

Autumn 2007

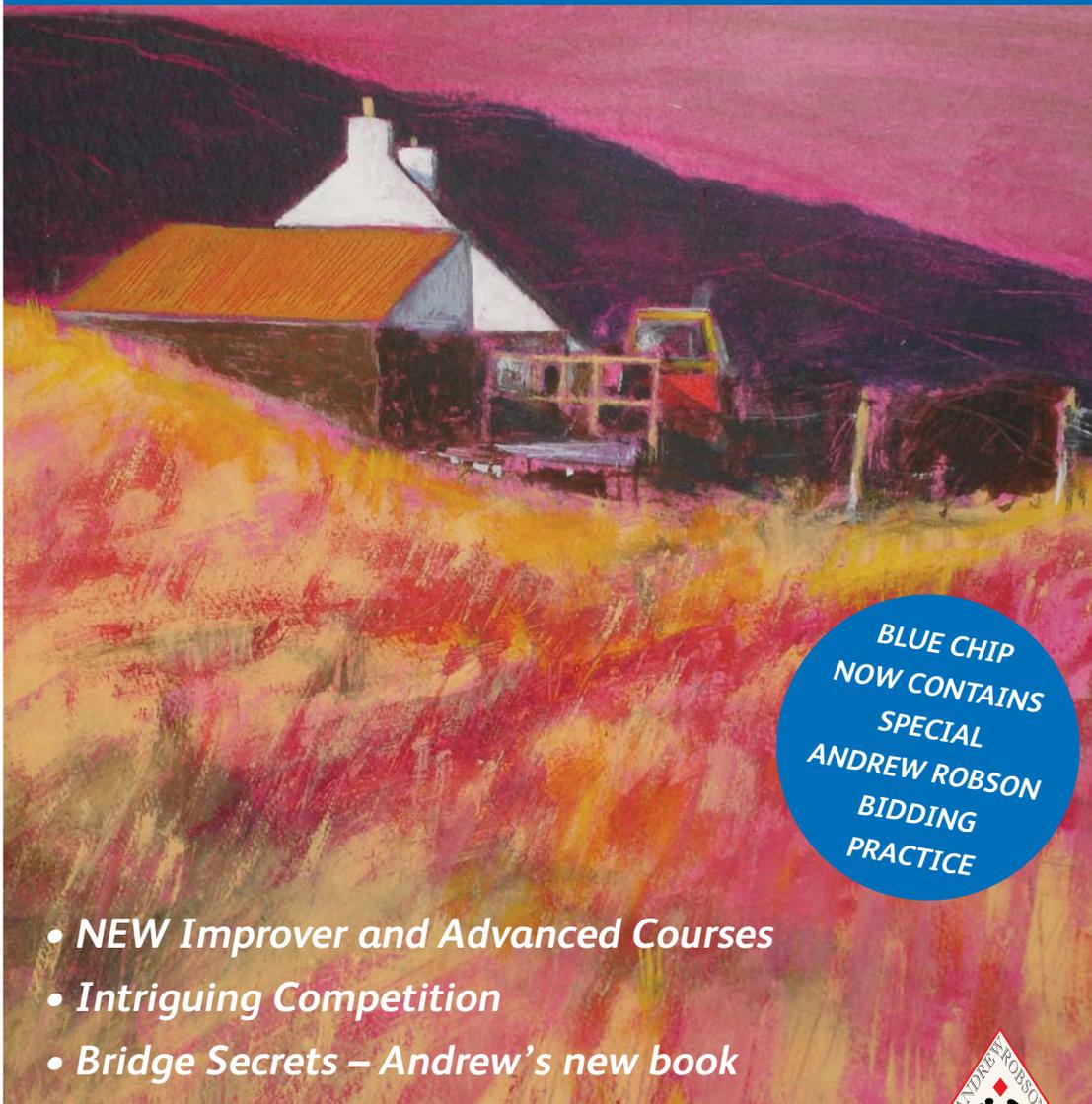
Issue Twenty Six



# The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

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In an effort to further enhance the quality of the teaching, I have devised TWO NEW CORE EIGHT - WEEK COURSES for this autumn: IMPROVER and (new) ADVANCED. This is the result of a very carefully thought-out reshuffle, which I hope will give you the appropriate topic at the appropriate time. The route for learning this great game at ARBC will now be clearer (no more arrows pointing everywhere on the cover of the Learning and Playing Pamphlet!). Both the content and presentation of these new courses will be closer to our very popular Play courses (even though the themes focus more on bidding). Each week will feature six carefully constructed brand new deals to instruct and delight.



