

Spring 2008

Issue Twenty Seven



# The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

31 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HH

020 7471 4626

*2009 Cruise  
to Norwegian  
Fjords*

- *Millstream Midweek break in April*
- *NEW - Intermediate Play and Improver Play courses*
- *NEW - Beginner Flipper*
- *NEW - Endplay & Squeeze and Signal & Discard booklets*



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# Andrew's Editorial

With the huge success of the new Improver and Advanced Courses, which I have much enjoyed teaching (and have received very favourable feedback – thank you), I have taken a further step to upgrade the Lesson Programme.

I have completely changed Intermediate Play with the intention of it being the perfect follow-on from Intermediate, a midway step between Intermediate and Improver.

Plus I have written a new course, Improver Play, (not to be confused with Improve your Play, which will not be run this term), designed to be taken after Improver, and practicing all the themes learnt in that course.

There is now a really clear route in which to take the ARBC Courses:

**Beginner → Next Step → Intermediate → Intermediate Play (New for 2008) → Improver (New last term) → Improver Play (New for 2008) → Advanced (New last term) → Advanced Play.**

Don't despair if geographical or other factors make it too hard for you to learn and play your Bridge regularly at 31 Parsons Green Lane. There are now more ways than ever to improve your Bridge the ARBC way, in your own home:

(1) **Watch my DVD.** Shock-horror, "Play Modern Bridge" is finally about to be ready. Roughly speaking, it runs through the Intermediate Course (plus a bit more). Although the snags en route have been frustrating (to say the least), the final product does look amazing.

(2) **Play against the Computer.** Blue Chip Bridge - now containing special Andrew Robson Bidding Practice - is a highly recommended way to play random deals (with helpful hints) against the computer.

(3) **Read.** My three major books are now on the shelves. We have...

For Beginners and upwards: *Need to Know Bridge*. Plus an accompanying practice deals booklet that gives 32 instructive examples.

For Intermediates and upwards: *Common Mistakes and how to Avoid them*.

For the more experienced: *Bridge Secrets*

But that's not all! For I have just published the eighth and ninth booklets in my Bridge Lesson Series:



*Signal & Discard*, plus *Endplay & Squeeze*, are now available at the Club or through the website (alongside *Double*, *Finesse*, *Opening Lead*, *Overcall*, *Slam*, *Stayman & Transfer*, and *Weak Two*). See Page 6 & 7.

(4) **Play Set Deals.** There are now more ways to play special ARBC deals using magic Arrow Packs. Apart from the Arrow Packs that accompany the Common Mistakes book, my Boxed Sets (Losing Trick Count, Stayman, Roman Key Card Blackwood, Splinters, Trial Bidding, and Ace-Showing Cue Bids) are now reduced to £9.95.

(5) **Use Flippers.** The success of the Essential Flipper earlier in the year has spurred me on to update and extend the Beginner Flipper, now covering Beginner and Next Step levels. We are also reducing the Conventions Flipper from £15 down to £10 – a steal! See Page 17.

Moving back to 31 Parsons Green Lane (and where else would you prefer to be?) can I take this opportunity to congratulate loyal duplicate players Marion Barnard and Luigi Molinaro (he who generously donates a hamper prize each season). On the afternoon of Friday 26th October, they scored an unbelievable 83.88% - a Club record (I have never scored nearly as high – and am rather proud of my "mediocre" 72.40% with Alexander Allfrey in the European Open Pairs earlier in the Summer).

Congratulations to 66.66% winners Michael and Philip Broke (on Tuesday evening October 16th); not only for this fine score, but for their victory (with two other ARBC members Emma Carnegie-Brown and David Rainer) in winning the prestigious MCC Open Teams; they won all seven matches, to stave off some fine opposition.

And a final huge percentage: our own Pip Railing scored 70.24% to qualify for the National Under 19s Pairs Final at Easter.

To all those non-duplicate players reading the above: give duplicate a go, but a word of warning: it's addictive – once you start you'll never stop! See page 4 for a simple five-minute guide.

