

**PATCHAM**

**BRIDGE CLUB**

**NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2011**



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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

We have had a very successful year with membership increasing by 15% to 322 members.

We have also introduced a number of new events offering members a wide choice to meet their personal ambitions.

We have been able to ensure in a period of financial uncertainty that the cost of playing bridge at Patcham has not increased.

To enable us to build on our success it is important that we all work together to ensure that a visit to Patcham Bridge Club is an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

## WHO'S WHO

At this year's A.G.M. the following personnel were elected to serve the club:

Chairman: PETER LANGSTON, Hon. Secretary: DORIS STRAUSS

Hon. Treasurer: EVELYN RANSOM. Other committee members:

ROY GREENBAUM, CLAUDE FLEURENT, JANET POTTER.

Any club member should feel free to approach any of these people with suggestions, complaints or indeed any matter which they feel should be aired at a committee meeting.

### **Extract from letter to *The Times* 19/03/11:**

'Sir, The problem .... is best overcome by a competent secretary, who would know that the minutes of any committee meeting should record what the members would have said if they knew what they were talking about in the first place. Of course, a really diligent committee secretary ought to write the minutes before the meeting, not afterwards.' DAVID LANGSHAW, Reading, Berks.

## CLUB NEWS

The best way to find out what's happening in the club is to use the club's website, run with great efficiency by Ron Robins. Here is what he reports: 'I have tried to include all necessary information/links etc., yet I am still asked for information that *is* included, so can I ask all members to familiarise themselves with the site and let me know if there are any additions or changes they would like me to make. The forum is a sounding board for everyone's concerns, grievances etc. It is open to all and quite simple to join and use (just ask me if you need any help). Visit the Blog for news/thoughts etc. contributed by the Chairman and myself, and this is the easiest way to let the committee know if you have any suggestions or comments on how *your* club is run.'

*Let's not get too complicated,  
simple systems are good enough.  
Many conventions are over-rated:  
don't fill your card with too much stuff.*

*Here's a good rule of thumb:  
Too clever is too dumb. Ogden Nash*

## **WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE CHRISTMAS**

Richard Duffield	Helen Gimson	Jack Pryer
Susie de Castilho	Liz Hoskins	Stewart Ross
John Galway	Kim Hudson	Gerlinde Smith
Pat Galway	Penny Phipps	Alida Steinfeld
Andrew Whittingham	Susan Tall	Marissa Teale

### **A memory from when Joan Hootman was learning to play bridge:**

Teacher: Really, Wendy, you must protect partner.

Wendy: Protect partner! I can't even look after myself.

## **THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD**

**Trudy Byrne** has given us another amusing account of her travels:

How to get a single cabin, but only pay for the cheapest inside 4-berth one. After my husband died I treated myself to a world cruise. The ship left from Genoa, so we were flown there the day before boarding. Our hotel had a lift which was out of order, and I had to share a room with an 80-year old 'lady.' I carried our suitcases up five floors, and down again the next morning. At 5.00 am she woke me up, saying, 'Dearie, what time is it?' The same again at 6.00 and 7.00 o'clock. At the port we went through Customs and then to the purser's table. I spoke to the purser privately and said I would not share a cabin with her. I was assured by him that she was sharing with three others. Of course, her three cabin mates complained about her behaviour, so she was put in a cabin for two – sharing with a deaf person! The following day this person complained that the woman was wearing some of her clothes and even her jewellery. So that is how she got a single cabin, and after that her behaviour was completely normal. In fact, she boasted that she always behaved like that on cruises!

**Leonard Courts**, one of our newest members, has given us this interesting account of a rather special Day Trip.

Some people go to Southend on a Sunday, we went to Poland.

I'd seen it all before - in films, on TV, photographs, as dramas or documentaries. I'd been to Yad Vashem maybe seven or eight times, I'd visited the holocaust museums in New York, Sydney and Nottingham, and then the real thing. But I'd felt nothing. It was surreal, somehow just too familiar.

We have all seen the film with the emaciated victims in their striped uniforms, but they weren't there. Auschwitz is a museum now, a tourist attraction, and somehow it seemed to me like a film set without the actors.

