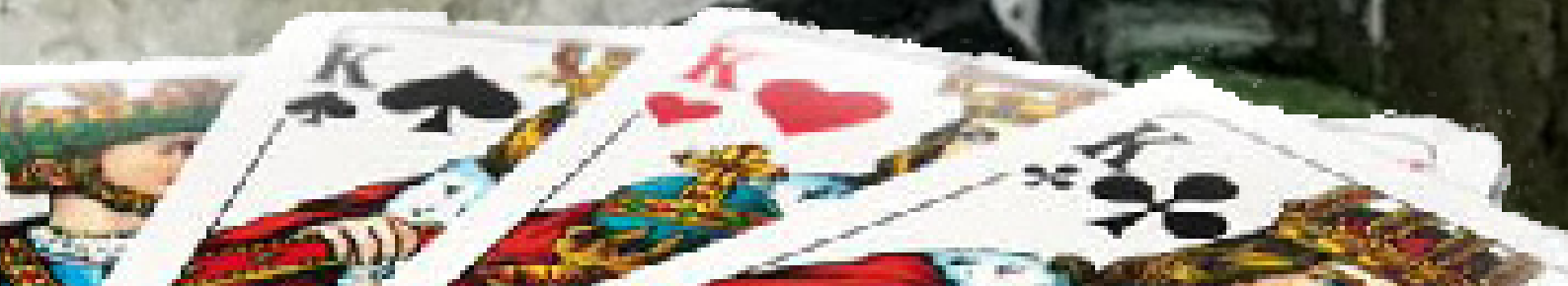




*The Bridge Club
Aberdeen*

*Newsletter
Spring 2020*

Cover photo credit: Sadie Craig



Aberdeen Bridge Club

Est. 1933



President's message

Dear Friends,

It seems that I struck an over optimistic note with my February letter, in which I spoke about all the Bridge we were looking forward to until the end of the season. Sadly, three weeks later we had to close the club, and at the time of writing, it is unclear how long the club will remain closed, due to the 'social distancing' that is to become the 'New Normal', and which may be difficult to apply round a Bridge table. However, we must remain optimistic that the scientists will find a vaccine, and that medics will find therapeutic ways of dealing with Covid-19. But what do we do in the meantime?

Some of you have already found your way onto the Bridge Base Online site, and are either playing in the free tournaments run by Anne Brodie-Allan, or are taking part in the teams event set up by Harry Smith. The SBU is in negotiations to set up online tournaments in order to encourage people to continue playing, to be able to award Master Points, and to hopefully, provide some much-needed income to clubs who are struggling financially.



Those of you who have registered on Mempad, will have received an email from Bill Whyte explaining this, and inviting you to register your BBO Username with the SBU. I would urge you to do so, as it will enable the SBU to get a more accurate picture

of how many people are playing, or could play online. If you don't have a BBO Username, it is very easy to register with them, and Fumi will be giving more information elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Board of Trustees met online a couple of days ago to draw breath, reflect on what has been happening, and to try to plan for the future. It was good to see everyone, even though it was online, and we welcomed Carole Lovie to the Board as Deputy Finance and Governance Convenor. Ian and Delyth will be moving to Edinburgh shortly, and Carole will replace Ian as convenor. The whole club owes Ian and Delyth a debt of gratitude for all that they have done for the

club over the years. They don't have a leaving date yet, but hopefully we will all be able to wish them well in person.

During our online meeting, as well as discussing whether or not to hold a weekly online tournament, we reviewed the 2018-19 accounts, before filing them with OSCR and HMRC, at the end of May. We also began to look at financial forecasts for the next few months, and we began tentative discussions regarding what Bridge might look like post Covid-19 restrictions.

We also discussed what we can do to sustain the membership, to help you, the members to continue to feel part of The Bridge Club. Part of this might involve setting up a 'club night' tournament online which is just open to our members initially, and perhaps to members of smaller, local clubs too, though this would have to be discussed with other interested parties, and depends on interest from yourselves.

You will notice that there are changes in this Newsletter too, including a Bridge themed crossword, and it is hoped that we can perhaps send out a smaller, monthly edition, with quizzes, and your news from the lockdown. For example, Mike and I have dusted down the Scrabble Board, have completed a couple of jigsaw puzzles, and attempted some DIY. We have also developed new skills, me taking part in Zoom meetings online, and he composing crossword puzzles. What latent talents have you discovered? Do let Fumi or myself know, and we will include your news in the next newsletter.

I have also started to call some of our members for a wee chat, just to catch up and make sure that they aren't feeling too isolated. I am glad to report that most are doing fine, keeping themselves busy and getting to grips with modern technology to keep in contact with friends and family. It's been good to chat to them, and find out more about them than is possible during a club night, and I hope they have enjoyed the calls as much as I have. So if an Aberdeen number comes up on your phone starting '869', it is probably me. In the meantime, if you would like to talk to me, you can ring the club and leave your name and number, as Fumi checks the answering machine regularly, or you can email me: president@aberdeenbridgeclub.co.uk and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Margaret

The Bridge Club Website

Some of you might recall that there were problems with the website during the Aviemore Weekend. As our Webmaster Zibby Bagniuk, reported at the time, the hacking was not our fault, and that several hundred thousand websites had been attacked at the same time. Zibby spent several days sorting out the security breach, along with the website hosts, and he then went on to check the whole website to ensure that nothing nasty was left behind. There was no data breach, as the website is remotely hosted, and the forum that the Board uses for communication, was not hacked.

Despite these reassurances, several members have continued to question the security of the website and have suggested that we go back to BridgeWebs. In order to get the best advice, and to clear the matter up in as fair a manner as possible, the Board had an independent software developer review our website versus BridgeWebs, and he came down heavily in favour of our present website/hosting platform. Here is some of his report:

“The underlying technology is Wordpress. This is good because as a consumer technology it's really common, and there's loads of online support and plugins for it. It's a good solution for a small website like this. It's bad because you need somebody to regularly go on and make sure it's updated, because Wordpress is very liable to hacking (as you found out). It should be ok though as long as it is regularly updated (and updating should be fairly easy).

Usability wise:

I'd say your website is much better than £\$%^ Bridge club, or any other BridgeWebs sites. With your website, there's a clear list of things that the user may be looking for e.g. results, classes, news, contact... Each individual page is nicely laid out and contains about the right amount of information on it. It could be prettier, yes, but that wouldn't be too hard to fix.

By comparison, £\$%^ Bridge Club's site is a mess. There's all sorts of info plastered across the page, it's not immediately obvious to find what you're looking for. There are multiple links to the same information. There are horrible mouseover effects on some boxes, and inconsistent actions (e.g. you click some links and it opens a page, you click other links and it downloads a word doc!, you click what looks like it should be a link and it isn't...). It just generally looks and feels like a website built 20 years ago. From looking at BridgeWebs' homepage, that seems to be the standard.

