

Summer 2006

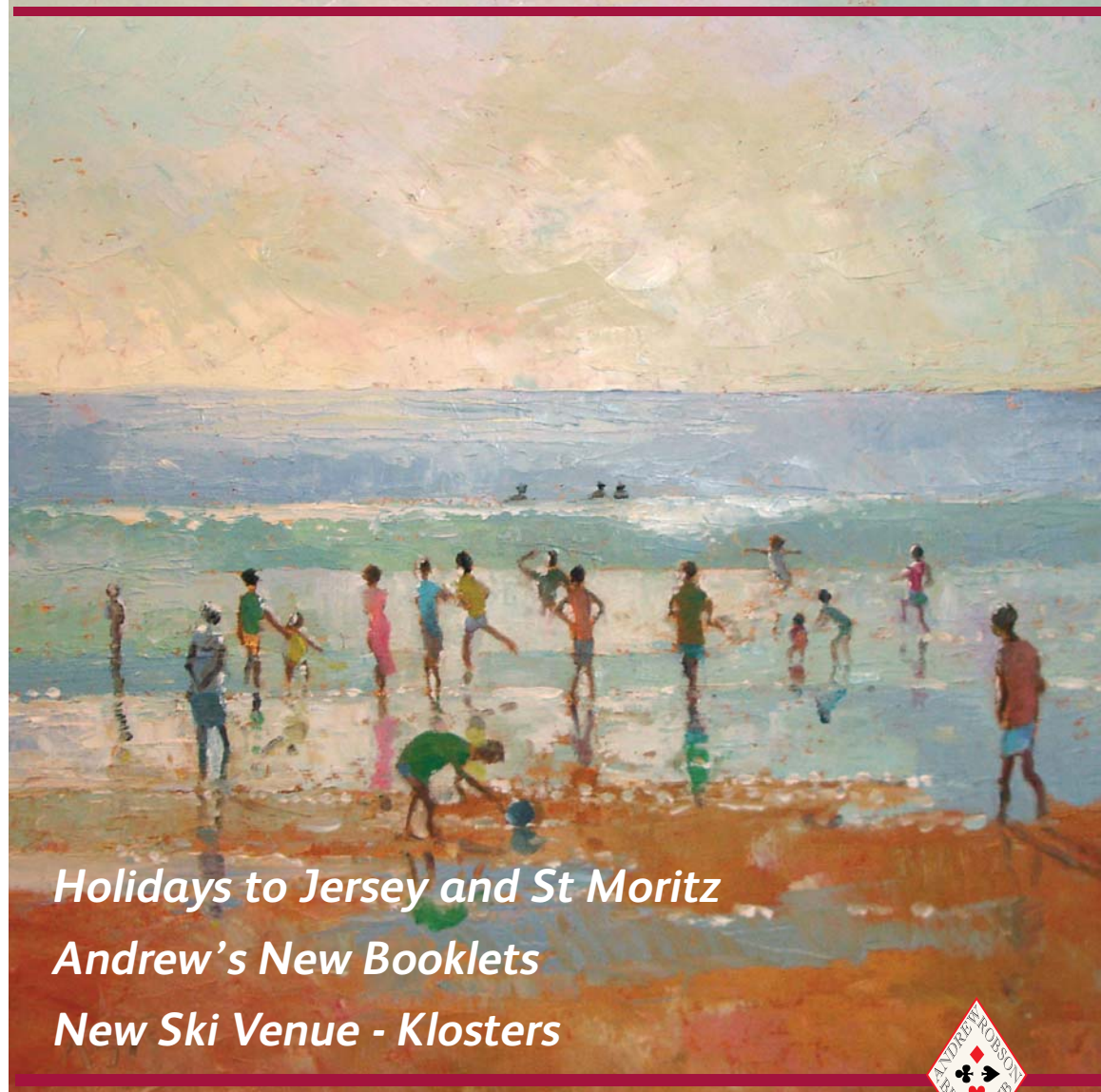
Issue Twenty Two



# The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

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*Holidays to Jersey and St Moritz*

