

Bridge Blog

Hurlingham Cup

Our first interclub match of 2022 took place on 24th February for the Hurlingham Cup which was last played in 2019 having been cancelled the previous two years due to Covid. Interestingly, I noted when I reviewed the engravings on the cup that this event was first played in 1952. I am also told that it went missing for several years and was eventually found in the untidy boot of a Hurlingham Chairman's car. Anyway, I am pleased to report that Roehampton Club retained this trophy from 2019 with a 27-imp win.

Here is a report from Danny Gesua who was playing with Jeanette Reid about an interesting slam hand that gave us a 10-imp swing

	North	
	K J 5	
	K 10 9 8 3	
	Q J	
	A J 2	
A Q 10 9 7 2		8 6 4
5		Q 7 6
6 2		8 3
10 7 6 5		K Q 9 8 3
	3	
	A J 4 2	
	A K 10 9 7 5 4	
	4	

The interest on this hand is in the bidding, not the play, although you do need to finesse the QH. If North bids 3H over 2S, 3NT might well be missed when this is the best contract. At our table, North bid 3NT over 2S. This is a sensible, practical bid which follows the Hamman maxim (Bob Hamman was world champion countless times): 'If 3NT is a reasonable option, bid it!'. Double is the other option which in this instance also finds the Heart fit but might make it more difficult to reach the slam.

After 3NT, I have no other bid forcing to slam than 4S (other than simply punting 6D or 6NT), but leaving it open

to which denomination. Jeanette interpreted my 4S as a cue bid insisting on Diamonds as trumps (a perfectly reasonable interpretation) and bid 5C. I then bid a pragmatic 6D. The finesse of the Heart Queen is not difficult to find, given the 2S overcall on my left.

Getting to 6D was fine at Teams but might well be a bottom at Pairs when 6H or 6NT would score better.

DG / 27 February 2022

How would you and your partner bid to find the slam?

Congratulations to the team – Danny Gesua and Jeanette Reid; Viv Harris and Paul Ambrus; Peter and Henryka Bonnor-Morris; Ron Wood and Ralph Evers; Sandra and Gordon Fox; Maria Wiehe and Julie Bacon (captain).

Presentation of the cup to Roehampton Club match captain:



Forthcoming matches in March

Sign-up sheets for the following matches are posted on the bridge board in Reception.

16th March - Royal Mid Surrey Away at 10.30am + lunch for 6 pairs

24th March - MCC at home at 4.30pm + dinner for 4 pairs.

Please contact Simon Lucas with any questions. simonhlucas@gmail.com

Miller Cup – Individual Competition -Sunday March 20th 1.30pm.

This is an individual event- you do not need a partner. The Sign-up sheet is now available on the Bridge board in reception.

Other Internal Event Dates to Note March-April

Next Team Practice- Friday 18th March 1.30pm

Teams of 4 internal monthly competition. Sign up on the board in Reception. If you don't have a regular four, try putting your names down as a pair so others may add their names to make up a team.

Please note the April team practice date has been moved from 15th April (which is Good Friday) to **22nd April**.

British Spring Sims Pairs- Monday 4th April 1.30pm

Details to follow later

Teams Trophy- Monday 11th April 1.30pm

Teams of four competition – a signup sheet will be available on the Bridge Notice Board

Friday Bridge Supervised Session with Paul Mendelson

I am pleased to report there was a good turnout at Paul's Friday class which began live in the bridge room last week. These classes have always been very popular so just as a reminder-

This session offers almost 3 hours of supervised play, set hands and the (in)famous bidding quiz, all in the friendliest atmosphere. Open to bridge players of all levels, there is always something new to be learnt, a play to be understood, and revelation to be had.

Come on you own, with a partner, or with a group of friends.

Bridge room. 10.00-12.45

Members £10-00 per session

No need to pre-book, just arrive from 9.45am on the day.

Other reminders -

- From Monday March 7th duplicate table money will be increased to £4
- From Wednesday 30th March the duplicate session will move back live to the bridge room from online BBO. Same time 7.30pm

Julie Bacon, Bridge Chair