

CHELSEA BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE

OF

THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB

ISSUE No 1

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C H E L S E A B R I D G E
THE MAGAZINE OF THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB

It is appropriate that the first issue of the Club's magazine should coincide with its second Congress, as the success of the first Congress was a major factor in the Club's expansion to its present size. A communication channel thus became essential.

The purpose of the magazine is two-fold; firstly to provide communications between Members and the Committee of the Club and secondly to stimulate interest within the Club.

All Club Members are invited to contribute to the magazine and it is your response that will mould the future style and determine the frequency of the magazine.

Lastly, congratulations to all the Club's League Teams for the effort put in this year and the splendid results obtained. This above all will do much to enhance the increasing reputation of the Club in the bridge world.

LEAGUE RESULTS 1971 - 72

Team	League		Position	P	Results			For	Points	
	Division	Section			W	D	L		Against	
1	3	RED	1st	7	5	2	0	45	11	
2	3	BLUE	1st	7	5	0	2	38	16	
3	3	RED	2nd	7	4	2	1	37	19	
4	4	BLUE	2nd	7	5	1	1	40	16	
5	4	RED	6th	7	2	0	5	21	35	
6	5	BLUE	4th	7	5	0	2	38	18	
7	5	RED	2nd	7	4	2	1	36	20	

The Club will have at least two teams in the 2nd Division next year and further promotions are possible as three teams finished close second.

The play-off for the 3rd Division Trophy between the Club's 1st and 2nd teams took place on 3rd June over 32 boards. The result was a 1 IMP victory by the 2nd team.

ORIGINS

by Warwick Pitch

It all began in the early summer of 1968. I had recently become a member of the Under Thirties Club which met once a week, and was one of several people bitterly disappointed at the sudden decision of the proprietor to raise the table money from 5/- to 10/-. There was talk of forming a new club and anyone who knew of a possible meeting place was told to report to Tony Blok.

I remembered once having played at an old ladies' club at the Hotel Eden, so I went there to make enquiries. The Hotel Manager proved most accommodating and said he would let us have a room for the modest rental of 2/6 for each person who attended.

At that time I had never met Tony Blok. I rang him up and he didn't know who I was. I tried to explain. "Oh", he said "You're the bloke with the sideburns and the hair" (in those days I had untidy shoulder length hair).

The upshot was a meeting at Tony's flat late one night. We decided there and then to go ahead with the formation of a new club. All the details were worked out - except one. Try as we would, none of us could think of a suitable name. It was left to Tony's wife, Loretta, to add this finishing touch.

And so the Young Chelsea Bridge Club was born. We met every Wednesday, about 20 or 30 or us. Sometimes a particularly large crowd turned up and we marvelled that forty people should

think it worth their while to come to our Club.

It was not until October of that year that we started to take our duplicate seriously. It began with the arrival at the Club of a rather dark, well-built chap with a fairly forceful personality. "Do you give local points?" he asked immediately after introducing himself. "Local points?" I echoed. "What are they?"

That was my first encounter with Mahmoud Sadek. And so we started to collect little yellow certificates denoting prowess at the bridge table as Mahmoud installed himself as Master Points Secretary.

The next landmark was in March 1969, when Peter Donovan, bridge correspondent of the Daily Mail, telephoned me. Peter had always been a great supporter of bridge for the younger player, and it was he who first planted the idea in my mind that there might be enough young bridge players in London to justify opening the Club every day of the week.

In effect, it was not until March 1970 that we went ahead with this. The tremendous growth of the Club and the development of a teaching school stems from this date. Now averaging more than 40 tables of duplicate a week, we are certainly one of London's largest bridge clubs. Surprisingly enough, though, I still get asked the question: "What do you do with yourself during the day?".

YOUNG CHELSEA VERSUS AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM

In celebration of the Club moving to its new premises a match was played on 27th April 1972 against a team of twelve Internationals. Each side was divided into three teams, as follows:-

VISITORS

Jane and Tony Priday
Bob and Jim Sharples

John Collings and Jack Marx

David Edwin and Maurice Esterson

Ted Lester and Bill Pencharz

Peter Lester and Bob Rowlands

Non-playing Captain:

Dimmie Fleming

YOUNG CHELSEA

Eddie Horsup and Warwick Pitch
Andrew Sombor and Alan Woo

Trevor Barrett and Jette Henriksen
Roger Edmonds and Mahmoud Sadek

Henry Christie and Andrew Thompson
Peter Donovan and Ian Gardiner

Each Young Chelsea team played an 8 board match against each of the International teams, 3 matches each, 9 matches in all.

