

# THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

## *Newsletter - September 2020*

### From the Chairman

When I was elected Chairman, I knew my first job would be to present the prize at the Broadhead Bowl. But I didn't realise that my second would be to close the club premises! Let alone that, five months later, we would still be closed.

Fotunately, we seem to be making a successful transition into becoming an online club. That's not just in terms of our BBO tournaments, but with Graham Brindley setting the pace by taking his improvers' sessions online, too. Your Committee is currently exploring what else we can deliver online to fill in the shorter days as autumn comes.

The team running our Wednesday evening tournaments, which are particularly suitable for less experienced players, is already working on ways that they can enhance the learning experience for players who wish to improve.

As you can read below, we are taking some of our competitions online, starting in September.

The trustees have also embarked upon a programme of refurbishment of the club premises. We'll give you more information on progress in later newsletters.

*David Dunford*

### Monthly Online Competitions

Your Committee is watching developments closely as to when we might be able to reopen the Club for face-to-face bridge. A month ago, there was a hint that there may be a way forward. However, with all the talk of a possible second wave, that seems to have receded. So, it was decided to commit to taking some of the Club's competitions online for the remainder of the calendar year. We settled on the second Saturday of the month, with a 7:30 pm start. There was some discussion of how many boards to play, but several of the committee members mentioned screen fatigue, so we will be keeping to 18 boards.

In September we will be holding the Eric Nunn Trophy. This is a mixed pairs competition and will be played as a Howell, to give a single winner. You don't have to be a mixed pair to take part; the trophy will be awarded to the highest ranked mixed pair.

In October, we will hold a single tournament to decide the award of both the Poyser Cup and the Max Radford Bowl. Again, anybody can take part, and it will be run as a Howell to give a fully ranked set of results. The best performing ladies pair will be awarded the Poyser Cup, and the best performing mens pair will be awarded the Max Radford Bowl.

In November we expect to run the popular Children in Need simultaneous pairs. A chance to compare yourself with pairs around the country and mull over the comments in the booklet, afterwards, of how an expert might have bid and played the hands. As usual, this would be on a Tuesday. However, we will also hold a special Saturday event and make this an Individual Competition. If you've not played in an individual competition before, the main feature is that you will play each board with a different partner. When played in a club, there's always a challenge for the director to get people to move to the right seat at the right table at the right time, but BBO will be doing all that for us with no effort needed from a director. No silverware for this one, but a pleasant evening with a difference.

In December, we will be holding our Christmas Party. The full details have yet to be decided, but Mark Goddard surely has something up his sleeve. The one decision that the Committee made, apart from the date, is that the online party will be self-catering! More details closer to the date.

**Saturday 12 September**  
**Eric Nunn Trophy**

---

**Saturday 10 October**  
**Poyser Cup**  
**&**  
**Max Radford Bowl**

---

**Tuesday 10 November**  
**Children in Need**

----

**Saturday 14 November**  
**Individual Competition**

---

**Saturday 12 December**  
**Christmas Party**

# Masterpoints for Beginners

As soon as you begin to play in our drives (either online or at the club) you may notice that the results display each pair's rank and Masterpoints. This note is a guide to what Masterpoints are and how they are awarded and used.

## What are Masterpoints?

They are actually just numerical – i.e. Points!! They are free – and are a reward for good play. Masterpoints are

Pos	No	Players	Match Points	Score %	Master Points
1	1	Player G & Player H	88	62.86	18
2	2	Player A & Player B	87	62.14	12
3	3	Player C & Player D	82	58.57	6
4	4		79	56.43	3

awarded at all our drives (and at most drives in other clubs you may play at). To acquire Masterpoints, you have to do nothing. They are automatically awarded to both members of a pair who do well in a drive.

## When are they awarded?

Masterpoints are awarded at Club drives, Teams play and National Events.

If you finish in the top third of places in a drive, both members of the pair are automatically awarded masterpoints. They are awarded whatever is the standard of the opposition. The number of points awarded depends on the number of players in the drive

Typically 40,30,20,10 points are awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place (both N/S and E/W). The points are assigned to your EBU number.

