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# Chairman's Annual Report

*Presented at the Union's AGM on 6th October 2010*

## Sally Bugden, Chairman



THIS has been a momentous year for the EBU and for its Board. The building blocks of our philosophy have been cemented in, with the implementation of universal membership and its resulting streamlining of operations at Aylesbury. At our Board meeting in May, we agreed that with more members than have ever existed within the Union, we would have to keep abreast of the impact on Aylesbury and review this before the end of this financial year.

An additional aspect of our philosophy to determine how to gain more members via education initiatives has also been implemented with the club teacher programme and our research amongst the counties to look at their education development needs.

We will also be undertaking an on-line survey of our membership at the end of this calendar year, measuring how and if we are meeting their needs and researching what services we should develop for the future.

On my election two years ago I promised that I would work to demonstrate to decision makers and stake holders that bridge can have a beneficial effect on society through education, family activity, helping to obtain and maintain a healthy and agile mind and through the creation of communities for older people. I would like to thank Baroness Henig for her continued support at Parliamentary level for these initiatives. I would also like to thank Ron Millet who has worked so hard to help us in these matters, always looking for opportunities to raise funds to carry out some robust research, never feeling defeated. Ron undertakes this work as a volunteer. Which brings me on to the subject of how the EBU currently operates.

The majority of work that takes place in duplicate bridge in England, probably

95% of it, is carried out by valiant volunteers, in our clubs, in our counties and at national level. In a world of austerity, government budget cuts and ideas of the Big Society, this is the model that is likely to continue within the resources available in the coming years.

So, as well as increasing the number of duplicate bridge players, we need to aim to increase the number of individuals who volunteer. Why? Because if we don't we will not be able to capitalise on all the good work that has already been undertaken as well as getting fresh blood in for new ideas. So, how can we do this?

We need to open up volunteering by opening up an understanding of how volunteers work within the EBU so that each and every potential volunteer knows what to expect and what is expected of them within their counties or within the national body. How they fit into the overall objectives and strategies and how what they do makes a difference to duplicate bridge players locally or nationally.

This will require a supreme effort by all existing volunteers to chart and define our roles, and the roles and objectives of our committees, which must include timely reviews. We will also need to look at best practice in other organisations that survive on the dedication of a volunteer workforce.

In this way we will be able to create a body of information which can be disseminated to ensure that the EBU and its constituent parts continue to welcome not only new members but new volunteers. □

*Sally concluded by thanking, both on behalf of the EBU as well as personally, many individuals, trusts and companies for their help and support. Their names can be seen in the minutes of the AGM on the EBU website, [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk).*

## INSIDE GUIDE

Christmas Quiz 2010	5	■
Duplicate pairs tips	7	■
Bridge fiction	9	■
Ask Heather	11	■
Director, please!	13	■
Book reviews	14-15	■
Bridge curios	16	■
Club bidding quiz test hands	16	■
Traps for the unwary	17	■
Bridge People	18	■
Bridge with a twist	19	■
World Championships reports	20-22	■
Ask Jeremy	23	■
EBU news and diary	24-28	■
Bidding quiz test hands	29	■
Letters to the editor	31	■
Useful conventions	32	■
Great Northern Swiss Pairs report	33	■
Bidding quiz answers	34-35	■
Around and about	36-37	■
Better defending	38-39	■
Caption Competition	39	■
The debate	40-41	■
Club bidding quiz answers	42	■
Crete Congress report	43	■
Standard English	44	■
A day in the life of . . . / Top Tip	45	■
On-line bridge	46	■
County news	47-53	■
A chat with the editor	54	■
Prize Leads quiz	55	■

## ARTICLES IN ENGLISH BRIDGE ARE COLOUR CODED

Instruction



EBU News



Features



On-line Bridge



Reports



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# 2010 Christmas Competition



We are delighted that this year's Quizmaster is Tony Forrester, the most capped of England's players and Bridge Columnist for The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph.

Entries must reach the Editor (23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or e-mail [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)) not later than 5th January 2011. The first correct entry out of a hat will win a luxury Pellissier card table; bridge books will be sent to second and third.

Solutions and winners' names will be published in the February 2011 issue.



Tony Forrester

XMAS QUIZ

**You are West on all problems at Game All.**



1. ♠ J 8 3 ♥ Q 10 8 6 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ J 10 8

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

What call do you make?

A) Pass; B) 2♥; C) 2♠.

2. ♠ A Q 10 9 6 5 4 ♥ A 10 8 6 ♦ Void ♣ 4 3

West	North	East	South
4♣	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
?			

What call do you make?

A) 5♥; B) 5♠; C) Pass.

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	4♣	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
?			

What call do you make?

A) Pass; B) 5♠; C) Double.

4. ♠ Void ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 10 9 7 5 4 ♣ Q 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	3♠	Dble
?			

What call do you make?

A) Pass; B) Redouble; C) 3NT.

5. ♠ 9 7 5 2 ♥ A 2 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
	1♥	4♠	4NT
?			

What call do you make?

A) 5♠; B) 5♦; C) Double.

6. ♠ K 10 4 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A Q 3 2 ♣ Q 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦
?			

What call do you make?

A) 2NT; B) 2♠; C) 3♠.

7. ♠ A K J 7 6 ♥ A Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ A Q ♣ Void

West	North	East	South
2♣	5♣	Dble	Pass
?			Pass

What call do you make?

A) Pass; B) 5♥; C) 6♣.

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

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	4♥
?			

What call do you make?

A) Pass; B) 4♠; C) Double.

9. ♠ 6 5 4 ♥ Q 9 8 7 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ K 7 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Dble	Pass
?			

What call do you make?

A) 2NT; B) 2♠; C) Pass.

10. ♠ Q 5 ♥ K 3 ♦ Q 6 5 3 2 ♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
			1♠
?			

What call do you make?

A) 1NT; B) Pass; C) 2♦.

## MAGAZINE POINTS

As explained in the June 2010 issue, in order to continue receiving *English Bridge* you need to have enough 'magazine points'. To avoid disappointment, please check that you do in the members' area on the EBU website.





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# Don't feel obliged to lead partner's suit when the opponents seem ready for it

GETTING involved is a winning pairs strategy. You disrupt the opposition, inform partner and generally make a nuisance of yourself. Plus you have fun (it's terribly dull passing all evening, although Terence Reese used to experiment by failing to make a bid all session and seeing what percentage he'd score – normally about 53% but then he did defend rather well).


There's a flip side. Because partner's overcalls do not have to be a pristine K-Q-J-10-x, you should not automatically lead his suit when the opponents have indicated they are ready for it. I recently saw an auction featuring US stars 'Meckwell' (Meckstroth and Rodwell, who certainly like to bid) go like this:

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth		Rodwell	
	1♦	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Meckstroth, West, preferred to lead an unbid heart from Q-10-x-x to a spade (partner's overcalled suit) from a small doubleton. The heart defeated the game, the spade would have made it easy. The

clue was South's 1NT bid, so often based on four spades, and almost never on four hearts (no negative double).

Here's an example of a similar auction from my club:

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

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	1NT
Pass	3NT <sup>2</sup>	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup> The quality of the spade suit is poor. However, 1♠ is space-consuming and



Andrew Robson

PAIRS TACTICS

pass is supine, especially non-vulnerable.  
<sup>2</sup> Hoping for clubs to run, although the lack of an outside ace is (should be) a concern.

At one table West looked no further than the jack of spades lead, a potential bolster for partner's suit (or so he hoped). No good. Trick one went ♠J, ♠Q, ♠K, ♠A and declarer led a club to dummy's jack (the normal play missing five cards). East won the queen and returned a second spade (best at this point). Declarer finessed the eight and was soon cashing out for ten tricks via five clubs, three spades and the ace-king of hearts. A mouldy 20% for East-West.

At another table West was more realistic. South's 1NT was bid after hearing East's spade overcall; his spades rated to be good. West tried the sneak attack of the ten of hearts. Even if this didn't strike gold, it was unlikely to give away a trick (and the restricting of overtricks is vital at pairs). Declarer tried dummy's jack, beating East's queen with the ace to lead a club to the jack. East won the queen and returned the two of hearts. Declarer won in dummy and cashed his clubs. The intricacies of the endgame (try it out – East had needed the defence to cash one [either] top diamond before leading a second heart to break up the position) were lost on declarer and he emerged with just his eight top tricks. 90% to East-West.