The score was just 5 - 4 to the Internationals - must better than most of us had hoped. However, on the official victory point scale the Internationals won in more convincing fashion 67 - 41.

A REPORT

by Henry Christie

In such a match as this the underdog has the great advantage of not being expected to do well and if he can pull off some coup the satisfaction is immense. Forgive me then if I dwell on two of Chelsea's triumphs. First the largest swing of the evening.

(N.B. Throughout the following boards the Internationals sit North/South in the open room and the results are shown from their point of view)

4.

BOARD 2

Dealer East
North/South vulnerable

	S K 9 5	
	H A K Q 7 6 4	
	D K 7 3	
	C 5	
S 2		S J 10 8 7 6
H 93		H J 2
D Q 10 5 4		D J 8 2
C Q J 9 6 3 2		C K 10 4

S A Q 4 3
H 10 8 5
D A 9 6
C A 8 7

Open Room			
N	E	S	W
	-	1S	-
3H	-	4H	-
4NT	-	5C	D
5H	-	-	-

Opening lead C4.
Result plus 1 + 680

Closed Room			
N	E	S	W
	-	1NT	-
4C	-	4NT	-
7H	-	-	-

Opening lead SJ
Result made - 2210

SWING : 1530 to Young Chelsea

In the open room the Internationals had a misunderstanding when the reply to the Roman Blackwood, 5C (either 0 or 3 aces) was doubled by West. North made what he considered was an obligatory bid of 5H (signing off in case South had no aces) and South noting his partner could have passed or redoubled to show continued slam interest decided his flat shape was not worth a raise to 6H despite his 3 aces. (This is a good hand to reinforce my prejudice against Roman Blackwood. It so very rarely produces useful information and it introduces error in even expert and established partnerships).

In contract to the extreme caution at the other table the Young Chelsea bidding was absurdly optimistic. After a weak no-trump and Gerber response showing 3 aces North can count only 11 tricks, to expect 12 is fair enough, but 13!?! Luck smiled, South produced all the right cards and East not unreasonably failed to find the killing diamond or club lead to break up the entry position for the squeeze. On the actual spade lead North needs only to draw trumps, play two more rounds of spades and a third round of hearts to produce this obscure and rare squeeze position.

5.

	S -		S 10
	H 7 6 4		H -
	D K 7 3		D J 8 2
S -	C 5		C K 10 4
H -		S 4	
D Q 10 5		H -	
C Q J 9 6		D A 9 6	
		C A 8 7	

Now on the lead of the 4th heart East is squeezed! He can no longer guard all three suits, if he throws a diamond so does dummy; now North plays DA and DK and his last two hearts. East must retain a spade, West a diamond - neither can hold two clubs. Alternatively, if East throws a club at trick 7 (dummy still throws a diamond), now North plays CA and ruffs a club, then plays his last heart and again the simple double squeeze exists, this time neither defender can hold on to three diamonds. Sad to relate North did not find this brilliant play, instead he ruffed away his 4th spade thereby destroying all reasonable hopes of a squeeze. East/West in return miscounted and both discarded clubs and presented declarer with his thirteenth trick in that suit. Such is life.

The next hand was almost equally successful for Young Chelsea.

BOARD 15

Dealer S
North/South vulnerable

S -	
H A 10 3 2	
D K Q 6 5 2	
C A Q 8 4	
S K 9 7 6 4 2	S 10 5 3
H 7 4	H J 8 6
D A 9 8 3	D J
C K	C J 10 9 7 5 2

Open Room

N	E	S	W
		1S	-
2D	-	2H	-
4C	-	4H	-
5H	-	6H	D
RD	-	-	-

Lead H7
Result 1 down - 400

S A Q J 8
H K Q 8 5
D 10 7 4
C 6 3

Closed Room

N	E	S	W
		1H	1S
2S	3D	-	5D
D	5S	D	-
-	-	-	-

Lead DK
Result 4 down - 700

SWING : 1100 to Young Chelsea

6.

In the open room the Internationals reached an optimistic 6H contract after South chose to regard his hand as a two suiter; West doubled for no particular reason and North made a sporting redouble on the strength of his void. Without a diamond lead South can always make his contract double dummy – merely by taking a ruffing finesse in spades, drawing trumps and playing on diamonds, dropping the knave thus making 2 spades, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs and 2 ruffs. However, declarer tried the more reasonable line of playing an early diamond before drawing trumps, in an attempt to lead diamonds twice from the South hand. However, West rose with DA, noted the fall of the DJ and gave his partner a ruff.

