

East Sussex Bridge Club

All of you have heard of duplicate, some have tried it and loved its addictive nature but some are nervous... The following article has been taken from the East Sussex Bridge Club Newsletter, written by Ken Latty, shows just how nice and friendly we really are.....

"Recently, John Hunt and I made the trip to London to play at Andrew Robson's Bridge Club. Andrew Robson is the English number one bridge player and is bridge correspondent to The Times.



John Hunt and Ken Latty

I have wanted to go to this club for some years since it first opened and English Bridge, the magazine of the EBU, gave over a two page spread on the club's opening with the heading 'No Stops, No Alerts, No Director'.

There were sixteen tables and sure enough there were no Stop or Alert cards in the bidding boxes. It is true there was a Director who ran the afternoon but he was only called once – to sort out a problem that could not be sorted by the players. On one occasion I did offer to call the Director because of something I had done but the opponents quickly said no and we got on with the game.

I can only say – and I know John will agree – it really was a very pleasant afternoon, with lovely people all who made us very welcome, and there was absolutely no unpleasantness or gamesmanship, and no pedantic insistence upon the finer points of the laws.

You may well ask why, why, when you know my views on Stops and Alerts, I do not do away with them at the East Sussex. The answer is very simple: we are affiliated to the EBU and we give Master Points whilst Andrew Robson's does not.

In retrospect, it is amazing that the EBU, through its official magazine, should have advertised a club that is run so contrarily to its own policies and contributes nothing in the way of Master Points revenue: perhaps even then someone realised Andrew Robson has got it right.

Hopefully, in its major review, the EBU will take notice of the success of such clubs as Andrew Robson's and realise that the decline in duplicate bridge numbers is primarily down to a small minority frightening away the vast majority of bridge players, aided and abetted by a set of laws that make the game itself antisocial".