

Summer 2008

Issue Twenty Eight



The Andrew Robson Bridge Club

31 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HH

020 7471 4626

**ITALIAN
LAKES TRIP
2009**

- *Andrew and David win British Gold Cup (see page 4)*
- *Best ski trip ever (see page 6)*
- *DVD finally out (see page 18)*



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Andrew's Editorial

ARBC has been buzzing all year. Are we seeing a return to the US Bridge craze of 1929? Recession... Cheap escape... Bridge...

Following my now-complete updating and restructuring of the Courses, I believe I have organised the best ever lesson program for you this summer. I have scheduled two daytime options and one evening option for all courses (up to Improver Play) to make it easy for you to fit your chosen course around your personal schedule. [Remember: you can make up a class at an alternative time slot; or even at a future term; so being away is no excuse!].



Personally, I am looking forward to the contrast of teaching complete Beginners, in a rare (for me) daytime slot; and my new Advanced Play, with many exciting new themes for the accomplished player (well you will be after you've finished the Course!). Both begin on Wednesday 23rd April. There are many mouth-watering prospects from my wonderful fellow-teachers: David's Delights, available on Friday mornings then Wednesday evenings right through from April to the end of August; and Caroline's fantastic Revise and Play, on Thursday afternoons.

For more details of all our Courses, see our accompanying Pamphlet. In a move to help with your forward planning, our Autumn teaching weekend dates are already out; the Autumn weekly program will begin on September 22nd.

Shock, horror, my long-awaited DVD is now out, almost exactly THREE YEARS after filming! I'm really pleased with the most kind and positive reaction from those who've bought it. It makes the long wait worthwhile.

Jack, Annabel, and baby Sophie are thriving in Yorkshire, and Jack is very much enjoying running our holidays. This January's ski-trip, with Jack and Lorna in charge, was by all accounts the best ever (see Lorna's article on page 6): here are a couple of the many kind comments from those who went:

"That was a great week, a truly great week." Allan Hodgson

"Your (Jack) organizing skills, your ability to cope with the thousand and one matters that arose (many of them obviously trivial in fact but VERY IMPORTANT to somebody) and above all, your patience, made the holiday what it was". Garth Hewitt.

See the four centre pages for more details of a our holidays, and note that there are, unusually, still one or two more spaces for our Millstream midweek break from April 8th – 11th.

Nick invites all you Duplicate-lovers to his Saturday afternoon session, which will continue as usual, although not on Bank Holiday Weekends. Please come and support him.

Children's Courses will take place on March 25th, 26th and 27th (see page 18).

Finally, we are all so pleased at the arrival of Marina and Sam's new baby girl, Sky Bluebell.

Thank you very much for all your support, for helping to make ARBC such a unique place,

Have a lovely summer,



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

Andrew and David Win Gold Cup *by Andrew*

My Bridge team is very much a Bridge Club outfit: our very own David Bakhshi plays with Tony Forrester (well, Tony did pop into No. 31 once, but as my ex-partner of seven years and Godfather to my younger daughter Mimi, he is very much part of my life); I play with Alexander Allfrey, who used to work at our Club before he moved to Dorset, and is now is a leading light (with Suzy Lewis) in our Donhead St. Andrew satellite.

I wasn't sure I would be in top form for the Gold Cup Finals in December. I'd stepped off a red eye from San Francisco, where I was playing the US Nationals, and had a long, long layover in Heathrow, before the flight to Peebles and the tough semifinal match the next day.

However the Gold Cup (Britain's premier knock-out event) has been kind to me and my team over the past few years (winning twice, both times with David), and I felt buoyant as I propped my eyelids open with a matchstick and began the semifinals. We had the better of the luck (the opponents graciously said they were outplayed) and we cruised into the final. We were fancied to win the Final, but things started rockily, Alexander and I having seven successive minus scores at one stage. Yet we had a feeling that the fortune was about to turn. It did – in the shape of this deal...