I thank you for your wonderful support for the Club, hope to see you for our (free) Christmas Chicago Party from 6.30 – 10.00pm on Friday 21st December (after which, the Club will be closed for Christmas, re-opening on January 2nd at 10.30am). I wish you a very Happy Christmas,

Andrew

PS: Don't forget our Children's Courses (see page 16)



Thankyou to Lorna Vestey's 'Ace Art' for all pictures at ARBC.

## Five Minute Guide to Playing Duplicate Bridge

The principle of Duplicate Bridge is ingenious. By the end of the session everybody will have played the same hands, thus reducing the luck element of the game. Pairs sitting "North-South" stay stationary for the session; "East-West" pairs move to the next higher numbered table after each round (of typically three or four boards). To ensure the movement runs properly you must arrive promptly for the start of the session and stay until the end.

### What Happens

At the start of each hand you pick your hand out of the board and note the dealer and the vulnerability on your name (red for vulnerable; green for non-vulnerable). The board stays put in the middle of the table for the entire duration of the bidding and play. This avoids the temptation to throw your cards in the middle as tricks, rather you keep them in front of you and turn them over appropriately ("stand up in victory; lie down in defeat").

### How to Score

At the end of each board, North inputs the score into the Bridgmate machine, to be checked by East. The scoring is as Chicago Bridge – to the trick score

add 50 for a making part-score; 300 for a making non-vulnerable game and 500 for a vulnerable game. Undertricks are identical to all forms of Bridge (i.e. 50 for each non-vulnerable undertrick and 100 for each vulnerable undertrick). If in doubt, you can look at the back of the bid in the bidding box (if the contract made), the back of the pass card (if it went down undoubled), or the back of the double card (if it went down doubled). Alternatively – ask one of us and we will gladly help. Note that each board is separate, thus there is no part-score carry-over.

### Tactics

Bridge is Bridge but here are some pointers that apply particularly to Duplicate.

♠ Be bold in the auction when both sides are bidding, especially when non-vulnerable.

♥ Be more cautious in the auction when the opponents are silent.

♦ If you are in a normal contract, try to make as many tricks as possible.

♣ The key to Duplicate Bridge is to score better than the other people playing the same direction as you. The absolute size of the score is irrelevant – it doesn't matter by how much you beat the other pairs, just that you do better – so remember those overtricks.

## ARBC Annual Pairs

♠ 10 4 3 2	Dealer:	South
♥ A 10 5 4	Vulnerability:	Neither
♦ 2	Contract:	4♠
♣ A Q 10 6	Opening Lead:	♣5
♠ A Q J 6		
♥ 9 7 3		
♦ 9 8 7		
♣ 8 5 2		
♠ 8		
♥ K Q 8 2		
♦ K Q 5 4		
♣ J 7 4 3		
♠ K 9 7 5	S(Nick)	W
♥ J 6	1♦	Pass
♦ A J 10 6 3	1♠	Pass
♣ K 9	1♣	Pass
		N(Espen) E
		1♥ Pass
		4♠ End

- 1 Nick Irens & Espen Erichsen 65.38 %
- 2 Terry Chapman & Heather Bakhshi 64.10 %
- 3 Malcolm Rosenblatt & Sally Chandler 62.02 %
- 4 Jean Butler & Jenny Stack 61.86 %
- 5 Richard Bayley & Jeremy Tyrer 56.89 %
- 6 Christiane Panis & Montse Bishop 54.97 %



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**Question:** What is a signal?

**Answer:** It is a defensive card that is not played to contribute to the winning of the actual trick. Rather, it is made to convey a message to partner.

The most important type of signal, by far, is the like/dislike, or "Attitude" Signal. By playing an unnecessarily high card (e.g. an eight), you are saying that you want partner to continue the suit he has led. Playing your lowest card has the opposite meaning.

**"Throw high means aye  
Throw low means no".**

Various issues relating to this Attitude Signal must be addressed, including:

- (i) When is my card a signal?
- (ii) When should I encourage (throw high), and

when should I discourage (throw low)?