## Why have Masterpoints?

Your Masterpoints will accrue and when you have accrued enough, you are awarded a rank by the EBU. Points required - Local Master 100, Club Master 200, Area Master 500, District Master 1,000, then at 2,500, 5,000 etc further awards. The awards are publicised in the EBU magazine, and there are certificates awarded, although you may have to print the certificate yourself. Some ranks are accompanied by small gifts (e.g. pen, diary). There are different types of points - Local (usual and most common), Blue, Green, Gold - higher ranked events

You can opt out of Masterpoint awards and Ranks, or they can be Private to you, or Public and visible by everyone.

Full details on [www.ebu.co.uk/masterpoints/ranks](http://www.ebu.co.uk/masterpoints/ranks)

Phil Gross

## JULY MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Local Master  
County Master  
3 Star Master

Paul Wicks & Dan Zimsek  
Marc Gaudart & Dave Natrass  
Stuart Wharton

## TYLER HILL BRIDGE CLUB BLUE POINTED SWISS PAIRS COMPETITION

Sunday 20 September starting at 1pm

This is a charity event in aid of Porchlight, Kent's largest charity for homeless and vulnerable people.

Normally, you couldn't contemplate popping down to Kent for a competition of this nature, but it's being played on BBO so you don't have to leave the comfort of your own home.

Why are we advertising this tournament? Because this small club - playing once a week with 10-12 tables - has shown the initiative to do its own deal with BBO to ensure that the bulk of the table money can go to the charity rather than to BBO - blazing a trail that we could follow ourselves. It costs 12 BB\$ to enter and more details are available at <https://bit.ly/2PKDY4M>

## INTERNATIONAL TEAMS OF FOUR COMPETITION

The Club has entered a teams of four competition, with a total of 32 teams from the UK, Ireland, Holland and South Africa. It's being played over four days in August and September and is a Swiss (technically Danish, because some teams may play each other more than once) competition, whereby teams work their way up and down a ladder to see who ends up at the top.

Our team had a particularly good first day, winning all three of its matches and finishing top of the ladder. Playing were Geoff Topol, Andrew Scott, Mark Goddard and Patrick Gaudart.

Our thanks to Geoff Topol for putting together the squad of players, who will be competing in the competition. And congratulations on the excellent start!

# Bidding Strong Hands: What's the Problem?

Looking at hand records from club events there appears to be a recurring theme – people have difficulty bidding strong hands and forget an important part of playing bridge: Trust partner!

Two hands are reproduced below – one from a Nottingham Bridge Club event and one from Wollaton Park/Sunday Tigers, (thanks to Andrew Scott for providing the details of that hand). Only 3 pairs (of 12) played Hand 1 in the right contract, (well done), and only 2 pairs (of 16) got close to the right contract with Hand 2.

Let us look at what should have happened. (We assume all players are playing Acol with 12-14 NT and 3 Weak 2's, East is Dealer).

Hand 1	
West	East
♠ 965432	♠ KJ
♥ 64	♥ AQ109
♦ K32	♦ AQ
♣ 108	♣ AKQJ4

East opens 2♣ which should be showing 23+ or a game-going hand in any suit.

West bids 2♦ which should be either “Nothing to say” or “Wait and see”.

East now rebids (stop) 3NT – showing 25-26 points, balanced or semi-balanced - and West says Pass. Quite a few people with the East hand leapt to 4NT Blackwood (over 2♦). Why, don't you **trust partner** to bid on if he/she has values?

One of the West players reasoned that East must have 2 or 3 spades so decided to bid 4♠ on the presumed 6-2 fit. I think that is reasonable – but it is NOT forcing, unfortunately his partner decided otherwise and bid 6NT. (For the record – slam is unmakeable without help from the defence).

Hand 2	
West	East
♠	♠ KQ95
♥ 97	♥ AK2
♦ AKQ43	♦ J1098
♣ AKQ843	♣ 92

East opens 1NT (12-14).

West bids [stop] 3♣. “I have a really good hand with a club suit and is FORCING to game.”

East now trusts partner, and since he/she does not know exactly where West wants to play the hand, simply bids 3♥ - which shows the lowest first-round control, (the Ace!). If the majors in the East hand were swapped, then the correct bid would be 3♠.

