

Beckenham Bridge Club

Newsletter

July 2006

Message from the Chairman

by David Lightfoot

The 2006/2007 programme of Club events through to August next year accompanies this Newsletter – separately in a pocket size and within the Newsletter in larger print. It largely follows the pattern of previous years. There are, however, one or two changes from last year that I should mention.

First, I am glad to say that our landlords, Bromley Mytime, do not intend to deny the Club the use of the Public Halls during the Christmas period as they did last year, so our meetings will be in the usual accommodation throughout December.

Second, your Committee have decided on two alterations to events to be played next summer. The Sam Russell Championship Pairs in May and June 2007 will be a simple two-session event (rather than a qualifier and final as were played this year), and the individual competition for the Robertson Cup will be played in a single session rather than over two successive Thursdays. Both these events will be open to Club members without limitation of the number of entrants. These changes will, we hope, also give more opportunity to play pairs to those of you who do not enter the two competitions.

Our main reason for these changes is to encourage more of you to attend Club evenings. Speaking of which, I have to say that attendances in recent months have been disappointingly low, to the extent that your Committee have had to give some thought to what might be done to improve things (and, as ever, they and I would welcome suggestions). At the moment, the average number of tables in play each evening falls short of what we need to cover day to day running costs. While the Club has substantial financial reserves, we might need to consider economies in the longer term; and it would be a pity if, for instance, we had to play more evenings in the small hall and fewer in the more capacious and (much) more expensive main hall. Eventual increases in table money and/or annual subscriptions are, of course, always possibilities, but we would be loath to do that if the result were simply to discourage attendance.

Looking at things more positively, two or three thoughts occur to me. Slow play can cause irritation at the table and may be putting some of you off from attending. It quickens things up if as a matter of routine the opening lead is faced and dummy is tabled before players pause to fill in personal score cards, and if travellers are filled in immediately after play, rather than after the inquest. Anything is welcome which avoids the need for directors to have to take away a board, especially as those having to take an average are not necessarily those who caused the delay in the first place.

There is a note later in this Newsletter about the new EBU regulations on alerting and “announcements”. Being a natural reactionary in such matters, my first reaction was to deplore yet another change to take on board and to worry that some of you might be thoroughly put off. Having looked at the details, however, I think the total package will not be too hard to get used to and will improve the speed and clarity of auctions.

Lastly, on 9 August we are having a demonstration and trial with Bridgemate which – for other technophobes like me – I can best describe as a system of electronic travellers and instant end-of-evening scoring. Everyone I have spoken to who is familiar with Bridgemate speaks highly of it. If all goes well, we may be able to introduce it at the Club, perhaps in time for the second round of the ladder.

Competitions

The Club is going to enter teams for both National and Kent competitions for the forthcoming 2006/2007 season. The National Interclub Knock-out Competition (NICKO) is for teams of four and any Club members wishing to enter a team should give their names to Allan Foster in writing by **Friday, 18th August, 2006**. Similarly, any pairs who wish to play in the Kent Teams of Eight competitions (Corbett Cup/Corbett Plate/Mitchell Salver) should give their names in writing to Allan Foster by **Friday, 25th August, 2006**.

The Haycocks Trophy

by Paul Fishleigh

The Haycocks Trophy was presented in 1974 to be played for in an annual teams-of-eight match between Beckenham and Farnborough. This year's event was staged at Farnborough on Friday 14th July. Beckenham, represented by Valerie Gunson and Tim Lloyd-Williams, Jenny Kirkby and Chandra Jeyaratnam, Farah Diggins and Tony Smith, Jean and Paul Fishleigh, found themselves pitched against a formidable team comprising Barbara and Mark Howarth, Liz Blande and Mike Rafferty, Jackie and Neil Wotherspoon, Lyn and Graham Foreman.

