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Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

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58 offices independently owned and operated

Andrew's Editorial

It's been a fantastic Autumn at ARBC and indeed a fantastic ten years. Thank you to all of you for making the Club such a pleasure to

run, and to my dedicated team who take such a pride in their work. Just one member of my team has lasted the course even the wonderful Caroline has "only" been working at ARBC for nine

years. That person is our fabulous bookkeeper Nicky. She may not be well known to many of you, but, let me tell you, behind the scenes she is fantastic. To know her better, turn to page 16.

Following the great success of the Advanced Play Course, I am very much looking forward to teaching you my BRAND NEW INTERMEDIATE PLAY COURSE, which will run along similar lines (i.e. playing eight structured deals per week). Aimed for those who have done Intermediate but want to consolidate and build confidence in their card play. I hope to see as many of you as possible. Other excitements to our teaching schedule include more of Caroline's Thursday afternoon Conventions. after their outstanding success this term; plus a newly revamped Next Step Course - including a new coloured sheet every week!

Following the great success of our once-amonth Saturday Teams, we are pleased to announce that we will be continuing them in the New Year - so pencil in your diary the last Saturday in January, February and March.

I have been absolutely delighted by the favourable reaction to my book. We have sold well over 500 copies in the Club alone, and it has been near the top of the Times Books First bestseller list for some weeks, such that it has already been reprinted. As an accompaniment, I have carefully selected 40 deals from the book, and they can be dealt using special Arrow Packs that are on sale at the Club. Idea for a Christmas present perhaps...

I look forward to seeing you soon in the Club, perhaps on our Chicago Party night (free!), on Friday 16th December. Do come and enjoy the festivities - I have promised to drink ten glasses of wine, one for each year of ARBC. I do not promise to do this on our fiftieth anniversary, however!

Merry Christmas to you all and may 2006 be a happy and fulfilling one.



ARBC Holidays 2006

Following our exciting news in the last edition we now bring you reports on our recent and forthcoming holidays.

DATES:-

Tues 18th - Fri 21st Apr 2006 - JERSEY Fri 21st - Sun 23rd July 2006 - HANBURY, HERTS Thurs 31st Aug - Thurs 7th Sept 2006 - St.MORITZ Wed 1st - Sun 5th Nov 2006 - Le TOUQUET

Report from Jack: "The recent holiday to Stresa in the Italian lakes attended by Andrew, Jack and Jake was well received by all and it was great to see Jake fitting in so well, a good omen for the Dunn holidays in 2006"

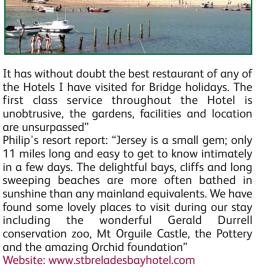
Just last week Adam and Martin hosted another weekend at the Millstream Hotel in Bosham. **Report from Martin:** "It was obvious why this venue is so popular as the Hotel was perfect for a relaxing weekend with well appointed rooms and good food. It was fun to teach players of all standards from beginners to advanced. It is rumoured that many members stayed up much later than usual in the bar after Bridge discussing their night's hands"

From 26th to 28th February the successful team of Adam and Martin will be returning to the Powder Mills. Adam's Report: "I first went to the Powder Mills to attend a wedding and thought then what a wonderful Bridge weekend venue it would be. The delightful country house has since proved very popular with our members. No wonder; the beautiful music room transforms to an excellent Bridge room and the conservatory restaurant serves superb food and wine. The beautifully landscaped gardens and parkland are a joy, and all within a short drive of London"

Team Dunn now whet your appetite for what lies ahead, the first new venue being St. Brelade's in Jersey, Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st April.

Report from Adam: "I have visited this wonderful Hotel on many occasions over the years and each

time the family who own and run it have improved it.



Hanbury Manor Hotel, Golf & Spa, Ware, Herts. Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd July.

Philip's Report: "Hanbury Manor is a magnificent mock gothic mansion. It is hard to believe, sitting in delightful parkland, that one is only 25 miles from London. The Hotel has every 5 star amenity, including its PGA championship golf

course, and has won many awards for its restaurants and service." Website: www.marriott.com Perhaps our most exciting venture will be to the world famous Badrutts Palace Hotel in St.Moritz, Switzerland, 31st August - 7th September.

