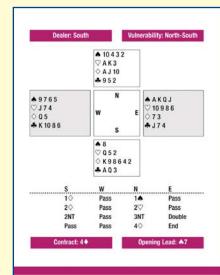


The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

31 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HH

020 7471 4626



To what extent is bridge a game of psychology and to what extent is it a game of technique? Different players have different strengths, but the most effective bridge player is one who is not afraid to convey a false impression to his opponents. Take Brazilian Gabriel Chagas sitting East on today's hand.

Such out-of-the blue doubles as the one East made of Three Notrumps call for the lead of dummy's first bid suit, here spades. Can you blame North for running to the safer haven of Four Diamonds? He expected East to have five spade winners.

Though Chagas actually held only four spade winners, he knew there was no way for North to know that.

It was a most effective bluff, for a Three Notrump contract would

have succeeded. East would have taken the first four tricks in spades but declarer would have won his club switch with the ace, cashed the two top diamonds dropping West's queen, then ran for home in the red suits.

In Four Diamonds, West's opening spade lead was won by East's jack and a second spade was ruffed. Declarer cashed the king of trumps, crossed to dummy's ace felling West's queen, then finessed the queen of clubs. West won his king and the defence later won the third round of clubs. Declarer had made his contract but it was a pyrrhic victory as East had bluffed North-South out of making a game contract.

Next time, naturally, North will stand his ground and East will have five spade winners. That's Bridge.

JANUARY 5 6 9 12 13 14 18 20 22 24 27 28 23 25 26 30

THE TIMES

Andrew's 2007 Bridge Calendar
Two Ski Trips - Klosters and Alpe d' Huez
Andrew's Seven New Booklets



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Andrew's Editorial

"Why don't you write a book - I'm sure it would sell well?" After years of similar requests, I finally got my head down and wrote, "Bridge - Common Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them". Already in its

third reprint, having sold well over 10,000 copies, I can see that they were right. And like London buses, two more books are to follow shortly, both due out early next year. We will have "Understanding Bridge", a follow-up Common Mistakes: and "Need to Know Bridge", which I am



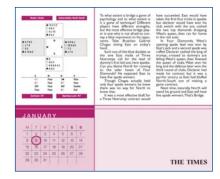
hoping will become known as THE book to learn the game from absolute scratch.

And there's more! Seven new booklets (Slam, Double, Opening Lead, Finesse, Overcall, Stayman + Transfer, Weak Two), based on my Wednesday Series in The Times, are hot off the press, and for sale in the Club or via the Website (and you can now order/pay for a course etc. directly from the Website). Those who have already made purchases have been most kind in their comments.



That's not all! I have the must-buy Christmas present for all your Bridge-playing friends (as well as for yourself!). It is my new Bridge Calendar, with one of my Times columns on

every day; I think £9.99 for some 300 deals represents pretty fantastic value. Signed Calendars are available in the Club. With the DVD finally taking shape (although I will not tempt fate by predicting when it will be out), there is, and will be, much Bridge in which to immerse yourself, when not able to make it to 31 Parsons Green Lane.



Autumn promises to be an exciting time at the Club, for players of any level. I am teaching a daytime Beginner Course (Wednesday 2.00pm-3.30pm) for the first time for almost a decade, and there are more choices of course than ever.

One date I would particularly like to draw your attention to is our Annual Pairs Championship - a great Saturday on 25th November (11.00am - 3.45pm) with fun hands and a delicious lunch.

Many of you will have benefited from Alice's pearls of wisdom; to be so good at Bridge so young, and so confident in espousing your knowledge, is indeed a rarity. We have been very fortunate to have had her with us through her A Levels and Gap Year. We will see a bit less of Alice now that she is up at Oxford (studying Engineering), but, Alice, do come back as often as possible: we will all miss you.

My fantastic Team and I look forward very much to seeing you at the Club,





Tip For Intermediate Players

by Andrew

Keep on bidding with shapely, fitting hands - "points schmoints!"

