

## Bridge Blog April

The time is rapidly approaching for our 125-anniversary special events.

On Monday 20 April we will have a new Internal Mixed Pairs Competition with a Rose Bowl as prize. It will have the normal start time of 1.30pm and will be run like a normal duplicate session. Players who wish to compete for this trophy will obviously need to enter as a mixed pair. Others are welcome to play as a non-mixed pair but will be ineligible to win the trophy. There is a sign up at Reception, although players are welcome on the day if it is not fully booked up.

On Wednesday 22 April we will be holding a special 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Duplicate Invitation Tournament. Steve will run it as usual with help from Gitte if the numbers require this. We will be inviting a small number of representatives from other clubs we play matches against to join us, and there will be some prizes to compete for. It will have a start time of 1.30pm and there will be a drinks reception afterwards in the Bridge Room. Sign up is at Reception.

On Friday 19 June we will be having an event with Zia Mahmood, the famous celebrity Bridge player. There will be bridge sessions with some prepared hands, a lunch and Zia will give us some anecdotes from his eventful career. It should be a very special occasion. Sign up is at Reception and more details are [on the poster](#).



## Club Competitions

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April we had the annual club team's competition. Many congratulations to Andrew Guest, Loulou Van Geuns, Marion Tamblyn and Arnold Tunbridge for an impressive win with + 81 imps. Second place went to Nigel Aspinall, Peter Bonnor Moris, Ralph Evers and Philip Howard with + 35 imps. Seemingly Arnold and Marion's stellar slam bidding made a big difference to the margin together with a strong performance from Andrew and Loulou.



The final of the Winter Rubber Bridge Knockout saw another cliffhanger match where the reigning champs Nigel and Ron managed to hold on to win by a very slender 70-point margin against a late comeback from

the Bricknells. Slams were bid on both sides with a Grand Slam from Nigel and Ron together with some shrewd tactics making them deserved winners for another year.

## Matches

We had an enjoyable away match against Royal Mid Surrey on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Our team played steadily against a strong RMS team but eventually lost by a relatively modest margin of around 40 imps.

We had a very agreeable match away to the All England LTC on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Unsurprisingly we had no difficulty in finding a strong team for this match with the opportunity to enjoy the outstanding hospitality on offer. After a close first half where a loss on one table was offset by a good win on the other, we achieved a win on both tables in the second half to register a good overall result.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March, Hurlingham hosted the 8th year of the three club Bridge Committees annual match. It was very efficiently managed by Gitte with a complex movement where each pair played 3 boards against every opposing pair. The winners before this year were apparently RAC 3, Hurlingham 2, Pandemic 2 and Roehampton 0. A Roehampton win was long overdue and our



team duly delivered. The vp scores were Roehampton Club +61, RAC -18 and Hurlingham-43. Our thanks go to Antonia and her Hurlingham team for looking after us so well.

## Surrey EBU

It was interesting to learn in the latest Surrey EBU newsletter that Surrey is the most active county for Bridge in the UK, with 40 active clubs, representing around 10% of the entire national membership. Disappointing though that Surrey EBU will not be running the Wanborough Teams event this year, although it will still go ahead with the Mary Edwards pairs competition. The main reason seems to be that many clubs are allowing guest players to compete in their team's competition in order to make up numbers. Also, that Mayfield, with their international players, keep winning the Wanborough Teams' trophy in spite of our best efforts ...! Que Sera Sera ...

Best wishes and good luck for the upcoming events

Malcolm B