To be fair it likely is easier to upload results to BridgeWebs, as I expect that's what it's designed for. But it may be possible to make things easier on that front on the Wordpress site, like there may be some plugins that could help. The thing with Wordpress is it's extendable and customizable.”

In light of the above, at the Board meeting on 20th May, the website was discussed at length, and we have decided to stay with our present website, and continue to update and improve it as is necessary.

IMPROVER'S CORNER

BY Alisdair McLeod

Win this match with us

I thought I might try something different for this article, since these are different times we live in. Planning how to bid and play a hand is naturally important, but as evidenced by previous articles, there can be a lot of "if this happens do x and if that happens do y." So this time I'm using a different angle: today's hands are all drawn from a 24-board match I played on BBO. We won the match comfortably; and I invite you to "look over our shoulder" at some key boards from the match. You will be able to see the decisions we made, and how we analysed the situations which led to those decisions. There's no running theme; just a whistle-stop tour of some interesting points.

Board 4 – contract: 4♠ by South

The match was already going our way (not that we knew it yet) when Board 4 came along. As South I picked up this hand:

♠ 108743
♥ A984
♦ 7
♣ Q97

Steve, my partner, opened in the second seat with 1♣, which in our system shows opening points and 3+ clubs. This was passed to me, and I had an obvious 1♠ bid. At this point, my LHO, who passed as Dealer, overcalled 2♦. Steve bid 3♦ - an Unassuming Cue Bid, which is a good tool to have in your kit. Bidding the opposition suit shows a good raise to at least the next available bid of partner's suit – in this case, Steve is saying he has at least a good raise to 3♠. My RHO now bids 4♦, and I pass. I got my hand across the first time; to bid now would be a big lie to Steve, who would assume I had many more points. Nonetheless, Steve's hand is so good he can bid 4♠ now, and that becomes the contract. The K♦ is led, and dummy hits with:

♠ KQ95
♥ KQ75
♦ AJ
♣ A64

I make my plan. There's a reasonable chance of making; I seem to have enough tricks, but I am worried about potential losers if the cards don't

lie favourably.

I start by winning with the Ace. At Trick 2, I play the J♦ from dummy and ruff in hand. This is a key play: when the opponents regain the lead, they cannot play a diamond without giving me a ruff and discard. There was a second benefit – this was the hand I wanted to be in when starting on trumps. I need to knock out the Ace, but if West has a singleton Ace, I can preserve my King and Queen by playing towards them. As it happens, East holds the Ace, beating my Queen. East returns the 8 of clubs at this point. I cover with the 9. If the finesse of the Queen works, it will still work later. If it doesn't, playing the Queen now just so I can beat the King with my Ace will not help me any. It'll just leave the club suit exposed. West covers my nine with the 10, and I win with the Ace. I have no better option than cashing the King of spades at this point, so I do – and my luck is in. I get the 2-2 break. Now, I know that I am making this contract – as long as I am careful. I cash the K♥. I am surprised to see West discard the 3♦ on this, but not concerned. I simply play a small club towards hand, and when the 2 appears from East, I play the 7. West wins with the Jack and cashes his K♣, but now he's endplayed into giving me a ruff and discard – a possibility that I set up at Trick 2.

What if East had the K♣? Well, she has the same problem. She can play either minor suit and

continued next page...

IMPROVER'S CORNER

BY Alisdair McLeod

...continued from previous page

give me a ruff and discard, or she can open up the heart suit. Playing the Jack or Ten will allow me to win with the Queen and take a marked finesse. Playing low will allow me to win a trick with the 8 right away. This plan is not hard to find when West discards on the K♥, but the club exit is one that I should be making *anyway*. Once I lose two clubs, I must get a ruff and discard or the opponent leads a heart, which will allow me to guard against a 4-1 break on either side by playing low from the second hand. Incidentally, yes, I could finesse the Q♣, just in case East has the King, but on this occasion, I was fairly sure that West had it, so I didn't bother.

At the other table, our team-mates sacrificed in 5♦. Our counterparts didn't even find a double, as North somehow decided their hand was not good enough to raise partner to 4♠. Steve, of course, knew how good his hand was as soon as I bid 1♠, so why did he slow-roll with an Unassuming Cue Bid when he could've gone straight there? The answer is he doesn't yet know how good my hand is. I could have a much better hand than the one I had. So he just makes a forcing bid, preserving the bidding space until he knows more. Once I pass the 4♦, he can rule out a Slam, and signs off in the Game.

Board 6 – contract: 4♥ by East

Board 6 had some interesting defensive points, although I think the 13-IMP swing was largely decided by bidding system. East opened 1♥, and raised to 4 when partner bid 3. I held:

♠ 5
♥ J64
♦ Q1043
♣ J9864

I reason there is nothing better than a spade lead. Even if I can set up a minor suit, I am unlikely to ever be able to cash it against a trump

contract. My hand looks unlikely to contribute any tricks to the defence unless I can get a ruff. Dummy (W) is:

♠ Q104
♥ Q753
♦ 96
♣ KQ32

As hoped, Steve has the A♠ and wins. He now returns the 8, and I ruff. East has played the 2 and 7. Here we have a common issue at club bridge – which suit do I play back? If Steve can win this trick, then he can return another spade, and the contract will come down. This Ace-ruff-ace-ruff defence is the scourge of major games the world over. However, if I pick the wrong suit, East will win and draw trumps, making her contract. This would be really hard for me if I had to guess. I don't have to guess. Steve's 8 is a high card – he knows I want to know which minor suit to switch to. Remember the lesson Colonel Mustard learned a few issues previously? I switch to a diamond, and Steve does not disappoint, rising with the Ace and giving me another ruff. At the other table, East opened 1♣, as they play 5 Card Majors. Thus, it was West who ended up as Declarer in 4♥. It was a lot harder for North to find the A♠ lead, so our team-mates made 11 tricks.

I could say that we lucked out with system on Board 6; even though I think 5 Card Majors is a better system, the North and South hands could just as easily have been switched.

But what about Board 9? Third in, I hold:

Board 9 – contract: 4♥ by East

♠ K10
♥ AK9843
♦ 1065
♣ 65

I open a Multi 2♦ with this. Steve sold me on

continued page 8...

Introducing....



... Anne Brodie-Allan (anba bbo name)

My parents taught me bridge when I was nine, and we played the Culbertson System with a plastic tablecloth that had all the bids and meanings on it. i.e. never open without 21/2 quick tricks!! It seems so old fashioned these days, but it started my love of the game. I then learned and played ACOL, then Benji ACOL, and taught at Aberdeen Bridge Club for

about 9 years the basic ACOL system.

During my time as a member of Aberdeen Bridge Club I was the club tournament director for 4 years, in the days when you had to manually get the masterpoints together, sign them and file them in the wee boxes in the library. Then became Club President for 3 years. I am currently a member of the Phoenix Club so I still have ties with your great club.

