

Congratulations to

Top of the leader board this month were Jim and Judith Chapman with 72.29% on Thursday 15th December. Don't know what you're putting in Jim's tea Judith but don't stop!!! In second place were Mike Wood and John Refell with 66.90% on Monday 12th December; very close behind them in third place were Bruce Carrison and Neil Flowerdew with 66.28% on Wednesday 7th December. Well done everyone.

Editor's Achievers of the Month awards this month go to Annabelle Riseborough and Val Hart who were 1st on Monday 12th December with 60.19%. Well done girls.

***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

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Newsletter

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Editorial

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back after the Christmas break. The New Year is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year and to make resolutions to improve the quality of our lives. My job as managing the Bridge Club is no different in that I take stock of what has happened in the past year and think about what can be improved upon for the new year. Suggestions are always welcome.

Sadly I have had a few complaints about etiquette and behaviour at the bridge table over the past months, so for the next few weeks a reminder of the rules of Bridge Etiquette will be on your table. Please read them and abide by them.

In addition could I please remind you not to give unsolicited advice to players who you think are not as good as you are unless they ask for your advice. Please do not criticise either your partner or your opponents and lastly please do not hold post mortems at the end of each board. To do so is to cheat your opponents of time; the more time you spend discussing the hand you have just played, the less time your opponents have for the next one or two boards. Post mortems only at the end of the round please.

I'd also like to remind all of you that your System Card is there for your opponents to read. It is against the spirit of the game for you to refer to it whilst the auction is in progress. In a more competitive environment each player exchanges a System card with one of their opponents but I hope we will not have to resort to that.

Answers to December's Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, is a territory of which country? **AUSTRALIA**
2. The North Pole, said to be Santa's home, is located in which ocean? **ARCTIC OCEAN**
3. 'And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day in the morning...' is from which Christmas carol? **I SAW THREE SHIPS**
4. Which Christmas condiment is made from fruit sometimes referred to as marshworts? **CRANBERRY SAUCE**
5. Which American-born English poet, having first names Thomas Stearns, wrote the poem The Cultivation Of Christmas Trees? **T. S. ELIOT**
6. Which Christmas slogan was introduced by Clarissa Baldwin of Dogs Trust in 1978? **A DOG IS FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS**
7. Which British monarch (born 1865, died 1936) introduced the custom of giving thousands of Christmas puddings to staff? **KING GEORGE V**
8. The fortified wine drink Sherry is named after what town? **JEREZ**
9. In which country, the largest of its continent, is it said that finding a spider web on Christmas morning brings good luck, and so Christmas trees are decorated with artificial spider webs? **UKRAINE**
10. In 2004, the post office of which country gave away twenty million free scented stickers, to make Christmas cards smell like fir trees, cinammon, gingerbread or honey wax? **GERMANY**
11. In which country, an archipelago of 6,852 islands, is it considered inappropriate to send red Christmas cards? **JAPAN**
12. The early pagan religious winter festival celebrated by archaic Scandinavian and Germanic people, later absorbed into Christmas celebrations, is still referred to in what alternative word for the Christmas season? **YULE**

A reminder that membership subs are now due. The cost remains unchanged at £15.00. Whilst the East Sussex has no limit to the number of times you may play as a non-member, it just costs you £0.50 more in table money each time you play, but in order to receive your magazines and masterpoints from the EBU you must be a member of one affiliated club.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY went off very well, apart from the few "mutterings" I heard about the hands you were given. I'll have you know I spent hours compiling those..... You are not likely to meet that number of slams again for a long while!!!!

Carol Morrison was the well deserved winner of the quiz and the partnership of Cuckoo Healey and Annabelle Riseborough ended up with the highest percentage for the bridge.

The food was obviously as good as it looked as virtually nothing was left for my foxes. My thanks go to my band of sous chefs who produced amazing eats, namely Chris Bond, Judith Chapman, Margaret Crisp, Barbara Goldsmith, Denise Hodd, Vickie Penfold, Eileen Stray, Christine Till, Margaret Tillbrook and Gary Young.

By the way, if anyone inadvertently took home an oblong stainless steel salver, it's mine.

Bridge Classes for 2017

A new Beginners' class will be starting on Friday 27th January. If you have friends or relatives interested in learning please let them know and ask them to contact me.

I will run a six week Improvers' course in February/March if sufficient people are interested. Please let me know.

I will re-run the Masterclass on Benji Acol and weak twos in April if enough people are interested. Again, please let me know.

There is just one of John Hunt's Charity Booklet left if anyone would like to buy it. Cost is £5.00, half of which goes to Prostate Cancer Research.

Stratification Upgrades For January

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

Paul Williams	Karen Sloane	Richard Dewe
Lynne Bayes	Rod Bayes	Mike Wood
John Clark	John Revell	Christine Bond
Norman Taylor	James Carrie-Wilson	
Hilary Levett	Claire Weston	Betty McKinlay
Muriel Parr	Brian Bestley	Dee Murray
	Christine Williams	