

merciantravel

BRIDGE & BOWLING

All the latest news from Mercian Travel



Sol Don Pablo
BOOK SOON TO AVOID ANY DISAPPOINTMENT
 As These Rooms Are Selling Fast

Bridge & Bowling

Rating ★★★★★

Sol Don Pablo, Torremolinos, Spain

28 October 2012 - 24 March 2013

Limited number of single rooms without a supplement throughout the winter!

Price from **£389** Per Person for 7 Nights

Hello and welcome

to the April edition of our Bridge and Bowling holiday newsletter. Instead of an annual full brochure we will be producing quarterly newsletters keeping you right up to date with forthcoming holidays, Mercian news and offers and don't forget - all of our holidays can also be found by visiting: www.mercianbridge.co.uk

After a busy winter period our planning is in full swing for future holidays, many of which are featured here in the newsletter including our main 'flagship' holiday at the Don Pablo, Torremolinos, Spain, with an offer not to be missed. We are also delighted to include a new hotel in Southern Tenerife, the Torviscas Playa, which I am sure will prove to be a popular addition.

The Bellevue Park, Tunisia are offering limited number of single rooms without a supplement and we are also hoping to operate a regular courtesy bus to the harbour of Port El Kantaoui to allow you to explore all that the resort has to offer. (Still to be confirmed).

During the last year, we have found a lot of bookings are being made 'last minute' which at times has proved difficult for us logistically. In order for tours to go ahead we need to make sure we have minimum numbers as this will maximise the variety and enjoyment of the games being played. Unfortunately this has resulted in a small number of holidays being cancelled, only for us to then get enquiries pertaining to these tours. So in order to avoid disappointment our message is to book in advance if you are able to.

We look forward to hearing from you soon from:
Maggie, Elaine C and Elaine P.

Book Before 31 July 2012
 To enter our **FREE** prize draw
 for one week's stay at
Sol Don Pablo!
 More information available
 at the time of booking





Hotel Caravel, Sorrento, Italy.

11 May 2012 - 14 Nights

Price from **£1159** p.p. Half Board

Flights from Glasgow, Manchester, Stansted,
Liverpool & Gatwick



Gisborough Hall, North Yorkshire.

13 May 2012 - 5 Nights

Price from **£479** p.p. Half Board

Play bridge in a historic country house



Wroxton House Hotel, Banbury.

23 July 2012 - 4 Nights

Price from **£299** p.p. Half Board

Ideally located to explore the beautiful Cotswolds



Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk.

07 May 2012 - 4 Nights

Price from **£329** p.p. Full Board

An extensive range of leisure facilities for everyone



Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight.

11 June 2012 - 4 Nights

Price from **£345** p.p. Half Board

A hotel with elegant gardens and beautiful sea views



Sketchley Grange Hotel, Leicestershire.

20 August 2012 - 4 Nights

Price from **£275** p.p. Half Board

Two AA Rosettes for Exceptional Cuisine

**The Mercian Booking Conditions appear on our website and a copy is available on request.
Please visit our website for full details on all of our holidays or call Mercian on: 01562 887557**



Rating ★★★★★

Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford upon Avon.

03 September 2012
4 Nights
Price from **£385** p.p.
Half Board

New venue for Mercian in historic Stratford upon Avon

Bridge Only 



Rating ★★★★★

Fosse Manor Hotel, Stow on the Wold.

01 October 2012
4 Nights
Price from **£309** p.p.
Half Board

Bridge in the heart of the beautiful Cotswolds

Bridge Only 



Rating ★★★★★

Riu Bellevue Park, Tunisia.

7 November 2012
14 Nights
Price from **£799** p.p.
All Inclusive

Limited number of single rooms without a supplement

Bridge & Bowling 



Rating ★★★★★

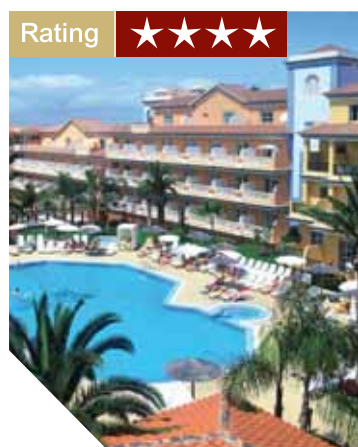
Have a break this Christmas at

Sketchley Grange, Leicestershire.

23 December 2012
5 Nights
Price from **£459** p.p.
Half Board

Join Mercian at our new Christmas venue

Bridge Only 



Rating ★★★★★

Riu Garoe, Tenerife.

11 January 2013
7 & 14 Nights
Price from **£879** p.p.
Half Board

An excellent hotel in Puerto De La Cruz

Bridge Only 



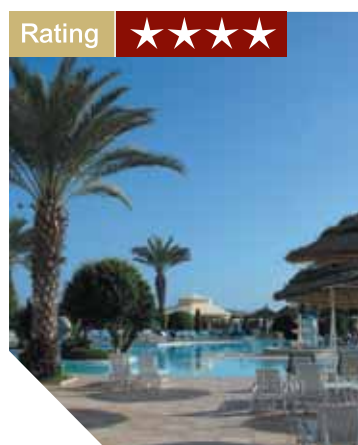
Rating ★★★★★

Torviscas Playa, Tenerife.

