

THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter - December 2020

Christmas Party



Christmas is coming! And so is the Club Christmas Party – on Saturday, 12th December.

They say you can't please everyone, but our hosts, Mark Goddard and Phil Gross, are doing their best to prove them wrong.

We start at 7pm with a Zoom. The link is below, or you can join with the Meeting ID: 910 1126 1743 and Passcode: Party.

It's a chance to say "hello" to everyone and get out your Christmas outfit. It could be the Christmas jumper you've just knitted, or you can come as a Santa's helper, or even as Rudolph! Show everyone your outfit and the best one will win a prize. (Mark and Phil's decision final, no appeal to the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee.)

Bridge will start at 7.30 pm. You find the tournament and register in the usual way. The only difference is that it will be free, no BB\$ needed. Who can say Bah, Humbug to that? (Although Ebenezer is welcome to miss the socialising and just join us for the bridge.)

Last year's mix of straightforward bridge with a Bingo card for those who wanted some extra fun seemed to work well, so we're doing the same again this year. Make your contract, or get the opposition down, to cross the contract off your card. If there's more than one of the contract on the card, only cross off one and do it straight away. No saving them up.

The first one to complete a line of five and to chat "Bingo" to the tournament wins. There's an extra edge this year as everyone has the same card, shown here. So it's fastest to the draw with your partner; get your chat loaded!

After the bridge, you can rejoin the Zoom with the same link as below. Celebrate the winners, tell us your Christmas cracker joke, maybe a quiz if people are in the mood.

B	I	N	G	O
3♥	3NT	3♣	3NT	7♠ NT
4♥	3♦	4♥	3NT	4♠
3♣	4♠	FREE	4♠	3♥
3NT	1♠ NT	1♠ NT	2♥	3NT
6♠ NT	1♠ NT	3♠	3NT	2♦

Party Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/91011261743?pwd=Y2Qyem5QclJ5aW5YUW9DaTFHcjVDQT09>

OCTOBER MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Local Master

Club Master

Area Master

1 Star Master

5 Star Master

Tournament Master

Marian Donaldson, David Gregson, Linda Gregson,
Karen Palmer, Di Williamson

Paul Goodwin, Colin Horsburgh, Lynne Marlow

Annie Kerslake, Bibi Sohawon

David Beaumont

Phil Ottewell

Ewa Hardwick

Jordan Cup



John Edwards was the winner of our individual competition, the Jordan Cup. Many members will be unaware of the Jordan Cup; indeed its origins seem to be forgotten. It was first run in 1976 when it was won by the late Ted Fisher. It ran again for the next two years, but there was then a break until 1983 when it was again won by Ted. This year is the first time the competition has been run since then. We are grateful to Carol Fisher for bringing the existence of the cup to our attention.

1977
Dudley Sheppard
1978
Max Finesilver
1976 & 1983
Ted Fisher
2020
John Edwards

What do you do ... when there's a revoke?

One benefit of playing online is that the most common forms of mistake at the table are prevented by the software. So, when we get back to a real table, we will need to re-learn what to do. In preparation for those days, this article looks at what to do when there is a revoke.

What's a revoke?

The most common form of a revoke is when someone can follow suit, but instead plays a card from a different suit. The card they played is known as the revoke card. (Technically, revokes can also occur in other situations such as when you fail to play a penalty card.) You may find some people call it reneging rather than revoking.

The short answer?

When I started to write this, I was planning to say that, when you notice a revoke, you should just call the director. But then I realised this wasn't the full story.

If you notice a revoke there is no law that says you have to mention it. (In fact, under the laws, dummy is forbidden to mention that the opposition may have revoked until the end of the play.) While it's against the laws to revoke deliberately or to attempt to disguise a revoke, there's no requirement to tell the other players at any point that you have revoked. That's what the laws say, but many players feel it's better to confess than risk a reputation for poor sportsmanship. In fact, if you notice the revoke soon enough, the director can sort things out so that you don't suffer too much damage for your mistake.

A bit of history

The laws of bridge are designed to deal with mistakes at the table in the fairest way for all four players. This is often referred to as "restoring equity". Historically, the one exception has been for revokes. Traditionally, penalties for revokes were imposed as a deterrent. A malicious revoke can cut declarer off from dummy and deprive them of a fistful of tricks. Even after a careless revoke, it can be challenging to decide what might have happened if the revoke hadn't taken place.

A century ago, a revoke incurred a penalty of three tricks. When this was reduced to two tricks in 1928, it met with some criticism. Indeed, one writer protested that the penalty should have been increased rather than diminished. The laws have moved on a long way since then, and a revoke may not even result in a single penalty trick. But you will come across some people who still think that there is an automatic penalty of two tricks, so always call the director and never attempt to deal with a revoke amongst yourselves.

Help the director

A director can usually deal with a revoke very quickly, especially if you help them:

- * Once attention has been drawn to a revoke, no-one should play another card until the director has dealt with the revoke.

