

Beckenham Bridge Club

Newsletter

February 2010

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by Nick Kanaar

On behalf of us all I extend your thanks to Chris Lamb for once again producing this excellent news letter.

Thanks too to our President, John, in widening our interests and arranging such a splendid social occasion (look out for more to come) although I am not quite sure why our treasurer was so happy with the opportunity of a little flutter.

Your committee has worked assiduously to maintain our position and to enhance and develop it as have a number of members. We remain a noteworthy club and of importance within Kent.

We all wait with bated breath for the implementation of Play 2 Play. This club took the clear decision that we should remain affiliated to the English Bridge Union, and that is a decision adopted by most clubs. Notwithstanding the risks of an unknown future it is clear that if Bridge is to have a real future it needs one national organising body.

Beckenham is determined to seek to build upon its reputation in very difficult times especially that of a surplus of clubs and shortage of new incoming members. Our use of Bridge Dealer is part of that effort and whilst not cheap is an essential. Previous modernising steps of bidding boxes and Bridgemate involved effort and teething problems but use of Bridge Dealer has been a seamless operation and considerable thanks are due to Eddie Richart who has made all the effort.

I would suggest that the benefits of computer programme deals are obvious. The deals really are random and are not "fixed" in any way. It is notable that one or two members who had real concerns about all this are now first in the queue to obtain a copy of the print out at the end of the evening. It is very significant that several members of the club have been so keen to enjoy this system that they have made notable personal contributions to help defray the cost.

We also have the added advantage that both divisions in the ladder play the same boards which makes relegation and promotion so much fairer. The Bridge Dealer also makes simultaneous events much easier to organise now that the laborious manual task of sorting and dealing the boards is no longer necessary.

The club is having a good year in every way (except perhaps in attendance) and one of the ways that we hope to help with that is by asking all our directors to try and finish at an early hour. The real remedy is to cut out slow play and that is in your hands.

Enjoy your bridge and continue to support Beckenham Bridge Club.

Please let us all move forward because I really, really want a strong sense of pride in being Chairman of this wonderful club.

Beckenham Bridge Club 60th Anniversary

2010 sees the 60th anniversary of our club, which was founded in 1950. To celebrate this milestone we are planning to organise a special event later this year. The form that this event will take has not yet been decided and the committee would very much welcome your views. Please tell any member of the committee how you think we should celebrate the occasion, as a decision needs to be taken soon.

Inter Club Competitions

by David Hudson

HAYCOCKS CUP

The Haycocks Cup is a trophy played for every year against Farnborough Bridge Club. It is a teams of 8 match comprising 4 mixed pairs and is in memory of Norah Haycocks who was a long time member of both bridge clubs. Farnborough had won this trophy for the last 6 years. However at last it was Beckenham's turn. In a closely fought contest last June our team came out the winners by a margin of 32 IMPs. Our team was comprised of:-

David Hudson and Pat McBain
Allan Foster and Gillian Foster
Gordon McDermott and Joan Tinson
John Penwill and Farah Diggins

I am keen to hear from any mixed pairs who would like to play in this annual fixture.

NICKO

This year we again have two teams entered into the National Inter Club Knock Out Competition. The Beckenham "A" team comprised of a squad of 5 of Peter Bentley, Eddie Richart, Chris Lamb, Bob Manser and David Hudson won their first round match against a Young Chelsea "C" team by a comfortable margin of 35 IMPs having been 55 IMPs up at half time! This team have got a bye in round 2 and await details of their opponents in round 3.

The Beckenham "B" team comprised of Dorothy Holland, Pat McBain, Neil Wotherspoon and Jackie Wotherspoon narrowly lost their 1st round match to Horsham "A" team and will now go into the NICKO plate. They do however have a very good record here having reached the last 16 and round 5 last year so let's hope they can do as well if not better this year.

The Club is happy to support any entries into this competition and I hope we can enter some more teams in future years.

CORBETT CUP, CORBETT PLATE, & MITCHELL SALVER.

