

Other news

Keith Cornish and Roger Taylor were 2nd in the Doncaster Swiss Pairs. Your editor won the Dunoon Congress Championship Pairs.

Back at the club, congratulations to Laura Hadfield Teams winners David Fletcher, Raphael Grossman, Arthur Hughes and Keith Cornish, and Rodger Mixed Pivot Teams winners Pat Powell, Margaret Johnson, Ian Johns and Mike Pomfrey.

In a handover that might have been missed if you'd have blinked, Rob Turner has taken over Chairmanship of the League Operating Group, LOG, from Raphael Grossman. Raphael remains on the group (he wasn't going to escape that easily!) with Peter Stubbs and myself with new recruits, Dan Sequerra and Janet Hempson.

Forthcoming events at the club:

- Wed 3 March – Mens and ladies Pairs – rescheduled from January (Also Open Pairs)
- Thur 4 March – Mixed Pairs. (Also Open pairs)
- Fri 12 March – Mather Individual. (Also Open Pairs)
- Mon 29 March – Butler Pairs – Session 1
- Thur 1 April – Easter Swiss Pairs – Please note revised start time of 6.45pm
- Fri 2 April – The club will be closed this day only for Easter
- Mon 12 April – Butler Pairs – Session 2
- Mon 19 April – LOG “Intercity” teams Jamboree.
- Mon 26 April – Pro-Am Pairs – Session 3 (Date to be confirmed – see notice board and web site)
- Tue 27 April – Vice Chairman’s teams
- Mon 10 May – Butler Pairs – Session 3
- Mon 17 May – Pro-Am Pairs – Session 4
- Tue 25 May – Nancy Campfield Swiss Teams – Start time 6.45 – Please note change of date

Dave Robinson now officially Sheffield’s top player!

The latest Gold Point list, which is to the end of 2009, has been published on the EBU web site. It shows that for the first time since the beginning of the scheme, Graham Jepson has been deposed as Sheffield’s top player. Dave Robinson is ranked the third strongest player in Yorkshire behind only Sandra Penfold and Sarah Teshome. The Sheffield players in the National Gold Point ranking lists are:

122 Dave Robinson	309 Baz Caygill	646 Keith Cornish	907 Roman Gembicki
127 Graham Jepson	342 Richard Pike	669 Mike Pomfrey	1077 Rod Hose
144 Sandy Davies	445 David Waxman	714 Roger Taylor	1133 Ian Grant
153 Tom Gisborne	509 Ian Johns	740 David Banks	1133 Julie Grant
169 David Musson	541 David Fletcher	776 Frank Littlewood	1244 Stuart Fletcher
291 Martin Cantor	575 Pete Waterman	852 Tom Rainforth	

Graham does, however, retain his position as Sheffield’s only Premier Grand Master. Sheffield’s strength-in-depth of experience is evident from the numbers that have accumulated more than 75 Green Points:

Premier Grand Masters:	Graham Jepson
Grand Masters:	Sandy Davies, David Waxman, Tom Gisborne, Richard Pike, Keith Cornish, Mike Pomfrey, David Musson, Frank Littlewood, David Banks
Premier Life Masters:	Raphael Grossman, Dave Robinson, Martin Cantor
Life Masters:	Barrie Partridge, Mary Whyms, Rob Turner, Jean Stevenson, Roger Taylor, Pete Waterman, Tim Smith, Baz Caygill, Barry Cruddis, Shirley Morrisroe
Premier National Masters:	Anne Boot, Rod Hose, Arthur Hughes, Ernie Barlow, Ian Grant, Ian Johns, Julie Grant
National Masters:	Jawaidi Hasan, Gill Woodcock

Deep Finesse provides another problem!

	♠ 8 4 3 2		
	♥ J 9 7		
	♦ K 7 6 2		
	♣ J 6		
♠ A Q		♠ K 9 7 6 5	
♥ A 10 5 4 3		♥ 8	
♦ Q J 10 9 4 3		♦ A 8 5	
♣ --		♣ A 9 4 3	
	♠ J 10		
	♥ K Q 6 2		
	♦ --		
	♣ K Q 10 8 7 5 2		

My team gained 10 IMPs on this board in a Waddington League match that we won by 8 IMPs. South dealt (with NS Vulnerable) and opened 1♣. My partner bid 2♣ and, after North passed, I leapt to 4♠, which became the final contract.

South led ♣K and I took with ♣A, North fortunately not unblocking ♣J. I cashed ♠AQ noting ♠J10 drop and crossed to ♦A, South discarding, to cash ♠K9. When I now gave up a diamond, the clubs were blocked and I emerged with 10 tricks, opponents at the other table stopping in 4♦+2.

It was when I got home and looked at the hand records that I saw that I could have made 11 tricks, according to Deep Finesse, though West could only make 10 tricks. (Deep Finesse is a program that analyses what can be made with perfect play and defence with knowledge of the whole layout by all players. This is known as "Double-Dummy".)

It took me a while to work out how to make 11 tricks, but it was quite neat when I eventually got it. It's easy with a spade lead, but try it with a heart lead. The clue from the fact that West can't make 11 tricks is that you don't want South to ruff a diamond.

	♠ K 8 6 5 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ K 8 4		
	♣ K 9 8 7		
♠ --		♠ 7	
♥ J 9 8 7 6 4		♥ 5	
♦ Q J 10 9		♦ A 7 6 5 3 2	
♣ Q 10 4		♣ A J 6 5 2	
	♠ A Q J 10 9 4 3		
	♥ K Q 10 3 2		
	♦ --		
	♣ 3		

While, you're thinking about that, and to show that I am just as capable of bidding errors as my partners, here's one at Butler Pairs where I was sat North, vulnerable against not. East dealt and passed. South opened 2♦, Benji. West interfered with 3♥ and I passed. Partner bid 3♠ and I could see \$\$\$ in front of my eyes! I bid 4NT, Roman Key Card Blackwood, and after the 5♦ response, which had to be four Key Cards after an opening 2♦ (hadn't it?) I clicked on the 7♠ bid. My adding up of Key Cards was exposed as deficient as East's loud (ok, it was on the Internet, but it seemed loud to me!) double finalised the auction!

West led ♥7 and at Trick 2, ♠K cleared the trumps. Partner now put East in the spotlight by leading ♦4 from table. If declarer has ♦Q singleton and no clubs, then rising with ♦A is right, and so East rose with ♦A, a decision that cost around 30 IMPs. I bid 'em and partner plays 'em! Incidentally, had the event been played under EBU regulations, the 2♦ bid would be on the border of being considered insufficiently strong for a Benji 2♦ opening.

Back to the Waddington Double-Dummy problem! Take ♥A, ruff a heart, cash ♣A, ruff a club with ♠Q, cash ♠A, ruff a heart, cash ♠K and ♠9 throwing hearts and then ♦A. There are four cards left.

South has no spades or diamonds so is out the picture. West has ♦QJ109 and North has ♦K76 and the only remaining trump. East leads a diamond and is now irrelevant. North cannot stop the West hand taking two diamond tricks for 11 altogether.