

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Eleven

December 2010

IF SOMEONE PLAYS TOO SNOWLY, CALL THE TD

To all ye readers of goodwill - *merry greetings*.

To Bill McCarthy of Aylesbury BC - recipient of the EBU's Dimmie Fleming award for all the work he has given so freely to local bridge players - *warm thanks, Bill*.

To those weighing a 2011 New Year's resolution: an idea. Give a charity bridge event a go, perhaps an extra one you've never tried. It could bring rewards in spades. - *Ed*.

Children in Need 2010

Well done to the clubs that ran a heat of the Sim Pairs in aid of *Children in Need*. The buzzy heat at Summertown BC was once again inspired by Sara Alden. Why not plan your own heat for 2011 and contact Sara for some tips?

OBA Tuesday = County Night

The OBA meets at Oxford BC every Tuesday for a lively evening of bridge in which members or guests can test themselves against players from all around the county, not only familiar members of their local club. Been invited to represent your club in the Wessex League? Tempted to play in an OBA championship or a national EBU event? You may find that OBA Tuesday – known as “County Night” - offers the right practice.

The sessions are friendly, we hope, but are not lessons. You may face a convention you've never heard of. You are expected to follow the laws of the game and get the TD to help if anything “goes wrong”. Both players in a pair are obliged to have identical convention cards, offered to their opponents at the start of each round.

- ◆ No host system. Bring a partner!
- ◆ The 1st Tuesday of the month is played as a Pairs but with Butler scoring (IMPS).
- ◆ The 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays are run as ordinary duplicate pairs.
- ◆ On the 3rd Tuesday (Teams Night) you need to bring team mates!

When? 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

How much? £3 p.p. (visitors £4)

Where? Oxford Bridge Club, 147 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 7AN

Look forward to seeing you!



The contract was cold: as well as ♦A, Dummy had a couple of good spades.

Can you think up a better caption? Get it by 8 pm on 4 January 2011 to: *The OBA editor (see address, p.2).*

A telling lead

Last month at “County Night” I was dealer on board 14, love all, and I held:

♠864 ♥532 ♦T853 ♣A84 .

At my second turn to call I offered 5♣, but of course I began the first round by passing.

P 1♥ 4♣ 4♠

5♣ 5♠ P 6♥ (End)

Huh, we had to defend 6♥.

Partner's clubs were ♣KQJT7632 so it was perhaps surprising that she led ♣2.

Dummy put down... ♠AJ97

♥Q9

♦AKQJ74

♣5

It went ♣2, ♣5, my ♣A, declarer's ♣9.

Great, I'd won trick 1!

But to defeat 6♥ we needed two. And all I had left was rubbish: ♠864 ♥532 ♦T853 ♣84 .

What on earth should I lead back at trick 2?

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From a suit like ♣KQJT7632 the standard lead is ♣K. Here, as I held ♣A, partner could have won trick 1 with ♣K and kept the lead. Yet she'd led her very lowest club and made me lead to trick 2. Why? What could I lead that partner couldn't lead better? (For full deal, see below.)

Our October champs and non-experts...

OBA Ladies' Pairs:

1. Cathy Rowland & Mary-Ann Sheehy
2. Jo Murray & Helen Lawton-Smith
3. Sabina Pugh & Vicky Fleming (n-e)
Cathy and Mary-Ann held on to their title!

OBA Men's Pairs:

1. Ron Quanton & Peter Russell
2. Nick Smith & Chris Cooper
3. Mike Webley & Nigel Wilkes
Paul Morris & Tony Shaffner (n-e) came 5th.

The full deal (see above)

What partner couldn't lead was a suit she didn't have. Her tiny ♣2 was a 'suit preference signal' requesting the lowest ranking suit. No ♦s were a girl's best friend. I led one. She ruffed! On ♣K lead declarer's 6♥ would almost certainly have made. Bad luck, PP/Mike. Well done, Val.

♠ AJ97

♥ Q9

♦ AKQJ74

♣ 5

♠ K32

♥ T7

void

♣KQJT7632

♠ 864

♥ 532

♦ T853

♣ A84

♠ QT5

♥ AKJ864

♦ 962

♣ 9

Just for fun, have a guess:

A. **The Tollemache Cup** was named after...

1. a golden Tibetan flower
2. Baron Tollemache
3. a groovy alehouse in Brussels

B. **Squitchey Lane**, north of Oxford BC, got its name because the area once had lots of...

1. lodgings for academics
2. tough grass
3. bogland with wild plum trees

C. **Haddenham** on the river Thame is widely believed to be named after...

1. a rich hermit from Thame
2. an early German immigrant, Hadda
3. an inn used by gamblers

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Events in Oxon in early 2011

For more details see
the OBA Competitions Brochure
or the OBA website

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

National Pairs Heat

(a chance for pairs not entering their own club heat)

Tues 11 January 2011

7.15 for 7.30 pm (Oxford BC)

OBA Harwell Cup (team of 4)

Sun 23 January 2011

1.45 for 2.00 pm (Oxford BC)

£26 per team

OBA Pro-Am Pairs

Tues 25 January 2011

7.15 for 7.30 pm (Oxford BC)

Haddenham Swiss Teams

proceeds to charity
details to follow...

A ticket for the Cup Final?

Every year the English associations pick a team to vie for the **Tollemache Cup**. It begins in all-play-all groups from which two go to the Final. Our OBA team - Chris Cooper (capt.) & Bryony Youngs; Nick Smith & Alan Wilson; Ed Jones & Andrew Murphy; Denis & Kathy Talbot; Tim Dickinson & Joe Clacey - beat the mighty cup holders, Middlesex, by 20-0. But ended... third in their group. Argh, so frustrating! No ticket!

Stop press...

Please check the OBA website in the New Year for the new date of the **Haddenham Swiss Teams 2011**, postponed from the OBA calendar date. Each year this event raises valuable funds for the Arthritis Research Council. OBA stalwart Dr Mike Webley, a key player behind the event, says new therapies "are revolutionising the lives of many individuals."