

Issue 57  
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2025

# WGC Bridge Club at KGV Playing Fields, WGC

## Andrew Robson Charity Day

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**£2,850**

*raised for the Isabel  
Hospice!*

*Hurrah!*

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Well, what a smashing day we had. The event was attended by 92 folks, mostly but not entirely from our own club; there were also visitors from Brickendon Grange and Bush Hill Park Golf Club. Andrew was on top form, taking three topics: Take-out Double, Stayman and When to Lead a Trump. And, even though you think you know all there is to know about those topics, Andrew always has a new light to shine on them. Lunch was fantastic; the staff went out of their way to ensure we had a fabulous meal in the middle of it, and we were joined by some of the Level 4 folk who had had an equally good morning playing duplicate. Brickendon Grange is a super venue in a fabulous location; we will be back!

The raffle was extremely well supported – thank you to all those people who generously contributed some lovely prizes and to all those who bought loads of tickets. Cheryl Cusack from the Isabel Hospice came along to explain some of the work that the Hospice is doing as well as explaining some of the difficulties it is facing in these tricky times and no doubt she will be as delighted as we were to have raised £2,850 to donate to this worthy cause. Well done, everybody!

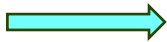


## Convention Card

Just a gentle reminder that all pairs should have an up-to-date Convention Card at the table to which their oppos can refer if they wish.

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*A couple of reminders  
from our Deputy Chief  
TD, Satish Panchamia*



*It's worth reminding  
yourself from time to  
time of what you should  
and shouldn't do; it saves  
a punch up at the table☺*

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## Playing Bridge in Tempo at the Table

During the auction or play, all calls and card plays should be made without undue emphasis, hesitation, or haste. The only exceptions are the declarer's first play from the dummy or third hand's first play. The general principle is to maintain a consistent tempo.

### **What Does Playing Bridge in Tempo Mean?**

In bridge, tempo refers to the rhythm of calls and plays over multiple tricks. Making a call or play too quickly can signal confidence, while excessive hesitation can suggest uncertainty. Any irregular tempo, whether intentional or not, can convey unauthorised information to a partner. This can create ethical dilemmas for players who must ensure they do not benefit from such information. While there are situations where break in tempo is necessary, such as an unexpected development in the auction or play, players must recognise that their hesitation signals difficulty. Their partner, however, is not entitled to act on this information. In cases of doubt, the partner should actively choose a call or play not suggested by the unauthorised information.

### **Am I Not Allowed to Stop and Think?**

Of course, thinking is sometimes necessary, particularly when faced with an unexpected bid or play. However, good players anticipate potential scenarios in advance, enabling them to make decisions with minimal variation in tempo. While perfect consistency is not always possible, striving for steady tempo minimises the risk of conveying unauthorised information.

### **What Constitutes Inappropriate Communication?**

Partners should not communicate through:

- The way calls or plays are made
- Extraneous remarks, gestures, or movements
- The timing of questions asked (or not asked)
- Special emphasis, tone of voice, alerts, or explanations (or the lack thereof).

### **What Should I Do If My Partner Breaks Tempo?**

If your partner hesitates or breaks tempo, consider the following:

- Ask yourself: What are my logical alternative calls or plays at this point? What would I have done if my partner had maintained a normal tempo?
- Reflect on whether the unauthorised information suggests a particular call or play.
- Choose among the logical alternatives not influenced by the unauthorised information.

### **Other Misleading Actions**

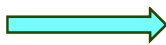
If a player makes misleading remarks, hesitates without a justifiable decision (e.g. when playing a singleton in the suit played with undue hesitation), or otherwise disrupts the normal flow of the game, the tournament director may adjust the score if the opponents are disadvantaged.

### **What If My Partner Regularly Hesitates or Plays Slowly?**

Learning to play in tempo is essential. If a player's irregular tempo influences the auction or play, the director may adjust the score in favour of the non-offending side. This is not a matter of fairness or friendliness but a strict application of bridge laws to ensure an equitable game. If a player receives unauthorised information from a partner, they must take all reasonable steps to avoid benefiting from it.

