

# THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

## Newsletter - November 2020

### Poyser Cup



Lynne Cumberpatch  
and  
Iris Foweather  
winners of  
The Poyser Cup



### Max Radford Bowl



Dave Quinton  
and  
Stuart Wharton  
winners of  
The Max Radford Bowl



### Jordan Cup Individual Competition Sat 14 Nov 7:30pm

A chance to get your name engraved on one of the Club's trophies.

You don't need a partner, so just turn up and register to play. You will have a new partner and new opponents each round. There won't be time to agree a complicated system, so why not keep it simple? Modern English Acol with three weak twos, Stayman, red suit transfers and simple Blackwood should avoid misunderstandings.



### Tuesday 10th November

As usual, the Club is supporting the simultaneous pairs event organised to raise funds for the Children in Need appeal. We will do this at our regular time of 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10th November.

If you've not played in a simultaneous pairs event before, this is the way it works. You play in the usual way, with Master Points awarded as usual. But you will be playing the same boards as lots of other clubs around the country. The competition organisers then compile all the results together, producing one long ranking to see how you compare with everyone else who played. If you scored a top on a board at the Club, it is even more satisfying if you find that no-one else in the other clubs that night managed to find the winning play. On the other hand, if you got a bottom it can be reassuring to find that you weren't the only one to be unlucky!

There are extra Master Points awarded based on the overall rankings. There's also a commentary that you will be able to download afterwards, with suggestions as to how the hands should be bid and played.

It is customary for the Club to pass on the table fees to Children in Need for the event, via the competition organisers, ECATS. On this occasion also, the Club will pass on your full \$3 for everyone who plays. Members often like to add a little extra. If you would like to do so - and just 50p would be a welcome donation - please use the ECATS donation page

<https://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/FAQ/howtopay.asp> giving your club as Nottingham and CIN as the reason for your donation.

We hope you enjoy the evening, with the added satisfaction of helping a good cause.

# Devilishly Winning Ways

Now, let's be honest – and that's something you won't hear me say very often – we all want to gain an advantage over our opponents, don't we? Some do it by learning their system, discussing it with their partner, reading books and even going on courses! But, come on, seriously, who has the time to do that? Fortunately there are some short cuts, which I'm going to share with you now. Playing on BBO has changed things a bit; some of the old ways don't work quite so well but, fortunately, it's opened the door to new ways of gaining an advantage.

My favourite newcomer, courtesy of BBO is the self-kibitz. This is where you use a second BBO user name to watch the play. Bridge is a lot easier when you can see all four hands! It's particularly helpful in team games where you can watch the other table and see whether the opposition has bid the risky game.

Unfortunately not all tournaments allow kibitzers, but you don't have to rely on old technology and use a phone to chat to your partner about a hand. Now we have Zoom, so your partner can share their screen and you can see their whole hand at a glance.

The robots can be quite a boon. Have you got a difficult choice of which way to take a finesse, or just have no idea of how to play the hand? Log yourself out for a few minutes. The Director will substitute a robot, who will make a much better job of it than you ever would.

Perhaps you made a mistake early on when playing the last board of the round? No worries, just play very slowly and when the round times out you'll get 50%. Yes, the director might award an adjusted score, but there's always the chance that they are too busy to notice.

Slow play at any point in the tournament can always work to your advantage. The opposition will be watching the clock and, with a bit of luck, will become sufficiently rattled that they'll make a mistake. Alternatively, you can make a last minute claim in the hope that they won't check to find that there's not the faintest chance that you will make as many tricks as you have claimed.

In the old days of face-to-face bridge, we used to take long pauses in the hope that the opposition would forget what cards had been played. Now we play online, everyone can have perfect memory – we can write down not just what the opening lead was, but every card played. But no need to write down the bidding sequence, BBO lets you see that at any point during the play.

One of my favourite ploys in the old days was to make the opposition feel as ill-at-ease as possible. I'd sit north-south and take over as much of the table as possible; positioning score card, spectacles case and glass of water, and moving the opponent's bidding box out of the way, so the opponents had as little space as possible. To really show who was boss, I would push my chair back, cross my legs and throw my cards disdainfully onto the table. Unfortunately we have to be more subtle on BBO.

