

English Bridge

October 2011

Issue No. 237

The EBU members' magazine



**Marbella
Overseas
Congress
February
2012**



Inside: News, Views, Instruction, Reports & Fun!



Bowness on Windermere

OCTOBER

- 3rd** 5* Bodrum **14nts ALL INC £699**
4th 4* Crete **14nts ALL INC £859**
6th Mercure Banbury **3nts £199**
9th Beverley, Yorks **3nts from £199**
9th Chadwick, Lytham **3nts £215**
17th Bowness on Windermere **4nts £299**
21st 4* Kingston **3nts from £199**
22nd 4* Brandon Hall, Warks **4nts £199**
23rd 4* Tewkesbury Park **3nts £199**



Mercure Farnham

NOVEMBER

- 1st** 5* Sunrise Queen, Side, Turkey
14nts £829 ALL INCLUSIVE
4th Mercure, Lancashire **4nts £199**
6th 4* Mercure Letchworth Hall & Spa, Hertfordshire **4nts £199**
6th Esplanade, Llandudno **5nts £199**
13th 4* Mollington, Chester **3nts £219**
14th 4* Madeira **14 nts £675**
 -stunning scenery, guided walks
18th 4* Playa La Arena Tenerife, special offer £100 off last year's price **7-14nts from £495** Very popular venue with guaranteed sunshine
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5* Hurghada Resort

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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English Bridge

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

18th May, 2011

Dear Ms. Bugden,

I have been asked to thank you for your kind letter to The Queen, sent on the occasion of the English Bridge Union's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary which is being celebrated on 23rd May.

Her Majesty was most interested to learn that the Women's Team have qualified to compete for the Venice Cup in the World Bridge Federation Championships this October. The Queen appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and sends her warm good wishes to all concerned on this most special anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

David Ryan
Director, Private Secretary's Office

THE Venice Cup was held for the first time in 1974, in Venice. It started as a challenge match between women's teams from the USA and Italy, Europe's representative. Today it is the equivalent of the Bermuda Bowl (World Open Teams) for women, organised – every odd-numbered year – by the World Bridge Federation.

English players have been very successful in this event, the world's most prestigious in women's bridge, winning it in 1981 and 1985 when the team was still competing as Great Britain.

This year the event takes place in October in Veldhoven, The Netherlands. Previous winners Nicola Smith and Sally Brock will be representing England together with Heather Dhondy (*see page 45*) and Nevena Senior, and Susan Stockdale and Fiona Brown, with Martin Jones as non-playing captain and David Burn as coach.

The EBU and *English Bridge* wish our team success. May the fact that the event takes place in what Her Majesty the Queen graciously calls a 'most special anniversary' year prove to be a good omen! □

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When to Bid Stayman, When to Bid 3NT Opposite a 1NT Opener

MATCH-POINT scoring is wrongly associated with a need to play in 3NT at almost every opportunity. In fact it is at teams and rubber that 3NT is more often preferable to 4♥ or 4♠: you need to make *two* more tricks in 4♥ or 4♠ for that contract to be materially superior. At pairs 4♥ or 4♠ will be better if it makes just *one* more trick (those extra 20 points really matter): you would want to be in 4♥ or 4♠ if you think there's one extra trick to be had – and there usually is with a 4-4 fit. However, you must beware the information that Stayman gives.

Exercise: Would you bid 2♣ Stayman over partner's 1NT opener (12-14) with these responding hands?

Hand A ♠ A J 9 7 ♥ 7 4 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ A J 2	Hand B ♠ K 9 7 5 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ A J 3 ♣ K 9 3
Hand C ♠ J 10 9 4 ♥ A 10 8 4 ♦ K 3 ♣ A J 3	Hand D ♠ A 8 6 2 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K J 9 4 ♣ K 8 3

Hand A: a clear Stayman bid. If partner has four spades, it will almost certainly be better to play in 4♠ than in 3NT. There is heart weakness for 3NT and even if partner is well-stopped in the suit, there will surely be an extra ruffing trick somewhere.

Hand B: a clear 3NT, with the 4-3-3-3 shape. There will be the odd hand opposite where 4♠ plays better, but many more where 3NT will make the same number of tricks as 4♠. Even if, facing four spades, there were slightly more hands where 4♠ would play a trick better than 3NT (and this I doubt), I would still not bid Stayman – because every time partner does not have four spades and you play in 3NT, you have given the defence information about part-

ner's hand (i.e. whether he has four hearts).

Hand C: 2♣ Stayman. Having both four-card majors does make a difference. In general, when you end up in 3NT, you'd rather not do so via Stayman (giving away information). With both majors, as here, you are twice as likely *not* to play in 3NT than if you had just one four-card major.

Hand D: close! I would bid 3NT, although if partner held four spades I would probably on balance rather be in 4♠. The reason is I don't want to give away information. What if my Stayman bid was doubled to show decent clubs – tipping off the club lead? Or, more subtly, what if the Stayman bid *wasn't* doubled so West found (say) the winning heart lead vs 3NT rather than the losing club (from equivalent suits)? Having said that, if my heart doubleton was small-small, even jack-small, I'd really have to bid Stayman. An anti-room 3NT with a spade fit and the defence cashing all the hearts will score a big, round zero.

When to lean towards Stayman:

- Small doubletons
- Both four-card majors

When to lean towards 3NT:

- 4-3-3-3 hands
- Honour doubletons

Consider our featured deal:

E/W Game. Dealer South.			
		♠ K 10	
		♥ A 5 3 2	
		♦ K J 10 5	
		♣ K 9 8	
♠ A 9 7 6 3	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ S ♣ E</div>	♠ 8 2	
♥ K 10 8 4		♥ Q 6	
♦ 8		♦ 9 7 6 2	
♣ 4 3 2		♣ A J 10 7 5	
		♠ Q J 5 4	
		♥ J 9 7	
		♦ A Q 4 3	
		♣ Q 6	



Andrew Robson

The bidding as it went:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The bidding as it should have gone:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North's decision to look for a 4-4 heart fit was hardly criminal, but once East had found the good lead-directing double of the Stayman 2♣, North-South could kiss a decent result goodbye. *Versus* 3NT West led a club to the ten and queen, and declarer led a spade, hoping East held the ♠A. Not so: West rose with the ♠A whereupon a second club through ♣K-9 ensured four club tricks for East. Down one.

Recommended is a simple raise to 3NT by North, hoping that there isn't a 4-4 heart fit or that, even if there is, 3NT will play for as many tricks (North's good outside intermediates making that quite likely). Declarer wins West's spade lead, knocks out the ace of spades and, later, the ace of clubs. Nine tricks and game made.

Andrew's Tip: 4-4 major fits do usually play a trick better than no-trumps. But think hard before using Stayman because of the information it gives away. With 4-3-3-3 shapes and 4-4-3-2s with good doubletons, it may be best to blast 3NT and give the opponents no information. □

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The Headmaster's Report



David Bird

BRIDGE FICTION

IT was the last duplicate of the term and Stefan Götel, the young German master, was in a happy frame of mind as he took his seat. All in all, his teaching responsibilities had gone well. Sometimes the boys made too much noise in class, yes, but was that not normal? Anyway, perhaps the Headmaster had not been told of the unfortunate incident last Tuesday. With any luck he would send a glowing end-of-term report to Herr Doktor Bendig. Ah, talk of the Devil, as they say in England. He would be playing against the Headmaster on the very first round.

'Goodness me,' exclaimed the Headmaster, peering angrily around the card room. 'What an ear-splitting racket!'

Götel smiled. 'Boys will be boys,' he declared. 'It is normal behaviour, I think.'

The Headmaster rose to his feet. 'Quiet!' he bellowed.

In an instant there was silence, everyone recognizing his voice.

'That's better,' said the Headmaster, resuming his seat. 'You to speak first on this one, Charlie.'

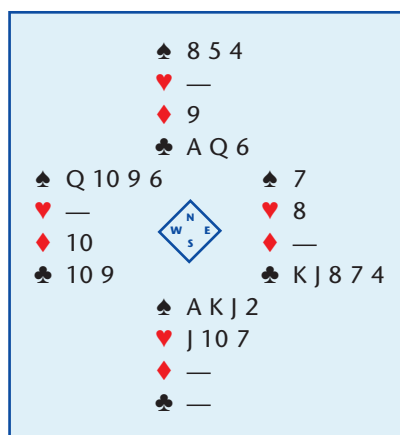
The Reverend Benson led the ace of diamonds against Stefan Götel's 4♥.

'I thought we were going to be doubled!' exclaimed the Matron, laying out her dummy. 'I've nothing much for you.'

The Headmaster raised his eyes to the ceiling as the Matron's club holding appeared. Nothing for you, she says, putting down a valuable ace.

'Only one trump, as you see,' continued the Matron.

The Reverend Benson claimed the first two tricks in diamonds and continued with the diamond queen. Stefan Götel ruffed this with the nine, retaining the seven of trumps. West showed out on the second round of trumps and Götel drew a third round, leaving these cards still in play:



Stefan Götel paused for thought. Suppose he drew the last trump and led the two of spades. If East won the trick with some-

thing like a singleton ten of spades, he would be end-played, forced to lead a club. If West won the trick, though, he would be able to exit safely with the ten of diamonds. Wait, there was another possibility. The Headmaster had carelessly retained the eight as his last trump!

Stefan Götel played the ace of spades and then led the seven of trumps. The Headmaster won with the eight and had to lead into dummy's club tenace. Away went declarer's two spade losers and the contract was made.

'That was lucky, losing only one trump trick when I had a singleton,' exclaimed the Matron. 'I thought of rescuing you in clubs.'

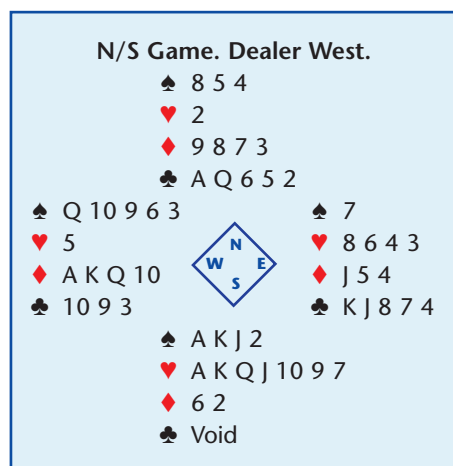
The Reverend Benson leant forward, not noticing a warning glint in the Headmaster's eye. 'What happens if you dispose of the eight of trumps and keep a lower trump, Headmaster? Is that any good?'

Silence reigned around the table, no-one liking to voice an opinion on this suggestion.

'He can't throw you in, then,' Benson persisted.

Götel looked apprehensively at the Headmaster, whose blood pressure was rising visibly. In just a few days he would be writing an important assessment, destined for Bad Godesberg. Desperate measures were called for.

'Ten tricks were always there,' Götel declared, returning his cards to the board. 'To say the truth to you, I thought there were no more trumps out!' □



West	North	East	South
Rev. Benson	The Matron	Head-Master	Stefan Götel
1♠	Pass	1NT	4♥
All Pass			

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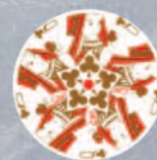
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
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Maximise Your Number of Tricks at Pairs

E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠	A Q 9 7 2
♥	Q 7 4
♦	K 2
♣	9 7 2

♠	J 10 6
♥	K J 8 3
♦	A Q 9 4
♣	K 5

♠	A Q 9 7 2
♥	Q
♦	K 2
♣	9 7 2

♠	J 10 6
♥	K J
♦	A Q 9 4
♣	K 5

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

¹ Transfer to spades

² Completing the transfer

PLAYING pairs, South has a maximum weak no-trump, so must accept partner's game invitation, but should you choose 3NT or 4♣?

With three-card support it is more often right to play in the eight card fit even at pairs, and here you also have a potential ruffing value in clubs.

West leads the nine of hearts; East wins with the ace and returns a second heart which you win with eight, West following with the two. How do you plan the play?

This is the position we have reached:

Let's consider what you might need in order to make your contract. It appears that you will need either the trump finesse to work, or to find the ace of clubs with East. However, there is further danger: West may be about to receive a heart ruff. If you take the trump finesse now, and it fails, you may go down in your contract even when the club ace is right. Should you consider rejecting the trump finesse?

You cannot afford to reject the trump finesse for several reasons. Firstly, it represents one of your main chances of making the contract, and secondly you will not generally score well if you reject a working finesse at pairs. Lastly, even if you do reject the finesse, it won't necessarily stop the ruff. Can you see a better solution?

Begin by playing three rounds of diamonds, discarding the last heart from the dummy before tackling trumps. Now one danger is removed, and you are back



Heather Dhondy

Heather's Hints

in the position of needing either the king of trumps, or the ace of clubs to be right. When you take the trump finesse and it fails, East will no longer be able to give his partner a ruff since dummy will be able to overruff. If instead he switches to a club, you will need to hope that the ace is onside.

This was the full deal:

♠	A Q 9 7 2		♠	K 8
♥	Q 7 4		♥	A 10 6 5
♦	K 2		♦	10 7 5 3
♣	9 7 2		♣	A J 6

♠	5 4 3		♠	J 10 6
♥	9 2		♥	K J 8 3
♦	J 8 6		♦	A Q 9 4
♣	Q 10 8 4 3		♣	K 5

Heather's Hints

- Play in the 5-3 major suit fit, even at pairs. This is particularly true when you are thin on values. 3NT would have no chance on the deal above.
- Maximising your number of tricks is crucial at pairs. Think hard before rejecting a finesse that will gain you a trick, especially when you are in a routine contract that will be played around the room.
- Consider your chances, and look out for the dangers. Remember that there may be more than one potential solution to the immediate danger – make sure you have explored all options. □

COUNTY LEAGUE TEAMS OF 8 NATIONAL FINALS

HELD at West Midlands BC on Sunday July 10th and organised by Graham Jepson for the fifth and final time, aided by Ian Mitchell, Pat Jepson, and Peter and Janet Hempson. Five counties, in each of three groups (A, B and C), had qualified.

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John is on a Lucky Streak



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

'IT'S been a really long evening,' sighed John wearily.

'Yes, you have had to play some really difficult hands, but you have done well so far and there's only one round to go,' replied Julie encouragingly.

N/S Game. Dealer North.			
♠ Q J 8 2			
♥ J 6 2			
♦ Q 10 4 2			
♣ A Q			
♠ 9 7 5	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS </div> </div>	♠ 4	
♥ A Q 10 9 3		♥ 5 4	
♦ J 3		♦ A K 9 8 7 6 5	
♣ 6 4 3		♣ K J 10	
		♠ A K 10 6 3	
		♥ K 8 7	
		♦ Void	
		♣ 9 8 7 5 2	

West	North	East	South
	Julie		John
	1NT	Stop	2♠

After Julie's 1NT opening East placed his stop card on the table and, before he could follow it up with 3♦, John bid 2♠. John looked up to see a look of horror on Julie's face but help was at hand: oblivious to John's bid out of turn, East now completed his bid by placing his 3♦ on the table.

'Director!' called Julie, now with a look of amusement on her face.

'I have to admit that this is a situation that I have never come across before,' observed the Director after listening to a detailed explanation of what had happened.

'I'm so sorry, but I just saw the red card on the table and assumed it was a double,' apologised John.

The Director, with a stern look on his face, turned to John: 'Well, now you have

compounded the situation. I must now point out to Julie that what John has just said is unauthorised information for you (but not for East-West). Now as to the bid out of turn followed by East's 3♦, this is covered by Law 28B which states that when East bid 3♦ he forfeited the right to apply the penalty for a bid out of turn; in addition, the auction now continues as though John had not yet called. I must point out, however, to Julie that all information gained from the 2♠ bid is unauthorised for you (Law 16D2).'

Over the 3♦ bid, John now chose to compete with 3♠. Julie knew from John's conversation with the Director that 2♠ was meant to be a weakness take-out but, realising that she could not take advantage of that information, she dutifully raised to 4♠ since 3♠ was definitely a forcing bid in their system.

John ruffed the opening diamond lead, led a trump to the queen and one back to his ace. Then, intending to play another round of trumps, he placed another black card on the table not realising that it was the two of clubs. West followed and John called for the jack.

'You haven't got the jack of clubs,' groaned Julie in exasperation.

'No, I want you to play the jack of spades of course.'

'John, I know you are tired but you still have to follow the rules, one of which is to follow suit. You have led the two of clubs from your hand.'

John looked down and saw what he had

done. He then looked at the dummy and said: 'Oh well, play the ace of clubs. No, hold on, I should finesse, so play the queen of clubs.'

'You can't change your mind like that,' said Julie. 'I am going to call the Director.'

By now the Director was at the table already as he, and the rest of the room, had heard all the commotion. He said 'John must play the ace of clubs as this was clearly a change of mind on his part, rather than an inadvertent designation.'

'But I don't mind him changing his mind, he can play the queen if he wants,' said East looking longingly at his king of clubs.

'It is not for you to decide, the law is quite clear,' replied the Director.

After the ace of clubs, John decided that as he had tried to play the queen he had better do so to the next trick. East took the trick and played a heart to West's queen. West then led a trump but John was able to win in hand, ruff a club, and then play the jack of hearts to West's ace of hearts. John was then able to claim the rest of the tricks.

East-West both shook their heads in despair as somehow John had stumbled upon the only way to make his contract.

Julie, however, was full of praise: 'John I do believe that you are on a lucky streak. What a shame you are so tired this evening...'

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Sandra Landy

Leading Fourth Highest

WHAT card would you lead from the hand below after dealer opened 1NT which was raised to 3NT?

♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q 10 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 9 7

I would bet that nearly all of you said 'the six of hearts' because a heart is the obvious lead. We normally choose to lead our best suit in the

hope of setting up winners for our side to cash when we get the lead. But why do we lead the *six* of hearts? Why not the seven or the three of hearts? Does it matter which small card you choose to lead?

In one sense it probably doesn't matter at all: any of your three small hearts would do, provided you find partner with one or two useful cards in hearts. But there is a good reason to lead the six of hearts and that is because as a partnership you have agreed to lead the fourth card down from the top when you lead a suit that does not have a good honour sequence.

You have to cooperate with your partner in trying to beat declarer's contract. Or if it can't be beaten, you must do your best to minimise the number of tricks that declarer makes. Every card you play carries some sort of message. Your partner can ignore that message

if he wishes, but it makes sense to try and decode the messages in the cards played. But how does one decode the message the opening lead is sending?

The Rule of Eleven

When partner leads a fourth highest card, you know that he must have three cards higher than the one led. As you can see how many higher cards there are in dummy and in your hand, you can do a simple sum to work out how many cards declarer holds that are higher than the card led.

On the hand shown the lead is the six of hearts. The cards bigger than the six are ace, king, queen, jack, ten, nine, eight and seven. That is, there are *eight* cards higher than the six of hearts and partner only has three of them. If dummy has two of them and you also have two, that accounts for seven cards and declarer can have only one card bigger

that the six. That is precisely what the Rule of Eleven helps you work out.

Subtract the pips on the card led from eleven; the result gives the number of higher cards than the one led in the other three hands.

Not very interesting, you may think, but consider this problem:

♥Q 8 5
♥7 led
♦N
♥K 9 2
♥?

Partner leads the seven of hearts, the five is played from dummy. What cards has declarer got?

Try the Rule of Eleven. Partner has led the ♥7; $11 - 7 = 4$.

Dummy has two cards higher than the seven, and so do you. So declarer can have no heart higher than the seven. Partner must have ♥A-J-10-7 and maybe a smaller heart as well. You should play your heart two or heart nine, and your side will win the trick! If you play your king of hearts declarer will have a heart stopper.



Farewell, but not Goodbye

'It is time for me to take a break,' says Sandra Landy. 'I started writing my "Standard English" column in 1997 and it is now 2011 – fourteen years is long enough for anybody!'


We have to respect Sandra's wishes, but hope that she will come back to *English Bridge* sooner rather than later. Over the last fourteen years, Sandra has been one of the biggest 'names' to write for our magazine and her column one of the most appreciated.

One of England and Great Britain's greatest champions, Sandra Landy's contribution to bridge goes well beyond boosting the nation's medals cabinet. After retiring early from her lectureship in Computer Studies at Brighton University, she worked for the EBU to develop Bridge for All – a scheme for teaching bridge to beginners. 'It was very hard work,' Sandra says, 'but I gathered a great team (Simon Ainger, Jean Patefield, and Mike Pomfrey) to write material. I am delighted that the courses we created are still in use and the books I wrote are still being read.'

Sandra continued writing for *English Bridge* after retiring from Bridge for All. Her articles showed the same clarity and friendly approach that characterise her books. Readers have been most appreciative of her ability to go back to basics without being patronising, and we have all benefited from her sage bridge (and, often, editorial) counsel. We will miss you, dear Sandra, but while this is definitively a fond farewell, it is not, we very much hope, a final goodbye!

Now be honest: if I hadn't told you about the Rule of Eleven, I bet you would have played your king at trick one!


Try these problems; in all cases the bidding has gone 1NT – 3NT.

- 1) ♥K 10 7
- ♥5 led  ♥A J 8 2
- ♥?

Your partner leads the ♥5, declarer plays dummy's ♥7. Which card do you play? Why?

- 2) ♥J 8 7
- ♥5 led  ♥K 10 2
- ♥?

Partner leads the ♥5, dummy plays the ♥7. Which card do you play? Why?


- 3) ♥J 8 6
- ♥7 led  ♥K 10
- ♥?

Partner leads the ♥7 and dummy plays either the ♥6 or the ♥8. Which card should you play, and why?

My answers:

- 1) Use the Rule of Eleven. 5 from 11 is 6. You can see six cards higher than the five, so declarer can have none and must hold just ♥4-3 and partner must have led from ♥Q-9-6-5. You should play the ♥8, which will win the trick!

The full layout of the heart suit is:


- ♥K 10 7
- ♥Q 9 6 5  ♥A J 8 2
- ♥4 3

Of course if declarer had played the ten of hearts from dummy you would have played the jack. In either case you need partner to gain the lead and

play a second heart; this stops declarer making any heart tricks.

- 2) Work out the Rule of Eleven. Take 5 away from 11 and you get 6. You can already see five cards higher than the ♥5, so declarer must have one higher card. It has to be either the ♥A or ♥Q. Should you play the ten of hearts or the king? If declarer has the queen of hearts it doesn't matter, declarer must win one heart trick. But it does matter if declarer has the ace of hearts. If you play your king of hearts declarer wins with the ace and must make a second trick from dummy's ♥J-8 holding.

So the answer is: play the ten. The complete layout might be:

- ♥J 8 7
- ♥Q 9 6 5 3  ♥K 10 2
- ♥A 4

- 3) Take 7 from 11 and you get 4. But you can see four cards higher than the 7, so declarer's biggest possible heart is the five. Play your king of hearts at trick one and return your ten of hearts. But why not play the ten of hearts immediately? You are confident partner must have started with ♥A-Q-9-7 or better still ♥A-Q-9-7-2. Playing the ten of hearts will win trick one and when you then play the king of hearts it holds. Of course partner should overtake your king of hearts with the ace, but partners are sometimes asleep; you are not and you can make sure partner wins trick two!

Declarer can also use the Rule of Eleven in exactly the same way as a defender to help decide which card to play from dummy on the opening lead. Of course the Rule of Eleven only works if your opponents play fourth highest leads. Some players use third and fifth highest leads and I have had some irritating students who will lead any small card from a suit, thinking that it doesn't matter which card is chosen. That may make life a bit harder for declarer, but it fools their partner as well. □

CAPTION COMPETITION



Morton speak with forked tongue!