These are the three teams of 8 competitions organised by the Kent County Bridge Association. They were previously played as knock out cups but last year were organised into a league format with all matches played over two days at Kings Hill, near Maidstone. Beckenham finished in the middle group and so are playing this year for the Corbett Plate. We have entered one team again this season, but would like to enter an additional team next year if sufficient players are interested.

The Beckenham team enjoyed a successful start to this season's competition on February 6th, and are leading in all four matches against the other teams in our league. The second half of each match will be played on March 20th, and we wish our team the best of luck in their efforts to win the competition and gain promotion to the premier league for next year.

If you are interested in representing Beckenham in these, or any other, competitions during the coming year, please do let me know.

David Hudson
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07855 915756

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 2009)

	VPs
1 Pat & Malcolm McBain, Dorothy Holland, Colin Game & Norman Inniss	109
2 David & Gretta Blacknell, Neil & Jackie Wotherspoon	108
3 Allan & Gillian Foster, Bob Manser, David Hudson & John Erdos	105

Anita Freeman, Joyce Levy, John Dennis, Alan Gearing & Bettine Dunne won the Sealed Handicap

Kirsch Bowl - Ladies Pairs (May 2009)

1. Pat McBain & Dorothy Holland	72.92%
2. Patricia Hepburn & Mary Pearce	63.69%
3. Carol Hawkins & Farah Diggins	53.33%

Knock Out Teams – Final (June 2009)

Pat McBain, Dorothy Holland, Norman Inniss, Colin Game beat
Michael Prior, Steve Burton, Tim Lloyd-Williams,
Tony Price by 14 IMPs.

Maud Kirk Plate (for KO Teams 1st round losers)

Winners: Ian De'Ath, Andrew Gordon, Tony Smith,
Chris Lamb

Mixed Pivot Teams - Bentley Trophy (July 2009)

	Imps
1 David & Gretta Blacknell, Colin Game & Ossie Saeed	+71
2 Roger & Lesley Pechey, John Goodwill & John Erdos	+50
3 Gordon McDermott, Joan Tinson, Jalil Bhuia & Joe dos Santos	+42

Individual Championship (August 2009)

1. Roger Pechey	67.06%
2. Lilian Fawn	64.29%
3. Bob Manser	61.90%

Cicely Caro Mixed Pairs (October 2009)

1. Alan Gearing & Jenny Kirkby	66.67%
2. Norman Inniss & Dorothy Holland	57.74%
3. David Brown & Iris Willis	55.95%

Ingram Bowl (average of 10 best scores in 2009, max of 3 with one partner): Dorothy Holland: 67.2%

Consolation Cup (highest average by a player of opposite sex): Alan Gearing: 64.9%

Jack Hibbert Trophy (highest percentage achieved in 2009): Dorothy Holland and Pat McBain: 72.9%

STOP PRESS: The 2010 Knock Out Teams has been won by Pat Hepburn, Mary Pearce, Alan Gearing & John Dennis

Johnson Cup - Mens Pairs (May 2009)

1. Roger Pechey & John Penwill	65.63%
2. David Hudson & Bob Manser	59.38%
3. David Blacknell & Colin Game	52.50%

Sam Russell Club Championship Pairs (June 2009)

1. Neil & Jackie Wotherspoon	60.17%
2. Peter Bentley & Eddie Richart	58.58%
3. David Hudson & Bob Manser	57.48%

Oilly Biro Pairs – cut for partner (June 2009)

1. David Blacknell & George Fish	61.51
2. Tim Lloyd-Williams & Joan Tinson	60.32%
3. Pat McBain & David Hudson	58.73%

Watson Fitch (September 2009)

1. Malcolm & Pat McBain	65.00%
2. Roger & Lesley Pechey	56.25%
3. David & Gretta Blacknell	49.58%

Vi Bulman Pairs (October 2009)

1. Bob Bruty & Tony Barker	64.32%
2= Neil & Jackie Wotherspoon	58.86%
2= David & Gretta Blacknell	58.86%

Club members' achievements

Congratulations to the club members who have achieved the following fine results recently (names in parentheses are of non-Beckenham players who were part of the successful pairs or teams).

