

OXFORD BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Three

April 2008

EDITORIAL

Another year has passed and events in 2007 have become just water under the bridge (or should it be bridge under the water?) While I am starting to receive more e-mails from members these are still few in number. Have you any views on the new EBU strategy? Any complaints about county team selection? Is the Menagerie too elitist? Are the Laws of the game too complex? I would like to start a letters column, but I need your thoughts and opinions to do so.

Those clubs that have not yet featured in my "Around the Clubs" topic, please send me your details, however sparse and I will include you in the write-ups.

May the year bring success at all levels from the 'A' Team County matches to Mrs Bloggs reaching her club mastership at long last. Good luck to everyone.

Malcolm Simpson

FOCUS ON PLAY

NORTH

(Procter)

♠ xxx
♥ Ax
♦ AQx
♣ A109xx

WEST

♠ KQJ10x
♥ none
♦ J10xxxx
♣ xx

EAST

♠ Axx
♥ Qxx
♦ Kxxx
♣ KQx

SOUTH

(Robinson)

♠ xx
♥ KJ10xxxxx
♦ none
♣ J8x

Rob Procter, of the Menagerie, reports an excellent piece of pseudo-squeeze play by his partner, Mike Robinson, when Menagerie A played Banbury A. The hands shown are Rob's best recollection of the actual layout.

The bidding went:

E	S	W	N	
1NT	3H (wk)	4S	5H	(all pass)

Rob reports: "KS was led, then small to AS, with Mike ruffing the 3rd round. Needing the rest of the tricks he crossed to AH, with West showing out, cashed the AC and leaving AQD marooned in dummy, took the marked heart finesse and ran all his hearts, coming down to AQ of diamonds in dummy and J8 of clubs in hand. As East held both KD and KQC, he threw both club honours, leaving J8C as masters.

"East is still wondering if there is any way he could have known he was being misled, but he was kind enough to congratulate Mike on his sharp play."

FORTHCOMING OBA EVENTS

Please note that in order to play in most county heats and Sunday events, applicants must be members of both the EBU and the OBA.

May 4	Beck Cup final. Oxford BC 2.00 pm	June 12	OBA Annual General Meeting. FREE BRIDGE & REFRESHMENTS. Oxford BC 7.30 pm
May 29	OBA/EBU Meeting of reps from all Oxon clubs. Oxford BC 7.30 pm	June 15	Mixed Pairs Championship. Oxford BC 2.00 pm
June 5	Tuesday Championship play-off. Oxford BC 7.30 pm	June 28/29	Oxon Congress. Steventon Village Hall (see ad in April EBU Mag)

AROUND THE CLUBS - 3

AYLESBURY

The club was founded 40 years ago and meets on Thursday evenings at Hawkslade Community Centre, Orwell Drive, Stoke Mandeville. The first Thursday of the month is teams, otherwise it is pairs. There is a teams and a pairs ladder competition and the club enters 3 teams in the Wessex League.

HIGHWORTH

Highworth no longer exists as a club with fixed premises and a weekly duplicate, but still competes in Division 2 of the Wessex League, the informal Oxfordshire summer league and the Ridgeway Cup. Actually, Highworth is in Wiltshire, not Oxfordshire...but then, Aylesbury is in Buckinghamshire and I remember the good old days when Swindon were formidable opponents in Division 1 of the Wessex League. Good to have you with us, Highworth! I was born and brought up in Faringdon and I remember in my youth visiting Highworth for the Saturday night dance. Those were the days!

CHIPPING NORTON

The Club has been going for well over 20 years. The current membership is 49. It meets every Tuesday at 7pm (for a 7.15 start) at the Chipping Norton Bowls Club. There are various cups and competitions, including EBU, BGB and OBA Simultaneous Pairs, plus a New Years Party.

BICESTER

The Club meets at Rodney House in Bicester, with play commencing at 7.30pm. Duplicate is played, with around 10 tables taking part on a normal evening. It is described as a friendly club, always willing to open its doors to new members. At the time of writing, the club is in the process of setting up its own web page.

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*Any information from other clubs would be gratefully received for use in future newsletters. I look forward to hearing from you!*

## **TROPHIES YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT**

### **2. THE LEN SALMON TROPHY**

When Len Salmon, active and popular member of the OBA, Wallingford and Abingdon BCs discovered that he was terminally ill, he proposed an annual contest between Wallingford and Abingdon to be played for the Len Salmon Trophy. I had the privilege of being invited by Ann Salmon to go with her to choose the trophy. Each team raises 3 teams-of-eight and alternate between each other's venues year by year. The teams are graded A to C, but each match has equal status with respect to the scoring. The emphasis is on the social side of the occasion and great fun is had by all.

In the early days a challenge was issued by the home club. Medieval Knights, Chicago gangsters, Arabs, punks, pierrettes, there was one featuring Peter Baxter in drag – I still have nightmares about it! It's a tradition that seems to have died, I'm afraid. The last count I have of the running score is Wallingford 8 Abingdon 4. Wallingford's numerical superiority and strength in depth just has the edge.

### **FOR SALE**

"The EBU Manual of Bridge Movements"...edited by J R Manning.

Suitable for a bridge club...  
will dispatch for £3 to cover  
postage and packing.  
(Editor)

### **ERRATUM**

*Sorry Wantage! I said in the last Newsletter that your A team were champions of Division 3, not Division 4.*

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