I joined online bridge in 2002 when I found I could still play when the winter snows were at their worst and I could not get into the Bridge Club (I stayed 27 miles out of Aberdeen). I very quickly became an online tournament director and since most players at that time played Standard American Yellow Card system (SAYC) I learned and started playing that system and it evolved now to 2/1 system.

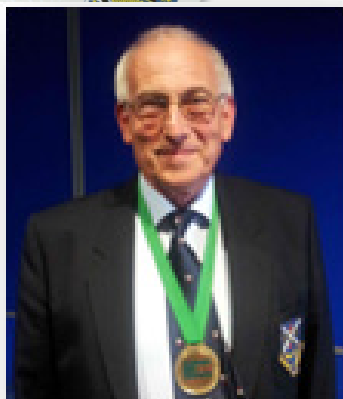
One of the beauties of this wonderful game is that it is played all over the world and I would encourage any of you to contact the local bridge club to where you are going on holiday and ask them if you can play ... and they are always delighted to see and welcome you. Not just in Britain, I have had the joy of playing in India, Namibia, USA, Canada, Malta, Sicily, Portugal, Italy to name but a few, and many times in Ireland. South Africa was where I played in the largest bridge club in the world!! and it was - WOW! - played a Saturday afternoon normal session which had 93 tables! The Club itself was the size of a very large supermarket and there were guards patrolling the grounds while we played ... blew my mind!

As many of you know, I now have 4 tournaments running online for you all while we are all on LOCKDOWN!! The tournaments are free and run on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 11.30am. 12 boards are played, and it takes around 90 mins. Anyone who has a BBO nickname and told Fumi is welcome to play on any of these days...just come in and register to play on the day.

I cannot run them every day because I still teach classes on BBO for 2/1 on Tuesdays and Fridays but if lockdown continues, I am sure the SBU will be doing evening tournaments for you in the near future.

Stay safe and well and continue to enjoy this wonderful (if not very frustrating) game!

Introducing....



Harry Smith

(Abridged from SBU News 2017)

Harry was born on Glasgow's south side in 1949, where he lived his first 8 years before the family moved to Broughty Ferry in 1957. His main recollection of the change is that he saw the sky for the first time away from the horrendous 1950s grime of inner-city Glasgow.

His father's work took the family back to Glasgow in 1964 and Harry went to Hamilton Academy. Then in 1966 he went to Glasgow University studying maths, physics and astronomy, eventually coming out 4 years later with an honours degree in pure mathematics. One of Harry's friends, who had played some bridge at home, suggested you could easily fit quite a number of bridge hands into an hour.

The only flaw in this logic was that Harry and the other two in the group had no idea how to play bridge, so that evening the bold foursome set off for the university union bridge room, where it transpired rubber bridge was played continuously from early morning to late evening. They were welcomed and treated to 10 minutes free tuition before it was suggested they cut in and played. The stakes were an old pre-decimal penny per hundred points, and contributors were always welcome!

He quickly became addicted. As well as between lectures, many evenings of the week were given over to bridge, and Harry even played in a students' team in the West District League, in about the fourth division.

In 1970 he joined Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society in Glasgow as an actuarial student, qualified a few years later, and eventually became Assistant General Manager (Life). Harry had not yet returned to the game and it was only after his move to the Stirling Head Office in 1972 that he was persuaded by a colleague to join Stirling Bridge Club. He has remained a member ever since, was on the committee for over 20 years, spent a few years as Secretary, and was President twice. For the rest of the 1970s, he was a regular there and at Falkirk Club, where he also served a term as President.

It was the late Jimmie (Lofty) Milne who introduced Harry to the national game, when he suggested that they play as a pair at the October Congress in Peebles in 1981. Winning the first event they entered, the Men's Teams on Friday afternoon, and then repeating the performance a year later, whetted Harry's appetite for the game.

His greatest success came as non playing captain of the senior team which won the bronze medal at the European Championships in Dublin in 2013 and went on to reach the quarter-finals in the World Championships, the D'Orsi Bowl, in Bali the following year. This success led Harry into a new venture. He and his old friend, Alex Adamson, had already discussed the possibility of writing a bridge book jointly.

continued next page...

Harry then suggested that he could write a blog from Bali and the two of them could use that as the base for a book. The result was 'Scotland's Senior Moment' published in 2015.

He thinks many players could greatly improve their game by reading more about bridge. Seeing how the great players think can teach you an enormous amount. Any work by Terence Reese, although now many decades old, is well worth reading, and the humorous books, such as the classic Menagerie series by Victor Mollo, can be very instructive as well as easy reading – as of course can Harry and Alex's own book! The classic of all time, in his opinion, is Pietro Forquet's 'Bridge With The Blue Team'. He has read it 3 or 4 times and assures me he will soon be reading it again!

Harry is known as an aggressive bidder. He remembers well 25 years ago opening 2 on a hand which even our juniors wouldn't have contemplated bidding on. His then partner, Ian Hunter, holding a 29-count with AKQJx of spades sadistically took him through forcing bid by forcing bid till he eventually bid the cold grand slam, enjoying the beads of sweat on Harry's brow as he wondered how he was ever going to explain his opener.

Harry's regular partner these days is Roy Bennett. They play an essentially simple Acol based system, and are looking forward to success in the coming season.

IMPROVER'S CORNER

...continued from page 5

this convention a long time ago. The 2♦ bid shows one of three hand types; one of which is a "Weak 2" type hand in a Major. This frees up the 2♥/♠ opening bids for something else, and makes it trickier for the opponents to defend against. West over-called 3♣, and this was passed round to me. I resist temptation to bid again; Steve will now know I have a Weak 2, and West could be strong. I don't want to give West another opportunity to bid. This was prescient: as well as 5 Clubs, West also held four spades. He made an overtrick in 3♣, but ten tricks are also there in a spade contract. My counterpart simply opened 2♥, and West doubled. This implied spades, so East ventured a 3♠ bid over North's 3♥. They found the thin 4♠ game and we scored another 10 IMPs.

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Jacoby 2NT

BY Mike Hodder

Many partnerships play that a response of 2NT over an opening bid of one heart or one spade is game forcing and agrees that suit. This convention is named after the great American player, Oswald Jacoby. So why do they do this? The main advantage is that it gives you more space to explore slam options without committing to an ace-asking bid. You can judge the level of the fit and the combined strength of the hands without going past the four level. It also enables you to pre-empt to four hearts or four spades on a weak, distributional hand and partner will know that you have limited high cards. Let's look at a few examples.

