

Congratulations to

Top of the leader board this month were David Gillespie and June Sangster with 67.22% on Thursday 13th April. They just beat Jim and Judith Chapman who were second with 67.05% on Thursday 27th April. In third place were Mike Wood and John Revell with 65.73% on Monday 3rd April. Well done everyone.

Editor's Achiever of the Month award this month goes to Jane Allen playing with her husband Nigel and they were top on Thursday 20th April with 63.28%. Well done Jane.

***Date for your Diary
Regrettably there will be
NO BRIDGE
on Thursday 8th June 2017
Due to the general election***

Club Directors:

Anthony Andrews, Barbara Herold, Patrick Hutley, Hilary Levett
and Alan Miley,

*Enjoy your bridge
whenever and wherever you play*
© K J Latty

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East Sussex Bridge Club

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Newsletter

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Editorial

Directing a bridge session is a funny old business. Some days there are nothing but revokes, others it will be leads out of turn, but it's not that often I get called for disputes over claims. However, this month it's been the "London Bus Syndrome"..... I've had at least three and an email asking for clarification on a claim. The Laws do state that if you have an obvious claim you should claim rather than waste everyone's time. This is fine and I do encourage my students to claim if they are absolutely sure all their cards are winners BUT they must tell their opponents how they are going to play their cards. Once a claim has been made the cards CANNOT be played and the director MUST be called, and it is the director who will then decide whether the claim is valid or not. Interestingly, the director cannot make the declarer play abnormally or without reason. If there is an outstanding trump which declarer has failed to mention when stating his line of play, the director has to assume the declarer has forgotten about it and will ALWAYS award the defenders one trick, more if needed to restore equity.

The rules regarding concessions are slightly different in that if one of the defenders concedes a trick or tricks but his partner objects, the director will rule that play will continue. Any card shown by either defender does not become a penalty card. Experienced players please take pity on your less experienced opponents and desist from claiming at Trick One or Two!!!!

May's Thought for the Month

♠ J 10
♥ 4 2
♦ 9 7 5 4 2
♣ K Q 10 6

You are on lead against a contract of 6♥ . Can you find the killing lead?

Stratification Upgrades For May

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

*Paul Williams Mike Wood Lynne Bayes
Rod Bayes John Revell Richard Dewe
Hilary Levett John Clark Tony Dwiar
Norman Taylor Bill Edghill Patrick Hutley
Christine Bond James Carrie-Wilson*

Master Point Promotions

March 2017

*District Master Christine Till
Club Master Margaret Tillbrook*

April 2017

*Advanced Master Alan Miley
District Master Barbara Goldsmith
 John Revell
Club Master Mary Williams
Local Master Graham Stone*

A Hand to Ponder on for May

Not all slams are easy to find and the one below is a good example. If West opens 2NT (with a singleton) his partner is likely to transfer to hearts and you will end up in 4♥. Should East go the Stayman route your final contract will probably be 3NT. If you don't open 2NT with a singleton (and many of us don't) then you have the unenviable opening bid of 1♦ to which your partner's reply of 1♥ will only see you in a game contract.

♠ J 8 7 4
♥ A 8 3
♦ J 7 2
♣ J 8 6

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

I happened to spot this hand played at another club where I know the majority of players are well experienced and yet no one found the slam. The contracts ranged from 2♣ (S.G.W. - Stayman Gone Wrong) to 3NT played by four pairs and 4♥ played by four pairs.

Looking at all the hands you can see that regardless of the opening lead and carelessness in play, you have twelve tricks to collect in either hearts, clubs or no trumps, two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and four clubs.

I'm sure there must be a convention around that would allow you to convey that particular shape of hand and point count to your partner but as yet I have not found it. If anyone knows of one perhaps they would be good enough to share it with me.