*Andrew's New Booklets*

*New Ski Venue - Klosters*



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## Andrew's Editorial

The clocks have moved forward - always a pivotal moment in my year - and Spring is here at last! There is much to look forward to over the next months. Take our holidays to Jersey this month and to St Moritz later in the summer, where our new holiday leader - Philip (Dunn) - has secured very good hotel rates. You can read more about these, and our weekend breaks, on pages three and four. Looking further ahead, our annual ski-trip is moving to Klosters and the delightful family-run Hotel Alpina. Our ski holiday leader Guy (Jobling) has added an exciting new feature - a free guide for all Intermediates (skiers - not necessarily Bridge Players!) and above. Taking a ski guide for the day is an expensive luxury, so perhaps this might tip the balance for you to come. You can read more on page 11.



I will be quite busy playing tournaments over the next few months. Wish my team - including our teaching maestro David - luck in the forthcoming World Championships in Verona. Plus I will be partnering Zia Mahmood, who made a welcome guest appearance at the Club recently, in the Las Vegas Invitational and the World Pairs.

The above events rather interrupt my Summer Teaching Schedule, but I have noticed that the odd gap week does not cause a class to lose their focus; in fact quite the reverse (I believe psychologists call this "The Holiday Effect"). I am looking forward to next term's courses, especially so because I am teaching three classes that I rarely get a chance to teach: Next Step (I have left this in David's capable hands for some five years now), Intermediate Plus (the four-week option may suit many whose summer diaries are already rather full, but who don't want to lose momentum and not take a class until late September), and Endplays and Squeezes (truly the most fascinating area of card-play - for the more experienced).

I would like to draw your attention to two other highlights of the Summer Teaching Term: firstly, David's "Days for Intermediates" - perfect for out-of-townners under his clear guidance; and secondly,

Caroline's "Revise and Play", key themes at Advanced level, presented in her ever-charismatic fashion.

On a different subject, Caroline and I have given this much thought, and we would like to encourage all tables in a Supervised Play session to keep their cards (as per the Classroom or a Duplicate) as they play them out. This helps our supervisors to assist you in the Declarer Play and Defence. We think you will benefit hugely from this (optional) change.

I have been delighted by the sales of my first non-expert book, "Common Mistakes - and How to Avoid Them". I have received many flattering comments, and this has spurred me on to new projects. I am producing seven booklets, based on my Wednesday Series in The Times, and the first one, Double, is out now and for sale in the Club. The remaining six - Overcall, Slam Bidding, Finesse, Opening Lead, Stayman & Transfer, Weak Two - will be out (quite) shortly.

There is good news and bad news on the parking front. We are now allowed to park free on yellow lines in the side streets, and free on Resident Bays after 17.00. However we are not allowed to park on the yellow lines on Parsons Green Lane itself until after 20.00. And those of you who are (legally) parking on the Residents' Bays in the nearby vicinity (especially towards the Fulham Road) are upsetting the local residents. I hope you will cooperate here, as their goodwill is necessary for us to enjoy a continued stay at the location we love. Best is not to drive - possible as there is a good local bus service, a tube station opposite, and a bicycle rack directly outside. If you do have to drive, then there are 12 dedicated Bridge Club spaces in the yard, and some side-road spaces towards the Kings Road (try Basuto Road).

On a lighter note, I much enjoyed the Anagram Quiz (on Page 18), and one in particular.

I very much look forward to seeing you in the Club over the next weeks and months, and there is one event that I would particularly like you to put in your diary: our Annual Teams on Saturday May 20th, always a great day. Thank you very much for your continued support,

Happy Easter

Andrew





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## Tip For Intermediate Players

by Andrew

### Take a Two-Level overcall seriously.

The theoretical requirements ("SQOT" - NB: a guideline not a gospel) allow you to make a Two-Level overcall - such as (1♠) - 2♦ - with as little as eight points, and five cards headed by three honours. However you can choose not to (especially when vulnerable, or when those eight points mostly consist of queens and jacks).

