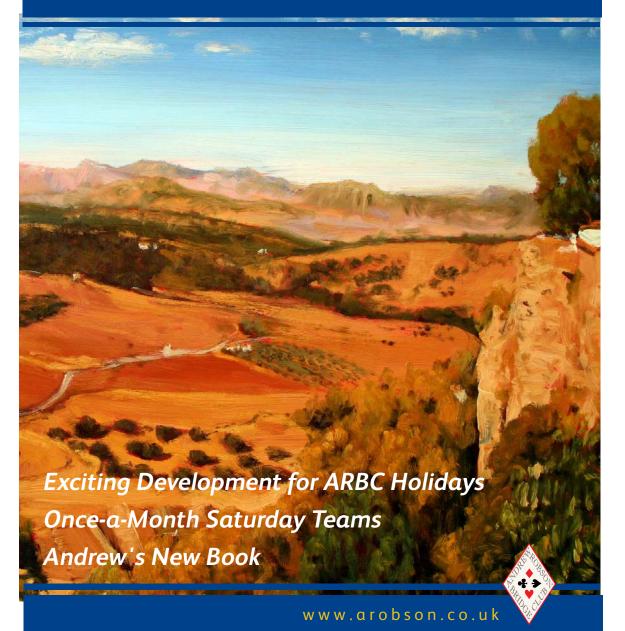


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Andrew's Editorial

I have some great news about our Holidays. Starting from next Spring, our Bridge Holidays (bar the ski-trip) will all be organised by the

Dunns, Jake, Adam and their father Philip. Although I am very sorry to see Guy of the Ski Consultancy go (he is somewhat appropriately given his company name - to concentrate exclusively on ski trips including our own), I am very excited by this development. For Philip and his sons have run



Bridge Holidays (about which everybody raves) for some twenty years. Their wealth of experience enables them to find the perfect venue at a bargain price. Jake introduces his family in a personal piece on page three and an insert gives thorough details of the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Although my increasing commitments (family and otherwise) will sadly prevent me from being ever-present, I will always ensure that the Bridge program is as instructive and exciting. All our holidays are - as ever - suitable for all levels of player. Do come.

I am often asked: "Have any of your students become really good - world champions or the like". Although I take great pride in all my students, from those beginners who enjoy a recreational game to those who work hard and become winning Duplicate players, I have never truly been able to answer YES to that question...until now. For our own Helen Erichsen (nee Knott) has recently won the European Open Championships, a fantastic performance. In that same event, David performed brilliantly, winning the Bronze Medal with a partner - and team - that was hastily arranged just the evening before. Well done both of you - and to our own Nick (what an asset he is - I am sure you agree) and partner Fiona Hutchison on being

the worldwide winners of the BGB Spring Simultaneous Pairs. You can read about Helen and David's wonderful achievements on pages thirteen and seven.

Many of us, myself more than anybody, lamented the absence of Team-of-Four Bridge at 31 Parsons Green Lane. Well I have finally found a slot! Once a month, the last Saturday, we will run a Teams event, to be run by the wonderful Edward. More details on page eleven.

Talking of new developments, I have devised a new Advanced Play Course which I look forward to teaching, with both a daytime and evening slot; and Caroline will be teaching one-off Conventions on a Thursday afternoon in her fabulous, reassuring manner.

By the time you read this, my long-awaited new book, "Common Mistakes - and how to avoid them", will be out on the bookshelves. There will naturally be plenty of copies for sale at the Bridge Club, where you can purchase a signed copy (or the - rarer - unsigned version). Being largely a compilation of my Friday Times Columns for the Less Experienced over several years (plus a new section), I reckon (modestly) that getting change back (albeit one pence) from a tenner represents rather good value! I hope you'll agree.

Finally, do you realise that it's exactly TEN YEARS since I opened a small Club above the Goat in Boots Pub in Chelsea! I remember the one-and-a-half table Duplicates, the classes with just two people on them...but out of acorns... I've loved those ten years and want to thank you all for making them such happy ones. Let's celebrate and make this year's Christmas Chicago party a really special one.





ARBC Holidays: Looking to the Future by Jake Dunn

As of early next year our family look forward to taking over running and organising ARBC holidays along with Andrew and the team. Many of you will know us already, but for those that don't, we would like to introduce ourselves. My brother (Adam) and I have been working at the Bridge Club for over five years and so will be familiar with most of vou, but for those who aren't, we are 25 and 30 years old and have been playing Bridge for nearly 20 years! We are a part of the Welsh International team, our last mission together being to travel to the Olympics and play. Adam is the current silver medal holder from the last Commonwealth Games and has played, in the World, European and National (Camrose) Championships very many times. He can be found at the Club on Tuesday and Thursday nights running the Duplicates. By day he runs a recruitment consultancy with two friends and is enjoying working from home. I have recently left my full time position teaching at the Bridge Club, to pursue my career in Zoology. I am studying for a PhD at the University of Barcelona, where I live happily in the sun with my girlfriend and my dog. Despite the long-distance relationship I have with the Club, I always feel at home when I walk

through the doors. I have helped to run nearly all the ARBC holidays in 2004 and 2005 and I still feel very involved with everything that goes on in the Club.