Alexander											
♠ A 10 9 2											
♥ A 5 4											
♦ 9											
♣ Q 10 6 5 3											
♠ 8 7	<table><tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>	N		W	E			S		♠ J 3	
N											
W	E										
S											
♥ K Q J 9 2		♥ 10 7 6									
♦ Q 8 7		♦ 10 5 4									
♣ A K J		♣ 9 8 7 4 2									
♠ K Q 6 5 4											
♥ 8 3											
♦ A K J 6 3 2											
♣ -											
Andrew											

S	W	N	E
1 ♦	1 ♥	Dble(1)	pass
4 ♣(2)	pass	4 ♥(3)	pass
5 ♣(4)	pass	5 ♦(5)	pass
7 ♠	pass	pass	pass



- (1) Negative, promising four Spades.
 - (2) Splinter, showing Club shortage in a big Spade raise.
 - (3) Ace-showing cue-bid.
 - (4) Showing first-round control.
 - (5) Showing his second-round control, dubious to show shortage in partner's suit (as Alexander was the first to admit)
- Postscript: Did you notice that Spades were never bid until the Seven-level; that's the modern game for you!

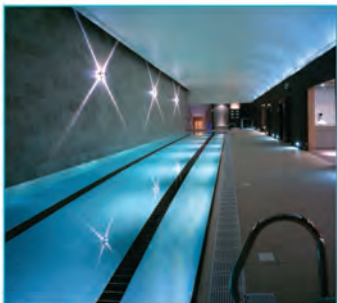


Thanks to club member Barrie Gilbert for the (mobile phone) photo

West knew from the bidding that a top club would be trumped. He led ♥K. Winning ♥A, I adopted a simple approach. I crossed to ♠K and returned to ♠A. If an opponent (likely West, who held heart length) discarded, I would take the Diamond finesse (succeeding when East held three or four Diamonds headed by the Queen). When trumps split 2-2 (good!), I had decide how to take the five Diamond tricks I needed. Again following the simple route, I played for a 3-3 split or the Queen to be doubleton. Crossing to ♦AK, I ruffed a diamond.

Phew! ♦Q appeared, and I could now ruff a club, cash my winning diamonds, discarding dummy's hearts, then ruff my losing heart. 13 tricks and grand slam made.

A few hours later, we were holding the Gold Cup aloft. It really felt like a win for the Club.



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ARBC SKI TRIP TO KLOSTERS 2008 *by Lorna*

This was my first experience as part of the ARBC team on the bridge club ski week, and it certainly lived up to all my expectations. Jack was a great leader – he not only ran high quality bridge sessions but also did all the behind-the-scenes organisation beforehand.

I soon realised the schedule was pretty full-on (no rest for the wicked!), but who could resist the brilliant ski programme led by William and Janie? We never lunched in the same restaurant, and rarely went down the same run, covering most of the fabulous resort.

We were a lively team and integrated perfectly: the "Yorkshire ladies", the "Pinot Grigio girls", the "extreme skiers", the "splinter group", the fearless duo Sadie and Caryl and many other characters.

Gilbert and Brian, the extreme skiers (see picture), took four guides and skins to walk up mountains to find the big powder. Unfortunately on the first T-bar towards those heady heights, Brian managed to come off – leaving Gilbert perched on the other side! Brian hung on with one hand right to the top, how he managed this we will never know, but hold on he did. Goodness knows what the guides thought – en route to extreme conditions, their clients were defeated by the lift.

I took out Oliver Kinsey (from the Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club) on one of these T-bars; we were discussing a tricky hand, and I was so "absorbed" I lost my balance. In fact I came off quite a few – I noticed by the end I wasn't the first to be selected to share a ride! The unluckiest member must, however, have been Lucille Taylor; she lost wallet, skis, luggage... all of which were found, with Lucille's good humour intact throughout.

We had so many laughs and happy times – right from the great start to our adventure, the superb drinks party hosted by Norma in her wonderful apartment. We had winners and losers at the bridge table, but Andrew Gray Muir came out as the champion of the duplicate sessions, and our improver of the week was Joan Cundall. I hope I get the chance to co host another group – it was brilliant...