- * Point out the revoke card to the director. If it is face down, don't turn it over. (If there is a dispute as to whether there has been a revoke, keep the cards in order and complete the play. After play, you can then check whether there has indeed been a revoke and, if necessary, call the director back.)

- * If the trick has been completed, say which side won the trick and whether or not it was won with the revoke card. (In normal play, a revoke card wins by ruffing in a suit contract.)

It happens to us all

It's natural to be cross with yourself when you revoke. But there can be few bridge players who haven't revoked at some time. That includes me, and I've seen far better players than me do it, too. The director won't give you a telling off, they will just tell you what to do – which may or may not include any penalty tricks. Their parting words will often be "but if, at the end of the play, you feel you have been further disadvantaged, call me back". So, when you later find yourself cut off from that long suit in dummy, all need not be lost.

David Dunford

Bidding a Grand the Simple Way

This is a hand taken from a Tigers pairs duplicate on a Tuesday afternoon. Bibi is my partner along with Marian and Liz as opposition, all regulars on BBO.

Bibi opens 1♥ although there's a case for opening 4♥. I responded 1♠; no need to rush. (If you have it amongst your methods then the Jacobi 2NT is an option). What I saw was a lot of players leaping to 4♥. This is a poor choice as it shuts partner up. This bid is reserved for weaker hands with distribution. Strong hands don't rush; they bid slowly to gather information. Hence my simple 1♠ giving partner as much room as possible to best describe her hand without any pressure.

So, Bibi leaps to 4♥ which is correct, showing big distribution with a 7-card suit and some extras, but not a big hand in terms of values. (With my hand I would have been very unlucky not to find the ♥AK with partner, after all we do have at least 11 hearts between us!)

A lot of players did use Blackwood, but most failed to count the tricks they can make with the information they had gathered. (See below for counting)

As I have mentioned before, trust your partner (in bidding and play)! With a bigger hand 3♥ would have been the bid.

Now I know where I am going. Using Blackwood, if I am told Bibi has no aces we end in 5♥, with 1 ace we are in 6♥, and with both the missing aces we can be in 7♥. So, I ask for aces.

I bid 4NT, Blackwood. (Roman Keycard Blackwood

D 9	N peaktime ♠ 7 ♥ AKJ10932 ♦ AJ108 ♣ 9	W N E S P 1♥ P 1♠ P 4♥ P 4NT P 5♥ P 7♥ P P P
W Nottsmar ♠ Q1064 ♥ 6 ♦ 7542 ♣ KQ73	E LAB1955 ♠ K982 ♥ 4 ♦ 6 ♣ J1086542	
	S andrew42 ♠ AJ53 ♥ Q875 ♦ KQ93 ♣ A	
		7♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

would have been even better as it can check for the ♥K, but I play straightforward Blackwood with Bibi.) When I'm told she has two aces my eyes light up.

I can count 12 tricks (the opps can only have two hearts at the most) without seeing partner's hand, 7H+1S+3D+1C =12.....where's trick 13 coming from?

Well, a club ruff looks on (I'm the short hand) and the diamonds look good so there is obviously plenty of play for trick 13.

Lead of ♣J ... claim! 7H +1S + 4D +1C - Tick.

Just to add ... It's Bibi's first Grand Slam, bid and made!

Andrew Scott



Are you missing a coat...

...or your glasses, or a pair of gloves? We have an assortment of lost property at the club. If you think you may have left something there, please contact us in the next couple of weeks.

Any items unclaimed by the end of the year will be donated to a charity shop.



Thank you for supporting our Children in Need Tournament. At 17 tables, it was our biggest turnout for quite a while. Combining table money with individual donations, we raised a total of £241.

Our East-West pairs fared best in the overall ranking, with Pam Maguire and Dave Quinton achieving an impressive 33rd out of the 1,206 pairs who played that night.

International Danish Teams

The latest international teams event - with teams from USA, Holland, South Africa, Ireland, England and Denmark – has come to an end. The Nottingham team did well, finishing fourth out of the 28 teams taking part.

One of the features of a Danish competition, in contrast to the more usual Swiss event, is that you can play the same team more than once, especially when teams are ending up close in the table. Ons Dorp, who ended up second, have been Nottingham's bête noire. They played them twice in this competition, losing both times.

The squad comprised Patrick Gaudart, Mark Goddard, Geoff Topol, Robin Fisher, Frank Ball, Richard Bonello and Ian Dovey.

The team are enjoying the play and are entering the next competition. There will be five rounds of three 8-board matches played on 6 and 12 December and 3, 17 and 31 January i.e. every other Sunday. You can kibitz the matches. Search out any of the team on BBO, such as Andrew42 or IJD, and click on join in their profile to watch the play.

We wish them every success.