(iii) What is "high", and what is "low"?

We will consider these (and other) issues in more detail, but the simple answers to the above are:

(i) Your card is an Attitude Signal when partner has led, on the first round of a suit, and you cannot contribute to the winning of the trick.

(ii) You should encourage when you have an equal honour to the honour partner led, or can trump ("ruff"), or (more subtly) do not want partner to switch suits.

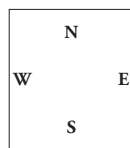
(iii) It is all relative, not absolute. If partner leads an ace (from ace-king), you will have to play the three from Q32, yet the seven from 987. Partner will have to scrutinise the other spot cards in order to interpret the signal accurately - take this deal.

♠ QJ97  
♥ AKQ104  
♦ 632  
♣ 8

**Dealer: South**

**Vulnerability: Neither**

♠ 83  
♥ 632  
♦ AKJ4  
♣ J976



♠ 52  
♥ 875  
♦ 987  
♣ A10532

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	4♠	End

**Contract: 4♠**

**Opening Lead: ♦A**

West led the ace of diamonds against 4♠. Dummy played the two, East the seven, and declarer the five. The seven looked like a "throw high means aye - yes please" signal. Or was it?

West looked closely at the diamond spot cards. Dummy held the two, three and six; he, himself, held the four, and declarer followed to

Trick One with the five. The seven was partner's lowest card!

West now knew not to continue with the king of diamonds, as it would promote declarer's queen. Instead he switched to a club (he could hardly switch to hearts, looking at dummy). East won the ace, and a second diamond lead, crucially through declarer's queen-ten, ensured that West scored both his king-jack. He beat declarer's ten with the jack, and cashed the king, felling his queen. Down one.

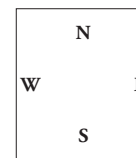


A Squeeze is a play which forces an opponent, with an embarrass de riches, to discard at a time when he would prefer not to. The term was coined by US great Sidney Lenz back in the 1920s.

It is a generally held belief that Squeeze-play is the domain of the expert. But this need not be so, as many Squeezes simply play themselves. Witness this deal, in which all declarer needs to do is keep his head and watch out for one card.

♠ Q1053  
♥ KQ64  
♦ 95  
♣ 1032

♠ 8  
♥ J987  
♦ KQ72  
♣ AKQ6



♠ 972  
♥ 103  
♦ 108643  
♣ 974

♠ AKJ64  
♥ A52  
♦ AJ  
♣ J85

**Dealer: South**

**Vulnerability: Neither**

S	W	N	E
1♠	Dbl	2♠(1)	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠(2)	End

(1) Close to Three Spades, especially after the double (good preemptive tactics to bid half a level higher after a double).

(2) But catches up. Looks right to play in spades rather than notrumps, with his two weak suits; however, because the opponents cannot run five club tricks, Three Notrumps is a cinch, with nine top tricks.

**Contract: 4♠**

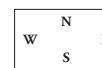
**Opening Lead: ♣J**

West naturally cashes three top clubs, then switches to the king of diamonds. Ostensibly, it looks as though you as declarer need a 3-3 heart split for your tenth trick. Actually you are far better placed, especially given that West has advertised the queen of diamonds and is likely to have four hearts for his double of One Spade.

Play out all your trumps - yes - don't stop playing trumps because your opponents have run out. As you play the last trump, West will find it impossible to discard. Here is the ending:

♠ -  
♥ KQ64  
♦ 9  
♣ -

♠ -  
♥ J987  
♦ Q  
♣ -



♠ -  
♥ 103  
♦ 1086  
♣ -

♠ J (led)  
♥ A52  
♦ J  
♣ -

If West lets go of a heart, dummy's hearts will provide four tricks. West can see that, so in practice will discard the queen of diamonds, hoping his partner can guard the suit with the jack.