Yes, perhaps next time East will have ♠K-Q-10-9-x and the failure to lead the jack of spades will be costly. However, pairs is all about *how often*, and the above type of spade layout is in my experience (and in Meckwell's, clearly) rather more frequent. □



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# The Matron's calculation



David Bird

BRIDGE FICTION

THE Matron surveyed John Hutson disapprovingly as he took his seat. 'Is that any way to wear a tie?' she demanded. 'The knot is two inches below your collar.'

'It was hot today,' the fourth-former replied.

'That's no excuse whatsoever,' reprimanded the Matron. 'What about all the poor boys who live in really hot countries, like Rhodesia and the Sudan. Do you think they walk around with their ties not properly done up?'

'I don't think it's called Rhodesia now-days,' Hutson replied.

'Don't be so impertinent!' exclaimed the Matron. 'Now, who's to speak first on this one?'

Count?' persisted the Matron. 'It's a nine-loser hand, so you should raise to two spades. Nine plus seven is sixteen. Take that away from eighteen and that tells you how high to raise. You should read Madge Warner's column in *Children's Healthcare Weekly*.'

The young North player made no move to write down this valuable piece of advice. 'Ace, please,' said his partner. 'And a small heart.'

Stefan Götel followed smoothly with a low heart. Rising with the ace was usually a mistake, he knew well. You would save declarer a guess if he held the king-jack of hearts; you might also set up a ruffing finesse for declarer if he held the queen-jack.

John Hutson finessed the nine of hearts, losing to the Matron's king. He ruffed the diamond continuation and led the king of trumps. The Matron won with the trump ace and forced declarer with another diamond. He drew the outstanding trump, leaving these cards still to be played:

**E/W Game. Dealer South.**

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

West	North	East	South
The Matron	Neil Phillips	Stefan Götel	John Hutson
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠

The Matron led the jack of diamonds and stared in disbelief at the dummy. 'Only five points?' she queried.

Neil Phillips waved a finger at the long trumps and the singleton heart. 'Good shape,' he replied. 'Couldn't bid less than four.'

'Do you boys not use the Losing Trick

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

Declarer's next move was to run the queen of hearts, throwing a club from dummy. He ruffed the diamond return and discarded another club from dummy on the established jack of hearts.

'Ace of clubs and dummy's three trumps,'

said John Hutson, facing his cards.

Stefan Götel nodded his acceptance of the claim. 'Nothing we could do, Matron,' he said. 'If you switch to clubs before he sets up a heart, you give him a second club trick.'

The Matron's memory of the hand was beginning to fade. 'I was rather hoping they would go down after that absurd bid of four spades,' she replied. With a small sigh, she turned towards the North player. 'I hope you won't overbid like that again. You won't always find your partner with such a strong hand.'

'Strong hand?' John Hutson retorted. 'I only had twelve points.'

The Matron beckoned for the next board to be brought into position. How could South have held twelve points when he made game opposite a near-yarborough? Just think of all the money parents paid to send their beloved offspring to the school. An enormous cheque handed over, every term, and what did they get in return? The boys couldn't even count properly! □

## IAN MONACHAN



WE are sad to report that Ian Monachan, who lived in Guernsey, died on 30th September, aged 75. Ian became an enthusiastic tournament player in his sixties and enjoyed notable success in national competitions. He represented Great Britain in the 1996 World Bridge Team Olympiad in Greece.

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# Don't consider one suit in isolation

**N/S Game. Dealer East.**

♠	9 5 2
♥	4 3
♦	K 7 4
♣	J 8 7 6 4

♠	A K 8 4
♥	A 8 2
♦	A Q 10
♣	K 10 3

PLAYING teams, you are in 3NT as South. West leads the ten of hearts to East's jack. How do you plan the play?

The contract is not great, and you will need quite a bit of luck. Your first decision is whether to win or duck this heart. This may depend on how you plan to tackle the clubs, so let's take a look at those. If you use your one entry to dummy to play

clubs, you will need a miracle in order to be able to establish them and return to dummy to cash them. Bear in mind that if East holds queen doubleton, West will simply hold up his ace to the third round. You are much more likely to succeed by playing them from hand and preserving your entry.

Given that you are likely to lose two club tricks, you will need to restrict your heart losers to two. Your choices are to win the first trick and play for a blockage, or duck the first two, and play for the hearts to be five-three with the hand holding three having both the ace and queen of clubs.

If you consider the lead, and East's play to trick one, the blockage is not that unlikely. True, West could have led from ♥K-10-9-x-x, but considering the combined chances in clubs and hearts, the blockage seems to represent a better bet, so win the first heart. Now you will have to play clubs from hand. If clubs are three-two, you will want West to be on lead first



Heather Dhondy

Heather's Hints

since otherwise the defenders will be able to unblock their hearts. It looks like a straightforward guess as to whether West holds ♠A-x, in which case you must play the king, or ♠Q-x, in which case you must play the ten. However, it is marginally superior to play the king, because this also wins when East holds the singleton queen. Note that in this situation it is important to win the first heart since otherwise West can duck the king of clubs, and East can unblock the hearts on the second round of clubs. He can't unblock both the king and queen if you win the first round, without turning your eight into a stopper.

This was the full deal:

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

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

♠	A K 8 4
♥	A 8 2
♦	A Q 10
♣	K 10 3

## NORTH AMERICA REGAINS BUFFETT CUP

NORTH America, fielding their strongest possible team, regained the Buffett Cup (the 'Ryder Cup of Bridge') in September in the beautiful setting of Miskin Manor in Wales. The final score was: North America 109 – Europe 89. The Buffett Cup has been played three times since 2006 and the visiting team has always won.

Playing for North America (*in the picture*) were David Berkowitz and Alan Sontag; Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood; Geoff Hampson and Fred Gitelman; Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein; Jill Levin and Jill Meyers; Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell; non-playing captain Donna Compton. Europe was represented by Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim; Boye Brogeland and Erik Saelensminde; Giorgio Duboin and Antonio Sementa; Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes; Jason and Justin Hackett; Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness; non-playing captain Paul Hackett.



### Heather's Hints

- Don't consider one suit in isolation. The play you need to make in one suit will sometimes affect your play in a different suit.
- Don't give up on a bad contract, good things sometimes happen! At the same time you need to try to work out the least miraculous lie of the cards needed. □



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You will find a link to the Full Tilt site on the EBU website. You can withdraw money from your Full Tilt account at any time, so this means that you can try it out at absolutely no financial risk whatsoever.

The Full Tilt site offers Poker tuition and tips for successful play. It offers a wide range of different types of Poker game, including Hold'em, Stud and Omaha, to name but a few. There are both single-table games and multi-table tournaments and a wide range of stakes is available to suit all pockets. You can also pay a small game fee and play with 'play' money if you prefer. And, as a global website, games are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year.

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# John forgets yet another convention

'WELL, we're nearly at the end of the session and we haven't had a single system misunderstanding,' said John.

'That's only because none of those complicated conventions that you insist on playing have cropped up yet,' replied Julie scathingly.

**N/S Game. Dealer North.**

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

West	North	East	South
Julie		John	
	1♠	3♣	Dble
3♦	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Of all the conventions that John insisted on playing, Ghestem was the one that he feared the most. He knew that, given the vulnerability, he should show his two-suiter but which out of 2♠, 2NT and 3♣ should he bid? Eventually he made his choice in the realisation that, if he had got it wrong again, Julie would probably not speak to him for a long time.

After Julie had alerted John's 3♣, South turned to her and asked for an explanation of the 3♣ and Julie correctly answered: 'It shows at least 5-5 in hearts and diamonds. We play it this way to help John remember as 3♣ never shows clubs, it always shows the highest two unbid suits (with a cue-bid to show the extremes and 2NT to show the lowest two).' At this stage Julie glanced across the table to see an extremely worried

look on John's face, which was completely drained of colour, and she just knew that the Tournament Director would be calling soon.

When Julie asked about South's double, North replied: 'If the bid had been natural, then double would be for take-out but I must confess that we have not discussed this situation, so I suppose it means that we have no partnership understanding.'

John was extremely relieved when North bid 3♥ over Julie's 3♦ as, had North doubled 3♦, John realised that he would have had to do the honourable thing and pass.

At the end of the auction John excused himself from the table and went to talk to the Director. 'I have got the system wrong again,' he admitted. 'Julie has correctly told the opponents that my bid shows the red suits but I have actually got clubs and hearts. Should I say anything to declarer before he plays the hand?'

