

# THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

## *Newsletter - October 2020*



**C**ongratulations to Graham Brindley and Clare Batten, winners of the Club's competition for mixed pairs, the Eric Nunn Trophy, on 12th September.

This is Clare's first entry onto the Club's Honour Boards. But Graham is no stranger to our walls. He can (modestly)

boast to have won the Broadhead Bowl (2007), the Crantock Bowl (2011) and the Max Radford Bowl (2014). He was also awarded the Lucy Shillito Trophy, for services to the County, in 2013.

The Jordan Cup, for individuals, is his next challenge!

**IMPROVE  
WITH  
GRAHAM**

1 Oct - Defence to 1NT, the Landy convention  
8 Oct - Overcalling, part 1  
15 Oct - Overcalling, part 2 - the unassuming cue bid  
22 Oct - Negative doubles  
29 Oct - Opener's rebid

Email Graham at [graham@brindley57.plus.com](mailto:graham@brindley57.plus.com) for more information.

# Club Competitions

The Eric Nunn trophy was presented to the Club by his family, following Eric's death on 11 February 2008, at the age of 86.

Eric was a stalwart of bridge in the county. He was a member of the County Committee for 25 years, holding the posts of Secretary, Captain, and for the last 12 years of his life, President. Throughout most of this time, he was also the county's EBU delegate, representing the county enthusiastically and reporting back conscientiously.

He was an active and successful bridge player, achieving the rank of Grand Master. His name appears on most of the County's trophies. Eric represented the County in the Midlands League on countless occasions, and was frequently a member of the County's team in the Tollemache Cup (the EBU inter-county competition for teams of eight).

Eric played at the Nottingham Bridge Club almost every night, where Frank Ball was a regular partner for nearly

20 years. Eric's name can be found numerous times on the Club's honour boards.

Can you help us with the history behind some of our other competitions?

We must have members who remember Max Radford. Please let us have your memories so that we can share them with newer members.

It has been suggested that the Poyser Cup was presented by the local jewellers, E S Poyser and Sons. But does anyone know what the connection was with the Club?

We will be awarding the Jordan Cup for the Club's individual competition. So far we haven't found anyone who can tell us about Jordan. Can you?

Finally, the Crantock Bowl is presumably named after the Crantock Club, which was a separate club from the Nottingham Bridge Club. Did they amalgamate? Or does anyone know the history?

## Saturday 10 October Poyser Cup & Max Radford Bowl

The Poyser Cup will be awarded to the highest ranking ladies pair and the Max Radford Bowl to the highest men's pair.

Mixed pairs are welcome to take part, but will not be eligible for the trophies.

## Decision Making: Which Game?

Chatting with a friend recently about the use of Stayman and whether we should look for 4♥/♠ or play in 3NT, I was reminded of this hand from a few weeks ago at a local on-line (BBO) session. I was in third seat and my hand is shown below.

♠ K J 9 8  
♥ Q 8 4 2  
♦ 6 5  
♣ K J 4

Playing 12-14 NT with three weak 2's, partner opened 1♠. RHO 'Passed' and with 4-card spade support and 10 points it was straightforward to bid [stop] 3S

(We have a fit ... Show it!).

After a Pass on my left, partner rebid 3NT.

I now knew partner had a 15-16 count and a balanced hand. So, the question was quite simple – "Do we play in 3NT or 4♣?" More than half of the pairs played in 4♣, I 'Passed' and partner played in 3NT.

3NT made 9 tricks, 4S made ... 9 tricks.

As a rule, two balanced hands make the same number of tricks in NT as they make in a suit contract; declarer tends to have the same losers playing in a suit or in no trumps. So – as in this example – 3NT makes but 4♥/♠ will go one off; or if 4♥/♠ is making then 3NT is usually making 10 tricks. Hence, when playing Match Point Pairs, the percentage play for better scores is to play balanced hands in NT.

