

# Top Table

# Tony Waterlow



**TONY WATERLOW** has won many of the national tournaments including the Spring Fours, Crockfords, the Brighton pairs and teams, and the Grand Master pairs. He represented England in the European Championship in the Open team in 2002 and 2008, and in the Senior team in 1999, 2001, 2004 and 2012. He has also played a number of Camrose matches in both Open and Seniors.

### When did you start playing bridge?

In 1960, while studying for my Chartered Accountant exams.

### How often / where do you play?

About once or twice a week, usually in London at TGR's, the Young Chelsea or Pinner Bridge Club, plus some UK and overseas tournaments.

### Do you always play with the same partners / team-mates? What do you expect of them?

I have two or three regular partners and team-mates – if I have not upset them! I prefer courtesy and little discussion at the table, plenty of analysis with a drink afterwards.

### What do you do for a living?

I was Financial Director and then MD and Chairman of a UK subsidiary of an American multi-national. Now retired.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

I have a fairly large collection. I much

prefer narrative to text-book style. I also recommend the monthly *Bridge World*; it's first class.

### What are your hobbies?

Reading, cricket, horse racing and bridge!

### What do you like and what would you change in bridge?

Bridge has given me great pleasure so there is not much that I would change. However, the problem of presenting the game on television has reduced sponsorship and stopped new and young recruits. Therefore I think that the EBU should cosset their old-age members! As regards the future of the game, internet bridge is possibly a huge growth area.

### What's the bridge success (so far) closest to your heart?

The silver medal I won with Paul Hackett in the 1995 European Pairs championship in Rome.

⇒ you are the declarer in a 4♥ contract. West leads the king of diamonds. How should you plan the play?

Counting your winners, you would see three spades and one diamond. Five extra tricks can be made through length in trumps and a further trick can be made by ruffing a club in the dummy. It may therefore seem natural to win the first trick with the ace of diamonds and start drawing trumps. While this would lead to ten winners given time, the defenders will first have the chance to win four tricks – one heart, one diamond and two clubs. Given that it will be necessary to lose the lead in

hearts, it is important to first consider how many potential losers declarer has at this point. Once you have noted the possibility of losing four tricks, it is essential to consider ways of disposing of a potential loser before losing the lead. If declarer first plays on spades, there is the small risk that the defenders will ruff in, but if spades divide no worse than 5-3, you can cash the ace of spades, then cross to the king of spades and cash the spade queen, throwing the two of diamonds. Having discarded the potential diamond loser, it is now safe to lead trumps, as the defenders can now win just one heart and two clubs. □

## CAPTION COMPETITION



All I said was: 'Thank you, partner!'

THE winner of our June competition, with the caption above, is Peter Aston of Ross on Wye, who will receive an elegant bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 21). Other excellent captions were: *And another thing: ruff my winner again and you're making your own porridge!* (D.J. Richardson, Boston Spa); *Mother wants to partner you tonight* (Hilton Stansfield, Rochdale); *Finesse? You didn't and you haven't!* (Kath Adams, Stone); *Negative Double* (Myra Dawes, Whitefield); *The post-mortem continued way into breakfast time* (David Craven, Whitstable); *Finesse? You don't know the meaning of the word!* (Chris Ruff, London); *You may be Grand Master at the club, but you're not here!* (Michael Wilkes, Hatfield); *Tired! How can you be tired? You've slept right through twenty-four boards!* (Richard Perryman, Southend-on-Sea).

The cartoon for our new competition is below. Please send your bridge captions (multiple entries accepted) to Caption Competition, *English Bridge*, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or by e-mail to [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk) not later than 20th August 2013. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



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