Resort and excursions report - Philip: "The journey to St. Moritz from either Milan or Zurich is a breathtaking ascent through some of Switzerland's most beautiful scenery. The Upper Engadine area starts from 5000ft above sea level and the town

is a little higher. The sun shines 322 days a year and the combination of glacier, sun, lakes and distant views is incredible. We will visit inside the glacier, into the forests. journeying round hairpin

bends down the mountains and into Italy for lunch in a perfect old town restaurant. GO!!"

Hotel report - Jake: "It was paradise for a modest Dunn to visit one of the "Leading Hotels of the World", in order to see if it was suitable. The same family has been welcoming celebrities and royalty from all over the globe since 1896. It is a magnificent building and stands out from a distance. In the town, the views are wonderful and the degree of comfort, service, gastronomy and décor unsurpassed in any Hotel I have previously stayed in. Normally a tent for me, of course!"

Website: www.badruttspalace.com

The year will be rounded off with an autumn trip to Le Touquet, Pas de Calais, France, playground of chic Parisiennes, and now us! Wednesday 1st - Sunday 5th November



Resort report from Martin: "Le Touquet is a place that draws me back time after time. It is a small, elegant resort easy to walk around the town and the vast sandy beach. Golfers are superbly catered for by two first class courses. The narrow streets near the seafront offer excellent shopping, as does the large market. There are wonderful walks from the Hotel down to the estuary or through the pine groves, to work up an appetite for lunch in one of the excellent local seafood restaurants. In the evenings after Bridge there is, of course, the famous casino. Further afield we will be visiting medieval villages, monasteries and castles and you should, like me, find some excellent watering holes."

Hotel report - Philip: "The Westminster is THE Hotel in one of THE resorts in northern France. The rather splendid and imposing pink brick Edwardian façade hides an interior of exquisite comfort and relaxation. The restaurant is first class and the quality of finish and décor superb. There is an unobtrusive first class service to cater for your every desire"

Website: www.westminster.fr

Bookings are proceeding apace and if you are considering one of these holidays please contact Philip on 07940 373 980, or speak to Jack, Adam or Martin, take a leaflet from reception in the Club or check out the Club website: www.arobson.co.uk





4

3

Tip For Intermediate Players

by Andrew

When responding to partner's overcall, work out how many cards are likely to be held by the partnership, (putting partner with five), and bid for that number of tricks (the "level of the fit").

Note that high-card points are of far less importance than degree of fit - because you are bidding more to spoil than to make.

E.g. (1♦) - 1♠ - (2♣) - ?

♠ К94	♠ Q1063	A J7632
💙 Q63	V J7632	Ψ4
♦ 4	• 94	🔶 A763
+ 876432	🕈 K3	+ 942
Bid 2🛧	Bid 3🕈	Bid 4🛧

One Important Modification: If partner has made a Two-Level overcall, there is a good chance she has a six-card suit. So try to support her with three cards, at the risk of going one beyond the level of the fit.

E.g. (1♦) - 2♣ - (2♥)-?

A 876	4 2	♠ 862
72	V 86532	♥ Q94
♦ 8643	🔶 KQ6	♦ Q]94
🕈 K63	🕈 Q]6	• 632
Bid 3🕈	Bid 3🕈	Pass (yuk - what use is your hand?)

Tip For Duplicate Players

by Andrew

Don't let the opponents steal from you! Be very reluctant to pass in last position if you think your partnership have the balance of strength.

E.g. 1♠ - (2♥) - 3♣ - (4♥) P - (P) - ?