THE winner of our August competition, with the caption above, is Derek Turner, of Toton, Notts, who will receive a charming Victoriana bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 7). Other good captions (*here and also on page 54*) were: *You wouldn't believe the problems we've had with the arrow switch* (Brian Gladman, Chessington); *The vu-graph audience was stunned by Running Bear's 5NT bid* (Peter Hawkes, Radley); *This intertent bridge will never catch on* (Glen Kirton, Hampton); *Do you think he has a match?* (Barbara Truswell, Falmouth); *I think they play Fourth Suit Forcing* (Dave Bryan, Upton, Chester); *I see Sitting Bull's playing online again!* (Roger Brown, Sandown); *Bridge on Sky? It'll never catch on, Aquena* (Richard Buller, West Bridgford); *What do you think of these new-fangled silent bidding devices?* (Philip Jackson, Ascot); and *What a palaver for 1NT!* (Frankie Subiotto, Selly Park).

The cartoon for our new competition is below. Please send your bridgy captions (multiple entries accepted) to the Editor, *English Bridge*, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or by e-mail to elena@ebu.co.uk not later than 20th October 2011. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



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REPORT

ENGLAND UNDER 20S QUALIFY FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



The England Under-20 team, from the left: Tommy Brass, Ankush Khandelwar, Basil Letts, Alan Shillitoe (coach), Shivam Shah, Michael Byrne (npc) Alex Roberts, Simon Spencer.

CONGRATULATIONS to the England U20s who came fourth in the recent European Junior Championships in Bulgaria, which qualifies them for the Junior World Championships to be held next summer in Cuba. England started strongly against the host nation and were always in contention for a qualifying spot, despite a setback against eventual winners Poland. A tough day towards the end put their qualification in doubt, but they showed their strength by recovering ground against the middle-ranking teams. In the final match England faced perennial rivals The Netherlands, eager for revenge after England had knocked them out of the World Championships in Philadelphia. England produced their best result of the tournament, winning by 53 IMPs, the ensuing 25-4 VP result catapulting them into fourth place.

This was the first European Championship for five of the six players, all of whom had only recently joined the Under-20 squad. Their hard work and practice at training weekends and national events has clearly paid off. □



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ANSWERS TO THE AUGUST LEADS QUIZ

by Alan Mould

All this month's problems were sent to me and occurred in actual play. (New quiz: page 54.)

Hand 1

♠ 7 6 5
♥ J 4
♦ A 8 6 4
♣ K 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	4♥ ¹	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ ²	Pass	6♠

All Pass

¹ Splitter

² Two 'aces' without the trump queen

Pick your lead out of: (a) small spade;
(b) ♥J; (c) ♦A; (d) ♣2.

(a) **Small spade: 6 marks.** This could be right if it is necessary to cut down heart ruffs, but your diamonds are a worry suggesting the suit will set up for discards.

(b) **♥J: 2 marks.** It is said no one ever gets shouted at for leading partner's suit. But here how can it be right? The opponents' bidding has told you they have the heart ace opposite a singleton.

(c) **♦A: 5 marks.** This is basically playing partner for a singleton diamond. While this is not unlikely on the bidding, if partner does not have one the contract will certainly make.

(d) **♣2: 10 marks.** This is the indicated lead. You need a trick to go with your ♦A and this is the suit, rather than hearts, in which you have a chance of setting one up.

At the table partner had the ♣Q and a singleton diamond, so either minor-suit lead worked.

♠♥♦♣

Hand 2

♠ Void
♥ A J 10 8 7 3
♦ A J 5 3
♣ 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♥A; (b) ♥J;
(c) ♦A; (d) ♦3.

Unless declarer is mad, he is expecting six club tricks at least and has stops in both majors. It is therefore likely that you need to cash out quickly.

(a) **♥A: 7 marks.** Not a bad idea, in that it may pick up a stiff honour in dummy, or may (as in this case) enable you to switch if the heart suit is obviously going nowhere.

(b) **♥J: 4 marks.** This is liable to be too passive. Declarer will take the heart trick, the clubs and any spade tricks, and it will likely add up to at least nine tricks.

(c) **♦A: 10 marks.** On the bidding, diamonds will certainly be declarer's weak suit and this lead may well find declarer with a stiff honour and your side able to set up tricks. It

is very unlikely to give the contract so this lead gets top marks.

(d) **♦3: 6 marks.** The same idea as the ♦A but inferior to it for the reasons given above.

At the table partner had ♦K-Q-x-x-x, so any diamond or the ♥A was successful.

♠♥♦♣

Hand 3

♠ K 8 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 6 4
♦ 7
♣ K 4

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♠4; (b) ♥A;
(c) ♥4; (d) ♦7.

(a) **♠4: 8 marks.** Fourth highest of your longest and strongest. And it is not a bad idea at all. It looks like you have a club entry and the ♥A to get in with. But the minors are a worry and declarer may get to nine tricks before you can get him down.

(b) **♥A: 10 marks.** This allows you to retain the lead and so continue if this looks right, or switch to spades if that looks right. It is pretty unlikely that either declarer or dummy has four hearts, so this would be unlucky to give the contract away.

(c) **♥4: 5 marks.** Trying to set up heart tricks is quite a good idea but if this lead is wrong you have lost a valuable tempo. It is therefore inferior to the ♥A.

(d) **♦7: 1 mark.** All I can say is: why? Even if you find partner with a good diamond suit, how are you ever going to get him in again? Anyway, partner hasn't got much when you have all this lot. One mark for novelty.

At the table dummy had ♣A-x-x-x and five good diamonds, so declarer had nine running tricks. The only winning lead was the ♥A as dummy had ♥J-x and declarer the singleton king! □

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

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REPORT

BRIGHTON SUMMER MEETING 2011



by Simon Cope

AUGUST saw the return of the eternally popular Summer Congress in Brighton and for once, as well as more bridge than you could shake a stick at, we were lucky enough to see some sunshine! The events were as usual well attended and the weekends were especially competitive, so let's take a look at the winners' secrets for success – by seeing them in action.

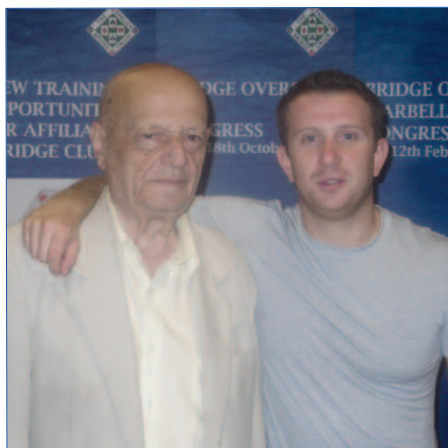
First Weekend – Swiss Pairs

Having led from the end of play on the Saturday, Martin Hoffman (still going strong at the age of 81) and Mark Teltscher held on to seal the win after fourteen matches. Playing INT contracts never seems too exciting at teams, but playing pairs, it is the bread and butter, and often produces an enterprising battle between declarer and the defence:

E/W Game. Dealer West.			
♠ A Q 8			
♥ J 8 2			
♦ Q 10 9			
♣ 9 8 4 3			
♠ K J 3			
♥ K 6 5			
♦ J 8 7			
♣ Q 10 7 5			
	♠ 10 9 7 5		
	♥ Q 9		
	♦ A K 4 2		
	♣ A J 6		
		♠ 6 4 2	
		♥ A 10 7 4 3	
		♦ 6 5 3	
		♣ K 2	

The auction was short and sweet, with three passes to Hoffman who opened 1NT from the South chair, and there he played. West led the five of clubs to the three, king and ace, and declarer now played a low spade to dummy's eight (a nice touch by Hoffman not to lead the nine or ten from hand as then it is easier for West to play the king, which may cause South to think he has ♠K-x and play ♠A-Q and another spade, burning a trick). He came back to the king of diamonds, played two more rounds of spades via another finesse, and then ran the nine of clubs. West won and

switched to the king of hearts and another, but now the defence was helpless to prevent ten tricks, as they had no communication between their hands. Hoffman had placed his opponents under enormous pressure by playing (as usual) at lightning speed, and giving the defence very little information to work with. Plus 180 was worth 87% of the match-points to the winners.



Martin Hoffman (left) and Mark Teltscher, Swiss Pairs winners

Second Weekend – Four Star Teams

The format of this event remains unchanged: the teams fight it out until the cut-off point, which occurs after ten matches on Saturday night, after which the top eight teams go on to compete in an all play all 'A' final, while the next eight do the same in a 'B' final. The finals are traditionally an extremely strong affair, and that was the case this year too. When play finished, the Anglo-Irish team of Michael Byrne, Duncan Happer, Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann emerged victorious by the relatively comfortable margin of 5 VPs – particularly impressive as Byrne-Happer are a new partnership, despite having played numerous times as team-mates. Let's take a look at a hand where all four members of the team combined to produce a big swing in what turned out to be the key match against the

second-placed team, led by Pat Collins:

N/S Game. Dealer South.			
	♠ 10 3		
	♥ K Q 7 6 3		
	♦ A 5 3		
	♣ K 10 4		
♠ J 8 7 5			
♥ A J 8 2			
♦ 9 2			
♣ A 9 3			
	♠ A K Q 9 6		
	♥ 10 5		
	♦ Q 10 7		
	♣ Q 6 5		
		♠ 4 2	
		♥ 9 4	
		♦ K J 8 6 4	
		♣ J 8 7 2	

McGann, sitting South for team Byrne, decided to upgrade his 13 count to open a 14-16 no-trump (sensible enough given the chunky five-card suit and the couple of tens). North raised to 3NT, showing his five-card heart suit on the way via a transfer. West understandably started with his fourth highest spade lead, and when he saw dummy he was pretty happy with life, but considerably less so after declarer's nine of spades won the trick. This enabled McGann to play a heart towards the king-queen in the dummy, and when this held, he played a diamond towards the Q-10-7 in his hand – East could win his king but



Duncan Happer (left) and Michael Byrne holding the Four Star Teams Cup they won with Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon

REPORT continued

from this point on there was no effective defence.

At the other table, South opened 1♠ and rebid 2NT (12-14) over his partner's 2♥ response, which was in turn raised to 3NT by North. West, Michael Byrne, now had a much easier task to avoid the fatal spade lead, and in fact he chose the nine of diamonds, which proved not only to be the curse of Scotland, but also of the Collins team. Duncan Happer won with the king and returned the suit, and now South had a hard task. He decided to win with the diamond queen and play a heart to the king, and then he tried to cash his spades. When that suit didn't behave, he tried another heart towards dummy, but the defence now had to score two hearts, a spade, a club and a diamond to beat the game by a trick – 12 IMPs to Byrne and a big step towards their winning score.

Second Weekend – Brighton Bowl

Finally, here is a deal from the Brighton Bowl which helped the winners (Alex Hydes, Simon Cope, Alan and Olivia Woo) along the way:

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ A 8 5		♠ A 8 5
♥ K 9 4 2		♥ —
♦ K Q 8 3 2		♦ Q 8
♣ Q		♣ —
♠ 4 3 2	♠ K J 6	
♥ 10 3	♥ J 8 7 6	
♦ 9 5	♦ J 6	
♣ K J 7 6 4 2	♣ A 10 9 8	
	♠ Q 10 9 7	
	♥ A Q 5	
	♦ A 10 7 4	
	♣ 5 3	

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³
Dble	3♥ ⁴	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

¹ 12-14

² Puppet to 3♣

³ Forced

⁴ Showing 3-4-5-1 shape exactly and a game-forcing hand



Alex Hydes (right) with Alan and Olivia Woo holding the Brighton Bowl they won with Simon Cope

Alex Hydes was South and when his partner showed precisely a 3-4-5-1 hand shape, he was easily able to avoid the doomed 3NT contract. West led a diamond; Hydes won, and played a club. East won and played another diamond, and Hydes won in hand, ruffed a club, played his three top hearts and then ruffed the last heart, leaving the following end position:

♠ A 8 5		♠ A 8 5
♥ —		♥ —
♦ Q 8		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
♠ 4 3 2	♠ K J 6	
♥ —	♥ —	
♦ —	♦ —	
♣ K J	♣ 10 9	
	♠ Q 10 9 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ 10	
	♣ —	

Now Hydes played the queen of spades from hand and ran it to East, who was doomed – he either had to play a spade back which would allow declarer to score his ♠10, or give declarer a ruff and discard which would have had the same result. Note the position of the spade honours was not relevant, as whatever their layout Hydes was destined for eleven tricks and a game swing thanks to his classic elimination play.

Congratulations to all the winners, and we look forward to seeing you all again in sunny Brighton next August! □

OTHER BRIGHTON WINNERS

Four Stars B Final: Eric Dubus, Rutger Van Mechelen, Phillipe Caputo, Guy Van Middeltem

Senior Pairs: A final: Mike Huggins – Irene Robinson; B final: Patrick Collins – Andrew Petrie; C final: Ann Sharples – Robert Mott.

Senior Swiss Teams: Andrew Petrie, Patrick Collins, Alan Kay, Jeremy Dhondy.

Really Easy Congress: Pairs sessions: Claire Price – Tessa van Gelderen; Catherine Hall – Diana Palmer; Marie Hallam – Julia Broady; Rose and David Butler; Mark and Mary Fraser; Adam Jackson – Mel Czapski; Christine Brown – Carol Pembrey; Marilyn Halton – Christine Mullen; John Travers – Francis Hardman.

Next Step Congress: Pairs sessions: Michael Leigh – Pat Martin; Edd Edmondson – Ros Nanayakkara; Yvonne Mavin – Angie Camden; Richard and Gini Phillips; Jill and John Blanchard; Lloyd and Gitte Sarsby; Rosemary Vase – Mary Webster; Natasha Regan – Oscar Selby; Linda Boyd – George Wawman; Jackie and Graham Baskerville; Teams session: Emma Jackson, Michael Cripp, Pat Lewis, Joanna Seddon.

Midweek events

Play with the Experts: Martin Garvey – Cass O'Donnell.

Championship Pairs: Mike Bell – Yvonne Wiseman

75th Anniversary Mixed Pivot Teams: Mike Ash, Liz McGowan, Irving Gordon, William Whyte.

Mixed Pairs Championship: John Sansom – Pam Pearce.

Knock-out Teams: Chris Cooper, Simon Creasey, Steve Raine, John Atthey.

Open Teams: Sunday: Gill Copeland, Stuart Davies, Alan Jarvis, Phil Godfrey (Green Section) and Alex Hydes, Ed Jones, Kyle Lam, Graeme Robertson (Yellow Section).

Open Pairs: Sunday: Simon Ortmann – Daniel Bang-Ortmann; Monday: Chris Clements – Susan Gregory; Tuesday: Samantha Punch – Stephen Peterkin; Wednesday: David Gold – Simon Cope; Thursday: Steve Raine – John Atthey. Friday: Toby Nonnenmacher – Michael Alishaw.

Speedball Pairs: Erlende Skjetne – Jenny Cooper.



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Dos and Don'ts of Take-out Doubles

THIS month's article continues the theme of competitive bidding by looking at making take-out doubles. The mysterious 'red cross of doom' is an exciting new tool when we first learn about it, but a keenness to use it can quickly turn to an addiction, doubling on the most inappropriate hands and passing on ones you should be bidding on.

Let's remind ourselves of what a take-out double shows:

When you double an opening bid for take out, you are showing opening values, support for the other suits and (in principle) shortage in the suit opened.

A traditional double of a 1♦ opening would look like Hand 1:

Hand 1
♠ A Q 4 3
♥ K J 7 6
♦ 7
♣ Q 9 7 3

Many people often forget that a take-out double should be used when they are too strong for another action, typically too strong for a suit overcall (18+

High-card Points with a long suit) or too strong for an overcall of 1NT (19+ HCP with a balanced hand).

If 1♦ were opened on your right, then you'd have to double on Hand 2 as well:

Hand 2
♠ 5 4
♥ K J 7 6
♦ A K J 8
♣ A K J

It might seem weird to double holding four strong cards in the opponent's suit and a small doubleton in spades, but remember: you have a re-

bid available; you are strong enough to

double and then bid no-trumps.

What you must *not* do is double on an 'intermediate hand' with some of the suits and shortage in another and hope to weather the storm. Have a look at Hand 3:

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

While it is fine to double 1♥ on this, if the opening bid were 1♦ the correct call would be 'Pass', hoping to be able to show your hand later (by doubling when an opponent bids hearts). It would be quite wrong to say to yourself: 'I will double and then if partner bids hearts, I can go to no-trumps in the knowledge that partner has that suit covered.'

This would be wrong on so many levels: if you double and then bid no-trumps, partner will think you have 19+ and a balanced hand including at least two hearts. Partner will invariably bid hearts again and the whole auction will descend into chaos.

★★★★★

Sometimes people double when they should be overcalling, as with Hand 4:

Hand 4
♠ A Q J 5
♥ 8
♦ 6 5
♣ K Q 10 8 7 5

If the opening bid is 1♥, then while it's true that you have shortage in the opponent's suit, an opening hand and good support for the other major, your heart will sink to its lowest depths if you double and partner bids 5♦ over the opponents' 4♥ contract – not that an unlikely scenario. Better to bid 2♣ and get the spades in later.

And finally what about hands that don't



Michael Byrne

TRAPS FOR THE UNWARY

immediately look like a double but are such that you should be taking action?

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

Hand 5, whether the opponents open 1♣ or 1♦, is a fine double of either. It's true you are lacking shortage, but when you put down your 14 glittering points partner's frown of disapproval will turn to a dazzling smile. You have support for all of the unbid suits and a good opening bid, and whatever partner bids will be fine. It would be a fair gambit to double 1♠ (if that was what was opened) as well, although there is less incentive as partner can't reply cheaply at the one level.

Let's review the Dos and Don'ts of take-out doubles:

Do:

- Remember to double when you have a balanced hand too strong for a 1NT overcall (19+ HCP) (Hand 2).
- Double when you have an opening hand with support for all the other suits, even if you are more balanced than you'd like (Hand 5).

Don't:

- Make a take-out Double when you have a long suit that is better suited to overcalling (Hand 4).
- Double with a singleton in an unbid major, whatever the strength of your hand (Hand 3). ☐

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Slow Play, Alerts and Convention Cards

E-mail your questions to Jeremy Dhondy at ebuproblems@btopenworld.com or write to the editor, Elena Jeronimidis, at 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR.

Please include your name and address even if writing by e-mail.



ASK JEREMY

Jeremy Dhondy

RICK WATERS, Suffolk says: Slow play is an issue that irritates a lot of people, so anything that speeds up a round of bridge should be tried. We now have to shuffle the hand after every board. Wouldn't it be better to sort the hand for the next player? I have calculated that over the course of an evening, when playing 24 boards, players take an average of 40 seconds to sort their hands, so you would be saving over 15 minutes ($23 \times 40 = 15$ minutes 20 seconds). Are we allowed to do this as a club rule? or are we forced to follow EBU regulations? Allright, I concede that basically we are only saving the shuffle time, but any time saved would be appreciated by the faster players.

In the 2007 laws a requirement was added to return cards to the board and that they should be shuffled. You can find the detail in Law 7C. As it is a law, not an EBU regulation, your club cannot choose to ignore it or do something else. The Law says 'should shuffle' rather than 'must shuffle' in order to give the director leeway in the event that someone has difficulty in sorting their cards at the next table. It would be just as sensible to have a rule saying all hands must be sorted. What is important is consistency because information can be given to players at other tables by whether cards are sorted or not. Imagine a board coming from another table in a teams match. You are in fourth seat and there are three passes to you. If the hand is sorted and the other hands were not you will be able to draw an obvious conclusion. Whilst I entirely agree that slow play can put players off, this is not a primary cause and fewer pointless, ill-informed post mortems might lead to a speeding up of the whole process.

SALLY IZOD, Cheltenham asks: I am writing to find out if using an EBU 0021 Score and Convention Card is acceptable at Level 3, playing duplicate bridge at friendly club regular sessions.

I do not any longer play in Congresses or Tournaments. The EBU 0021 card is quick and simple to fill in and contains all the information needed. Someone suggested that I fill in an EBU 20B which, frankly, reminds me of struggling with maths and algebra problems when I was at school.

Yes, it is perfectly acceptable to use 0021 (a standard scorecard with convention card) when you are playing a relatively simple system in a club session unless the club rules state otherwise.

The EBU20B is more designed for congresses and matches. I imagine you may well go through a whole session with no-one taking much interest in your card at all provided you announce as you should.

JOHN HIBBS has an alerting enquiry. He says: My partner and I play Exit Transfers. If I open 1NT and my LHO doubles, partner will pass with a weak hand and no five-card suit, or a strong hand. This is forcing me to redouble, which she will pass with a strong hand hoping to make 1NT redoubled, or bid her lowest four-card suit with a weak hand. We have decided that her original pass should be alerted, but how much information should we be disclosing to our opponent?

Anytime your side has information because of an agreement, you should make that available to your opponents. As

a matter of regulation, the pass after the double of 1NT is alertable and if there is an enquiry your side is required to explain what it means. In my opinion to say something like: 'It forces a redouble', is not good enough. Experienced opponents would know to ask more but less experienced ones might assume it was a good hand. You should tell your opponents what you know. The game allows you to play your method but it also requires a level playing field of information, so I would say: 'It forces a redouble after which pass with a good hand and bid the lowest of my four-card suits with a bad hand.'

Any redouble that is *not* from strength should be alerted, even though we all know some that are clearly SOS.

PHIL COOK from Bath asks: I know that if no-trumps are bid naturally and I double, then that is penalty unless alerted but what about the situation where the auction goes $1\spadesuit$ – Pass – 1NT – Double?

This is not always natural and balanced, so should a double be alerted or not?

You are right that a double of a natural no-trump bid is only alerted if it is *not* for penalties. A 1NT response to a suit opening is typically 6-9 points without support for the opening suit. For sure it will include some awkward hands that are not worth a two over one bid (hence its name as the 'dustbin bid') but when deciding whether to respond to it the opener assumes 6-9 and fairly balanced. Thus it is considered natural and is not an exception. You should alert if the double is not for penalties. \square



Andrew Kambites

Entries and Communication

Part II

Disrupting Declarer's Entries

THE skill of disrupting declarer's entries is greatly neglected. In the first deal you lead your six of spades against declarer's 3NT. East's nine is taken by declarer's ten and declarer leads the three of diamonds to trick two. You play low and allow dummy's king of diamonds to win. Declarer then returns to his hand with the queen of clubs and now plays the four of diamonds. How do you defend:

- If East's first diamond was the two?
- If East's first diamond was the six?

N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ 8 2
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K Q J 10 9
♣ 7 6 4

♠ A J 7 6 5
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ 8 2

W N

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Whatever your agreed signalling methods, partner is expected to show you whether he started with an odd or even number of cards in a suit if declarer is playing that suit to set up winners in an otherwise entryless dummy. Normal methods are that high-low shows an even number of cards in the suit, while low-high shows an odd number.

In scenario (i) East's two shows an odd number: either one or three. If the two is a singleton you cannot prevent dummy's diamonds running. If East has three

diamonds, then you can cut declarer off from dummy by taking your ace now. Declarer has just two diamonds.

In scenario (ii), there are two missing diamonds, the two and the eight. With a diamond holding of ♦8-6-2 East would not have played the six, so the six is either a singleton or from ♦6-2 doubleton. You must withhold your ace for a second round, hoping that partner has a second diamond and declarer has three.