If you do well in a competition away from Beckenham, please tell the newsletter editor so that we can record your achievement in the next newsletter.

KENT EVENTS

George Griffiths Cup (Senior Pairs) 2nd: **David Hudson & Bob Manser**

Larsky Cup (Kent championship pairs) 2nd: **Ian Draper &** (Jeremy Willans)

Phillimore Cup (Swiss Pairs): 2nd: **Ian Draper &** (Jeremy Willans)

Dyer-Smith Cup (Mixed Pairs): 2nd: **Phil Jones &** (Christine Kempton)

Kent Congress

Green Point Swiss Pairs: 2nd: **Ian Draper &** (Jeremy Willans)

Green Point Swiss Teams: 3rd: **Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior, Phil Jones** (+ teammates)

Gill Cup and Brook Shield (Leagues) Winners: **Norman Inniss, Ossie Saeed, Colin Game** (& Stefan Syplywczak)

Ladder Competition

The 2008 champions, Keith Ashcroft and Michael Prior, successfully defended their title in 2009. Although falling short of their record score the previous year, they ran out comfortable winners in the end. Congratulations to them and to those contesting the other top places, where Dorothy Holland and Roger Pechey pipped their rivals for the runners-up spot by the narrowest possible margin.

1	Keith Ashcroft & Michael Prior	152 points
2	Dorothy Holland & Roger Pechey	133 points
3	Steve Burton & Phil Jones	132.5 points
4	Bob Manser & David Hudson	130 points

After 5 rounds of the current ladder competition (2009-2010), Dorothy Holland and Roger Pechey have a narrow lead over Colin Game and Norman Inniss, though the lead has fluctuated since the start. Allan & Gillian Foster are leading the chasing pack. The fact that five different pairs have been winners or joint winners of Division 1 to date emphasises that the competition really is a very open one this year, with no single pair able to establish a commanding lead.

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:

Jackie Wotherspoon: 5 star Premier Regional Master

Jan Johnson: 4 star Premier Master
John Penwill: 3 star Master

If your name has been omitted, please inform the editor, and it will be included in the next newsletter.

New Memberships

We welcome as new or returning members, John Curry, Trevor Dickson, Erica Engel, Alan & Dave Rogers, Jan & Luke Titcombe, and wish them a long and enjoyable association with the club.

EBU Pay to Play (P2P) – member benefits

Our club will remain affiliated to the English Bridge Union, so from April 2010, all Beckenham members will become members of the EBU under the new Pay to Play (P2P) structure. The EBU has produced an outline of the benefits that clubs and members will enjoy. Member benefits include:

- the right to compete in EBU competitions and simulms
- *English Bridge* magazine and the pocket diary
- winning Masterpoints and progressing through the Masterpoint ranks
- participating in the National Grading Scheme, in which your grade is based on your last 50 playing sessions (this is a new scheme that will start in April 2010)
- discounts on bridge books & equipment and on insurance, car hire and hotels

New Masterpoints Scheme from April 2010

The English Bridge Union has overhauled its Masterpoints scheme to cope with the influx of new members under Universal Membership (“Pay to Play”). In the new framework there will be **four Landmark promotions**: Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master. Promotions to these ranks will be processed and recorded three times a year in *English Bridge* issues: April, August and December.

All other promotions will be published on the EBU website and in the Member’s personal area and will be entered into a four monthly Master Point Draw with prizes of short break holidays.

Each Bridge Club will receive every four months a list of all their members’ promotions; these will also be publicised on the EBU website and viewable in each member’s personal area.

The End of Year Annual Competition for the most points won during the year will remain the same, with National Awards and County Awards in six categories based on players’ rankings. The ranking lists for these awards will be published on the EBU website.

There will also be **New Club Awards** based on black points won solely in a club’s own events. Each year, the name of the player in each club who has won the most black points in that club’s events will be published on the EBU website and entered into an Annual Prize Draw for cash prizes.