There was a moment, just a moment, when we walked through a gas chamber and walked out again when I thought, **we walked out**, they couldn't. But the "they" - they're not real somehow. None of us can possibly get our heads round the concept of 1.3 million people. Rabbi Marcus got it absolutely right when he spoke at Birkenau of the uniqueness of each individual. We will never comprehend the hugeness of the numbers. The manifest evil of the place, the people who did it, the people who stood back and let it happen. Whether they were Jewish, gypsies, handicapped, political dissidents or any other perceived category to the Nazis, everyone was someone's baby. And even the Germans were people with families and friends, as were the victims.

My family wasn't touched. My great grandparents had the foresight even in the late 1800s to get out. My paternal grandfather was 16 years old when his father told him to go to America. His eldest brother had been told the same thing before my grandfather was even born. Like so many others he got as far as London where his brothers and sisters lived, and stayed. The stories of so many are that they arrived here and the captain of the ship just threw them off and they couldn't pay another fare. My grandfather never met his eldest brother. Probably there were distant cousins who perished in the holocaust, but who knows? By that time they had all lost touch.

Perhaps it was the guide. She took us round, pointing out this feature and that, telling us the statistics. But there was no passion in what she said, no emotion. Perhaps she too had seen it all before.

Sharron was affected by the hair. She was a hairdresser for years so that became real to her. A friend was affected by the shoes. We all have our own ways of reacting. Mine came a day later. I should have been working, but I couldn't generate any enthusiasm. Rabbi Marcus suggested writing the experience down and so that's what I did.

Thoughts come into your head. As we walked back along the railway track in silence I thought of my late father. He was never in Poland but was a prisoner of the Japanese on the Burma railway. I'll never know how he survived three-and-a-half years. All I could think of was how much I miss him still and what I wanted to discuss with him.

And what of the future ? We know we must never forget - we know it's still happening. Fanaticism and genocide cannot be eradicated. I hope our leaders did the right thing in Kosovo, are currently doing the right thing against the Taliban. The world is a terrible place, and how fortunate we are to live our cushioned middle-class lives in a reasonably civilised country.

**John Allen**, another comparatively new member, tells us there is another game - Shirley and I moved to Brighton in July 2010, and joined Patcham Bridge Club shortly afterwards. Shirley is the keen Bridge player. I go along to partner her, but really prefer to play Go - mostly on the internet these days.

For those who don't know the game, Go is at least 4000 years old and comes from the far East. Igo (the full Japanese name) literally means 'Surrounding Chess', but it is Wei-chi in China, and Baduk in Korea. The rules are very simple, but the game is wonderfully complex, with many layers of strategy and tactics, and a good handicapping system. It is a sort of armchair Karate; brain-to-brain combat, with players graded as kyu (student) or dan (master).

Back in the eighties our eldest son, Steven, was already a keen Bridge player, but a beginner at Go, while I was a nidan (second degree master). When he was rusticated for a year (after failing his exams at university) I pounced, and got him playing MY game. He improved so much in the year that he could challenge me to even games and stand a good chance of winning. In fact I thought he might become British champion if he stayed with it! Cracked it!! ... But no - he returned to university, fell into evil ways, and turned back to Bridge.

Steve still plays Go, but Bridge is his first love, and he was playing for the Hertfordshire first team before marriage and fatherhood interfered. Nowadays, like me, he plays mostly on the internet, and occasionally in the big national competitions. Best of all, when Shirley and I have a disagreement (seldom of course!) he can usually tell us why we are both wrong!

### **A PLEA FROM YOUR SCORERS**

Can we ask members when completing the name sheet to *please* PRINT CLEARLY – sometimes we have a hard task to decipher names. Also, if you bring along a visitor, please enter the name in the VISITORS' section overleaf. Above all, try to complete the travellers with *all* the necessary and correct details. All this will make our job that much easier and quicker.