### IMPROVER

Improver will incorporate the old four-week Intermediate Plus, together with one or two lessons from the old Advanced (e.g. Stayman, Signalling in defence), plus some new material. The resulting eight-week course will teach all the basic conventions, precisely in line with my book "Need to Know? Bridge" (to those who have purchased this, thank you for all your kind words). The level of Improver is about on a par with Improve your Play, and the two courses can be taken in either order.

### ADVANCED

I have completely restructured and updated the old Advanced course, such that it is now the same in name only. New Advanced features vital tools such as the Losing Trick Count, Fourth Suit Forcing, Unassuming Cue Bid; it also extends your defensive signals and doubles so that you will become an (even more) popular partner in our Duplicates. The level of Advanced is now about up to a par with Advanced Play, and the two courses can be taken in either order.

I would like to welcome two new young people to the ARBC Team. Natasha Clarke, keen as mustard, and patient as Job, looks after the Beginner Supervised Play amongst other things. You'll love her gentle, reassuring approach. Pip Railing, fresh out of school and also boundlessly enthusiastic, is to spend his gap year working at the Club. Pip was taking my Intermediate Course just a year ago, but he is now winning our Duplicates. I'm sure you'll benefit from his clear-thinking approach.

My third book, BRIDGE SECRETS, is out (I'm now taking a break from book-writing for a while). Whilst it is primarily aimed at the more experienced player, I'm sure you will all find it a rewarding read. I think you will especially enjoy Chapter 19, recounting my highs and lows in 20-odd years of Bridge at the top. See also page 7.

There are two alterations to the weekly schedule, which I think will work well:

Firstly, we are making a change to our SATURDAY BRIDGE, run so well by Nick. Instead of Swiss Pairs, we are going to run a normal Duplicate Pairs, to start on September 22nd (1.45pm – 5.00pm). Points will count towards our Daytime "Luigi" Ladder. What better way of spending a wintry weekend afternoon in London.

Secondly, we are starting an early evening Supervised Rubber Session each Wednesday from 5.15 – 7.15, to commence on September 26th, which will be hosted primarily by Benjamin. Please do come and support these new sessions.

As the new Editor of this Magazine (Jack is still in charge of advertising), I hope you enjoy reading it. Apart from all the usual features, I would especially like to draw your attention to Suzy Lewis' lovely piece outlining the success story of her Bridge Club in Dorset (page 6). If any of you have an interesting feature for future magazines, please do e-mail them to the Club.

Thank you for all your support, and let us hope for a peaceful and happy Autumn. It certainly will be inside 31 Parsons Green Lane.

Andrew



## Tip for Intermediate Players

by Andrew

### Points, schmoints!

- Don't be a slave to points when evaluating your hand. Points are only a guide; Bridge is all about tricks not points.
- Think about Length, Intermediates, Sequences [LIS – think Living In Sin!]

Exercise: Rank the following 1NT openers from best to worst. If partner invites you by raising to 2NT, with which would you bid on to 3NT?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ QJ	♠ J103	♠ AJ3	♠ KQ4
♥ KQ73	♥ 102	♥ AQ3	♥ J1092
♦ K42	♦ AK2	♦ Q92	♦ A9
♣ J942	♣ KJ1073	♣ 8632	♣ QJ102

Answers: From Best to Worst: (d), (b), (c), (a).

(a) is so poor – aceless with three points in spades that might be worth nothing – that I would not even open 1NT at all, preferring to pass!

(b) May only have 12 points, but look at the fine replete club suit, and the three tens. I know you have two suits unstopped, but it is far better to have a trick-source elsewhere with compensating weaknesses elsewhere than the jam too thinly spread.