At the other table East complicated matters by bidding a psychic 3D, good in the sense that it is likely to get West off to the best lead against 6H, but rather dangerous in view of his rather tenuous spade support. West raised diamonds vigorously and thereafter North/South were content to take the safe and substantial plus score. After the DK lead the defence slipped and West was allowed two diamond ruffs in dummy and then managed to end play South in spades. He was thus only four down for -700. Best defence will result in 6 down -1100, still a small gain if the vulnerable slam is bid and made.

Finally, one of the Internationals' many successes, a distributional freak certainly, but one where good judgment at the one table, and a sounder system at the other, were successful.

BOARD 11

Dealer S		Open Room			
Nil Vulnerable		N	E	S	W
S	9 8 7			1C	-
H	A J 9 7 4 3	1H	2NT	4H	4S
D	7 5 2	-	-	-	
C	3	Lead CA			
S	K 6 3	Result 6 made - 680			
H	Q 6	Closed Room			
D	K J 6	N	E	S	W
C	9 8 7 5 4			3NT	-
	S 4	4C	4S	5C	5S
	H 10 8 5 2	-	6S	-	-
	D 9	Lead CA			
	C A K Q J 10 6 2	Result made + 1430			
		SWING : 750 to the Internationals			

7.

In the open room the Young Chelsea East faced a difficult decision over 4S, whether to try for slam and possibly go down in 5S if partner's cards were in the wrong places or pass and risk missing the slam. On balance East is worth another bid after West's free bid at the 4 level. In any case South is fairly well placed to find the save of 7C or 7H both of which cost only 500.

The pre-emptive 3NT for all its theoretical advantages rarely seems to work well and here it provokes East/West into the slam without North/South discovering their heart fit. (It could be very dangerous for North to bid 4H over 3NT, as the hand looks like a bad misfit and if doubled 4H and any rescue could well go for 500 with no game on for East/West). Now when East/West find their spade fit and proceed to slam it is too late for North/South to reasonably find the sacrifice. I need scarcely add the play in 6 spades presented few problems.

TEAM TRIALS 1972/73

The Club will have eight teams in the London League next year and all Members have the opportunity to represent the Club.

The method of selection is extremely thorough and surviving pairs will certainly deserve their places.

The preliminary trial is on 26th June and qualifying pairs then play in a 28 pair, three session, final trial over 108 boards.

Further details are displayed on the Club's notice boards.

SOME RECENT SUCCESSES BY CLUB MEMBERS

Andrew Sombor & Alan Woo	3rd London Congress Pairs 2nd London Pairs Finals
Warwick Pitch & Eddie Horsup	1st Middlesex Congress Pairs
Trevor Barrett & Jette Henriksen	First Y.C. pair to qualify for National Pairs Final
Henry & Lisa Christie, Andrew Thompson & Andrew Foster	Corby Steel Bridge Trophy

THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION MASTER POINTS SCHEME

by Mahmoud Sadek

The following notes may prove useful to those who wish to know more about the scheme.

It was introduced with three objects in view, namely, to stimulate interest in organised Duplicate Bridge, to provide revenue for the E.B.U. to be used for the benefit of the game and to provide a means of measuring the achievements of players in organised Duplicate Bridge.

The day-to-day administration of the scheme is conducted by the Master Points Secretary, to whom all communications should be sent. The new address which applied since 1st June 1972 is:-

Mrs. E. S. Staveley (the Secretary), 81 High Street,
Thame, Oxon (Tel. No. Thame 2221).

In the ordinary club duplicate, points are awarded to those pairs in the top third of the field. The top award in local points (100 local points = 1 master point) received by each member of the winning pair is equal to twice the number of pairs competing. The lower awards are arrived at by applying a constant fractional reduction to the top award. For an ordinary club multiple-teams event the award to each member of the winning team is three times the number of teams competing. All fractions are rounded up. A few examples should make all this clear.

14 pairs: 5 pairs receive awards (since 4 pairs is less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the field)
1st $2 \times 14 = 28$: 2nd $\frac{4}{5} \times 28 = 23$: 3rd $\frac{3}{5} \times 28 = 17$:
4th $\frac{2}{5} \times 28 = 12$: 5th $\frac{1}{5} \times 28 = 6$

16 pairs: 6 pairs receive awards (1, $\frac{5}{6}$, $\frac{4}{6}$, $\frac{3}{6}$, $\frac{2}{6}$, $\frac{1}{6}$)
1st 32, 2nd 27, 3rd 22, 4th 16, 5th 11, 6th 6

10 teams: 4 teams receive awards (1, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{1}{4}$)
1st 30, 2nd 23, 3rd 15, 4th 8.

Different awards apply to congress events, championships or any other special events.