*Silent Bidder*

## CLUB LOCKDOWN TEAMS OF FOUR COMPETITION

During the lockdown, we embarked on a teams of four competition. This has now concluded with the teams ending as:

1. Goulash
2. The Pet Tanks
3. Geradida
4. JILK
5. The Dream Team

Goulash comprised Clare Batten, Graham Brindley, and Dorothy and Christopher Close.

Congratulations to all those who took part.

# Help! I've misbid. What do I do?

We've been asked what you should do when you misbid. Misbids can come about in a variety of ways. In face-to-face bridge they can happen because of sticky cards in the bidding box, or because an ace gets hidden behind your other cards. Those don't happen on BBO - they've been replaced by misclicks - but you can still misbid as a result of miscounting your high card points, forgetting your own system, or losing your concentration for a moment, just as in face-to-face-bridge.

On the face of it, you might think there should be an easy answer for what you should do, but that's not the case. Several of us have discussed the subject at length, and taken advice from Robin Barker, the Deputy Chief Tournament Director of the EBU. At the end of all that, this is what we advise:

1. It's best to do what you can to reduce the chance of your misbidding as a result of misclicking. We strongly recommend that you use the "Confirm bids" option in BBO, which requires you to click on an "OK" button before the bid is accepted. There is no option to undo in our tournaments.

You can set this option, when you are logged into BBO, via your "Account" tab. Then click on the "Settings" tab, and slide the button by "Confirm bids" to the right so that it turns green.

2. Although it's a natural reaction to want to apologise for a misbid, you must not tell your partner that you have misbid. So, do NOT chat to table about your bid.

3. Your opposition is entitled to know what your bidding system is, but not what cards you hold in your hand. So, if your misbid is an alertable bid in your system, you should alert and explain what it means in your system as soon as you possibly can. A couple of examples:

If you are void in spades and open 1♠ instead of the 1♥ you intended, there is no need to alert it and no need to tell your opponents that you misbid. It could work to their advantage or their disadvantage but there will be no

adjustment to the score. It's generally referred to as "the rub of the green".

If your right hand opponent opens 1♠ and you mean to bid 2♥ but bid 2♠ without, of course, alerting it, you will almost certainly receive a click on your bid asking for an explanation. If you play Michaels, then you just explain what the bid means in your system i.e. 5+ cards in hearts and 5+ in a minor.

4. Occasionally, you may find that it is simpler to admit to the opponents that you have misbid. For example, if you carefully gave the point count for 1NT and then clicked on 1♠. You can do this by clicking on your bid and entering Misbid as your explanation. Or, if you need more space, by chat to Opponents - but not to table. But remember, if your bid does have a meaning in your system, you must also tell your opponents what your partner expects it to mean.

5. Everybody makes mistakes at times, so don't let it disrupt your game. Finish the bidding and play the board as well as you can. If the non-offending side feel they have been disadvantaged, they can ask for the score to be adjusted by emailing [Director@NottinghamBridge.Club](mailto:Director@NottinghamBridge.Club) within 20 minutes of the end of the tournament explaining

their case. It is not sufficient to inform the director during the tournament; however, if you do so, they will be able to take a copy of the table chat which may help to clarify exactly what happened. The decision on whether or not to adjust the score will be taken by a qualified director, normally consulting

with another director and reviewing the bidding and play of the board. The key factor is whether the players were damaged as a result of misinformation from the opposition about the system they play. But if your poor result is just down to bad luck - as in the example above where the opposition opened 1♠ by mistake and perhaps kept you out of a game in spades - there will be no adjustment.



## AUGUST MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Local Master

Paula Foulds, Paul Goodwin, Morag Hunter

Club Master

Anna Harper, Bibi Sawahon, Paul Wicks  
Barbara Wifling, Dan Zimsek

## Virtual Statistics

From the beginning of June, when we started playing as an EBU Virtual Club, to the end of August, we held 43 tournaments on BBO, with 122 people playing in at least one tournament, plus the occasional robot.

Five people have played in over half of those tournaments, Of those, two have played in 32 tournaments - but they have only infrequently played together.