★★★★★

In the second deal your partner leads the two of clubs against declarer's 1NT. Your king wins the trick. What should you return at trick two?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ K 6 5 4
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ A
♣ 8 7 3

♠ A J 10
♥ A 7 4
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ K 9 4

W N
E

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

You have an understandable urge to return your partner's suit and hopefully set up the thirteenth club in his hand. However, there is other business to attend to first. Declarer has:

♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ K 9 6 5 4 ♣ Q J 5

You hold the ace of hearts, and with your ace of spades sitting after dummy's king you have legitimate ambitions to cut declarer off from dummy's hearts. Declarer has only one entry to the hearts: the ace of diamonds. You must attack this at trick two. Switch to a diamond. When declarer plays hearts, watch your partner's count signals carefully to see for how many rounds to withhold your ace.

★★★★★

In many deals the success or otherwise of the defence lies in keeping declarer out of his hand or dummy.

In the third deal you lead the eight of hearts against 6NT. Declarer starts by cashing dummy's six red suit winners. He then plays the ace of spades followed by the seven of spades. Your partner follows with the ten and jack. Declarer plays the four and six. What is the point of this deal?

N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ A Q 9 8 7
♥ A K Q
♦ A K Q
♣ A 5

♠ K 5 3 2
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 6 3
♣ K 6 3 2

W N

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

If you understand what is going on you will realise that you are certain to defeat this contract provided you prevent declarer reaching whatever winners he has in his hand. Partner has no spades left. If you leave him on lead he can only put declarer in his hand. Declarer has twelve winners, courtesy of the club finesse. His hand is:

♠ 6 4 ♥ J 10 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q J

The successful defence is hardly rocket science. Neither does it take huge knowledge of bridge technique. Just overtake partner's jack of spades with your king and return a spade, putting declarer back on the table. You will make your king of clubs at trick thirteen.


You may not like your opponents' bidding, or declarer's card play, but that is no excuse for letting through a clearly beatable slam contract.

★★★★★

Sometimes you need to be a little bit subtle. You may have enough defensive tricks to defeat the contract but you simply cannot get at them. In the last deal you cash your ♣A-K, but partner shows an odd number of clubs. What do you do at trick three?

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 7 5	
♥ Q 5 3	
♦ A K J 10 2	
♣ J 7 6	
♠ K 8	
♥ K 4	
♦ 8 6 5 4	
♣ A K Q 3 2	



West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♣	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

You will need to make a trick with the king of hearts, but a little thought will show you that it is pointless hoping partner has the ace of hearts after declarer's strong bidding. Instead you must hope that declarer has:

♠ A Q J 10 9 3 ♥ A J 10 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 9 4

In that case you can attack the entry to dummy's diamonds by switching to a diamond now, and playing another diamond when you come in with the king of spades. Declarer will then have to resort to the doomed heart finesse. ☐

IN A NUTSHELL

by Jeremy Dhondy

REVOKING

If my partner shows out, can I check he hasn't made an error by asking him?

Yes. The 2007 Laws restored the right to do this. If you ask in a surprised voice, you may create some unauthorised information for your partner. Dummy may not ask a defender.

Can revokes be corrected?

A player *must* correct a revoke if he becomes aware of it before it is established. The card he played in error, if he is a defender, becomes a major penalty card.

Can I revoke at trick twelve?

Yes, but if you do then if it is discovered before the hand is returned to the board, it must be corrected.

How does a revoke become established?

When the offender or his partner play to the *next* trick. If you revoke and then claim, this establishes the revoke.

How many tricks?

- Once the revoke is established, *if* the trick was won by the revoking player, then this trick and one other is transferred to the opponents.
- If someone else (partner or opponents) won the trick, then one trick

is transferred.

- If the offending side does not make a trick subsequent to the revoke, then no tricks are transferred.

What happens if transferring one or two tricks is not enough?

It's possible that a revoke may do something nasty like cut declarer off from dummy and stop him making several tricks. In this event the director may decide that the non offending side is insufficiently compensated and assign an adjusted score.

Are there revokes for which there is no rectification?

Yes. The law lists seven situations including both sides revoking on the same hand and revoking more than once in the same suit (only the last is subject to rectification). Law 64B gives a full list.

Final notes

- The law is quite complicated, so please call the director every time there is a revoke.
- The law specifies that the prime purpose of the revoke law is to *rectify the damage* and not to punish the revoking side.

BRIDGE PLAYERS TIE THE KNOT IN KENDALL

TWO Poulton bridge players cemented their partnership by getting married in Kendal Registry Office.

Bill Winter, aged 74, has represented Poulton BC and more recently Lytham BC in local leagues for many years. He has also been running the Beginners and Improvers weekly classes at Poulton.

Bill's bride, Hazel Shaw, is 70 and, being an ex-pupil of Bill's, now helps him with his teaching.

The happy couple, seen here the morning after the wedding, spent their honeymoon (two days without bridge!) in Ambleside.

(Neville Wiseman)



21 – 23 October 2011

AUTUMN CONGRESS



NEW VENUE: *Holiday Inn*

Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6YR

☎ 0871 942 9270

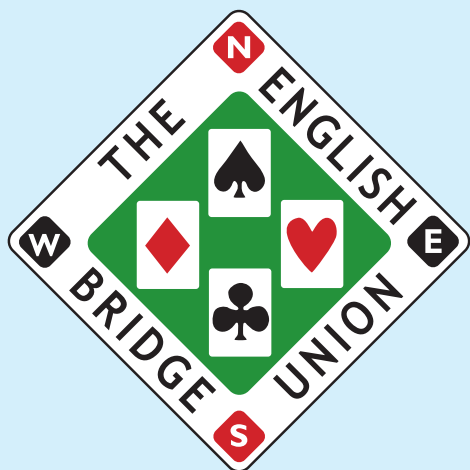
Main events: ♦ The prestigious four-session
Two Stars Pairs, commencing Friday afternoon.

♦ The **Satellite Pairs**, starting on the Friday
evening, if you prefer a more relaxed style.

Other events: ♦ Swiss Pairs on Saturday.

♦ Teams-of-Four on Sunday.

These
congresses
are
Green-
pointed



Entries / enquiries to

EBU Competitions Department

☎ 01296 317203 or 01296 317219

e-mail: comps@ebu.co.uk

or enter from the EBU website

www.ebu.co.uk

**Book NOW to avoid
disappointment!**

4 – 6 November 2011

SENIORS CONGRESS



Barceló Daventry Hotel, NN11 0SG

☎ 01327 307000

To be eligible for a Seniors event, players must have their 60th birthday or beyond during the calendar year (January-December) of the event. For example, a player can play in a Seniors event at the age of 59 provided his/her 60th birthday falls later that year. *Players are advised to check congress space before booking the hotel accommodation.*

Championship Pairs
Swiss Pairs Championship
Swiss Teams Championship

***End 2011 in style
with the EBU at the***

**YEAR END CONGRESS
LONDON** (27 – 30 December 2011)



**YEAR END CONGRESS
BLACKPOOL** (28 – 30 December 2011)



SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS – AN ENHANCED SERVICE FOR OUR CLUBS AND THEIR MEMBERS

by Sally Bugden, EBU Chairman

THOSE of you who can remember when we first launched proposals on universal membership (was it really four years ago?) will recall that the platform for this policy was to enhance and revitalise bridge playing in our affiliated clubs. The EBU is a not-for-profit organisation that ploughs any surplus it makes back into members services and the development of the game. We also made a commitment to streamline administration.

Since implementation of universal membership back in April 2010 we have been looking at the ways in which we can achieve those commitments we made to you.

The development of our own simultaneous pairs software forms part of this pledge.

WHAT DOES THE NEW SIM PAIRS SOFTWARE MEAN TO OUR CLUBS AND THEIR MEMBERS?

Simply, the new software means an easily accessible service with more opportunities to play. It will also enable us to offer a modest reduction in entry fees*, which can be reduced further through the use of online commentaries and hand records.

So in the first year of operation beginning in April 2012 the EBU will offer 17 days of its EBU Sims as follows, with the opportunity for sessions to be run in the morning, afternoon or evening** as follows:

- Spring EBU Sims (May) 5 days
- Autumn EBU Sims (September) 5 days
- Stratified EBU Sims (March) 5 days
- International EBU Sims also known as Bridge England Sims (February) 2 days

Our British Sims – the replacement for the BGB Sims which we hope the WBU and SBU will take part in – will run for a total of twenty days with morning, afternoon and evening sessions** as follows:

- 5 days Spring
- 5 days Summer
- 5 days Autumn
- 5 days Winter

There will be enhanced master point awards on offer for both EBU and British Sims and all events can be stratified, thus making them attractive to novice and experienced players alike.

*The Stratified EBU Sims entry fee of £2 will remain unchanged.

**Conditions will be put in place to ensure that individual members only play in one simultaneous pairs session per day.

HOW WILL THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WORK?

The technology will be simple, with the process of uploading to the new 'Sims Results' section of our website operating on the principles of uploading pay-to-play club files.

We will also be able to offer bespoke simultaneous pairs events for groups of clubs who may wish to compete against each other, or within counties. These events will be available at any time for you to fit into your club playing calendar.

TESTING TIME!

We will be running a free simultaneous pairs event for all our clubs towards the end of 2011 to test the new system. Keep your eyes peeled for Barry's Blog on the website.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Anna Gudge and Mark Newton of ECATs, a commercial company, for providing us with an excellent service over the years. They will continue to run our events up to April 2012. From that date onwards, as far as we are aware, ECATs will still run their Children in Need Simultaneous Pairs, the World Bridge Federation and European Bridge League Simultaneous Pairs and the Kidney Research event.

FURTHER INFO

We will be providing further information about our simultaneous events over the coming months in *English Bridge* and on the website. If you have any questions, please contact Krys Kazmierczak (krys@ebu.co.uk), who is part of the team ensuring that we represent the best interests of our members by using our own technical and event-running expertise to provide the improved services. □



17 – 19 February 2012

HARROGATE SPRING CONGRESS

Majestic Hotel, Harrogate



 01296 317203 / 219  comps@ebu.co.uk



■ OCTOBER 2011

- 30/9-2/10 West of England Congress
Weston-super-Mare
1-2 Premier League
Manchester BC
1-2 Great Northern Swiss Pairs
Hilton Leeds City Hotel
1-2 Felixstowe Congress
7-9 Isle of Man Congress
The Villa Marina, Douglas
12-13 BGB Sim Pairs
13-18 Overseas Congress
Kos
15-29 World Teams Championships
Veldhoven
21-23 Autumn Congress
Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon
29-30 Malvern Congress
Brandsford
29-30 Kent Congress
Tunbridge Wells BC
29-30 Lancashire Congress
Brierfield, Blackburn

■ NOVEMBER 2011

- 4-6 Seniors Congress
Daventry
11 Children in Need Sim Pairs
Clubs
11-13 Premier League
West Midlands BC, Solihull
11-13 NEBA Congress
Derwent Manor Hotel, Allensford
14-17 Children in Need Sim Pairs
Clubs
19-20 Lederer Memorial Trophy
Young Chelsea BC, London
19-20 Middlesex Congress
Barnet
26-27 Tollemache Cup
Qualifying Round
Daventry

■ DECEMBER 2011

- 27-30 Year End Congress
London
28-30 Year End Congress
Blackpool

■ JANUARY 2012

- 6-8 Camrose Trophy
Oxford
6-8 Midland Counties Congress
Brandsford
7-8 Manchester Congress
Manchester
9-11 BGB Sims
Clubs
13-15 Lady Milne Trials
Young Chelsea, London
21-22 Swiss Teams Congress
Hinckley
27-29 Really Easy Winter Break
Wroxtton, nr Banbury

■ FEBRUARY 2012

- 7-8 Bridge England Sim Pairs
Clubs
7-12 Overseas Congress
Marbella
11-12 Tollemache Final
Hinckley
17-19 Harrogate Spring Congress
Majestic Hotel
17-19 Junior Camrose/Peggy Bayer
Republic of Ireland



YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



THE 2010 Young Player of the Year award goes to Graeme Robertson, who has been a member of the Junior Squad for over five years, gaining in ability and talent throughout this time. 2010 was his highpoint as a player, as he represented England in not just one but two World Championships. In July he travelled to Taiwan as captain of the Cambridge University team in the World University Championships, having qualified by right by winning the Portland Bowl (the England Universities championship). His team finished creditably considering their inexperience but Graeme's performance was first class: he played in every match and was awarded the Paul Magerman Trophy for the best defended hand, for his inspired defence to beat a 4♠ contract.

Last October he travelled to Philadelphia as part of the Under-21 team in the Junior World Championships. Graeme was part of the anchor pair that played every single board in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final of the event, and his performance was critical in the teams phenomenal recovery against the Netherlands.

His sense of humour and amusing story-telling provide light relief in even the darkest of times, and he is a credit to the squad.

YOUNG PAIR OF THE YEAR AWARD

THE 2010 award for Young Pair of the Year goes to a young pair who have made great progress in a short period of time: Tommy Brass and Alex Roberts.

missed out on a medal in the last few boards, and at the Channel Trophy in Lille, where their slam bidding was responsible for many swings to England.



Tommy Brass

Despite having only joined the squad in the autumn of 2009, 2010 has seen them achieve many good results, particularly at the European Youth Pairs where they narrowly



Alex Roberts

Their attitude is always positive, and even after a poor result the only thing you will see is laughter – and maybe a sheepish grin!

2011 EBU & FRED. OLSEN CRUISE



THE Norwegian fjords on board *Balmoral*, one of the ships in the Fred. Olsen line, were the destination of the 2011 EBU cruise which took place in June. Paul Hackett gave the seminars while John Pyner was the TD in the superb bridge room. Mike and Annette Cornes, Olivia Hackett, Maggie Pyner were the hosts.

The weather was gorgeous – it did not even rain in Bergen (picture above) – and everyone was in short sleeves as the ship hit the Arctic Circle.

Bridge (about ten tables per session) took place in the afternoon when at sea and in the evening when in port. Memories of the two weeks include Arthur Russell picking up four bottles of champagne for winning four quizzes, Margaret Hall going up in a helicopter, and the midnight feasts. The overall winner was Eric Smith from Hampshire.

Our next cruise is seventeen days going to the Cape Verde Islands starting on November 17th, 2012 (see page 24).



JOHN ARMSTRONG AWARD

THE John Armstrong award consists of two trees planted annually in Heritage Wood, near Ashbourne in Derbyshire. One is in memory of John and the second is in the name of someone who has made a special contribution to, or has enhanced, our beautiful game. This year the two trees are a horse chestnut and an oak.

The 2011 winners are Sue Evans and Dennis Loynes from Worcestershire for the sportsmanship demonstrated at a Hubert Phillips match where they provided a fourth to their opposing team instead of claiming the match as they were entitled to by the rules (*see August English Bridge, page 3*); their virtue was all the greater as they then lost the match!

If you are ever near it, Ashbourne Heritage Wood is a lovely place to visit. See www.heritage-wood.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As a member of the English Bridge Union, you can receive the following benefits:

- HMCA healthcare benefits
- Special Rates at Barceló Hotels
- EBU Prizes used to pay at Barceló Hotels
- Household Insurance Scheme
- Club Insurance
- Car Hire
- Travel Insurance

Read all about it at www.ebu.co.uk (click on Membership Benefits in the right-hand-side menu on the home page).

BRIDGE ENGLAND SIM PAIRS

THE 2012 *Bridge England* Simultaneous Pairs will take place on February 7th and 8th in clubs all around the country.

As in last year's event, green points will be awarded and participants will receive a booklet containing commentary from the country's leading players – and lots of top tips! More details in the December issue of *English Bridge*.

The money raised will be used to help fund our Camrose and Lady Milne teams, as well as provide essential training and practice for England's national teams in the run up to the 2012 European Championships in Greece.

Support your national teams – get your club to hold a heat and put February 7th and 8th 2012 in your diary now!

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

CONGRATULATIONS to the England Women's team who came fourth in the Beijing Hua Yuan Cup last month. This invitational tournament was for elite women bridge players throughout the world, so it provided excellent practice for our England team ahead of the Venice Cup (*see page 3*), which takes place this month.

Sally Brock and Nicola Smith also came second in the Yangguang Shengda Women's Pairs, that were part of the event.

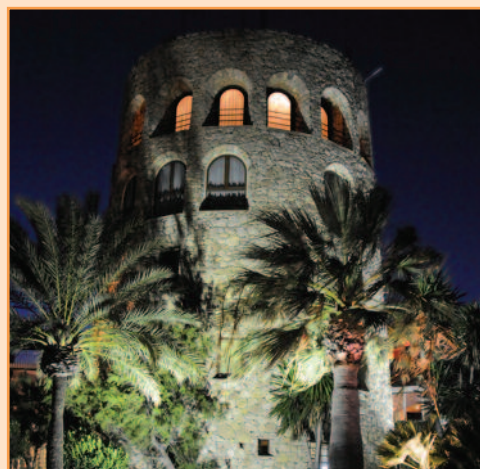
ONLINE COMPETITIONS ENTRY

MEMBERS are reminded that they are now able to book into EBU events online through the members area.

THE EBU & BRIDGE OVERSEAS MARBELLA CONGRESS

7 – 12 February 2011

Hotel El Fuerte, Marbella



- ★ Pre-congress Pairs
- ★ Open Pairs
- ★ Pivot Teams
- ★ Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Pairs
- ★ Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams

Green-
pointed
Swiss
events



Bridge Fees: £124

Entries to EBU Competitions Dept
Broadfields, Bicester Road, Aylesbury,
Bucks HP19 8AZ

☎ 01296 317 203/219 E-mail: comps@ebu.co.uk

For travel and accommodation please contact

BRIDGE OVERSEAS



☎ 0800 034 6246

'BRIDGE LICENSED BY THE EBU'

When you see this in an advertisement
in the magazine it means:

- The organisers of the holiday have applied for, and received, a licence.
- They may choose to give master points in accordance with EBU scales.
- These master points will be accepted and added to player records.
- The bridge will be played in line with EBU regulations and bye laws, thus affording all players the protection of playing within the jurisdiction of the EBU.

NOTE that all County events advertised have an EBU licence.



TEACHER TRAINING COURSES 2011

**Partner Teacher Training Courses –
courses for prospective teachers**

~~Aylesbury EBU HQ October 14-16 FULL~~
~~Aylesbury EBU HQ February 17-19 2012~~

Courses – £200 for the Full Course –
include how to teach bridge, what to teach,
short teaching practice, how to recruit, how to retain
and how to turn your students into a partner club.

For info ☎ 01296 317217 or email lisa@ebu.co.uk

**Club Teacher Training Courses
NEW courses for affiliated clubs**

Under the Universal Membership scheme affiliated clubs are invited to nominate one club member in any two-year period to be trained FREE OF CHARGE as a Club Teacher. Second and subsequent bookings from the same club can be made at £102 each.

The course content will include how to teach bridge, what to teach and a short teaching practice. Entries may only be booked by the registered secretary of the affiliated club. Courses are restricted to 12 people per course and may well fill before the magazine goes to press.

The next courses have been arranged at
~~Chichester, W Sussex – October 15/16 FULL~~
Horsham – November 26/27

**West Midlands Bridge Club and St George's, Darlington
are also being planned.**

For details ☎ 01296 317217 or email lisa@ebu.co.uk

Any club with permanent premises which would be prepared to host one of the new courses is asked to contact John Pain at the EBU: ☎ 01296 317218 or email john@ebu.co.uk. There are additional concessions available for clubs hosting the courses.

CLUB DIRECTOR & COUNTY DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES 2011–2012



ESSENTIALS £36

~~EBU HQ, Aylesbury~~
Thirsk
Brighton (£37)

Additional courses are shown on the EBU website.
Dates for courses in early 2012 will be available soon.

~~Wednesday 12 October FULL~~

Saturday 22 October
Monday 13 August 2012

BOOK RULINGS £41

Warrington
~~EBU HQ, Aylesbury~~
Thirsk
EBU HQ, Aylesbury
Brighton (£42)

Sunday 2 October

~~Wednesday 9 November FULL~~

Saturday 12 November
Wednesday 16 November
Tuesday 14 August 2012

JUDGMENT RULINGS £41

Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury
Brighton (£42)
Thirsk

Sunday 23 October
Wednesday 14 December
Wednesday 15 Aug 2012
To be confirmed

ASSESSMENT £46

Sheffield
Tunbridge Wells
Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury
Brighton (£47)
Thirsk

Saturday 8 October
Saturday 8 October
Sunday 11 December
Wednesday 18 Jan 2012
Thursday 16 August 2012
To be confirmed

COUNTY TD PREPARATION COURSE

Saturday May 12, 2012

The 2011 course has taken place. This one day course will be held at the EBU Headquarters in Aylesbury. We will use material from previous County courses to give people a flavour of harder book and judgement rulings. It will also cover use of the *White Book* (the TD Guide). There is a limit of 12 places. Course fee £40. Bookings should be made through the Competitions Department in the usual way.

2012 COUNTY AND COUNTY REFRESHER COURSE

Provisional date: September 15-16 2012

*Hilton Hotel, Coventry, Paradise Way Walsgrave Triangle,
Coventry CV2 2ST (Just off M6 J2)*

Full details on the EBU website, www.ebu.co.uk

For further information, or to register for a course

☎ 01296 317203 or email peter@ebu.co.uk

NEW CONCESSIONS FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS

Under the Universal Membership scheme affiliated clubs are invited to send a second club member to a TD course FREE OF CHARGE where the club sends a full paying member to any of the club TD courses. The offer is on a 'like for like' basis – so when a club books a place (from one to four courses) it receives the equivalent free for another member of the same club. To take advantage of the scheme both the paying member and the free member must be booked at the same time and the booking must be made by the registered secretary of the club. **(Please note** this scheme does not include the County Director or County Refresher courses held annually, nor the County Preparation day course.)

Beat Today's Experts

These hands are all from modern events and David Bird points to some useful lessons to be learned from them. See how your efforts compare with the experts' bidding.

October 2011 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- Game All
Dealer West
(Henbest)
*South overcalls 2♥
♠ 9 3
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ A K J 9 6 4
♣ Q
- N/S Game
Dealer East
(Lund)
♠ A
♥ J 5 4
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ K Q J 8 2
- Game All
Dealer West
(Alice Kaye)
♠ A 7 6 3
♥ Q
♦ 4 2
♣ A K J 9 7 2
- Game All
Dealer South
(Grue)
*South passes; North bids 1♥
♠ 9
♥ 10 7 6
♦ A Q 5 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 2
- Game All
Dealer West
(Hurd)
♠ A K J 6
♥ K 9 8 6 4 2
♦ K
♣ 9 2
- N/S Game
Dealer East
(Véronique Bessis)
♠ J 10 8 3 2
♥ K 4
♦ A K 8 6
♣ J 3

Beat Today's Experts

These hands are all from modern events and David Bird points to some useful lessons to be learned from them. See how your efforts compare with the experts' bidding.