(c) A classic “jam-too-thinly-spread” hand. Where are your tricks coming from? You have no ten, almost no potential for length winners, and no sequential high card.

(d) Lovely sequences of touching high cards. How much better ♥J1092 is than ♥J432, yet both count for one point.

I would raise a 2NT invite to 3NT with both (b) – yes with just 12 points – and (d). I would pass 2NT with (c), and I would not have opened 1NT in the first place with (a).

## Tip for Duplicate Players

by Andrew

### Consider Stayman with weak hands short in clubs

Assuming you can cater to partner's three possible replies to your 2♣ enquiry, bidding Stayman will often get you a better score than leaving partner in 1NT.

Exercise: Partner opens 1NT. What do you bid with the following hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ Q1074	♠ Q93	♠ AJ2	♠ 9732
♥ K9632	♥ J942	♥ Q10865	♥ 9732
♦ 42	♦ Q9852	♦ 10832	♦ 98642
♣ 94	♣ 2	♣ 2	♣ -

(a). 2♣. Five-four in the majors is the classic Weak Stayman. You can pass a 2♥/2♠ response and convert 2♦ to 2♥ as a Weakness Take-out.

(b). 2♣. You will happily pass each of partner's replies. Partner's 2♦ reply does not show diamonds, but he rates to have three or so cards given his lack of a four-card major. Even if partner replies 2♠, a likely 4-3 fit, you rate to score better than 1NT.

(c). 2♦ if playing transfers (or 2♥ as a weakness take-out). Do not use Stayman with a five-card major (without four in the other major).

(d). 2♣. Perfect – as far as any bid can be perfect with a Yarborough. Partner's reply to your Stayman bid is certain to improve matters.



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A unique occasion to shop for inspiring and original gifts and help a worthwhile cause. This year we are sponsoring research into childhood cancers. Event sponsored by the Wandsworth office of Savills.

Five years ago, I joined a campaign to save our local pub from being declared non-commercially viable, and sold as residential property by the inn-keepers. We were successful in keeping it as a pub, so I felt that we should all do our best to help it survive as one.

A few years before this, I had found Bridge – with a vengeance! The Andrew Robson Bridge Club was my favourite place on earth; when I was out of London, I had serious withdrawal symptoms.

The obvious solution to these problems was to try to bring a little of the Robson magic to our pub on the Dorset/Wiltshire border: the Foresters at Donhead St Andrew.



We started by holding a Teams night on Mondays (a dead night at the pub). We had two or three tables in a little room next to the gents loo. We ran it on Robson guidelines, all very friendly and informal; with the players having dinner at the pub as part of the deal. My friend Karin Murray designed a booking system, which we put on the internet; it took a few years, but now, even I am logged on! The Foresters was sold as a gastro pub and the Bridge Club grew; so much so that the new owner built on a new room and we duly moved in.

By this stage people were beginning to ask how they could learn this game that was becoming all the rage in the area, so I contacted Andrew to float the idea of my teaching at a very basic level. He was incredibly supportive and encouraging; so much so that two years ago I delivered my first Beginner lesson to four tables of ladies. I was helped by three wonderful friends; Anne Pelly, Charlotte Mackay, and Lucinda Sunnucks, but I was so nervous I could hardly think.

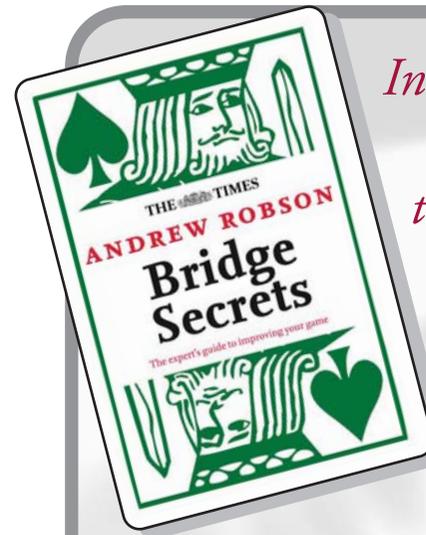
Alexander Allfrey, Andrew’s great friend and Bridge partner, lives down the road and does a great job operating the machine that deals the hands, doing the books, and, if we are really lucky, gives Master Classes.