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C	Hand D
♠ 87	♠ A87	♠ AK7	♠ 7
♥ KJ942	♥ K875	♥ K875	♥ AJ9875
♦ 32	♦ KQ10	♦ KQ10	♦ 4
♣ AK107	♣ J32	♣ J86	♣ J1032

Playing Jacoby, if partner opens one heart you respond 2NT on Hands A, B and C. On hand D, it's best to pre-empt straight to four hearts and hope that this stops the opposition from finding their spade fit. The power of this convention will become clear when you look at how the opener responds. A common treatment is as follows:

- Any new suit at the 3 level is a singleton
- 3 suit = 18+
- 3NT= 15-17
- 4 suit = 11-14 or any minimum hand
- Any new suit at the 4-level shows 5-5 distribution or better

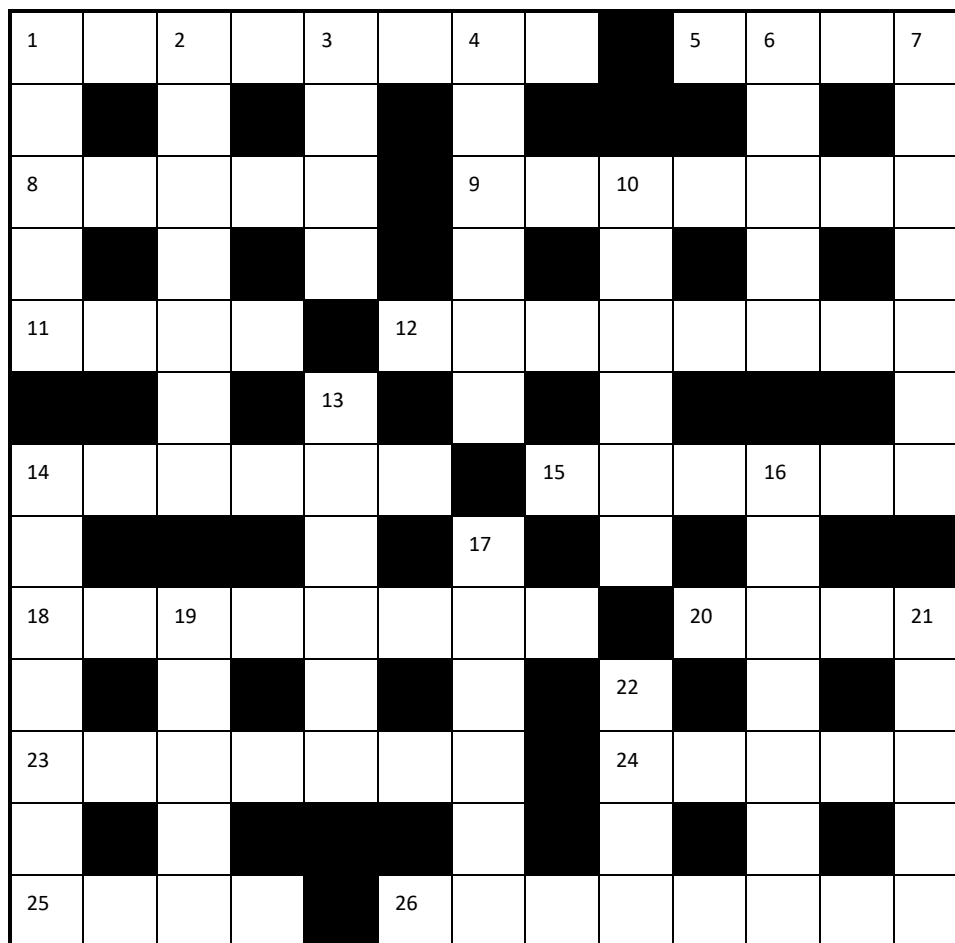
Holding Hand A, if opener rebids 3 diamonds or 3 hearts, you know that slam is possible - a cue bid of 4 clubs would be recommended. Holding Hand C, you can invite slam if opener's rebid is 3NT and if it's 3 clubs or 3 hearts you should insist on slam! However, if opener rebids 4 hearts, showing a minimum, you have a clear pass. Without Jacoby, many pairs would launch into their favourite ace-asking convention on this hand and may find even the five level too high if partner has opened on a miserable 12 -count.

It's also possible to use Jacoby if partner opens with one club or one diamond; to do this you need a hand strong enough to guarantee 3NT or 5 of the minor and you would not normally hold a biddable 4-card major suit. You will need to modify opener's responses so as not to bypass 3NT if that is the best contract.

As with all conventions, you need to decide what to do if the opponents interfere. After a take-out double, the traditional ACOL understanding is that 2NT shows a high-card raise of partner's suit to at least the three level (i.e., 10+ points, reasonably balanced) and many experienced players use this also after an overcall. Opener's rebid structure can be natural now, with a simple rebid of 3 of the major as non-forcing.

With any convention, you lose the natural meaning of the conventional bid. So what do you do holding a balanced 10-12 points with perhaps 2 or 3 cards in partner's suit? The answer is simply to bid a new suit at the two level. This is better in some ways than responding 2NT, as partner's rebid will give you more information. Very occasionally (e.g., holding 3-4-3-3 distribution over a one spade opener) you might need to bid 2 clubs or 2 diamonds on a 3-card suit as a 2 heart bid would show 5. And what if you are a passed hand? You can choose now whether to play 2NT as natural or to show 10-11 points with support. Happy Bidding!

Cryptic Puzzle



Clues Across

- 1 In this, the only game's on-line (8)
- 5 Pennyless, I bid spades but get the bird!(4)
- 8 I find 4 hands to support tens?(5)
- 9 Illegal form of trading in side arms - Sam not involved. (7)
- 11 Jump, needs a red card (4)
- 12 Put on lead, abandoned deal (6,2)
- 14 Hands are often thus these days (6)
- 15 Minor honours in two positions, both future and past? (6)
- 18 Steve ran crazily to see Venus! (8)
- 20 Andrew Robson leaves Canadian Ace for philosopher (4)
- 23 A wild play? (7)
- 24 American folk musician left on maximum volume? (5)
- 25 Dogs must change! (4)
- 26 For ever a minor? (8)

Clues Down

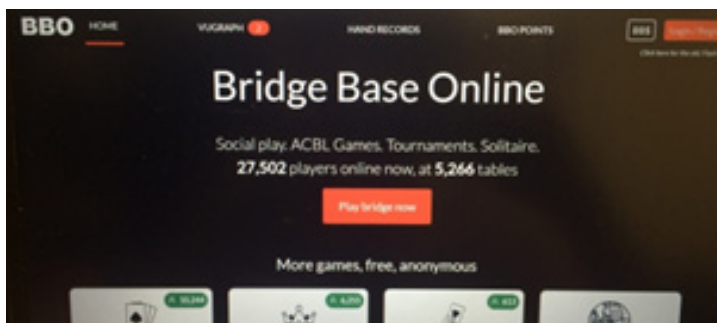
- 1 Succeeds with contract for territory?(5)
- 2 Ned joins gambling house to find defence (7)
- 3 Run to dead tree (4)
- 4 Lionel was correct without the Ace of Spades! (8)
- 6 Reject the option to Pass ? (3,2)
- 7 May need pulling to achieve result? (7)
- 10 Deliberately scratched, but worked out who won (6)
- 13 Two hands in the North East - that is a favourite monster (6)
- 14 Note themes that defy convention (7)
- 16 Finds many a good man playing this (7)
- 17 Can't hide these in the corner of your eye! (6)
- 19 Emily came across holiday maker in Cornwall (5)
- 21 Inevitably associated with birth and death? (5)
- 22 Noisily close to big bonus? (4)