*RON & BRENDA*

### **PARKING – A REMINDER FOR ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS - AND OLD ONES TOO!**

Parking can sometimes be a problem. Community Centre users are permitted to use the school car park (beyond the gates) ONLY in the evenings and at weekends. This is a concession by the school, so it is essential that we keep to the rules and do not abuse this arrangement. It would make parking very difficult for all of us if this concession was removed, so *please, please* be thoughtful when parking at the Centre. **You must not park beyond the gates for *any* weekday afternoon session. It would also be thoughtful if able-bodied players parked in the road to leave spaces for the less able-bodied.**

**Points don't tell the whole story**

Often I hear players say, 'I had to bid because I had the right points'. But points aren't the only thing to consider. Hand shape and suit length are just as important. So, how do you work out how good your hand is? You open 1NT. If partner raises to 2NT, with which of the following hands would you bid 3NT?

1	2	3	4
♠ Q 8 5 2	♠ K 10 9	♠ K 10 8	♠ 9 6 5 4
♥ A K J	♥ 6 2	♥ K Q 8	♥ A K Q
♦ Q 8 4	♦ A K 10 9 8	♦ K J 5	♦ Q 7 6
♣ Q 6 3	♣ Q 10 8	♣ Q 9 3 2	♣ K 8 3

There are a number of factors to take into account when answering that question.

**What is the best hand shape?**

Flat hands with a 4333 shape are worth less than their points suggest. A 5-card suit is always a potential source of tricks, so it is a plus value. Hands with two 4-card suits offer two possible sources of tricks, another plus value.

**Are your honours working?**

With honours on their own, your hand may be worth less than the points suggest. When honours combine with other honours, they are more powerful. Honours in a long suit are usually more useful. A lone honour, such as Q 5 3, and doubleton honours (say KQ alone) are of less value. Queens and jacks are not much use on their own, but work well together. A ten is extra support for any honour, and a 10 9 is even better.

**What would you bid on the above hands?**

- 1 Pass - unsupported queens are less useful. Partner didn't Stayman, so won't have a 4-card major, meaning that your 8 points in hearts can produce 3 tricks at most.
- 2 3NT - those good diamonds will bring in 4 or 5 tricks. Go to game despite only 12 points.
- 3 3NT - no Stayman from partner, who must have minors, where you have useful cards, so just worth bidding 3NT.
- 4 Pass - too much in hearts which can only generate three tricks, maybe no spade stopper despite having four cards.

## TIME CHANGES US ALL

This is an article which appeared in the Barclays London Southern District Pensioners Club, but could obviously apply to any club with a lot of O.A.P.s.

A group of ladies who went to the same school meet to discuss where they would like to meet for dinner to celebrate their 40th birthdays. Finally it is agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the waiters there are young and have really great bodies!

Ten years later at 50 years old the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the food is good and the wine selection also good.

Ten years later at 60 years old the group once again discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because they can eat in peace and quiet and the restaurant has a beautiful view of the sea.

Ten years later at 70 years old the group once again discuss at length where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the restaurant is wheelchair accessible and they even have a lift.

Ten years later at 80 years old the group once again meet and discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because they have never been there before!

*Cecilia Collins*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Club Events

June 12<sup>th</sup> Barnsgate - Day outing  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

### County Events

September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> SCCBA Autumn Congress  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> SCCBA Ladies Pairs

### Simultaneous Pairs

July 14<sup>th</sup> Kidney Research  
July 26<sup>th</sup> British - BGB Sim pairs  
September 13<sup>th</sup> English - EBU Sim pairs  
November 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need – ECatsBridge

Here is an interesting postscript to last year's Children in Need event, provided by Anna Gudge, of EcatsBridge: '18,582 people played in 512 heats. Bridge clubs from Botswana, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany and Spain joined clubs across the UK to raise a record £62,105, taking the total raised by bridge players for Children in Need since 2002 to an incredible £460,974.'

### **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PARTNER?**

Get in touch with Sylvie Richards at [syl.richards@talktalk.net](mailto:syl.richards@talktalk.net) or 01273 549188. Say whether you're looking for a regular partner, or a partner for a particular session, and she will do her best to put you in touch with someone in a similar situation.

**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER** is planned to come out for Christmas. So please jot down any 'eavesdroppings' or bits of conversation which would amuse/ interest other club members. Please feel free to suggest any new topics you would like introduced, and I would love to have more items about your interesting past or present lives, hobbies, why you started to play bridge etc. etc.

*JACKIE*