The first stanza of six boards separated the teams by only 3 IMPS in favour of Farnborough. This was due mainly to a grand slam in No Trumps, called by Beckenham, which went one off as both missing kings were offside. The result was a swing of 14 IMPS to Farnborough since each of the other pairs ceased their bidding having reached a small slam. Undeterred by these events, Beckenham bounced back in the next stanza to win it by 10 IMPS, which would have been considerably more had Farnborough not found two tight small slams. The third stanza was lost by 17 to 6 thus leaving Farnborough 4 ahead going into the last stanza. Beckenham won this tightly contested set by 1 IMP which, although insufficient to win the Trophy, left the team with their heads held high for such a valiant performance. Final score: Farnborough 65 Beckenham 62.

Club members' achievements

Congratulations to the club members who have achieved fine results in various external competitions during recent months. If you do well in a competition away from Beckenham, please tell Marie Horlock or the newsletter editor, so that we can record your achievement in the next newsletter. Bracketed names are of non-Beckenham players who were part of the successful teams.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Pachabo Cup (for county teams winners) Winners: Ian & Catherine Draper, Gerald (& Stuart) Tredinnick
The team thus retained the trophy – only the 3rd time that has been done since it started in 1936

Crockfords Cup 4th : Ian & Catherine Draper, Gerald (& Stuart) Tredinnick, (Neil & Anne Rosen)

KENT EVENTS

Arnold Cup (Kent teams of four championship) Winners: Ian & Catherine Draper, Gerald (& Stuart) Tredinnick
 Runners-up: Michael Prior & Leigh Chapman, Steve Burton & (Tony Clark)

Larsky Cup (Kent championship pairs) Winners: Ian and Catherine Draper

Kent Swiss Teams (June 2006) 3rd=: Catherine Draper, Michael Prior, Leigh Chapman, (Jeremy Willans)
 3rd=: Phil Jones' team

Gill Cup (NW Kent League) Winners: Ian & Catherine Draper, Neil Benn, Michael Prior, (Valerie Smith)

OTHER EVENTS

Home Counties League (for county teams of eight) Winners: Kent – team comprised: Michael Prior (capt)
 & Gary Wiles, Catherine & Ian Draper, Marie Horlock & John Amor, Neil Benn & Leigh Chapman

Jersey Congress

Championship Pairs	2 nd : Ian & Catherine Draper
Swiss Pairs	2 nd : Ian & Catherine Draper
Swiss Teams	2 nd : Ian & Catherine Draper + team mates

Sussex Green Pointed Swiss Teams 2nd: Keith Ashcroft & Phil Jones, (Malcolm & Karen Pryor)

Ladder Competition

The defending champions, Catherine Draper and Michael Prior have finally had to relinquish their hold on the Rose Bowl which they had won for the previous four years. Despite putting in some fine performances in the final few rounds, they were never quite in a position to catch the early leaders, Ian Draper and Gerald Tredinnick, who clinched victory with a round to spare. Congratulations to them.

1	Ian Draper & Gerald Tredinnick	154 points
2	Catherine Draper & Michael Prior	151 points
3	Pat McBain & Jackie Wotherspoon	133 points

Club competitions

Congratulations to those members who have achieved success in club competitions in recent months. Here are the top three placings in the main competitions played since the last edition of the newsletter.

Owen Cup (April 2006)

	VPs	H'cap	Total
1 Ian & Catherine Draper, Michael Prior & Leigh Chapman	150	-35	115
2 Marie Horlock & John Amor, John Hemington & Keith Ashcroft	118	-20	98
3 Malcolm McBain & Tim Lloyd-Williams, Pat McBain & Dorothy Holland	112	-10	102

Winners of the sealed handicap: David & Jo Lightfoot, Richard & Helen Gibbons

Kirsch Bowl - Ladies Pairs (May 2006)

1. <u>Catherine Draper & Marie Horlock</u>	69.27%
2. <u>Detta Bentley & Gretta Blacknell</u>	58.85%
3. <u>Jo Lightfoot & Jan Johnson</u>	55.56%

Sam Russell Club Championship Pairs (June 2006)

1. <u>Ian De'Ath & Andrew Gordon</u>	62.82%
2. <u>Peter Bentley & Detta Bentley</u>	56.41%
3. <u>Neil Benn & Tony Price</u>	55.45%

Johnson Cup - Mens Pairs (May 2006)