, :		
(A)	(B)	(C)
🛧 KQ3	4 2	4 2
¥ 42	¥ 53	♥ A2
♦ 76	♦ KJ6	♦ 763
🕈 AQ9763	🕈 AQ9742	🕈 KJ87432

- (A) Bid 4. You cannot have four spades or you would have supported immediately.
- (B) Double. Sure they might make it. However your partnership have more points than theirs, so rate to make the higher contract. Because you cannot see a contract for your side that is higher than 4♥, you should defend but doubled.
- (C) **Double.** You have a very promising defence. Start by leading $\Rightarrow 2$. Even if the opposition win $\Rightarrow A$, you can win the first trump with your $\forall A$, put partner in with $\Rightarrow A$ (he did open the bidding after all) and receive your spade ruff (or see partner cash winning spades).



UPSTAIRS AT THE WHITE HORSE



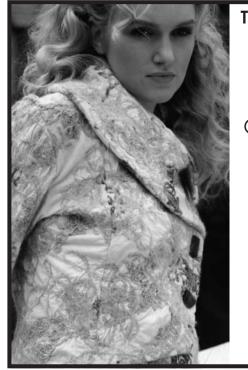
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Exclusive 10% Discount for Bridge Club Members

Andrew and David Win the Brighton Pairs (for the second year in a row)

by David

I had only just come back down to earth following the excitement of the European Championships in Tenerife, when Andrew and I returned to Brighton to see if we could retain the Harold Poster Trophy - awarded to the winners of the largest Pairs event in the World.

Five hundred and fourteen pairs took part in this year's Swiss pairs, including many regular ARBC members. The event lasted from Friday evening through to Sunday afternoon, with each pair playing 14 matches (8 hands per match). The format is relatively straightforward. At the end of each match, each pair is awarded a maximum of 20 Victory Points (VPs) according to the percentage of matchpoints recorded on the hands that they have played: approx. 66 % is required for a 20-0 victory. The 'Swiss' system ensures that for each match, your opponents are a pair, whose current score is as close to yours as possible.

The defence of our title didn't begin in an ideal fashion for one, rather tall member of our partnership, as he found himself (with Nick and Richard) so engrossed in the battle for the Ashes, that he failed to leave London until the end of the day's play! This was far from ideal, given that he then had to drive to Brighton in time to begin play at 8pm. Driving somewhat speedier than usual, he narrowly managed to reach the table in time, but not without picking up some penalty points on his license [my first ever - shucks (AR)]. Though, he didn't realise his misfortune at the time, we were both hoping to enjoy better luck at the Bridge table.

We got off to a relatively modest start, recording three narrow victories which left us hovering just outside the

top 50.

Since we stayed at our nearby regular haunt, the aptly named "Topps Hotel", there were no problems getting to the venue in time for the start of play on Saturday. These matches were significantly better, as we won all seven to end the day in second place on 162 VPs, just two behind our old rivals Alexander Allfrey (our Gold Cup winning teammate who is running a new ARBC offshoot in Dorset) and Tony Forrester (the Daily Telegraph Bridge correspondent and Andrew's old partner).

After sampling some of Brighton's vibrant nightlife, we returned to Topps to gather ourselves for the final day's play. We had four matches, and the prospect of the usual 'grudge' match against Alexander and Tony. The day started fantastically for us as The Times vs The Telegraph battle ended with The Times taking all of the points to extend our lead at the top. Another near maximum victory then extended our winning run to 13 matches. This meant that as we started our final match against our nearest challengers, we were almost a match clear of the field, and only needed to avoid a whitewash to bring the trophy back to SW6.

Inevitably, we suffered a narrow defeat, but still managed the rare feat of retaining the trophy, as we finished on an unusually high score of 226. Alexander and Tony staged a great recovery after our match, and finished 3rd on 208. Andrew and I were of course delighted to celebrate our Chelsea-like dominance of this year's event, and are hoping to have the chance to become the first pair ever to achieve a hat-trick of victories next year.



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Photos

Photos



Sally Hill-Wood and Carole Conrad



A busy night at ARBC



Espen Erichsen and Nick Irens



Francoise Sabharwal and Marion Barnard



Dicky Darzi



Anne Swabey



Christian Fleming



Christiane, Richard, Montse and Mary





Emma Carnegie-Brown



Nina Ruiz



Editor at work



Lucy Morello



Andy Findlater



Jil Stein

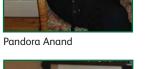


David and Jasmine



Barbara Ducam-Davies





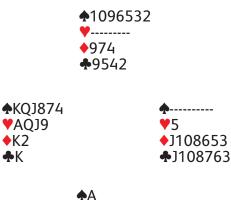


Bridge in 'The Times' from Yesteryear

Jan Barstow, loval Club member, kindly lent me (AR) a fascinating Bridge book of old Times columns. published in 1950. Here is an excerpt...

