

**PATCHAM**  
**BRIDGE CLUB**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**CHRISTMAS 2010**



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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It has been a very successful year for Patcham Bridge Club. We continue to attract new people and we now have 307 members.

The Club offers a wide range of events catering for all tastes. Members can elect to play in as many or as few as they wish.

The Committee also appreciates the social side of the Club and is pleased to witness that the Christmas dinner was fully subscribed by early November.

Major reasons for the Club's success are:-

**The facilities** of the Community Centre - especially the contribution of the Chairman Alan Piper.

**The diligent work** of the scorers Brenda Piper and Ron Robins, who would appreciate all members having the New Year's resolution to ensure the travellers are completed accurately.

**The excellent communication** provided by Ron Robins with the website, Sylvie Richards with the email, and Jackie Hinden with the newsletters.

**The efforts of a band of Directors** who ensure all sessions run smoothly.

**The members** who ensure the room is set up and taken down, also that refreshments are available and the dishwasher is stacked and emptied.

The Committee wish all members a happy holiday and a successful New Year.

## WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE JUNE

Ann Agnew	Philip Butterworth	Ann Lorimer
John (Yogi) Allen	Val Cafferkey	Stewart Mitchell
Shirley Allen	Mick Carrington	Mike O'Brien
Sharron Bernholt	Len Courts	Mags Pinner
Richard Bird	Vivienne Dhuna	Roger Pyart
Vicky Blackburn	David Gilbert	Ray Roberts
Roy Bridge	Di Johnstone	Sharon Rubin
Maggie Burton	Tim Kent	Janee Sa
Peggy Bushe	Diane Kirkup	Pat Webb
Catha Bushell	Tim Kirkup	Dick Wheeler

## WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?

Well, you think we are a very friendly club, well run, with a good playing room and easy parking. It was disappointing that only just over 50 members out of a membership of over 300 bothered to reply. This wasn't intended to be a scientific document following professional survey standards, but we thought it might throw up some interesting facts about our membership – which indeed it has, even with such a small return. So, for what it's worth, here are the full results:

**Age group:** under 40: 2; 40-60: 3; 60-80: 40; over 80: 9

**Played card games as a child:** 50

**Age starting bridge:** 10:1, teens:15, 20s:7, 30s:7, 40s:5, 50s:16, 60s:6

**Why?** parent(s): 11, friends: 12, spouse or sibling: 7, liked cards: 9  
new interest (often after retirement): 9

**How did you learn?** A.E. & other classes: 23, private teacher: 2,  
friends/parents/sibling/spouse: 25, books: 5

**Other clubs:** 5 or more: 5, Avenue: 14, Worthing: 6, West Sx: 3, Mid Sx: 1,  
Hassocks: 2, Saltdean: 1, Seaford: 1, Rottingdean: 2, Bognor: 1,  
Shoreham: 1, Henfield: 1, Steyning: 1, Leeds(!): 1, Golf club: 1,  
abroad: 1, Lewes: 3, Bridgebase on line: 1  
Only play at Patcham: 19

**Favourite club and why:** Worthing: 2 (habit), Avenue: 5 (bar, play standard),  
Saltdean: 1 (room), Steyning: 1 (local), Seaford: 1 (parking & friendly),  
West Sx.: 1 (local), Lewes: 3 (Friendly, standard),  
Patcham: 24 (14 friendly, 2 parking, 1 cheap, 2 well run, 5 play standard,  
1 non-competitive, 1 competitive) *no-one mentioned free tea & biscuits*

**Do you read books or articles?** Yes: 40, Occasionally: 11, never: 4  
newspaper articles: 2, English Bridge: 4 (*does this mean that people who  
now automatically receive copies just throw it away?*)

**Recommended:** Mr Bridge: 2. North, Mollo, Robson, Klinger: more than 1

**Borrow from club library:** Yes: 2, Occasionally:4, No: 46

**Playing sessions per week:** sometimes none: 1, once a month: 1, once: 3,  
once or twice: 6, twice: 11, two or three: 6, three: 21, four: 6, seven: 2

**At Patcham?** occasionally: 3, only Sundays: 2, sometimes once: 4, once: 19,  
once or twice: 10, twice: 11, two or three: 3, three: 5

**Preferred days at Patcham:** Monday: 23, Wed.: 21, Thursday: 22, Friday: 20  
(*This would seem to indicate that the majority to respond were Thursday players*)

**Most like about Patcham:** friendliness: 34, local: 4, playing room: 6, cheap: 3,  
parking: 5, well run: 12, tea: 1, Sun. tea: 1, numbers: 1, website: 1  
*NB: nobody mentioned the newsletter!*

Some interesting/amusing different answers: 'Wednesdays unfortunately taken too seriously by some.' 'mostly friendly people' (twice). 'Very dodgy biscuits'. 'Slowly' (in reply to How did you learn?) And someone likes Patcham because it is clean.