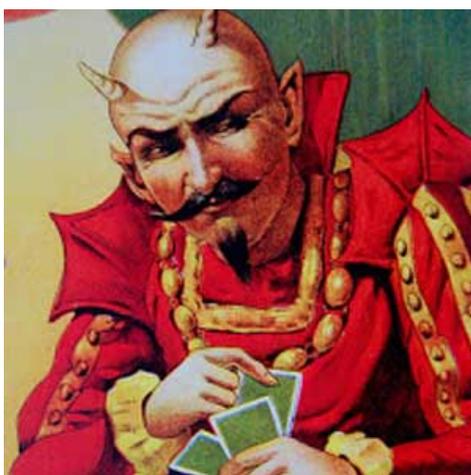
On BBO we don't demonstrate our superiority, instead we keep the opposition on the back foot by demonstrating their inferiority. Tell them their bidding was wrong, better still misleading, and that they should have alerted it. You can also be helpful by announcing that opponents made more tricks on other tables.

Self-alerting on BBO can be great fun; although you will always, of course, insist that you don't really understand how it's supposed to be done. Try to avoid alerting at all times. If you are asked for an explanation, don't do anything. Most people are watching the clock and will give up pretty quickly. If you are really pressed, only give half an answer. For example, if you are explaining your 5♣ response to 4NT, just say 1 or 4, don't say whether it is aces or key cards.

In fact, the less information you give throughout, the better you will do. You'd be a fool to tell your opponents your discard system, or any of the signals you use.

No need to thank me for these tips, just don't pass them on to my opponents.

*The Knave*



## SEPTEMBER MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Local Master	John Ellis, Barry Finn, Sue Hollins, George Mackenzie Lynne Marlow, Ian Topham, Lois Wilson		
Club Master	Paula Foulds, Morag Hunter, Gerry McCormack, Stefka Samus		
County Master	Diane Sharrock		
1 Star Master	John Edwards	2 Star Premier Master	Ann Adkin
3 Star Premier Master	Clare Batten		
4 Star Regional Premier Master	Graham Brindley	Life Master	Dorothy Close

# Match points v Teams scoring

## Hand taken from the Saturday night tournament (Ladies & Men's trophy The Nottingham Bridge Club)

My thoughts, in a covid self-isolation (14 days) because my app (Test and Trace) says so.

This involves myself and my medium suffering partner, Patrick, (he's too young to be a long suffering partner yet!), opponents David Dunford (Club Chairman and keeping things happening behind the scenes at the NBC, he does a lot without taking any credit) and Christ Frost (super sub on the spares desk).

All vulnerable. Three passes to me ... Playing ACOL, I would open 1♥, but I play a 5 Card Major system (2/1)

D 13	N suitegg ♠ K7643 ♥ K974 ♦ J107 ♣ Q	W N E S P P P P 1♦ 1♠ 2♣ 3♠ X P P P
W andrew42 ♠ A ♥ Q632 ♦ AK92 ♣ J986	S D_H_D ♠ Q10982 ♥ A105 ♦ Q64 ♣ 32	patlapatat J5 ♥ J8 ♦ 853 ♣ AK10754

with Patrick so it's a 1♦ opening for me showing a viable diamond suit (with a poor one I would open 1♣). Chris pops in with 1♠, a little light with a stiff ♣Q (stiff honours - K, Q or J - tend not to carry their weight, unless there is an indication that partner has strength /values there).

2♣ by Patrick, non-forcing, but showing values having passed. 3♠ by David reasonable and fully justified level of fit -1 (5 + 5 -1= 9) when vulnerable and a double from me implying any place to play including leaving the double in.

From my point of view, it's pass at teams. Nothing to gain if 4♣ makes 130 or opponents down one. 100 not a lot of difference, but if I double and they make it's a huge score. BUT ... At match points it's a different matter.

I know Patrick has values for his bid. I trust him! I have three fast tricks and declarer looks like he's going to have problems setting up side suits (he's probably trump bound - i.e. too many!) and, with my hand, I have first round control of the trump suit which allows me to dictate the line of play.

Patrick Leads ♣K asking for count (Ace for attitude - King for count). I play the ♣9 to show an even number of cards (not the ♣8; spare the highest card you can to make it easy for your partner). Patrick continues with the ♣A forcing declarer to ruff.

Chris plays a spade. I win and play ♦K (again asking for a count in the suit). Patrick plays ♦3, showing he has an odd number (probably three of them). I cash the ♦A, then exit with another diamond, making declarer open up the other suit, namely hearts. We only need a trick from this suit (♥J from Patrick will do) to take Chris one down doubled, and plus 200 is always a winning score at Pairs.

Easy game!