However hopeless the prospect may seem, a good player does not relax his efforts. He is determined to make every trick he can, and he knows that there are occasions on which what appear to be hopeless contracts can be made. Sometimes the declarer is helped by mistakes by his opponents, but more often he has to rely on his own skill, and there are few games at which skill is more richly rewarded.

The following cards were dealt in one of the leading London Clubs:



VK10876432 ♦AO ♣AO

West dealt and bid 1. North had no temptation to say anything, for Spades suited him admirably as the trump suit. East on the strength of his two-suiter bid 2, South bid 2, a bid which was promptly doubled by West. Holding West's cards, most players would feel that the penalty was likely to be heavy. This view would be strengthened when the opening lead of $\clubsuit K$ was trumped by East and South's ace fell. East led a club, on which South played the ace and West's king fell.

By this time South has obtained a great deal of information. He knows that West held originally six spades headed by the king queen knave and a singleton club, and that East, who had bid diamonds, had six clubs and probably six diamonds and one heart. The lead of a heart taken by West's nine verifies the count of the hand, and the rest is easy. West's lead of the gueen of spades is ruffed and another trump is led. West takes with the knave and must lead the knave of spades, for any other lead would give the declarer a trick. When South ruffs and leads another trump it is all over. West takes the trick with the gueen, but the only other card he can make is the ace of trumps, for he must either give North a trick in spades on which the queen of diamonds is discarded or must lead up to the ace queen of diamonds. An unusual feature of this contract was that the opponents holding five cards of the suit between them made five tricks in trumps and nothing in the outside suits.

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.

♣K

by Jacl

TV Game Shows

As many of you know I have a passion for appearing on TV Game Shows. It all started back in 1982 when my family and I recorded "Ask the Family" for BBC1. It was another 15 years before my next appearance on ITV's "Catchphrase" where I won over £2500. A couple of lunch time shows followed until the legendary appearance on "The Weakest Link" where Anne was stopped in her tracks by my sarcastic repost.

About a month ago a few of you would have seen me on Channel 5's live game show "Brainteaser" where I was up against my wife, Annabel, in the first round (a contestant had pulled out and after much persuasion, Annabel agreed to join in). I just managed to sneak through to round two where I defeated a Bristol carpenter and then went on to win £500. My winnings were then swiftly confiscated and put aside for a new washing machine!

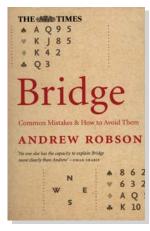
People often ask me why I don't go for shows like "Millionaire" and the reason is that you have to dial premium rate phone numbers hundreds of times just to have a chance. All the shows I have been on have just involved an audition, either in person or over the phone. Anyway look out for some more shows in the future but don't expect to see me on "Come Dancing" or the "X Factor"

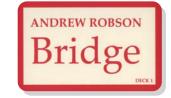
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Andrew's Book and Arrow Cards





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ARBC Shop

Nicky Caine

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS - reviewed by Andrew

Books

Terence Reese may or may not have cheated in the famous Bridge Scandal in Buenos Aires in 1965. One thing is beyond doubt, however: he was a brilliant Bridge writer – I would say the very best ever. Buy one of the many Reese titles we stock for a Bridge-loving friend.



Tea Towels





CDs - Playing against the Computer

Q Plus simply gets better and better. I'm worried it will beat human experts soon. You won't be disappointed.



CDs - Instructional

I have raved about BridgeMaster 2000 for a long time - well ever since 2000. But I would like to draw your attention to the fabulous **Counting at**

Bridge by Mike Lawrence. As our own Nick Boss put it in his inimitable style, "It's so the thing that evervone should be buying".



