

**THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB**  
*Newsletter - January 2021*



**New Year - New Kitchen**



**... and new tournaments. See next page.**

# Looking forward to 2021

It has been an interesting time to be club chairman, starting with closing the club down the day after being elected!

It's been a roller coaster of a year, but there's a saying that "it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good". We moved quickly to playing online and, although not all members have made the transition, several now play online who thought they never would. We have steadily increased the number of online games we offer, and as you will see below we are adding more in the new year. We now have more tables playing in a week than we did at this time last year.

Teaching has not been neglected, and now uses a mix of Zoom, BBO and email. Special thanks go to Graham Brindley, Ian Dovey and Andrew Scott for their contributions to help players improve. We even have a group of a dozen complete beginners being taught by Graham and Ian.



We are a members' club and stand or fall by the willingness of members to give up their time freely for the benefit of others. We can be proud of the fact that we have over a dozen people on our rota running our online tournaments. The work of others is valuable but less prominent but, at this time, a special mention must be made of our Refurbishment Sub-committee – Dave

Treharne, Pauline Payne and Andrew Scott – who are overseeing the work on the building, including the installation of the new kitchen shown on the front page. I extend my thanks, on your behalf, to all those who contribute, in so many ways, to the success of the club.

Annual subscriptions fall due on 1 January and you will soon be hearing from our Membership Secretary, Phil Gross. It has been our custom, in recent years, to give beginners free membership in their first year. Our hope is always that people will enjoy the club experience and take up membership at the end of that year. So, if you have benefited from free membership in 2020, Phil will be in touch for the 2021 subscription, which is the usual £10.

I do hope you will continue to support the Club and renew your membership. The Committee aims to reopen the premises for bridge as soon as it is safe to do so. We continue to monitor what

might be permissible, as we have ever since we closed the premises in March. With the arrival of the vaccines, there is at light at the end of the tunnel, at last.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to a return to bridge at Mansfield Road.

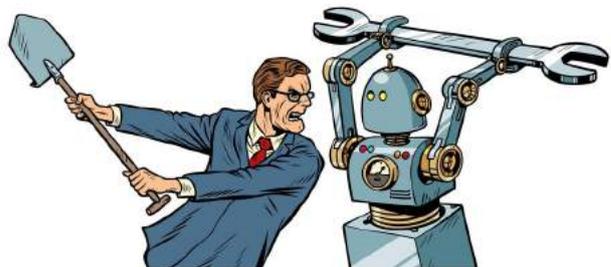
*David Dunford*

## New - Fridays & Saturdays

Our new Friday tournament is a companion to our Wednesday tournament, aimed primarily at the less experienced player. All members may play but, if you do, you must play ACOL with a weak no trump and three weak twos. No Benji and no five card major systems. We only play 14 boards and take slightly longer over the boards than at our other evening tournaments.

Like Wednesdays, we will start at 7pm. We aim not to have robots, so would welcome offers from pairs to be on standby in case we start with a half table. If you do get to fill in the half table, you get a free game. If not, then there will be time to register for the usual 7.30pm tournament. If you would be willing to help our less experienced members in this way, do contact us at [Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club](mailto:Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club). We're not looking for a regular commitment, one-off offers will help just nicely. We start on 8 January.

Our new Saturday tournament is in the same family as our existing Tuesday and Friday tournaments. We will start at 7:30pm and play 18 boards. For those who understand such things, it's Level 4 - in other words people can play the full range of systems that they would normally play at the club. We start on 2 January.



## 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. If you are looking for a partner, why not advertise for one on our Facebook group or just register on the partnership desk.

# Jordan Cup Drives Memories

When John Edwards discovered that his name would be engraved on the Jordan Cup, alongside past-winner Ted Fisher's name, he wrote saying:

*I have just read your piece on The Jordan Cup. I am proud to have won something which is linked to Ted Fisher. He was one of the nicest people I have ever had the privilege to play bridge against. I was also envious of Ted because he managed to acquire the car registration plate 1NTX which, I heard, one of his children took over when he died.*



We thought we would like to know what became of the registration plate and contacted Carol, Ted's wife, who told us the story:

*Ted bought the number plate in 1981. He acquired it via a private advert in the Sunday Times. He travelled down to Maidstone to collect the relevant paperwork for it, paying £950.*

*Shortly after he died in May 2005, I gave the number plate to our son, Robin, a life member of Nottingham Bridge Club. His sister had his then current car.*