This article provides general guidance but is not exhaustive. When issues arise at the table, the director will assess the situation and determine the necessary actions. If you need further clarification, please speak with one of our club directors, in particular Steve Hull or Satish Panchamia, our Chief and Deputy Chief Tournament Directors.

And what's our policy on Simple One Level Overcalls where there is an exceptionally light HCP?



Here it is!

## One-Level Overcalls (where there is an exceptionally light HCP)

A review of EBU regulations confirmed that although there is no minimum high card point count needed for a one-level overcall in the Blue Book, the club can, nevertheless, align its policy with the EBU regulation which is to require the disclosure on the system card of an exceptionally light one-level overcall agreed as part of the partnership agreement/understanding. So, what should be the point range for a one-level overcall that would be considered by the WGCBC committee as an “exceptionally light” overcall? The WGCBC committee decided that it should be an HCP of between zero and 5 points. This decision was taken to enhance clarity and fairness in both RealBridge online and face-to- face play.

### Policy Guidelines for WGCBC Events

**A. Face-to-Face (F2F) and RealBridge Events Where System Cards are Mandatory:** Any partnership agreement, as above, must be on the System Card and also be placed on the front of the System Card under the heading of “OTHER ASPECTS OF SYSTEM WHICH OPPONENTS SHOULD NOTE.”

**B. Normal RealBridge Events Where System Cards are not Mandatory:** The players must pre-announce their system at the start of each round. This includes any partnership agreement/understanding which could be considered as an “exceptionally light overcall” as outlined above. This information should be shared on the chat screen before the play begins.

WGCBC directors will post the following announcement on RealBridge before each session: *Please post a summary of your system in the chat screen, including anything unusual that your opponents need to know*

## Ask Arni

And I did! This one was from Mon 3 Feb, on RealBridge. Remember Board 19? It was one of those where whichever pair got the contract, scored higher than other pairs who let the oppos grab it. NS can make 4♦ or 4♣ (so even doubled, the sacrifice to play in 5 or 6 was worth it), and EW can make 6♥ or 7♠. Here it is on the left

Dear Arni

Now, board 19. Cherie and I were playing Tony and Pak-Hin. And South opened 5D (NV). I think he was the only one to have done that. As West, and vulnerable, I over-called 5♠ and that was the end of the auction. We scored pretty well, but, obviously, 7♠ was on. You were allowed to play in 6♦\* - and I must admit that I might have hoped E would take it to 6♠ for us, given my confident overcall at 5♠. But, given that opening bid, what do EW do?

Xxxx

And Arni's reply? (Sorry, Big Sis!):

Hi Jan

Think Cherie was at fault. If I heard that Auction 5♦ - 5♠, think I would seriously be considering 7♠ on the assumed ♦ lead. Guess she was just not up to it. . . . . ;) Tee hee! Arni

## Special events at WGC



On Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> we have the final of the Turnbull Cup. This is the club pairs competition and as previously announced every pairs competition, except for gentle duplicate etc., were qualifying heats. So, look back through your results and if you scored 53% or more you qualified as a pair.

On Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> we have a new event. It is an invitation event so anyone can ask anyone to play. The only stipulation is that you must not have played with each other 3 times or more in the previous 12 months. This competition replaces the previously held Ladies' invitation and Gentlemen's invitation events.

Both these events will be held on RealBridge. Please support these events if you are able and if they seem popular, more events can be tried next year.

## Our Days Out

Now, you know I love a day out, and I think lots of you do, too. The good news is - we have a few coming up this year, and, what's more, three of 'em are in May. Hurrah! KGV is unavailable to us on two of them (it's a polling station as you know, and occasionally, there is an all-day Bowls match) so, nothing daunted, and turning a sow's ear into a silk purse, I have managed to secure some attractive alternatives. In order of appearance, they are as follows:



### Bridge and Lovely Lunch at the Waggoners, Ayot Green AL6 9AA

**Thu 1 May 10am start      £2.50 Table money + £16.50 Lunch = £19**

It's polling day, so KGV will be unavailable. This session, therefore, replaces the usual one. Laurent is very happy to have us all back again at his lovely country pub with its unrivalled French cuisine. It happens to be one of my very favourite local hostelrys, and Laurent is a wonderful host. We'll enjoy the usual Thursday morning game of duplicate, followed by a simple but delicious three-course lunch:

#### Starter

*Pannacotta d'asperges vertes et huile de cantal*

*New season asparagus panna cotta with cantal cheese*

*Saumon fume d'Ecosse, crème fraiche et blinis*

*Scottish smoked salmon, crème fraiche and blinis*

#### Main

*Supreme de poulet, pommes d'arphin et broccoli violet (GF)*

*Chicken breast with rosti potato @ purple sprouting broccoli*

*Risotto aux petit pois*

*Pea and Parmesan Risotto*

#### Dessert

*Gateau au chocolat moelleux, glace vanille*

*Dark chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream*

*Crumble de Rubarbe et glace vanille*

*Rhubarb crumble and vanilla ice cream*

Please note that whoever you sign up alongside will be sharing your table for lunch; at the end of the game, all will return to their original places. North/South will be stationary throughout, and have to manage the tablets and scoring, so bear that in mind as you decide whether you want to sit NS or EW. Additionally, we are asking North to have downloaded the BriAn Bridge Client app as a back-up in case of iffy Wi-Fi, so if you are signing up as North, please make sure you have done that (or sign up as South, or E/W). Level 4 systems, as usual, won't be allowed on this Thursday session. The Waggoners is wonderfully bijou, so there is a strict limit on the number of participants; get your name down quickly if you fancy it. I'd also like a couple of reserves, if there is anybody out there who fancies a last-minute game and a free lunch and you'll see the space to pop your name down at the end of the list. If you simply want to play the game and not have lunch, then pop your details down under Reserves and I will accommodate you if I possibly can, but I will prioritise those who want the whole package. **(Members only, for this one and you have already to be one)**



## The Barn Theatre

Barn Close,  
WGC AL8 6ST

*Free parking at the theatre, but watch the parking restrictions on surrounding roads during the morning*

### Bridge and Buns at the Barn Theatre Tues 13 May 2pm – 5pm £5.00

This will be a gentle duplicate session, primarily aimed at all our students and celebrating the finish of the courses, but don't think that that excludes you – it doesn't. Everybody is welcome. We'll take the bridge at a relaxed pace, have a tea break halfway through, and hope that the participants bring enough cake for everybody! (There will be a prize for the best baker!) Unlimited tea and coffee provided as part of your table money. All we ask you to do is to sign up on the sheets provided on the website. As usual, we try to keep NS stationary, but they do have to manage the tablets and table, so bear that in mind when signing up.

### Duplicate Bridge (Level 4) at the Barn Wed 14 May 10am – 1pm £2.50

KGV is unavailable that day, so this session will replace the usual one at KGV. Free and unlimited tea and coffee.

NB please note that there is a public car park in front of the building. Parking there is free of charge. If it is full, there are further spaces to the rear of the building, but if you do end up parking in the road, there are parking restrictions, so do read the signs carefully.

### And... **RESERVE THE DATE** . . . . Thursday 23 October

WGCBC is 90 years old this year! A real old girl, but she deserves a birthday bash of some sort. For now, all I have done is booked a venue; everything else is yet to be decided, but don't be buzzing off to Barbados on 23 Oct – save that date in your diary! More news later – but it's going to be exciting.



## Masterpoint Promotions

Congratulations to the following members. Well done y'all!

Robert Keech	3 Star Master
John Hanlon	3 Star Regional Master
Peter Verkroost	1 Star Premier Tournament Master
Irene Pickering	2 Star Master
Jack Cooper	Master
Katie Davis	Club Master
Roger Butterworth	Local Master
Ali Foots	Club Master
Kevin Hayes	Local Master
Ben Tagg	Area Master
Kit Mee Lim	Area Master



## WGC(A team) NICKO Match vs Faringdon (A)

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> round match was against a team that we did not know, but presumably they didn't know what to expect of us either. Hoping for a nice quiet start to get us into the match on **Board 1**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in hand, I was dealt:

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

And the bidding?:

P 1♦ P 2NT (*showing balanced 16+*)  
P 3♣ P 3♥

(*both these bids showed real suits*)

