



November Newsletter

no.65

☎ 258 1634 glasgowbridgeclub@talktalk.net

Coming Events

Jesner/Johnston Sunday 5th @ GBC 1:30 **CANCELLED**
Fairlie/Bowman/Arthur Sunday 5th @ Buchanan
Rayne Teams Tuesday 7th @ Buchanan
West District Sim Pairs Wednesday 15th 7:15 @ GBC
National Pairs Q Thursday 16th 7:15 @ GBC
National League, @ New Melville 18th & 19th
District Pairs Q Thursday 30th 7:15 @ GBC

Player Promotions

Scottish Master : Alex Cram

Club Master : Sheila Going, Ann Main

Half Tables

During November E/W will sit out if there is a half table.

Thursday Teams

This continues but please note Thursday 16th and Thursday 30th are **PAIRS** qualifiers as in **coming events** above.

Christmas Parties

Due to other commitments Cathy Ferguson will not be doing our parties. In light of this the committee have decided not to hold our traditional parties but instead have free mince pies / cake / soft drinks during each tournament of the pre-Christmas week.

Intermediate Lessons

Cathy Ferguson is running a series throughout November on Doubles. Take out, competitive, penalty. These are every Thursday 1:30, £10 a session.

Holiday Bridge

It is 6 pm, we gingerly open the door of a small unit in a modern office development – **Dobrodoslico** (welcome) rings out. We have found the BK Tivoli Bridge Club in Ljubljana. We are on holiday in Slovenia and it is characteristically Glasgow weather - it has been raining all day and it was going to continue all evening. In Glasgow on a wet Monday evening we would play bridge at the Club; so why should it be any different in Slovenia.

Thank goodness everyone speaks English as our knowledge of Slovenian is nought. The entry fee is €7.50 each which makes bridge in Glasgow look cheap but it includes a free drink and any amount of nibbles you can consume. You are not allowed to eat or drink at the Table, however, which I believe is a good thing as both the floor and table cloths are in pristine condition.

The tournament started at 6.30 prompt – quite a shock for those at the GBC who think that 7.15 is too early. We were allocated a N/S seat as to the relief of the Tournament Director, I was able to use a bridgemate. Thank goodness for bridgemates and bidding boxes as problems with language have all but disappeared with their introduction.

What of the bridge? The tournament was a 7 Table Howell. There was the usual mix of players, some poor, some good, some confident and others reticent. We felt we had a good evening bidding and making a risky slam, and making and braking a number of difficult contracts. We had enjoyed our game, but what of the results. They were read out by the Tournament Director at the end of the evening but unfortunately in Slovenian!! Our names were the last to be mentioned but we had not realised they were in reverse order. We had won unlike the Scottish football team two weeks later. To put it in perspective, however, there are only 12 bridge clubs in the whole country.

Alan Livingstone



Safe Hand

Playing in a recent Thursday teams I was North defending 3NT by West and

Board 2 N/S Vul - Dealer East

	♠ Q 8 6 5 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ Q 6 5 3	
♠ K J 9 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A K 4 ♣ A J 10 4 2		♠ 7 4 ♥ A J 5 4 ♦ J 7 3 2 ♣ K 8 7
	♠ A 10 2 ♥ K 9 7 6 3 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ 9	

led 5S. Adrienne won the Ace and returned the 10 to J and Q and I cleared the spades. Declarer won the King, crossed to KC and led a club back getting the bad news. She eventually lost 4 spades, a club and a heart for two off. Yet this contract should always make.

By the play of the cards you should know spades are 5-3 but anyway, if they are 4-4 it does not matter which way you finesse the clubs, if they are 5-3 you must keep North out.

So, having won KS you run JC, if North covers nine tricks are in the bag, if not it wins (catching the 9C) and now you finesse 8C. That picks up five club tricks and 3NT. If the JC had lost to the singleton Queen, South is stuck and might try a canny 9D. You must go up with AD and run TH, that gives two hearts tricks, four clubs, a spade and two diamonds. Nine tricks, while always keeping North out, so South is called the 'safe' hand.

Suit Preference Signals

These are a great asset to accurate defence. The first occasion to learn to use them is when giving partner a ruff. As partner has none you usually have a choice of cards to play for partner to ruff. A high card asks for the higher ranked of the other two suits. Example, hearts are trumps and you are playing a diamond for partner to ruff. The other two suits are spades and clubs. So, a high diamond asks for a spade back, a low diamond for clubs.

North		West		East		South		HCPs	
♠ 3 2 ♥ A K J 9 8 5 3 ♦ ♣ 10 6 3 2		♠ Q 8 7 5 ♥ 10 7 6 ♦ J 4 ♣ A K 8 4		♠ A K 9 4 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ A K 10 9 7 ♣ 7		♠ J 10 6 ♥ ♦ Q 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ Q J 9 5		8 10 16 6	

On a recent Monday I was North. Our opponents Barbara and Davina started 1D - 1S and I came in 3H. Davina bid 4S and I was on lead. Obviously, I led a top heart and Adrienne showed out. You can get this contract two off but there is a chance that Declarer has 6 trumps. At Butler scoring a guaranteed one off is all you want. So, I continued with a second top heart then played JH (*suit preference*). Partner ruffed and dutifully returned a diamond. I ruffed for the fourth trick.

That hand was played 13 times in 4S, only 4 pairs put it one off, the rest all made.