We now have four different classes, running at different levels; and the Monday night Teams often fields seven tables. The pub has been taken over yet again, and is now owned by Chris and Lizzie, a great pair who, with chef Tom and the wonderful Hazel, have won all sorts of awards and acclaim.

This week the nicest thing happened to me. My longest running class clubbed together and presented me with a Cup – “To the Best Teacher in the World”, an honour that belongs to the tall person who devised the courses and wrote the brilliant lesson plans, but it has come to me by proxy (*fully deserved – Andrew*).

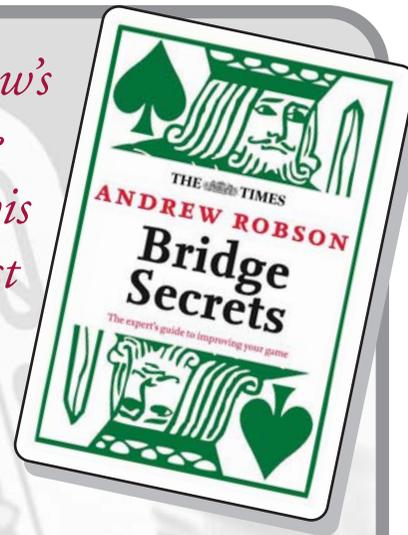
What started as an idea to save a pub, has become a real asset to the community and an embassy for the game. There must be lots of pubs that could also become successful Robson satellites. Do contact me on 01747 828866 if you want to set one up in your area and want a little advice,

*Suzy*



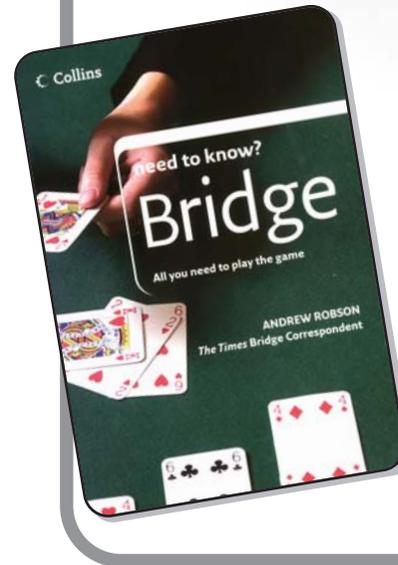
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# ARBC

November 2007  
to June 2008

## Bridge Holiday Programme



Luigi Molinaro



Pandora Anand



John Eagle



Mangal Kapoor



Molly & George



Kooky Fallah



Richard Bayley



Helen Buxton



Peter Gregson

*Dear ARBC Members,*

*Greetings from sunny Yorkshire; not so sunny a few weeks ago when both sets of parents villages were flooded. Fortunately both of their houses narrowly escaped the dreaded water. We are now living in our new house in the Dales and await the birth of our first child in mid-September. I have already taught several groups up here so cries of "Rule of 20" and "always open 1NT with 5332" reverberate across the county!*



*Annabel and I are delighted to have taken over the running of ARBC Holidays, starting with the Millstream Weekend in November which is very nearly full. I am then joined by the monkey-loving Jake Dunn for the Bridge Ski trip to Klosters in January. Booking has started for this popular holiday so please book now to avoid disappointment – last year a number of late bookers stayed in a variety of different hotels. Later in 2008 we have the inaugural ARBC Cruise around the Eastern Mediterranean. Andrew and I both had a good feeling about this holiday and we were right to, as it is now fully booked with 40 ARBC members. There is a waiting list but please indicate if you would like to reserve a place for the planned 2009 Cruise, destination to be decided.*

*As you can imagine, all this is keeping us very busy; I have also been feverishly writing Bridge courses as I have a number of private groups starting in October and I will be teaching Beginners and Intermediates at a fixed venue in Harrogate.*

*Thank you to all of you who have already shown such great support for these ARBC trips and we look forward to catching up on the SW6 gossip with you in due course.*

*Best wishes,*

*Jack and Annabel*

## Mediterranean Cruise

Saturday 2nd - Monday 11th June 2008

We have chosen Fred. Olsen's newest addition to the fleet, Balmoral, as the appropriate ship for our very first Bridge Cruise. This friendly ship carrying just under 1000 passengers offers traditional British cruising in an unpretentious style we think our members will particularly enjoy.