October 2011 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

- Game All
Dealer West
(Kingham)
*South overcalls 2♥
♠ A K 6 2
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 10 8
♣ A K 7 5
- N/S Game
Dealer East
(Molberg)
♠ K 8 5 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ A K 10
♣ A 10 9
- Game All
Dealer West
(Bryony Youngs)
♠ K Q 9
♥ A 10 9 8 7 3
♦ 6
♣ 8 6 4
- Game All
Dealer South
(Lall)
*South passes; North bids 1♥
♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ A J 5
♦ Void
♣ A K Q J 6
- Game All
Dealer West
(Wooldridge)
♠ Q
♥ A 10 3
♦ A J 10 5 3
♣ A K Q 3
- N/S Game
Dealer East
(Catherine D'Ovidio)
♠ 9
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ 10 4
♣ A K Q 9 8 6

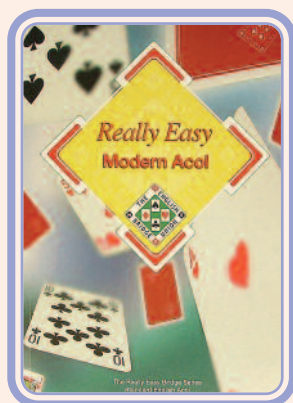
Did you beat the experts? – Pages 36-37



Did you beat the experts? – Pages 36-37

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Offers end 31st October 2011.

EBU SHOP OFFERS

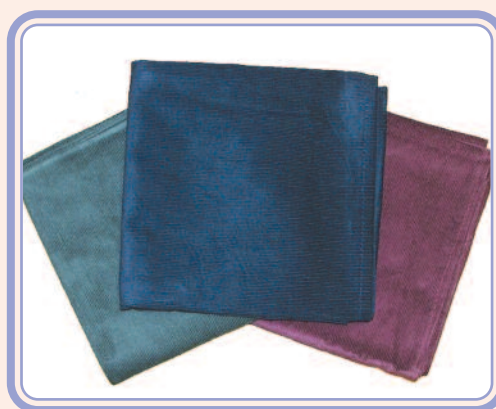
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Prices do not include p&p,
but include VAT.
Offers end 31st October 2011.



Keeping Young

THE little pictures of people who write articles must have been unchanged for the last one hundred years! Why not regularly update them, or do they wish they hadn't aged? Come on, let's keep things up to date and realistic.

Peter Finbow, Begbroke



They say bridge keeps you young, and Mr Finbow had to agree that Mike Swanson (who was at school with him) is proof of that when I sent him the two pictures above. The first (used for Mike's articles) was taken in 2005 and the other a couple of months ago when Mike escorted his wife, Maureen, to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Having said that, we do update photos if people start to look different or if new, good, pictures come along (for free or at a reasonable price). Check out whose photo has changed this month! – Ed.

Music

LISTENING to music like Beethoven and Mozart reputedly enhances one's IQ. Cerebral games like chess have been associated with music for decades. The eminent German Grandmaster and writer Dr Siegbert Tarrasch wrote that 'Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy'. Similarly bridge must have Grandmasters and Champions who were or are inspired by great music that improves their grasp of card play.

At my club level of bridge experience, I find that listening to Mozart's Horn Concerto by Dennis Brain is conducive to solving bridge problems.

Dilip Guha, Chesterfield

The Code

RE Roger Cortis's letter in the August issue, he might be interested in contacting Marcus du Sautoy, presenter of 'The Code' on BBC2. This type of number regularity is exactly what du Sautoy is talking about; he has a blog on the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thecode/

Mr Cortis's 30-35% sounded suspiciously like Pi.

**Sarah Fairbairn,
Barnes, Richmond**

Getting Out More

I HATE to be pedantic but, in response to Mike Duncan's letter in the June magazine, you can't make a grand slam on an endplay, as an endplay requires giving up a trick.

Perhaps I should 'get out more' – but never mind.

Norman Massey, Wellington

Rare Hand

PLAYING rubber bridge I was dealt a hand with no card higher than an eight and 4-3-3-3 shape. I believe the probability of a Yarborough is about 1 in 1,828 (hence the profitability of the bet of 1000 to 1 offered by the 2nd Earl of Yarborough).

My grandson, Zak, who is doing A Level maths, tells me that the probability of an eight-high hand is 1 in 16,960. Combining this with the probability of a 4-3-3-3 distribution (about 10% after eliminating the impossible distributions) would make this hand about 1 in 170,000. In other words, a bridge player, playing on average 48 hands a week, would get it about once every 68 years.

As I am now 74, I do not expect it to happen again!

**Tim Lawrence,
Farnham Common**

Secret of Success?

I HAVE just read that Richmond Bridge Club is the most popular EBU-affiliated club in the country, with Wimbledon second.

Are you aware that they are both managed by the same lady, Marietta Andree, who consistently does a marvellous job at both?

Linda Major, London

Help please



I PURCHASED a bridge trophy about four years ago, which is inscribed 'World Bridge Olympic' and 'National Championship 1936'. I do not know anything about the trophy or the competition for which it was awarded; there is no name on it and it may have a part of the base missing (I added one, see photo). The trophy was purchased at Preston flea market for about £20. I bought it because of its age and interest, plus I'm an avid collector of anything old!

Does anyone know anything about this competition?

**Nick Welch,
n.welch@live.co.uk**

If anyone can help, please email Mr Welch at the address above (and please copy me in).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Send your letters to the Editor, Elena Jeronimidis, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk

(please include your postal address)

The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Publication does not mean the EBU agrees with the views expressed or that the comments are factually correct.

Lost Property

AFTER one evening session in the Brighton Swiss Pairs, I realised that I had mislaid my grey sweater. The bridge had finished and I started, without much hope, to look for the lost article. The room had now cleared out, and to my surprise, I spotted a grey garment over a chair towards the far side of the room. I picked it up. Yes, it was mine. An M&S Autograph XX grey cashmere sweater.

I didn't think much more about it until I got to my hotel room later that night. To my absolute amazement, my grey cashmere sweater, exactly as described, was lying on my bed. Obviously, I hadn't worn it, but imagined I had. I didn't consider the matter further. After all, there was a bridge tournament going on at the time. I later packed it, forgetting that it wasn't mine, and brought it home with my other belongings.

It wasn't until my wife opened my case, staring in disbelief at my new acquisition, that it all came back to me.

I would be happy to return the since unworn article of clothing if the owner comes forward.

**Howard Cohen,
kandhcohen@btinternet.com**

August Debate

BRIAN Senior wins by a mile. A first-class article on when to jump.

Michael Akeroyd, by email

FRANCES Hinden puts the case for weak jump shifts to two of a major well; the clinching argument is surely frequency, as she says. Brian Senior seems to concede they are a good idea for a lot of people playing a strong no-trump. I got the impression that Frances thought strong jump shifts to the three level not the best use of the bid (but neither were weak jump shifts).

I think Brian overstates the case for a strong jump shift. In my view, you are normally better off without jump shifting if partner either raises your bid or shows additional strength in some way. Admittedly, though, Brian's second example hand:

♠ A K Q J 9 6 2 ♥ 10 3 ♦ K 3 ♣ K 8 is more difficult without a strong jump shift: you really always want partner to know you have long solid spades. Bidding along the lines Frances suggests (1♦ – 1♠ – 2♣ – 3♠) doesn't quite get over the power of the hand.

Keith George, Croydon

REGARDLESS of who is right, Frances is far prettier.

Tony Gervis, by email

Odds

WHAT are the odds of the forty points in the pack being in a side's two hands?

Judy Poirley, Ipswich, and Doreen Read, Chichester

Can anyone work this out?

Monaco Revisited

HARSH words from Richard Fleet in the last edition (Letters pages). Presumably, the Selection Committee picks the best available team or pair for each event, therefore any individual arrangements regarding expenses are not relevant. Sponsored teams are very successful in domestic events, particularly the Gold Cup, so it's no surprise that they are asked to represent the Country.

Ron Davis, Milton Keynes

Rebates

REGARDING the August 'EBU News' article and the offer of a rebate to anyone spending their life playing bridge, taking part in more than 150 P2P sessions in a year means playing a minimum of three times a week. If you go on holiday or spend time with your family, that rises to four times a week. Let's hope we don't catch flu!

How much is the rebate for reaching 150, please?

Geoffrey Fink, Altrincham

Clare Dumbarton, Membership & Accounts Assistant, replies: Looking through the documents sent out before P2P started, there is a paragraph ('Pay to Play Guidance Notes: point 20') explaining that you must play over 150 sessions in the financial year (1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011) to qualify for the EBU P2P rebate, so if you play 151 sessions, then you get the EBU rebate of 29p. So far the highest I know of is a member who played 186 sessions above the minimum 150 (336 sessions in all), receiving a rebate of £53.94. Further information can be found at www.ebu.co.uk/pay2play/default.htm

Oddity

ROGER Cortis (August Letters) asks how likely it is that five-card or longer suits have four cards from a run of five, such as A-K-Q-J or 6-5-3-2. It is not easy to calculate that analytically, but we can count by computer. There are 1287 five-card suits, of which 258 have this property. That's about 20%, but it is much more likely with longer suits: 772 of 1716 six-card suits (45%), 1288 of 1716 seven-card suits (75%) and 1224 of 1287 eight-card suits (95%). Interestingly only one of the 715 nine-card suits does not (A-K-Q-9-8-7-4-3-2), and all longer suits do. Now we have to take account of the different frequencies with which these suits lengths occur, which can be picked up from a standard table of the probabilities of hand shapes, allowing for the possibility of having two long suits in one hand. In 1000 deals, you expect about 483 five-card suits, 166 six-card suits, 35 seven-card suits, 5 eight-card suits, and nothing longer. This makes for an overall probability of observing this property in five-card or longer suits of about 29.6%.


Mr Cortis asks whether the 30-35% he observes is normal, or whether there is some oddity in the dealing system. As a cynical old statistician, I reckon it is normal for an informal survey that starts over a beer to reveal something that isn't quite there, and that a more rigorous survey would bring the figure down to 29.6%.

Jim Simons, Prestbury

Gerald Everitt (Kimpton) calculates the figure as 34%; Mike Griffiths (Paddock Wood) makes it 28.2% and Bill Linton (London) 29.91%.

August Thoughts

EACH issue my husband, Steve, and I test our wits against the 'Experts'. In Hand 3 (August), David Bird describes the final 3NT as 'a fine decision' and awards it 10 points:

♠ J 6 5		♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q 7		♥ A 8 5 2
♦ A K Q J 10 8 3		♦ 6
♣ 8		♣ A K J 9 3

West Mukherjee	East Saha
1♦	1♣
2♣	1♥
3♦	3♣
3NT	3♥

As bridge teachers, we think this was a 'flyer'. If the average bidder keeps bidding like that, s/he will just keep going down. A 5-2 split in the remaining hands would almost certainly mean no spade winners. We believe the part-score was the sensible bid and the proper 10-pointer. The readership of *English Bridge* will be much broader now because of P2P; the magazine will be read by many who are just beginning bridge and who need articles that back up what they are being taught, not encourage them to take risks.

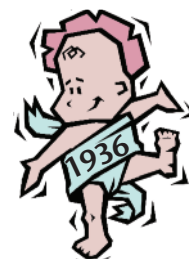
But perhaps that's why we've never been invited to play internationally!

Audrey Rostron, Bolton

David Bird replies: 3NT makes when spades break 4-3 (a 62% chance). It also makes when spades are 5-2 and a defender decides not to lead from a doubleton spade, or when the defenders' spades are blocked. So 3NT fully deserves every one of those 10 points! □

THE AUGUST DEBATE
Thank you for your votes and comments.
Strong vs Weak Jump Shift Responses
ended in a draw.

How Some More of Our 75-year-old Members Got Hooked on Bridge



Derek Stewart, Essex

I LIVED in Cairo throughout the war and developed an interest in cards playing whist with my parents and their friends. I finished my full-time education at Felsted and joined GEC as an apprentice, in Chelmsford.

In the late '50s, to liven up the lunch-hours, I started a bridge foursome. We discovered a book by Kaplan & Sheinwold, pooled our meagre finances, and duly became expert. Soon we joined the Marconi Bridge Club. Following our first visit, we were able to reconstruct all twenty-four hands down to about the six. Oh for that memory today! We reached the zenith of our career by being invited to play in a match against Felsted Village. Many of their team were associated with the school but had retired long before my day. They were somewhat intimidating in their DJs and long dresses.

The village hall had a closed bar, but my partner, out for an enjoyable evening, asked if it were possible to have a pint. With some surprise but extreme politeness, side tables and pints were produced. Moments later, my partner knocked his full pint over the floor. Ouch. The match score was Table 1 Plus 1; Table 2 Minus 2; Table 3 Plus 1; Table 4 Minus 23. I am still confused as to why we were never invited to play again. In 1960 our Division was moved to Basildon, doubtless to the relief of many.

I didn't play again until I retired. We are spoilt for choice in Billericay where there are some dozen clubs, a permanent bridge facility, as well as Essex events close by. Fortunately, few venues have a bar. I teamed with an expert who favours 'Strong Club', which suited my approach, and so have never played Acol. It surprises me why anyone plays Acol, a system based on a weak foundation – but that's another subject.

Maarja Reiman, Leicestershire



I WAS born in Estonia and World War 2 brought my family to England in 1948. My father was a keen bridge player, and taught my older sister and me the rudiments of the Culbertson System when I was 12. My mother became the reluctant fourth player. She did not always follow the rules of the game, and her facial expressions and the tone of her voice when bidding gave everyone a clear idea about the strength of her hand, much to my father's annoyance. However, as there was no TV and we did not even have a radio in those days, these evenings of simple bridge were truly enjoyable.

My husband and I played during our student days, but then as life became busy, we stopped altogether. After an absence of more than forty years, we returned to bridge, rusty and unsure and sometimes quite terrified. A kindly tutor at our local club encouraged us to keep going. We shall never reach great heights in our standard of play, but the joy we now derive from our weekly visits to the club is enormous.

Richard Watts, Oxfordshire

I LEARNT bridge over fifty years ago at university, but only played socially (including some very wet days in a tent in Scotland) as I was playing a lot of chess.

Ten years later I started playing most lunchtimes in Manchester – for about fifteen years or so. We set up our own team in the Manchester league, but this only lasted a couple of years as we all moved on. I also started playing duplicate with a very good friend of mine at an ICI social club, but I now realise that I did not really understand the nuances of the scoring in duplicate.

Having moved to Oxfordshire and then retired, I joined Faringdon Bridge Club. My bridge partner Peter and I won the Sandra Landy Trophy (for Oxfordshire pairs with fewer than 5,000 master points) in 1995. After my wife retired I started playing with her at Faringdon on Mondays and with Peter at Wantage on Thursdays.

I also learned to be a director on an EBU course, so I direct about once a month at Faringdon, of which I am currently also Chairman.

Barrie Benfield, Cornwall



I FIRST played (auction) bridge with my parents when I was a teenager; my father played most card games. As a young teacher I was introduced to lunchtime contract bridge and, with my wife, I played socially. After her death, in 1995, I joined Bude BC. My first evening I didn't want good cards; we defended doggedly and came third – my first 10 master points.

I now play regularly at four clubs. I am secretary at Wadebridge and press rep. for Cornwall.

I enjoyed the following hand, played against strong opponents:

Love All. Dealer North.			
♠ Q J			
♥ A K J 7 5			
♦ K J 9 6			
♣ 10 6			
♠ A 7 3		♠ 10 9 5 4	
♥ Q 8 3 2		♥ 10 9 6	
♦ 8 5 4 2		♦ A 7	
♣ 7 5		♣ 9 8 4 3	
♠ K 8 6 2			
♥ 4			
♦ Q 10 3			
♣ A K Q J 2			

North	South
1♥	1♠
3♦	6NT
All Pass	

West, apparently sitting over a spade suit, did not lead the ace, but played a diamond to her partner's ace. A club was returned and there was a thin chance of making the slam if West had the queen of hearts. I took my three diamonds and five club tricks and at trick nine West, now holding ♠A and ♥Q-x-x-x, was fatally squeezed. She discarded a heart and the slam was made. A triumph for reckless bidding, perhaps?

David Richardson, West Yorkshire

SO long as I can remember, bridge has always been part of my life. I was no child prodigy but during the war, father away at sea, I was dragged round various Aunties' houses, and watched my mother play bridge with her 'four' – so I learnt to play after a fashion. After school, I played a bit in the Navy. Introduction to duplicate was unorthodox to say the least.

Domiciled in Scotland, I became acquainted with a young solicitor, Henry, who had just joined the family firm in Stirling, called Welsh & Robb (no jokes about the name, please – they were a highly respectable firm).

Now mother had taught me to play Acol; Henry's father had taught him to play Culbertson. Our respective parents

decided to launch us at the Stirling (Men's) Bridge Club. Now don't be silly, sexism hadn't been invented yet!

We agreed Henry would bid *à la* Culbertson and I would bid as per Victor Mollo. We explained to each other the intricacies of our systems. And so we were ushered into the august presence of the town's senior and most important citizens.

Sometimes pigs do fly. Some three and a bit hours later two rather bemused and grinning young men stumbled down the steps of the County Club clutching seven shillings and six pence (37½p) in their sticky little hands. They had defeated the might of Stirlingshire.

Mind you, I cannot remember being asked to play again!

Simon Partridge, Northumberland



I WAS born on 30th September, 1936 in Redditch, Worcestershire. I cannot really remember when I first played bridge, but, as a child, during the post-war period, I was introduced to many card games such as Pontoon and Newmarket, especially around Christmas time, where matchsticks were used as the currency of gambling.

It was later, in the 1960s in Lagos, Nigeria, during the wet season, that I began to take an interest in bridge with the ceiling fans at the Apapa Club circulating the muggy air and often exposing the cards, sometimes to my advantage, as they were dealt. It was at this club that I had a near-religious experience when partnering the Bishop of Ibadan, clearly an avid poker player, in a game of bridge and losing the equivalent of £20 to two visiting Irish priests. A few years later my work took me to Hong Kong, where I experienced the civilising influence of duplicate bridge played in the austere surroundings of the American Club.

Nowadays, I enjoy playing duplicate bridge on Thursday evenings in the pleasant

surroundings of the Hexham Bridge Club. I am happy to report that none of its charming members play like an overbidding bishop!

Gerry Loxley, Leicestershire



ALTHOUGH neither of my parents had any interest in cards, I had an uncle who, at family parties, especially at Christmas, got everybody playing Chase the Ace or Newmarket, and at an early age, 7 or 8, my interest in cards was fixed.

Later, at the local church I attended, there would often be whist drives held in the church hall and at the age of 13 I began to play whist.

At 17, I left school and started work as a laboratory assistant at the Leicester Colleges of Art and Technology (now DeMontfort University) where I was first introduced to this strange form of whist where one hand was laid on the table – they called it 'bridge'. This was mostly played by chemistry and pharmacy students during their lunch break and, being quite interested, I regularly watched. One day there were only three players available and I was asked: 'Do you play bridge?' I replied: 'No, but I play whist.' 'That will do,' came back the reply. That was my first introduction to bridge.

Later, while serving with the RAF in Malaya, I met another three looking for a fourth and played for about four months before returning home in November 1957. I then returned to my job as a laboratory assistant and played only occasional bridge until 1962.

Up to this point I had only played rubber bridge but in 1962, having become friendly with my local grocer, at some time in the conversation bridge came up and when he discovered that I played, I was co-opted into their group. His plea to join them amused me when he said: 'One of our four has gone to America and we've been so desperate to get a fourth, we're trying to teach one chap's wife to play.'

Shortly after joining that group we all decided to join the Blaby Bridge Club in Leicestershire and that was my formal introduction to duplicate bridge.

Since then I have played at a number of clubs in Leicestershire and although I now live in Lincolnshire I have not lost my ties with Leicestershire. At the age of 74 (I was born on 27th November 1936), I am currently enjoying my bridge playing at the Melton Mowbray Bridge Club.

Moira Durnell, Northumberland



MY parents both played bridge (the Asking Club system) but I did not start to play until living in Penarth, Cardiff, in the 1960s, when I started classes with my husband. We learned the London School of Bridge system – the strong no-trump (nowadays we play Benji Acol). I was very nervous: the teacher was a very fierce, elderly lady. We then started playing socially at the Glamorganshire Golf Club. A spell in the USA followed and for two years we played social bridge in Los Angeles. Back in the UK in Bedfordshire we again played socially and, after retiring, I returned to the North East, where I grew up, and joined the local bridge club in Hexham.

My husband then became secretary for ten years. Later we joined another club in Newcastle and entered tournaments and congresses together around the North East. Then, after a bridge holiday over Christmas and New Year in Harrogate, we started going abroad on bridge holidays, including one in Turkey where our luggage did not arrive and we had to shop on Christmas Day for things to wear. We ended up going on a few bridge holidays to Spain, which resulted in buying an apartment there, where we spend most of the winter and play once a week in a duplicate club and also socially. I still play in our local clubs in the North East during the summer in England; it fits in well with bowls.

Claude Stokes, Suffolk



ALTHOUGH I played whist while I was living in Devon, it was not until I went to London University in 1954 that I was drawn into playing bridge. When I moved to Frinton-on-Sea in 1971, I was invited to join a newly-formed duplicate bridge club. Within three years I was largely responsible for encouraging Margaret Curtis and her Essex CBA Committee to allow my club to organise the Clacton-on-Sea Bridge Congress. The support for this annual congress was tremendous, with a full house of seventy tables and a waiting list within one month of the entries being opened. This congress was attended by many well-known players including three teams regularly from Scandinavia, who sailed to the nearby port of Harwich. The congress was popular not only for the venue in the Clacton Town Hall but for the elaborate display of prizes (on sale or return from local shops) and beautiful floral decorations. I was responsible for the Clacton Congress for twenty-five years before I had some health problems.

In May 1979 I was actively involved in the re-starting of the Suffolk Contract Bridge Association which had become dormant, with players having to travel long distances to either Essex or Norfolk if they wanted to play in county events. In 1979 a group of keen duplicate bridge players met to discuss whether or not we could re-establish Suffolk. After debate, the EBU agreed that Suffolk could be formed and we took a decision that clubs in north Suffolk, if they so wished, could continue to give their allegiance to Norfolk.

In 1980 the Suffolk CBA re-emerged and in the first year we had an EBU membership of about 400, of which about 150 had been previously members of Essex. The success of the new venture encouraged the Committee to establish the Felixstowe Congress in the autumn. This congress has continued to the present day, albeit with reduced numbers of entries.

I have had many happy years with Suffolk

CBA. I have held nearly all the positions in Committee including Chairman, County Secretary and Membership Secretary. As such, I have made many friends in the heartland of East Anglia and have retained friendship with many of the older members of Essex CBA. In 2006 I retired as Chairman of the Suffolk CBA but I continue to enjoy playing in county events and representing Suffolk in the Eastern Counties League.

Richard Holland, Warwickshire



I AM just one day younger than the EBU!

My parents started me playing cards (crib and whist) as soon as I was able to handle a pack of cards. I followed this up with Solo Whist but it wasn't until I was in my early twenties that I started to play bridge.

Now I can't think of a better game. I am only sorry that the bridge club where I play opted out of the EBU.

I have played with the same partner now for about twenty-five years, our one moment of glory being when we qualified for the Corwen Trophy in 2010.

I love reading bridge books, especially those by Victor Mollo and David Bird.

Joyce Auld, EBU 'Toddler'

I WAS born in 1924, so I am quite ancient and not, technically, an 'EBU Babe', but I learned to play in 1936, so I hope I qualify!