11 January 2013
7-28 Nights
Price from **£769** p.p.
Half Board

An all inclusive option is available at a supplement

Bridge Only 



Rating ★★★★★

Riu Bellevue Park, Tunisia.

Crown Green Bowling
17 October 2012
14 & 21 Nights
Price from **£849** p.p.
All Inclusive

Hotel with it's own bowling green

Crown Green Bowling 



Rating ★★★★★

Best Hotel, Tenerife.

Crown Green Bowling
11 January 2013
14 Nights
Price from **£1265** p.p.
All Inclusive

Transport to bowling green included

Crown Green Bowling 

Please visit our website: www.mercianbridge.co.uk for full details on all of our holidays.
Or call Mercian on: 01562 887557



Directors Corner By John Wilson

Bridge directing used to be quite a simple affair - all I needed to bring was a set of undealt boards for each section, movement cards, scorecards and travelling score sheets and a pencil sharpener!

How things have changed! I've just packed my car for a 20 table weekend Club Congress at an hotel and it has been a squeeze even for a people carrier! There

are 18 sets of pre-dealt boards plus the associated handouts, a spare Dealing machine - just in case - bidding boxes, Bridgemates, 2 computers, a printer and assorted stationery.

I can't blame anyone else for these changes as I was in the forefront of bringing them about and did a lot of the original testing that helped develop the excellent scoring programs. However, every now and then I look at the altered scoring landscape and wonder if we are really any better off. If something goes wrong with the computer or the scoring program it can be a nightmare getting accurate scoresheets back to get an accurate result. I find that I must run tournaments a certain way or the computer cannot cope. And then there is the almost insatiable demand for duplicated boards!

This is one reason why I thoroughly enjoy my Mercian bridge holidays. No duplicated boards and no Bridgemates. I can get back to my scoring roots, hammering in the results from the travellers and can disclaim any responsibility for the fact that the hands were all N-S (or E-W) yet again!



Chelsea Pensioners on Holiday in Cyprus

We have been privileged to take a group of Chelsea Pensioners on holiday to Cyprus, where they enjoy a game of bowls.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea group arrived in Paphos late on Sunday 11th March 12 for the start of their tour. With the assistance of David and Penny 4 matches against local teams had been arranged. We 'settled in' with a roll up on the first day which enabled each rink skip to get their teams used to the greens. The weather was varied during the week from cold and windy to wet, cold and windy! Our first game against the Avanti BC ebbed and flowed. The RHC team played well in patches, but the result was quickly forgotten once the post match social started. All of the teams made us feel most welcome and we much enjoyed their company. David and Penny from Mercian Travel with Marji and Edna, were great supporters throughout the week and managed to participate in some of the matches.

Our bowls matches were interspersed with two trips. The first to 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC on operations in Nicosia. This was a memorable day and the hospitality and programme for the visit was excellent. A group of us also spent a relaxing afternoon visiting the ruins and wonderful mosaics of ancient Paphos.

This has been an excellent trip to Cyprus. The Athena Beach Hotel has very good bowls facilities. The rooms were extremely good and the variety and quality of food of a high standard. It was generally agreed that the RHC Bowls Team would return to Cyprus in the future as we had much enjoyed the visit. Thank you Maggie and Elaine for organising it.

Bridge Director's Tip

We are all familiar with fourth highest leads in no trump contracts. The leader's partner can subtract the pips on the lead card from eleven and work out the number of higher cards in the other three hands. As he can see dummy and his own hand he can work out the number of cards higher than the lead that declarer has. Declarer can make a similar calculation.

What is less familiar is that these calculations can also be made with third highest leads and fifth highest leads. With third highest the number of pips are subtracted from twelve and with fifth highest from ten. This may seem difficult to remember except:

- For fourth highest $4 + 11 = 15$
- For third highest $3 + 12 = 15$
- For fifth highest $5 + 10 = 15$

These calculations also apply to trump contracts. Remember to ask your (new) partner's and opponents' lead styles.

By Ken Haines



Coming Soon...

You will soon be able to join Mercian Tours on Facebook

A great new way of keeping up to date with what's happening at Mercian, for keeping in touch with old and new friends, checking out the scores from the various tours, seeing what holiday destinations and UK venues we're going to and much much more! **Watch this space.**

Caption Competition Winning Entry

We are pleased to announce the winners of last quarter's Caption Competition are Don and Val Wood.

Their caption was:

"I know what you're saying Jim, but I still think the old measures are better"

Please visit our website www.mercianbridge.co.uk for full details on all of our holidays

merciantravel
BRIDGE & BOWLING

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www.mercianbridge.co.uk



The air holiday packages (or flights) shown are ATOL protected (our ATOL number is 1869) and as members of ABTA (ABTA 2471) you have added protection. Mercian Travel are also members of IATA (IATA 91-22606).