*Robin still retains it and a few years ago he purchased a companion number plate for his wife, Tracey. We are still however trying to persuade her to learn bridge !*

*The photos show Ted when he first bought it in 1981, and the companion number plate which Robin acquired.*

*Only last year, when I was playing in a green point event in Altringham, I was asked by a bridge player to let him know if it was ever for sale.*



## Bidding Basics

*Watching the bidding (and play) tells you a lot about the cards your partner (and the opposition) hold. Details can vary from partnership to partnership, but the following are pretty universal for ACOL players.*

1. N E S W  
1S P 2H  
What does South hold?

2. N E S W  
1S P 2H P  
3C  
What does North hold?

3. N E S W  
1H 1S  
What does East hold?

4. N E S W  
1C P 1D P  
1NT  
What does North hold?

5. For the opening lead, East leads C9. What clubs does East hold?

*For the answers, see the bottom of the last page.*

**CULLEN  
CUP**

If you are playing on Fridays at 7:30pm then you are taking part in the Cullen Cup. It is a handicapped event, with the best 12 scores between 7 August 2020 and 12 March 2021 counting. Check how you are doing at the Competitions tab on the Club web site.

# What do you do ... when there's a penalty card?

Last month, when talking about revokes, I said it was possible to revoke and not suffer any tricks being awarded against you. This happens when the revoke is discovered early enough. In fact sometimes, someone will play a card and immediately say “oh, sorry, I can follow suit” and pull out the correct card.

A while ago I played at a club – an EBU affiliated club with some good players – where this seemed to happen at every other table. And people were just putting the revoke card back in their hand! Now, that’s OK if it’s the declarer. After all, they get no advantage by showing the other players what cards they have in their hand. But it’s quite a different kettle of fish for defenders. They are giving their partner information. You could even devise a signalling system. Want a heart lead? Then just play one by “mistake” as a revoke. No need to tap your chest to show you want a heart if you can use a revoke instead.

As most people know, a defender’s revoke card has to stay face up on the table and has to be played at the first legal opportunity. They even know it is called a Major Penalty Card.

But I suspect that not everyone knows the full story. What if the offender is, in fact, using the “accidental” revoke as a signal to their partner for the lead? How can you safeguard against that? Well, the laws have evolved what are known as “lead restrictions”.



If the offender’s partner is on lead when the Major Penalty Card is still on the table, then they must first let the declarer say whether they want to impose a “lead restriction”. The declarer can either require a lead of the suit of the penalty card, or prohibit a lead of that suit for as long as that player has the lead. (So, for example, if prohibited from leading a spade, they can’t play the ace of hearts, win the trick, and then switch to a spade.) The offender has a measure of respite, however, as they can pick up the penalty card and put it back in their hand: it no longer has to be played at the first opportunity.

If the declarer does not exercise this option, the Major Penalty Card stays on the table. If it is still there when the offender’s partner next gains the lead again, declarer still has the option to exercise the lead restriction.

You don’t need to remember the details. Just call “Director, please” and when told there is a penalty card, ask for the lead restrictions to be explained.

If you’re wondering whether there is such a thing as a Minor Penalty Card, the answer is “yes”. These can arise when a defender accidentally drops a card. They are treated differently from Major Penalty Cards and I don’t want to confuse you, so just call “Director, please” when it happens and they will tell you what to do.

*David Dunford*



## Priday Cup

The happy winners of the County’s annual Priday competition were Colin Horsburgh (left) and Gerry McCormack. This year’s Priday was for players in the County with an NGS rating of 10 or below, so with an NGS of 8 Colin and Gerry did well indeed.



## Answers to Bidding Basics

1. It’s generally accepted that you need 5+ hearts to respond hearts over partner’s spades, because of the gap between the bids. Also, to bid at the 2-level, South needs at least 9 HCP, some would say 10+.
2. North has gone through the barrier. (The barrier is two of what was opened at the one level, in this case the barrier is 2S.) This shows 16+ HCP. North has also shown 5+ spades and 4+ clubs.
3. An overcall always promises at least five cards in the

- suit, although some partners may let you off if you hold just AKQJ.
4. Playing ACOL, North is showing a balanced hand with 15-16 HCP and no four card (or longer) major. If they had 4 cards in clubs and 4 in a major, they would have opened the major. There’s just a chance that their distribution is 4-4-1-4.
5. Playing standard leads, a 9 will always either be a singleton or the top card of a doubleton.