

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB NEWSLETTER No.61 – JANUARY 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 14 April 2015

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place in St John's Hall on the above date at a **start time of 7.15pm** followed by bridge as soon as possible. The usual format will apply, and it is planned for Officers' reports to be either on the website or on the notice board in advance of the Meeting. It is hoped that these will be taken as read at the Meeting.

Any business you wish to raise at the Meeting should be advised to the Secretary, Helen Seymour, by 6th April. This will enable her to include the item on the Agenda. A copy of last year's minutes has been available at the Club for the past 11 months and will remain on the board until after the Meeting. If you require an individual copy please speak to Helen. It is hoped that the accounts will be available in advance of the Meeting.

Nominations for the Committee should be made no later than 7th April 2015 and a list will be displayed on the notice board.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Norman Cup – 3 Feb/3 Mar (final): The first 10 pairs in the preliminary round on 3 February will be invited to contest the final on 3 March. There will also be a normal session on 3 March for those not involved in the final. The winners of the Norman Cup will be invited to represent Mayfield in Surrey's Mary Edwards Cup.

Mayfield Teams Cup – 17 Feb/17 Mar. Teams may have up to 6 members but no player may play in 2 different teams. The results of the two sessions will be amalgamated to produce the winning team, who will be invited to represent Mayfield in Surrey's Wanborough Cup.

Cliff Street Trophy – Friday, 20 March. Any member can play in this event, but only those who have played a minimum of 6 times on a Friday over the last year will be eligible to win it. Those members who are eligible will be notified in advance.

Mixed Pairs Cup - 5 May. Members should note that although unmixed pairs may turn up to play, they will be expected to pair up with other unmixed pairs where possible. Any pair left unmixed will still be able to play but without standing.

Dorothy Williamson Handicap Teams – 26 May. As in previous years we will introduce a handicap for this event.

Men's & Ladies' Pairs – 9 June.

Committee and Liz Phillips Cups - 21 July.

Pick-Up Teams –31 March and 30 June.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Surrey Simultaneous Pairs for the Dorin Salver

The turnout for this event was 16 pairs – a small improvement on the previous year (15 pairs).

Pro-Am Night

Again, the attendance at this event of 21 pairs was an improvement over 2014 (18 pairs).

The pairings were thrown into disarray when four “heavyweight” Pro’s turned up at the last moment. We were pleased to see them but here, as with all events, try to add your names to the lists on the notice board, in advance. Not only does this make it easier to arrange any pairing or seeding but also there is less delay in setting up the movement in Bridgemate and commencing play.

To that same end, please try to arrive at all sessions by 7.30 pm. We understand that some members work and are sometimes under pressure to arrive on time – not so bad if your partner is there, sitting down, and we know the numbers and can therefore set the movement. If you expect to be late, please ring your partner or try me (07802 418109).

Open Swiss Pairs

In October, we held our third Open Swiss Pairs evening. This year Steve Foster stood in for Martin Lee, as Director, and the event enjoyed the same success as earlier years. 50 Mayfield members and 20 visitors took part. My thanks to Alan Bailey and the team that organized this event. We broke even, financially, and plan to hold a further Open Swiss Pairs in the Autumn of 2015.

National Pairs Heat

In December, we held a National Pairs heat at the club. Only 8 of the 20 pairs elected to compete in the National Pairs heat, embedded within the normal club evening. The 8 included only one visiting pair. With this limited interest, it was not clear whether we should repeat the event next year.

That decision has been taken out of our hands. The EBU have advised that, in this and future years, there will not be club heats. Next year, if you are interested in playing in the National Pairs, you will enter directly into a regional heat (the nearest being Leatherhead).

Christmas Party

This was attended by 60 members and I extend my thanks to Chris Pullan, who directed the bridge and also to the members of the committee who organized the delicious buffet. A number of members expressed their particular enjoyment of this year’s party, either informally or by email.