I was in a TB clinic at the time (in Alton, Hants). My parents visited me every Saturday (from Hove, Sussex) and Mother thought it would be a good idea to teach me bridge. I have played it on and off ever since according to circumstances. But the scoring was different. I can't remember the exact count – it was so many points for an Ace-King, an Ace-Queen etc. Does anyone else remember the scoring then? □




David Bird

Beat today's experts

Bidding problems are on page 29

1. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ 9 3 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♦ A K J 9 6 4 ♣ Q		♠ A K 6 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ A K 7 5	
West <i>Henbest</i> 1♦ Pass 3NT	North <i>Dyke</i> Pass Pass Pass	East <i>Kingham</i> 1♠ Dble 6NT	South <i>Gill</i> 2♥ Pass

WE start at the 2011 Australian Trials. Max Henbest decided to pass at his second turn and Ben Kingham kept the bidding alive with a re-opening double. What should West say now?

A pass would have picked up 800, as it happens, but West was uncertain how valuable his diamonds would be in defence. He leapt to 3NT and East raised to 6NT, hoping that partner would hold the ace or king of hearts. North had no heart to lead but declarer had only eleven tricks and ended one down. East should have initiated a cue-bidding sequence by bidding 4♦ over 3NT. When West failed to cue-bid 4♥, the lack of


a heart control would be apparent. This was the other auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Burgess</i>	<i>Edgton</i>	<i>Courtney</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i>
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dble		

A truly awful mis-use of Blackwood! Again, East should have bid 4♦.

■ **Awards:** 5NT/4NT/3NT or 2♥ doubled (10), 5♦ (8), slams (2).

2. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ A ♥ J 5 4 ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ K Q J 8 2		♠ K 8 5 3 2 ♥ A Q ♦ A K 10 ♣ A 10 9
West <i>Lund</i> 4♥ 6♣	East <i>Molberg</i> 2NT 4♠	

Our next deal is from a semi-final of the Norwegian Club Championship. Jørgen Molberg opened 2NT and Boerre Lund responded 4♥. This was a 'two-under transfer' showing a good club suit and suggesting a slam. (4♣ would have shown hearts, 4♦ spades and 4♠ diamonds.) East indicated a good hand for clubs with his spade cue-bid and Lund leapt to 6♣, an excellent contract.

A heart was led and the queen lost to South's king. Lund won the spade return

and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and ten. He played the ace of hearts, the A-K of diamonds and the spade king, throwing a diamond. He then reached his hand with a high spade ruff and discarded dummy's last diamond on the heart jack. A diamond ruff was his twelfth trick. Well bid and well played!

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (10), games (6), 6NT (3).

3. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ A 7 6 3 ♥ Q ♦ 4 2 ♣ A K J 9 7 2	<div>♠ K Q 9 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 3 ♦ 6 ♣ 8 6 4</div> <div><div>N W S E</div></div>
West <i>Kaye</i> 1♣ 1♠ 3♣ 5♣	East <i>Youngs</i> 1♥ 2♥ 4♣

Next we visit the Lady Milne Trophy, with England facing Scotland. England's Bryony Youngs could not be sure that her partner held five clubs, so her rebid of 2♥ looks easily best. Bridge Base Online was already showing '5♣ = 600' for the Scotland E/W pair at the other table, so England supporters were worried in case Alice Kaye should pass 2♥. No, she chose to bid 3♣. What should East say now?

Since both 2♥ and 3♣ were non-forcing, this is one of the rare situations where a raise to 4♣ is non-forcing. On that basis it seems to be a considerable underbid. East can see that her spade honours will supple-

ment partner's second suit. The ♥A is a splendid card and the singleton diamond might prove useful too.

East is full value for a raise to 5♣. Having limited her hand with the 2♥ rebid, she might instead make a splinter-bid raise with 4♦.

Opposite the actual raise to 4♣, Kaye might well have passed. She had no vision of the filling spade honours, nor of the diamond singleton. In fact she did well to raise to 5♣ and the par contract was reached.

■ **Awards:** 5♣ (10), 4♥ (8), part-scores (5), 6♣ (3).

4. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 9	♥ 10 7 6	♦ A Q 5 3	♣ 10 9 8 7 2
♠ A 8 6 5 3	♥ A J 5	♦ Void	♣ A K Q J 6

West <i>Grue</i>	North <i>Greco</i>	East <i>Lall</i>	South <i>Hampson</i>
Pass	1♥	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	6♣	Pass

We will take our next two deals from the final of the 2011 US Open Trials, held to determine the USA2 team for the Bermuda Bowl.

North opened 1♥ and Justin Lall (for the eventual winners) bid a Michaels 2♥, showing spades and a minor. Joe Grue's 2NT asked partner to name which minor he held. Normally East would bid 3♣ to show a club suit. Here Lall had some values to spare; the 29-year-old showed partner which minor he held with the 6♣ card! Twelve tricks were easily made.

Can you guess the result at the other

table? Again the start was Pass – Pass – 1♥. Fred Gitelman then overcalled 1♠, which ended the auction. +140 did not take much of a bite out of Grue and Lall's +1370 and 15 IMPs changed hands.

Players are willing to make a simple overcall nowadays on many hands that would have triggered a take-out double in years gone by. Occasionally this tactic misfires in a big way.

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (10), 5♣/3NT (6), part-scores (3).

5. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ A K J 6	♥ K 9 8 6 4 2	♦ K	♣ 9 2
♠ Q	♥ A 10 3	♦ A J 10 5 3	♣ A K Q 3

West <i>Hurd</i>	East <i>Wooldridge</i>
1♥	2♦
2♥	3♥
3♠	4♠
5♦	6♥

We now see the other young pair in the winning US Trials team, John Hurd and Joel Wooldridge. East's 2♦ response is natural and game-forcing in the two-over-one system, so Wooldridge can bid just 3♥ to agree hearts.

West is then able to cue-bid in spades below the game-level. East's 4♠ is a form of RKCB, known as 'Kickback', and West shows two key cards without the queen of trumps. It is then easy for East to sign off in 6♥.

How would you play this contract when North leads the eight of diamonds? Hurd won with the king and led a trump to the ace. Ouch! South showed out and declarer

had to lose two trump tricks.

Finessing the ♥10 would be a safety play, looking at the trump suit on its own. It might cause a problem if South won and returned a diamond, the opening lead being a singleton (which it was). A better idea would be to cross to the ♠Q and lead the ♥3, intending to finesse the ♥9 into the safe hand. This would have landed the slam.

At the other table Hampson and Greco overstretched to 7♥ and it was a flat board.

■ **Awards:** 6NT (10), 6♥ (9), 7NT/7♥ (6), games (4).

6. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ J 10 8 3 2	♥ K 4	♦ A K 8 6	♣ J 3
♠ 9	♥ A Q 7 5	♦ 10 4	♣ A K Q 9 8 6

West <i>Bessis</i>	East <i>D'Ovidio</i>
1♠	1♣
3♦	2♥
4♦	4♣
5♣	4♥

We end with a deal from the Cronier v Netherlands semi-final in the European Open Women's Teams event.

Catherine D'Ovidio shows good values by reversing to 2♥ on the second round. 2NT is usually treated as forcing over a reverse, but both West players preferred to bid a fourth-suit forcing 3♦.

When D'Ovidio rebid 4♣, Véronique Bessis showed slam interest with a cue-bid of 4♦. East's 4♥ indicated a heart control and West's 5♣ was a sign-off, denying a spade control. What should East do now?

D'Ovidio passed and the excellent slam was missed. At the other table, after the same eight-bid start, Carla Arnolds quite rightly raised to 6♣. She was the one looking at a spade control and she had a wonderful trump suit.

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (10), games (5), 6NT (1).



Our experts score three bull's eyes, one inner, one outer and one complete miss. That's a total of 46/60. If you beat them, you did well. Let's look for some useful bidding tips.

Tips to remember

- Blackwood is useless as a tool to discover whether you have two top losers in a side suit. To bid slams accurately, you must also use control-showing cue-bids.
- It may impress your friends to overcall at the one-level on some giant hand. Occasionally this will lead to a big contract being missed. Set an upper-range of around 17 points for a one-level overcall.
- 'Two-under transfers' are an excellent way to investigate slams when you hold a long suit opposite partner's 2NT opening (or opposite 2♣ – 2♦ – 2NT). □



Jeremy Dhondy

Support Doubles Are a Good Convention

Two top players debate a hot bridge topic. Tell us whose argument has won you over by e-mailing the Editor at elena@ebu.co.uk

YOU have a full array of excellent conventions to assist you to bid slams and games in uncontested auctions but, of course, the opponents like bidding so you need some tools in competitive auctions and the support double is one.

You have opened. The auction has got competitive. Do you compete at the three level? The traditional answer is that if you have a nine-card fit it is generally right to do so. In competitive auctions the difference between eight- and nine-card fits is nearly as important as that between seven- and eight-card fits. Anything you can do to clarify the degree of fit is worthwhile. It is why many players make $1\spadesuit - (1\heartsuit) - 1\spadesuit$ show five spades and a negative double four. Suppose the auction has started:

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\heartsuit - (1\spadesuit)$

You might have some support for partner, good support for partner or not much at all, so can you distinguish between the first two before the opponents use up more of your room. Let's suppose you have:

\spadesuit A 6 5	or	\spadesuit K 7
\heartsuit K 9 5		\heartsuit K 9 5 4
\diamondsuit A Q 8 7 5 3		\diamondsuit A Q 7 5 3
\clubsuit 4		\clubsuit 5 4

In both cases you have support and in both cases you would like to compete to the two level. Whether you or partner want to go further depends on partner's strength and the degree of fit. If the opponents are about to bounce you in spades, then now is the time to tell partner. The first hand has decent support and a ruffing value. Sure it might end up being a 4-3 fit but it may play well and score highly at pairs. With the second hand you positively want to encourage partner to go to the three level if he has five of his suit and quite possibly if he

has four. You can do this by doubling with three-card support and bidding directly with four-card support. When partner comes to make a decision, he is in possession of useful extra information. Partner will know, if you double, that you have only three, and can view to play in 1NT or $2\diamondsuit$ instead of $2\heartsuit$ if that is appropriate.

Here is an example from the point of view of the responder. Partner opens $1\spadesuit$ and you respond $1\heartsuit$. Now the next hand wades in with $2\clubsuit$ and you hold:

\spadesuit 10 8 4
\heartsuit A K 8 7 6
\diamondsuit 5 4
\clubsuit J 9 4

How high should you compete? If you play support doubles, then partner will bid $2\heartsuit$ with four-card support and double with three. If instead he passes, then you know you have no fit. If he had six diamonds, he would likely bid $2\diamondsuit$, you know that your heart fit is at best 5-2, so you would judge against competing at the three level.

So how strong is one of these doubles? The answer is that it can be any strength. If your hand is truly terrible for an opening bid and flat, say a 3-3-5-2 11- or 12-count, then you might not double. You are not obliged to. But the double could show 13 or 18 points and you will make this clear with your next action. If minimum, you will pass, if you have a good hand you can bid on, secure in the knowledge that partner knows how good the fit is.

It's good to have some rules about when support doubles apply. Like many conventions, the case for them is weakened if you have lots of misunderstandings. It will only pay if you are prepared to discuss some rules with a partner. Remember that both support doubles and redoubles are alertable because they convey a specific message.

Most players who use them will restrict them to the one or two level. Typically they only apply when one of you has opened and

the other has responded one of a major, and now an opponent has bid at the one or two level, so these are support double situations:

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\heartsuit - (2\clubsuit) - \text{Double}$

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\spadesuit - (2\heartsuit) - \text{Double}$

and these are not:

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\heartsuit - (3\clubsuit) - \text{Double}$

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 2\clubsuit - (2\spadesuit) - \text{Double}$

Another advantage that accrues is the 'dog that didn't bark'. When partner does *not* support and does *not* make a support double, you know that he has a maximum of two cards in your suit. This not only has the advantage of telling you how far to compete but also when a double of the opponents is likely to be successful.

Sometimes the opponents will make a take-out double instead of bidding, and now you can add the support redouble to the armoury. The auction goes:

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\heartsuit - (\text{Double}) - ?$

Now you can bid naturally if you have no support, including rebidding 1NT , but you have a spare redouble and can use that to show three-card support.

Are support doubles always a good idea? I don't think so, even though I am arguing for them. If you play a strong no trump system then in auctions such as:

$1\spadesuit - (\text{Pass}) - 1\heartsuit - (2\clubsuit) - ?$

you won't have 15-17 balanced or you would have opened 1NT , so using a double to show three-card support is a big plus. If you play a 12-14 1NT then you may well have a strong balanced hand, and need to show that more than whether you have three-card support to help partner. They are a better bet with a strong no-trump type of system. Even when a convention is a good idea you do need to look at what you give up in exchange. Overall, however, they are a significant boost to dealing with competitive auctions and give more certainty in knowing when to double opponents, when to give up and when to compete further. \square

Support Doubles Are Not a Good Convention

Or vote by post (Editor, English Bridge, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR).
Comments for publication (not more than 200 words, please) are welcome.

WHEN I started playing bridge, over forty years ago, low-level doubles generally fell into one of two categories: penalty or take-out. Although other doubles had been devised, their use was not widespread in this country.

Times change, and there are now several different types of double in the armoury of even the least scientific tournament player. One of these is the 'support double': as commonly played, when responder's first bid was $1\heartsuit$ or $1\spadesuit$, a double by opener of fourth-hand intervention at the one-level or two-level shows exactly three-card support for partner's major suit.

To my mind, this is a peculiar notion. It's not that I cannot see the potential advantage – I like to think that I am receptive to ideas and would not attempt to deny that there can be an advantage in knowing whether partner has three-card support; indeed, in certain competitive situations, the knowledge can assuredly be beneficial. It's simply that I can think of at least three better uses for the double:

- Old-fashioned penalties (in times gone by, only the most avant-garde would have played it any other way); or
- Take-out, which happens to be my preference; or
- Strong, balanced hand, particularly useful when playing a weak no-trump.

In all three instances, opener is making a positive statement about his hand, as opposed to the vague comment that he has three-card support.

And be in no doubt: if you do not double when you have three-card support, partner will assume that you do not have it. Even if you have opened some disgusting sub-minimum hand, it behoves you to double – it is simply not playable to

agree that you might decide to pass with a bad hand and three-card support.

To employ an analogy, a bid is either forcing or non-forcing: there is no such thing as semi-forcing, and, if a bid is defined as forcing, then you have to bid (*pace* Kit Woolsey, an American expert who argues that one is at liberty to pass a 'forcing' bid when judged appropriate; it is fair to say that Woolsey's judgement is keener than the average). In the same way, if opener does not double, then he does *not* have three-card support.

My main objection to the support double is that it concentrates on one feature of opener's hand to the exclusion of all others. If, after $1\spadesuit$ – (Pass) – $1\spadesuit$ – $(2\heartsuit)$, opener has to double with both 3-1-5-4 shape and 3-4-5-1, with anything from 11 to 21 points, I cannot see how responder can possibly make a sensible decision: in the sequence quoted, what is he supposed to do with a 4-3-2-4 distribution and 9 or so points? In particular, what rational basis might he have for deciding when to pass the double?

★★★★★

The answer to my (rhetorical) question is that he has a problem which he will solve by thinking about it – yes, another convention which is liable to produce an 'unauthorised information' situation – and then bidding $2\spadesuit$. For I can guarantee that, if responder bids $2\spadesuit$ slowly in the sequence quoted, he only has four spades – with five, he would have little to think about. If $2\spadesuit$ fails and $2\heartsuit$ would have been beaten, the familiar alibi ('I did think about passing') will be trotted out.

Support doubles are demonstrably weak when responder has a hand which might be interested in game. Compare these two sequences:



Richard Fleet

THE DEBATE

(a) $1\spadesuit$ – (Pass) – $1\spadesuit$ – $(2\heartsuit)$ – $2\spadesuit$

Opener has limited his hand. He has three or four spades with a hand in the minimum range. It is obviously not ideal that responder does not know exactly how many spades opener has, but very often it will not matter. Responder is well placed to decide whether or not to try for game.

(b) $1\spadesuit$ – (Pass) – $1\spadesuit$ – $(2\heartsuit)$ – Double

Opener has three spades. Nothing more is known about his hand so responder is very much in the dark.

If, against my advice, you and your partner decide to employ support doubles, I suggest that you will need to sort out a number of subsidiary matters. For example:

- Do support doubles apply when the opponents bid 1NT? Does it make a difference if the 1NT bid is conventional (e.g. the other two suits)?
- Do they apply when the opponents bid our suit (e.g. a $2\spadesuit$ or $2\heartsuit$ bid after a $1\spadesuit$ opening and a $1\spadesuit$ response)? Does the meaning of the intervention make a difference (some players employ these bids to show two-suiters, others prefer to regard them as natural)?
- Do they apply over jump intervention (i.e. a jump to $2\spadesuit$ following a $1\clubsuit$ or $1\spadesuit$ opening and a $1\heartsuit$ response)?

For what it's worth, a playable rule of thumb is that support doubles apply whenever the intervention is at a level below two of responder's suit. So, assuming a $1\spadesuit$ response to a $1\spadesuit$ opening, a double of a $2\spadesuit$ bid would be support while a double of $2\heartsuit$ would not. This may not be the most efficient method from a purely theoretical point of view, but it has the great advantage of being easy to remember.

But I would far prefer you not to use support doubles at all! □

Around & About

Graham Hedley reveals the memorable achievement of Stamford Bridge Club in Lincolnshire due to be realised by the end of this year

WE HAD A DREAM . . .

MOST bridge clubs have a dream. They have a dream that one day they will be able to move from their present inconvenient premises, where they have to put up tables before each session, to somewhere they can call 'home', which is theirs to use seven days a week.

They dream that perhaps one day they will have the funds to purchase a building and convert it to their own use. In their wildest dreams, they might even imagine being able to design a building from the foundations up, incorporating everything they could wish for – well, almost everything!

For Stamford Bridge Club that dream is coming true, but how could this be achieved without a 'fairy god-mother' giving the club £200,000?

The Stamford Club has reached its goal through the wholehearted support of its members who believed in the future of the club sufficiently to donate, or lend, the necessary funds for a new purpose-built club house. It is a rare phenomenon of which the Stamford Club has every reason to be proud.

Obviously, the prime requirement is a thriving membership. The club must welcome all bridge players, of all standards. And to back this up, the club must have an active teaching programme, so new blood is always being introduced. As a result of all this effort we have a membership of over 300. The population of Stamford is 28,000.

That means just about one percent of the population of the area are members of the bridge club.

With a thriving club came some of the funds required to fulfil the dream. We managed to build reserves in excess of £70,000, not sufficient to build a club, but a substantial starting point.

Finally, we needed that certain something we just occasionally get at the bridge table: sheer luck. One of our members found a small plot of waste, scrubby land, in the corner of a council playing field. We then endured a year of negotiation and frustration over deeds of variation, leases and planning permission.

After the frustration, came the little problem of raising over £100,000 in loans. We decided to spread our request for loans as widely as possible, asking members to offer loans of £1,000 each. The response to our loan requests has been truly excellent, ensuring our required total is easily exceeded.

Building is progressing well. We hope we will be holding our 2011 Christmas party in our new clubhouse where there will be a superb playing area, excellent teaching facilities, and all the equipment permanently

installed to run top-class duplicate bridge.

It's still hard to believe, but just sometimes – with enthusiasm and determination from your membership – you can make a dream come true.



PEMBURY BRIDGE CLUB'S 15TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In the photo: Founding Chairman of Pembury Bridge Club, Geoff Plummer, cutting the club's 15th birthday cake with current Chairman, Elspeth Fox. The cake was made and iced by Rita Miller, a long-standing member of the club, and says '15' on top, not conventionally by using digits, but by counting the values of the three aces and the king that decorate it.

Pembury is a thriving bridge club, situated in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, which tries to keep membership to 150 by having a waiting list to join. For information, visit www.pemburybc.co.uk

Around & About

COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK



County BC Chairman Frank Travers with his wife, Jan

COUNTY Bridge Club, Leicester, marked its 50th anniversary with a week of celebrations.

Monday and Friday afternoons were normal duplicate sessions but with prizes. Monday evening was the big event: all Leicestershire clubs were invited to join us in a Simultaneous Pairs. Eight clubs participated (125 pairs). Tuesday evening there was a handicap teams. Wednesday afternoon a pro-am, with students partnering established players. Wednesday evening the AGM followed by a Speedball. Thursday evening was 'Wacky Thursday' with very distributional hands.

On Friday evening about eighty people attended an anniversary dinner with guests of honour Sally Bugden (EBU Chairman) and Nick Stevens (chairman of LCBA) with their respective spouses. During the evening Frank Travers (Chairman for the last nine years) was awarded honorary life membership.

County BC has 280 members and owns its own premises. It runs six duplicate sessions per week and has five teams in the Leicestershire league, as well as organising various teaching sessions and also supervised play. For further information, visit www.countybridgeclub.co.uk (Peter Halford)

A GROUP of Stourbridge Weight Watchers who use the Stourbridge Institute Bridge Room for their weekly meetings certainly lost 100 pounds at one session.

It was a very hot day and an exit door was propped open with an open topped plastic container housing the Bridge Club's bidding boxes. The Weight Watchers departed after their meeting and forgot the make-shift doorstop.

Later it rained, ruining quite a few bidding cards. The Bridge Club had to replace the ruined cards, costing the Weight Watchers over £100. (Susan Craddock)

BRIDGE IN BELLA ITALIA

IN June, thirteen members of Olicana Bridge Club, West Yorkshire, and three family members spent a week in the beautiful Umbria region of Italy. They stayed in a wonderfully restored 17th century palazzo in Geppa, a tiny hamlet with sixteen residents located high in the mountains above the city of Spoleto. The palazzo – a listed building – is owned by club member Mike Collier who bought the run-down property several years ago. Mike has spent the past five years restoring it to its former glory and the palazzo is now divided into rooms and apartments of varying sizes, and was comfortably able to accommodate the visitors from Ilkley.

Two nine-seater vehicles were hired to provide transport to places of great historical and cultural interest. Driven by Mike and Peter, the group enjoyed the wonderful scenery and spectacular mountain views of central Italy on their way to Assisi, Montefalco and Norcia.

Evenings out consisted of dinner in local restaurants, sampling pizzas, wonderful pasta, wild boar, always accompanied by flagons of regional wine. Evenings in saw the local farmer's wife, Andreina, and her family troop over the lane, carrying great bowls of pasta, platters of chicken or pork, cheeses and cakes, all local organic produce prepared for us in the farm kitchen – delicious!



The 'Geppa Girls' rehearsing for the 'Geppa's Got Talent' show

Mike had arranged a visit to Spoleto Bridge Club, based in an elegant building with high arched ceilings and chandeliers. The bridge was different to playing at Olicana – the Italians rarely stopped talking during bidding and also during play! A return tournament took place the following day at Geppa and cash prizes were awarded to the two top pairs from each club.

The highlight of the holiday was arguably the *Geppa's Got Talent* night. Compered by Jackie and organised by the ladies, everyone was required to do a party piece. The varied programme culminated in a dance routine 'choreographed' by Carole and performed by eight ladies – the 'Geppa Girls' – which brought the house down.

The final day was spent by many of us 'resting' (!) and reflecting on the fabulous time we had in Italy. It was, as they say in *bella Italia*, 'perfecto'! (Mollie Bell)



Simon Cochemé

Bridge: the Musical

Chess (music by Björn and Benny of Abba, lyrics by Tim Rice)
was a big hit in the West End in 1986. Bridge's response is long overdue!

'HANG on a minute,' I hear you cry. 'What about *A Hand of Bridge*?' Yes, indeed, but it isn't exactly a musical. *A Hand of Bridge*, composed by Samuel Barber, is the shortest opera that is regularly performed, lasting less than ten minutes. Two couples play a hand of bridge, during which each character has an arietta. It was first performed in Spoleto, Italy, in 1959.

