

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE

Newsletter of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Number Fifteen December 2011

Did a Reindeer fly by?

At bridge we all makes mistakes, but experts seldom make blunders. If an expert does make one, loyal friends may imagine it was because of an exciting distraction.

They may ask, "What happened? Did a cow fly by?"

When sleigh bells are in the air it might be an animal with antlers. Or carol singers wishing everyone, "Peace and Good Will." - *David Bygott*

When stars come out

Where can you go without booking and watch top performers, close up, free? Easy – go to the 4* **Oxford Spires Hotel** on **Jan 6-7-8** when expert bridge teams representing England, Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland and Republic of Ireland play each other in a competition for the **Camrose Trophy**.

The stars scheduled to take part in this round include **Tony Forrester** and **Andrew Robson**. You may have read their bridge columns in the media or seen Andrew teach, now you can kibitz them in action – free!

For observers the fun will be in a separate room where the play is brought by cameras to a large Vu-Graph screen. As each deal unfolds, expert commentators explain or make jokes about the bidding or the pitfalls. The venue:

Oxford Spires Hotel

Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PS

www.oxford-spires-hotel.four-pillars.co.uk

Times of play...

Fri 6 Jan: 7.30 pm – 11.25 pm

Sat 7 Jan: 10.00 am – 7.35 pm

Sun 8 Jan: 10.00 am – 7.35 pm

Editor's tip: the restaurant offers a well-priced lunch
telephone: 01865 324324

More details: www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

Newsflash... For details of events and bridge courses in 2012 run by Wallingford BC visit www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford/

Prize Quiz

Turn to page 2 for a chance to win a framed print of an Oxfordshire scene or Sunday lunch for two at Banbury's most historic pub, **Ye Olde Reindeer**, where, it is said, Parliamentarian Oliver Cromwell made plans for the Battle of Edgehill in 1642.



(photo by the editor)

Lords v Commons 2011

The 37th annual bridge match between teams representing the Houses of Parliament was won by the Lords (& Ladies). Special mention must go to **OBA President Evan Harris** who (with partner Duncan Brack) brought in the best card for the Commons team.

Enter a team for the Beck Cup

OBA members can still enter a team of four in a *heat* of the **Beck Cup** on Sun 22 Jan. The heat winners win the **Harwell Cup**. The leading teams may go on to play against teams from other counties in the **Beck Cup Final** on Sun 15 April.

Find details in the OBA brochure, online at www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

Bridge course in Wantage

To follow the recent Beginners course Wantage BC is offering a ten-session **Improvers** course (fee £50) **19 Jan to 29 March**, Thurs 2-4 pm at Wantage Methodist Church Hall. In addition to consolidating, the course will cover: strong opening bids, simple conventions, bidding and playing slams, discard systems, losing trick count. Given sufficient interest, another **Beginners** course will run. Info from Gaye Kyle: gayekyle@tiscali.co.uk or 01235 765810.

Enter the Pro/Am this January

The very popular annual **Pro/Am** pairs is on **Tues 31 January** at Oxford BC. Entry as an “Am” is for players holding fewer than 5,000 master points. Enter singly. Partners will be drawn on the day. More details online: www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

Would you like some practice first?
Consider these recent hands...

West leads: ♥T.

North (dummy)

♠ AQ105 ♥ AJ ♦ AJ2 ♣ AK75

South (declarer)

♠ K4 ♥ KQ632 ♦ Q1094 ♣ J2

Prize Quiz

OBA members may enter *either or both*.
To try for the charming **print** (*photo, right*)
mounted and framed expertly by Castle
Framing in Overthorpe, nr Banbury
www.castleframing.co.uk

answer question A.

To try for Sunday lunch at **Ye Olde Reindeer**,
answer question 1.

Get your answer(s) with your **EBU no**
by Friday 13 Jan 2012 to the Editor or to
OBA membership secretary: viccy@octon.eu

Exciting win for OBA

On 11 December the County A team, led by **Chris Cooper**, beat Derbyshire’s team 17-3 in the **Dawes** section of the Midland Counties League and now leads Gloucestershire by a short head. Can the OBA lift the trophy for 2011-12 after trying so long?

Keep your fingers crossed. Or simply keep in touch with the progress of our A, B and C teams via the online match reports in the **competitions** menu at www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk

a) *Imagine you are an “amateur”*

A bit nervous, you miscount and open South’s hand 1NT. Your “pro” partner raises to 6NT. West leads ♥T. Keeping calm, can you make your small slam? All 13 tricks if W has ♦K?

a) *Imagine you are a “pro”*

As S you open a frisky 1♥. Your “am” partner pays you a compliment, raising you to 7♥. W hits with ♥10. Might ♣Q be stiff and ♠J drop in three for diamond discards? Might ♦K drop? Can you make the grand even if ♦K lies wrong and W began with 4 trumps and short clubs? Or is communication too frail? Will you quickly shrug – and finesse W for ♦K?

a signed print
by Philip Martin
no 338/850



A. Name the tower in this Oxford scene.

(1) Essex (2) Fairfax (3) Halifax (4) Carfax

1. In which room at Ye Olde Reindeer is Oliver Cromwell said to have held a meeting?

(a) Parson’s (b) Globe (c) Lords (d) Ladies