We have selected an enticing itinerary around Italy which offers an excellent mixture of culture and sunshine with a grand finale sailing into La Serenissima, the beautiful city of Venice. Busy days in port are interspersed with relaxing days at sea.



The jewel in the crown of your holiday is the exclusive opportunity to enjoy bridge each day in the airy card room, hosted by Jack and his wife Annabel. You will enjoy a special welcome cocktail party to get to know each other early in your cruise, and we have arranged a bonus for our members, a £100 credit to your shipboard account to help with your holiday spending.



Cruising represents excellent value as your fare includes all meals and transportation. You can choose exactly what type of accommodation you want – whether a suite with a balcony, a cabin with sea view or an 'inside' cabin: the professional and friendly cruise consultants at Mundy Cruising will be delighted to spend time with you discussing the most appropriate type of accommodation for your taste and budget.

**Fares start from £933 per person for twins, and £1452 for singles.**

The cruise is now FULLY BOOKED. If you would like to go on the waiting list for this cruise or reserve a place on the June 2009 Cruise (destination to be decided), please call: Sharon Trigg at Mundy Cruising 020 7734 4404 or email Sharon@mundycruising.co.uk

## Klosters Ski Trip 2008

Wednesday 9th - Wednesday 16th January 2008



We are delighted to be returning to Klosters for our annual ski trip, which proved an extremely popular destination last year. Jack Stocken, assisted by the charismatic Jake Dunn, will be hosting an informative and entertaining Bridge programme, suitable for ALL levels, from 5.30pm each day.

By popular demand, we have booked William and his wife Janie to be, once again, our personal ski guides for the week. William is an ex Ski Club of Great Britain Klosters rep. Jack and Annabel will be arranging all other aspects of the holiday.

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

Klosters ([www.klosters.ch](http://www.klosters.ch)) is a captivating and welcoming mountain village, well linked to Davos and with extensive skiing right on the doorstep and just 3 minutes from our hotel. The well-preserved village, the refined ambience and the hearty welcome extended by the locals all combine to make visitors feel at home. Winter sports enthusiasts will find a broad range of activities, while those looking for more relaxing recreation can enjoy the scenic landscape during leisurely walks.

Last year we had excellent snow for five out of six days, with sun and blue skies, whereas many lower resorts struggled. Please book early as last year the hotel was full by November.

**Prices from £1395**

## Millstream Weekend

Friday 23rd – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Jack and Annabel are delighted to be co-hosting this weekend again, especially after the runaway success of last November. The mixture of Bridge play, teaching, good company and gastronomy make for the perfect weekend.

The Millstream lies in the heart of Old Bosham, an historic village on the shores of Chichester harbour. It combines the elegance of a small English country house with the character and charm of an eighteenth century cottage.

The hotel has a relaxing bar with an open fire, leading on to the delightful gardens. The restaurant also overlooks the gardens, and offers a varied selection of English and Continental dishes, prepared with the best fresh produce, complimented by a list of fine wines from an established cellar. The sitting room is full of character and charm – a lovely room to relax in.

Each bedroom has been attractively styled to enhance its individual character and outlook. All have an en-suite bathroom, a colour television, radio-alarm clock, tea and coffee making facilities, telephone, safe, trouser press and hairdryer.

There is only one space left on this popular weekend so please ring Jack as soon as possible. Otherwise, there is a waiting list.

ARBC holidays are great fun, and it is important to stress that they are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate each night; instead the emphasis is on instruction, with a little gentle competition played in the friendly, social manner that so typifies the ethos of the Club. Details of how to contact Jack are below - we look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew and the team