Introduction to Bridge Base Online

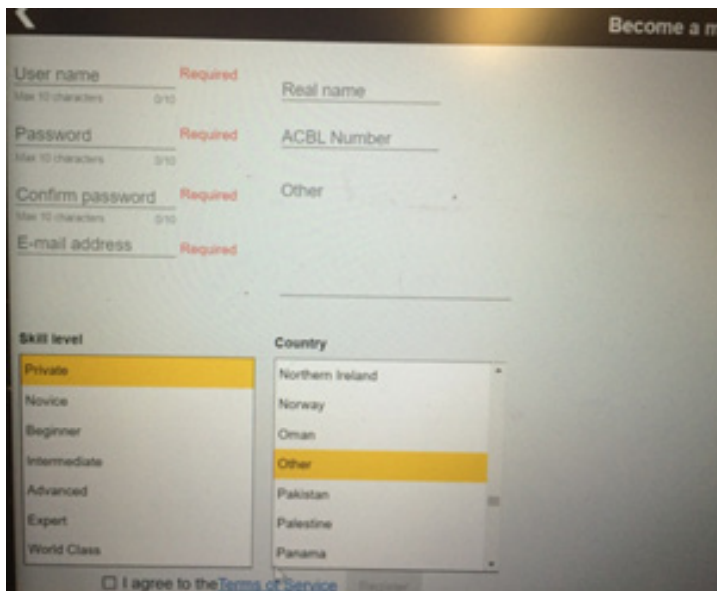
Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.

Playing Bridge Online is fun and flexible, particularly under the current Lockdown situation. What's more, you can play with and against people you already know. Bridge Base Online (BBO) is free and worldwide. Your fellow Club members may already be playing there, so why not give a try?

First things first – registration. Find Bridge Base Online on a search engine, click Bridge Base Online, which will bring you to the screen below.



At top right corner, click Login/Register, and you'll find yourself in the below page.

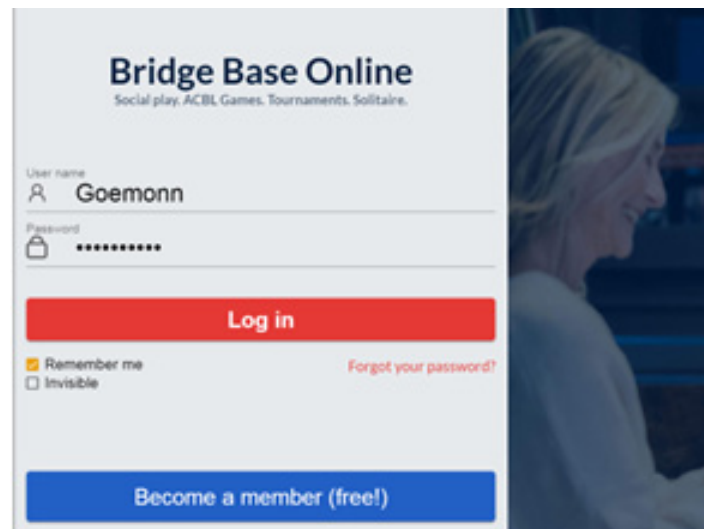


Think up a User name – or BBO ID. This is the name you'll be known on the BBO site rather than your real name. Think of a password, as of other online registration, confirm the password, type in your email address, they are the 'Required' categories, so that's all you need. Don't worry about Real name or Skill Levels.

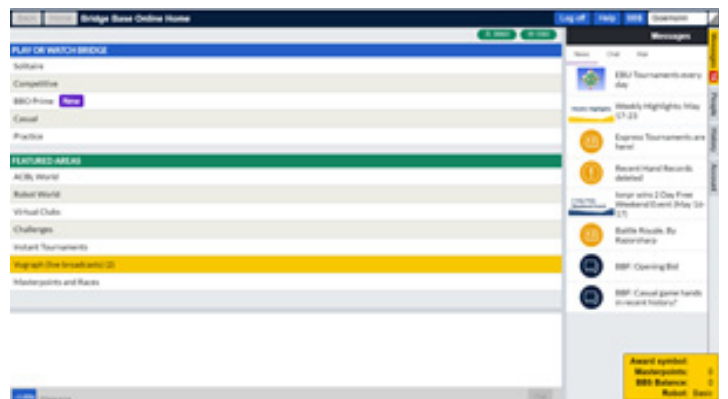
They can be added/modified later. Never mind ACBL Number! This is where many get stuck. Most of us playing in the UK don't have this, and it's not 'Required'.

As ever, one has to agree to the Terms of Service, and click the box to proceed. Click Register, then the process will be completed.

Once you are registered, you could ask the system to remember your Password so you don't have to. Next time you visit the BBO website, you will see a screen like below. Click Log in -



And you'll find the page below: BBO Home.

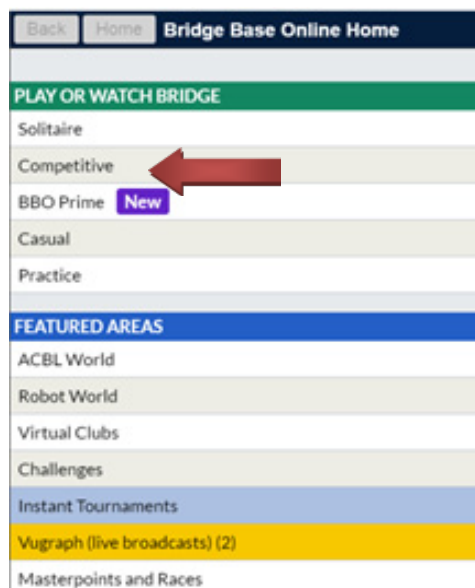


Where you go from here depends on what you want to do on the site. Look for earlier email messages re Anba's tournaments. They are run four times a week: 11:30 am to c.12:50 am, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. This is a Pairs event so you'll need a partner, but there is a chance that someone might be looking for a partner on the day. This will be explained in the next section.

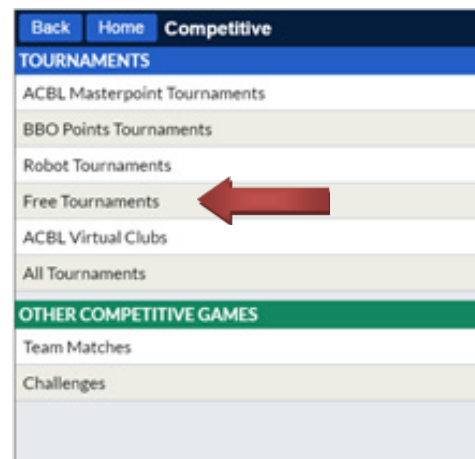
Introduction to Anba's tournament on

Anne Brodie-Allan, a former member and the teacher, is running a pairs tournament for the Bridge Club members. As the lockdown situation continuing, the more members started joining the tournament recently. Here is a reminder, in case you are considering to join us, but in need of refreshing your memory how.