I'm expecting there to be a slam but how do I progress? I really want to bid my shape out, but Arni is likely to take 4♦ as self-agreeing diamonds and to be Minorwood (Minor suit RKC Blackwood). I don't really want this as I have a spade void, and I need the ♥A rather than the ♠A. I think a jump to 4♠ would be exclusion Blackwood (i.e. not interested in ♠A), but fear that Arni will take me to be 0454 distribution and will insist on playing in hearts. Hence, I try 4♣ which I think Arni took as Minorwood for ♣'s and he bid 4♠. At this stage I'm not certain what the 4♠ showed (probably 2 aces) so I just guessed to bid 6♦.

Arni held:

♠ A K 6 2

♥ K Q 6 5

♦ A 8

♣ J 8 2

Fortunately, the opposition were not helped at all by our bidding and looked no further than ♠J109 to 6 for their opening lead. So the ♥ loser went straight away and, although I failed to guess that there was ♦ Qxx onside, the slam was safe. At the other table they bid to 6♣ and on the same lead, made the extra trick by guessing the diamonds correctly.

Neither Arni nor I shone on **Board 4:**

Arni (1<sup>st</sup> in hand) at game all held:

♠ A K J 9 2

♥ J 6

♦ K Q 6 4

♣ 10 8

Whilst I held:

♠ Q 8

♥ A 9 8 3 2

♦ 7 3

♣ K 9 6 4

The bidding started:

1♠    2♥    P    P

?

Arni has several choices here:

**P** – which was chosen at the other table and resulted in 2 off.

2♠ – which at least is a decent suit but probably should show 6.

3♦ – is he really strong enough to bid this?

X - which he chose. This isn't a disaster.....yet!

Now I have several choices:

**P** - for penalties, works on this hand but Arni's ♥Jx is very valuable and unexpected.

2♠ - probably best as Arni will almost certainly have five spades unless he is 4333, which is very unlikely as I have five hearts and the overcaller at least 5.

2NT – Seems unlikely to work unless Arni has a big hand.

3♣ - which was my actual choice and got us into the worst contract. To be fair it seems likely that Arni will have at least three and if he has four it turns out to be a good choice. Anyway, this was a disaster and went 4 off to lose a total of 600 on the board (-12IMPs).

2 boards later, I fell from grace by thinking the hand was easy and played too quickly without really concentrating.

1<sup>st</sup> in hand V vs NV I held:

♠ Q J

♥ 6

♦ A Q J 8 5 4 2

♣ J 6 5

Arni's hand:

♠ 3

♥ J 9 8 5

♦ K 10

♣ A K Q 10 8 3

I decided (like the opposition) to open this 3♦ and Arni raised to 5♦.

I received a small heart lead to the K, the ♠A was cashed and the ♥4 was continued. Could hearts be 7-1? Well, I have enough high trumps to ruff high so I ruff with the ♦J and the next hand follows with ♥3. I now led a small diamond to ♦3, ♦K and ♠2. After cashing ♦10, I can't get back to my hand without risking a ruff in either clubs or hearts. I said earlier that I received a small heart lead which is where my carelessness cost me. Which heart was it? It could have been the ♥2, in which case a heart overruff is extremely unlikely, or was it the ♥7 in which case I am likely to be overruffed. I didn't really think clearly enough as the other hand probably wouldn't have passed 5♦ with ♥AKQxxx and a decent number of spades headed by the A. Anyway, I led a club to my J and got ruffed. A spade to the K followed by another club ruff left me 3 off in a contract which I really should have made. Luckily, I was saved complete embarrassment by our wonderful teammates (Roy and Karima). Their opponents didn't bid 5♦ over the 3♦ opening and they managed to get to 4♣ on their combined 16 count.