1. <u>David Hudson & Bob Manser</u>	63.42%
2. <u>Peter Bentley & Eddie Richart</u>	59.81%
3. <u>Neil Benn & Tim Lloyd-Williams</u>	59.71%

Olly Biro Pairs – cut for partner (June 2006)

1. <u>David Blacknell & Moti Motahar</u>	57.94%
2. <u>Peter Crofts & Margaret Vajda</u>	57.14%
3. <u>Gretta Blacknell & Terry Crispin</u>	53.97%

Mixed Pivot Teams - Bentley Trophy (July 2006)

	Imps
1 Ian Draper, Catherine Draper, Michael Prior, Gary Wiles	50
2 Marie Horlock, Neil Benn, Phil Jones, Keith Ashcroft	28
3 Slavek Michalek, John Dennis, Alan Gearing, Jenny Kirkby	23

Masterpoint Promotions

Congratulations to the following club members, who have attained Ranking Promotions since the last Newsletter, or whose earlier promotions have not previously been noted here:

Marie Horlock – Grand Master

Gary Wiles – Life Master

John Griffiths – Premier National Master

Gillian Foster – 5 Star Regional Master

Iris Willis – 1 Star Tournament Master

Ian De'Ath – 5 Star Master

Alf Ricketts - 5 Star Master

Ossie Saeed – 4 Star Master

Eva Hardwick - Master

Liora Eveleigh - County Master

Roy Creamer – District Master

Margaret Crawley – Club Master

If your name has been omitted, please inform the editor, and it will be included in the next newsletter. Special apologies to anyone who has been misidentified with a namesake, and is credited above with a ranking that is too high or too low; if this has happened, a correction will be made next time.

BECKENHAM BRIDGE CLUB

www.beckenhambc.co.uk

CLUB OFFICERS

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BR2 OAY
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PROGRAMME 2006/2007

September 2006

Thu 14♦* Ladder - Preliminary Round
Thu 28* Teams of Four – Pairs Cut

October 2006

Thu 5♦ Cicely Caro (Mixed Pairs)/Watson Fritch
Thu 12♦* BGB Simultaneous Pairs
Thu 19♦ Ladder

November 2006

Thu 2♦* Vi Bulman Pairs
Mon 6♦* Knock Out Teams – Qualifying Round
Thu 23♦ Ladder
Mon 27* Teams of Four – Pairs Cut

December 2006

Thu 7* Teams of Four Informal
(Charity: St Christopher's Hospice)
Mon 11 Wine & Mince Pies 7pm, Bridge 7.40pm
Thu 14♦ Ladder
Mon 25 No Bridge
Thu 28* Teams of Four – Pairs Cut

January 2007

Mon 1 No Bridge
Mon 8♦ Knock Out Teams – Quarter Finals + Pairs
Thu 18♦ Ladder
Mon 22 Pairs including National Pairs Heat
(Finals: Regional 25 March; National 21 & 22 April)

February 2007

Mon 5 Knock Out Teams /Maud Kirk Plate + Pairs
 Thu 22♦ Ladder
 Mon 26 Pairs including Larsky Heat (Final: 15 April)

March 2007

Mon 5 Knock Out Teams/Maud Kirk Plate + Pairs
 Thu 8♦ Ladder
 Mon 12 AGM (7pm start)
 Thu 15♦* Mr. Bridge Charity Challenge
 Wed 21♦*# Owen Cup (including Sealed Handicap) Session 1

April 2007

Wed 4♦*# Owen Cup (including Sealed Handicap) Session 2
 Mon 9 No Bridge
 Thu 19♦ Ladder

May 2007

Thu 3♦* Johnson Cup /Kirsch Bowl (Men's/Ladies Pairs)
 Mon 7 No Bridge
 Thu 10♦ Ladder
 Mon 28 No Bridge
 Thu 31♦*# Sam Russell Club Championship Pairs – Session 1

June 2007

Thu 7♦*# Sam Russell Club Championship Pairs – Session 2
 Mon 11* Olly Biro (seeded) - cut for partner
 Mon 25* Teams of Four informal (Charity: Stroke Association)