West bids 4♦, (remember 3♣ was Forcing, opener cannot Pass).

East bids 4♥ – and since this is a repeat of the suit it must be showing the K, (and denying the A♠).

West bids 7♣ !!! (Well done to any pairs who found either 6♣ or 6♦).

*Silent Bidder*

**IMPROVE  
WITH  
GRAHAM**

Graham Brindley's popular online improvers sessions continue throughout September.  
Email him at [graham@brindley57.plus.com](mailto:graham@brindley57.plus.com) for more information.

**3 Sept** Responses to 2NT openers  
**10 Sept** Strong 2 club openers and responses  
**17 Sept** Further discussions on finesses  
**24 Sept** Two-suited overcalls

## Come and Join Us



If you felt this covid thing would all blow over in a week or two, and it wasn't worth getting involved with online bridge, it's not too late to change your mind and dip a toe in the water. After all, it looks as though it will be with us for a while yet.

We've run a number of familiarisation sessions for people to get them comfortable with playing on BBO. And we'd be happy to run some more. You don't need a computer, some people even prefer playing on a tablet. If you'd like to give it a go, just drop an email to [Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club](mailto:Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club) and we'll take you through it.

# David Wilkins R.I.P.

David Wilkins made a huge and lasting contribution to Nottingham Bridge Club. He held the positions of Chairman, Secretary and President. In his time, he set the club on the course to where it is now. Many of the things we take for granted, such as bridgemates, duplicate machines and scoring software were first brought in under David's chairmanship, and he was one of the key people involved in the bar extension.

Outside of the officer duties, David also was a regular director at the club as well as running beginners lessons (plus the many other behind the scenes things he did).

However, the thing I remember most about David was that he treated everyone in a kind and friendly manner. He always seemed to act with dignity and wisdom and was determined that the club should be a welcoming place.

On a personal note, he was President whilst I was Chairman (fitting really as he co-opted me onto the committee many years previous) and was always a voice of wisdom (indeed he was one of the main people I went to when I needed advice around the club...and I know I am not the only one that is true of). More than that he was someone I looked up to and whilst I am unlikely to find the equanimity he had, his is an example I would like to follow.

Any account of David would be incomplete without mentioning Gilly. Two nicer people you could not find and together they ensured that anyone who came to the club were made to feel welcome. Gilly of course, as well as supporting David, also did a substantial amount for the club, mainly behind the scenes, but which was appreciated by the membership.

David was honoured by the club in his lifetime, being awarded the Harry Lodge Trophy for club member of the year (with Gilly), the Lucy Shillito for services to bridge in the county and being made an honorary life member (one of only two to date). All those honours he was very humble about, saying he did not think he deserved them - needless to say, I and the committee who voted him an honorary member disagreed!

David is one of the true legends of the club and he will be missed.

*Mark Goddard*



David Wilkins was at school from the 1940s with my husband, Edward. Their friendship lasted until Edward died in 1996.

I have known David and Gilly since 1959 and our relationship has been close, steady and greatly valued since then.

Edward was once asked to write a reference for David and in his words David was "an absolutely decent man, independent-minded and without dogma; entirely un-self-seeking; dispassionate and compassionate; in sum a very balanced person".

He was the ideal person to go to when in need of advice from a calm, rational and wise friend. He was utterly reliable.

As friends we also saw his fun side in the games we played and the holidays we enjoyed together. Our regular weekend days of a shared meal and a friendly game of bridge are amongst my most treasured memories.

He will be much missed.

*Marian Griew*

David Wilkins passed away, peacefully, on the night of the 10th August, aged 89.

David's funeral is being held in the Serenity Chapel at Bramcote Crematorium, Coventry Lane, NG9 3GJ, at 1:15pm on Wednesday, 2nd September.

The chapel can accommodate the maximum number of people allowed by current regulations and Gilly will be pleased to have members join her.

The Nottingham Bridge Club will be sending flowers on behalf of members but Gilly has invited those members who wish to do so, to make a donation to the Myeloma UK charity.

These can be made via The Co-operative Funeralcare, 363-365 Aspley Lane, Aspley NG8 5RR.