

Spring 2026

Newsletter



We have had some tantalising glimpses of Spring which hopefully are a prelude to a good – but not too hot! – Summer.

COMPETITIONS

Don't forget to check ALL the competition results on the web site – there are competitions and ladders to suit all members of whatever standard.

The Mens and Ladies Pairs is a one off competition which will be held on the 10th June this year. So mark that in the diary now!

The Doug Stainton is open to players whose NGS ranking (and that of their partner) is less than or equal to 7 (47-49). Starts 3 April and ends 18th of September. You must play 10 qualifying events on Wednesdays and / or Fridays and highest average of those 10 matches wins.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

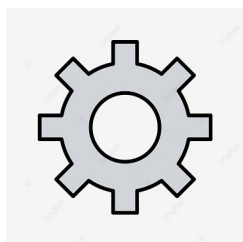
It has been really pleasing to see how the membership continues to grow, albeit steadily and we are now frequently holding events of 9 tables or more! However, we **always** need more members so please do all you can to spread the word about the club and tell all your friends! Once joined, please play as often as you can – the more tables the better as that gives more scope for different movements! Use the Find A Partner feature, or simply contact another member who has not come along lately. If you have difficulty in accessing the Members Only area of the web site let me know and I will help. Please remember to remove your Find A Partner entry once it is no longer needed!! There are lots of members who do not have a regular partner – contact me for names if you wish or put your own note in the Find a Partner feature.

EMAIL / BRIDGEWEBS etc

Some members, particularly those on Hotmail / Outlook report that my emails are still not getting through to them. This will almost certainly be because your email provider is blocking them as the mail is often sent to multiple recipients. Please ensure you go into your mail settings and mark my email address (alan1pdbc@gmail.com) as a **safe sender** and mark any mails from me that go into your junk folder as **Not Junk**. To make sure you receive all Bridgewebs mail go into the HELP section of Bridgewebs and select Email Queries and follow the instructions. PLEASE DO NOT USE BRIDGEWEBS MAIL TO SEND EMAIL TO ME OR ANY OTHER MEMBER – Use your own email! Thank you. Notice of this Newsletter will be sent by email and also the PDBC web site library will contain a link to this (and other) Newsletters.

REALBRIDGE TIPS

I am still surprised that so many members do not appreciate some of the Settings that are possible. These may make the whole RB experience more enjoyable, especially if you use a tablet or laptop. When at the table, look for the cog wheel symbol similar to that illustrated here and click on it. Now you can select a number of different setting options. I personally set for Simplified cards and one click operation but two click operation may help some users avoid misclicks. Have a good look at the options next time you play. Your selection is retained until you amend it again.



♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠
(reg charity ref: EW41010)

DID YOU KNOW?

HESITATION / UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION

Members should note that the Laws still apply to RealBridge matches in pretty much all respects as for F2F. I particularly would remind players that you should bid and play in tempo. You are allowed to hesitate and bid but should you think about a bid and then pass your partner may have to justify to the Director that he has his bid irrespective of your hesitation and the director will use the Laws and Ethics Committee guidance below to rule on any **possible** unauthorised information. In brief, your hesitation and pass puts your partner under a great deal of pressure. This sort of thing normally happens in a competitive auction, so please be aware of the possible consequences. The L&EC have issued the following guidance for Directors, in making their ruling as to whether to disallow or allow a bid when determining hesitation: (whatever the player may say!!)

The L&EC considers that:

- (a) A hesitation followed by a pass would normally be willing to hear partner bid on
- (b) A hesitation followed by a minimum bid after RHO's pass would normally have something in hand
- (c) A hesitation followed by a penalty double is normally willing to see it removed

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 4 or 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 in his line of play 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'.

If an opponent asks you what your partner's bid means please do **NOT** guess and certainly do **NOT** state that "I'm not really sure but am taking it as . . . etc". " If you don't know, say so. To say more will give information to your partner which is not allowed!

IN BRIEF

Must I have at least one 4 card major to bid 2C Stayman? No. Stayman is an asking bid not a telling one! Indeed, sometimes it is excellent to use in situations where you don't hold a 4 card major

Do I need to have a 5 card major to bid a red suit transfer? If you describe it as a transfer, yes. If you do use transfers to also include a weak take out, say in diamonds, you could try using 2S as a transfer to the minors (partner bids 3C and that can be passed or converted to diamonds), or use some other method. What you must **not** do is to use 2D (say) and describe it as a transfer to hearts or simply "hearts" when you and your partner play it as also including a weak take out in diamonds. If you do use 2D in this way it must be described as "may show hearts or weak take out in diamonds"

♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ Thank you for your support ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠

♣ ♦ (if you have changed your phone number or have a new email address, please notify Alan) ♥ ♠

1NT OVERCALLS

When you overcall 1NT you are expected to have 15+ points. If your system is to overcall 1NT on less it must be ALERTED. Provided you have a convention card lodged with the RealBridge system which states the range, you can overcall 1NT in the protective seat on less than 15hcp ie in the direct seat (the seat immediately on the left of the opposition opener) you will need 15+ but in the protective seat (1NT – P – P - ?) it can be less by partnership agreement provided it is on your card lodged with RealBridge.

HOW DO I LODGE MY / OUR CONVENTION CARD WITH REAL BRIDGE?

See <https://realbridge.online/convention-cards.html>

DOUBLES OF 1NT

Doubles of opposition 1NT openings are for PENALTY. You are expected to have 15+ hcp's. If you play that such a double is for take out, or may be on less than 15hcp's it must be ALERTED.

THE INFAMOUS JAMES BOND HAND IN MOONRAKER

Duke of Cumberland Hand - A purportedly rigged hand dealt the son of George III, the King of England, resulting in the loss of a £20,000 wager. The hand was used in the James Bond movie, "Moonraker" against the villain Drax. James bond is partnering M against arch villain Drax and his partner Meyer. Being Bond he was able to magically swap the real pack of cards for a pack he had secreted away earlier. There is a lot of money at stake on this hand and Drax, sitting East opens the bidding at 6 No Trumps. Bond, sitting South overcalls with 7 clubs! When the bidding gets to Drax he obviously doubles. Bond, as you might expect, redoubles.

Bond ruffs the diamond lead in dummy and then finesses the clubs. Following that, he ruffs another diamond in dummy and finesses clubs again. Every card in Bond's hand is now a winner and Drax has to pay up.

On any other lead, (hearts or spades), Bond would ruff in his own hand and then cross to Dummy with a diamond ruff where he would finesse the clubs as before.

CONTRACT: 7C XX by S

	M	
	♠T987	
	♥6543	
Meyer	♦--	Drax
♠65432	♣76532	♠AKQJ
♥T9872		♥AKQJ
♦JT9	Bond	♦AK
♣--	♠--	♣KJ9
	♥--	
	♦Q8765432	
	♣AQT84	