Andrew Scott

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Our congratulations go to Mark Goddard, our Club President, who was elected County Chair at the recent AGM of the County Association.

The other members of the County Committee are Ian Dovey, Keith Spencer, Chris Frost, Brian Brooks, Mel Shepherd and Shirley Ashtari. We note with interest that they are all members of The Nottingham Bridge Club. We wish them well in steering a course for the County through the months ahead and, as we all earnestly hope, a return to club bridge at real life tables.

## EVERYONE IS A BEGINNER!

Graham Brindley and Ian Dovey have embarked on a new venture. They are teaching beginners online. The two of them have worked together before, teaching an EBU FastTrack course for the South Notts group of Bridge Clubs. But that was face-to-face, and online will be quite different in many ways. We wish them every success.

Graham, of course, has built up good online experience with his Thursday evening sessions for improvers. These sessions will continue and if you would like to join them, send him an email at [graham@brindley57.plus.com](mailto:graham@brindley57.plus.com) for more information.

## Errors and Omissions

We have been informed that the Eric Nunn Trophy was donated to the Club, in Eric's memory, by a member of the Club who asked to remain anonymous.

We have also been reminded that Clare Batten already had a place on the Club's Honour Boards, having been awarded the Lucy Shillito Trophy for services to the County in 2018.

Happy to set the record(s) straight!

# Reviewing Your Play?

When (or after) playing in a tournament, do you ever think “Could I have played that better?” or “How did everyone else make an extra trick?” I often do, so I looked a little deeper into what BBO has to offer. By logging into <https://www.bridgebase.com/myhands/> all the help you could ever want is there for the asking. This handy little tool enables you to look at all the hands you have played and analyse every card. This is what you see:

**Get hands played by a user between two dates**

\*Enter username:

Enter the start date:  -  -

Interval to retrieve:

Interval direction:  Backward  Forward

Show summaries every:

Logged in as maboitelo [Logout](#)

\* denotes required field

(Your own username should appear at the top.) Set the date you played and click on “Get hands”. Choose the hand you want to look at and click on “Movie”. (If you click on “Traveller” it will show the results for other tables just like on Bridgeweb). Here is an example:

**10♦**

W	D_H_D	E	S
♠ 53 ♥ A10983 ♦ 8742 ♣ Q3		♠ AJ107 ♥ Q76 ♦ AJ103 ♣ 84	
			♠ Q98642 ♥ KJ42 ♦ 9 ♣ A9

Contract: 3♣ N NS: 0 EW: 0

You can repeat the play by clicking on "Next" just like in BBO History - in "Options" you can choose whether to move card-by-card or trick-by-trick - but the really magic button is GIB. (No idea what it stands for!) Before clicking "Next", click on GIB and it shows for each card how many extra (in green) or fewer (in red) tricks declarer is likely to make if you lead that card.

Here is an example: I have just won a trick and am considering what to lead:

**10♦**

W	D_H_D	E	S
♠ 53 ♥ A10983 ♦ 8742 ♣ Q3		♠ AJ107 ♥ Q76 ♦ AJ103 ♣ 84	
			♠ Q98642 ♥ KJ42 ♦ 9 ♣ A9

Contract: 3♣ N NS: 0 EW: 2

Apparently, if I lead a club, the = sign shows that the contract will just make; ♠7 or ♦3 could give them two extra tricks; otherwise they are heading for one extra trick. So the best card would have been a passive trump lead.

It would have been nice to see a red number as that indicates we could get them down, but not this time.

You can do GIB for every card that is played if you wish. If only these would pop up when we are playing, but as I often say, hindsight is a wonderful thing.

*Maboitelo*

**Editor's Note:** GIB stands for Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridgeplayer. The computer program, written by Matthew Ginsberg, became the world champion in computer bridge in 1998. BBO's robots use GIB for their bidding and play and are rated at about Queen in the NGS ranking system

## The NICKO

The National Inter Club Knock Out (NICKO) competition for teams of four is being played online this year, over a series of rounds starting after 24 November. Full details are available on the EBU web site.

Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish. If you would like to enter a team, please email [Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club](mailto:Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club) by 16 November so that we can complete the necessary paperwork in good time.

## Cullen Cup

The Club's Cullen Cup competition is our handicapped Friday night competition. This year it will be based on your best 12 scores at our BBO Friday nights from 7 August this year to 12 March next year. The handicaps are calculated on a rolling basis by Bridgebase, using your results from the past 12 months, and so may change during the period of the competition.

You can follow your progress on the Competitions section on the Club web site.