Rather, you should strain to have:

- (a) Near-opening points (unless your suit is fabulous). And
- (b) A six-card suit (unless your point-count is high).

Exercise: Which of the following hands should overcall, after a One Spade opener by right-hand opponent?

♠ 1094	♠ QJ3	♠ A632	♠ 5
♥ Q3	♥ J32	♥ 4	♥ KQ1096
♦ QJ1042	♦ 94	♦ KJ10932	♦ QJ987
♣ QJ4	♣ KJ1032	♣ 82	♣ 87
No - Pass	No - Pass	Yes - Bid 2♦	Yes - Bid 2♥

Do you really want to contract for eight tricks with either of the first two hands, on an opening spade lead?

## Tip For Duplicate Players

by Andrew

**Don't pass the opponents out in One Notrump when you have a small singleton.** Partner is bound to lead that suit, and you will soon be entering a mouldy result on the Traveller.

Exercise: Which of the following hands should bid (and if so, what) after a One Notrump opener by left-hand opponent is followed by two passes?

♠ K1094	♠ A3	♠ AJ82	♠ KJ5
♥ 3	♥ J109532	♥ KJ94	♥ K7
♦ QJ1042	♦ 4	♦ 9632	♦ A752
♣ Q43	♣ 10632	♣ 2	♣ Q952
Yes - Bid 2♦	Yes - Bid 2♥	Yes - Bid 2♣ <small>Landy - for the Majors</small>	No - Pass

**Final Thought for all Players - who may be thinking that the two tips above are somewhat contradictory.**

Caution in second seat - partner may have nothing. Boldness in fourth seat after two passes - partner must have fair values (or the opponents would have bid higher).



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## Becoming World Champion at ARBC

by Alice

The real reason that I wanted to play in the WBF Charity Pairs was so that I could meet Zia Mahmood, but of course I didn't tell Christian that. We were hoping to come in the top few hundred in the world. The only potential problem being that both of us are prone to overbidding, often resulting in abysmal scores. However, luck was with us on this particularly Friday, and everything we did seemed to (somehow) work out well.

On one particular hand, playing East, I pick up a nice looking 15 count.

♠4  
♥AK92  
♦64  
♣AKJ653

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

<sup>1</sup> Weak Two

I thought maybe this was one of those times when the only way to make the contract was if the opponents revoked twice, and I successfully managed to perform a Winkle Squeeze (or something equally as silly). Well, let's see shall we. The lead was ♥3. When the dummy was put down

I was pleasantly surprised, and immediately thankful for a non-diamond lead (I hate having to make guesses at trick one).

	North	
	♠Q75	
	♥J108654	
West	♦AQ8	East
♠AKJ83	♣7	♠4
♥-----		♥AK92
♦KJ1097		♦64
♣Q98	South	♣AKJ653
	♠10962	
	♥Q73	
	♦532	
	♣1042	

No Winkle Squeeze required. Phew. To ensure the contract, I have to ruff two hearts in dummy, and throw a small diamond on the second top spade. It turned out that the ♦AQ were with North, so 6♣ goes down on a diamond lead (virtually impossible to find). 3NT was the popular contract, so making 6♣ was a good score.

Luck stayed with us for the rest of the session, and we finished on 74.9%. The scores were entered on the WBF website and amazingly Christian and I were coming first out of all the pairs who had played across the world. I was expecting this to change as more scores were entered, but it didn't. Now we can call ourselves World Champions. Cool.

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Samantha Carr and Sarah Farquhar



Rick Brownlie



Rosalie Polan



Andy McKay



Gunilla, Susan, Joan and Caroline



Patti, Marina, Carmen and Chris



Kooky Fallah



Liz Taylor



Gillian Crotty



Guy Fraser-Sampson



Alan Nicholl



## Ski Trip 2006 - Zermatt

There was an interesting mix of old and new faces at Heathrow for our third ski trip to the Hotel Alex in Zermatt.