Gilbert Chalk and Brian Marcel



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Photos



Alice Sheldon + baby Anna



James Mates



Virginia Bredin



Raymond Zelker



Ivor Cooper



Tony Kaye



Gilly Cardiff



Caroline Assheton



Annie Allen

ARBC

Bridge Holiday Programme

Dear ARBC Members,

As I write, the snowdrops are out and the daffodils are growing; we have been battered by strong winds and it seemed to rain for all of January. We recently had a cold snap where temperatures were as low as -6, even when I drove to Harrogate on several mornings. However this inclement weather has been perfect for our favourite pastime....Bridge! Whereas many Bridge Clubs are suffering because of rude behaviour and the internet exodus, there is a growing demand for fun and friendly Bridge Clubs, such as ARBC and Yorkshire Bridge, who aren't governed by draconian Bridge laws, or tolerate bad behaviour. The most common expression amongst my Yorkshire clients "I went to a Bridge Club once and never again!"



You won't be surprised to hear that ARBC Holidays are flourishing. We had our best ever ski trip to Klosters in January (see p 6); thank you everyone for making it such fun. I can confirm that we will make a long awaited return to the Hotel Alex in Zermatt in January 2009 and again, we have secured the Ski guide services of William and Janie Winter who have made the trip so special in the last two years.

We have had a late surge for our April mid-week break to the Millstream Hotel in Bosham, but there are one or two places left if you fancy some fun, informative Bridge in our favourite hotel. We will return to the Millstream for our regular Bridge weekend, 21st to 23rd November 2008. Please book early as this weekend is always full.

I am very much looking forward to the June Mediterranean cruise, where I will be assisted by Lorna Heaton, who was such a wonderful assistant in Klosters. This cruise is fully booked, but please register interest with Mundy Cruising for the 2009 cruise to the Norwegian Fjords, as numbers are limited.

Looking ahead to September 2009, Andrew and I are delighted to announce a return to Lake Maggiore in the Italian Lakes. Our trip in 2005 was our best ever summer trip, so it was clear to return to the marvellous Regina Palace Hotel, overlooking the lake. This trip will include a couple of excursions where we sail round the lake, explore the islands and sample the local cuisine. There is also a fantastic golf course in the hills where I have fond memories of a last hole victory over my ex boss (completely forgotten ed.).

All of these holidays are open to friends of members who enjoy fun and relaxed Bridge; the standard is friendly Intermediate. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes

Jack, Annabel and Sophie

Contact: Jack Stocken
Mobile: 07775 892 720

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

ARBC Holidays

Norwegian Fjords Cruise

on Balmoral

28th June – 5th July 2009

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

The whole trip is wonderfully enhanced by the exclusive opportunity to enjoy bridge each day in the airy card room, hosted by Jack Stocken. 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.

Sun-28-Jun-09	Dover, England
Mon-29-Jun-09	AT SEA
Tue-30-Jun-09	Bergen, Hordaland, Norway
Wed-01-Jul-09	Olden, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway
Thu-02-Jul-09	Flåm, Sognefjord, Norway
Thu-02-Jul-09	Gudvangen, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway
Fri-03-Jul-09	Eidfjord, Hardangerfjord, Norway
Sat-04-Jul-09	AT SEA
Sun-05-Jul-09	Dover, England



We expect final fares and voyage details to be available soon. 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

Contact: Sharon Trigg
Tel: 020 7734 4404

Email: sharon@mundycruising.co.uk
www.arobson.co.uk/holidays.php3

Italian Lakes

Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa, overlooking Lake Maggiore

12th – 19th September 2009



We are delighted to return to this most charming location in Italy (see front cover). As usual, Jack will be in charge of both the Bridge and holiday organisation.

The hotel has marvellous lakeside views, acclaimed menus combining international cuisine with local traditional Piedmont dishes. The wine cellar offers a vast selection of Italian and international wines.

We are organising two excursions, one to the Borromean Islands, which will include lunch in a delightful restaurant on the Isola dei Pescatori ("Fishermen's Island") and visits to the two Palaces and botanical gardens on the other islands. The other will be to Lake Orta, a small lake a short distance from Stresa. On Lake Orta we will be visiting the 4th Century Basilica on the Island of Saint Giulio. Lunch will be eaten in a charming restaurant in the town of Orta, on the lake.