The suggestion that we might try out using RealBridge, where players are in video and audio contact with each other using their device's camera, hasn't generated much response. So, there are no plans to run a trial tournament. However, BBO claim to be developing similar capabilities, so we will return to the topic in due course.

Herres!
Ons Dorp
Leidschestraat
Nottingham
Cool Dudes
Deva Believers
Heerestraat
HERMANUS Springboks
Mountain Dew
Horsham 2
St Alban Romans
Horsham 1
St Alban Abbotts
Blarney Belles
The Glacial Erratics
Coolsingel
Vlieland
Arlington 5
Fleet Street
Kings and Queens
Borokho Four
Arlington 1
StCamillus4
Cork 4
Borokho 5
Four Aces
Smart Passes
Arlington 2

**W
O
R
D
S
E
A
R
C
H**

X X N O I N A M Y A T S P D O
 B F V T C F F O G V N A C P M
 P H X Z F J N X D A S D F M D
 O V E R C A L L O S M I B U R
 T O N D R S F K O D R E Z R L
 S J C O P F Z F W Z K C R T X
 P F W A U E X S K S D R V H A
 R O D R G E L S C I U E E B L
 Y E M S F A A T A F K A G B E
 S Z Q I M W Y M L G R K D Z R
 B J F O V R O G B T E C H X T
 C B U F J N P O S B U L C J L
 L C B K D V B H M H C Z B O D
 D Y J S W T B F R E Z J Z C H
 T R I C K F W N O N S S Z P A

CLUBS
 DIAMONDS
 HEARTS
 SPADES
 TRUMP
 RUFF
 PASS
 ALERT
 STOP
 TRICK
 STAYMAN
 BLACKWOOD
 OVERCALL
 GAME
 SLAM

Christmas and New Year's Day

We don't usually hold a drive on Christmas Day, but these aren't usual times! Provided enough people turn up to play, the tournaments on 25 December and 1 January will go ahead as in the Club calendar. No need to stay sober for the drive home, so why not end the day with a game of cards.

Ask Andrew



**Catch Ask Andrew
on Mondays at 7:30 pm
to tackle
the one that got away!**

Do you ever see other pairs get a better result on a hand and ask yourself where you went wrong? Sometimes the old sayings - "it must have been the lead" or "we're playing on the wrong table" - are true, but sometimes it's down to mistakes in your bidding or play. Wouldn't it be good if there was someone who could gently point out where you went wrong so that, next time, you can get it right?

During the lockdown, Andrew Scott has been getting a steady trickle of emails asking "where did I go wrong?". So, he's decided to open up a Zoom session on Monday evenings where people can get together to ask about hands they've played. The focus will be on hands from our Friday tournament, but you can send him other questions in advance to have them discussed. Perhaps you'll find a new partner who shares your ambitions to improve!

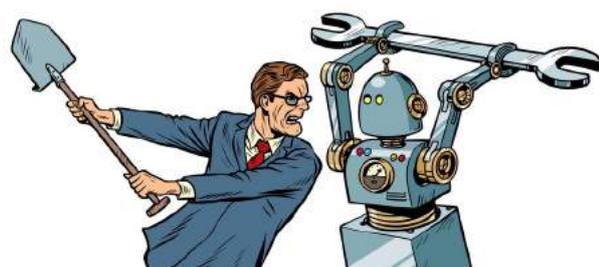
The sessions start at 7:30 pm on Monday 30th November. Just put the link into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89986338954>

or log in to Zoom with meeting ID 899 8633 8954 and pass code Andrew.

Could you repel robots?

Our Wednesday evening tournaments, designed for less experienced players, have proved very popular. Everyone plays Acol, and more time is allowed per round.



But, as in every tournament, there is a problem if we have an odd number of pairs. Many of the Wednesday players find robots both intimidating and confusing, so we have developed a system of standbys.

Could you join our team of "robot repellents"? We are looking for people who would be willing to play if needed (free) perhaps every 6 weeks or so.

If you come as a pair and are not needed, you would know by 7 o'clock and still be able to play in another tournament (e.g. Phoenix or County) that evening.

It would be great to have some volunteers – please email Wednesday@NottinghamBridge.club if you are interested.

Do you open 1♣ with two clubs?

The EBU rules on alerts and announcements used to say that you had to announce your 1C as "may be two" but the rules changed in the 2019 edition of the Blue Book. It now adds:

Where the opening could have a five-card (or longer) suit without five cards in the suit opened, the announcement is extended as appropriate, such as "May be two, with another five card suit". The announcement may be altered in line with the partnership understanding, for example "May be two with five diamonds".

Personally, I don't think they've chosen the best wording. Does "another" five card suit suggest you have two five card suits? Or do you always have to have a five card suit in addition to your two clubs? So, don't shoot the messenger; drop a line to the EBU's Laws and Ethics Committee. I already spend enough time explaining that the EBU doesn't require any alert or announcement when I open with only three cards in a minor suit.

David Dunford