'Firstly, the opponents are only entitled to know what your bid means, not what you actually are holding, so there is never any need to say anything if partner has given a correct explanation of your partnership agreement. Secondly, even if it had been an incorrect explanation, as defender you should say nothing until the end of the play of the hand (to give partner the opportunity to misdefend on the basis of his misunderstanding). It is only the declaring side who should correct partner's incorrect explanation before the opening lead is faced.'

The Director accompanied John back to the table as he was sure that this would not



**Mike Swanson**

**DIRECTOR, PLEASE!**

be the end of the matter, and Julie immediately spoke: 'By now, with John leaving the table to speak to you, we all know that he has got the system wrong, so how should I defend?'

'You must act as if John has diamonds and hearts until it becomes obvious in the play that he has not. Declarer, however, can legitimately draw whatever inferences he sees fit.'

The only thing Julie was certain of, was that John held clubs; however, she realised that she must choose one of the suits that his bid promised, and so she led her fourth highest diamond. Declarer could now see that John either had just clubs or a club-heart two-suiter, so he was able to play a heart to the king and John's ace. John now did his best by switching to clubs but declarer ducked the first round and was able to set up the diamonds in the knowledge that Julie had no more clubs to lead to John.

'Ten tricks and a top, well done,' said Julie graciously to her opponents. She then turned to John and said, 'From now on every time you forget a convention we delete it from our card, even if that means we end up giving up Stayman and Blackwood!'

John was about to suggest that even he couldn't forget Stayman but, when he saw just how angry Julie looked, he decided that she probably wouldn't believe him. □

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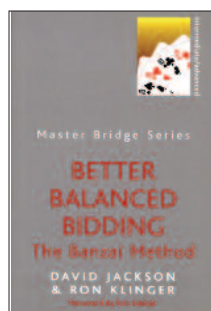
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# Book reviews

## by Paul Bowyer

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THERE are two additions to the Master Bridge Series of books (Weidenfeld & Nicholson publishers). The first of these, *Better Balanced Bidding*\* by David Jackson and Ron Klinger, focuses

on hand evaluation. The aim of the book is to show the limitations of the universally used Milton Work point count (also known as the 4-3-2-1 point count). There are many well laid out examples showing how rigid adherence to counting points via the 4-3-2-1 method can lead to both over-valuing and under-valuing different types of balanced hands. For example, what contract would you expect to reach with these two hands?

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

East-West have two balanced hands and a combined 25 points, so you would expect to play in 3NT. As the authors point out, though, game is a very poor proposition on these cards with only seven top tricks, an eighth possible in hearts and a ninth extremely unlikely. So how might you avoid this pitfall?

Well, the answer comes (or so the authors claim) from a more rigorous analysis of the worth of the high cards. Statistics have 'proved' that the 4-3-2-1 point count over-values aces and under-values the roles of jacks and tens in balanced hands. Consequently, the idea that Jackson and Klinger postulate is to switch to the 'Banzai' point count where you count 5-4-3-2-1 (5 for an ace down to 1 for a ten) and Hey Presto! your bidding will be much more accurate.

Under these methods you might reach 3NT on hands such as these:

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

The same East hand as before, note, and a weaker West hand (at least, weaker by the 4-3-2-1 point count method) but 3NT is a much better contract than the first deal.

Naturally, you need to reassess all of your counting and all of your thinking – a weak no-trump, for example, would be about 18–21 Banzai points and you would need about 38 Banzai points between you to bid 3NT. Of course, and the reader will be ahead of me here, quite what happens when you sit down under current EBU regulations and announce 'Weak, 18–21 points' when partner opens 1NT is anybody's guess. I suppose you'll just have to deal with the general bafflement and protests at the time.

Quite whether the overall argument for this fundamental change in methods sustains a full book is questionable; there are copious example from 'real life' but, as in all books on bidding, there are few counter-examples. Anyway, that caveat aside, the book contains interesting and well written arguments that make it worth reading for players of all standards.

It would be especially good, I feel, to get rabid point-counters to have a look, even if the only point that they took from it was that bridge is not an exercise in accountancy.

★★★★★

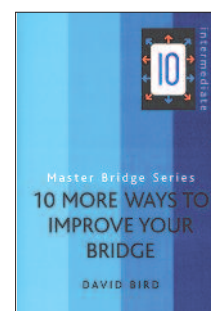
THE second new book in the Master Bridge Series is David Bird's *10 More Ways to Improve Your Bridge*\* (which, like the previous book reviewed, retails at £12.99).

There are no bridge-playing monks or schoolmasters here, just ten chapters each on a distinct theme. Seven of these chapters (the most valuable, in my view) are on card play, three are on bidding conventions (Roman Key-Card Blackwood, Lebensohl and Jacoby 2NT). Each chapter ends with a section of 'Points to remember' and a valuable 'Test yourself' section.

The book is self-avowedly for 'intermediate' players and, as such, doesn't contain anything that is particularly original. It is, however, very well written (with this author's pedigree we would expect no less) with hand diagrams and bidding matrices clearly laid out. The hands are logically explained and are at the right level to test the reader without being too confusing nor (a trap some writers fall into) showing off just how clever the author is. The book does exactly what it says on the, er, cover – it helps you improve your bridge. Just one example will suffice:

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

South plays in 4♥ and West starts off with two rounds of clubs. How should you play?

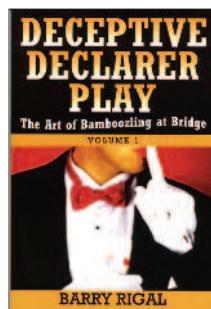




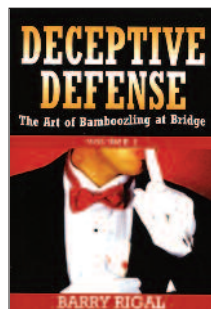
If I tell you that the chapter heading is 'How to survive a 4-1 trump break' would that help? Can you see that the winning line is to play on diamonds before drawing trumps so that the South hand can only be forced twice? If you can't see it then I suggest you buy this book – the author explains it with more clarity than I can.

Recommended – a useful addition to your bridge library.

★★★★★



NEXT are two books by Barry Rigal, *Deceptive Declarer Play* and *Deceptive Defense* (sic). As the second title makes clear by the transatlantic spelling, these are published in America, by Vivisphere, and are, in fact, reprints of Batsford books published over ten years ago. That should not detract from the overall standard, which is high. Let me start with a grumble, albeit a small one. I do like

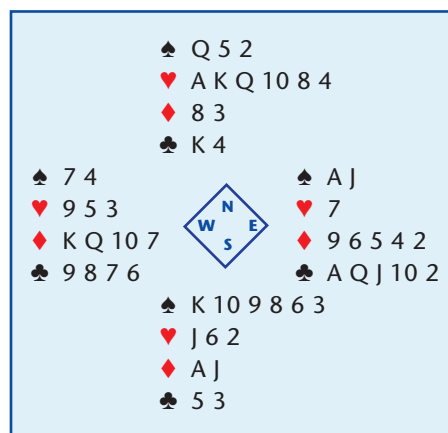


bridge books to lay out hands with a table diagram in the middle and to have the hands and the suit diagrams centred in the page. Here, in both books, the diagrams are left-hand justified and there is just a blank space where a table diagram should be. For me, that decreases the readability of books and articles; here it detracts from the important and interesting points that the author is trying to make. OK, rant over. The substance is more important than the style and here the books score highly.

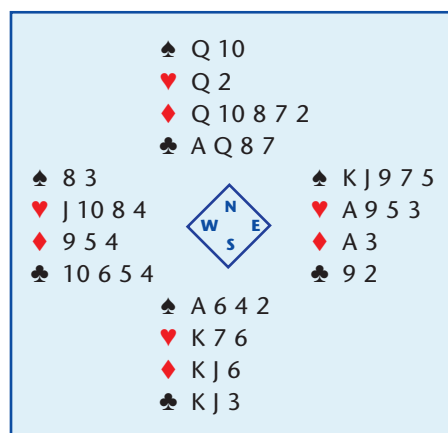
The *Deceptive Declarer Play* book (cover price £9.50) starts with 'standard' plays in terms of deception (for example, playing the card you are known to hold) but these things need saying in a work like this and the author states the positions carefully and clearly. There then follow many and varied examples of swindles actually carried out at the table by experts that don't conform to any particular type of play. This one caught my eye (*diagram near the top of the next column*):

Declarer, a French international, played in 4♠ having opened a weak 2♠. West led the king of diamonds and East played the

diamond two (giving count). With no hesitation, South ducked! West thought it a good idea to cash a second diamond at trick two before switching to a club, so his next card was the queen of diamonds. Curtains.