When we were growing up our father (Philip) owned a hotel in Tywyn, Wales. Over 20 years ago he started running holidays with Bridge there, which was always fun. These days we don't have the hotel but we have continued to run about 40 Bridge holidays each year. Philip's knowledge of the hotel and travel industry, and all the details that make you comfortable and relaxed, means our holidays always run smoothly. He is also an excellent Bridge player and has been teaching Bridge for over 20 years, Adam and me included!!

We hope you will enjoy learning with us in the tranquillity of the best hotels we can find for you. The holidays we run for the members of ARBC are exclusively for you, so you can expect to meet friends, old and new. In taking over the holidays we will continue to provide you with the 'Robson' style: pleasant and informative Bridge sessions suitable for all levels - as part of a seriously relaxing break in a stunning location.

Stop Press!

Andrew and David have just retained their title at the Brighton Swiss Pairs, the largest Pairs tournament in the world.





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Tip for Intermediate players

Bid a suit to a suit as Responder.

♠AK32

Exercise: Partner opens One ♦. What do you respond?

♠]632 **\$**153 **♠**]7 **♠**A04 **Y**87 **V**10876 **Y**J76 **Y**J1084 **♦**A86 **♦**KJ8 **♦**A32 ♦KJ7 **\$**01086 **♣**KJ5 **♣**11072 **♣**A075 Respond 1 Respond 1♥ Respond 1 Respond 2♣

Let Opener introduce Notrumps - if he is balanced.

Tip for Duplicate players

ΦA

Although there is much to be said for keeping things simple and not creating exceptions (hence opening the higher-ranking of two or more equal length suits, preferring Hearts to Spades with 4-4), the dreaded 4441s are perhaps better handled by always opening cheaply or not at all.

♠AO42

98 ♥A876 **Y**J984 **♥**Q **♦**]876 **♦**K732 ****6 **♦**8742 ♣A975 **♣**AQ83 **♣**KJ105 **♣**AK72 Open 1♣ Open 1♣ Open 1♣ Pass (and rebid 1♥ (and rebid (and rebid 1NT (and make a take-out double **1**♠ over **1**♥) over 1♠) over 1♦) if the opponents open 1\(\forall\)

♠AO97



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David Wins Bronze Medal in European Open Teams

The second European Open Championships took place in late June, in the Mare Nostrum Resort in Southern Tenerife. I arrived in time for the start of the Teams Championship, intending to spend a few days relaxing in the sun, visiting the gym, and maybe even watching Andrew and Zia play a few hands on the Panahpour team. Why wasn't I there preparing to play on my own team? Unfortunately, I'd found myself in the disappointing position of being without a partner or team mates, which doesn't allow for the best chance of winning a Teams event!



However, my arrival before the start of the event gave me the option of being added to a team, should an appropriate opportunity present itself. Indeed, as registration began, I was approached by some Irish friends who informed me that they knew of a Turk (Melih Ozdil) and an Israeli junior (Eldad Ginossar) who were looking for team mates. A recent innovation being that Transnational teams are now not only allowed to participate, but are in fact positively encouraged. I agreed that it would be fun to play, as long as I could

find a suitable partner...

Several hours later, the

though, I ran into John Holland, one of England's top players over the last couple of decades, and discovered that he was in a similar position to me, and was thus available to play. So, an unlikely team had been formed, comprising four players who would never normally expect to be playing on the same side. Indeed, while John and I had been opponents on several occasions, I don't think we had ever previously even discussed a hand of Bridge!

situation wasn't looking so great, as there

was no sign of any singletons prepared to

join our crew. As the deadline approached

Following a brief system chat in the hour before play was due to start, we lined up for the first match in our qualifying group. The format of the event was such that we had to play in groups of seven or eight teams, with the top four going through to a Swiss stage, from which 27 out of 44 teams would qualify for the knockout stages, along with five teams from a repechage event. Our team won the majority of our matches, and we finished in second place, comfortably qualifying for the next stage.

The Swiss began with a victory against the World famous Lavazza team, and continued in remarkable fashion, as we won all six matches, including a final round victory against Jacobs, one of the pre-tournament favourites. We finished the day in third place, which entitled us to have third pick of the remaining teams for our first knockout match. We chose to play an English team, Armstrong, and achieved a comfortable victory. Our next opponents were an Israeli team, who we also beat to reach the quarter finals. Our opponents at this crucial stage would be another English team - the De Botton team, with the winners augranteed to receive a medal.