The synopsis reads: *The contract is five hearts, played by Bill, after the opponents competed in clubs. Bill, a lawyer, recalls a former lover and wonders where she is now. Geraldine, his wife, laments not loving her dying mother while she was still well. David fantasises about what he would do if he were as rich as his boss. Finally, Sally (dummy) recalls a hat she saw in a shop window earlier in the day.*

What on earth is going on here? It seems that the librettist was not a bridge player. Surely Bill should be recalling the bidding and wondering where the king of spades is. Geraldine should be lamenting not having re-called her six-card diamond suit. David should be fantasising about ducking the king of spades when Bill takes the finesse. Only Sally, recalling that hat, is blameless; following the play as dummy can be very tiring when thoughts of millinery are intruding.

It gets worse. I found a performance on YouTube where the bidding starts while the dealing is still in progress. There are frequent bids out of turn, so much so that it seems as if it is North-East who have the heart fit. And dummy goes down before the opening lead, which then comes from the player sitting over dummy. A perfect case-study for an EBU class of novice tournament directors!

There is a bridge musical in the States that has been performed at ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) events.

Set in San Diego, *My Fair (Little Old) Lady* features a bridge club run by Miss Ruling. Expert Henry Huddle takes on the challenge of partnering Eliza Bidlittle and turning her into a National Champion. Songs include *Get Me to the Game on Time*, *I Could Have Played All Night*, *Why Can't a Woman Play More Like a Man?* and *I've Grown Accustomed to Her Bids*.



MFLOL is fun. My only regret is that it doesn't include that well-known song about the reluctance of Spanish women to bid slams, *The Dames in Spain Stay Mainly in the Game*. If you are into amateur dramatics and would like to do the show, please let me know and I will put you in touch with the American producer.

Now on to my creation, *Bridge: The Musical*. I have gone for the *Mamma Mia!* formula, taking well known songs and weaving them into a story. *Chess* had some risqué lyrics ('I don't see you guys rating/ the kind of mate I'm contemplating') and I am sure I can match them by altering a couple of the songs to include *squeeze* and *protecting her honour*.

This is the synopsis: Overture (*Bridge over Troubled Water*). Act I: The scene is a bridge club, run by St. John Pepper. While preparing for the evening's duplicate, he reflects on the decline of bridge in the capital (*London Bridge is Falling Down*). Regina is in a troubled relationship with Jacques and believes he doesn't really love her (*Wooden Heart*). Lucy, a free spirit, picks up a wonderful hand with eight diamonds (*Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend*). She overbids and the other three players comment (*Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*). She is extremely fortunate that her partner, Francisco, puts down an excellent dummy and Regina and Jacques eye it jealously (*I Wanna Hold Your Hand*). Lucy plays poorly. With three tricks left, she realises she has cut herself off from a winner in dummy (*I Left My Heart in the Hand of Francisco*), while Regina and Jacques console Francisco (*Your Tiny Hand is Frozen*).

Act II: A new member, Roy, has joined the bridge club and Regina wonders whether he could be right for her (*From a Jack to a King*). She is partnering Lucy. Regina makes a trial bid (*Help*) but Lucy thinks it shows a control (*Stupid Cuebid*) and they end up in a slam. The trumps break badly, but Regina makes the contract by ruffing a winner in hand to shorten her trumps. The players celebrate her coup and dance to an instrumental number (*Trump it Voluntarily*). Roy is impressed and says he will give Regina a ring. She interprets the word optimistically (*Diamonds Are Forever*). The whole company then extol the virtues of bridge while the proprietor sings of a hand with 0-7-0-6 distribution (*St. John Pepper's Lovely Heart-Club Hand*).

Sounds good, eh? Has anyone got Andrew Lloyd Webber's phone number? ☐

Discarding

Part I



David Bakhshi

HAVING considered the three basic forms of signals – the attitude signal, the count signal and the suit-preference signal, let's turn to the issue of discarding. This time I will focus on the methods employed by many expert partnerships, and in the next article I shall examine those preferred by many club players.

Is discarding different to signalling?

Though many people treat them differently, the choice of card that one discards constitutes a form of signal. The distinction being that discards are signals made when throwing away, and therefore occur at a point where more information is typically available to the partnership.

How can the principles of attitude, count and suit-preference signals be applied to discarding?

This is the area which sees the greatest diversity between the approaches employed by experts and club players. Most expert partnerships tend to treat signalling as an exchange of information and rely on their powers of logical reasoning and deduction to work out the best line of defence. Thus, when discarding, the primary signal of choice is the attitude signal. Example A illustrates a classic use of such a discard:

Example A	
♠ J 6	
♥ J 6	
♦ A K Q 3	
♣ K J 10 9 2	
	♠ 9 7 5 3
	♥ A K Q 10
	♦ 10 8 6 4
	♣ 8

South opens 1NT, and North raises to 3NT.

West leads the ♣5; dummy plays the ♣2; East plays the ♣8 and South wins with the ♣Q. South next leads the ♣4; West wins with the ♣A, and East throws ...?

Playing standard signals, East can either throw a low spade or a low diamond to *discourage* those suits, or he can throw a high heart to *encourage* a switch to hearts. Which is the best card to choose? While it may seem that throwing an encouraging heart makes it easy for partner to switch to your best suit, this is at a great cost. This dilemma is made clearer if you ask: 'Is it better to throw a winner or a loser?'

It is clearly desirable to retain your winning cards, so you should prefer to discourage alternative switches. To achieve this, use the fact that dummy is visible to both defenders. In the case of Example A, it is clear that East cannot want a switch to diamonds, so West will choose between the major suits. If East can eliminate spades as a good option, then West should deduce that East wants him to switch to hearts. The best discard is therefore the ♠3. Throwing a low spade eliminates spades, and in effect shows heart strength without having to throw a heart winner.

Is it ever useful to give count signals when discarding?

We have previously seen that the preferred order of priority involves count as a secondary signal. The count signal being most useful when declarer leads a suit, or when a player's attitude is already 'known'. This last principle can be extended to discarding. Consider the situation that arises in Example B:

Example B	
♠ 8 5	
♥ A Q 3	
♦ K Q J 10 9 8	
♣ Q 5	
	♠ K 7 6 2
	♥ J 7 4
	♦ 6
	♣ K 9 8 6 3

South's 1NT opening is raised to 3NT, and West leads the ♠4.

Dummy plays low at trick one; East plays the ♠K and South wins with the ♠A. Declarer leads a diamond to dummy's ♦8 at trick two, then continues diamonds at trick three. What should East discard?

This is a situation in which one can anticipate a fairly common dilemma for West. If he holds the ♦A and ♠Q-10-x-x or ♠Q-10-x-x-x, knowing how many spades East holds (and as a result how many spades are held by declarer) will make a huge difference to him. If declarer has the ♠J-x remaining, it will be necessary to find a way to put East on lead so that East can lead a spade through declarer. However, if declarer has just the ♠J left, it could be crucial for West to cash his spades immediately. It is therefore most useful to give a *count* signal.

When giving count in a suit which has already been played, the most common approach is to give *remaining count*, i.e. to tell partner how many cards you have left in that suit. The standard approach is to throw high from an even number and low from an odd number. So, in Example B, East should throw the ♠2, to show an odd number remaining (or an original even number of spades). If West started with five spades, he will now know that declarer has only one spade left, and that the suit is ready to run if he holds the ♠Q.

Are suit-preference signals useful when discarding?

Many expert partnerships consider the appropriate use of attitude and count signals to be sufficient for effective communication when discarding, and save suit-preference signals for the situations discussed in my last article. However, it is possible to make use of suit-preference signals when discarding, and the ways in which this is typically done will be something I will consider next time. □

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

ON each of the following problems, you are West. What should you bid with each hand on the given auction?

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 46.

Hand 1

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ A K 9 2
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 5 3

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

Hand 2

♠ K J 8 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ K 2

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

Hand 3

♠ Q 4
♥ A J 8 5 2
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ J 10

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

Hand 4

♠ A
♥ A K 9 8
♦ K 8 7 6 3
♣ 5 4 3

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Pass	1♠
?			

Hand 5

♠ 10
♥ Q J 9 7 4
♦ K Q 9 8 5
♣ 6 3

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Dble	1♠
?			

Hand 6

♠ A K J 10 6
♥ K J 10 6 3
♦ 10
♣ Q 8

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
?			

ONLINE BRIDGE

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO WIN

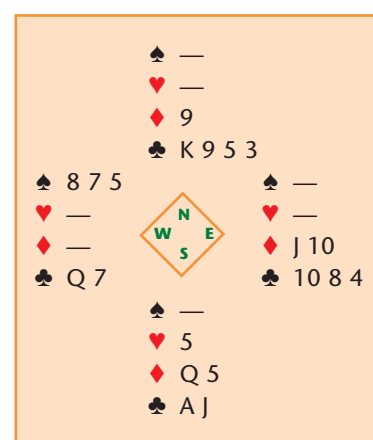
by *Barrie Partridge*

BRIDGE Club Live's major annual Pairs event has, for the second time, been played as a Double Elimination Knockout with the same format as the EBU Spring Four-somes. Seventy-one pairs entered.

The final attracted around fifty spectators, while others were able to watch later an action-replay of the match via the club's archives. The winners, who remained undefeated throughout, were the popular established pairing of Petra Mansell, a former South African International who, a few days earlier, had celebrated her 90th birthday, and Ognian Smilianov, a Bulgarian one third of his partner's age. The defeated finalists were Gabriel Hearst and Tony Philpott from Surrey.

The winners didn't have everything their own way. On the following deal from their semi-final, they attempted a trump promotion but Hertfordshire's Andy Fenn not only thwarted this but retaliated with a squeeze!

nents for having a reason for playing as they had. Accordingly, he crossed to the ace of diamonds and played a trump to the king and the ace of hearts, taking the diamond return and then successfully finessing the eight of hearts! After he removed the final trump, the position was:



Andy Fenn led the nine of diamonds to the ten and queen of diamonds, West discarding the five of spades. Although the diamonds did not break favourably, he now had a count of the hand. He played his last trump and East had to retain the jack of diamonds to prevent the diamond five being promoted, but throwing a club was no better as declarer cashed the ace of clubs and crossed to the club king to take the club nine, to great acclaim from the spectators.

I tend to write mostly about the special events and competitions, but the vast majority of play at www.bridgeclublive.com is casual match-pointed play, with players dropping in and out as they please, some with pre-arranged partners but mostly not. The main playing room has ninety-six deals every day, and you play as many four-board rounds as you wish. The top quarter of the field of those that play at least sixteen boards receive Online Master Points.

Bridge Club Live offers an annual discount to EBU members. Most of our members are British, but we have enough players from all round the world to ensure plenty of tables in play for an enjoyable game any time of day or night. □

Love All. Dealer South.



West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The defence started with ace of spades, king of spades and another, ruffed by East with the ten of hearts and overruffed with the jack. If declarer had now played to take trumps out in two rounds, he would have been defeated. But Andy credited his oppo-

A day in the life of . . .

Heather Dhondy

Heather Dhondy has been a mainstay of our national Women's Team since 1990, when she was 24. On the world stage, she has won gold in the World Mixed Teams in 1996 and in the Women's Teams at the World Mind Sports Games in 2008. In Europe, she has three gold medals in the Women series (1997, 1999 and 2001) and one in the Mixed Teams (2007). In addition, she has won a record thirteen Lady Milne trophies over the past eighteen years.

MY life, and consequently my days, changed drastically in August 2010, when I stopped working as a part-time accountant and became a full-time bridge professional. My activities are now divided between writing (for the *Glasgow Herald*, *Choice*, *English Bridge* and other bridge magazines), teaching (at the Hurlingham Club, and privately in people's homes), and playing as well as coaching (in tournaments or clubs). I like to be organised, so each day has a different pattern according to what I have to fit into it, but I tend to get up between eight and nine. I must admit that I am not the most talkative person in the universe at breakfast, so although we might make each other a cup of coffee, socialising with Jeremy, my husband, is generally postponed to the end of the working day at 6pm, when we have a drink and relax – preferably in the garden if the weather permits.

I enjoy all aspects of my bridge work, but the activity I find most rewarding is the teaching, probably because I get on so well with my pupils. They really spoil me, especially those I teach in their own home – and treat me to the most delicious cakes! These cakes are a real threat to my waistline, but I make up for it by missing the occasional lunch. Generally, though, I try to eat regularly and as healthily as I can, either at home if I work there for a half day, writing articles or preparing classes, or at Andrew Robson's Club if I am coaching in the afternoon. I have lost three stones in the last few years, and feel much better for it. It all started with a bet with friends as to who would lose the most weight in a given

period of time. I did not win the bet, but the effort started me in the right direction: I now avoid bread, and favour fresh fruit and vegetables. If it is my turn to cook in the evening, however, I tend to provide a traditional fare of meat and two veg, one of which will be potatoes – for Jeremy, who like most men is a committed carnivore

who does not get very excited by greens. I also play tennis once a week, and love the exercise.

My other interests, besides tennis, include family life (I have three nieces and two nephews whom we try to see as often as possible at weekends), music and gardening. I graduated in music at York University, and my favourite instrument is the piano. It did not provide me with a

career, but it has given me a life-long interest: I still play duets, especially with my dad, whenever I can. As for my gardening, it is enthusiastic, though maybe not carried out at the same professional level: I grow herbs, spinach, raspberries and butternut squash, and we have even managed to grow a little avocado tree from a stone that Jeremy stuck in a pot – a success I am very proud of! I am equally proud of my greenhouse, and love pottering in it.

Although I have turned professional, bridge is still also very much my hobby, and I do volunteer work for Middlesex CBA, where I am Vice-Chairman, and the EBU, where I am now on the Board of Directors as a result of chairing the Selection Committee. The latter is not exactly a relaxing task, because of the controversy that big egos engender, but I am not easily flustered and don't mind all the hard work that needs



Heather's Top Tip

Mens sana in corpore sano (a healthy mind in a healthy body)

We can all improve our performance at bridge by studying technical play and defence, honing systemic agreements with our partner, etc. but what about those IMPs and match-points that go astray through lapses in concentration, or fatigue? It happens to us all, and yet many players give little consideration to this.

We cannot eliminate the silly mistakes we make at bridge completely, but we can reduce them by improving our physical well-being. An improved level of fitness, coupled with dietary considerations, can increase levels of concentration for the long periods of time needed in competitive bridge.

Here are a few easy ways to increase your powers of concentration:

- Take some form of gentle exercise in your everyday life, every little helps!
- Just before play, take a few deep breaths of fresh air outside – this will oxygenate the brain.
- Avoid eating too much carbohydrate before play is over for the day, as this can make you sleepy. Fruit and protein will aid your concentration and keep you alert.

to be put in. Recently I have also become the Treasurer of the International Bridge Press Association – a throwback to my days as an accountant, which seemingly I am not able to escape fully!

In the evening, unless it's Tuesday, when I teach, or we are busy playing bridge or seeing friends, we watch the TV programmes that Jeremy has recorded. I don't mind detective series, but much prefer watching sport. Luckily, we are both cricket addicts: my own interest goes back to the days when my dad used to take us kids to the Oval and Lords. We were all so keen that when in 1981 our family went on a cycling holiday, we still managed to follow 'Botham's Ashes' by knocking on people's houses and asking to check the news on the radio. It was incredible: England were following on and managed to win against all odds. It was as exciting, in its way, as being in Sydney last January with Jeremy and watching England win in Australia. The feel-good factor was enormous! □

To read more about Heather Dhondy, visit www.ebu.co.uk/general/biographies/players



Julian Pottage

Club player's bidding quiz

Answers to problems
on page 44

Hand 1

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ A K 9 2
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 5 3

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

4♠. Partner guarantees a major to use Stayman on this sequence. You know

this major is not hearts, which means it must be spades. You therefore convert to the known 4-4 fit.

Hand 2

♠ K J 8 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ K 2

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

3♦. You have 10 HCP and a fitting club honour, so want to move forward. Lacking a heart stopper, it would be rash to bid 3NT yourself. Show that you have something in diamonds and see what partner can do. The right contract might be 3NT, 4♠ or 5♣.

Hand 3

♠ Q 4
♥ A J 8 5 2
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ J 10

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

Pass. Partner's jump preference invites you to bid game and shows three-card heart support. With very much a minimum opening, you respectfully decline the invitation.

Hand 4

♠ A
♥ A K 9 8
♦ K 8 7 6 3
♣ 5 4 3

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Pass 1♠
?			

Double. When the opponents have bid two suits, a take-out double shows the other two suits

and opening values. This describes your hand nicely.

Hand 5

♠ 10
♥ Q J 9 7 4
♦ K Q 9 8 5
♣ 6 3

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Dble 1♠
?			

4♥. You need a trick fewer to make game in hearts than you do in diamonds, so do not

bother trying to show both suits. With so much playing strength (6 losers on the Losing Trick Count), you can go straight to game.

Hand 6

♠ A K J 10 6
♥ K J 10 6 3
♦ 10
♣ Q 8

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
?			

2♥. When partner passes, you need extra values to show your second suit. Here you

have them. Do not let the fact that North is quite likely to hold four hearts deter you from bidding your hearts. Show your second suit and let partner express preference between the majors. □

28–30 October 2011

REALLY EASY AUTUMN BREAK



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SEND THE EDITOR YOUR BIDDING PROBLEMS
FOR DISCUSSION IN THIS COLUMN

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk



THE County is very sad to report the recent deaths of Peter Willoughby and John Doran. Peter, who died on 27 June, was Chairman of the Tudor Bridge Club and an active member of several other clubs in the county. John, who died on 2 July, was a popular figure in both Avon and Wiltshire, and a member of both Bristol and Bath Bridge Clubs. We extend our sympathies to their families and friends.

Congratulations to David Jones for being in the winning team at the *National Welsh Teams Championship*. David was also a winner at the *Swiss Teams in the East Wales Congress*, and came 3rd in the *Mid Wales Congress Swiss Teams*.

In the *Gold Cup*, Tim Brierley, Mike Elliott, Paul Keightley, Peter Sampson have reached the last 16.

Brighton news: well done Irene Robinson – Mike Huggins on winning the *Senior Pairs*. The best performance by an Avon pair in the *Swiss Pairs* was the 46th place achieved by Taf Anthias – Paul Keightley. In the *Play with the Experts*, Andrew Urbanski – Robert Glass were the highest-placed Avon pair (3rd E/W); Sue O'Hara – Nelson Stephens were 4th N/S. In the *Swiss Teams*, Andrew Urbanski, Gareth Evans, Marc Lee, Tony Letts finished 8th.

Andy and Cathy Smith were 6th in the *Torquay Swiss Pairs* and Huw Oliver finished 11th. At the *Glos/Hereford GP Weekend*, Brian Dyde – Peter Sherry and Robert Covill – Aidan Schofield finished in joint 3rd place in the *Swiss Pairs*. In the *Notts GP Swiss Pairs*, Andrew Urbanski – Tony Gammon were 3rd.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to John Neville and partner Jackie Davies for winning the *BGB Summer Tuesday Simultaneous Pairs*; 1,953 pairs competed throughout the UK. Peter Malpass – Andrew Mason were 3rd in the *Swiss Pairs* at the June *Oxford Congress*.

Michael Collins has recently qualified as an EBUTA instructor and is now listed on the BBA website along with the other local instructors.

Diary dates: Thurs Oct 13, Men's/Ladies' Pairs. Thurs Oct 24, Teams-of-Four. Both these events take place at Wilstead and start at 7.30pm.

Berks and Bucks

www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk



THE *Berks & Bucks Green Pointed Swiss Teams* on June 26, excellently organised by Anders Wallen and directed by Martin Lee and his team, was a sell-out, and we are delighted that next year we will also have a *GP Swiss Pairs* the preceding day – put June 23 and 24 in

your diaries now! Congratulations to the winners, David Perkins, Bob Holder, Phil Thornton, Sandra Belcher, with another Berks & Bucks team joint runners-up: Ed Scerri, Gary Jones, Dick Davey, Richard Palmer.

This came in the middle of a run of good performances by Ed Scerri – Richard Palmer, winning the *Northants Swiss Pairs* the day before, 2nd a week earlier in the *Oxfordshire Swiss Pairs* and 1st in the *Essex/Herts Swiss Teams* with Chris Burley – Bill Charlwood.

Congratulations also to Brenda Vitty – Evelyn Crossley who reached the A final in the *Summer Seniors Congress Pairs*, and Nigel Lancaster – Nigel Marlow, 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs*.

There were a number of good performances by BBCBA players at *Brighton*, Ed Scerri and Richard Palmer coming 8th – in the *Swiss Pairs*, Tim Rees in the A Final of the *Swiss Teams*, Sally Brock – Barry Myers in the B Final as were Matthew and Heather Tan, and a tremendous comeback by Pat Dowdeswell, Mike Ribbins, David Barnes and Nigel Guthrie to come 2nd in the *Brighton Bowl* despite losing their first two matches by 18-2!

Diary dates: Oct 16, *Swiss Pairs* for the Denys Jenkins Cup, SBBC. Oct 30, *Butler Scored Pairs* for the Jarrett Cup, Windsor. Nov 27 *Friendly Pairs*, SBBC. Dec 4, *Mixed Swiss Teams*, Windsor, 11am start.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

DAVID Kendrick won the *Swiss Teams* at the *Summer Seniors Congress*, Peter Morgan – Mike Seaver finished equal 4th in the *Pairs A Final* and Joanne Caldwell – Ian McDonald finished in the same position in the *Pairs B Final*. Other equal fourths were achieved by Victor Milman – Nadia Stelmashenko in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Scarborough Summer Congress*, and Trevor and Marion King in the *Nottinghamshire One Day Green Point Swiss Teams*. Dominic Clark, Roger Courtney, Wendy Pollard and Eric Campbell finished 2nd in the *Bedfordshire One Day Green Point Swiss Teams*.

Diary dates: Oct 10, closing date for County Teams Knockout entries. Oct 29, C&H Open *Swiss Teams*, Peterborough. Feb 19, County Individual Final. Feb 25, Garden Cities Qualifier. Mar 10, Novice Pairs Tournament. Mar 25, County Pairs Final. Apr 29, Jubilee *Swiss Pairs*.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/

FIRST, a couple of omissions from the last county news. In the *County Mixed Pairs* final, Jane Knight – Chris Hill of Jersey came joint 2nd. In the *Lambourne Congress Senior Pairs*, Howard Basden-Smith – Marion Miles of Jersey won the *Douglas Romain Claret Jug* for being the top C.I. pair, coming 6th out of 37.

County competitions: *Individual*: 1. Gill Pitcher (Jersey), 2. James Fattorini (Guernsey), 3. Howard Basden-Smith (J). *Inter-island Simultaneous Pairs*: 1. Ann Burnett – Catherine Rynd, 2. John and Fiona Honey (all from Jersey), 3. Barbara

Hunter – David Trestain (G).

Jersey District results: the *Restricted Pairs* upper section was won by David Waters – June Le Blancq, with Howard Basden-Smith – Marion Miles runners-up. The *Lower Restricted Pairs* was won by David Humpleby – Muriel Holmes. This was an excellent performance by them as due to shortage of entries in the lower section the competition was played together as one five-table movement with David and Muriel finishing first overall ahead of the upper pairs.