The first thing is to let Anne know your BBO username, only once prior to your first tournament, Email brodieallan@btinternet.com, so that Anne will add your BBO username to her list of potential players. She doesn't need to know when you intend to play so no warning needed. Once you are on her list, just log in before 11:30 and on you go. So, what's next? Click 'Competitive'



Then Click 'Free Tournament'



You should find ABERDEEN Pairs Tournament' hosted by Anba on the list like this:

Host	Title	Type	Start	Entries	Entry Fee
BBO	Free Just Declare Daylong (MP) - 2020-06-25	Individual	Running	7864	Free
CBAI125505	Pairs Navan Road & Friends Swiss Pairs #9149	Pairs	<1	15	Free
b4Q	Pairs (:) HAPPY NOON FUN (:) #4882	Pairs	2	62	Free
div_02	Pairs FAST BBO-Germany Montag Nachmittag #2059	Pairs	2	60	Free
BBO	Express - Free Automated Fun #2255	Individual	4	80	Free
Smile U Me	Pairs Smile With Me #1302	Pairs	4	79	Free
BBO	Express - Free TCR 90 Automated Fun #2327	Individual	8	32	Free
mcb01	Pairs MCBA Manchester Monday (minty) #3747	Pairs	10	37	Free
MagisOliva	Pairs Carmelo&Friends 6Y66Y66Y6 #724	Pairs	11	22	Free
div_03	Pairs FAST BBO-Germany Montag Nachmittag #3061	Pairs	11	45	Free
Robbie64	Pairs Circolo PERROUX - Modena IT 14.45 #671	Pairs	12	0	Free
manu24	Pairs SERIOMANTROPPO #1198	Pairs	14	27	Free
Joker_Card	Ind. ****Sai Shobha Quicky**** #7927	Individual	19	31	Free
Trablock	Days BECCO'S SOLA#561	Days	11	11	Free

When you click Anba's tournament, you'll then be asked to register for your entry along with your partner. You can invite your partner by typing her/his BBO Username and click 'invite'. It may be useful to ensure that your partner has logged in at the time of your inviting her. How do you know if your partner has logged in? Click 'People' tab on the right-hand side of the screen:



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Anba's tournament

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At the bottom of People tab, you can type in your partner's BBO username and 'Add' the name to your list of friends. Those names on your friends list will appear when they logged in. You can send a private message to those on your list, too.

If you don't have a partner, but may be happy to try your luck in case there will also be another single player on the day, you can click 'Partnership desk' tab at the top of Anba's tournament page. No guarantee of a game, but you never know. I have paired up in this way a few times. There will be more tournament opportunities coming our way as the rumour has it that the SBU is in discussion with the BBO. These tournaments will issue Master Points, and also enable the Clubs as well as the SBU to earn some much needed income.

For those who haven't done online bridge before, or have been put off by bad table manners in the past, it'd be outside the comfort zone. But the more players start playing online the more people you can add to your friends list, and hopefully the online bridge will become an extended comfort zone, or at least not such a scary space. Any query or feedback email secretary@aberdeenbridgeclub.co.uk and we'll do our best to help any way we can ☺

SBU Virtual Club on BBO

First Event Tuesday 2nd June 7pm

The first event in our new SBU Virtual Club will be match-pointed pairs, Tuesday 2 June at 7pm, comprising 24 boards in 2 board rounds.

Registration and payment in BBO\$ will be taken on the day within BBO. The entry fee for this event is an introductory 2BBO\$. Proceeds will be used to train online tournament directors for SBU Affiliated Clubs.

Registration will be accepted only from those who have completed the form to register their BBO username with SBU, by 6pm on Monday 1 June. A link to the form is provided in the article below. On registration you will be prompted to enter the BBO username of your partner. There will also be a pop-up asking for your 'player number'. This is your masterpoint number and it is not obligatory, although perhaps helpful, to provide it as players' BBO names will be associated with their MP number external to BBO for the purpose of awarding Black points on the club scale.

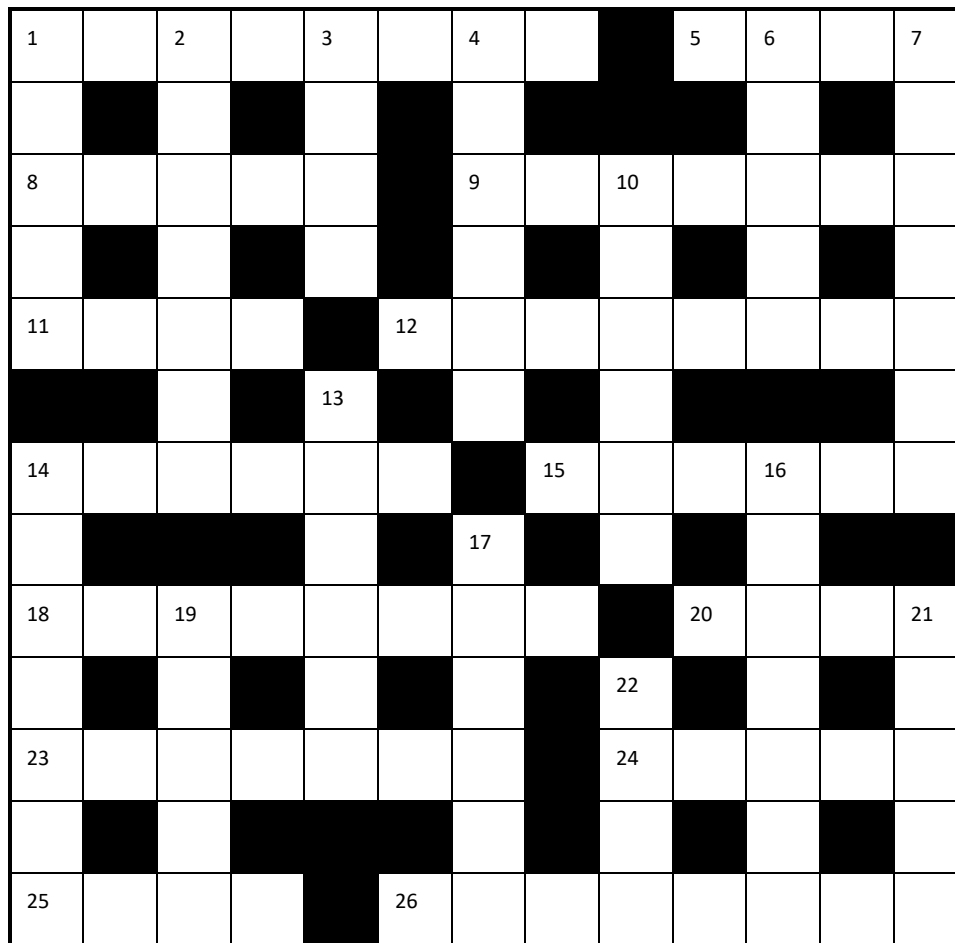
To purchase BBO\$, at parity with US\$, use the following link [Buy BBO\\$](#) Be aware that other routes to purchase may incur additional charges.