A near sleepless night was followed by a nail-biting encounter. We raced to an early lead, but with one of the twenty-eight boards remaining we had a lead of just one IMP. Fortunately, we gained on the last board to record a memorable victory and the promise of a medal. Less than an hour after completing our quarter final match, we were back in play against a Dutch team, including a pair that had won the silver medal at the World Teams Olympiad in Istanbul in October.

The match started poorly for us, and we found ourselves trailing by 31 IMPs at the half way point. However, a dramatic

comeback saw us starting the last board one IMP behind our illustrious opponents. Sadly, the fairytale was to come to an end, as we lost another two IMPs to miss out on a place in the final by just three IMPs. So we had to content ourselves with a bronze medal, as the Dutch went on to beat a Polish team to be crowned European Open Champions. Despite the disappointment of losing so narrowly, it was of course an amazing experience to enjoy such success with a first time partner, and to be part of a team that despite only coming together at the last minute, ended up on the rostrum at the closing medal ceremony.



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John Malvern



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Kathy Silver



Lisa Emerson



Kate Benest



Alison Beecham



Elizabeth Weldon



Nicola Dicketts



Sir Eddie Kulukundis



Patrick Macdougall



9

Bridge and Golf in Connemara by Dinah Wiener

I am not at my best on skis, so was delighted when this Golf and Bridge holiday was announced. Andrew and Guy could not have picked a more perfect location than the Zetland Country House hotel, an attractive family house overlooking Betraghboy Bay in West Galway. Nor, by good fortune, could they have picked a better time of year, with sun and clear blue skies almost all weekend. This unspoilt part of Connemara looked its best: lush and areen and full of flag iris and other wild flowers, the loughs and the sea breathtakingly beautiful.

Half of the twenty-two in our group, which included Jake whom it was great to see again, were golfers, and we made early starts to our three courses: Ballinrobe, Bearna and my favourite, Connemara. This beautiful links course at Ballyconneely on the very far west coast is surrounded by sea and long white beaches on which we paddled before leaving for home. There were even some who spoke, but only spoke, of going for a swim!

The non-golfers had plenty to see and do while we were losing golf balls, and I for one was envious of the trip in a light aircraft to Inishmore on the Aran Islands, which sounded fascinating. Most of us also visited

the fabulous gardens at Cashel House Hotel, iust a ten minute walk from our hotel, which boasts a "de Gaulle" garden seat with views of the sea in memory of a visit made by the General and his wife.



The weather was so good that Andrew gave his pre-dinner tuition on the terrace overlooking the bay, where even at 7pm many of us had to wear sun hats and dark glasses. Bridge after dinner tended to start quite late because chef and staff were not accustomed to quests actually doing anything after the delicious five-course dinner they provided. But, stalwart to the end, the ARBC members embarked on Duplicate and Teams over coffee and petit fours, and were still playing well into the wee small hours. I won't mention the last evening in the bar...

Saturday Teams

Last Saturday of the Month Teams £20 including lunch 11.00am - 3.45pm

By popular demand, we have found a slot for a return to Teams in the Club. To be run by Edward, we are anticipating a huge

response to what promises to be fabulous, social days. Suitable for

all players of Gentle Duplicate standard and above, please come as a Team-of-Four. If you would like us to help you make up a team, please contact the Club in advance (24th September, 29th October & 26th November).

bridge

- 1. a card game derived from whist, in which one player's cards are exposed and are played by his or her partner (auction bridge, contract bridge).
- 2. SW London's leading property and lifestyle magazine! Brought to you by Douglas & Gordon.



From Beginner Lessons at Andrew Robson's to European Gold Medal.

I was bribed into learning to play Bridge. It's true. My father offered to take me to the Caribbean if I played Bridge



with him whilst we were there. That holiday was all it took to get me hooked. When we got home I trotted along to the Andrew Robson Bridge Club and started taking lessons. I couldn't get enough. I used to run two Bridge courses concurrently. Andrew must have got slightly bored of seeing my little face pop up in his classroom all the time. In the end he had to take me aside and ask me not to answer all he questions he set the class. For me. Andrew was a wonderful inspiration. He explained complex propositions in such a simple straightforward way. He fed my endless appetite for knowledge. Above all he gave me confidence in myself. The confidence to make decisions, to solve problems: to play Bridge.

But still I wanted more. I began playing Duplicate at the Club. My father and I must have finished bottom ten times in a row before achieving the unparalleled success of finishing second from bottom. We still play once a week today.

Then I started entering Bridge tournaments (doing very badly) and it was around this time that I met Espen Erichsen, an up and coming professional Bridge player. If Andrew was my original inspiration, then Espen became my mentor (and eventually my husband). He's taught me to be tougher, more disciplined, and he taught me how to play his Bridge system.