In such situations, high-card points represent just a small part of the story. How high to bid should be based on your fit, not your points. As a rough guide, work out how many cards are held by the partnership, and bid for that number of tricks (termed "bidding to the level of the fit"). Remember that if your side fail in your contract (through lack of assets), you have almost certainly robbed your opponents of the chance to make a contract of their own.



- (a). $4 \triangleq$. You have a known ten-card spade fit (partner must have at least five spades for his overcall). Be bold especially given your lack of defensive prospects (just one trick \spadesuit A).
- (b). 4. Even more spades than (a); and even less defence to their red-suit contracts. To bid any less than 4. would be very wet! Don't worry about your (lack of) high-card points points schmoints!
- (c). 3♠. Nine-card spade fit, and a hand far better suited to play than defence. I'd rather bid 4♠ than pass or bid 2♠!
- (d). Pass. You have more high-card points than all the first three example hands put together! Yet your hand suggests that the deal is a misfit, and that you will be better off defending. Pass disinterestedly, and wait for the opponents to get too high.

Tip For Duplicate Players

by Andrew

Consider leading ace from ace-king against a notrump contract, in preference to fourth from the top.

This will allow you a look at dummy, and partner will give you a signal. You can then judge whether to continue the suit, or to switch (and to what).

Exercise: The bidding has gone 1NT - Pass - Pass - Pass. What should the following hands lead?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ AK63	♠ A3	♠ QJ2	♠ AK5
♥ J3	▼ AK842	♥ K104	♥ J1098
♦ Q1042	◆ J108	◆ AK3	♦ Q52
& 013	4 1032	4 1853	3 952

- (a). •A. You do not know whether to attack spades, diamonds, clubs, or even hearts. However you will know much more after dummy is tabled; it is therefore important to retain the lead, in order to make the appropriate continuation.
- (b). ♥A. With a certain side-entry (♠A), you can afford to lay down a top heart. This will avoid conceding an unnecessary trick if dummy holds a doubleton queen (or you can judge that declarer does), and partner holds ♥Jxx or better.
- (c). ◆A. Who knows where to look for tricks? Lay down ◆A, look at dummy (and partner's signal), and you are likely to find the correct attack.
- (d). VJ. There is a cost in laying down an ace (receiving only low cards, and potentially setting up declarer's lower cards in the suit), so if you have a very good alternative you should prefer it. Here your four-card heart sequence is both safe and attacking; you don't really need to see dummy to know that it represents a sound start for the defence.





Are we Playing to the Rules or not?

By Andrew

ARBC is a unique place to play Duplicate Bridge (indeed any Bridge). By encouraging the less experienced, not tolerating any rudeness to opponents or partners, keeping things simple, and recognising that Bridge is a game to be enjoyed, we have attracted some lovely people. Yes - I mean YOU! This one-Bridge-Club-in-a-thousand atmosphere must never be endangered.

However, returning to the title, the answer is YES. We are playing to the rules. A relaxed approach to the game is one thing; bending the rules is quite another.

Here are three important rules that are, I fear, sometimes abused:

(1) Do NOT say what your own bid means. It is your partner's job to tell the opponents what your bid means. If he gets it wrong, you must keep quiet until the end of the board (or he becomes dummy).

- (2) When dummy, do NOT reach for a card before declarer calls for it. Dummy is as dummy sounds not involved in any way.
- (3) Do NOT pause with a singleton, or nothing to think about. Deliberately deceiving declarer is totally unacceptable.

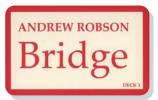
If in doubt, call over our friendly director (in a friendly way). That's what he's there for!

Note that we do not use "Alert" or "Stop" cards at ARBC, and I am proud to tell you that we are world leaders in this respect; the American Contract Bridge League and - latterly - the English Bridge Union - are following our lead.

Former President of the World Bridge Federation Bobby Wolff came with his wife to play at the Bridge Club on his way to the World Championships (for David's report see p 16). He said that the way we do things here is the best he has EVER seen. And, believe me, from someone who has played in more places over a longer period as Bobby Wolff, that is quite something.