Doing Your Duty

Under the new duty member system, the roster for several months ahead is available on the club noticeboard and can also be viewed on the club website. Each member has been allocated a date for their duty and you should tick your name on the noticeboard to show that you have noted that date. If you are unable to do a duty on the allocated date, please arrange a swap with someone else.

Please co-operate in acting as duty member when your turn comes round - about once every 7 months. Failing to turn up for your duty can inconvenience other members, so please contact **Tony Smith** (tel: 020 8854 5502) if you find that you are unable to do the duty that you have been allocated and can not arrange a swap. Thanks are due to all those who reliably turn up as requested.

A Day at the Races

by John Dennis

Tuesday 8th September saw a party of twenty club members and their guests giving their support to the Beckenham Benevolent Society at Lingfield Park racecourse. Everyone seemed to enjoy the weather, the dining room overlooking the track, the excellent food, and a few modest wagers with varying results. However, we can report that one of our number has been “warned off” by William Hill bookmakers after achieving six winners from seven races!

I would like to thank everybody for their support in making it such an enjoyable day out. I will be pleased to organise a similar event next year if that is what members wish.

If only

By John Penwill

The following (vaguely instructive) hand cropped up in the last Sam Russell Pairs Championship:

Dealer North N/S vulnerable

North

♠ A K 8 7 3 2
♥ J 7
♦ K 2
♣ K 8 4

West

♠ Q 6 5
♥ K 9 6 3
♦ 10 9 8
♣ Q 9 2

East

♠ 9
♥ A 10 5 4
♦ 7 6 5 3
♣ J 10 6 2

South

♠ J 10 4
♥ Q 8 2
♦ A Q J 4
♣ A 7 5

Auction

N	E	S	W
1S	pass	3NT	pass
pass	pass		

At one table North opened 1S and South responded what he fondly considered to be a 'practical' 3NT. North was now in a slight quandary but, not unreasonably, she passed.

West kicked off with his fourth best heart; the defence cashed two tricks in the suit and declarer won the third round with the HQ. Now, obviously, the problem is how to play the spades. A small spade to the ace revealed nothing of note, and declarer then cashed four rounds of diamonds to try to get some idea of the opposing distribution. West pitched a heart on the fourth round. After a suitable trance, declarer then played for the drop in spades – no luck. He eventually emerged with nine tricks (+600) for a resounding zero (most other pairs were playing in four spades, making at least +620).

There is, I suppose, one (very tenuous) clue as to how to play the spades. If West had had (at least) four clubs, he might at least have considered leading a club rather than a heart at trick one. Granted, this is just a straw in the wind, but there is a much more important factor to consider.

Declarer should realise that the popular contract is going to be four spades, as indeed it was. In which case, if the spades are breaking, an opening lead of a trump, a diamond or a club will give declarer +680. Only an unlikely heart lead will restrict declarer to +650. Therefore making +660 in three no trumps by successfully playing for the spade drop will produce a poor result

On the actual layout, a diamond or club lead will result in +650, since declarer has no particular reason not to play spades from the top, a heart lead will result in +620, and a trump lead in +680 (I hope you are still with me on this).

The point is this: the declarer in 3NT should have finessed on the second round of spades, with little to lose if the spades are breaking, and much to gain if the finesse succeeds. As the cards lie, +660 would have been a near top.

One might think that pairs play is difficult enough without having to out-guess how other pairs are going to bid and play their hands.

There was one declarer for whom all this was rather salutary. I should know – I was the South in question.

Help to avoid slow play ...

Slow play is a perennial problem in most bridge clubs, and there are little things we can all do to speed things up and ensure that we can finish playing at a reasonable hour. If we all paid attention to the points below, we could probably save up to 30 seconds per board, i.e. about 10-12 minutes over an evening's session. That would allow the actual bidding and play to be just a little more relaxed.

IF YOU OPEN THE BIDDING

You should, within very small limits, have worked out most possible responding bids from partner and therefore be able to re-bid speedily and without lengthy thought.

IF YOU ARE ON LEAD

Make your lead **before** recording the contract on your personal scorecard and **before** entering data into Bridgemate.