No good. The queen of diamonds was the one card you were looking out for. If you did not see it, you would play out dummy's hearts in the hope of a fourth-round length winner. But with West's queen of diamonds going, you can table the jack, a promoted winner. 10 tricks and game made.

You pulled off a Simple Automatic Squeeze: Simple, because just one opponent was squeezed; Automatic, because the Squeeze would have worked on either opponent, provided they alone guarded both red suits.





Sherry Murray



The wonderful Caroline



Sir Eddie Kulukundis



Andy Findlater



Stuart Machonachie  
(with Caroline)



Allan Hodgson



Gloria Perry



David Berry



Judy Beecroft

# ARBC

## Bridge Holiday Programme

*Dear ARBC Members,*

*We have now been living in our new house for over three months and our gorgeous baby girl, Sophie, is already two months old. How time flies. We have now fully adapted to country and village life; the neighbours are very friendly, there are beautiful walks through the Dales on our doorstep and plenty of gastro pubs within easy reach.*



*The Bridge has been very busy. I have been teaching five different groups at private houses and my premises in Harrogate has proved very popular, so much so that I will be running a second day from January. Please look at my website [www.yorkshirebridge.com](http://www.yorkshirebridge.com). There is a great demand in Yorkshire for friendly, relaxed Bridge, just like at ARBC.*

*ARBC Holidays are flourishing. The Millstream weekend was full (there was a waiting list of 15) and because it is so popular we have decided to return to the Millstream Hotel in Bosham. This will be a four day, midweek break from 8th to 11th April 2008. Please book early to avoid disappointment.*

*I have a record 34 bookings for Klosters for January 2008 and the hotel is very nearly full. Lorna Heaton is accompanying me, and we both very much look forward to the week. In 2009 we will either return to the fabulous Hotel Alex in Zermatt, or try somewhere new like St Anton. Skiing and Bridge has never been so popular.*

*Our inaugural Cruise next June, around the Eastern Mediterranean, has been a big hit with 40 bookings and a large waiting list. I am delighted to announce that in June 2009 we will be hosting a Cruise to the Norwegian Fjords. Further details can be found on the next page - the scenery looks stunning.*

*So all is well here and I look forward to catching up with you soon, hopefully on an ARBC holiday.*

*Best wishes,  
Jack, Annabel and Sophie*



# Norwegian Fjord Cruise on Balmoral

28th June – 5th July 2009

Following the enthusiastic take-up for our first Bridge Cruise which will take place next June, we are planning ahead for summer 2009 with a wonderfully contrasting itinerary on board Fred. Olsen's Balmoral – a homecoming for Norwegian company Fred. Olsen sailing conveniently from the UK to the Norwegian Fjords

Named after the Scottish home of the Royal Family, Balmoral is the fifth ship in the Fred. Olsen fleet, and the latest addition. She has a range of spacious cabins, many with verandah, others with beautiful sea view, and some economical options without sea view. Single cabins are available, but availability is limited so early registration is recommended. Large enough to be spacious and comfortable, yet still intimate enough to remain friendly and relaxed, Balmoral offers a warm welcome in true Fred. Olsen style.

Imagine setting forth on a very special holiday aboard without having to face the misery of seething airports, with long queues for check-in, and worries about delayed flights and security issues. When you cruise from the UK, you can journey to the port of Dover by car or coach, walk on board the ship, and be on holiday from the minute you embark, relaxed and ready to enjoy yourself. Your first day will be at sea, giving you plenty of time to get accustomed to the ship, and of course, to include some Bridge! Once in Norway, a very special experience awaits you. Just one week after midsummer day, you will enjoy long days and sunfilled evenings – the sun sets at this latitude, but only just. The stunning scenery is captivating: sheer cliffs rise from the glassy waters, tiny villages and picturesque farms cling to the steep slopes, waterfalls tumble down miniature ravines, everywhere is lush and green, and you get a real taste for a land dominated by the sea, and remote from the hustle of modern life. In



Bergen, Norway's former capital, you will enjoy exploring the cobbled mediaeval streets with colourful wooden buildings, and lively cafes and shops. Your welcome from the local people will cap the experience, making this fjords itinerary very special indeed.