Having settled into the hotel on the first night and been treated to a delicious dinner, we were ready for some relaxing Duplicate afterwards before recharging the batteries in preparation for Guy's first morning's ski guiding.

Our group set off up the Gornergrat railway and had a great morning's skiing, during which new friendships were made, and ski partnerships quickly followed. At 5.30pm sharp, Jack's lesson began - every day we were introduced to a new topic and familiarised ourselves with it with the help of Andrew's excellent instruction sheets and set hands. Jack's inimitable and humorous teaching style was a great asset, and most of us tried (with varying success) to put into practice

the points we had learned before dinner during the after-dinner Duplicate sessions.

And so the week passed all too quickly - a heady combination of cold mountain air, excellent piste skiing, long, luxurious lunches, (often with a pack or two of cards in attendance!), interesting Bridge topics well portrayed before dinner, wonderful food and finally relaxed Duplicate to while away the evenings. And all in the surroundings of beautiful Zermatt, the Matterhorn and the fabulous Hotel Alex. We can't wait for more of the same next year, so roll on Klosters '07!



## Ski Trip 2007 - Klosters

Next year we are going to the fabulous Hotel Alpina in Klosters for our annual Bridge & Ski holiday. Klosters is a picturesque and unspoilt alpine village which benefits from being connected to the large Davos ski area. The Hotel Alpina is ideally situated next to the main cable car and railway station.



The Hotel Alpina is a beautiful, family run 4 star hotel in the heart of Klosters. The restaurant has been awarded 16 Gault Millau points for culinary excellence. Facilities include excellent beauty centre, pool, sauna etc. and bedrooms are all stylish and modern.

Our group will have the services of a private ski guide for the week who is an ex-Ski Club of Great Britain Klosters representative. There will be a fun and informative Bridge programme from 5.30pm each day.

We will fly to Zurich and the transfer to Klosters is only two hours, direct to the hotel.



Full details will be available from mid-April in the Club, alternatively please telephone Guy Jobling at The Ski Consultancy on 07958 737 286 or email [guy@theskiconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:guy@theskiconsultancy.co.uk)



## 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).

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## Suit Combinations

by Andrew

The best way to handle certain suit combinations may be a tad technical for some. But it is a fascinating logical exercise, and will help mould your thinking and so enable you to advance from 55% to 60% in your Duplicates.

David offers an enthralling session on Friday Mornings (aimed at Duplicate Players - no booking necessary), which feature many such combinations.

Try yourself at these (answers below), and then give his session a try!

- (a) K32 facing QJ54 for three tricks.
- (b) K5432 facing J6 for three tricks.
- (c) A32 facing QJ54 for three tricks.

Answers:

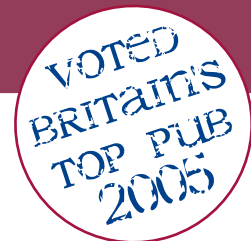
(a) Lead the two to the jack. If the jack loses to the ace, you need a 3-3 split. If the jack holds, return to the other hand and lead the three to the queen. If that holds, lead a third round and hope for a 3-3 split. These efforts will prove worthwhile if ace-doubleton is sitting under the queen-jack.

(b) Lead the two to the jack, effectively a finesse against the queen. If the jack loses to the queen, you will lead the six to the king, a finesse against the ace. You will succeed in all 3-3 splits, unless the queen lies over the jack, and the ace lies over the king.

(c) Cash the ace, then lead the two to the jack. If the jack wins, return to the other hand, and lead the three to the queen. You will succeed in all 3-3 splits, and also when the king lies under the queen-jack.

The principle was the same in each case - try to promote cards by leading from the opposite hand. If you got all three right, then you can take David's class when he is away...