The *Deceptive Defense* book (cover price £13) is more involved than the previous work in that there are many more positions worthy of deeper study. Any aspiring player (or pair) should read this work as there is much they could learn regarding the art of careful and subtle defending. Try this one, for example:



South opens 1NT (strong variety) and North raises to 3NT. West leads the jack of hearts to the queen of hearts in dummy. You are East; how do you defend?

The answer is that you have no legitimate chance of beating this contract but you have a small chance of conning declarer (and, interestingly, also your partner) if you win with the ace of hearts and, eschewing the orthodox three of hearts return, play the nine of hearts at trick two. South will surely read the hearts as being 5-3 and will duck; you hope that West will read the hearts as 4-3 and will see no future there – so he may overtake and switch to a perspicacious spade . . .

Both books would make interesting and useful additions to your library. They are not for beginners but any player of experience would gain from reading them (if you can put up with the US spelling . . .). If you can only afford one of these two books, buy the one on defence – it will make you think more.

★★★★★



Finally there is Matt Smith's confusingly named *Adding Precision and Pre-emption to Two-over-one and Acol* (Athena Press, £6.99). The book is aimed at aspiring club players and attempts to show them that there is a

world outside the often limited arena of club bridge. As befits a work by a retired academic (to be strictly accurate the author is Dr Matt Smith), the book is brilliantly researched (the bibliography alone runs to nine pages) and the discussion on bidding methods and styles ranges far and wide. However, this attempt to be broad in scope backfires when it loses focus in its primary aim, which appears to be to persuade aspiring players to take up a strong club based system. The book lays out the opinions a little too broadly, offering too many options, and digresses off the main theme rather too often. Interesting though they may be, I am not sure why the author wanted to include such items as the Principle of Restricted Choice in a book primarily about bidding. Readability is not enhanced by the idiosyncratic layout of hands where they are presented as in the following example, even uglier than the layout in the two Rigal books:

(S) AK762 (H) KQ5 (D) 7 (C) K1032  
(S) QJ983 (H) A8 (D) A4 (C) AJ74

This is neither a book for the inexperienced nor for the expert, but aspiring players may find some items of interest within its pages. It is by no means an easy read, though.

★★★★★

Also received, but too late to be reviewed, are the welcome reprints in the Master Bridge Series of two great bridge classics: *Doubled and Venerable\** by Terence Reese and David Bird, and *Logical Bridge Play\** by Hugh Kelsey, priced at £12.99 each. □

## 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 the correct answers on page 42.

### Hand 1

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

W	N	E	S
			3♦
?			

### Hand 2

♠ 9 7 6 3  
♥ 10  
♦ 6 4  
♣ K 10 6 5 4 3

W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♣
?			

### Hand 3

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

W	N	E	S
			1♣
?			

### Hand 4

♠ Q 8  
♥ A 4  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ K 10 9 7 4 2

W	N	E	S
		1NT	Pass
?			

### Hand 5

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

W	N	E	S
	1♠	Pass	3♠
?			

### Hand 6

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

W	N	E	S
?			

## Bridge Curios

### Bridge (melo)drama

MANY of us make a drama out of a hand, but the American composer Samuel Barber actually turned a deal into an opera – appropriately enough called *A Hand of Bridge*. Generally considered to be one of the shortest operas ever written, this cutting drama received a welcome airing last July as Buxton Festival in Derbyshire marked the composer's centenary in their annual celebration of opera, music and literature.

another and playing out, in their minds, what they think of the others at the table. In between moments of card play, in the suitably uncomfortable contract of five hearts, Barber writes tiny, lush 'arias' to outline their inner thoughts, with the jazz-inflected score reflecting the players' moods.

The four soloists in Buxton were drawn from the Festival chorus, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Brian Smith-Walters, playing the womaniser of the piece,



At the table are four players, alienated, estranged individuals – does this remind you of some tables at your club? Thoughts turn to such things as clothes, a mistress, a dying mother, and a boring job, yet the pretence of their lives continues through the formalities of bridge. Sally recalls a hat she saw in a shop window earlier in the day. Bill, the lawyer, recalls a former lover and wonders where she is now. Geraldine laments not loving her now-dying mother while she was still well. Finally, David fantasises about what he would do if he were as rich as his boss, 'Mr Pritchett'.

Samuel Barber, more famous for his dreamy *Adagio* for strings, wrote the brief satire on suburban life to a libretto by his partner Giancarlo Menotti, himself a famous composer, in 1953, and it was first performed at Menotti's Spoleto Festival in Italy. The 'bitchy, witty opera' is full of biographical references to members of the Barber-Menotti intimate circle. The story is a quick psychodrama, with the four characters both playing bridge with one

explained: 'Only one of us already knew how to play the game, although two had played a lot of cards before. So we met a few hours before our first rehearsal to learn the basic rules and strategies. Thank goodness, too, as the score is quite specific about bidding and tricks to be played. As in a normal hand of bridge, we had a short bidding sequence before the first tricks are taken. One of the difficulties is the lack of stage directions, while the bridge instructions are quite exact. So, it was good that we understood the reasons behind each move. Using a finite hand of bridge is very effective – giving each character pause to think. Sally, in particular, is portrayed rather well as both the dummy of the hand and the dummy of her marriage to Bill.'

In opera circles, 'director' takes on a rather different meaning to that of the bridge club. But even though it's a short opera, I doubt many club directors would be pleased to allow the necessary nine minutes Barber's music demands!

Glyn Foley

# Blackwood abuse

BLACKWOOD is a convention that people learn early on and despite most people's reluctance to go anywhere near a slam for the first five years of their bridge career, once the bug hits them they quickly over-rely on Blackwood and frankly abuse it.

Here's a situation that arises far too often:

## Hand 1

♠ A Q J 9 4 2  
♥ K J 7  
♦ A K J  
♣ 9

You open 1♠ with Hand 1 and partner responds 2♦ – what now? With 19 High-card Points plus several for distribution, not to mention the ♦A-K-J

of partner's (probable) five-card suit, a slam is very much on the agenda, and many people would launch into 4NT without thought for the final contract.

However, this would be a clear error. You have no idea what suit you want to play in, and asking partner about aces is not going to tell you that. If partner has Hand A, 6♦ is the place to be, but if partner has Hand B, 6♠ will hit the jackpot:

## Hand A

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

## Hand B

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

Will asking for aces enable you to find out which of these hands partner has? Certainly not. The right bid is of course 3♠, showing a strong hand with six good spades, (forcing to game after a two-level response) and waiting to hear more from partner.

Let's see a few more situations where people foolishly pile into Blackwood without thought for the consequences.

## Hand 2

♠ A 4  
♥ K J 3  
♦ A Q J 9 6 5 4 3  
♣ Void

Holding Hand 2 you hear partner open 1NT – what now?

With 15 HCP, an eight-card suit and a useful-looking void, a slam is quite likely.

So, should you launch into Blackwood?

Certainly not – you may know what suit you want as trumps but you must let partner in on the picture first. A response of 3♦, showing at least a six-card suit and a hand looking for a slam, is the right response. For one thing, even if you did bid 4NT it would not be Blackwood asking for aces, but instead a quantitative raise, asking partner whether he was maximum (where he would bid on) or minimum (where he would pass).

Another situation where people can't see the (Black)wood for the trees is where a suit has been agreed but one suit is 'wide open', meaning you don't have a control in it. Something like Hand 3:

## Hand 3

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

You open 1♦; partner pleasantly surprises you by raising to 3♦ – what now?

A slam may well be on, and with a 6-4 distribution a sign-off in game would be very timid – but Blackwood is not the answer! If partner shows you one ace, you will be none the wiser as to whether he has anything useful in hearts, and you might go off in slam straight away when they can cash the ♥A-K if partner holds Hand C:

## Hand C

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

## Hand D

♠ Q 9 2  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ 9 8 3 2  
♣ A 3 2

Of course, if you are reading this and thinking to yourself: 'I would avoid that by bidding Blackwood and then stopping in 5♦ when partner only has one ace,' then I should point out that partner might have Hand D: it is very balanced, not even maximum, and has feeble trumps, but slam is still a good proposition.

What should you do instead? Simply bid 3♠ over 3♦ and await developments. If



Michael Byrne

TRAPS FOR THE UNWARY

partner comes back by bidding 3NT (to show stoppers in clubs and hearts) as he will do very often, then you can continue to 4♦ to indicate you are strong and have something good in spades, and take it from there.