Meanwhile on board the ship, you will enjoy the busy programme of events on board, or, if you prefer, find a secluded spot to enjoy the scenery or immerse yourself in a good book. Because the Fred. Olsen style is relaxed and unpretentious, new friendships blossom over drinks or afternoon tea, and mealtimes are a perfect opportunity to mull over the excitements of the day.

The whole trip is wonderfully enhanced by the exclusive opportunity to enjoy bridge each day in the airy card room, hosted by Jack Stocken and his wife Annabel. A special welcome cocktail party gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow bridge players very early in the cruise, and the combination of exciting time ashore, and lots of play on board is irresistible.

For those who haven't taken a cruise before, the idea can be a little intimidating. Cruising represents excellent value for money as your fare includes all meals and transportation, but you may need guidance around the deck plans, and you will probably have lots of questions about your trip. The friendly cruise consultants at Mundy Cruising, the UK's oldest established cruise only specialist, will take pleasure in talking to you about the various accommodation options, and helping you with any queries you may have prior to booking. Rest assured they will take care of every little detail, leaving you to relax and look forward to a very special experience.

Full summer 2009 itineraries have not yet been released, and we expect final fares and voyage details to be available early in the New Year. So at this stage, we suggest you simply register your interest, so Mundy Cruising can secure your accommodation as soon as it goes on sale, and come back to you with full details. At that stage, you will be offered an 'option', giving you time to think about the itinerary and fare, before making the booking definite with a deposit payment. So to register your interest with no commitment at this stage, just call Sharon Trigg at Mundy Cruising on 020 7734 4404 (if Sharon is not available when you call, one of her colleagues will be happy to assist). Alternatively you can email her: [sharon@mundycruising.co.uk](mailto:sharon@mundycruising.co.uk)

**Prices TBA**

## Millstream Midweek Break

*Tuesday 8th April – Friday 11th April 2008*

After the great success of November's weekend trip to this marvellous hotel, Jack and Annabel are delighted to announce that they are hosting a Spring Bridge holiday to the Millstream. As it is a midweek break we are able to stay for an extra night, so more time to hone up your skills at the Bridge table! A number of members were disappointed not to come last time, so please book early as numbers are limited.

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.

*Prices from £430*

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

Contact: Jack Stocken  
Mobile: 07775 892 720

Email: jack@yorkshirebridge.com  
www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3



Paul and Mary Scherer



Sheila Levy, Ruth Rothbarth



Jenny Stack, Brigid Battiscombe



Sam Anderson, Amanda Bibbey, Emma Arkell



Muriel Azouz, Mehrnaz Wise



Linda & Harry Zeitlin; Elaine and Wouter Van Moppes



Trish O'Reilly, Julia and Al Cooke,  
Richard Marchlewski



Espen Erichsen, Nick Irens  
(Annual Pairs winners - See Page 4)





## Bridge Poem

Twas the Club Christmas party and needless to say,  
The punch and the season had made us quite gay.  
"Find your seats and start shuffling" the Director had said  
And visions of first place danced round in my head.

When I checked our position I got dry in the mouth;  
For we'd been assigned table one North/South.  
Just two little novices, my partner and me  
We'd been placed fourth once, but never reached three.

Perhaps fate had decided to put us to the test,  
For two Club experts were sitting East/West  
We took our positions and said not a word  
But I'm certain our heartbeats could surely be heard.

We shuffled the cards without blinking an eye;  
I dropped one on the floor and thought I would die.  
As North I was dealer and though we were green,  
I knew that to open we must have thirteen.

I counted my points but alack and alas,  
The total was ten, so I just had to pass.  
Quite frankly, I thought that this was a shame  
It's the first time I'd had thirteen Spades to my name!

My left-hand opponent, who was sitting at East  
Opened Two Diamonds which announced quite a feast.  
My partner, South, was trembling with fear  
But a bid of two Hearts came across to my ear.