To register for the event log on to BBO and navigate to: Featured Areas/Virtual Clubs/SBU/Tuesday MP Pairs. Simply click on the event line and register any-time from two hours beforehand up to the start time of 7pm.

If you need more help then read the Guide for New Users



Non-cryptic Puzzle



NON-CRYPTIC CLUES

Clues Across

- 1 What we are currently in (8)
- 5 Wading bird (4)
- 8 Spot cards (5)
- 9 Illegal form of trading (7)
- 11 Jump (4)
- 12 Put on lead (6,2)
- 14 Hands are often this during 1 Across (6)
- 15 Forms of a verb (6)
- 18 Venus (8)
- 20 German philosopher (4)
- 23 Hurricane (7)
Alan ____ American folk musicologist
- 24 (5)
- 25 Dogs (4)
- 26 Gemstones (8)

Clues Down

- 1 Comes ashore (5)
- 2 A defence to 1 No Trump (7)
- 3 Run (4)
Lionel ____ NZ Bridge Star who gave his name to a popular
- 4 convention (6)
- 6 Continue the auction (3,2)
- 7 Essential part of e.g. a violin (7)
- 10 Worked out the result (6)
- 13 A favourite local monster (6)
- 14 System of overcalls (7)
- 16 A common convention (7)
- 17 The angular junction of the eyelids (6)
- 19 What the Cornish call a tourist (6)
- 21 Dues (5)
- 22 Important target at bridge (4)

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Board 12 – contract: 4♥ by North

Board 12 was another victory for the Multi 2♦. This time, Steve opened it, and I held:

♠ AK85
♥ AQ74
♦ 7
♣ 7432

This is a rare hand to get opposite partner's Multi 2♦, but a pleasant one. It's likely partner holds a Weak 2 in a Major, and whichever it is, I think there's a Game to be had there. The question is how I respond. I can't bid 2♥; if Steve has a Weak 2 in Hearts, he'll pass that. 2♠ from me solves that problem if he has a Weak 2 in Hearts, but if he has a Weak 2 in spades, he'll pass. Neither of these options are palatable, so I bid 2NT. This asks Steve to describe his hand. Usually I would have 16+HCPs to bid this, but it can also be used in situations like this – where I'm not quite that strong, but don't wish to risk partner passing at the 2 Level. This bid is 100% forcing. Steve responds 3♥. This tells me not only that he has a Weak 2 in hearts, but that he is in the upper range of his "Weak 2" bid. 4♥ is an easy bid for me. This was the full hand:

	Steve	
	♠ 2	
	♥ KJ10852	
	♦ J63	
	♣ K85	
West		East
♠ 1097		♠ QJ643
♥ 93		♥ 6
♦ AQ82		♦ K10954
♣ A1096		♣ QJ
	♠ AK85	
	♥ AQ74	
	♦ 7	
	♣ 7432	
	Alisdair	

As you can see, 4♥ is an easy make for Steve. If the A♣ was with East, then the defence could potentially beat the contract with a diamond lead and club switch. As it is, there are 6 heart tricks, two spades, and two diamond ruffs to be had. The K♣ provides an overtrick. At the other table, North opened 2♥, so East was able to bid 4♦, which shows 5-5 in diamonds and spades. South bid 4♥, but West bid 4♠ and South allowed this to be played undoubled. Of course, the best move South could have made would be to bid 5♥ - if our team-mates sacrifice in 5♠, South should surely find a double for the opportunity to gain 800.

The defence got off to a reasonable start, but not the best one. If North can find a diamond lead, then they can take 4 Spades 3 off. The heart lead was more obvious, after which South switched to a diamond. Declarer won and led the 10♠, so South won and fired a club through. Declarer lost

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the finesse, and here's where it went wrong for North. He played a club back, which allowed West to knock out South's remaining spade winner with the Queen. She should have played small to the 9, though it shouldn't have mattered. There is no way for South to get partner on lead, so she played a club. West should make the rest of the tricks here and come an impressive one off. However, she overtook the 9 of spades with the Jack, promoting South's 8. Letting the 9 run, ruffing a heart, and then pulling the last spade was the way to go. Even so, -2 undoubled was a good score.

Is a superior system going to be the main reason we won the match by 66 IMPs? I did not set out to have a running theme, yet it appears at first glance that we scored lots of points just for having tools in our kit that our opponents didn't have. Well, yes and no. You can't control what system your opponents play, but you can control what you play. Our counterparts at the other table cannot blame system for not getting to 5♥, for not finding the optimum defence, or not having methods to deal with the Multi 2♦. And they certainly don't get to say they were unlucky on Board 18, where they got into the sort of mess that anyone who has taken on board the lessons from my article in the Spring 2019 newsletter should have avoided:

Board 18 – contract: 4♠ by South

North

♠ 108

♥ | QJ954

♦ J8

♣ 9872

♠ AKQ9742

♥ | A

♦ A9

♣ Q106

South

As second in, most people with the South hand would open 2♣, or whatever their strongest opening bid is. It is reasonable to expect 9 tricks from this hand alone when spades are trumps. Partner should have 1 or 2 spades, and even if they don't have any, trumps might split 3-3. The two red aces make 9. I opened 2♣, as did my counterpart. At the other table, North bid 2♦, which I can only assume was "waiting" (for the impending disaster). South bid 2♠, which presumably doth not a solid suit promise, because North felt it necessary to bid 3♥. South rebid spades and North raised to 4. I strongly suspect the 2♣ bid is Game Forcing; no other reason adequately explains the compulsion to keep bidding, particularly with the pile of mince in the North hand.

In our system, the auction is not Game Forcing until Responder bids 2♦, because that is not the only bid he can make. The 2♦ bid promises at least a King, or two Queens; there is no upper limit.

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Steve bids 2♥, which tells me two things: He cannot meet the requirements for a 2♦ bid, and he is not going to bid again. My second bid will be the contract. This is valuable information. I can construct maybe two hands where 4♠ will make. Steve holding 10x of spades and QJx in diamonds with a working finesse – or maybe he has two spades and a void in clubs. The odds are extremely against a required hand popping up. So I bid 2♠. As I'm sure you can tell, there are no more than 9 tricks available. +140 and +6 IMPs to us.

Board x – contract: 4♠ by North

We'll finish with a demonstration in card play from Steve. In a few of the above examples, the final contracts have been different between the tables, or the bidding is interesting. Here, the contract was 4♠ by North at both tables, and it doesn't matter how we got there.

