

## Club News Sheet – No. 129

Mon	18/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup>	Kenneth/David	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coenraad/Albert	57%
Wed	20/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry/John G	68%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mike/Phil	59%
Fri	22/4/05	1 <sup>st</sup>	Alex/Thorlief	68%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chuck/Monte	63%

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That's it for this week folks – the new-look news sheet? The rest is not part of the news sheet, but an explanation for everybody as to why I have not been my usual cheerful self recently. I believe that the whole club should be allowed to know what's going on and have a say in how the club should be run and what should or should not be in the news-sheets: -

### What should be in the news-sheets?

There were a number of interesting hands this week, especially on Friday, and I was asked numerous questions. But there is unfortunately on-going disagreement amongst the hierarchy of the club and I have decided not to write up any more hands unless the overwhelming majority of the club make their opinions clear (to the committee) – more of this in a minute.

Basically, the problems have been caused by two unruly players (I am choosing my words very carefully here and mean every word I say). The incident was fully reported in the last article of news-sheet 127 and I absolutely stand by every word I said. Paul (and I believe Chuck also) objected and I wrote my opinions again in detail with names in news-sheet 128. If you have not read these two news sheets, please do; I have made a few extra copies.

Now to start with, let's consider these two trouble-makers, Chuck and Paul(Irl). Chuck has already been suspended from the club twice and the last time he was thrown out (on a Friday) I politely told him that I had enjoyed partnering him but that he could not play at the club anymore - he had been abusive to two long-standing less experienced players (Don and Syd) and they refused to play at the club if Chuck was present.

Chuck's reaction was to storm into the room where all the other players were and give a speech full of 4 letter words about what sort of a person I was. And it did not end there! The following Monday he arrived at the club (despite being banned) and handed out leaflets to everybody in which he called me a sneak, cheat, tyrant and blatant liar. My reaction? In the next news-sheet I called him a cad. I also later went out of my way (once tempers has cooled a little) to have a word with Don and Syd to see if they were prepared to let Chuck back in. I guess we all make mistakes and I won't make that one again.

And Paul(Irl)? I said in news sheet 127 that I was 'disappointed' that he had behaved in this 'unsportsmanlike' manner for this club. That is my opinion (and the opinion of the vast majority of the club). He went ballistic and started shouting at me the next Monday. He had also previously been very abusive to Dave.

Anyway, these two troublemakers then went off to the committee and I received a lot of slack. I was even handed two A4 sheets of paper with a list of suggestions of things that I should not say in the news sheet. There were a number of points that I disagreed with, but in particular it was suggested that if somebody behaved badly or disobeyed the rules then I should write nothing but talk to them privately. I do take people aside repeatedly, but when it is something that may easily be repeated by another player (such as the failure to call attention to the revoke or the failure to correct partner's incorrect explanation at the right time (the two 'incidents' in the 'agro' articles of news sheet 127) - then I will mention the incident in the news sheet (no names – and note that there were no names in news sheet 127).

The news sheets are my personal opinions and if I say anything uncomplimentary about anyone you can rest assured it is one of our ½ dozen or so people 'on notice' (that is people who know that they will be suspended if they disregard a previous warning that I have given them). If people behave in a manner that I feel is not fitting for our club then I will say so in the news-sheet (but usually now not name them). That's what I've been doing for the last 2½ years and we have never had a problem like this before.

Anyway. I have had an enormous amount of support from numerous people - thank you Ursula, Stephen, Phil, Richard(USA), Mike, Jim and all the rest. But unfortunately it has not really affected anything. I am also repeatedly being congratulated by visitors for the news-sheets and the way the club is

run - Michael, Ole, Garry, Anne, Eileen, Lis & Finn, Gerard & Derek to name but a few that have *specifically* thanked me before they left.

**If you feel that news-sheets 127/128 are acceptable (or not) then please have a word with a committee member and give your opinion.**

Let's all hope that an opinion expressed by the vast majority of the club may be more influential and have more of an effect on the committee than that of two trouble-makers. And these two players are hardly in a position to tell me how to run a club - when they cannot even obey a simple Law like counting your cards and can complete a bidding sequence and start play with one holding 14 cards and the other 12!

So, that's it. I'm having a break (before I have a nervous breakdown?) and will not write any more meaningful news-sheets unless the majority of the club suggest to the committee that I should continue as normal and that the opinions of a minority of two should be totally ignored. I can only write a news-sheet if I am free to express my opinions; numerous restrictions would be like asking VanGough to paint a sunflower without using yellow paint. All news-sheet, news papers etc express the opinion of the reporters/editor. If you read the New York Times you will get a different view of the news that that given in a French or German newspaper – it's up to you who you believe is telling the 'truth'. And if you don't like my opinions in the news-sheet – then don't read it! I write the news-sheet; anybody else is free to write another and I have absolutely no objection. I will even publish any sensible article from anyone in my news sheet if they wish (I even received flack for doing just that when somebody *insisted* that I reproduce his article).

I agree with Jan that some articles that I believe belong in the news-sheet do not necessarily need to appear on the web site. Jan is obviously free to delete articles like this one before news-sheets go on the web.

Please let your opinion be heard and count - *Terry*