



An intellectual game

By Paul M Levy

Bridge evolved during the 19th century. Like whist, it is a partnership game with two pairs of players pitting their wits against each other.

Officially recognised here just over a century ago, Bridge developed in America between the two world wars to something like the game we play now. British experts improved certain aspects of bidding (the 'code' or language of Bridge), and throughout the British Isles we now teach beginners the bidding system called Acol.

The game has produced its fair share of controversy. A lady in America is said to have shot her husband during a game because she objected to the way he bid his hand.

The intellectual appeal of Bridge has attracted many famous players. Egyptian film star, Omar Sharif, is widely known as a celebrated master of the game. These days Bridge

crosses up in many areas and times of our lives: it is played in schools and universities (there is a varsity match every year), there is an annual match between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, businesses run bridge clubs as part of their social activities and it is widely believed to help delay the onset of senility in older folk.

Bridge is a thoroughly absorbing, intellectual exercise and, perhaps best of all, it is a wonderful tool for opening up players' social lives.

Paul teaches bridge at all levels at The Institute, 11 High Road, East Finchley. For further information telephone: 020 8829 4141 or e-mail office@hgsi.ac.uk.

OBITUARY

Mrs Doris (Dolly) Jackson

Dolly Jackson, a lifelong resident of East Finchley, passed away on 22 February, not long before her 94th birthday. One of seven children, she was born on 11 March in Avention Road, Market Place, and attended Holy Trinity School in East End Road, which now houses the Bobath Centre. Dolly and her siblings were the first of several generations of the family to attend Holy Trinity School.



Dolly Jackson. Photo courtesy Margaret Cartwright

A popular and well-known member of the community, she lived for many years in Kitchener Road with her husband Bill (Buster) who was a local coal man and their daughter Pat. The couple moved to Homefield Gardens, N2, in their retirement years.

Mrs Jackson leaves her daughter Pat, two grand-

children and five great grand children. Her nephew Michael conducted the funeral service at Marylebone (East Finchley) Cemetery, East End Road. She always loved *THE ARCHER* and her niece Margaret told us that Dolly took a copy with her.

Letters

Memories of Martin School

Dear Editor,

In your February issue, you had an article about memories of the Martin School. I went to the Martin and Mrs Ellen was the headmistress when I was there. She was very nice although I did have the cane once from her.

I am 71 years now. I was at the school when the war broke out and we were in the shelters more than in the classrooms.

I loved the sports days there and having the field by the school. I won a few races there, running and hurdles.

I have kept in touch with several of my school friends. Most of the teachers were getting on a bit - not like the teachers of today, most of whom look not much older than the pupils - and they were very strict with us, but they were happy days for all the things that seemed bad at the time.

**Yours faithfully,
Jean Swain (née Gale)
Figheldean, Salisbury, Wilts.**

Were we at the same meeting?

Dear Editor,

I was one of the 'chosen' residents of the polling district invited to the 'Leader Listens' meeting held in January, but I did not recognise Daphne Chamberlain's account of the meeting. Did we attend the same one?

The invitation was sent out to residents across the polling district, regardless of political persuasion, the only criteria being that they must be on the electoral roll for that ward. As the article states, Barnet Council said that the media were not invited, nor were ward councillors or residents from other districts. So why, I wonder, was the *ARCHER* writer there?

Councillor Freer explained that the purpose of such meetings was that they are intended for local residents to raise any issues or concerns they may have. In my view he answered all questions raised in an honest and open manner, maybe not always giving the answers people wanted to hear, but that is life.

The furore that took place at the start of the meeting only illustrates what could have taken place if the meeting was open to all. There was certainly an attempt by some people to engage in 'party political backbiting'.

Councillor McNeill would be perfectly well aware of the rules concerning such meetings and knew that he was not entitled to be present. There was no hidden agenda, the aim was to reach people who might want to raise issues of concern and get feedback.

**Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.**

Let's welcome this initiative

Dear Editor

I must complain about the carping and negative tone of Daphne Chamberlain's article about the Leader Listens meeting (*THE ARCHER*, March 2008). Considering the appalling weather on that particular evening the meeting was very well attended.

The issues were raised and questions asked in a very constructive and positive way by an audience who were well informed because they are the people living in the local area. A large number of items were covered and already residents have received a detailed summary of what was discussed and how issues will be dealt with. We should be welcoming this sensible and democratic initiative, not criticising it.

**Yours faithfully,
Graham Old
Park Farm Close, N2**

More facts, please

Dear Editor,

A number of people have commented on the leader article in the March issue. I must admit that I was very surprised, myself, that a very biased personal opinion was allowed such prominence - even the heading was contentious.

Surely *THE ARCHER* is supposed to be a non-political, independent paper. Personal opinions in the past have been given the 'soapbox' corner.

I am not a Tory supporter, but was invited to the meeting as a resident of the appropriate ward - unlike the writer. I have received a follow-up letter giving a full report of the meeting and it appears to have been very constructive. The article, however, seemed only to focus and comment on events before the actual meeting was under way.

In my view the article should have been given less prominence in the paper, been much shorter, more factual and less loaded with inappropriate activities which formed a very minor part of the proceedings.

I fear that you could lose readers and supporters if personal political/racial/religious views are allowed to take over and would suggest that a closer eye may be needed in the future to ensure that this does not happen.

**Yours faithfully,
Pamela Kent,
Hamilton Road, N2**

Editor's response

Thanks to everyone who wrote to The Archer regarding our coverage of the Leader Listens meeting in last month's issue. As a community newspaper we felt it was right to report the meeting because it covered issues affecting the whole of East Finchley, not just a single ward. Events at the meeting were there to be reported just as much as issues raised in the question and answer session. THE ARCHER has had no contact with any political party on this subject.

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