Andrew's Book and Arrow Cards



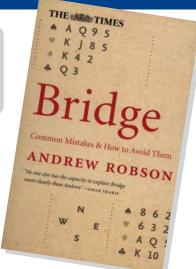


- The perfect accompaniment to Andrew's new book "Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them".
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- Compare the events at your table, with what happened in the book.
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Pair of Arrow Packs: **£9.99**





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Joan Asquith



Antoinette Claessens



Greg Solomon



Gilly Cardiff



Lucy Morello



Ben McCarron



Cara Howard & Angela Sillence

ARBC November 2006 to November 2007 Bridge Holiday Programme

Westminster Hotel, Le Touquet.



Wednesday 1st - Sunday 5th November 2006

The Westminster Hotel is THE Hotel in THE resort

in northern France. An easy trip from the Club for a short break with Bridge and optional golf, to this chic, imposing Edwardian town centre Hotel for the pinnacle in cuisine and comfort.

Drive or join the Club coach, travel by ferry; all included in the price.

Prices from £475
Extra days available

Millstream Hotel, Bosham. Friday 24th - Sunday 26th November 2006

This ever popular Hotel is situated on the shores of Chichester Harbour near to Old Bosham village. The mixture of Bridge play, teaching, good company and gastronomy make for the perfect weekend.

Book early as it always fills up.

Prices from £340



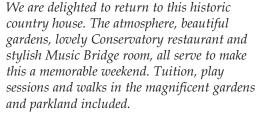
ARBC Holidays ARBC Holidays













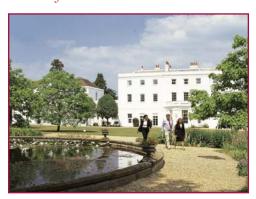


Prices from £340

Beaumont House, Old Windsor. Friday 8th - Sunday 10th June 2007

Beaumont House is a Palladian mansion. beautifully restored and maintained, set in 40 acres of magnificent gardens. This Club break is the perfect opportunity to brush up your Bridge and visit the sights of Windsor and Runnymede park adjacent to the Hotel.





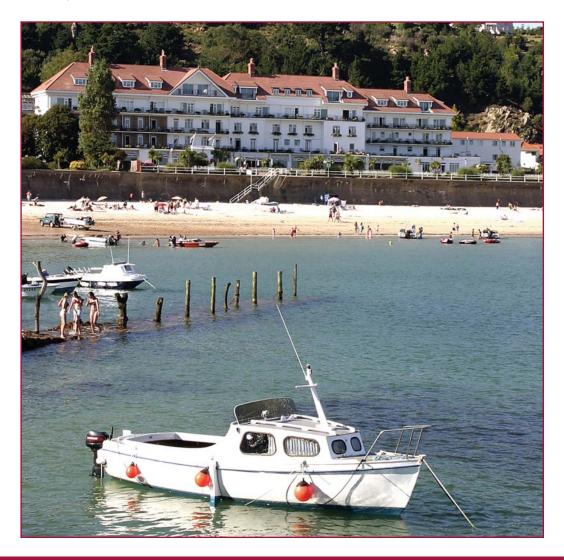


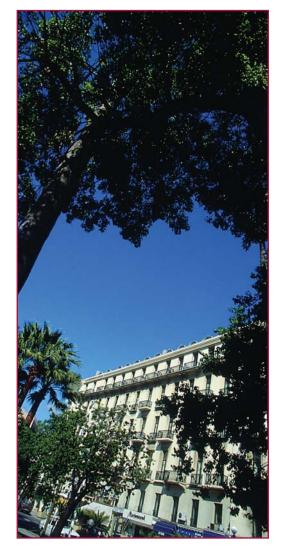


St. Brelade's Bay Hotel, Jersey. Monday 30th April - Thursday 3rd May 2007

Prices from £475 Extra days available

St Brelade's Bay Hotel is the best on the island. After a great Club holiday here last year, we return for more. The Hotel has marvelous facilities from the superb restaurant, gardens and pool to the flowers and service. Excursions are included as is the flight from Gatwick and transfers.