## CAN'T REMEMBER WHO BID WHAT?

Jean Pierre has sent us the following, which he says is going the email rounds, but is unattributed:

Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. If you don't use it, you lose it! Take this test to determine if you're losing it or not. Relax, clear your mind and begin:

1. What do you put in a toaster? **Answer:** If you said 'toast' give up now and do something else. If you said 'bread' go to question 2.
2. Say *silk* five times. Now spell *silk*. What do cows drink? **Answer:** If you said 'milk' don't attempt the next question. Your brain is over stressed. However, if you said 'water' proceed to question 3.
3. If a red house is made from red bricks, a blue house is made from blue bricks, a pink house is made from pink bricks, and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from? **Answer:** If you said 'green bricks' why are you still reading this? If you said 'glass' go on to question 4.
4. Without using a calculator: you are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven. In London 17 people get on the bus. In Reading 6 people get off the bus and 9 people get on. In Cardiff 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea 3 people get off and 5 people get on. In Carmarthen 6 people get off and 3 get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. Without scrolling back to review, how old is the bus driver? **Answer:** Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own age? It was *you* driving the bus!

NB: 95% of people fail most of the questions.

## MARTIN'S SONG

When this hand of bridge is over  
Oh, how happy I shall be!  
Then it's time to have my biscuits  
and a nice strong cup of tea.

No more calls for misdemeanours,  
no more couples playing slow,  
no more errors in the scoring,  
and the name board's done, I know.

I'll forgive your leads so random,  
and the slam you did not make.  
Just finesse the king of diamonds  
so I can have my ciggy break.

## THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD

Two members have given me interesting accounts of their lives beyond bridge. First, **Trudy Byrne**, who had an adventurous voyage:

Nearly 30 years ago I went on a world cruise. We flew to Genoa and stayed at a hotel for the night. I had to share a room with a lady in her 80s. The lift was out of order and so I had to carry her luggage as well as mine up five flights of stairs.

At five o'clock the next morning she woke me by asking, 'Dearie, what time is it?' The same thing happened at six and seven am. After breakfast I had to bring our luggage to the bus, and when I sat next to her she said, 'Dearie, I left my hearing aids in our bedroom.' When I got back to the bus I received the slow handclap for making our departure late.

We went through customs and before boarding there was a table where cabins were allocated. Just before we got there: 'Dearie, I left my passport at customs.' After fetching it I took one of the pursers aside and said I wouldn't board the ship if I had to share a cabin with her. Luckily she was booked for a four-berth cabin, and mine was a two-berth. I heard later that because of her behaviour she ended up in a single cabin – and boasted that she always did this!

Our first bulletin on board informed us that they were cutting out our Yemen stop to give us more time to shop in Karachi. We had engine failure in mid Atlantic, which led to more ports being cut. There were some other changes of plan to please the Italians, whose ship it was, and I was so cross I wrote a letter to the captain to complain that this was not the itinerary for which I'd booked. My American cabin mate (with whom I'm still friendly) saw it and said she'd show it to her American table companions. This all ended up with a meeting of over 150 passengers which forced the captain to stick to the original itinerary. Unfortunately, the captain forgot to inform the agent in Karachi that we weren't staying longer and the agent had invited 400 people to a party on board, when we were due to be on the high seas again.

On arrival at Karachi we saw the sight-seeing buses waiting for us, but we weren't allowed to go ashore. We found out later that the captain was told we would have to stay longer and hold the party. The captain, who had promised us Yemen, then told the authorities that he would lock himself in his cabin and inform the world that our ship had been captured. We did get to see Yemen, but not Karachi!

Secondly, here's **Bob Kaltz**, who had an exciting time on television:

My wife Phyllis, I and our younger son Andrew are committed viewers of *Eggheads* (BBC2, 6pm weekdays). When Andrew said that he intended to create a team of five to compete against the *Eggheads* (described as probably the most formidable quiz team in the country) and asked if I'd like to be on the team, I jumped at the chance.

We were selected from thousands of teams applying and asked to attend an audition in London, which was very challenging. The producers were impressed with us and some weeks after the audition we were told that we had been chosen to

appear. Some while later we were instructed to fly up to Glasgow and stay overnight as we had to be at the studio at 9am.

