

## *Congratulations to*

*Kate Mullaney and June Sangster who topped the Leader Board in March just hitting the “70s” with 70.78% on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. In second place were Alan Townson and Patrick Hutley with 69.44% also on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Not far behind them were David Gillespie and Christine Williams with 67.99% on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Well done everyone.*

*Editor’s Achievers’ Awards this month go to Frances Wood and Di Saunders who were 1<sup>st</sup> on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March with 67.35%. Very well done girls.*

### *Dates for Your Diary*

*Sussex County Spring Congress at Uckfield*

*27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April*

*Blue Pointed Open Swiss Pairs*

*At St. Leonards Bridge Club on*

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 am*

*Sussex County Green Pointed Swiss Pairs*

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

*Entry forms for all available at the club*

### *Club Directors*

*Anthony Andrews: Barbara Herold: Patrick Hutley:*

*Hilary Levett and Alan Miley*

**Enjoy your bridge whenever and wherever you play**

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# East Sussex Bridge Club

Affiliated to the English Bridge Union

## Newsletter

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### *Editorial*

*When should you ask what an opponent’s bid means? The laws are quite clear that you may not ask about the meaning of a bid UNTIL IT IS YOUR TURN TO BID. The reason for this rule is that you could, albeit unintentionally, be giving your partner information to which he is not entitled to at that stage of the bidding.*

*Consider the following – North opens with 1NT, East passes, South bids 2 clubs unalerted and unannounced by North. If East then asks if that is a natural bid he is implying he has a good holding in clubs and so could either prompt West to bid clubs himself, double or to lead a club if he is on opening lead at the end of the auction.*

*In general unless you have a valid reason for asking the meaning of any of the opponents’ bids (i.e. you want to bid yourself) you are best to say nothing during the auction. Quite often your opponents will forget their system and your questions could prompt their memories. Supposing North opens 1NT, East passes, South bids 2 hearts, West asks if that is a natural bid, North says “Yes” and then South blurts out “but we’re playing transfers”. Much better to leave your opponents’ in the proverbial.....*

*The whole point of selecting the opening lead and placing it face down and saying “any questions” is to allow your partner to query any aspect of the bidding he would like clarification on. Of course, if you are on opening lead you may ask before you select your opening lead.*

## Stratification Upgrades for April

The players below all have NGS rankings of honour cards at the end of March and will therefore be upgraded to an "A" status for the month of April in addition to those players who have a life-time ranking which puts them into the A grade.

Paul Williams	John Clark	Mike Wood
Richard Dewe	Tony Dwiar	Pat Collings
John Revell	Lynne Bayes	
Rod Bayes	Norman Taylor	

**I am delighted to say that Gary Manley is making really good progress. He has been transferred to the Conquest and is now able to communicate, is able to totter a few steps and is receiving visitors. He now needs extensive physio and to build up his strength.**

**This month's edition of English Bridge contains a letter querying the wisdom of the changes in the Blue Book regarding strong opening bids (16+ points or 12 points and 5 controls, an Ace being two controls and a King). Gordon Rainsford, the general manager of the EBU and Chief Tournament Director has now asked for this topic to be discussed at the next Laws and Ethics committee meeting. I'm so glad someone else has picked up on this. See February's interesting hand.**

**Having discussed this particular subject with a National Director, apparently you can open with an Acol 2 clubs or a Benji 2 diamonds on February's interesting hand providing it is announced as an "INTERMEDIATE" bid rather than strong AND it is marked as such on your convention card. The problem with that is the bid no longer becomes game-forcing. I do hope this conundrum is resolved before I need to teach the new group of beginners about strong opening bids!!!!**

## April's Devastating Hand

♠ J854	♠ AQ3
♥ 93	♥ J76
♦ 532	♦ AK1064
♣ 10987	♣ A4
♠ 76	♠ K1092
♥ KQ1042	♥ A85
♦ Q97	♦ J8
♣ 532	♣ KQJ6

My heart goes out to all the South's playing a weak no trump with this hand that come up very recently at one of the afternoon sessions. This hand really was a bridge player's worst nightmare. Results ranged from 1NT x going off 2, 3, 4, 5 and six tricks. One lucky south was not doubled (were you asleep East?) and three East/Wests ended up in a part score and one East bid game in diamonds which of course cannot compare with 1NTx – 6 for a score of 1700!! What should you do in the future if your opening 1NT is doubled. Seriously consider having an escape route. One of the simplest and most popular systems these days are Exit

Transfers. Personally if I have 6 – 10 points I leave my partner in 1NTx unless I have a very unbalanced hand. If you would like to take on board Exit Transfers they are as follows. If you would like to make a weak take-out into clubs then you redouble and partner converts to 2♣. If you want to play in diamonds then you bid 2♣ and partner converts to 2♦; if you want to play in hearts then you bid 2♦ and partner converts to 2♥; if you want to play in spades then you bid 2♥ and partner converts to 2♠. All the above bids are alertable. Quite often the mere fact that you are escaping from the 1NTx scenario is enough for the opponents to bid a suit themselves in which case you can heave a huge sigh of relief and let them get on with it. Note to the defenders. If your partner doubles a 1NT contract then unless you have agreed differently with your partner DO NOT BID. Leave the double in however weak you are. The opener has shown 12 – 14 points, your partner COULD have the other 26 – 28 and they will not be best pleased to be playing in a part score. Similarly, if your partner has doubled a 1NT contract and the opener and/or responder escape into a suit, if you have 8+ points yourself either double whatever suit they have bid or with 10+ points bid game in your best suit or 3NT if that will give you a better score than defeating the opener.