Nice, Cote D'Azur.

Tuesday 11th - Sunday 16th September 2007

The Boscolo Park Hotel

is in the centre of this beautiful resort overlooking the Jardim Albert with sea views. This first class Bistro style Hotel presents a modern interior in a lovely Regency style building. Most rooms have balconies and sea views. The restaurant is well known in Nice. Opposite the gardens and adjacent to the Flower Market and Old City and Port, with the Promenade des Anglais and beach opposite, it is the perfect position to view and enjoy Nice.

Price include flights from London and transfers.

Prices from £785 Extra days available





We look forward to hearing from you. If you require any further details about our holidays, our contact details are below.

Andrew and the team



Jacqui Mayne and Sally Blockley



Hannah Schulze and Stephen Good



It's never too early to learn!



Harry and Janie Friedman



Gwenda Shaw



Gareth McKeever and Alan Nicholl



Rita and Maurice Schwartz



Siddie Guba-Pecher and Jan Barstow



Hello, my name is Imogen Glen and I am 9 years old. My mum is called Michel and she plays a lot of Bridge. I wanted to learn how to play Bridge, so I could join in at home. She has taken me to the Bridge Club a few times, especially when dad doesn't get home in time. But for the Christmas holidays she signed me up on a course there.

The teacher was Jack and he divided the group into beginners and intermediates, people like me who had played before. We learnt a little bit about bidding - I would like to learn more - and we played a lot of Bridge. We learnt how to play in No Trumps, that was new to me. One morning we got a grand slam - that's winning all 13 tricks - and I got the top score of the morning. Some of us had lunch at the Club as well and we had biscuits and orange juice at break time.

On the last day at the end we did a quiz about Bridge and the Bridge Club and had to guess how many points in a pack and how tall Andrew was. I would like to go again because I met some nice people and I had a lot of fun.

See you at the Club next time,

Imogen

19th to 21st December. There is a morning session from 10.30am to 12.30pm and an afternoon session from 2pm to 4pm. Come to as many or as few as you want! Please call the Club for further details.



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World Bridge Championships

By David

The 12th World Bridge Championships were held in the wonderful city of Verona. Italy from 9th-24th June. A two week event such as the World Championships will never pass without incident, and the drama began on the journey to Verona.

I travelled out with my wife Heather, 18 month old daughter Jasmine, and American star Geoff Hampson. A burning lorry on the M25 led to a road closure and nearly caused us and several other Brits to miss the first event, the Mixed pairs.

10th-12th June (Mixed pairs)

Having organized babysitting for Jasmine, Heather and I joined the other 481 pairs for a three session qualifier, with the top 182 making it through to a three session final. Over 45 English players entered, and all played in a very friendly atmosphere against some of the best known names in World Bridge. This was Heather's first experience playing in an international event, so we were just hoping to avoid embarrassment. In the event, however, I was extremely proud of the level at which she performed, as she showed no signs of nerves and we qualified for the final in comfort with three above average sessions. The final continued in similar fashion, and we achieved our revised goal of finishing well inside the top 100 (77th place).

13th-21st June (Teams)

My team (Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, and Andrew McIntosh) won every match in the Round Robin phase, including a 20-10 win vs. Angelini (Versace, Lauria, Sementa, Fantoni, Nunes), an Italian team made up of European and World Champions, to top our group. We continued our run with a victory against a Swedish team in the last 32 before losing narrowly to a top US team in the last 16 (comfortably the best British performance). The Teams was eventually won by Rose Meltzer's US/Norway team.

This represented a fantastic achievement for Rose (who araced ARBC a few months ago - and (naturally!) loved it - ed). She became the first woman to win both the Bermuda Bowl and Rosenblum Cup.

17th-24th June (Pairs)

Some 400 pairs contested the Open pairs, and 102 played the Women's pairs, though several pairs earned byes to the later stages through their performances in their respective team events. Both events were grueling affairs, with five qualifying sessions leading to a five session semi final followed by a five session final. Only one English pair reached the 36 pair Women's final - Heather Dhondy (ARBC regular - ed) and Sally Brock. Despite spending most of the final in the top three, they finished in sixth place, the highest finish by an English pair since 1986.