My Right-hand opponent sat straight in his chair  
Three Hearts was the bid he chose to declare  
Now I had a good suit but no Hearts, so, alas,  
Without help from my partner, I just had to pass.

My Left-hand opponent he now bids Three Spades  
You can only imagine how I was amazed.  
My partner at South bid Four Hearts – what a hoot!  
If they land up declaring, I can't lead her suit.

My Right - hand opponent studied his hand  
And soon Seven No-Trumps was his command  
It was my turn to bid and just to save face  
I doubled, for I knew they were missing an Ace!

The next three bids were Pass, Pass and Pass  
I was ready to lead a Spade but alas,  
My partner was nervous, she led the Heart King;  
A lead out of turn, what a damnable thing!

The Director was called – I can still hear his voice  
As he told the Declarer to make his own choice.  
With a singleton Heart, you must understand,  
This might be the only entry to his hand.

So he turned to me and, looking so smart  
He said, "Lead any suit, but don't lead a Heart".  
So of course I just led my fourth highest Spade  
I guess 'twas the best lead that I ever made!

Because with my hand, I couldn't lose the lead  
Our opponents just had to concede  
All thirteen tricks we took off the top  
When we won the board, I thought I would pop.

Now I ask you with just one board like this  
The rest of the session – well, how could we miss?  
Then I heard the Director say "Who was the lass  
Who had thirteen Spades – and cleverly passed?"



Read Andrew weekly  
in the Country Life  
Magazine



# We've been playing for years ...





# Children's Bridge Courses

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

\*morning only

We will be running 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. Should you wish to leave your children for both sessions, we will look after your children over lunch. Everyone welcome, from complete beginners to more experienced players.



Please book in with Lorna

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and how to play  
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# Christmas Presents at ARBC

## Andrew's Booklets

*A lesson and an illustrative deal per page,  
to perfect your understanding of ...*

**Double • Slam • Overcall • Finesse**

**Stayman & Transfer • Weak Two • Opening Lead**

**Signal & Discard • Endplay & Squeeze**

**£4.99 each**

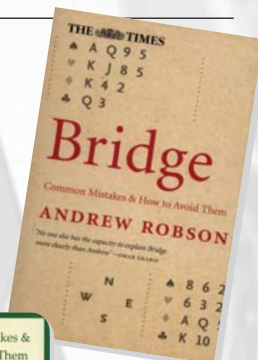
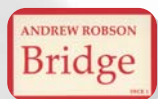


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*Available in the Club or from our new online shop  
where you can now order AND pay : [www.arobson.co.uk](http://www.arobson.co.uk)*

## Autumn Competition Winners

That perhaps this was a tad too difficult was evidenced by the relative paucity of entries. Fun though. Here are the correct answers:

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

Winner: Susan Hampshire, winning a copy of Andrew's new DVD

## Winners

Luigi's Daytime Duplicate Ladder  
Evening Duplicate Ladder  
Susan Hampshire Social Chicago Trophy  
Annual Pairs

Luigi Molinaro  
David Rainer  
Annie Frankel  
Nick Irens and Espen Erichsen

## Dates for your Diary

### 2007

18th-20th December  
21st December  
22nd December to 1st January

Children's Bridge  
Christmas Party  
Club Closed

see page 16  
from 6.30 – 10.00pm

### 2008

2nd January  
9th - 16th January  
15th January  
16th January

Club reopens  
Klosters Ski Trip  
Simultaneous Pairs  
Open Evening  
Beginner Have-a-go

from 10.30 am  
7.30pm-10.45pm  
6.00pm – 7.15pm  
6.30pm – 7.45pm

15th March  
25th - 27th March  
10th April 08  
8th - 11th April  
2nd - 11th June 2008

Simultaneous Pairs  
Children's Bridge  
Simultaneous Pairs  
Trip to Millstream  
Mediterranean Cruise

7.30pm-10.45pm  
see page 16  
7.30pm-10.45pm





# home

should be  
the  
treasure  
chest  
of living.

—Le Corbusier