Alisdair

♠ J7
♥ Q762
♦ 102
♣ AQ1085

♠ K1086432
♥ 4
♦ AK83
♣ 2

Steve

Both tables got the same lead, too: the 7♣. I've switched the orientation so it resembles more of a Declarer puzzle format, although this shouldn't be the hardest Declarer puzzle you've ever seen.

It's a simple matter of eliminating losers. You have one definite and two total potential spade losers (not counting ruffs or bad breaks), two potential diamond losers, and a potential heart loser. Steve's counterpart won the opening lead with the A♣ and ran the J♠. This lost to the Queen, and East played another club to dummy's 10, West's Jack and Declarer's ruff. Declarer then played the K♠, knocking out the ace and discovering the 2-2 split. But when East had the Ace, cashed the A♥ and played another round of hearts, Declarer was stuffed. Even worse, the King of hearts fell on the second round of hearts (which he'd ruffed), so now he had a Q♥ winner he couldn't access. He only had spades and diamonds left, and couldn't do anything about the 2 diamond losers, coming 2 off in a contract he should have made.

Steve knew the best chance of making lay in eliminating diamond losers. He won the opening lead but didn't make any attempt to draw trumps – that could come after he'd promoted dummy's trumps. He played a small diamond to the Ace and King, and then played a third round of diamonds. When East had a third diamond he ruffed small. He'd have been very unlucky if West only

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IMPROVER'S CORNER

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had 2 diamonds. Breaks are more likely to be even when the opponents start with an odd number of cards. He now ruffed a small club to get back to hand, and played his last diamond. If East followed, it would mean that West had no more diamonds, but that doesn't matter – Steve is ruffing with the Jack, so it is effectively a finesse, playing East for the Q♠. However, it is East that has no more diamonds, and that's fine too. She ruffs with the Queen. Steve can't over-ruff, so he just pitches, but now the Jack will knock out the Ace, and the King and Ten are still available for drawing the rest. As it happens, East cashes the Ace now. This is followed by the Ace of Hearts and another heart to her partner's King. Steve ruffs this, draws the last trump, and claims. Sometimes, a mental block can form because of the possibility of over-ruffs. Sometimes, over-ruffs are no bad thing; they help you to take control of the hand. Here, East had the AQ♠ behind Steve's King. When she ruffed, she was ruffing with a trick she was going to get anyway, so it did no harm. If she'd refused the opportunity to ruff, Steve would have won with the J♠, and ruffed a club back to hand. On the lie of the cards he can't lose more than 2 spade tricks.

I don't think there were any particularly fancy concepts in how we went about playing; like most of the time, it was a case of trying not to make mistakes. Of course, during play, we had no idea what the score was. At best, we knew we had simply avoided several opportunities to go wrong. Sometimes, that's all you need to do.

Solution for Spring 2020 – Cryptic & Non-Cryptic

¹ L	O	² C	K	³ D	O	⁴ W	N		⁵ I	⁶ B	I	⁷ S
A		A		A		R			I			T
⁸ N	I	N	E	S		⁹ I	N	¹⁰ S	I	D	E	R
D		S		H		G		C		O		I
¹¹ S	K	I	P		¹² T	H	R	O	W	N	I	N
		N		¹³ N		T		R				G
¹⁴ G	L	O	V	E	D		¹⁵ T	E	N	¹⁶ S	E	S
H				S		¹⁷ C		D		T		
¹⁸ E	V	¹⁹ E	N	S	T	A	R		²⁰ K	A	N	²¹ T
S		M		I		N		²² S		Y		A
²³ T	E	M	P	E	S	T		²⁴ L	O	M	A	X
E		E				H		A		A		E
²⁵ M	U	T	E		²⁶ D	I	A	M	O	N	D	S

Obituaries

Ann Shipton



Ann Shipton passed away peacefully at home in Porterterton on 21st March. I knew Ann for 48 years when the family moved here a year after us. I had not known Ann before that but we soon became great friends after they stayed with us whilst they looked for a house. It was Ann who introduced Jamie and me to the Bridge Club and that became a good part of our lives - despite the occasional arguments about what the best lead would have been! Ann loved to play in no trumps and I have quavered more than once thinking how ever will she make that. But of course she usually did! Ann was such fun to be with, kind hearted and wise. She loved jokes. Added to that she coped with her illness so bravely and she had several afternoons playing bridge at

home with friends. There is much more one could add but we all have personal memories of Ann which will stay with us.
BY Beth Batey

Pat Symon passed away peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Sunday 10th May, aged 88. Sally & I first met Pat & Isobel Symon at the Bridge Section of Seafield Bowling Club in the late 60's where in those days they had 12 + tables every week during the Winter. Pat persuaded us to join the Phoenix Club where there was a higher standard of play & I've been there ever since.

Pat & Isobel both came from Banffshire in the Keith area, from there Pat went to study Law at Aberdeen University. he graduated to join the Aberdeen Law practise of Lawrie and Company, in Victoria Street. As well as Bridge, Pat was a very keen golfer and lifelong member of Murcar Golf Club eventually being elected to be Club Captain. I understand that the family have decided to have his Ashes scattered on the Murcar Links once they can get them all together from the far corners of the earth. Pat, along with some associates, was a very successful racehorse owner, with a share in horse called

Lochnager (it was meant to be Lochnagar but had been misspelt by one of the joint owners. He has had a full life and was approaching his nineties, so he has had his moneys worth I was proud to have known Pat, as he was among a group of my special friends and only one word really describes him - GENTLEMAN.
BY Gibby Reid

David MacLennan

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of David MacLennan, Dave, was a member of the Bridge Club from the mid 70's until late 1999 when he and his wife Sheila moved to Perth to be closer to their children and grandchildren in the Central Belt. Dave and Sheila were stalwarts of the club during the 80's and 90's with Sheila being club secretary for many years and Dave was Chairman at least once during that period.

They did much to encourage younger people to join the club and to promote alternative club nights, in addition to Mondays and Thursdays. They introduced a 'friendly' Saturday evening tournament, where myself and other novice players, could play in relative 'safety', and they also supported the Wednesday tournament,

which continues to be a more relaxed evening of Bridge.

Dave was an expert Bridge player, who though competitive, was also a gentleman at the Bridge table, never overbearing, and magnanimous and complimentary if you managed to defeat his contract. He captained the Bridge Club Team, his name can be found on most of the club trophies, and he and Sheila, were still, until relatively recently, taking part in congresses and national competitions, and he was a recent President of Perth Bridge Club. He will be sadly missed in Bridge circles, and we send our condolences to Sheila, their children, Neil and Susie, and the wider family.

BY Margaret Hodder

Eva Parsons-Gunn

passed away on Thursday 26th March at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Eva was a Senior Scientific Officer at Torry Research Station and was a competitive Bridge and Scrabble player with an abiding love of her garden. A long-time member of various voluntary euthanasia societies, she did not achieve her wish but requested no ceremony whatsoever after her death and requests that any donation is sent to Dignity in Dying Scotland. [from P&J obituary]