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with the home Bridge Sets

technological expertise of Zeb Stocken. we offer six topics, each with an accompanying 20deal Arrow Pack. ideal play-in-the-



that teach a particular topic. Choose from (1) Losing Trick Count (2) Stayman (3) Roman Key Card Blackwood (4) Splinter Bidding (5) Trial Bidding (6) Ace-Showing Cue-Bids. What better Christmas present to receive.

As you know it is ten years since ARBC began They stormed in and said to Nicky (whose - above the Goat in Boots Pub, 333 Fulham Road. The only person - apart from the eponymous Andrew - who

has lasted the course is our wonderful, yet unheralded bookkeeper, Nicky Caine.

Nicky is not just any old bookkeeper, she is bookkeeper to some really unusual companies.

including several unruly pop groups (having to deal with ARBC, just as well she is used to the unruly...). But they all love her and hold

her in huge respect. She recalls a time when a particularly aggressive, short of cash, group came to pick up their pay (as they did every week, on Thursday).

> 25 Jerdan Place, Fulham Island, Fulham Broadway Tel: 020 7385 845 www.marksandspencer.com

Opening Hours Monday - Saturday Sunday

8am - 10pm 12pm - 6pm

§M&S



first week it was), "Where's our *#*!?*! money?" To which Nicky replied, "Don't be so

> impolite". She continued "Next time. ask me "Where's our *#*!?*! money PLEASE!" They were putty in her hands from that moment henceforth.

> And bookkeeping is far from Nicky's whole life - she is Chairman of the Cable Division of British Water Ski as well as British Team Captain to the Cable 3 event Team. She is proud to tell us

that the teams have won Gold, Silver and Bronze medals during the last season.



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Holidays

Hotel Alex Zermatt Saturday 14th -

21st January 2006

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We are delighted to be

Bridge

Weekend

24th - 26th

returning to the Powder Mills hotel for a Bridge weekend in February. Built in 1792, the hotel is situated close to the historic town of Battle in East Sussex, and adjoins the famous battlefield of 1066. The Powder Mills has been skilfully converted into a fascinating country house hotel.

There will be a fun and informative Bridge programme from Friday evening until Sunday lunch.

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 737 286 or email: guy@theskiconsultancy.co.uk



Country life

Read Andrew weekly in the Country Life Magazine

Christmas Competition

Try and find the missing word (a Bridgev theme) which links the two words together. They must form one word and no hyphenated words allowed, ie I UMBER (JACK) POT

SPAN) FISHER SWEET BREAK FOOT 2) HEAD

The winning entry, drawn out of a hat, will receive a 2006 Bridge Calendar. Emails to jack@arobson.co.uk

Winners - Summer 2005

Davtime Duplicate Ladder **Evening Duplicate Ladder** Susan Hampshire Social Chicago Trophy Nicky Cannon Brookes Amelia Rose Sue Grievson

Dates for your Diary

16th December 20th - 22nd December 23rd December 3rd January 2006 14th - 21st January 18th January 28th January 24th - 26th February 25th February 16th March 25th March 4th - 6th April 6th April 18th - 21st April 11th May 2nd June 21st - 23rd July 31st August - 7th September 1st - 5th November

Christmas Chicago Party Children's Bridge Courses (two sessions daily) Club closes for Christmas - after the end of Duplicate Club re-opens Ski Trip to Zermatt Open Evening - tempt your non-Bridge playing friends Teams Powder Mills Weekend Teams **Charity Challenge Simultaneous Pairs** Teams Children's Bridge Courses (two sessions daily) **BGB** Simultaneous Pairs Easter trip to Jersey **EBU Simultaneous Pairs** Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs Hanbury Manor Weekend Summer trip to St Moritz Long Weekend to Le Touquet

6.30pm - 10ish 10.30am & 2.00pm 4.00pm 10.30am

6.00pm - 7.15pm 11.00am - 3.45pm

11.00am - 3.45pm 7.30pm 11.00am - 3.45pm 10.30am & 2.00pm 7.30pm

7.30pm 7.30pm



17 18

Seven No Trumps

TLaneFox

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