Guernsey District results: the final of the *Teams* resulted in a win for Dick Langham, Rudi Falla, Lynne Williamson and John Seymour. *Manor Club Frank Money Trophy*: 1. Cliff Drillot, 2. Sylvia Lawrence-King, 3. Brenda Walker.

Cornwall

www.cornwallbridge.co.uk



MARIAN Holden, one of Cornwall's senior bridge players, has died – in her mid-nineties. She came to Cornwall in 1943, from France, where she had been doing research on French mediaeval literature and tapestries. She became Head of Modern Languages at Helston School, and an early national authority on the use of language laboratories. She played bridge at St Austell and Falmouth before, with her husband, starting the bridge club in Helston, which she ran for many years, often directing. She had great success at county level and her name is on most of the Cornish cups. She was a committee member both for Cornwall and for its congresses, and was a Premier National Master. She was a regular county player, a selector and the SW League representative, and played in both the Tollemache Cup and the Corwen Trophy. One of the first players given the Dimmie Fleming Award for services to bridge, she was very well liked and respected.

Congratulations to Muriel Woodhouse – Maureen Fallows (Bude), who finished an impressive 9th in the *BGB Summer Pairs*, with a 67.54% score.

Cornwall will have its first experience of stratified scoring on Nov 20, with the new *Club Players Pairs* competition. This is open to players of Star Tournament Master rank and below. Master points and prizes will be awarded at three levels and we hope for a strong field.

Diary dates: Oct 2, *Mixed Pairs Championship*, Ladock. Oct 16, County *Swiss Teams*, Queen's Hotel, Penzance. Nov 6, *Mixed Pivot Teams*, Ladock. Nov 20, *Club Players' Pairs*, Ladock. Nov 27, *Bodmin Swiss Pairs*, Lanhydrock GC.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



THE Individual Competition for the *Gerry Fletcher Cup* was won by Tony Wakeling; Mike Douglas and Graham Burgess tied for 2nd place.

John Sowter – Mick Haytack won the

Peter Dodson Shield for the Men's Pairs just ahead of Alan Smith – Jim Parker. More spectacularly, Mary Marshall – Sheena Haytack won the *Corry Cup* for the Ladies' Pairs over 13% ahead of the rest of the field.

In a close contest against Wendy Watson's team, Jennifer and Roger Floutier, Don Smedley, John Griffin were the winners of the *Vic Morris Cup*. Malcolm Young, Richard Horsley, Alan Kenny and Jeff Calladine defeated Margaret Watson's team to win the *Vic Morris Plate*.

The *Notts GP Weekend* was a success for Roman Gembicki who won the *Pairs* with Alex Hogg and the *Teams* with Cedric Cockroft, Don Smedley and John Griffin.

Peter Kelly – Alex Hogg finished 8th in the *Corwen Trophy*.

In the first *County Match* of the season, Derbyshire got off to a good start against Nottinghamshire. All three teams won: the 1st team 18-2, the 2nd team 20-0 and the 3rd team 11-9. The third team also won a friendly match against Merseyside & Cheshire.

Diary dates: Oct 5, First round of Eric White and Winter Plate. Nov 20, Invitation Pairs.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



RIVIERA Congress: in a strong field Devon players won both the pairs and the teams.

Congratulations to Joe and Gillian Fawcett (*Swiss Pairs*) and to Mike Orriel, Ian Walsh, Howard Kent-Webster, Graham Hoare (*Swiss Teams*).

Diary dates: Oct 9, South Hams *Swiss Teams*, Thurlestone Parish Hall. Oct 22-23, Plymouth Congress, Future Inn; Pairs on Saturday, *Swiss teams* on Sunday; there will also be a two-session Novice Pairs event on the Saturday with an entry fee of just £5. Oct 29-30, Exeter Bridge Club *Swiss Weekend*. Nov 6, Charity *Swiss Teams*; Lilliegh Village Hall. Nov 11-13, Torquay Bridge Club Congress, the Palace Hotel; Mixed Pairs, Fritch or Open Pairs on Friday evening, Pairs on Saturday and *Swiss teams* on Sunday. Nov 20, Heart Foundation *Swiss Teams* at Smithaleigh.

Please support Devon Air Ambulance by playing on the county sim pairs nights. The next is Tuesday 18 October.

Further details of upcoming events can be found on the website.

Dorset

www.bridgewebs.com/dorset



DORSET Green Point Swiss Teams results: 1. Steve Preston, Steve Auchterlonie, Nicholas Craik, Dave Hugget; 2. Chris Stevens, Ann Sharples, Clive Russell, Hilary Brain; 3. Guy Lawrenson, Jeremy Baker, Christine Bradley, Phil Norman.

Boston Cup: 1. Miles Cowling, Phil Norman, Hugh Kevill-Davies, Jon Holland; 2. Tim Dunsby, Ray Mardon, Ron and Lynne Heath; 3. Nick Forrest,

Sally Cairns, Edward Leatham, Roger Andrews.

Other notable results: Margot Wilson, John Gardner, Paddy Bowen, Brian Browse came 2nd in the *East and West Wales Green Point Swiss Teams*.

Diary dates: Oct 6, National Pairs Qualifier, 7pm, Christchurch Bridge Club, Bournemouth. Oct 9, Simeon Cup – Pairs, 1pm, Preston Bridge Club, Weymouth. Oct 10, Knight Cup Qualifier – Pairs, 7pm, Dorchester Bridge Club. Nov 6, Flemmich Cup – Mixed Teams, Christchurch Bridge Club, Bournemouth. Dec 4, Chope Salver – Mixed Pairs, 1pm, Dorchester Bridge Club.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



WELL done to Dave Sherman – Alan Coral for coming first in the EBU *Spring Sim Pairs* event with Martin and Pam Sethill coming 12th.

In the *Essex/Hertfordshire GP Event* Ray Clarke – Simon Moorman came 5th in the *Swiss Pairs*.

Results of recent Essex competitions: *Essex Mixed Teams*: 1. Ian Moss, Nicole Cook, Frank Morrison, David Sherman; 2. Marion Cook, John Birch, Rod Hudson, Susan French. The *George Curtis* was won by Margaret Curtis, David Sherman, Frank Morrison, Ian Moss. *Senior Pairs* on July 13: well done to Chris and Sue Taylor, and John Birch – Pat O'Gara who finished equal 1st, with Peter Scotting – Pat Johnson in 3rd place.

Diary dates: Oct 16, Fletcher Trophy, Essex Club Trophy. Oct 26, Autumn Senior Pairs.

Hants and IoW

www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/



HIOW members did well in the *Glos/Hereford GP Swiss Pairs* in July. Gayle and Tony Webb came 2nd; Pauline Serby and out-of-county partner 8th, and Adrian Fontes – John Jones 15th.

Winners of 2010-11 leagues and knockout competitions: *League Div.1*: Sonia Zakrzewski, Wolf Klewe, Brian Mace, Gareth Birdsall, Adam Dunn, Tony Kelly. *League Div. 2*: Karen Dewar, Mac Lowcock, Guy Lawrenson, Chris Bradley, Adrian Fontes, Mike Gwilliam. *League Div. 3*: Rick Assad, Jenny Ashby, John Pearson, Margaret Stothard. *Basingstoke Cup*: Petersfield (John Pearson, Janet Buist, Tony Bleeton, Jan Currell, Dennis Adams, Maureen Rubra, Chris Muir, Tim Broughton-Pipkin, Louise Mellor, Nick Silk). *Cahalan Cup*: Jeremy Baker, Andy Hughes, Dave Huggett, John Moore. *HICKO Cup*: Newbury B (John Hawkins, Mike Gowlett, Nicola and John Foster, Dave Richardson). Congratulations to the above and also to the winners of the *Hill Head Teams*: 1. Helen Ackroyd, David Berwitz, Eugene Sheehan, Roy Riley; 2. John Dakin, Tony Olech, James Clark, Dave Willis.

Diary dates: Oct 2, Ladies'/Men's

Pairs. Oct 16, *Wessex Swiss Teams*. Nov 6, *Simple System Pairs* (+IOW heat) in specified clubs. Nov 20, *Jubilee teams* of Eight. Dec 4, *Bloxham Trophy Mixed Swiss Teams*. All the above will be held in Romsey at 2pm unless otherwise listed. Entries to Lillian Craigen ☎ 02380 254276 or lilliancraigen@sky.com at least a week before if possible.

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

THIS year, the joint *Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Green Point Weekend* reverted to mid-summer with a resulting increase in entries. The *Swiss Pairs* was won by Alan Wearmouth – Tony Hill; best *Herefordshire Pair* were Sarah Mathews – Peter Watts (10th). The *Swiss Teams* was won by Jim Simons, Filip Kurbalija, Patrick Phair, Patrick Shields; the best *Herefordshire team* was Chris Chowney, Ben Britton, Mike Ralph, George Barrett (10th).

In recognition of her role over many years of managing the Joint HBA/GCBA Weekends (and before that HBA Green Point events), Sarah Mathews was presented with a Claret Jug by the Chairman of HBA and the President of the GCBA following her decision to retire from that demanding role.

In the delayed finals of the *County In-House Teams KO and Plate*, Ben Britton, Chris Chowney, Robin Lewis, Paul Smith won the main event; John Thacker, Mike Ralph, Cathy England, Karin Fairweather, won the *Plate*.

In the *East and West Wales Green Point Events* at Cwmbran, *Herefordshire's* Mike Ralph, Ben Britton and George Barrett with David Atthey came 3rd in the *Swiss Teams*; Heather Brace – Ken Nelson finished equal 7th in the *Swiss Pairs*.

Diary dates: Sept 30, draw for the KO Teams and play of first round, Ledbury Community Centre, 7pm. Oct 14, Inter Club Teams League – first round, Ledbury CC, 7pm (both events run by Ledbury BC); Oct 15, Ladies' & Men's Pairs, Tarrington Community Hall, 10.30am (run by Ross BC). Nov 18, Inter Club Teams League – round 2, Ledbury Community Hall, 7pm. Nov 20, No Fear Teams (only one member of each team may be Advanced Master or above), Wellington Heath Memorial Hall, 1.30 pm (run by Wellington Heath BC).

Hertfordshire

www.hertsbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Sheila Evans, Maria Budd, Mark Westley and Malcolm Harris who came 5th in the *Brighton Mixed Pivot Teams*, and the team of Sheila Evans, Bill Blackman, Richard Perryman and Mike Wren who were 4th in the *Teams* at the Scarborough Congress. It has been a busy time for Sheila Evans who, together with Bill Blackman, Michael Rawlins and Nigel Rawlins, was 2nd in the *Essex & Herts Swiss Teams*.

Congratulations also to Celia and Derek Oram who won the *B Pairs Final* at the *Eastbourne Seniors Congress*, and

to Bob Turnham – Harry Silverman who won the *Bedfordshire One-day Swiss Teams* with out-of-county team-mates.

Our A and C teams competed in the *County League Teams of Eight National Final* on July 10 (see page 9). The A team (Stan and Tara Harding, Vernon Gaskell, David Dickson, Anne Flockhart, Mike Hancock, Alan Kay and David Walker) came 4th in their group. The C team (Sonia Griffiths, June Ball, Adrienne Tinn, Michael Shine, David Arrighi, Julie Snell, Andy Fenn and Chris Cook) were 3rd in their group.

Diary dates: Fri Nov 11, Mixed Pairs Championship, Bridge Centre. Sun Dec 4, Hertfordshire Rose Bowl, Bridge Centre. Humble Cup (qualification via local club heats): Sept 2, Watford, 7.30 pm; Sept 12, St Albans, 7.30pm; Sept 14, Sobell, 7.30pm; Sept 22, Hemel Hempstead, 7.30pm; Sept 27, New Hertford, 7.30pm; Oct 4, Stevenage, 7.30pm; Oct 19, Hatfield Heath, 7.45pm; Oct 19, Welwyn Garden City, 7.25pm; Oct 26, Leverstock Green, 7.30pm; Oct 27, Broxbourne, 7.30pm; Nov 15, Harpenden Tuesday, 7.25pm.

Isle of Man

www.manxbridgeunion.org



ON August 21 the MBU *Individual Island Championship* was played at Douglas BC. It is some years since the MBU held an individual event, but there was an encouraging entry of players keen to try out their skills and it is hoped that the championship can become a regular feature of the annual programme in future. It was an entertaining and instructive event, and quite a challenge to play well with a variety of different and often unfamiliar partners. The Championship, and with it the *Caymanx Cup*, was eventually won by MBU Chairman John Large (157 points) – a nice reward for all the effort he put into organising the event – with the lesser places going to Pam Townsend (149), Marjorie Muddock (138) and Cary Ellis (131).

It is rare to be able to report a success in a British National competition for an Isle of Man competitor but Erika Slatcher, one of our better-known players, achieved one of the best results of her long and distinguished career at the EBU *Summer Seniors Congress* at Eastbourne. She and her partner John Holland of Manchester won the *A Pairs Final* with 62.38%, some 7% ahead of their nearest rivals. Well done Erika for keeping the Manx flag flying.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



AT the AGM in July, Geoff Smith took over as Kent Chairman with David Anning replacing him as Treasurer. Mike Rafferty has joined the committee.

We wish them all well.

Congratulations to Ian Draper and Gerald Tredinnick who were on the team that won the *Hubert Phillips Bowl* (National Knockout Pivot Teams).

Well done Patrick Collins who was on the winning team in the *Swiss Teams* at the *Summer Seniors Congress* in Eastbourne. At the *Scarborough Summer Congress* Michael Prior and Keith Ashcroft were in the team that won the *Swiss Teams* playing for the *McMahon Trophy*. Congratulations.

The *Phillimore Cup* (Kent Swiss Pairs Championship) was won this year by Jean Smallwood – Eddie Lucioni; 2nd were Mike Hampton – Peter Taylor.

Brighton Summer Congress: Jeremy Willans – Ian Draper came 3rd in the *Swiss Pairs*. Sarah Whitehead – Leigh Chapman were 3rd in the *Thursday Open Pairs*. Patrick Collins won the *Senior Pairs Secondary Final* and *Seniors Swiss Teams*. Well played all.

Diary dates: Sun Oct 9, 11am, Dyer-Smith Cup (Kent Mixed Pairs Championship), Tunbridge Wells. Oct 29- 30 52nd Kent Congress (Swiss Pairs & Green-pointed Swiss Teams) Tunbridge Wells.



Drene Brown and Elaine Proctor receiving Certificates of Life Membership for services to Lincolnshire CBA.

Photo: Lincs CBA

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



LANCASHIRE finished a close 2nd in the *President's Cup* behind Merseyside and Cheshire but ahead of Yorkshire, Staffs and Shropshire, Manchester and five other counties. The team was Andrew Petrie, Jeff Smith, Austin Barnes, Stuart Norris, Paul and Hilda Williams, Steve Haley and Mike Nicholson. Congratulations to Poulton Bridge Club on winning the *Wainwright Cup*, the knockout competition of the *Fylde and District Bridge League*.

After two rounds of the *Northern Bridge League*, Lancashire A is 3rd out of five counties, Lancashire B 6th out of seven counties and Lancashire C 5th out of seven counties.

Preston Pairs: 1. Don Hilton – Richard Hilton.

Diary dates: Oct 16, Foundation Cup Swiss Teams, Blackburn Bridge Club. Oct 22, Northern Bridge League, Round 4. Oct 29, LCBA Congress Swiss Pairs, Brierfield Bridge Club. Oct 30, LCBA Congress Swiss Teams, Blackburn Bridge Club. Nov 13, Athenaeum Swiss Teams, Bury Athenaeum. Dec 4, Lytham Rose Bowl Pairs, Lytham Bridge Club.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk



THIS season sees the introduction of a new competition: the *Leicestershire Pairs League*. It will take place over five sessions through the season, starting on October 20. Pairs will compete in divisions of eight (four tables), with every board scored with the other three pairs playing the opposite way within the division. This format is tried and tested elsewhere, and has proved to be a sociable and fun event.

The only county matches played so far this season were on May 15 vs Notts. The results were: First team (*Daves*) lost 0-20; Second team (*Porter*) won 20-0; Third team (*Markham*) lost 5-15.

Diary dates: Oct 9, Midland League v Warwicks (home). Oct 11-12, Josephs Bowl Preliminary Round Club Heats. Oct 20, Pairs League – Round 1. Oct 26, Stanley Trophy Round 2. Nov 9, Josephs Bowl Preliminary Round Open Heat. Nov 11, 14, 15 and 17, Children in Need Sim Pairs. Nov 13, Midland league v Staffs & Shrops (away). Nov 23, Leicestershire Cup Round 1. Dec 7, Stanley Trophy Round 3.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



PRIOR to the start of the AGM, the manager of Waitrose, Lincoln, presented the *Waitrose Trophy* and prizes to Lo Tolbutt and Alan Andrews; this trophy is awarded for the highest percentage score at any duplicate session of more than eight tables at any Lincs bridge club throughout the year. Lo and Alan scored 80.99%

at Lincoln Bridge Club in March.

The County was delighted to present framed Honorary Life Membership certificates to Margot Blakeney, Drene Brown and Elaine Proctor (*photo on page 48*). The Committee wish to thank Paul Evans for the excellent certificates.

The present Chairman, Alan Andrews, and Vice-Chairman, Bill Parsons, resigned after serving the maximum period of three years which the constitution imposes, and were replaced by Glynn Elwick (Chairman) and Guy Grainger (Vice-Chairman). Having been Competition Secretary for seven years, Stuart Knox has resigned, and was replaced by Vic Llewellyn.

After the meeting, the AGM Pairs for the *Herbert Trophy* took place: 1. Mike Llewellyn – Glynn Elwick, 2. Nick Hunter – Alan Millington, 3. Keith Stewart – Roy Hughes.

The second round of the *Champion Pairs League* was played at Louth on Aug 4: 1. Paul Wokes – David Pettengell, 2. Martin Sizer – Helen Dunning, 3. Mike Llewellyn – Megan Williams, 4. John Brockleurst – Tony Waine, 5= Dennis Mellor – Andrew Green and Carole Rushforth – Lo Tolbutt.

The latest *Midland League* matches resulted in losses for the A and C teams against Oxfordshire, the B team won; losses for the A and B teams v Gloucestershire, the C team won.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to all winners at *Brighton*: Mark Teltscher – Martin Hoffman who won the *Swiss Pairs*, with David Gold – David Bakhshi a close 4th; John Reardon, 2nd in the *Four Stars A final*; Sarah Dunn, David Ewart, David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg, 3rd in the *B final*; Alex Hydes, Olivia and Alan Woo who won the *Brighton Bowl Swiss Teams*, with Nick Irens, David Bakhshi, David Gold 3rd. Also to Alex Hydes – Tom Townsend, 2nd in the *Mixed Pivot Teams*; Alex Hydes 2nd E/W in the *PWTE Pairs*; Toby Nonnenmacher – Michael Alishaw, first in Friday's *Open Pairs*; Bernard Teltscher, 2nd in the *Seniors Pairs*; Mandie Campbell, Ben Hackenbroch, David Schiff, 3rd in the *Seniors Swiss Teams*; and Natasha Regan – Oscar Selby who won the *Next Step Thursday Pairs*.

Well done to the YC team of Gordon Rainsford, Dom Goodwin. Liz Clery, Ryan Stephenson, Tim Gauld, Paul Martin, David Ewart, Gunnar Hallberg, who won the *Garden Cities Trophy* for London. Also in recent one-day events: Lorna Vestey, Ned Paul, Dave Strawbridge, Martin Baker, equal 2nd in the *B&BCBA Swiss Teams*; Chantal Girardin, Stefanie Rohan, Paul Lamford, 3rd= in the *Beds Swiss Teams*; and Lyn Fry, 2nd in the *Herts Swiss Pairs*.

Diary dates: Oct 2, Champions Cup for winners of Leagues in and around London, 1.00pm, YCBC. Contact sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com. Nov 19-20, Lederer Memorial Trophy, 1pm each

day at the YCBC; brilliant spectator event – see all the stars in action. For details contact Stefanie Rohan ☎ 07891 747273 or at stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk. Nov 6, Junior Teams of Four, 1pm, YCBC. Contact chris.duckworth@lineone.net or ☎ 020 7385 3534. Nov 27, Under-19 Pairs, 1pm, YCBC; contact Chris Duckworth as above.

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



GERARD Faulkner Salver *Final*: England's 2010-11 Seniors' KO involved essentially two Manchester teams – seven of the eight participants were from Manchester. Congratulations to John Holland, Jeff Morris and John Hassett plus Clive Owen (North East), who defeated the Goldenfields and Blakeys (*photo below*).

Eastbourne Seniors Congress: Congratulations to John Holland playing with Erika Slatcher (Isle of Man), who won the *Pairs*. Bill Hirst was 4th with Jeremy Dhondy of Middlesex.

National League Final: At the fifth attempt Manchester finally won the *A Division* this summer (*see page 9*). Well done to the Goldenfields, Nelsons, David Debbage, John Hassett, Michael Newman, Alec Smalley.

European Junior Championships: Michael Byrne was the NPC of the U-20 team that qualified for the World Championships (*see page 14*).

President's Cup: Ten counties competed in Sheffield. Manchester won the previous two years, but this year finished a modest 5th.

MCBA Green Point Swiss Teams: Won by Bill Alston, Andrew Petrie, Nick and Sue Woodcock from Lancashire. Congratulations to the non-expert teams of David Matthews, Ann Thornton, Kevin Higgins, Richard Sinton, who finished 3rd and Stephen Ward, Christopher Hine, George Leigh, Michael Wymer who were 4th.

Brighton Congress: Pride of place goes

to Michael Byrne who was part of the winning team in the main event. In the *Midweek Mixed Pivot Teams*, Alec Smalley, Barbara Lewis and Tom Slater were in the team that finished 4th; The Goldenfields and Nelsons were 6th.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk



THE *Presidents Cup* is an inter-county competition which is arranged every year by M&CBA with David and Liz Stevenson as organisers. The venue changes each year so that all competing counties can play host and this year the event was held at Sheffield BC. There were ten counties taking part and the Merseyside team came out on top, with Lancashire 2nd and Yorkshire 3rd. Our successful team were Dave and Jean Keen, Alan Stephenson, Stuart Matthews, Colin Humphrey, Mike Swanson, Julian Merrill, Paul Roberts, Daniel Miller and Peter Hall. Well done everyone.

There was an excellent turnout of 22 teams for the annual *Jim Davies Swiss Teams* in mid-June; the winners were Sheila Shea, Wyn Williams, Andrea Martin and Margaret Barnes, with John Hampson, Simon Whitehouse, Julian Merrill and Paul Roberts 2nd.

The annual Liverpool v Dublin match resulted in the third consecutive win for our guests from across the Irish Sea; full details on the county website.

In the *North Wales Swiss Pairs* congress in early July, David Stevenson – Liz Commins finished an excellent 2nd in a field of 94 pairs.

Diary dates: Oct 11, Lady Connell heat LBC. Oct 14, Lady Connell heat, Deva BC. Oct 16, Chester Bowl, Deva BC. Oct 22, NCL. Nov 4, 13th Waterworth Cup, MBC. Nov 14, 'Children in Need' Sim. Pairs, MBC. Dec 4, Merseyside Cup, MBC. **2012 Dates:** Jan 21-22, Chester Congress, Deva BC. Feb 5, County Trials, MBC. Feb 12, Merseyside & Deeside Cup, MBC. Feb 19, Jean Keen Trophy, MBC.



