

## *Congratulations to*

*March sees another “First” in the “Winners’ Enclosure” in that the top three scores for the month were all above 70%. Good heavens..... Top of the bunch were Vickie Penfold and Betty McKinlay with 72.20% on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, followed by Liz Bornecrantz and Bruce Carrison with 71.35% on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March and in third position were Tony Dwiar and Christine Williams with 70.80% on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Perhaps the cakes have something to do with it?*

*Editor’s Achievers’ Award this month goes to one of the new “Improvers” Diana Watts playing with her friend Mary Varela who scored 51.99% on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Not bad at all for only her fourth duplicate session. Very well done Diana.*

***DATE FOR YOUR DIARY  
UNFORTUNATELY THERE WILL BE NO BRIDGE ON  
THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY DUE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS.***

### *Club Directors*

*Anthony Andrews: Barbara Herold: Patrick Hutley:  
and Hilary Levett*

*Enjoy your bridge whenever and wherever you play*

*©K J Latty*

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# East Sussex Bridge Club

Affiliated to the English Bridge Union

## Newsletter

Volume 21 No. 4

April 2019

### *Editorial*

*As I'm sure most of you have noticed, the latest group of Improvers are starting their adventure into playing duplicate bridge and doing very well. Please set them a good example by observing the basic rules of etiquette at the table, i.e.*

- 1. Making the opening lead first before attending to your own paperwork and entering details into the Bridgemate*
- 2. DO leave all your bids on the table (even the passes) until the opening lead has been made – this will often prevent an opening lead out of turn*
- 3. Be decisive in your bidding, which means do not fiddle with your bidding box before either making a bid or passing.*
- 4. If you do the latter your opponents are entitled to call the director as you have given your partner unauthorised information and you could well be penalised.*
- 5. Please do not discuss previous hands when arriving at a new table as your opponents may well not have played them.*
- 6. Do check with your partner if they do not follow suit to try and prevent a revoke occurring*
- 7. North/Souths please welcome your new opponents to your table and introduce yourselves if you have not met before*

*Our newcomers have all been taught the above in their lessons and it is disconcerting when they play amongst experienced players to find that these simple rules of etiquette are ignored.*

## Stratification Upgrades for April

The players below all have NGS rankings of honour cards at the end of March and will therefore be upgraded to an "A" status for the month of April in addition to those players who have a life-time ranking which puts them into the A grade.

Paul Williams	Mike Wood	John Revell
Richard Dewe	Alan Townson	Betty McKinlay
Lynne Bayes	Rod Bayes	
Patrick Hutley	John Clark	

## Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

There will be bridge as normal and a host is available

## Defending Tip for April

	♠ 10	Declarer North
	♥ QJ874	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ AK93	
♠ 9852		♠ KJ7
♥ 9532		♥ 106
♦ J107		♦ Q862
♣ J8		♣ 10752
	♠ AQ643	
	♥ AK	
	♦ 943	
	♣ Q64	

The above hand was played during the month and the printout states that 6NT is the correct contract but out of 11 pairs, 5 made 13 tricks with one pair bidding the Grand Slam. How did that happen? Even on a spade lead I can only count 12 tricks. Most pairs were consistent in their opening lead of the diamond 2 so in this case it was not the opening lead. With the considerable hindsight of double dummy it's obvious that East must discard his diamonds and keep his four clubs which will hold declarer to 12 tricks. Could partner help you to know that? By playing the diamond 10 and not the Jack you could deduct that partner has the Jack as well, otherwise why didn't declarer play it, therefore when squeezed on the hearts East can safely discard his diamonds and keep his four clubs.

## April's Puzzle

♠ K10
♥ 10985
♦ AKQ
♣ 9632
♠ Q73
♥ 3
♦ 7432
♣ KQ875
♠ AJ98642
♥ AQJ764
♦ Void
♣ Void

## Dealer North E/W Vuln

♠ 5
♥ K2
♦ J109865
♣ AJ104

This gem of a hand popped up one Wednesday evening and bemused all the pairings who played it.

Now bear in mind that on a Wednesday evening there are not many pairs who play simple system; in fact it would be fair to say that you will meet systems played that would not disgrace a Congress Tournament.

A Grand Slam in either spades or hearts is perfectly makeable despite North/South having only a combined point count of 24 (Shape is everything Daaaaahling). However, not one pair bid even a small slam, let alone a Grand Slam.

Why was that we all wondered? I have spent some time trying to come up with a way to bid this hand in a fair way without using double dummy information and have failed. The real problem is with North opening the bidding, either with 1NT, 1♥ or 1♣ depending on the system you are playing. If South were dealer it would be easy, but as so often happens your partner's opening bid scuppers what you had planned.

Even if partner opens 1NT, yes you can ask for Aces and then Kings, but unless you have a system which pinpoints which King or Kings your partner is holding you will be unlikely to bid a Grand Slam unless you are a true gambler. **Any ideas anyone?**

**Sadly the Tennis Club has decided to increase their hall hire charge with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 so I have reluctantly come to the decision that table money will have to increase to £3.50 for members and £4.00 for visitors from that date.**