

## *Congratulations to*

*Top of the leader board this month were Bruce Carrison and David Hughes with 68.78% on Wednesday 22nd March. They were followed closely by Muriel Parr and Norman Taylor with 67.42% on Thursday 23rd March. Hot on their heels in third position was the scratch partnership of Brian Bestley and John Woodside who achieved 67.27% on Monday 6th March. Well done everyone.*

*Editor's Achievers of the Month awards this month go to Graham Stone and Julia Brown who were top on Thursday 23rd March with 63.64%. Well done you two, pretty good for another scratch partnership.*

***Date for your Diary  
Regrettably there will be  
NO BRIDGE  
on Thursday 4th May 2017  
Due to local elections***

### **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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**April 2017**

### *Editorial*

*WANTED.....Sadly, last month I was unable to find partners for three members who wished to play on a Wednesday evening. I have a few people I can call on whom I know will occasionally play but I need more. Are you able to play an occasional Wednesday evening? If so PLEASE let me know so I can add to my database of possible available players. Thank you. There will be bridge as normal on the Easter Monday and as always, host available. However, please bear in mind that the Easter week-end is when the bikers visit Hastings so certain roads such as the seafront of Hastings and all the surrounding roads will be much busier than normal and will probably impact on both Bexhill and Eastbourne.*



*Just to remind you all there are two Basic Bridge Pairs events coming up very shortly. The first one is at the Sussex County Spring Congress being held at the Uckfield Civic Centre on Friday 21st April at 2.00 pm. Closing date for entries is 17th April. The second one is closer to home being held at the St. Leonards Bridge Club on Saturday 6th May starting at 11.00 am, finishing about 3.00 pm with a Ploughman's lunch being served. These Basic Bridge Pairs are very non-threatening and worth entering, particularly if you are new to a slightly more competitive environment. Entry forms are available at the club or via the Sussex County web site.*

## March's Thought for the Month

It's not often you pick up a hand and think WOW, but I had this amazing little collection a couple of weeks ago

♠ A K 10 7 6 2  
♥ A K 10 9 5 4 2  
♦ Void  
♣ Void

To my astonishment my partner opened with 1♦, I replied with 1♥. How do you think the bidding should proceed to reach the optimum contract?

The full hands were

♠ 4 3	♠ J 8 5
♥ Q	♥ 8 7
♦ Q 10 6 5 3	♦ 7 4 2
♣ J 10 9 6 2	♣ K Q 5 4 3
♠ Q 9	
♥ J 6 3	
♦ A K J 9 8	
♣ A 8 7	

I started off with an unassuming bid of 1♥, with this particular partner a jump bid in a major after an opening bid of a minor denotes a weak hand. Partner replied with 1NT and I then made a jump bid in spades. Partner gave preference to hearts whereupon Roman Key Card Blackwood elicited we were not missing any Aces or Kings although we did not have the ♥Q. I was slightly concerned about being able to reach my partner's hand so settled for 7♥ rather than 7NT. How did you do?

### Easter Joke.

Q. What do you call a line of bunnies hopping backwards?

A. A receding Hare Line (perfect for an Easter cracker)

Congratulations to Brian Cook who achieved my ambition on 6th October last year by opening 6♠ in the North seat. I have always wanted to create an impression by flourishing an opening bid at the 6 level (7 would be even better but can't see it ever happening) but a suitable hand has never come up in all the time I've been playing. Four other Norths also got to 6♠ but I'm assuming they got there a little more slowly!!

However, I'm surprised they all made it as looking at all four hands, PROVIDING East does not lead a diamond either on opening lead or after he wins the trump trick, AND assuming West hangs on to his hearts during the long squeeze in the trump suit, the contract will fail. Such is bridge.

♠ A Q J 10 9 8 6 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ Void  
♣ A K

♠ 4	♠ K 5 3
♥ Q J 10 9	♥ 6 4 2
♦ K 8 6 3 2	♦ Q 9 5
♣ 5 3 2	♣ Q J 7 6
♠ 7	
♥ 8 5 3	
♦ A J 10 7 4	
♣ 10 9 8 4	

### 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 "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	Richard Dewe	Mike Wood	John Clark
Lynne Bayes	Rod Bayes	John Revell	
Norman Taylor	Hilary Levett	Patrick Hutley	
	Christine Bond	Bill Edghill	
James Carrie-Wilson	Betty McKinlay	Tony Dwiar	
	Alan Townson		