

Congratulations to

Top of the Pops this month were Mike Wood and John Revell with 73.94% on Monday 13th May – the highest score of the year so far. In second place were Alan Townson and John Clark with 71.10% on Monday 27th May and in third place were Peter Carbutt and Sally Clark with 67.94% on Wednesday 8th May. Well done everyone.

Editor's Achievers' Award this month goes to Buzz Foote, one of our new members, who played a cracking game on Monday 20th May and gained first place with 60.61%. He was in the very capable hands of Vi Boniface. Congratulations to you both.

Dates for your Diary

EBU Summer Seniors Congress

5th to 7th July at Eastbourne

EBU Really Easy Congress for the less experienced players 2nd to 11th August also at Eastbourne. Details at Club but entries via EBU either on line or by telephone

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. 6

June 2019

Editorial

Sometimes it seems that occurrences at the Club are like London buses, all or nothing. This past month there have been several incidences whereby the director has been called regarding the convention of Fourth Suit Forcing which occurs when a partnership bids all four suits in the first two bidding rounds. The fourth suit is artificial with game-invitational values (10 + points). Some partnerships play it as forcing for one round only rather than forcing to game. Agree with your partner as to how you will be playing it.

Unless you have agreed with partner that the fourth suit bid is natural, i.e. showing at least a four card suit, then the bid MUST be alerted. If you are asked the meaning of the bid, the best explanation is to say that your partner is asking you to describe your hand further.

In most instances this convention is used when one of you is looking to play the contract in no trumps but does not have a strong holding in the fourth suit and you are asking your partner to bid no trumps if they have one or one and a half stops in that suit.

Opener's rebids are natural and will usually be

- *Showing 3 card support for your partner's major*
- *Rebidding one of your own suits to show extra length*
- *Bidding no trumps as above if appropriate* *continued over*

Editorial continued

Generally speaking *Fourth Suit Forcing* should not be used if Responder is a passed hand, if the opponents overcall or make a take-out double or if the fourth suit is bid at the one level. If the latter responder must make a jump bid in the fourth suit to apply the convention but this situation rarely comes up.

If the fourth suit is bid and NOT alerted then it is deemed to be a natural bid with at least four cards. If you know that should have been alerted and you are declarer then you must inform your opponents before the opening lead is made. If by chance you and your partner are defenders then please say nothing. If in doubt please call the director and explain the situation away from the table as your opponents may have been damaged by not having the relevant information.

Just a reminder of the Club's Dress Code in case you missed it last month.



NO
THANKS



YES
PLEASE

Ladies – Capri pants or ankle grazers are fine

Stratification Upgrades for June

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

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Paul Williams | Mike Wood | John Revell |
| Alan Townson | Betty McKinlay | John Clark Pat Collings |
| Christine Till | Christine Williams | Lynne Bayes |
| Rod Bayes | Tony Dwiar | Richard Dewe |

Master Point Promotions for May are not yet available

Get Well Soon wishes go to Brian Bestley who will shortly be discharged from Brighton Hospital. A card from you all has been sent to him and we will hopefully see him back at the bridge table before too long.

Also to Margo Nesbit who regrettably had another fall and was taken into the Conquest. At the moment it is not clear whether she will be returning home or moving to a safer environment. Barbara Goldsmith has kindly offered to take Margo some chocolates/grapes etc on behalf of the club as the hospital grub is not very appealing.

June's Interesting Hand.

| | |
|----------|---|
| ♠ A102 | Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable |
| ♥ KJ1052 | This hand defied any of us one Wednesday evening to find the optimum contract. |
| ♦ 53 | Everyone played in 3NT making 11, 12 or 13 tricks. Thirteen tricks missing an Ace? Hope it wasn't me playing North..... |
| ♣ 962 | Of course 6NT, 6♦ or 6♣ was cold. This is such a silly game. Anyone know of a friendly Tiddywinks Club?? |
| ♠ KJ965 | ♠ 4 |
| ♥ A97 | ♥ 8 |
| ♦ AQ | ♦ K109764 |
| ♣ A103 | ♣ KQJ74 |
| ♠ Q873 | |
| ♥ Q643 | |
| ♦ J82 | |
| ♣ 85 | |