I always think that playing in a tournament is a bit like taking an exam. Most of the work is done in the preparation. For the preceding couple of months before the European Championships took place Espen and I revised. We played Duplicate at Andrew Robson's once a week and spent an hour each night (after our two year old had gone to bed) bidding hands together. Even so, we arrived in Tenerife with no expectations. We were playing in the Mixed Teams Championships with two other Norwegian couples: Boye Brogeland, his wife Tonje, and Tor Helness and his wife Gun. Notwithstanding the fact that we had three world class male players on our team, there were some fairly illustrious names playing in the event and the competition was tough. It came as a slight surprise to us all when, after a couple of days of play, we found that we had qualified for the knock out round of thirty two. But from that moment onwards the team walked on water. We beat everyone: the Italians, the Russians, the Americans. Even I, the most inexperienced member of the six. made no serious boo boos for several sessions in a row. And suddenly, there we were, playing in the final against a

Swedish team. There exists a "friendly" rivalry between Norway and Sweden so it became even more important that we win. The final was a much closer run affair than any of our previous matches had been. Over forty eight boards the lead changed hands several times and we finished ahead by just four and a half IMPs. But that was enough. We had won the gold medal.

So that's the story of how I started taking Beginner lessons at Andrew Robson's and ended up as a European Champion. I like having a gold medal. I wear it around the house sometimes and my daughter Claudia likes to try it on. My only other claim to Bridge fame is that I'm quoted on page 107 of the British Bridge Almanac for reputedly saying that Bridge is not a sex substitute. Sex is a Bridge substitute. I never said that. Or if I did, please don't tell my husband. I wouldn't want him to think that he's a Bridge object.

Espen Erichsen is available for daytime and evening Duplicate: 07932 163 869



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Playing in your first Congress by Lorna Heaton

Following my earlier article in the ARBC magazine "Playing your first game of Duplicate", I can now move on to "Playing in your first Congress"...

I must have had a few too many to agree to such a thing, but with a great partner, our own Richard, I found myself travelling across the Irish Sea to Killarney on the west coast to play in the mixed pairs of the Southern Ireland Bridge Congress. A gruelling, competitive event spread over two evenings!

Play started at eight o'clock Irish time. Faced with a field of 40 pairs of hardened Bridge players I felt a little sick, and dreaded the first hand. I was really hoping I held a Yarborough so I did not have to bid. I also tell Richard that on no account must he tell me when we hit a top pair (he knows them all), as I would rather not know. There is a slight giveaway though when you arrive at a table and somebody is kibitzing (watching how a player bids and plays). It is even worse when they happen to be sitting behind you as well; they can see every dumb thing you do... Anyway, thank goodness I remembered Caroline's great advice - "breathe, relax and play" - and off we went.

It is pretty fast and furious - a lot of Stop and Alerting, plus claiming of tricks (often a relief, because it saves you having to make up your mind about a tricky discard). To my horror the first hand was three no trumps which I had to play, but when dummy went down at least I could see my nine tricks. I could probably have made an overtrick, but quite frankly I just wanted to make it, which thank goodness I did. Then I settle: breathe, relax and play.

We had a major success after the first session lying joint 6th - a miracle - mainly due to the calmness and kindness of my partner who boosted my confidence no end.

The second session (after a great night) I think I can brush over quite quickly - not such a success, so in my mind it was a one-evening event. I definitely had a fun and unforgettable time, which I can put down to the fantastic friends and colleagues who went with us: Fiona Hutchinson, Guy Hart, Richard Bailey and Martin Jones. They know how to party and so do the Irish. It was a wonderful three days, I loved it and would certainly do it again. Choose your congress carefully though; you may come across Andrew and David (but not in the mixed pairs...)



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Details of above holidays are available in the Club or on the website www.arobson.co.uk - For further enquiries, telephone Guy Jobling on 07958 737286 or email guy@theskiconsultancy.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

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13th September	EBU Simultaneous Pairs (Andrew's Commentary)	7.30pm
21st September	Open Evening - tempt your non-Bridge playing friends	6.00pm - 7.15pm
13th October	BGB Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
4th - 6th November	Millstream Weekend	
5th November	Annual Pairs Championship	11.00am-4.00pm
17th November	Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
16th December	Christmas Chicago Party	6.30pm - 10ish
20th - 22nd December	Children's Bridge Courses (two sessions daily)	10.30am & 2.00pm
23rd December	Club closes for Christmas - after the end of Duplicate	4.00pm
3rd January 2006	Club re-opens	10.30am
14th - 21st January 2006	Ski Trip to Zermatt	
24th - 26th February 2006	Powder Mills Weekend	Q K



Seven No Trumps



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