Then of course there is the problem of using Blackwood on hands that don't warrant a slam try at all. Consider Hand 4:

## Hand 4

♠ A Q 7 2  
♥ K J  
♦ A J 9 4  
♣ K J 8

You open 1♠ (playing Acol with four-card majors) and partner raises to 3♠. What now?

Here you do know what you want as trumps (spades) and you have a control in every suit. However, you simply don't have enough playing strength to make a slam opposite a normal limit raise (10-11 points). If partner has: ♠ 9 8 4 3 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ K Q 5 3 ♣ A 3, you would probably go down in 5♠, and 6♠ has no chance whatsoever!

Let's review a few points about Blackwood:

## Don't:

- Use Blackwood when you don't know what you want as trumps (Hand 1);
- Use Blackwood when you have a suit wide open (Hand 3);
- Consider a slam without enough playing strength (Hand 4).

## Do:

- Make sure you can cope with any response from partner;
- Make sure you know where you are going once partner tells you how many aces he has. ☐





## EBU BRIDGE COURSES

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<b>Date</b>	14th – 16th January	
<b>Hotel</b>	Hilton St Anne's Manor, Royal Berkshire	<b>Cost</b> £195 each
<b>Theme</b>	Hand Evaluation, when to upgrade, when to downgrade your cards.	
<b>Date</b>	4th – 6th March	
<b>Hotel</b>	Hilton Newbury Centre	<b>Cost</b> £188 each
<b>Theme</b>	Communication in defence: Play of No-trumps: Play of Trump Contracts	

For further information please call David Jones on  
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All events are Full Board and have no single room supplements

**8 – 10 April 2011**

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The Hallmark Midland Hotel, Midland Road, DE1 2SQ  
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This weekend congress is for all bridge students and newer players, whether they have been learning with the Bridge for All scheme or other teaching programmes. Students who are in their first or second year of learning are especially welcome. The event will be divided, where appropriate, into two sections according to ability — so first-year students will play in one section and more advanced students in the other. There will be an instructional session on Saturday morning.

An attractive package has been arranged at The Hallmark Midland Hotel, offering a welcome sherry reception, two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast and sandwich lunch on Sunday. Tea and coffee will be available twice on Saturday and once on Sunday. The hotel package is £130 per person, with no single person supplement. Please book the hotel accommodation directly with the Midland Hotel quoting 'April Bridge Weekend 2011'. A £20 deposit per person will be required to secure your reservation.

**Bridge fees: £35 per person**



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## Bridge People

### A BICYCLE MADE FOR TWO



Tim and Ruth Dunsby on their tandem  
between Kremmling and Breckenridge in the Rockies

TWO people, one bike, 4300 miles. That was the challenge that faced husband and wife partnership Tim and Ruth Dunsby as they took on the roads of the United States, riding from the West to the East coast in an amazing test of endurance.

Tim, who plays his bridge in Dorset, and his wife, Ruth, started their journey on 10th May 2010 in Seaside, Oregon, from there pedalling through the states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky, finishing in Yorktown, Virginia, at the end of July. Tim (63) and Ruth (64) cycled the 4300 miles to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, for which Tim is a driver.

Tim, who last year cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats for the same cause, took up position at the front of the tandem – the 'captain's role' – with Ruth behind him as the 'stoker'. They were accompanied by their friend Jane Mardon, who drove the camping equipment and food needed for the venture.

Commenting on their experience, Ruth said: 'Until 2008 I had not cycled more than 20 miles in a stretch. The fact that I coped with over 4000 miles in challenging conditions makes me feel proud but I also feel grateful that, in retirement, I am healthy enough to take on that challenge and feel fitter at the end of it than I have ever felt in my life.'

Tim added: 'There is a lasting sense of achievement and I feel proud, especially for Ruth, of the way we battled with the extremes of weather we encountered and cycling all the way without resorting to pushing up any of the hills. I was impressed by the friendliness, openness and generosity of the Americans – also the diversity and beauty of the American landscape and the distinctive character of each state. It was a great adventure, probably second only to bringing up our kids, and compares favourably with us teaching in Swaziland and San Francisco when we were younger.'

To donate money to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, go to [www.justgiving.co.uk](http://www.justgiving.co.uk) and put in Tim Dunsby's name as that of the friend whose chosen charity you wish to support. □

# The language of bridge

It's time for some new bridge clichés, says Simon Cochemé

SOME readers (*English Bridge Letters*, October 2009, April 2010, June 2010) suggest that those describing the play of a bridge hand use too many different verbs. For them every card should be 'played' and every bid should be, well, 'bid'.

Surely a carefully chosen verb indicating that a player did something other than play the card nearest his thumb adds to the quality of the narrative? Rising with the ace, ducking the king, finessing the queen, going in with the knave, jettisoning the ten, covering with the nine, unblocking the eight, dropping the seven, false-carding with the six, returning the five (keep going, nearly there), switching to the four, signalling with the three, and even following with the two. These all imply a degree of positive action by the player concerned.

Here is a deal from the trials to select the English Women's teams for the 2010 Lady Milne, the Home Countries competition:

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

North bid 2♦. South bid 3NT. West played the ♥7, North played the ♥3, East played the ♥10 and South played the ♥K. South played the ♦8, West played the ♦3, North played the ♦2 and East played the ♦K. East played the ♥A and then the ♥8. Pretty turgid, isn't it? Anyway, South won the heart, continued diamonds and ended up with eleven tricks.

More on this board anon.

In the sixties it was almost impossible to read a bridge magazine and not come across the phrase *when the smoke cleared* or *when the dust settled*, implying that the critical moment of an exciting deal had passed and the final result could be revealed without describing all the intervening tricks. For example: 'the defence now embarked on a cross-ruff and when the smoke cleared declarer was four down'. With overuse the phrases became clichés and they are rarely seen nowadays, although I did spot an ironic homage when Marc Smith wrote 'when the smoke settled' in *Bridge Magazine*.

One of the problems with picturesque metaphors is that their references may become dated. Pointing at the dummy and saying: 'Consonant, please Carol,' may well be lost on future generations. The phrase *went for a telephone number* was readily understood as a four figure penalty in the days when phone numbers consisted of an exchange and four digits (thus Scotland Yard's number was WHItEhall 1212). Nowadays people are used to ten digit phone numbers, and that really would be a big penalty! *Bidding on tram tickets* is another one that is rarely heard these days but, with the re-emergence of trams, could safely be dusted off.

Aren't you tired of *playing in 3NT* or *being in 4♥*? Can't we do better than that? David Bird occasionally has declarer *at the helm* of a contract; maybe this could be broadened out to *at the wheel*, *at the controls* or *in the chair*.

I have learnt of some new expressions from Janet de Botton's column in *The Spectator*: to *nutmeg* is to play, or go in with, a card that creates entry problems for declarer. It comes from football where it means to kick the ball between an opponent's legs. I am not sure it will catch on if it has to be explained every time it is used. Another was *to be caught speeding* when you concede a doubled penalty. Nice.



Simon Cochemé

BRIDGE WITH A TWIST

By the way, that Lady Milne deal we started with; I hope you noticed that West should have played the ♦Q at trick two to prevent declarer from running the suit. If she had done so, she would have made one of the English teams. East could have withheld the ♦K, but this doesn't beat the contract, merely holds it to nine tricks.

At another table Sally Brock and Susanna Gross were being watched by a couple of thousand people on the internet. There the bidding took a different course:

West	North	East	South
Brock		Gross	
	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East opened a weak no-trump and South tried to issue a speeding ticket. Brock started what I am told is a Staveley Wriggle, where 2♣, when doubled and followed by 2♥, shows a weak hand with both majors. Here it was North who ended up pulling the strings (OK?) in the 3NT contract. Gross led the ♠8. Declarer won in dummy and, while she was thinking, the on-line commentators predicted that World Champion Brock would rise with the ♦Q when a diamond was led from dummy. This is a much harder card to find than at our first table, where the long diamond suit was visible in dummy. Brock did indeed nutmeg declarer, to the acclaim of the commentators (as much for their successful prediction as for her play). Now North could do no better than eight tricks: three spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs. Sally and Susanna qualified for the second team and, a couple of months later, were part of the EBU team that won the Lady Milne. They were over the moon. □



## 2010 WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

report by Tony Gordon

THE 2010 World Bridge Series took place in Philadelphia in October. This quadrennial tournament encompasses a multiplicity of transnational events that make it the largest tournament in the world championship calendar and this year the final tally was 5,631 tables.