Lila & Moza Panahpour



Christiane Panis & Montse Bishop



Mary Gordon Smith & Ali Leahy



Ruth Glazebrook & Kathy Kock



Dicky Darzi & Benjamin McCarron



Huda Khoury & Silvia Saba



Sasha Balabanovic & Patricia Herrod



Annie Freeman & Julie Bostock

**Prices from £340**



## Bridge Poem

My partner has opened and I am in a fix  
Because I must pass with less than six  
But if my count is six to nine  
I must respond once, but not again  
Now 10-12 points is pretty nice  
I will plan to respond, not once but twice  
With 13 or more points, I would be to blame  
If I let the bidding end before we reach game  
With 13 or more points I am required to speak  
And mention a suit that is not very weak  
With five cards or longer I need not be cute  
I merely will open with one of that suit  
But with a four card suit – ah that's the rub  
I know I must open – but is it One Heart or One "Crub"?  
With 12-14 One Notrump will do  
And with 20 or more I will open with Two  
When the opponents have opened, my back's to the wall  
I have good length so I must overcall

*[Thanks to Louise Anderson for this poem, from a friend of her's Down Under. I changed it slightly to suit ARBC-style bidding. Ed]*

## Lorna's Foolproof Cheats Tomato Soup

If you need to make a starter in less than five minutes (*i.e. while you're dummy ed.*) which nobody would believe you had and what's more always compliment your catering skills – the above mentioned is the answer. I am somewhat reluctant to share this trick with so many, but my arm was twisted.....

Empty cans into a magi mix add 2 cloves of garlic season with salt and pepper plus about 1 table spoon of sugar and a dash of wine vinegar and a small bunch of coriander or parsley. Liquidise and then add cream. Put in a bowl and chill for an hour or more if you have time.

Serve in bowls with a topping of a swirl of cream and chopped parley or coriander. The trick is to never admit how it was done – they would not believe you anyway...

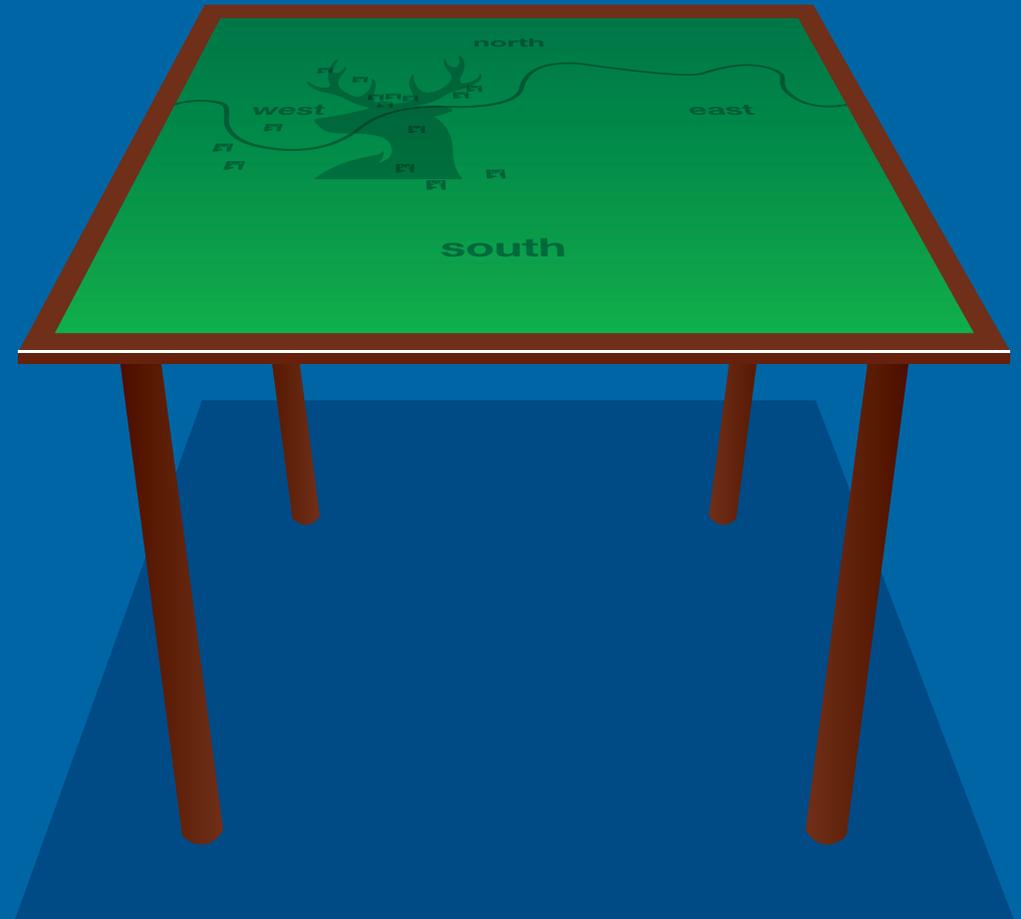
For four people

2 cans of plum tomatoes  
¼ pt single cream  
Salt  
Sugar  
Wine vinegar  
Garlic  
Coriander or parsley

