

## *Congratulations to*

*Mike Wood and John Revell who headed February's leader board with 66.83% on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February, just beating Bill Pender and Brian Bestley into second place with 66.44% on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February. In third place were Patrick Hutley and Josie Boryn with 65.48% on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Very well done everyone.*

*Editor's Achievers' Award this month goes to Linda Farrell who was top on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February with 61.34%. She was ably assisted by Gary Manley. A special mention must also go to the scratch partnership of Mary Varela and Mary Williams who were top on 14<sup>th</sup> February with 64.29%. Its good to see some new names featuring in the "Winners' Enclosure"*

### ***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

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# **East Sussex Bridge Club**

Affiliated to the English Bridge Union

## **Newsletter**

Volume 21 No. 3

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**NIGEL ALLEN**

**WINNER OF THE KJL  
MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR  
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS FOR  
THE PERIOD JULY TO  
DECEMBER 2018**

### ***Editorial***

***Way back in 2017 some changes were made by the EBU with regard to the definition of a "strong" hand, i.e. either an Acol 2 Club opening hand or a Benji 2 Diamond hand. Now, the minimum allowed by agreement is***

- 1. Any hand of at least 16 high card points or***
- 2. Any hand of at least 12 high card points with at least 5 controls (an Ace counts as 2 controls and a King counts as 1 control so to meet this criteria a hand could contain as little as 12 high card points and contain 2 Aces and a King).***

***The reason I am repeating it that someone was surprised at being confronted with such an opening hand at another club.***

***Obviously you are under no obligation to change the way you personally handle a strong opening bid but if you do or have***

Editorial continued *taken on board the alternative new definition then it must be clearly marked on your System Card and you must give a complete definition of the strength of your opening hand if asked. Please note, as always you may only ask the opponents for an explanation when it is your turn to bid and as always, unless you are intending to bid yourself, save your questions until the bidding has finished otherwise the only people you are helping will be the opponents by reminding them of their system.*

### Stratification Upgrades for March

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

Paul Williams (who still retains his Ace of Clubs ranking)

Mike Wood                      John Revell

Richard Dewe                  Lynne Bayes                  Rod Bayes

John Clark                  Alan Townson

Gary Manley                  Norman Taylor

### Master Point Promotions for February

County Master

Annabelle Riseborough

John Woodside

**WANTED.** *I have had a few volunteers to partner the Improvers who are now starting to play at the Club but could use a few more. Could you spare an afternoon or Wednesday evening? Could you and your regular partner perhaps split up and partner a newcomer each? It doesn't have to be a regular occurrence, just once would be a great help and help someone at the start of their bridge career.*

### Safety Play

You would think after all the years I have been playing (and teaching) bridge I would avoid making the same mistake more than a few times. Commisery, commisery as a recent TV advert goes.....

As most of you who have had any lessons from me will know, I always tell you that the most important card for the defence is the opening lead. Well, it can also be the most important card for the declarer as well.

Before you plough on with what seems to be an almost "lay down" contract, give a second thought to the opening lead. You are entitled to ask the opponents about their lead styles, whether they have any special arrangements, particularly when defending against a no trump contract. The following hand was a typical example of not taking my own advice. As North my partner and I had landed in 6♠ along with 80% of the other players. The heart 7 was led and VERY foolishly I did not consider what the opening lead could have meant and so intended to let it run round to my Queen thinking well if West has got the King then the hearts have been set up for winners when I've drawn trumps. Yes, you can guess the rest – a heart return, ruffed by East and one off. **Sometimes I hate this game!!** So safety play tip for March – ask yourself whether the opening lead could be a singleton and if so take appropriate action

♠ A8753

♥ Q1054

♦ K6

♣ A6

♠ 96

♥ K9632

♦ J93

♣ 932

♠ J10

♥ 7

♦ Q8754

♣ J8754

♠ KQ42

♥ AJ8

♦ A102

♣ KQ10