Fulvio Fantoni

Bill Gates had played in the opening event, the Mixed Pairs, in 2002 and 2006, but he was absent this year, so this Philadelphia Story did not turn into High Society, although there was a greetings e-mail from Barack Obama. Over four hundred pairs entered the Mixed Pairs which was won by Italy's Fulvio Fantoni and Donna Compton, the npc of America's Buffett Cup team (see page 11). Fantoni also came third in the Open Teams and fifth in the Open Pairs, and will almost certainly be the world's top ranked player when the new ranking lists are published.

This tournament began life as the Pairs Olympiad, but ever since the Rosenblum Open Teams was added it has tended to dominate proceedings as it lasts nine days and always draws a strong entry. This year the one hundred and forty five teams were divided into sixteen groups and after a round-robin the top four teams in each group qualified for the knock-out stage. Several English teams made the cut, but only Allfrey (Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, David Kendrick and Brian Senior) survived the first knock-out round. However, it was the end of the road for Allfrey in the next round when they found



Alexander Allfrey

the number two seeds, Nickell, too hot to handle. Nickell (Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood) duly reached the final, but top-seeded Zimmerman came unstuck in their semi-final against Diamond (John Diamond, Brian Platnick, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco).



Zia Mahmood

The all-American 64-board final between Diamond and Nickell was a tense affair whose outcome was largely decided by the fate of two grand slam contracts. The first of these was the last board of the first half. Nickell bid and made 6♥, but Diamond were in 7♦. The grand slam was a poor contract that was only going to make on the actual layout if declarer could see through the backs of the cards; however, Rodwell misread the distribution and made a fatal discard that gifted the contract to declarer. So Diamond gained 10 IMPs when they should have lost 14 IMPs. With the help of this deal they led by 20 IMPs at this point, and added a further

IMP in the next session. The second grand slam arrived early on in the last session:

Game All. Dealer South.

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

Diagram: A diamond shape with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'W' on the left, and 'E' on the right.

West	North	East	South
Greco	Hamman	Hampson	Zia
			1♥
Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♥	End	

<sup>1</sup> Natural and game-forcing

Hamman and Zia had a natural auction to 6♥ and Greco's ♠Q lead was won by declarer's king. Superficially, it looks like Zia has to locate the queen of trumps to get home, but he neatly side-stepped that problem. A diamond to the ace was followed by the ace of spades and a spade ruff. He then played a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond as Hampson discarded a club. Two top clubs and a second diamond ruff, as East pitched a spade, gave Zia the first nine tricks and left him holding ♥A-10-7 and ♣7 while dummy was left with ♥K-J and ♣4-3. Zia now exited with his club and the defence had to find the ♥Q for him.

At the other table Moss, South, and Gitelman, North, conducted a more obscure auction which ended in 7♥. If Rodwell, West, had avoided a trump lead, Moss



might have gone wrong by playing him for the ♥Q, but Rodwell, not unreasonably, led a trump. It looks right to rise with dummy's king in case East has the bare queen, but declarer's play of the jack did not cost as the cards lay. He captured Meckstroth's queen (which, coincidentally, was Rodwell's fatal discard on the earlier grand slam) with his ace, cashed the ♥K, crossed to hand with a spade to the king and drew the last trump. Twelve tricks were in the bag, but the thirteenth would have to come from a squeeze. To this end, Moss cashed the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond to isolate the diamond menace. A further round of trumps followed and then the king and ace of clubs reduced everyone to three cards, with declarer holding ♠8, ♥7, and ♣7 and dummy left with ♠A-6 and ♦4. When declarer now played his last trump, West had to throw one of his two remaining spades in order to retain the ♦Q, so dummy's ♦4 could now be discarded. It was then East's turn to be squeezed as he also had to let go a spade in order to keep his master club, so dummy's ♠6 became declarer's thirteenth trick and *Diamond* gained 13 IMPs when they could easily have lost 17 IMPs on the board.

*Diamond* now led by 48 IMPs with only twelve boards to go and, unlike the trapped Chilean miners who had been slowly reaching the surface during the course of the final, there was to be no rescue for *Nickell* as *Diamond* easily held on to win by 121-78 IMPs.

There was also no joy for England in the McConnell Women's Teams as the lonely furrow ploughed by Sally Brock and Nicola Smith in the Anglo-American *Moss* team came to a halt in the quarter-finals. The Netherlands led China by 8 IMPs halfway through the final, but China took charge in the second half and won their second successive world title by 134-93 IMPs.

## Something to cheer about

Fortunately, the Rand Senior Teams gave us something to cheer about, although in its early stages that did not seem likely. The thirty-four senior teams played ten rounds of Swiss teams to qualify eight teams for the knock-out stage, and the Anglo-American *Hackett* team, consisting of Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland from England, and Garey Hayden and Reese Milner from the USA, ended up in a triple tie for eighth place; however, they went through to the last eight as they had the best IMP quotient of the tied teams.

After winning their quarter-final by 51-32 IMPs, it must have seemed like São Paulo all



England's winning Seniors: John Holland and Gunnar Hallberg (second and third from the left), and Paul Hackett (far right) with US team-mates Garey Hayden (left) and Reese Milner

over again for the English contingent as the team they defeated in the semi-final was the same Indonesian team they had beaten at the same stage in Brazil, and the team they then faced in the final, *Markowicz*, contained three members of the Polish team they had beaten in the Brazilian final. England had made a bad start in that final, but in this final *Hackett* stormed to a lead of 61 IMPs in the first of the three sessions and cruised home. One of *Hackett's* largest gains in the final came on the board below:

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

West	North	East	South
Russyan	Holland	Ramer	Hallberg
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♣
End			

As the auction suggested declarer might be able to make a lot of tricks on a cross-ruff, Jerzy Russyan found the good lead of a trump against 5♣. Hallberg won the trick in dummy and tried to cash the ♥A-K, but Roald Ramer ruffed the second round and returned his remaining trump. After this set-back declarer had to hope for a favourable layout in spades as he needed

three spade tricks to get home, so he won in hand and ran the ♠9 when West erred by not covering. When East took the trick with the ten and switched to a diamond, Hallberg won with the ace, crossed to dummy with a heart ruff and cashed the ♠A, dropping West's queen. He then read the layout accurately by taking a ruffing finesse against East's ♠K to establish the two extra spade tricks he needed.

If West had covered the ♠9 with his queen the contract would have been defeated because dummy's spade pips would only have been good enough for one extra winner. What is not so easy to spot, however, is that East could also have scuppered the contract by letting the ♠9 win the trick as dummy would then have insufficient entries to generate a third winner in the suit.

In the other room, *Markowicz* over-stretched and finished in 6♣. As that contract went three down, *Hackett* gained 14 IMPs on the way to a convincing victory by 155-83 IMPs. Congratulations to Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland on adding a second senior teams title to the one they won at last year's world championships.

The Generali Women's Pairs turned out to be a walk in the park for America's Lynn Deas and Beth Palmer as they finished four tops clear of the field. It was the sixth World title for Deas and the fourth for Palmer.

There was a similar story in the Generali Open Pairs. America's Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein had been pipped at the post four years ago in Verona, but there was no chance of that happening again this time around as they finished two and a half tops ahead of second-placed Bjorn Fallenius and Peter Fredin despite the Swedish pair posting a 65% final session. Alexander Allfrey and Andrew Robson finished in thirtieth place in the final, with David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend ten places further back. □



## ENGLAND UNDER-21s GAIN SILVER

report by Alan Shillitoe



From the left: Alan Shillitoe (coach), Graeme Robertson, James Paul, Dan McIntosh, Michael Byrne (non-playing captain), Shivam Shah, Tom Rainforth, and Tom Paske

ENGLAND won a fighting silver medal in the Under-21 series at the World Championships in Philadelphia. The team of Dan McIntosh, Tom Paske, James Paul, Tom Rainforth, Graeme Robertson and Shivam Shah comfortably won the sixteen-team all-play-all qualification round with over a match to spare before fighting through the knock-out stages against Hungary and the Netherlands. Ultimately the team came up against a Polish team in the final that played better on the day and despite a mini fightback from 70 IMPs down at halfway to close to about minus 40 IMPs, errors at crucial moments proved decisive. The team had to settle for silver – the second successive such medal at this level.