Tried and tested too many times to remember....



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# Children's Bridge Courses

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday\* 18th, 19th and 20th December

\*morning only

We will be running our sessions for children's Bridge again this Christmas.



Each day there will be a morning session (10.30 - 12.30) and an afternoon session (2.00 - 4.00) each costing £20, including refreshments.

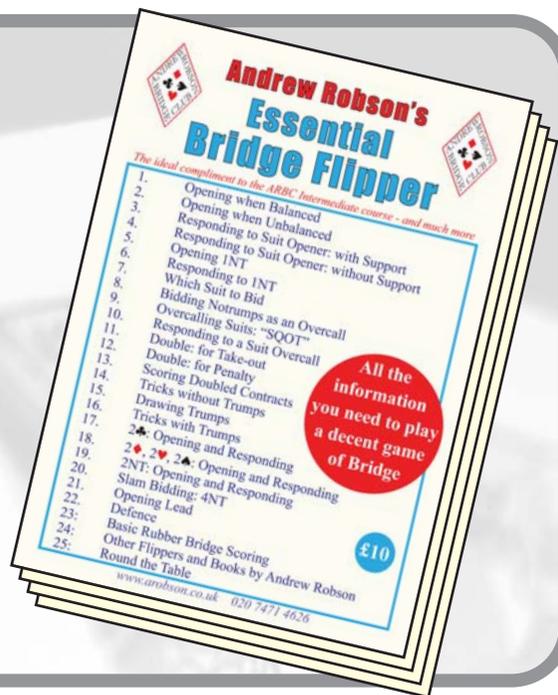
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## Autumn Competition

Eleven of ARBC's staff volunteered something unusual that once happened to them. Except that they have been muddled up, and are all (take note) in the wrong place. Your challenge is to link each member of staff with the appropriate activity.

Andrew	Lost a parking space altercation with Hugh Grant
Caroline	Was a Junior Table Tennis Champion
David	Trekking to 13,000 ft in the Himalayas
Nick	Lost a Sumo-wrestling match to a German school girl
Lorna	Played trumpet in a jazz band
Marina	Sent a lemon cake by Jack Lemmon
Grazyna	Bungee-jumped from a height of 300 ft
Benjamin	Landed a small aeroplane in New Zealand
Richard	Hitch-hiked to Venice and back in a dinner jacket
Natasha	Achieved grade 8 in piano
Jack	Was held at gunpoint by U.S. Military Intelligence in Iraq

Answers by 31st October. All winners will be listed in the next issue of the magazine, and the first correct entry drawn out of a hat on 1st November will win one of Andrew's 2008 Times Bridge Calendars (if there is no correct entry, then the closest will win).

## Winners - Summer 2007

Luigi's Daytime Duplicate Ladder	Luigi Molinaro
Evening Duplicate Ladder	David Rainer
Susan Hampshire Social Chicago Trophy	Warwick Hood

## Dates for your Diary

### 2007

11th-16th September	Holiday to Nice	
18th September	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
19th September	Open Evening (Beginner: 6.30 - 7.45)	6.00 - 7.15pm
22nd September	Saturday Duplicate begins	1.45pm
11th October	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
10th November	Championship Pairs	11.00am – 4.00pm
15th November	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm
23rd-25th November	Millstream Weekend	
18th-20th December	Children's Bridge	see page 16
21st December	Christmas Party	from 6.30pm - 10.00pm
24th Dec to 1st Jan	Club Closed	

### 2008

2nd January	Club reopens	from 10.30am
9th-16th January	Ski Trip to Klosters	



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