July 2007

Thu 5♦*# Bentley Trophy (Mixed Pivot Teams)
 Thu 26* Teams of Four – Pairs Cut

August 2007

Wed 22♦* Robertson Cup (Individual)
 Mon 27 No Bridge
 Wed 29 Teams of Four – Pairs Cut

Pre-entry required for these competitions

♦ There will be no duty member on these evenings

* There will be no other bridge on these evenings

CLUB VENUE: Public Halls, Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5JE
 ☎020 8650 3483/5698

The Club expects to meet in the **Small Hall** on the following dates:

2006 - 13, 27 September
 11, 25 October
 8, 13, 15, 29 November
 6, 13, 20, 21, 27, 28 December

2007 - 10, 24 January
 7, 12, 14, 21 February
 14, 28 March
 11, 18, 25 April
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May
 6, 13, 20, 27 June
 4, 11, 18, 25 July
 1, 8, 29 August

and in the **Ground Floor Room** on:

2006 - 16 November

2007 - 15 February
 17 May

New EBU regulations on alerting and announcements

The English Bridge Union has introduced some new bidding regulations, altering the existing ones on alerts and introducing into bidding the new procedure of announcements. All these new regulations come into effect on 1 August 2006, but there will be a period of grace for one year to allow players time to get used to them. This means that mistakes will be looked on leniently during that period. They apply only to duplicate bridge (as played at Beckenham) and not to rubber bridge.

They may at first sight seem an unwelcome complication at club level. We shall, however, encourage compliance with them at Beckenham (and our directors will apply them on club nights), not only because we are an EBU-affiliated club committed to maintaining high standards of bidding and play, but also because you will need to become familiar with them when playing in Kent (or other) County events and EBU competitions.

Like all new ideas, we expect they will take a little time to get used to, but the idea is to improve the clarity and fairness of bidding in the longer term – after all, that is what happened when bidding boxes were introduced some years ago and now we all use them quite happily. In the meantime, we hope you will find the following summary helpful.

Alerts The general principle remains that artificial bids (which includes bids and passes which have meanings that would otherwise surprise opponents) must be alerted. The new rules amend this generality in three ways.

First, bids above 3NT should no longer be alerted. This includes Gerber, Blackwood (and any other control-asking slam invitation and responses), splinter bids and cue bids. (The only exceptions - which are rare in practice - are artificial four-level opening bids such as Texas transfers, lead directing passes and doubles or redoubles which are lead-directing for a suit other than the suit doubled/redoubled.)

Second, opening bids of one club or one diamond which show a natural suit of **three** cards or more are no longer alertable. If the suit opened might contain two cards or fewer, or is an artificial bid, it should be alerted.

Third, an attempt has been made to simplify the regulations about alerting doubles. This seems to leave things much as they were before. Alerts are not required for a take-out double of a naturally bid suit, negative or sputnik doubles, a penalty double of a no trump bid, or a penalty double of an artificially bid suit. Doubles with other meanings (for example, for take out of an artificial suit bid, high level lead directing) continue to be alertable. Redoubles to play are not alertable but otherwise must be alerted (for example, if for rescue for a doubled contract).

Announcements This new procedure applies only to natural 1NT opening bids, Stayman and red suit transfer responses to 1NT openers, and to opening bids of two of a suit. The idea is to provide basic information quickly and to reduce the need for routine alerts and subsequent questions from opponents. In each case the bidder's partner should make the appropriate announcement immediately, before opponents have passed or bid.

Opposite a 1NT opening bid, opener's partner should announce the point range - 12 to 14, 15 to 17, or whatever - and, if that is the partnership agreement, 'may have a singleton'.

If partner responds 2C asking for four-card majors, opener should not alert but should instead announce that this is Stayman. Opener should not, unless asked, say whether it is promissory or non-promissory Stayman. If opener rebids 2D, denying a four-card major, this should not any longer be alerted.

If partner responds to a 1NT opening with a transfer bid of 2D, opener should announce 'hearts'. Similarly, opener should announce 'spades' if partner makes a transfer bid of 2H. These announcements are instead of alerts.