The highlight of the event for the team was without doubt the remarkable comeback they staged against the Netherlands in the semi-final. After narrowly winning the first stanza of fourteen boards, the second was a 1-78 IMP blow-out in the wrong direction. An early misdefence against a slam set the tone and the inexorable tide that can be generated in long sets almost washed the team away. A change of line-up for the third set reversed the trend and set the stage for the final push. As a result of a pending appeal (which would transfer another 17 IMPs into the account) and the pressure that England

were able to exert on the Dutch, the margin in the match grew ever closer as the boards ticked down.

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

West	North	East	South
Paske		Robertson	
		1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♠ <sup>2</sup>
3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Dble	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
<sup>1</sup> 15-17			
<sup>2</sup> Spades and a minor			
<sup>3</sup> Four hearts with a spade stop			

This deal was the final nail in the coffin for the Orange team but it also serves to illustrate the point that comprehensive

agreements are needed at international level. North's double of the 3♠ cue-bid was intended as lead-directional, but his partner took him seriously and decided to 'save' over the 4♥ game bid by England. The defence was merciless. Tom Paske started with clubs to force declarer, who then tried a spade to the king and ace. Graeme Robertson continued the force and now declarer was locked in his own hand. He tried ace and another diamond, but Graeme could now win and switch to hearts forcing declarer yet again. When declarer tried to counterforce with the diamonds, Tom allowed Graeme to ruff this and they were then able to draw trumps and cash winners. Declarer was held to three trump tricks and the ace of diamonds for six off. That was 1700 and 15 IMPs to England scoring up against the normal 4♥ game in the other room. In isolation it is perfectly sensible to play the double as lead-directional or save-suggesting, but this deal clearly demonstrates the dangers of not being on exactly the same wavelength as your partner.

To recover from a 60 IMP deficit is one thing, to do it after such a drubbing in the second stanza is quite another and the team deserve enormous credit for picking themselves back up and fighting back. At one point in the final it looked as if history might repeat itself, but twice in two matches proved to be a bridge too far even for this group of players.

This was the last outing at U21 level for most of this team – only Shivam is eligible for another junior squad cycle in this age bracket. Squad leader Michael Byrne and I have been immensely proud of their achievements over the last few years and believe they are able to kick on and replicate this level of success in the U26 age group. They have already started by wrestling the Channel Trophy back over the water. Now the challenge is for them to prove it on the wider European and World stage. □

# Laws, regulations and practices

E-mail your questions to Jeremy Dhondy at [ebuproblems@btopenworld.com](mailto: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.

JOHN Golding, Richmond, Surrey says: I think the laws need improving. Partner was playing 3NT and had eight tricks. At trick nine he led a diamond knowing that there was a diamond winner in the opponents' hands, but both opponents discarded and at that point we had nine tricks and the contract. Directors always say call us as soon as possible, so we did. The TD found that the opponents had the thirteenth diamond and that it was a winner and awarded them the trick. I've no quarrel with the director, he was following the laws. We never got the ninth trick and went one down. We didn't have to call the TD and if we hadn't, I guess we'd have made the contract. I really do think it is silly to penalise people who call the TD when the opponents have made an error. When we called the TD, we had nine tricks, afterwards we never did. The rules need changing, because otherwise there's no incentive to call the TD when the opponents have made a mistake.

You say that you had nine tricks once your opponent had not followed when he should have done, but that is not true. Suppose that you had not called the director, quitted the trick and then led to the next one. At that point one of your opponents says: 'Oh. Sorry, I should have followed to a diamond on the last trick.' No doubt you would now call the director to sort it out and he would tell you that the revoke is not established, therefore the previous trick can and must be corrected, so it actually makes no difference when the director was called.

There will now be a penalty card on the table which is the card played in error by the opponent. That is the penalty for trying to revoke but not succeeding! A revoke only becomes established when one of the

potentially revoking side plays to the next trick. Law 62A is the one that covers this. The latest laws talk about *rectification* rather than *punishment* for the most part.

You could, of course, have a law which said that at the point you played a card that was it, irrespective of whether it was deliberate or accidental, but the lawmakers (the World Bridge Federation) have preferred to try to do equity rather than punish the side that has started to offend and whether right or wrong it is not new to the laws. Among things they would have to decide would be whether a card dropped on the floor in error counted as a revoke.

MIKE Mollart-Rogerson of Southampton asks: What is the maximum penalty that can be applied to both pairs where North failed to enter a score and E/W failed to check it?

When I score I always phone up or e-mail the players involved to ascertain the missing score. I might dock some match points from an offender who transgresses regularly but have never needed to resort to this in the past 40 years. What if the scorer gave both players a *zero* for the board?

This is regulation not law (although Law 90A gives the power to penalise) so there is no maximum other than that dictated by reasonableness. I've seen a director at a congress fine a pair when for the third time they finished a Swiss Pairs match and did not put a score in. The problem here was that they held up the event. He fined them a standard Procedural Penalty: 0.5 VP.

I would warn both pairs but if a pair did it repeatedly, after warning them, if they were using bridgemates, I would tell them that the machine should say 'end of round'. If they were using travelling score-sheets there is, of course, no warning and if it



Jeremy Dhondy

ASK JEREMY

continued in either case I would impose a fine (probably 10% of a top – perhaps 20% if the first fine had not worked). If everyone has left and it is not possible to determine a score then I would enter Av- (never zero) for both pairs together with a fine if it was persistent. If it continued after this, then I think I would ask a member of the club committee to point out that this is spoiling the game for others and could they please act more responsibly. This is a better approach, in my view, than fining each time.

FV, Woking, Surrey, says: At a club duplicate evening I led a small spade from a holding of five against 3NT. Dummy laid down two spades. Trick one was taken by my partner with the king and he led back the queen which also held. He continued with another spade and declarer hesitated for an interminable time before playing the ace which was his only spade left. Is this practice permissible?

The practice you describe is only permissible if there is a demonstrable bridge reason for it. It is covered in Law 73F. If the director decides there is not such a reason, he may adjust the score and in addition to this it is possible that if the director decided it was a deliberate attempt to induce a misplay, that a procedural penalty would be applied also. There was a case in the Tolle-mache Final this year which exemplifies the position you describe. A diamond was led against 5♠ and the leader was known to have either one or two diamonds. Declarer followed very slowly with his singleton leading to a misdefence. The score was adjusted because declarer could produce no bridge reason why he had done what he did. □



# EBU CHELTENHAM MIDWEEK CONGRESS

**31 May – 2 June 2011\***

Barceló Cheltenham Park Hotel, GL53 8EA

☎ 01242 222021

**NEW**

**A brand new event  
for the 2010-2011 season**



A fully Green-pointed Tuesday to Thursday midweek congress featuring a three-session 'all play through' Championships Pairs event and a one-day Swiss Teams event.

Both events will be 'stratified' according to the actual entry, with Green Points and prizes being awarded based both on the overall ranking list and on the lower half of the field ranking list.

## Entries and enquiries to

EBU Competitions Department

☎ 01296 317 203 / 219

or e-mail [comps@ebu.co.uk](mailto:comps@ebu.co.uk)



*\*NOTE: the event takes place one week earlier than advertised in the Diary*



# EBU News

## ONE STEP FURTHER

WE surveyed 100 players and asked them if they would be interested in a mid-week congress. Actually, this is not a game show so we asked rather more than 100 and came up with a positive response. Thus the Cheltenham Midweek Congress was born (*details on the left*) – the first of a range of new events aimed at less experienced players to introduce them to a wider world of competitive bridge. However, as always, we expect a wide range of playing ability at EBU events and to make sure there is something for everyone, 'stratification' will be applied. Each event will be played and scored in the usual manner but afterwards master points and prizes will be awarded at different levels.

Stratification will mean dividing participants into levels based on master-point rank. In simple terms, if we had three categories competing, a) platinum, b) gold and c) silver, we would have three ranking lists. List 'a' includes all three categories, list 'b' is gold and silver combined, and list 'c' is silver only. The top gold award available is 60 but third overall is 90 so the top gold place will receive the higher of the two awards, 90. (All numbers are examples only.)

Rank	Names		Score	a	b	c	Actual
1	Platinum	a	183	150			150
2	Platinum	a	179	120			120
3	Gold	b	176	90	60		90
4	Silver	c	173	60	45	20	60
5	Platinum	a	155	30			30
6	Gold	b	153		30		30
7	Gold	b	142		15		15
8	Gold	b	139				
9	Gold	b	137				
10	Silver	c	132			10	10
11	Silver	c	129				
12	Silver	c	115				
13	Gold	b	100				
14	Silver	c	98				
15	Silver	c	80				

The format is a three-session pairs event on the first two days, followed by six matches of Swiss Teams on Thursday. With David Jones in charge as tournament director, you can be sure things will be running smoothly. On Wednesday morning, be sure to attend the 'Discuss it with an Expert' session where all your questions can be answered.