Mayfield Website and IT Services

After 13 years service on the Mayfield committee, Roger Sugden has decided that it is time to step down at the AGM in April. Latterly, Roger has been responsible for the management and operation of the Mayfield website and the recent innovations of Bridgemate and Duplimate. Current and future committee members have agreed to take over Roger’s responsibilities but it is a matter of common sense that, in future, we distribute those responsibilities more widely to share the load and have a wider knowledge base to ensure the future of the website and our IT services.

The MDBC website was originally developed by Jim Grant and Malcolm Channing in 2001 and now is perhaps the time to review its appearance and operation. We may decide to leave the website essentially as it is, to simply modernise and update or to make more radical changes. If you have a background in the development and operation of websites or you are interested in assisting in the day to day uploading of results and information to the database, please let me know. You will be part of a team.

Since our decision to purchase Bridgemate and Duplimate systems at the 2013 AGM, their operation has proved an unprecedented success. However, the number of members who have come forward to learn and participate in the operation of these systems has been limited. This is not rocket science so if you are interested and you have the time to get involved, please let me know. Training will be provided.

Rules for the Mayfield (and Kath Coward) Cups

In November, the rules governing the Mayfield Cup came into questions and the committee decided to suspend further award until the matter was resolved at the January meeting.

It was clear that the Mayfield Cup applied to pairs events on Tuesdays and that members needed to play with at least 6 partners, to include visitors, in order to qualify. However, the question arose whether special events such as the Open Swiss Pairs and the National Pairs heat should be included. In previous years, the

Open Swiss Pairs had not been included. There was also the anomaly that, although the Norman Cup scores a double award of EBU points as it is our main club pairs championship, we only include a single award in the Mayfield Cup.

The committee decided that in this current tournament year, up until the April AGM:

The Norman Cup will contribute single score points to the Mayfield Cup

The Open Swiss Pairs will not count towards the Mayfield Cup

The National Pairs heat will count towards the Mayfield Cup

In future years:

The Norman Cup will contribute double score points to the Mayfield Cup (in line with the EBU award)

The Open Swiss Pairs will count towards the Mayfield Cup

Any Surrey or National heats will count towards the Mayfield Cup

The basic rule will be to include any pairs event on a Tuesday where EBU points are awarded. In principle the same rules will apply to the Kath Coward Cup on Fridays.

The AGM

These issues and others will be discussed further at the next AGM on Tuesday 14th April at 07.15 pm. Last year, the attendance at the AGM was poor but I took solace in the fact that there were no major issues to discuss or resolve. This will not apply this time so please make every effort to attend and support your committee.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Congratulations to the following who have been successful since September 2014

MAYFIELD – TROPHY WINNERS 2014/2015

Pro-Am Cup Alan Bailey & Keith Foreman

Swiss Pairs Charles Chisnall & Ian Swanson

SUCCESSES IN COUNTY COMPETITIONS

London Men's Pairs 2nd Roger Morton & Partner

INTER COUNTY AND NATIONAL

Crockfords Final 2014 3rd Peter Lee & Team

EBU Year End - Swiss Teams 2nd Peter Lee & Team

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE EVENTS

All 3 Club Teams entered for the 2014/2015 Nicko National Clubs Knockout, (Lee, Morton & Patrick) have reached round 3 of the competition.

In the Club Pairs Challenge Final, (55 pairs), Tim Cook & Alan Bailey were 9th, Roger Morton & Bernard Pike 14th, Peter Cogliatti and Fiona Clarke 28th.

In the SCBA affiliated Teams at Richmond on January 11th (qualifier for the Garden Cities Trophy) the Mayfield Blue team (captained by Roger Morton) were 2nd and the Red team (captained by Alan Bailey) were 4th.

Roger Morton – Captain

Ducking in Defence

One of the hardest skills to learn in bridge (or in life, for that matter!) is the ability to think like the other person – in Defence, this means like Declarer. When Declarer leads a suit the objective is either to develop tricks by driving out the Defenders' high cards, or to learn where those missing high cards are located, which can help to clarify the whole hand. Put another way, if you do what Declarer wants (playing your high card[s] too early) you are helping to solve his or her problem. Inexperienced Defenders rush to win their Aces and Kings before they 'vanish' but, often, there is no need to do so. Here is an example – the contract is 3NT

Who's Got the Ace?

