people, you can click on the Members tab and send them a personal invitation.

### CLUB WEB SITE

The home page of the club’s web site has a Partner Finding Service up at the top right, where you can log in and advertise for a partner.

### BBO

On BBO, click on the name of the tournament. You will be taken to the screen where you register to play. But you

can then click on the Partnership Desk tab, where you can add your name and rendezvous with others looking for a partner. You then wait for someone to turn up and can then invite them to play with you.

It is also worthwhile letting the director know you are looking for a partner. About 15 minutes before the start, send a chat to the director by clicking on vEBU201086. They may know of someone who is available.

### ROBOTS

You can also pay to play with a robot, but beware they definitely don’t play Acoll! They play a five card major, 2/1 system (i.e. a response at the two level is forcing) whose details are on the BBO web site.

If you’re tempted but not sure you want to pay to play with a robot, chat to the director. If the tournament starts with a half table, they can partner you with a robot in the sitout seats, and you get to play for free.



## FEBRUARY MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Club Master

Area Master  
District Master  
County Master  
1 Star Tournament Master

Carolyn Akers - Nigel Akers - Liz Beswick  
Jan Draper - Jane Evans - Barry Finn  
Karen Palmer  
Paul Goodwin  
Annie Kerslake - Heather Scott  
Robert Bernard - Jane Holdrick  
Dave Quinton

# WTTT?

WTTT? stands for Who Taught Them That?

An illuminating consequence of playing on BBO is that we can all see that not everyone is playing bridge the way they were taught!

You may have noticed it yourself, when looking at the history during a tournament, or reviewing boards afterwards. During the quiet spells in a tournament, directors often while away the time by kibbitzing the tables and see lots of examples. But there are no secrets when you play on BBO! If you know someone's BBO user name you can use myhands to go and look at every bid, announcement and play of a card that they have made in a tournament or match, whether or not you were playing yourself.

Beginners can be excused for misunderstandings e.g. that an overcall of 1NT with 12-14 points is incorrect; or forgetting a 2C opener is a strong bid rather than showing a weak hand with six clubs. But, for more seasoned players, one asks: *Where do they get these ideas from in bidding and play when they are never taught them?*

So here are a couple of reminders:

## Overcalling

Everyone is taught that an overcall shows a good 5 card suit. If you've ever attended a Bernard Magee seminar you will have seen the big number 5 he displays to emphasise the point. In fact, under EBU rules - which apply to all our tournaments and drives - if you or your partner regularly

make overcalls on a 4 card suit, then this needs to be disclosed to your opponents as part of your system (Blue Book 3D1).

## Exceptionally light one-level openings

As beginners, we are taught that we must have 12 HCP to open. With experience, many people play a Rule of 20 opening, i.e. if the number of high card points plus the number of cards in their two longest suits add up to 20, then they will be willing to make an opening bid. (Although we've noticed that not everyone appreciates that it matters just how those points are distributed.) Some people take this further and open if their hand meets the Rule of 19.

But the EBU has rules about how light an opening you can use as part of your system in the tournaments and drives we run. For a suit opening, you must have 8+ HCP and, in first or second seat, follow the Rule of 18. A natural 1NT must show 9+ HCP and, of course, the range of your agreed 1NT opening range has to be stated when it is made. (Blue Book 7A3.)

This also highlights the need for everyone to alert/explain their conventions – and if your opponents don't, then be proactive and request an explanation.

And when you now come across any WTTT?s let us know and we will share 'good bridge' practice in future Newsletters. Email [Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club](mailto:Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club) and he'll pass them on.

*from some of our directors*

# Director, please!

One of the big advantages of playing online is that so many of the usual mistakes at a bridge table just can't happen. No revokes, leads out of turn, or insufficient bids. So there's not much for a BBO director to do. But that will all change when we get around a real table again.

We always need more directors, so why not take advantage of the spare time the pandemic has given us, and learn a new skill? It's not as difficult as you might think. For example, when there's an opening lead out of turn, the declarer is given five choices.



But all the director does is read out a standard set of words telling them what those choices are.

During the pandemic I've run a series of eight half-hour sessions covering the basics of what a director needs to know. Why not join me and learn a new skill? There's no commitment to become a director at the end of it, so give it a go. To give you a taste, the first of the sessions can be seen on you tube at

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=09LCF60mUxg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09LCF60mUxg)

Let me know if you'd like to give it a try.

*David Dunford*

## How did we do?

Although our BBO tournaments are "members only" we do allow visitors one visit on a "try-before-you-buy" basis. It was good to receive the following from one of our visitors:

*Super evening with a lovely crowd of players - and so polite and friendly. Many, many thanks. I'm working on returning and then paying. Really hope to see you all again.*

## Improvers

Graham Brindley's popular sessions for improvers will continue again, after a short Easter break, on 8 April. Details are on the Club's web site.

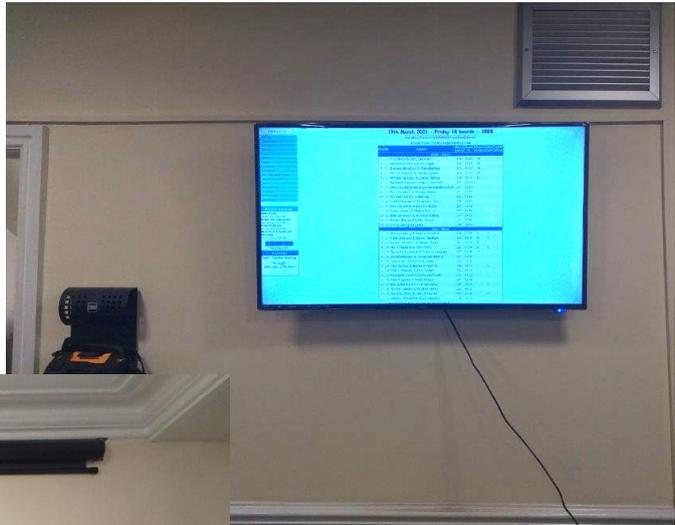
It's a good job he's doing them online! We couldn't fit everyone in at the club, even without the need for social distancing.

Send Graham an email and he will let you have the link so that you can join in by Zoom.

# Ready for teaching and more

As part of our refurbishment team, Andrew Scott has been overseeing some improvements to our IT provision at the Club. A monitor outside the office will enable us to do away with printing the results after a drive. We can also display the state of a round so a director, sitting nearby, won't have to visit rooms to find out whether other tables are still in play.

It will also open up the possibility of people gathering together to watch, for example, Bernard Magee's youtube teaching videos.



The magnetic board has now been fixed to the wall, making things a little neater in the teaching room. And a projector has been discreetly attached to the ceiling.



A pull-down screen has been installed so that the magnetic cards don't have to be removed from the board every time the projector is used! It also means that we no longer have the potential hazard of cables trailing across the floor.

We hope that both teachers and students will enjoy the new facilities.