After being prepared by the production assistants and going through makeup and attire we finally got to the recording studio, where the Eggheads team were already in place except for the presenter Jeremy Vine, who emerged just before we started.

When filming began our captain, Andrew, was asked to explain the team name: G Block. This is where he and the rest of the team sit at Withdean stadium for the Brighton & Hove Albion home matches.

The first category was *Geography*, which was won by one of our team, knocking out an Egghead. I volunteered for the next category, *Arts and Books*, which I won. We lost the next two categories, *Music* and *Sport*, which brought us to the final contest with three of us against the three remaining Eggheads. Having been tied three-all on *General Knowledge* multiple choice questions, we then went to *Sudden Death*, where there's no longer multiple choice, and we took the Eggheads to a third question before we were finally defeated. Although we didn't win, it felt like a win as we did so much better than most teams do.

**Teacher's Corner: REVERSING SANDRA LANDY**

No, I'm not writing about the problem of getting your car into a tricky space. Reversing is also a bridge term. Here is an example of what can happen:

<p>You</p> <p>♠ 3</p> <p>♥ A J 7 3</p> <p>♦ Q J 10 9 5 4</p> <p>♣ Q 6</p>	<p>You</p> <p>1♦</p> <p>2♥</p>	<p>Partner</p> <p>1♠</p> <p>3NT</p>	<p>Partner</p> <p>♠ K J 10 5 4</p> <p>♥ Q J 9</p> <p>♦ 3 2</p> <p>♣ K 9 7</p>
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3NT went down. Opponents led ♣J, the ♣Q lost to the ♣A, they forced out your ♣K and when they gained the lead they cashed three clubs, two diamonds and two spades. So where did the partnership go wrong?

The problem was *you* and your 2♥ rebid. You showed better values than you actually held and encouraged partner to jump to 3NT. Why is it wrong to rebid 2♥ when it describes your shape and makes sure a heart fit isn't missed? It's wrong because it shows a better hand. It forces partner to give preference to your first suit at the three level. If you rebid 2♦ your partner knows you have a minimum opening bid and will pass 2♦ with only 10 points.

When you open the bidding with 1♦ there is a safety barrier above 2♦ and you should only go beyond that barrier if you have a good hand. It's all right to rebid 2♣ as you don't go beyond that barrier. Partner can put you back to 2♦ and still keep the bidding low. But when you rebid above the barrier you show a good hand because you force the bidding higher.

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

Now you have a 16-point opener and look what a difference it makes! Partner wins the club lead with ♣Q and leads ♦Q. Opponents win and play another club. You win ♣A and play ♦J. Even if opponents can now take ♠AQ, you have at least nine tricks.

REMEMBER: Only bid above the barrier if you have extra values, say 16 or more points. Rebid your first suit with minimum points. If partner has a good hand, she can continue with 2♥.

I recommend the EBU publication *Really Easy Bidding*, which covers reverses and many other ways of improving your partnership bidding.

*A man's errors are his portals of discovery (James Joyce)*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Tuesday January 11</b> at 7.15	BGB Simultaneous Pairs
<b>Tuesday February 8</b> at 7.15	Sussex Mixed Pairs Heat
<i>Members taking part in this event will be subsidised by the club for the county fee.</i>	
<b>Wednesday March 9</b> at 7.15	Club Stratified Simultaneous Pairs
<b>Thursday 17 March</b> at 7.15	Charity Cup (previous Mr. Bridge Event)
<b>Tuesday April 12</b> at 7.15	BGB Simultaneous Pairs
<b>Tuesday 19 April</b> at 6.30	AGM
<b>Saturday/Sunday 14/15 May</b>	EBU have booked the Community Centre for Teacher Training.
<b>Sunday June 12</b>	Barnsgate all day event

### 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.**

## **A FEW THINGS YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW ABOUT YOUR MOBILE PHONE**

### **In an emergency – dial 112**

This works for all phones worldwide, even if your home network is out of reach.

### **Reserve battery power – dial \*3370#**

Do this when the battery is almost dead, and the mobile will restart with another 50%. This reserve is replenished with the next charging.

### **You're out and can't find your car keys?**

If you have remote keyless unlocking and there's someone with a spare you can reach, call them up and have them operate it near their phone, while you hold yours about a foot from the car door.

*These helpful tips come via Sheila Simon*

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

Get in touch with Sylvie Richards at [sylvie@patchambridgeclub.org.uk](mailto:sylvie@patchambridgeclub.org.uk) 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 Barnsgate. 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*