Andrew McIntosh and I had a rollercoaster experience. Our exploits in the Teams meant that we could drop in to the Pairs semi final. However. our first session resulted in the lowest score either of us have ever achieved - 33.86 % which left us lying one place off the bottom in 181st position. By the end of the third session we had moved up to 139th place, but with no more than 60 pairs likely to qualify for the final there was still a lot of work to do. The final day saw us average 61 % to qualify for the final in 31st place! - a comeback which left us feeling that we may be the pair of destiny after all. Indeed it was - our ultimate sixth place finish was the best performance by a British pair in a World Pairs final in over 30 years (Andrew also made the final, in partnership with Zia Mahmood, finishina in the top half - but only just! ed).

Unfortunately, the World Championships only take place every four years, but I am certain that all those who were able to take part in the event or watch the live Internet coverage on BBO or Swangames will be awaiting the next one with eager anticipation.



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and pasta will be made daily.
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Klosters - Ski Trip 2007

Autumn Competition

13th - 20th January 2007

Our annual ski trip is booking up fast! Next year we are going to the Hotel Alpina in Klosters. 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 K I o s t e r s



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.

Solve the clues with "Bridge terms" then find the hidden "Bridge word" using one letter from each answer, starting from the top and working down. Entries to jack@arobson.co.uk and the winner will receive a prize!

Tricks the mafia might have?	
Lord nothing	
You could take a 50-50 chance, with guile	
Eight cards keep you healthy	
A tight fit but maybe an extra trick?	
You can't make it – You can't make it!	

From a record 27 correct entries, the winner of our Easter anagram quiz was Fiona Lewis. She wins one of Andrew's new calendars. N.B. Did you know Andrew Robson "Was Borne Dr No"!

Winners - Spring 2006

Daytime Duplicate Ladder

Evening Duplicate Ladder

Susan Hampshire Social Chicago Trophy

Nicky Cannon Brookes

David Rainer

Inge Clayton

Alpe d' Huez - Easter Ski Trip 2007

24th - 31st March 2007

A brand new, great value ski trip for our younger members is taking place next Spring. We will be going to Alpe d'Huez, a lively resort high in the French Alps. There is excellent and well linked skiing right to the doorstep, and great nightlife!

Hotel Les Grandes Rousses is a traditional alpine chalet excellently situated in a quiet spot, yet right in the middle of the village. Popular with the British for many years, it has a homely atmosphere, a comfortable well-located Bridge room, great French cuisine and facilities including a swimming pool, sauna and jacuzzi.

The Bridge will be hosted by Jack, and all other arrangements are being made by Guy at The Ski Consultancy.

Flights will be from Gatwick to Grenoble, then a transfer of just $1\frac{1}{3}$ hours direct to the hotel.





Full details for both trips are available from the Club or on our website www.arobson.co.uk or Guy Jobling at The Ski Consultancy on 07958 737 286 or email quy@theskiconsultancy.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

20th September	Open Evening - Tempt your non bridge playing friends	6.00pm - 7.15pm
26th September	Lederer Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
12th October	BGB Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
1st - 5th November	Long Weekend to Le Touquet	
17th November	Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
24th - 26th November	Millstream Weekend	
25th November	Annual Pairs Championship	11.00am - 3.45pm
19th - 21st December	Children's Bridge Courses (two sessions daily)	10.30am and 2.00pm
22nd December	Christmas Chicago Party	6.30pm - 10ish
23rd Dec - 1st January 2007	Club Closed	
2nd January 2007	Club re-opens	10.30αm
13th - 20th January 2007	Ski Trip to Klosters	
23rd - 25th February 2007	Powder Mills Weekend	
24th - 31st March 2007	Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez	(n) (K
30th April - 3rd May 2007	Easter trip to Jersey	J. T. T.



18

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