

SUMMER 2026



Newsletter

Summer is here – but we have had so much hot weather Summer may hopefully bring some relief from the sweltering conditions and perhaps some rain! Holiday time, and if you are off on your annual hols soon I do hope you have good time. I know there are better things to do than to play bridge on holiday but it can be quite fun going into a foreign bridge club. One of our members (now sadly departed) used to have a villa in Menorca and we became quite regulars at the Bridge Club de Menorca! It was a real mixture of nationalities: British; Spanish; German; French; Italian and Austrian but of course the game is a common factor and whilst one had to get used to playing different systems it was still Bridge! So, if you go somewhere abroad regularly why not one evening try the local club – its great fun.

RESULTS: Congratulations to Jan and Judy for winning the Ladies Pairs for a third successive year! Alan and Jonathan won the Mens Pair but most competitions have yet to conclude – please look at the details on the web site; there are competitions for all level of player.

FORTHCOMING: The MICHAEL FAREY will take place on the 24th July. This competition is designed for lower ranked players to win! It will be a normal bridge evening for everyone to enter but only players below the NGS rank of 10 qualify for the Michael Farey and are handicapped according to their NGS. See details of this competition and others on the Home page of our web site.

I know its a long way ahead but the 16th September will be our Teams of Four event - the Weir Trophy. This should give you all sufficient time to get your team together!

Please put these dates in your diary now as we need these events to be well attended.

FIND A PARTNER FEATURE

The find a partner feature is being quite extensively and successfully used but can I please ask that if you do require a partner you use the system and NOT write to me! I am prepared to forward to everyone correctly submitted partner requests that come through the proper system but I cannot undertake to write miscellaneous emails to help members find a partner.

To use the Find A Partner system:

Go into Members Only area from Web Site (click on Members Only on Home Page). You will be prompted for your email or EBU number and your password. Unless you have changed it your password will be that given to you in your welcome letter when you joined the club. If you have forgotten your password then email me. Once into the members only area click on MEMBERSHIP then FIND A PARTNER. Tick the boxes My Mail; My Phone; My mobile then tick the date under PR. **LASTLY CLICK ON CONFIRM to save your selections.**

When receiving a request for a partner click on **VIEW** to see all contact details of who is requesting a partner.

If you manage to secure a partner then PLEASE remove the partner request you made.

You will note that once a partner request is still “live” it appears as **?partner** on the calendar on the Home page.

DID YOU KNOW?

MAKING A CLAIM

It is not universally known that it is AGAINST the Laws of the game to unnecessarily prolong the play when you know that all the remaining tricks are yours if this will disconcert your opponents. (Law 74 B4). As you are not likely to know what will upset them, the effect of this is to encourage you to make a claim where it is obvious to do so – and indeed that is sensible as it speeds up the game. However, you need

Thank you for your support

to take care! When you make a claim it is not permitted to say “the rest are mine”. You have to state clearly and unequivocally how you will play out the remaining cards and you are most definitely NOT allowed to change your mind. If you realise a mistake has been made or your opponents query your claim the director MUST be called immediately. As soon as a claim has been made **play has ceased and cannot be re-started by “play them out”** or some such from your opponents (or you!?) The director will decide if your claim is legitimate or not. He will also decide if you have provided a full explanation of your claim. If you haven’t the director will rule against you. He (or she) will not be impressed by your argument that of course you would take the finesse, or that it was obvious you would draw the remaining trump etc etc. When you make a claim then do so with a full and complete explanation. There should be little or no discussion at the table. If the opponents (or dummy even) query anything then call the director as soon as possible. If the director rules against you he will decide the adjusted score.

DOUBLE OF OPPONENTS 1NT

If you double your opponent’s 1NT opening it is expected to be for penalty, with you having 15 or more points. If you double on less than this or your double is for take-out it must be alerted.

USING 4N for TAKE OUT

		PDBC Board 7 : Dealer South	All Vul
N. ♠ 7 ♥ AK986432 ♦ J642 ♣		This caused some fun! 11 tricks only for each side. Some Souths opened 4S; some 2C Game Force; some a strong 2S (or similar in Benji), promising 8 tricks. Over a 4S opening West has a straightforward bid of 4N (take out) and EW can find the making 5C though S may well push on – and so may EW leading to impossible slams or sacrifices being bid by both sides!	
♠ ♥ QJ75 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ AJ965	♠ T42 ♥ T ♦ T95 ♣ QT8732	Over a 2C (or other game force) bid West knows S has bid on distribution not points and can wait for NS bidding to unwind before doubling for take out or bidding 4N over 4S; some West’s made an immediate double over 2C which is possibly ambiguous but West will get another chance to take some action. Whatever North or East bids South will bid a number of spades. Again, West should make a take out call if South rebids 4S. 4N by W cannot be natural, so that should do!	
♠ AKQJ98653 ♥ ♦ 73 ♣ K4		The travellers showed 5HX – 3 by N; 6CX – 1 by W; 6S by N making (!!) (after 2S response to 2C by S) ; 5S by S making; 4S by S making; 5S by S making; 6SX-3 by S; 5S by S making.	
		I think most will open 4S by South but what would you do?	

ASKING QUESTIONS

Bridge must be one of the very few games played where the players often feel embarrassed to ask a question, especially in relation to the opponents bidding. If you don’t ask – and if you do and still don’t understand – you are putting yourself at an enormous disadvantage. If you ask what a bid means and you get told its “Lebensohl” or “Landy” or “South African Texas” etc and you are still none the wiser then don’t be reticent. Ask specifically what the bid means; the Laws do not expect you to put up with jargon and some of the most common conventions like Stayman can be played with variations eg is it promissory or not; is it 5 card Stayman; is it Puppet Stayman? etc. You are entitled to know!

However, you must have a valid reason to ask. Do not ask just out of curiosity. **Ask ONLY when it is your turn to bid.** Also, **if you have no intention of entering the auction then do not ask!** The very fact of you asking is conveying information to partner and declarer that you have some reason to ask and you will be penalised if that might have influenced your partner to bid, or make a particular lead, or possibly influenced declarer etc. Wait until the end of the auction when you can freely ask questions before the opening lead is made as that does not carry ‘implications’.

Thank you for your support – if you have a new or changed email address please let me know