

# OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

*Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association*

Number 26 July 2014

## *Triumph and Disaster*

While the soccer stars of Spain and Brazil faded at the 2014 World Cup, our three England bridge teams shone in the European Team Championships in Croatia. Our Seniors won Gold, our Women won Silver, our Open Team took Bronze. In so doing, all three teams qualified for next year's World Championships in India. Check the best stories in info-packed bulletins via <http://www.englishbridge.co.uk>. — *David Bygott*

### **Win some, lose some**

In the first **Midlands League** match of 2014/15 our A team led Notts, but lost 9-11, while our B and C teams both won well. In his match report the doyen of the squad, **John Williams**, offers some tips that may sharpen your play, e.g.

*“Take into account not just what partner has bid but what [he/she] has failed to bid.”*

Why not read JW's full report on our website? Hard going for beginners, but still entertaining.

<http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk/joomla>

Warks, who recently won our **Beck Cup** event (see *issue 25*) currently lead in all three Midland League divisions. Can any of our three teams catch them?

### **At our 2014 AGM in June...**

OBA Distinguished Service Awards were made to Oxford BC's **Esme Alden** and Blewbury's **Roy East** (see fascinating citations on the OBA website).

Among the trophies given out, the **President's Cup** was presented to the winning team by OBA President **Evan Harris**. From right: Stephen Brown (captain), Sandra Claridge, John Williams, Chris Wilson.



photo: C Dawe

### **Big change at County Night**

Play now begins at **7.15 pm** at the County's sessions on Tuesdays at Oxford BC. Do please arrive in good time — especially if you are, erm, directing?

### **Congratulations to...**

... all who helped to make our Green Pointed Congress such a success on 14/15 June and of course to the winners. (*details p. 3, online only*)

*Stop press... stop press...*

### **A new county bridge captain**

*See page 3 (online version only)*

### **Bridge and community**

Summertown BC's **Blue** Swiss Pairs in **Islip**, won by **Peter Litchfield & John Briggs**, was charmed into best behaviour by sax-toting TD **Rob Dixon** and the event raised over £500 for the Samaritans. On 1 July **Oxford BC** ceased to be a members' club and assumed wider obligations as **Oxford BC CIO**, a charitable incorporated organisation.

### **Home Away from Home**

**Sandra Nicholson**, from Oxfordshire Bridge Association, writes, “**BBC One** have contacted me, looking for couples or families who want to try a 4-day home swap holiday in Britain for a **new TV series**. They're particularly looking for 'lively and sociable people from the Oxfordshire area' – that's all us bridge players, of course. ☺

“If you've never tried home swapping, it's a great way to see another part of the country. We did our first one last year and I can thoroughly recommend it. You might even have time to check out the local bridge club!”

Interested? Apply before end of August. More info at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/shows/beonashow/home\\_swap\\_holidays](http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/shows/beonashow/home_swap_holidays)

## A question posed in issue 25

In a tournament your partner deals and passes (all vul). You and he/she pass throughout.

Your RHO opens 1♣. Your LHO says 2♣.

Your RHO ends the auction with 3NT.

Choose your opening lead from this...

♠ J86 ♥ QJ92 ♦ QJ65 ♣ Q8

Beginners may quickly pick ♥2 or ♦2 (both being fourths). But several county players asked *your ed* if this was a trick question, as strong players regularly lead from a “broken sequence” and are likely to see the major-suit ♥Q as the stand-out.

## How can keen learners improve?

To help intermediates kick on, an OBA-led initiative has begun. On 12 July *Education Officer Jonathan Price* addressed a gap in OBA provision by inviting an inaugural meeting of bridge teachers to Oxford BC to discuss key elements of booster sessions for intermediate players. Starting at Oxford BC **Jonathan** wants teachers to trial methods that can be replicated in intermediate groups all around the county. His questions included, “Can players be taught to defend better? If so, how? And what about higher-level declarer techniques?”

**Robert Procter** welcomed EBU general manager **Barry Capal**, who said improvers can learn from books or lessons or kibitzing. Barry also explained the value of NGS data. Popular Oxon bridge teachers including **Kathy Talbot**, **Alison Nicolson**, **Holly Kilpatrick**, **Sandra Nicholson** and **David Bygott** swapped views with others from as far afield as **Andover** and **Stratford**. One idea was a short series of OBA-led sessions aimed at players of an NGS around 50%. Details of a first session on 19 August are to appear on our website and in *Oxfordshire Bridge*, no 27. Watch this space!

## At the 2014 European Teams (1)

After this auction (1♦) P (1♠) 2♦\*  
(4♠) P P P

many a county player may wonder what West should lead from: ♠ 5 ♥ K8753 ♦ K4 ♣ AQT85

At teams, what lead would *you* choose?

