

## Bridge Blog – 15 December 2022



It was lovely to see so many bridge members attending the Christmas Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. There was a great atmosphere and much jollity around with everyone keen to start the seasons festivities. The scene was set during the pre-dinner drinks by Paul Ambrose who entertained us with delightful seasonal piano playing – many thanks to Paul for his musical contribution- it is always greatly appreciated. The dinner was delicious, the wine flowed and generally a good time was had by all. Thanks go to the Chef, Olivia and all the catering team for looking after us and particularly to Libby Dand who organised the event. Also, many thanks to Peter Bradburn who provided the beautiful table decorations.



After dinner presentations of engraved glasses were made to those who had won the various Roehampton Club Cups and Trophies during 2022.



Gifts were also presented to thank the many members who work throughout the year to support our various bridge sessions and teaching activities which we all benefit from.



After dinner we all settled down to ‘concentrate’ on the bridge –there were prizes to be won.

A slam was bid and made on the first hand by Marion and Arnold, but which was eventually out ranked by a grand slam bid and made by Danny and Sally on the last hand. (Details further on). Despite losing the slam prize Marion and Arnold did win the highest score over the evening.

We then came to the prize for the lowest score - but would anyone own up! Jo and Ron sheepishly came forward. We had just taken the presentation photograph when from the back of the room came a shout – Anne and Richard had finally totalled up their minus scores to find it was in fact the lowest by some margin, at which point Jo and Ron were delighted to hand over their prizes accompanied by much hilarity. Gunilla and Kristoffer Huldtt won the prize for the score nearest a zero (plus or minus) and Kristoffer quite rightly announced the important distinction that it was in fact **plus and not minus 20!**



Here is the 7 Club hand of Danny and Sally (written by Danny)

**North**

A K Q 6 4  
 A 9 5 3 2  
 ---  
 A Q 6

**South**

8 3  
 K Q  
 K Q 7 5  
 K 8 7 5 4

Sally and I were fortunate to be dealt the above cards on the last hand of the Chicago bridge session after the Annual Bridge Christmas Dinner!

Sally (South) opened the bidding with 1 Club and made a minimum rebid of 2 Clubs after my 1 Spade response. ***What do you then bid with the North hand?***

My rationale was that with a void in Diamonds, I could visualise 5 or 6 Clubs in South's hand, 3 Spades, 1 Heart, 1 or 2 Diamond ruffs in dummy (11 or 12 tricks so far), together with the additional values which South must have for her opening bid and rebid. ***So I just bid 7 Clubs!***

**Moral 1: There is no such thing as certainty in bridge, and you must assess the probabilities, trust your instinct and must not be afraid of going down if the odds are not in your favour.**

The opening lead of DA made life easy for Declarer, but the contract makes even on a Club lead (best), so long as Clubs break 3/2.

However, South can easily go wrong at trick 1! If declarer plays low (C6) from dummy on the Club lead, they will not be able to ruff a Diamond cheaply in dummy, and will find themselves between a "rock and hard place" : if they ruff a diamond with the CQ, they will lose a Club to the CJ and if they draw trumps, they will have 4 Diamonds to dispose of and will require either Hearts or Spades to break 3/3, which significantly (and unnecessarily) reduces the chances of the slam making.

**Moral 2: It is imperative to plan the play of the whole hand before playing to the first trick!**

If you didn't make it to the Christmas party, there is more Bridge and Festivities to be had on **Christmas Eve 11am-1pm** Do join us for Mulled Wine Mince Pies and Chicago Bridge

### **Special Duplicate for Beginners**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December we held a Special Duplicate evening for beginners and those new to Duplicate Bridge.

We had 36 attendees of different standards, but all were new to duplicate bridge scoring and the typical duplicate bridge movements.

The winning pairs of North/South and East/West were each presented with a Bridge themed mug at the end of the evening. After this Tim Chanter our bridge teacher went over a few hands and answered questions for those that wished to stay.



Congratulations to Siobain Rolston, Kathleen Bacon, Susan and Manoj Khosla our wining pairs.

### **Match Reports**

#### **Match vs Royal Wimbledon Golf Club on 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Belated congratulations to the team of Ellie and Myles Elliott, Sandra and Gordon Fox, Gunilla and Kristoffer Huldtt, Peter and Henryka Bonnor-Moris, who won the match by an impressive 81 Imps. A successful team – clearly they defy the 'never play with your husband/wife' doctrine!



**The Devonshire Cup** was retained by Roehampton Club again this year and was recently presented with the cup at the RAC Pall Mall.

Congratulations to Malcolm Bricknell, Peter Hardyment, Peter Bonnor- Moris, Ralph Evers and Philip Howard.

### **New for January**

We are going to run a **Trial Rubber bridge session on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm**. Please sign up on the notice board in Reception if you are interested in playing. If it is well attended and people are keen, we can run further sessions.

**The Miller Cup** – our annual individual competition is to be held on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2pm**. A sign-up sheet is on the bridge board in Reception.

This is the last Bridge Blog for 2022 so it just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and if you are intending to travel, I wish you a safe and uneventful journey.

**See you in 2023!**

**Julie Bacon, Bridge Chair**