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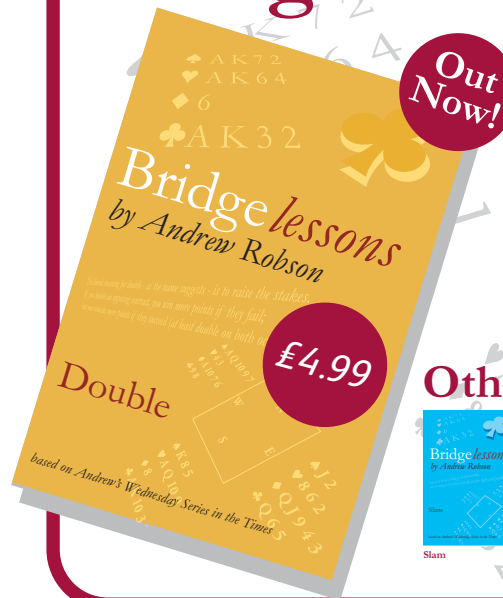
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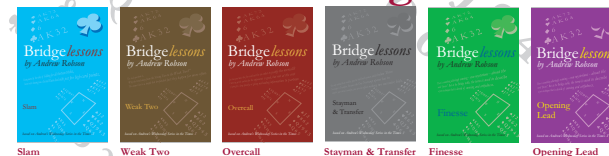
By Andrew Robson



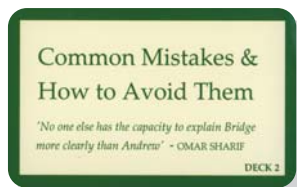
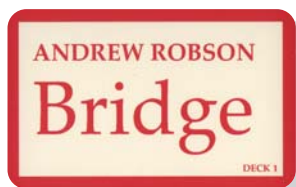
**Out  
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*These booklets are based on Andrew's Wednesday Series in the Times. In a compelling format, each page comprises of a lesson, plus an illustrative deal. Not only will you further your understanding of the specific topic, but you will also learn more about the beauty of the game in general.*

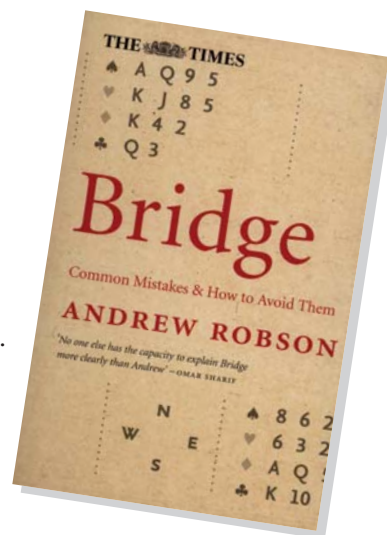
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The following words are anagrams of "Bridgey" terms. There will be a prize for the person who gets the most right!

Order pens  
Roar by Hugo  
Ma Nasty  
Sense if

Covert risk  
Was borne Dr No  
Wacko bold  
Mr Upton

Emails to [jack@arobson.co.uk](mailto:jack@arobson.co.uk) (in the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn out of a hat)

## Christmas Competition Winner

The winner of our Christmas Quiz was Elise Moore-Searson with:

Span  
Sweet  
Foot

(KING)  
(HEART)  
(BRIDGE)

Fisher  
Break  
Head

## Winners - Spring 2005

Daytime Duplicate Ladder  
Evening Duplicate Ladder  
Susan Hampshire Social Chicago Trophy

Luigi Molinaro  
Emma Carnegie-Brown  
David Lewis

## Dates for your Diary

18th - 21st April

19th April

22nd April

11th May

20th May

2nd June

6th July

31st August - 7th September

1st - 5th November

24th - 26th November

13th - 20th January 2007

Easter trip to Jersey

Open Evening - tempt your non-Bridge playing friends

Teams

EBU Simultaneous Pairs

Teams - Club Championship

Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs

Kidney Research Simultaneous Pairs

Summer trip to St Moritz

Long Weekend to Le Touquet

Millstream Weekend

Ski Trip to Klosters

6.00pm - 7.15pm

11.00am - 3.45pm

7.30pm

11.00am - 3.45pm

7.30pm

7.30pm





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