

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Nineteen December 2012

Swords to Ploughshares

HM's forces are being cut and some soldiers re-trained as schoolteachers.

Will any teach bridge? Maybe the variant called Military Bridge?

Imagine: a world where kids planet-wide could grow to adulthood knowing that 'military' just meant a game of cards. Peace and good will. - *David Bygott*

New events in the county

Since becoming **chairman Robert Procter** has visited all the OBA's clubs to discuss a clutch of new activities to suit all levels. The roll-out has begun and will continue in 2013.

"Care to make up a table?"

- The results of our 2012 **Welcome Day Pairs** are on the OBA website.
www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk
- To enter our 2013 **Welcome** at the OBA June congress, held at Marlborough School, **Woodstock**, watch out for full details on the OBA website.
- To enter a **new Swiss Pairs** on 3 Feb 2013 contact **Wallingford BC** or check for details on the OBA website.
- Watch out for the special **Tues–Thurs Congress** in Oxford, 28-30 May 2013.

Events coming in January...

- **2nd Monday** of a month the **County Seniors** daytime ladder (at Roke)
(non-seniors may play without standing)
- **Tues 8 Jan** a heat of the **National Prs** (at Oxford Bridge Club)
- **Sun 27** our **Swiss Teams** championship (at Oxford Bridge Club)
- **Tues 29** the OBA annual **Pro-Am Prs** (at Oxford Bridge Club)

The Chairman discussing his ideas at a party marking Summertown Bridge Club's 20th birthday, held in Oxford at Maison Française.



Top of a national ladder

In the EBU's notional pairs ladder (NGS) the OBA's own **Clive Keep & Ron Quainton** are currently ranked 1st. Grading chess players is hard. Calculating who is best within a bridge pair or team is harder. So let's congratulate **Ron & Clive** equally. Well done. Keep it up!



(photo: editor)

*To win a meal for two at the historic **George** in **Dorchester**, enter our quiz on page 2.*

<http://www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk/>

Bidding – easy or hard?

(a) Easy

On club ‘teams night’ your partner likes to play a middling 1NT. Come board 13, all vul, he’s N, dealer. He opens: 1NT. You say, “14 to 16.”

East passes. You review your hand:

♠A62 ♥9853 ♦AQ54 ♣KJ

Two balanced hands, a joint 28-30 *hcp*, too few for 6NT. “3NT,” you call. On ♣4 lead, partner soon nets +600. “An easy game,” he says.

(b) Hard

Now you are in **the Tollemache qualifier**, facing county stars and internationals. To reach the final you must be alert to any chance.

On bd 13 your partner opens 1NT (14-16).

Your hand is the same as in (a) above.

If you’re OBA’s **Kathy Talbot** you’ll like this 14 *hcp* and see “a small chance” that pard has the right hand for a slam... and you’ll inquire.

Kathy’s inquiry began with: 2♣.

Her action paid dividends. Over N’s artificial 2♦ rebid, showing hearts, East put in a double.

“The double improved my hand,” Kathy told your editor. Further bidding showed that N had a 5th heart plus ♥A, ♣A and 2 kings. ♦K was out, but East’s double had revealed it sat well.

“So I bid 6♥,” Kathy said, “hoping that if there was a heart loser N would have a black Q or the ♠J. Failing that, the club finesse might work, allowing a spade discard.”

Dummy (**Denis Talbot**)

♠K84 ♥AKJ74 ♦62 ♣A73

West	East
♠J1073	♠Q95
♥Q1062	♥-
♦10	♦KJ9873
♣Q982	♣10654

♠A62 ♥9853 ♦AQ54 ♣KJ

West led ♦10.

Can you see how S made 6♥?

Despite this fine board and more, the OBA team (Cooper/McPhee, Smith/Wilson, Jones/Paul) came 4th (two to qualify). A tiny consolation was beating mighty Manchester 20-0, as if Oxford FC had knocked Man Utd out of the FA Cup by 4-0.

Well tried, OBA. Better luck next year...



Fun quiz with tasty prizes

After a dire summer our winter quiz has prizes to cheer you. Close by the stained glass and fine frescos of Dorchester Abbey stands **The George** with its friendly bar and vaulted dining room. Or courtesy of **Blackwell Music** you might listen to a CD by top violinist **Alfredo Campoli**, held in fond memory by so many OBA bridge players.

(More details in our online December extra)



Get your 3 answers (& EBU no) by Tues 15 Jan to the Editor or OBA membership secretary:

emilysmiddleton@gmail.com

1. A fictional dog was boated up the Thames by three men, namely J and Harris and...
Soames - Monty - George
2. A delightful pub in Dinton is called The Seven...
Stars - Sisters - Veils - Shades
3. A stained glass window in Dorchester Abbey bears the ancient coat of arms of...
Saladin - a Dinton hermit - John Le Bigod



Detail from a window overlooking the altar, Dorchester Abbey (photo: the editor)