The lowest ranks are as follows:-

Club Master	2 Master Points (= 200 local points)
Local Master	10 Master Points (= 1,000 local points)
County Master	25 Master Points (= 2,500 local points)
Master	50 Master Points (= 5,000 local points)
One Star Master	100 Master Points (= 10,000 local points)

There are several higher ranks extending to Grand Master - 1,200 Master Points.

A card is issued on registration upon which the player's points are recorded when he sends them to the E.B.U. Secretary.

Only members of the E.B.U. are entitled to have their points registered. E.B.U. membership is achieved by joining the County Bridge Association where the player resides or works. For example in London the annual subscription to the London County Contract Bridge Association (L.C.C.B.A.) is 50p. The Secretary and address is:-

Miss V. Daly, L.C.C.B.A. Secretary, 10a Hamilton Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.

THE BLUE CLUB - SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

by Eddie Horsup

The Blue Club is not as unfamiliar as some might believe. Many well-known conventions have been incorporated into the system. Most of us have played, or come up against, such devices as Stayman, Baron, Flint or Transfer Bids. The Blue Club has absorbed these and other popular names, though some appear in different guises. Stayman, for instance, as in the sequence 1NT-2C-2S-2NT. Here 2C is merely a relay bid, asking opener to clarify his range. An opening 1NT in the Blue Club is 13-17, and 2S as a rebid says only that the hand is in the upper range. It is the 2NT bid which is the enquiry for majors.

In some cases the Blue Club has taken a convention in common usage and extended it. Thus the grand slam force turns up in the more colourful form of Josephine. In the example below, 7S is a reasonable contract, but how confidently can you reach it?

WEST	S Q 10 7 6	EAST	S A K 8 2
	H 6		H A 9 4 3
	D K 7		D A 8 6 2
	C A K 9 8 7 3		C Q 10

West's hand provides an opportunity to use one of the Blue Club's speciality bids, an opening 2C to show 12-16 points with good clubs. East responds 2D, a relay bid asking for more information. West rebids 2S, a second suit, and East knows a slam is on, because he can rely on partner's clubs for five or six tricks. To bid to seven, however, he must be able to know that West

holds four spades to the queen. In Acol, after agreeing the trump suit, a jump to 5NT asks opener to bid seven of the suit holding two of the top three honours, and six holding only one. Josephine increases the possibilities.

With spades as trumps, partner bids 6C with trumps headed by nothing higher than the jack; 6D with trumps headed by the queen; 6H with Axxx or Kxxx; 6S with Axxxx or Kxxxx; and 7S with two of the top three honours. In this case West bids 6D, East can place the SQ and bids 7S. Josephine's scope is scaled down with the other suits, where space necessitates some bids being telescoped together.

100 HONOURS PARTNER!

by Mahmoud Sadek

The following hand is one of my most amusing experiences, particularly as I was sitting East.

	S	A	5	4		
	H	A				
	D	J	8	6		
	C	A	Q	10	8	7
S	K	Q	10	9	7	6
H	9	4	2			
D	7	4				
C	9					
	S	-				
	H	8	5	3		
	D	A	K	10	9	5
	C	K	J	5	4	
	S	J	8	3		
	H	K	Q	J	10	7
	D	Q	2			
	C	6	3			

A friendly lunch-time rubber bridge session for low stakes was in progress (N/S only were vulnerable), when North opened 1C. The bidding proceeded:

N	E	S	W
1C	1D	1H	1S
2C	2D	2H	2S
3C	3D	3H	3S
4H	D	-	-
-			

The first round of bidding was straightforward. North's 2C has no alternative. East kept the pot boiling with 2D. South could have been more

11.

positive, but the unfavourable vulnerability dictated caution. All the East-West bids were made to push up the bidding (and for symmetry) and if doubled and left to play would be unlikely to cost more than 300. Three spades goes one down.

A diamond was led against 4H^x and both the king and ace were cashed. The D10 followed (requesting a spade) and South ruffed high. West discarded his singleton club. Owing to the trump blockage, declarer had entry problems so he led a club. West ruffed and led the king of spades. East ruffed the ace, returned a club for West to ruff, and after the queen of spades was cashed, took one final spade ruff. That meant a penalty of 1100 less 100 honours.

TEACHING

The following courses are available:-

Beginners

Intermediate

Advanced

Blue Club

Precision Club

and courses can be arranged on other topics if there is sufficient demand.

It is also hoped to arrange a duplicate seminar on Thursdays when the previous night's hands will be discussed. This will be primarily for those who are new to duplicate or who wish to improve their technique.

For details please contact the Club Secretary, Warwick Pitch.

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