Dummy (North) holds ♠ K Q 10 x and at trick two Declarer leads a small card.

1. Firstly, assume you are West and hold

♠ A x x

Unless you believe that this is the critical trick for the Defence you should duck, and duck quickly! (to pause for thought will 'tell' Declarer that you hold the Ace). Furthermore, if Declarer wins the King and returns to hand to play another small spade YOU SHOULD DUCK AGAIN! The reason is that, if Declarer is missing the Jack, he/she may believe that you hold that card and finesse the 10 giving the Defence two tricks in spades instead of one if you play the Ace.

2. Now, let's reverse the position. You are East and hold

♠ A x x

Again, when Declarer plays the King (or Queen) from Dummy, you should duck..... quickly! Look at things from Declarer's point of view. Not knowing where the Ace, or Jack lie Declarer may play the other top honour on the next trick, again losing two tricks!

Another situation which many Defenders get wrong arises when Declarer leads a singleton from Dummy. The contract is 4♥ and, after winning West's opening lead, Declarer crosses to Dummy in trumps and leads the 2♦.

♠ J 7 5 3
♥ Q 9 7 5 3
♦ 2
♣ A 6 2

♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ 8
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ K Q 4 3

Usually it is best to duck. Let's look at why. Firstly, Declarer may hold ♦ K J and is mostly likely to finesse, (believing that if you held the Ace you would have played it), winning no ♦ trick. Secondly, even if Declarer holds ♦ K Q x, playing the Ace will provide two discards (for the losing ♣'s in this case) whereas withholding the Ace gives Declarer no discards and Declarer was always entitled to at least one trick.

While on the subject.....

The Cunning Old Fox!

By Adrian Patrick

Sitting South, playing Pairs, I pick up:

♠ A
 ♥ A K 2
 ♦ Q J 7 2
 ♣ A Q J 4 3

A pass by West, partner opens 1♠ and I immediately think about a slam, but which one? Well, there is no hurry so I respond 2♣ and partner bids 2♦. With the diamond fit there is now a choice of slams and I bid 4NT which is Keycard. The reply is 5♥, showing 2 controls which, on this sequence, are presumably ♦A and ♦K. Now even a grand slam looks possible but partner responds 6♦ to my 5NT bid. This response shows one K, more likely to be ♠K on this sequence so the grand looks like a no-no! Time to take stock! With an opening hand opposite 21 points everyone is going to bid a small slam and at pairs it may be imperative to bid 6NT rather than 6♦. Prospects for 6NT look good if partner has ♠K with the possible club finesse, or ♣K with club almost certainly running so “6NT” says I.

♥3 led and dummy goes down:

♠ K J 9 6 5
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ A K 4 3
 ♣ 7 6

Things look good so win the first round with ♥K, go to table with ♦K and successfully take the ♣ finesse. Things look even better! Due to communications issues, cash ♠A and back to table with ♦A to take the second ♣ finesse. As this is the last visit to the table I play ♠K to throw the losing ♥2 and then finesse the second club. I think I am home now but the second club is taken by ♣K and the defence cashes ♠Q to defeat the contract by one trick!

Inspection of the traveller shows all other pairs have bid the safer ♦ slam or playing in 6NT have not suffered the Cunning Old Fox who ducks the first ♣ holding ♣K to defeat an otherwise secure contract.

Deal: W
 Vul: N-S

♠ K J 9 6 5
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ A K 4 3
 ♣ 7 6

♠ 10 8 2
 ♥ Q 7 5 3
 ♦ 10 8 5
 ♣ K 9 8

♠ Q 10 4 3
 ♥ J 8 6 4
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ 10 5 2

♠ A
 ♥ A K 2
 ♦ Q J 7 2
 ♣ A Q J 4 3