# Weak Two, or Not Weak Two, That is the Question

*Andrew Scott shares his thoughts on a board from the recent international teams competition. Andrew was playing with Patrick Gaudart, while our other pair were Mark Goddard and Richard Bonnello. The opposition were the Dutch team of Ons Dorp, who beat Nottingham into second place.*

## Rule One

If you are in first or second seat and vulnerable and considering whether to open a Weak Two, then you need either to be sound (i.e. with 8/9 points) or have good distribution (e.g. 6-4 or better).

## Rule Two

Obey Rule One!

A question that players ask is whether they can open a Weak Two when holding a side 4 card suit in a major. My answer is "YES". Many of us will have been taught not to, but the rule in my book is that it is better in the long run to be active as soon as possible rather than delay.

7 D	N Andrew42	W N E S
	♠ A	P 7♦ P P
	♥ AK7	P
	♦ AQ1064	
♣ AKQ10		
W arturow	E wjamesg	
♠ K87642	♥ 10953	
♥ Q4	♠ 8532	
♦ 5	♦ 3	
♣ J865	♣ 9743	
	S patlapatat	
	♠ QJ	
	♥ J1096	
	♦ KJ9872	
	♣ 2	
		7♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0

There I was, ready to open 2♣ and deciding how to bid the hand, when Patrick pops up with a weak 2♦. Problem solved! Using Rule One, I bid 7♦. Trust your partner!

7 D	N bertb	W N E S
	♠ A	2♠ X 4♠ 5♦
	♥ AK7	P 5♠ P 6♦
	♦ AQ1064	P P P
♣ AKQ10		
W Hail	E kram	
♠ K87642	♠ 10953	
♥ Q4	♥ 8532	
♦ 5	♦ 3	
♣ J865	♣ 9743	
	S rik007	
	♠ QJ	
	♥ J1096	
	♦ KJ9872	
	♣ 2	
		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

So, what happened on the other table? It looks as though South was of the old school, not liking to bid a weak 2♦

with a side 4 card major. So, South passed.

This gave Richard the opportunity to bid 2♠, again using Rule One (with good distribution). Now North has a problem, Richard's bid makes it tough for the Dutch N/S pair to find their grand slam.

Note that, after North's double, Mark leaps to 4♠. He knows his partner has six spades, so with four spades himself he bids to the level of the fit i.e. 4♠. The weaker we are, the more destructive we need to be. With a zero point count himself, Mark knows that the Dutch pair almost certainly have a slam on and therefore bids 4♠ to make it as difficult for them as he can.

North's bid of 5♠ showed a massive hand, but would that get the answer they were looking for? South's 5♦ was a free bid and must show values, therefore there is no need to ask ... bid 7♦.

## Wise Words

- \* Trust your partner.
- \* Trust your system. Whatever your agreements, the more you deviate, the more your partnership will creak.
- \* Don't use conventions (toys) or ask questions for the sake of it, unless it will give you an answer that will help you.
- \* And don't pressure partner, keep it simple!

## International Danish Teams of Four

Geoff Topol was captain of our team of four competing against 31 teams from a variety of other countries over four weekends.

Other members of the squad were: Andrew Scott, Patrick Gaudart, Mark Goddard, Richard Bonnello and Robin Fisher.

As you can see from the rankings, the team had a very successful time and came second.

They enjoyed it so much that they are entering again in October.

We give them our congratulations and wish them every success in their next foray.

Ons Dorp
Nottingham
Herresl
Horsham 2
Cork 1
Horsham 1
Lelidschestraat
Game of Groans
Heerestraat
Wembley
Borokho Four
Cork 3
Coolsingel
Virtual Vikings
Vreesburg
Deva Believers
Bath A
Bath B
Borokho 5's
Ngaude
Cheltenham Wanderers
Channel 5 News
Cork 2
Alban Abbotts
Cheltenham TDs
HERMANUS Springboks
Houtstraet
Bath D
HERMANUS Proteas
Fleet Street
Bath Green
Cadiz