There are seven excellent golf courses within a few kilometres of Stresa, and tennis and swimming are available at the Regina Palace. There is also a new indoor swimming pool and fitness centre.

There will be a tuition session each day (5pm-7pm) and a gentle Duplicate after dinner (9pm – 11pm). The standard, as always, is friendly Intermediate.

At this early stage, please register your interest with Jack.

Contact: Jack Stocken
Mobile: 07775 892 720

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

ARBC Holidays

Millstream Weekend

Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd November 2008

Jack is delighted to be 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. Please book early as it is always full.

We have only two or three spaces left for the Millstream Midweek break, 8th-11th April 2008. Please contact Jack ASAP if you would like to come.



Prices from £359

Zermatt Ski Trip

Saturday 24th to 31st January 2009

We are delighted to be returning to the Hotel Alex in Zermatt for our annual ski trip, which was such a popular destination three years ago. Jack, assisted by Lorna, will be hosting an informative and entertaining Bridge programme, suitable for ALL levels. 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.

Hotel Alex facilities include a heated swimming pool and tennis court, both indoors, a sauna, a fitness area and also body massages and solarium (not included).



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**

Photos



Dickie Darzi and Benjamin



Rachel Gasser, Marie Carmedy, Jeff Thomas



Caroline Macphail and Felicity Clark



Cherry Harris and Catherine Stewart-Liberty



Edward James-Moore, Amy Bridgewood



Janet Procter, Noelle Chase, Phillippa Llewellyn, Sarah Morley



Ian Macintosh, Rosanna de Lisle, Alice Copcoat, Carla Bell



Victoria Nicholl, Carla Matthews, Caspar Hill, Harry Bloomfield



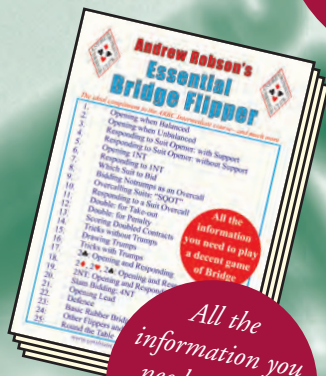
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Stop Press

Congratulations to our own Nick and Richard. Their partnership has began 2008 with a bang, with a memorable "double" of National Bridge events, winning both the National Men's Pairs, and National Masters Pairs.

Read Andrew weekly in the Country Life Magazine



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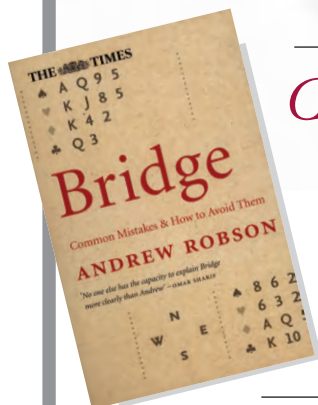
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Children's Bridge Courses

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday* 25th, 26th and 27th March

***morning only**

We will be running children's Bridge again this Easter. 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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A game of Bridge whiles away the hours

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Gives comfort and success to all who play.

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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

13th March	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm-10.45pm
8th - 11th April	Millstream Midweek Break	
25th - 27th March	Children's Courses (<i>see opposite page</i>)	
10th April	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm-10.45pm
16th April	Open evening	6.00pm-7.15pm
16th April	Taster Session	6.30pm – 7.45pm
15th May	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm-10.45pm
2nd - 11th June	Mediterranean Cruise	
6th June	Simultaneous Pairs (world)	Starts at 1.00pm
3rd July	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm-10.45pm
17th September	Open evening	6.00pm-7.15pm
17th September	Taster Session	6.30pm – 7.45pm
9th October	Simultaneous Pairs	7.30pm-10.45pm
21st - 23rd November	Millstream Weekend	
24th - 31st January 2009	Ski Trip to Zermatt	
28th June - 5th July 2009	Norwegian Fjords Cruise	
12th - 19th September 2009	Trip to Italian Lakes	



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