2011 Gerard Faulkner Salver finalists (*winners' names in italics*).

From the left: Clive Owen, Bernard and Rhona Goldebfeld, John Holland, Joy and Irving Blakey, Jeff Morris and John Hassett.

Photo: EBU

Middlesex

www.middlesexbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Shivam Shah – Basil Letts who were part of the English Under-20 Team to finish 4th in the *Junior European Championships*. By doing so they have qualified for the World Championships in Cuba (see page 14).

Well done to Bernie Hunt – Andrew Mundy who were the top UK pair in the *World Simultaneous Pairs* and came 38th world-wide.

Congratulations to Jeremy Dhondy who was part of the winning team in the *Summer Senior Congress Swiss Teams in Eastbourne*, a feat he repeated at the *Brighton Seniors Swiss Teams*.

Middlesex players have enjoyed some success around the country with Gill Walker – Rosella Emanuel winning the *Bedfordshire Swiss Teams*, Ian Pagan coming 2nd in the *Essex & Herts Swiss Pair*, and Mike Vail finishing 3rd in the *English Riviera Congress Swiss Teams*.

In the county, Jill Feldman's team (A. Sobell, A. Skry, B. Ritacca, T. Stanley-Clamp and A. Perelman) have won the *Middlesex Plate*.

Diary dates: Oct 23, Ranked Masters Pairs, Oshwal Bridge Club, 2pm. Nov 13, Senior Pairs, Pinner Bridge Club, 2pm. Nov 19-20, Middlesex Congress, Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, 1pm. There is also a number of Mixed Pairs and Championship Pairs heats. For full details please visit the county website which has an extensive competitions calendar.

Norfolk

www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/



THE *County Match* against Bedfordshire resulted in a loss for the A team, 7-13. The B and C teams each won their matches 20-0.

Winners of the summer trophy events were: *Gender Pairs: Ladies*, Eileen

Townsend – Lily Cox; *Men*, Richard Thornley – Malcolm Connolly. *Shaw Trophy*: Roger Amey – Dave Newstead. *Mills Knight Trophy*: Mervyn Scutter – Barbara Hacker. *Brooke Cup*: Peter and Brenda Howlett. *Wymondham Trophy*: Neil and Laura Tracey. *Kings Lynn Trophy (Teams)*: John and Julie Aspinall, Roger Amey, David Newstead.

The *Summer Open Pairs* events were well supported. Winners were: 1. Mike and Barbara Harnden, 2. Maureen Kimberly – Bogden Drobny, 3. Eileen Townsend – Andrew Brown, 4. Nigel Block – Mervyn Scutter, 5. John Aspinall – Andrew Haslehurst, 6. Neil and Laura Tracey.

Diary dates: Oct 23, Allwood-Wharton Trophy (Club teams of Eight), Roundwood Bowls Club. Oct 30, Houston Trophy (Swiss Teams), Bawburgh. Nov 13, Orb Pacquot Trophy (Swiss Pairs), Roundwood. Dec 4, Barclays Bank Trophy (Qualifiers only), Roundwood.

North East

www.neba.co.uk



THE NEBA *Summer Pairs* was won by Jenny Grist – David Rossiter with Niall Keaney – Wojtek Zakrzewski as runners-up. Congratulations to Stella Findlay – Simon Hedley who won the NEBA *Northern Swiss Pairs* on a split tie from Anne Bell – Barry Graham. Winners of the *10th Annual McMillan Event* held at St George's Bridge Centre for the *Margaret Watts Memorial Trophy* were Rose Boddy – Peter Williams, with Marian Wilson – Eileen Cotton runners-up. The event raised £957 for this very worthwhile charity and a great day was had by all!

The winners of the annual *Cramlington One Day Pairs* event were Barry Graham – John Beamont. Congratulations to Clive Owen's team (Clive, John Holland, John Hassett and Jeff Morris, photo on page 49) who have won the 2010-11 *Gerard Faulkner Salver* for Senior Teams.

Diary dates: There is still time to enter the NEBA Congress which will be held over the weekend of Nov 11-13. **Note** that in a change to the brochure the format of the Friday night competition has been changed to a single Open Pairs event – see the NEBA website for further details.

Other dates to note are: Oct 19-21, NEBA Autumn Simultaneous Pairs. Oct 23, King Cup. Nov 27, Cramlington Teams Congress.

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/



WE are sad to report the death of Len Shulman in June. He was Northants' first life master and a founder member of Northampton BC. At his funeral it was mentioned he had played with Omar Sharif and Liz Fraser. He donated the Shulman Bowl for the Bedford Congress.

The Northants B team, winners of the B Division of the *Eastern Counties League*, took first place playing against the B Division winners of other Inter-County Leagues (see page 9). Congratulations to the team of John Walshaw, Peter Coleman, Colin Porch, Amy Cherry, Maggie Jones, Jim Bainbridge, James and Shirley Dutton.

The Northants representatives in the *Pachabo* finished 2nd. Congratulations to Rob Miller, Dan Baines, Jim Deacon, Chris Wormleighton, Mark Hodgson, for the best-ever Northants result in this event.

Congratulations to Ian Clarke – Mark Hodgson who took 2nd place in the *Northants Green Point Swiss Pairs*. Congratulations also to Ross Stacey, John Josephs, Maggie Jones, Jim Bainbridge who finished 2nd in the *Green Point Swiss Teams at Spondon*.

Diary dates: Sat Oct 8, Saturday Winter League, Stamford. Sun Oct 9, Eden Cup & Murchie Lerner, Kettering. Wed Oct 19, Wednesday Winter League, Northampton. Sun Oct 30, Lakeland Trophy, Stamford. Sun Oct 30, Kettering Trophy, Kettering. Sat Nov 12, Saturday Winter League, Stamford. Wed Nov 16, Wednesday Winter League, Northampton. Sun Dec 4, Porch Trophy, Kettering.

Nottinghamshire

www.bridgewebs.com/nottinghamshire

IN the County match against Derbyshire all three Notts teams lost, by 2-18, 0-20 and 9-11 respectively.

In the *Nottinghamshire/EBU Green-point Weekend* there were 32 tables in the *Swiss Pairs* and 26 tables in the *Swiss Teams*. The *Pairs* was won by Alex Hogg – Roman Gembicki and the *Teams* by Don Smedley, John Griffin, Cedric Cockcroft and Roman Gembicki, all of Derbyshire.

Diary dates: the Anniversary Teams will be held on Sunday Oct 30 at Nottingham Bridge Club. Entries, by Oct 26, to Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 9232186. On Wednesdays the President's Cup continues, except for the BGB Simultaneous Pairs on Oct 12.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to County Captain Chris Cooper and team-mates on winning the *Midweek Afternoon Knock-Out Teams* event at Brighton.

The OBA Management Committee is to be commended for its commitment to provide encouragement, support and opportunities for novice players to thrive. Recently the first *All Oxfordshire Newcomers Pairs* event was well attended. In addition, *Non-Expert Pairs* will again be included in both sections of the annual *Men's and Ladies' Pairs* event in October. Oxfordshire is fortunate to have dedicated Youth and Education Officers whose efforts have proved invaluable in this field.

A picture of the winners of the *Oxford Times Cup* (for Novices) being presented with their trophy by Peter Jordan can be seen below left.

The popular monthly *Seniors' Pairs* continued throughout the summer featuring Gordon Carroll – Elizabeth Yearling winning the May event, David Patterson – Andrea Smith in June, Geoff Nicholas – Krishan Jalie in July and Marian Day – Cyndy Lee together with Michael Lucas – Amanda Potter jointly winning in August. The *Sadler Salver*, awarded annually to the highest ranked pair throughout the series, was eventually wrested from Geoff Nicholas – Krishan Jalie by the 2011 winners, Norman Gascoyne – Colin Jones.

Diary dates: Sun Oct 30, Men's and Ladies' Pairs including Non-Experts in both sections, Oxford BC, 2pm. Mon Oct 31, OBA Management Committee Meeting, TBA, 7pm. Sun Nov 13, Midland League v Notts, Oxford BC, 2pm. Tues Nov 13, County Pairs Heat, Oxford BC, 7.30pm. Sun Dec 4, Swiss Pairs Championship, Oxford BC, 2pm.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



A TEAM that included three members from Nailsea Bridge Club came 2nd at the *Welsh Seniors Swiss Teams* after leading all the way. The players were Daphne and Joe Patrick, Norman Massey, Keith Shuttleworth. Congratulations to them.

We were very pleased to see so many county members at our AGM in June. Congratulations to the winners of the *Swiss Teams*: Sheena Lanham, Andy Ridgers, Mike Roberts, Norman Massey. The team comprising Valerie Dunn, Anona Taylor, Gillian Toogood, Mike Readman was 2nd. Wendy Miller, Tish Hopkins, Phil Dyer, Pat Bedwell won the *Ascenders* prize.

Each year one or more bridge events are organised and promoted by the SCBA Committee in support of a charity. Last year £1541 was raised for Somerset Cancer Care. This year's nominated charity is Secret World. It specialises in the rescue, rehabilitation



Tony and Alison Lee, winners of the *Oxford Times* Championship Pairs event for novice players, presented with the trophy by Peter Jordan (right).

and eventual release of orphaned, injured and sick wildlife and is the only such 24/7 service in the South West; it is based in Highbridge. The *Michael Coda Cup* is our County's principal fundraising event. It is a simultaneous pairs competition played in participating clubs which are affiliated to the SCBA. It will be held on each day during the week of 20 to 24 February 2012. All of the entry fees and donations, less costs incurred by the SCBA, are passed on to the nominated charity.

Diary dates: Our County League starts on Oct 14 and continues on Oct 28 at Woolavington. Oct 15, Mixed Teams of Four, Street. Nov 20, County Swiss Teams, Woolavington. Dec 11, Men's and Ladies' Pairs, West Camel.

Staffs and Shrops

www.staffsandshrops.org.uk



IN the *President's Cup* the county (Kath Adams, Dan Crofts, Barbara, Justin and Paul Hackett, Edward Levy, John Parsons and Nicholas Thorne) had wins against Mid Wales, Merseyside and Cheshire, Manchester, Yorkshire and Herefordshire, but a large loss to North Wales stopped them winning the title.

Paul Hackett finished 2nd in the *Mixed Pairs* at Deauville where he was also 4th in the *Teams*, while Dan Crofts was 5th in the *Brighton Pairs*. We wish Barbara Hackett all the best as she represents Germany in the *Venice Cup*.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



JULIAN Lang – David Morran won the *Seniors' Pairs* from Alan Green – Dennis Valtisaris, and Maureen and John Heath. Mike O'Reilly – Doc Lacey finished 4th and won the *Veterans Prize*.

Pauline and Con Hanson won the *Married Pairs* from Fleur and Rick Waters, and Jenny and David Price.

In the *Eastern Counties League*, Suffolk's A team staged a late rally to beat Hertfordshire by 12-8, but the B and C teams lost by 0-20 and 2-18 respectively.

Diary dates: Sun Nov 6, Novice Pairs, venue and time TBA. Sun Nov 20, Club Teams-of-Eight, Risbygate.

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk

THIS month's news begins on a sad note with the death of Roland Bolton on 4th July. Roland was CTD of Surrey for more than twenty years and he developed this role to include not only organising all events down to the last detail, but also then usually playing in them himself and making the tea and washing up as well. He prided himself on making events run smoothly even when he was very ill indeed – a true professional who will be much missed. His funeral was attended by 150 people, many from the world of bridge including no fewer than twelve EBU tour-

nament directors and Max Bavin – a fitting tribute to someone who gave his life to bridge.

On a happier note many congratulations to Frances Hinden – Jeffrey Allerton, runners-up by one point in the *Brighton Swiss Pairs*; together with Graham Osborne and Peter Lee, they were 3rd in the *Teams A Final*. Also congratulations to Barry and Barbara Stoker who won the *Essex & Herts One Day Green-pointed Swiss Pairs*.

Peter Lee – Graham Osborne won the *AGM Swiss Pairs* and Peter Lee thereby won the *County Victor Ludorum* title for the season 2010-11.

If you are a club chairman you will have received an invitation to the *Club Chairmen's Cup* on October 26. This will start at 11am and include a lunch in order to enable club chairmen to socialise as well as to enjoy a game of bridge.

All other events begin at 1pm at Old Woking. To book please contact Frances Trebble ☎ 01252 679883 or via email to competitionsecretary@surreycountybridge.org.uk.

Diary dates: Oct 26, Chairmen's Cup, 11am. Nov 13, Seniors Pairs. Dec 4, Ladies' & Men's Pairs. Dec 11, Multiple Teams of Four.

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Yves LeBrec, Richard Newton, Jill and David Armstrong, Peter Brown, Joy Mayall, Anthony Whiteway and Andy Ryder who won *Division 3* of the *National*

Inter-county League (see page 9). They won the *Metropolitan Cup C Division* in September 2010 to qualify for this event.

Sussex Venture Pairs: 1. Jane Ross – Valerie Atkins, 2. John Naish – Chris Stewart.

In the *Glos/Herefordshire GP Swiss Teams*, Ian and Liz Lancaster were 2nd with Lindsey Geddes – Graham Sadie. *Sussex GP Swiss Teams:* 1. Malcolm and Karen Pryor, Duncan Curtis, Andrew Morris; 2. Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Michael Hampton, Peter Taylor.

Brighton successes: Swiss Pairs: Frances Hinden – Jeffrey Allerton 2nd, Jeremy Willans – Ian Draper 3rd. *Midweek Mixed Pivot Teams:* Andrew Southwell, Liz Hoskins, Richard Fedrick, Peter Clinch 3rd. *Wednesday Open Pairs:* Geoffrey Wolfarth – Brian Senior 3rd.

Diary dates: Oct 23, Ladies Pairs, Patcham. Nov 5, Basic Bridge East Grinstead. Nov 12, Chairmans Cup, Avenue. Dec 4, Basic Bridge, Bognor. Jan 15, New Year Swiss Teams, Henfield.

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk



AT the AGM all officers and committee members were re-elected unopposed. The *Cock O' County* competition was won by Jane Hall – Carolyn Fisher. A very well supported *Chick O' County* was won by Jim Quay – John Lucili.

The recent *Joyce Hare Teams Trophy* at Sutton BC was won by Brian and Pat Parker with John Hind – Janet Whittaker. Chris Harris, a member of Sutton BC, has been selected as the county's EBU Regional Club Representative. We wish him luck in this important role.

The first *Inter County League* match of 2011-2012 against Staffordshire saw all three teams win comfortably. The *Daves and Porter* teams both won 20-0, the *Markham* team won 18-2.

Two Warwickshire teams, Moseley B (Glyn Preece) and Coventry & North Warwickshire A (David Jones) have reached the semi-finals of the NICKO. By the time this is published we will know if they made further progress.

Diary dates: Sun Oct 16, Frank Cup and Goodman heat, WM, 1pm. Nov Children in Need Sim. Pairs: Mon.14, Mos, 7.15pm; Tue 15, WM, 7pm; Wed 16, Mos, 7.15pm.

Wiltshire

www.wcbsa.co.uk



AT the time of writing, the county's summer recess is not quite over. Preparations are being made for all the usual winter events, together with an enhanced league programme. Wiltshire members should visit the county website for details of upcoming events.

A few results to report: in *Brighton*, Emma Jackson, Mike Cripp, Pat Lewis, and Jo Seddon won the *Next Step Teams* and Adam Jackson (12) won the *Novice Pairs*; unfortunately the prize for the latter was a bottle of wine, which was quickly confiscated by his mother! Also, the team of Kathy Hodgson, Pat Davies, Roy France, Keith Williamson finished in an excellent 5th place in the *Swiss Teams*. And Chris Clements, playing with Sue Gregory (Devon), won an *Open Pairs* session.

Earlier in the summer Colin and Gayle Webb were 2nd in the *Hereford & Worcestershire Green Point Pairs*.

Worcestershire

www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk



DESPITE the summer weather, Worcestershire players continue to pursue their passion both within and outside the County. Pride of place goes to Sue Evans and Dennis Loynes, who have been awarded the *John Armstrong Award* for sportsmanship in bridge (see page 27) following their nomination as reported in the last issue of *English Bridge*. In the competitive field, Pam Pearce – John Sansom won the *Mixed Pairs* at the *Brighton Congress*. John also performed creditably in the *Corwen Trophy*, achieving a top-ten place with Richard Jephcott.

Closer to home, the *Pershore Bridge Club Championship Pairs*, which is a season-long competition, featured one of the tightest finishes for some years, with just 1/1000th of a percent separating the leading two pairs: 1. Sally Martin – Bernard Palmer 60.954%, 2. Louie

Kennedy – Martin Rees 60.953%. David Thomas – Jimmy Ledger were runners-up in the July *BGB Summer Pairs* with 70.37%, narrowly missing out on first place overall.

In the *County Summer Swiss Teams*, Steve Allerton, Nick Forward, Richard Jephcott, John Sansom were convincing winners, followed by Alan Reid, Mike Heard, Suzanne Griffin, Susan Sharp.

Forthcoming county events include the ever-popular *Malvern Congress* on October 29 and 30, and the *Children-In-Need Simultaneous Pairs* on November 14. The *Grand Prix Teams* has continued to generate entertainment and excitement, and the next heat will be held at Droitwich on November 21.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freeseerve.co.uk/



SANDY Davies – David Robinson were the winners of the *Swiss Pairs*, the principal event at the EBU's *Scarborough Summer Congress*. The same pair, with Graham Jepson – David Musson, were also 2nd in the main final of the *Teams*. At the EBU's *Brighton Summer Congress* Phil Godfrey – James Thrower were 2nd in the *B final* of the *Four Stars Teams*.

The inter-county *President's Cup* event was held at Sheffield this year. The Yorkshire team of David Robinson, Richard Pike, Graham Jepson, David Musson, Frank Littlewood, Tony McNiff, Bill Townsend, Phil Godfrey, Sandy Davies, Tom Gisborne, Richard Winter and Sarah Teshome finished 3rd, just seven points behind winners Merseyside & Cheshire.

Congratulations to the following who have achieved excellent results in county events and club congresses:

Affiliated Clubs Teams: Harrogate (Peter and Agnes Baxter, Janet and Ted Latham).

John Gerrard Simultaneous Pairs: 1. Nicola Cockerill-Smith – Beverly Godfrey, 2. David Donaldson – Alan Ardron, 3. Glen Ashmore – Jim Proctor.

Castle Swiss Pairs: David Lewis – Jim Proctor won the event on a tie-break; the unlucky second-placed pair was Graham Jepson – David Fletcher.

Yorkshire Schools Cup: Kenneth Andrew, Dominic Beech, David Fennimore, Jack Simm. The winners of the mini-bridge competition were Callum Rainey – Andrew Winckles.

Malton Cup: Gill Copeland, Stuart Davies, Steve Blackburn, George Bak.

Yorkshire Fitch: Pamela and David Oglesby.

Waddington Cup Final: Sheffield (Tom Gisborne, Sandy Davies, Mike Pomfrey, David Waxman).

Newcomers Pivot Teams: Toby Wall, Christine Riggall, Peter Riggall, Dominic Rayner.

Diary dates: Oct 3, Nelson Rose Bowl, (Harrogate). Oct 30, Yorkshire League (match 1). Nov 6, Ryedale Pairs, York. Nov 20, Yorkshire League (match 2). Nov 25, YCBA Council meeting, Bradford. Dec 4, Yorkshire League (match 3). Dec 18, Mixed Pivot Teams, Bradford. □

LOCAL MASTER PROMOTIONS

July – August 2011

We regret that space constraints prevent us from printing other promotions. Sorry if your name is not in the magazine; new promotions are published every month on, and can be downloaded from, the EBU website at www.ebu.co.uk.
Landmark promotions are published in the April, August and December issues of *English Bridge*.

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Mr Martin Bowler
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Mr JP Deady
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Mrs C Swales
Mr Gordon Sykes
Mr John Tinker
Mrs C Turner
Ken Waite
Mrs Jean Wardman
George Webb
Ruth Webb
Mr Richard White
Jean Wiseman
Mr Tony Wood



Alan Mould

This month's problems are a little different: the same hand and three different auctions. Do the different auctions make a difference to the opening lead?

The hand:

♠	6 5 2
♥	10 9 3
♦	K 9 6 5 4
♣	J 3

The auctions:

1. West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	1NT
All Pass			6NT

2. West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♠ ²	Pass	4NT ¹
All Pass			6NT

¹ Roman Key-Card Blackwood

² Two 'aces' and the trump queen (spades assumed to be trumps)

3. West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

The leads:

- (a) ♠6;
- (b) ♥10;
- (c) ♦5;
- (d) ♣J.

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

OPENING leads are often subjective and virtually any opening lead can be successful some of the time. However, bridge is in many ways a game of percentages and therefore certain leads will gain more often than others. In each issue you will be given three hands and the bidding on each, and you are asked to choose your opening leads from those proposed by our Quizmaster. Answers will be in the next issue. In each problem you are on lead as West.

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There are three categories in our competition: up to and including Master; up to and including Regional Master; and those with higher ranking. Please indicate on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, or in the e-mail subject line, the category for which you are entering. The first correct entry in each category out of a hat will win the prize. The Editor's decision is final.

Entries to the Editor,
23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR,
or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk
by October 20th, 2011.

Please make sure you include your full postal address AND rank even if entering by e-mail and/or you have entered before!

Solutions to August Quiz: page 15.

CAPTION COMPETITION



THE name of the winner of our August competition is on page 13, but this time we had so many entries and so many good captions, that we needed extra space to publish more than a small selection. So, here are more offerings:

One diamond – One heart – One spade – Two clubs – That would be fourth suit forcing! (Bill Howe, Ferndown); *Not another new-fangled signalling system* (John Baker, Sidmouth); *That's a brave bid!* (Melanie Clarkson, Snitterfield and Paul Quinn, Toprow); *I told you their signalling was ambiguous* (Sheena Millins, Langdon Hills); *Well, they don't play asking for suits in ascending order* (Mike Orriel, Newton Abbot); *I wonder how the bidding went in the closed tepee?* (David Richardson, Boston Spa); *The proposed smoking ban will ruin my game* (Dave Robinson, Sheffield); *It's my annual membership reminder from the EBU* (Steven Sakstein, Stanmore); *I suppose it's his idea of Ghestem* (Pauline Bell, Alderley Edge); *Typical. He insists on playing Culbertson and won't get a mobile phone* (Ed Blincoe, Fowey); *We hold all the cards, Crazy Horse. Custer doesn't stand a chance!* (David Fellows, Crowborough); *Presumably the bidding ends when the fire goes out* (Chris Ruff, East Finchley); *Pipe signals are OK except when it comes to no-trumps* (Nigel Stribling, Ferndown); *I see Hiawatha is practising his suit preference signals* (Alex Harding, Horsham and Dave Workman, Wokingham); *I did say they would get even better signals using the Blackwood* (Stanley Fingret, Scarcroft); *I thought we'd agreed on only McKenney signals* (Barbara Herold, West Sussex); and *Bad News! He's been picked to play for the 'Reserve' team* (Sally Izod, Cheltenham).

Many thanks to all entrants, they provided oodles of fun!

**Continued
from page 13**



Overseas and UK Bridge Breaks



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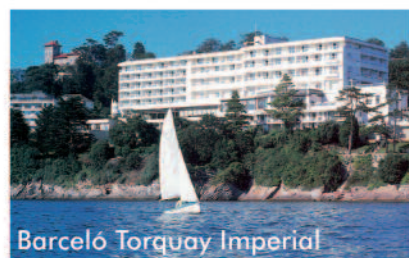


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