(continued on p. 3, online only)

Full of food for thought from the meeting (see previous column) several bridge teachers went on discussing in a restaurant in nearby South Parade.



Cibo Restaurant and Cafe  
4 South Parade, Oxford OX2 7JL  
<http://www.ilovecibo.co.uk/>

## Quiz 26 for OBA members

Italy crashed out of the World Cup in Brazil and flopped at the European bridge championships in Croatia, but after re-capturing the Bermuda Bowl in 2013 the Italian Open team are still the world champions at bridge.

The award-winning **Cibo** ristorante in north Oxford is champion too (as they say up north) and you may win **a meal for two at Cibo** if you fill these 4 gaps correctly.

1. *Triumph and disaster occur in Kipling's poem...*  
**If - Not now - When**

2. *Kipling calls triumph and disaster “two...”*  
**sirens - imposters - mates - partners**

3. *A current Italian world champion is Norberto ...*  
**Sushi - Sochi - Gnocchi - Bocchi**

4. *The Italian word ‘cibo’ means ...*  
**food - big heart - little diamond - sky**

Your 4 answers, *with your EBU no*, by Mon 11 August **to the Editor or** to the Summertown BC secretary by email:  
<Blisses@waitrose.com>

## Congratulations to...

the winners at our **Green Pointed Congress** in Woodstock on 14/15 June 2014.

**Swiss Pairs:** Janusz Adamowicz & Roman Gembicki

**Swiss Teams:** Paula Leslie, Laura Pollo, Richard Bowdery, Steve Root

**non-experts** Pat Lewis & Miriam Seaver (of Oxford BC) who retained the **Sandra Landy Cup**.

## Our thanks to...

... **Chris Cooper**, for whom the June 29 county match v Notts (partnered by **Ed Jones**) was his last match for now as OBA teams captain.

Chris has often played at County Nights, his talent making him a match for the best, his free advice earning the gratitude of the many. Before his arrival, Oxon had lost several young stars (**Amit Badiani, Keith Bennett, the Fearnheads**, to name just four). Chris worked hard to build a competitive A team, casting his net wide to draw in players seldom seen in Oxon clubs. Eventually the OBA experienced a blue moon triumph, topping the **Dawes** division of the Midlands League. "And we almost made it into the Tolle final," Chris reminded *your ed*.

Elsewhere on our website Chris's predecessor **John Williams** pays his tribute to Chris, "the only captain in something like 40 years to steer us to the Dawes League Championship; we've also enjoyed success in the Porter and Markham Trophies during his reign of course."

## A new county captain

Without **Chris** at the helm, the OBA selection committee may find it hard to repeat his level of success. In the short term, triumphs may come only in the lower Midlands League divisions (Porter and Markham) not in the **Dawes**, nor the **Pachabo, Garden Cities** or **Tollemache**.

Chris's successor, pending confirmation, is **Alan Wilson**, a fine player who has begun to lead 'post mortem' discussions after each county match, a great idea. Perhaps he'll identify some livewires, honing their skills to be new stars, and then our OBA Education team will offer extra support? Already **Jonathan Price** is addressing the needs of 'intermediate' players keen to move up a gear. (*See page 2.*)

## Prize Quiz 25: results



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

**Answers:** 1984 Orwell Big Brother Sutton Courtenay. (The war memorial stands near the **George & Dragon**, around the corner from **The Fish** Restaurant and Bar.)

**Our winners**, drawn by Education Officer Jonathan Price, are: 1. Cliff Pavelin 2. Arthur Jones.

Cliff wins a tasty 3-course meal for two at **The Fish**.

Arthur wins some toiletries made with lavender grown in **Jacobs Field**, Islip.



On 19/20 July from 2 to 6 pm Jacobs Field will have an **open day** all welcome.

See... <http://jacobsfieldlavender.net/>

## At the European Teams (2)

(continued from p. 2)

Against 4♠ by S what opening lead did *you* choose?

|         |          |        |
|---------|----------|--------|
|         | ♠ AKJ9   |        |
|         | ♥ 4      |        |
| ♠ 5     | ♦ AJ9875 | ♠ Q742 |
| ♥ K8753 | ♣ 72     | ♥ J962 |
| ♦ K4    |          | ♦ T    |
| ♣ AQT85 | ♠ T863   | ♣ KJ94 |
|         | ♥ AQT    |        |
|         | ♦ Q632   |        |
|         | ♣ 63     |        |

Sitting West v England Seniors (who lost this match but still won gold, Poland taking bronze) **Apolinary Kowalski** led a canny ♦4 through dummy's side suit.

So long as E finds W's entry for the ruff, ♦K will snuff 4♠ too, whereas an attacking low heart gives S (declarer) a chance to make the major-suit game.