These announcements do not apply to minor suit transfers opposite 1NT openings, to transfer responses if 1NT is overcalled or doubled, or to transfer bids in response to a 1NT or 2NT overcall or to a 2NT opening bid. In all such cases, transfer bids are still alertable.

The new procedure applying to opening bids of two of a suit is in essence straightforward: artificial two-level openers continue to be alertable; natural two level openers now need announcing instead of alerting. Alertable bids include the Acol 2C opener, the Benjamin Acol 2C or 2D, the Multi 2D, and Lucas Twos (artificial because they guarantee a second suit). Responder to a natural two-level opener should immediately announce that it is 'strong, forcing', 'strong, not forcing', 'weak' or 'intermediate'. The first three sorts of announcement cover the range of Acol and Benjamin Acol opening two bids; the 'intermediate' sort applies to bids such as the Precision 2C opener. In all cases, if opponents want more information (such as precise suit length and point range), they are entitled to ask just as they could (and can) when a bid is alerted.

For a concise table of the new regulations go to the EBU website - <http://www.ebu.co.uk>. On the right hand side of the home page, click on "information on New Orange Book". Then click "Easy Guide Card" and print one off for yourself. Copies will be available at the club for those members without internet access. EBU members will receive a copy with the August issue of English Bridge.

On **24 August**, before play starts, the director for that evening, Catherine Draper, will give a 10-minute run through of the new regulations for the benefit of those who would like to understand them better and use them correctly in their own play.

Disguising your weakness

by Catherine Draper

This hand arose in the second half of our NICKO match against London Duplicate. It was a very close match, which we eventually won by 3 imps

	♠ AQ9	
	♥ KT84	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ J963	
♠ 86	N	♠ 7532
♥ Q7532	W E	♥ J6
♦ AJ6	S	♦ KT853
♣ Q42		♣ K7
	♠ KJT4	
	♥ A9	
	♦ 742	
	♣ AT85	
N		S
Bidding : 1C *		1S
2S		3NT

* = clubs or weak NT

The lead was the 3 of hearts to the Jack & Ace. I ran the 9H at trick 2 which held. Now I have 3 heart tricks, 4 spade tricks and one club trick. If I lead clubs, intending to play for split honours, the defence will know to switch to diamonds at the first opportunity as we look to be strong in the other 3 suits. So, at trick 3 I led a diamond to the Queen. East won with the King and, looking at his diamond holding, knew exactly what I was up to, so returned a diamond. However, the suit is now blocked as West played low on the first round – he had no reason to do otherwise. I could safely run clubs through East twice to make my contract and gain us a very useful 10 imps. At the other table North opened a weak NT, and the bidding went: 1NT – 2C – 2H – 3NT. East led a diamond & took the first 5 tricks.

Our team (Neil & Anne Rosen and Ian & Catherine Draper) have now progressed to the semi-finals from an initial entry of 360 teams and are due to play a team from the Menagerie BC on 22 August.

Editor's note: *I remember trying the same ploy myself once, playing in a 3NT contract against Harry Millward, and finding myself with just 8 top tricks, but with a small doubleton diamond in hand facing QJ doubleton in dummy. Winning the spade lead in hand, at trick 2 I led to the ♦Q, which Harry took with his K and returned the suit. His partner had started with Axx, and looked doubtfully at this for ages. He eventually decided that my supposed diamond suit was blocked, so he could gain a tempo by holding up his A till the third round. The ♦J thus became my ninth trick and I immediately claimed. Harry's expostulations could be heard right across Bromley!!*

Private matches

The Committee wishes to encourage club members to play private matches, e.g. North West Kent League, at the club. Such matches can take place only on evenings when the club meets in the Large Hall and there are no competitions. Members should "book" the hall with the Club Secretary, Lindsey Lamb. Normal table fees for members and visitors will be charged.

David Leventhal

We were sad to hear of the recent death of David Leventhal. A stalwart of the club, which he joined in 1971, he was a real gentleman of the game, and will be much missed. The club sends its condolences to his family and friends.

An appeal from the Editor

Played any interesting hands recently? Please send contributions for the next issue of the newsletter to me at chris7lamb@yahoo.com, or give them direct to Lindsey. Contributions should reach me by the end of December.