<b>Dealer: EAST, Vulnerability: EW</b>	
<b>North</b>	
♠ A K 10 8 2	
♥ A K 10 4	
♦ -	
♣ 9 7 4 2	
<b>West (Arni)</b>	<b>East (Tim)</b>
♠ 3	♠ Q J
♥ J 9 8 5	♥ 6
♦ K 10	♦ A Q J 8 5 4 2
♣ A K Q 10 8 3	♣ J 6 5
<b>South</b>	
♠ 9 7 6 5 4	
♥ Q 7 3 2	
♦ 9 7 6 3	
♣ -	

← The full hand was:  
 With the 2 voids, 12 tricks make in spades and double dummy 5♦ can always be set, using the 2 major suit entries for club ruffs. We gained 5 IMPs rather than 14.

The rest of the first set (12 boards) had quite a few smallish swings both ways and we found we were 4IMPs down at half time. The second half of the match started more quietly than the first, but on board 15 I was surprised when what appeared to be a forcing bid was passed, the opponents playing in 3♠ + 1, whilst Roy and Karima played in 4♣ and made 11 tricks.

Not much seemed to have happened on the next few boards until Board 21.

Arni and I bid to 6♦ which proved to have chances but was by no means solid.

These were the 2 hands:

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

♠	
♥ 6	
♦ A	
♣ J 7	
	♠
	♥ Q x x
	♦
	♣ Q
♠	
♥ A K 2	
♦	
♣ 8	

The ♦3 was led through the ♦AQ and having avoided the club lead I just needed the ♠A onside. I immediately led a spade to the ♠Q but this lost and ♣K was returned. It is starting to look a bit hopeless now. Adding up the tricks I have 5 diamonds and a spade ruff, the ♠K and ♣A which makes 8 tricks. 4 more tricks are needed. The only way I could think of was if the ♥Q is onside that is 3 more tricks and if that hand has 4 hearts plus ♣Q (almost certain after the ♣K play) when I play off all the trumps ending in dummy, the end position will be: ←

On the last ♦ the next hand has to keep the ♣Q, and therefore discards a heart and now the ♥AK2 in my hand will bring in 3 tricks and the slam. Sadly the ♥Q was offside and there were 4 in that hand anyway so I went 2 off rather than 1, so we lost 3 IMPs as the other pair had also bid 6♦.

The next hand, uncharacteristically, Arni opened 3♠ whilst on the other table, the opponents opened 4 and 9 tricks proved to be the limit. That was 6 IMPs back to the good guys!

Board 23, both teams bid and made 3NT which depended on a 3-3 break.

So, it came down to the very last board. At this stage we did not know the score and I felt that it probably depended on whether the opponents had also gone down in the diamond slam.

I held:

♠ K 10  
♥ 7 4  
♦ J 10 9 7 5 2  
♣ Q 6 2

They bid:

1♥ 2♣  
3NT P

I led ♦J and dummy turned up with:

♠ A 8 2  
♥ Q 9 5  
♦ 8 4  
♣ A J 5 4 3

Arni won the ♦A and returned the ♦6 with declarer contributing the ♦K and ♦Q. Declarer now played 4 rounds of hearts playing ♥AKJ10 from his hand so I had to find 2 discards. One ♦ is easy but after that it is more difficult. He already has 5 tricks, there is the ♠A in dummy so if he has ♣Kx it looks as if he has an easy 11 tricks with ♣Q finesse working. If I discard two diamonds, even if I make my ♣Q we still only have 4 tricks and I will probably be forced to play away from my ♠K. If I discard a spade my ♠K will come down and declarer almost certainly has ♠Q on the bidding. So in desperation I discarded ♣2. This at least gave declarer something to think about. Fortunately, he had ♣K107, so with a 2-way club finesse, he now must decide whether I am a lunatic or not. As I said initially the teams didn't know each other so he had insufficient evidence to doubt my sanity and eventually played a club to the ♣A and one back to the ♣10 and my ♣Q and 2 ♦ winners for 1 down. Karima also played in 3NT and having been allowed to win the first diamond, immediately took the club finesse the right way, and quickly wrapped up 11 tricks giving us 11 IMPS.

The final score was 20 IMPS to us, so if the finesses had both been taken the other way we would have lost by 2 IMPs, and I would have felt really sick about losing the extra 3 IMPs on the diamond slam hand. Sometimes things just go well!

**Tim Nash**

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## WGC Bridge Club

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I'm always delighted to receive any articles from you – send 'em in!