IF YOU ARE DUMMY

Place your cards exposed on the table **before** recording the contract on your scorecard and **before** entering data into Bridgemate.

IF YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF BRIDGEMATE (i.e. NORTH)

Enter the contract, and the lead, into Bridgemate during the course of play (e.g. while dummy is being tabled) rather than waiting till play is over.

At the end of play, enter the result into Bridgemate and present it to East or West for verification **before** recording the result on your personal scorecard

WHEN A BOARD HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Limit the post mortem and get on with the next board. Remember there are print outs of the hands to assist your post mortems after the session is over.

Do not inspect all the previous results for the board on Bridgemate if your table is behind the rest.

... and follow Bridgemate etiquette

Neither East nor West should take control of the Bridgemate which stays in the control of North.

At the start of each round, North should verify that the correct boards and the correct pairs are present at the table, as shown on the Bridgemate screen.

North should always give the Bridgemate priority over his personal scorecard

When a board has been completed, North **MUST** show the Bridgemate to either East or West to allow them to verify that the correct contract and result were entered.

North should then press the OK button with the screen presented to the table as a whole so that the percentage result and the results from other tables can be seen.

North must take care when entering boards that are passed out and those that are not played:

If a board is passed out, the contract must be entered as 'Pass' by pressing the 'K' key

If a board is not played, the contract is entered as 'No Play' by pressing the '0' (zero) key

Tim Lloyd-Williams

Tim was both a bridge partner and a close personal friend to Malcolm and myself for more than 40 years as well as being best man at our wedding.

He was a very active man who competed at squash in one of the Bromley leagues, jogged, ran half-marathons and played tennis regularly, even turning out to play on New Year's Day.

Tim was an accomplished pianist and took every opportunity to indulge his love of music. I remember one Brighton Summer Congress, when we were staying at the Alexandra Hotel in Hove, how pleased Tim was to see a grand piano in one of the public rooms. Needless to say he took advantage of this to relax between sessions of bridge.

His membership of Beckenham Bridge Club began in the sixties at about the same time as I joined. When Jack Caro decided to withdraw from the South Eastern Bridge League and asked my first husband John and myself to take over in 1972, Tim was an obvious choice to help make up our team, and although other people came and went over the years, Tim was always a constant.

After Tim's stroke in 2001, when his physical outlets were no longer viable, bridge and music, and the people associated with them, became even more important for him. It was at this time that Tim, Jack Hibbert, Malcolm and I instituted our monthly dinner and Chicago evenings. These were relaxed occasions but the bidding and play were taken seriously at 10p per 100! These evenings continued until Jack became too unwell and were much enjoyed by all. It was a pleasure to partner Tim at the bridge table – there was never a dull moment or cross word, as I am sure all his partners would testify.

Tim was always generous with his time and knowledge and in times of crisis proved a loyal, steadfast and supportive friend. It was a privilege to have spent so many happy times with him, playing bridge, celebrating family weddings and birthday dinners. These are memories to be cherished, but most of all we laughed – a lot! He will be greatly missed among the bridge playing fraternity and I personally mourn a much loved and valued friend.

Pat McBain

Harichandra Kadirvelpillai Jeyaratnam

Last year Chandra, a charming member of our club, died. I was lucky to have him as a bridge partner and friend for many years. He was a very friendly person who would go out of his way to help you. He just enjoyed the game and was very popular with partners and opponents alike. Ours was not the only club he played at, and all the local clubs will miss him.

As well as bridge he enjoyed watching sport, especially cricket, and was always up to date with the latest scores.

He was saddened by the many troubles and poverty of his native homeland, and for many years supported the education of children in his native village of Araly, Sri Lanka.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Joan and his nephews and nieces, who gave a lovely tribute to him at his funeral.

Jenny Kirkby

Editor's note

by Chris Lamb

Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome, and can be given to me at the club or e-mailed to me at chris7lamb@yahoo.com. I'd specially like to hear about interesting hands you've played. No matter if you can't remember the full deal, since we can now find it on the club website.