Cheltenham is a beautiful area with good shops and attractions. You do not have to leave as soon as the congress finishes, consider staying over. For a list of places to go, where to stay and much more, see [www.cotswolds.info/places/cheltenham.shtml](http://www.cotswolds.info/places/cheltenham.shtml)

(Gill Pain)

## SUPPORT YOUR NATIONAL TEAMS!

The Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs on 8th February 2011 will raise funds for the English national teams (*see page 7*).

The commentary on the thirty-two boards will be shared by eight of our top players: Sally Brock, David Burn, Heather Dhondy, Paul Hackett, Sandra Landy, Andrew Robson, Nevena Senior and Tom Townsend.



## CRUISE TEACHER DIPLOMA

WE have had enquiries from bridge teachers on how to meet the requirements in providing bridge services on board cruise ships. In response, we will be running one-day courses to prepare our teachers and provide them with a formal qualification.

The first courses will take place on Wed. March 30, Thurs. April 7 and Tues. May 10 2011 at the EBU offices, Aylesbury. Courses will start at 10.00am and finish at 4.15 pm. The cost of each course, including all materials, lunch, morning coffee and afternoon tea, will be £145.

Enquiries to the EBU Education Department.

## 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EIGHT positions are now subject to election each year since the Article changes passed by the shareholders on July 1st 2010. Eight candidates were nominated and elected:

Sally Bugden  
Heather Dhondy  
Jeremy Dhondy  
Suzanne Gill  
Michael Hill  
Graham Jepson  
Malcolm Oliver  
Andrew Petrie

The Officers remain unchanged:

Sally Bugden, Chairman  
Andrew Petrie, Vice-Chairman  
Michael Hill, Treasurer



## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

This is *your* EBU so take this opportunity to let us know what you think about our existing services and the services you would like to see us develop in the future. From 17th December you can access our members' questionnaire via the link on the home page of our website [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk). The questionnaire covers *English Bridge*, competitions, tournaments, education and development, members' services, club services and much more.

**Anyone who completes the survey by 14th January 2011 will be put into a draw for our fantastic holiday prize from BRIDGE OVERSEAS worth £500.**

If you don't have access to the internet at home, please make use of your local public library's free internet service.

The results will be published in the April issue.



## The EBU and BRIDGE OVERSEAS ANTALYA CONGRESS

9-14 February 2011

*Ultra all inclusive 5\* Barut Lara Resort Spa & Suites,  
Antalya, Turkey*



Bridge details:

EBU Competitions Dept ☎ 01296 317 203 /219

**Bridge fees: £120 per player**

For travel and accommodation:



**BRIDGE OVERSEAS  
FREEPHONE 0800 0346 246**

## P2P FEE

AT the AGM on 6th October 2010 the Shareholders of the EBU voted to accept a proposal to increase the Pay to Play fee from 29p to 31p from 1 April 2011.

The Pay to Play fee of 29p was set in April 2008 on the basis of the EBU accounts to April 2007, to ensure that clubs had the correct figure on which to base their decisions to affiliate.

We are happy to have been able to keep the rise to 2p this year, in spite of the interim inflation and the coming VAT rise to 20%.

## CHIEF TD

THE EBU's Chief Tournament Director, Max Bavin, holds the same position with the World Bridge Federation. Max now wants to reduce his commitments and move from five days a week with the EBU to four.

We are very pleased to announce that from 1 April 2011, Gordon Rainsford will be joining the EBU on a one-day a week basis as Assistant Chief Tournament Director.

Max will formally retain the position of Chief Tournament Director and Gordon will report to him.

## HOUSE OF LORDS VISIT

SIXTEEN pupils from Pembury School, Tunbridge Wells, visited the Houses of Parliament to play a game of Minibrige with peers from the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Development of Bridge. The children were treated to orange squash and chocolate biscuits by the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness Hayman and then to a grand tour of the Houses of Parliament conducted by Lord Skelmersdale. Full report in the next issue.



# 2010 Dimmie Fleming Awards

## for services to bridge

### David & Anne Gilling



David and Anne have been actively involved in the development and administration of bridge in Bedfordshire for many years at both county and club level.

David served on the BBA committee for nine years in total from 1995-2004. He was Vice-Chairman in 2000-2001 and County Chairman from 2001-2004. Since he stepped down from the committee, David has continued to support the county, and has often acted as a proxy at EBU shareholders meetings.



The latest event which Anne is organising to promote bridge is a stand at an exhibition this autumn in Central Milton Keynes shopping centre including a table of four continuously at play.

Anne has been involved with Milton Keynes Bridge Club since it was formed 35 years ago and she was the founding Treasurer. Over the years, Anne and David have held various posts on the club committee. They regularly take on extra activities to help attract, recruit and retain members. At present, David is a regular director in the club, while Anne takes a leading role in organising the club's more social events. As well as supporting and promoting the work of local bridge teachers, Anne and David have given up a lot of their free time in recent years to run informal bridge classes in their own home.

### Dave Harrison



Dave has done sterling work over more than thirty years for both the Cambs & Hunts County Association and the Cambridge Club in a variety of roles, and was instrumental in producing early bridge scoring programs.

He is currently a Vice-President of the association and has been Tournament Organiser and County Captain, while for the Cambridge Club he has been Chairman and TD, and also scorer since 1976.

Dave has also won almost every County Competition – only the County Individual has eluded him!

### Geoff Bell

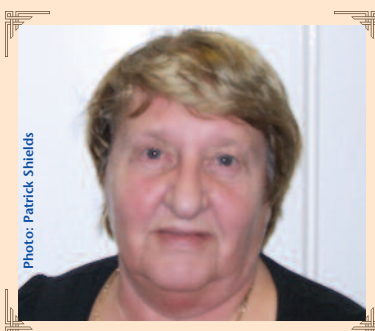


Geoff has been a long-time servant of bridge in Cumbria for well over twenty years, and having already been Secretary for a number of years in the past, he again stepped into the breach last year.

He has extremely efficiently dealt with the P2P change-over, including negotiating the County's new constitution.

Geoff has also been the producer of the County Newsletter for a period of ten years.

### Anne Swannell



Anne has been a member of Cheltenham Bridge Club for many years, being elected to the club committee in 1986. Since then she has been Chairman twice and worked in many different posts. She has also served on the Cheltenham Bridge Congress committee for about twenty years, and is the current Secretary.

Ten years ago Anne also joined the Gloucestershire CBA Committee, and County members have benefited from her organisational skills. She is always smiling and a real 'pocket dynamo'!

### Derek Rue



Derek Rue has been a well known figure in Gloucestershire bridge since the 1960s. He first joined the GCBA Committee in 1966 and apart from a four-year spell spent working abroad, he was continuously a member of the committee until his retirement last May. During that period he filled many roles, including President, Secretary and Treasurer.

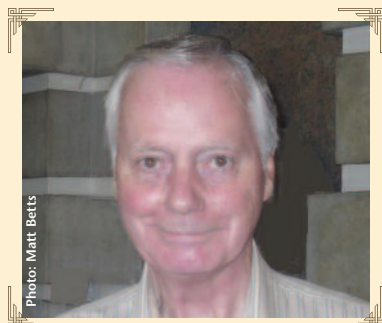
Derek is also always willing to offer a helping hand to the less experienced – an extremely likeable man who deserves recognition for his considerable contribution to bridge at all levels.



# Dimmie Fleming Awards

## for services to bridge

### Mike Minting



Mike has given outstanding service both to Hertfordshire CBA and the Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club over the past twenty-five years. He served as Secretary on the committee at Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club from 1985 to 1992 and is a key player within the club.

Mike was elected to the Hertfordshire Bridge Association Committee in 1991, originally as Assistant Tournament Secretary and since 1996 Tournament Secretary organising the complete county programme of events, including county leagues and county green-pointed events.

### Peter Langston



Since becoming Chairman of Patcham Bridge Club, Peter has succeeded in turning it into one of the most popular clubs in Sussex, and has boosted club membership considerably. He has also introduced a lot of county heats and events into the club, and has directed at club and county level with skill and confidence.

Peter was an active County Committee member for ten years and held the post of County Treasurer for eight years, when he modernised the County financial organisation. He is a most public-spirited and enthusiastic supporter of Sussex bridge.

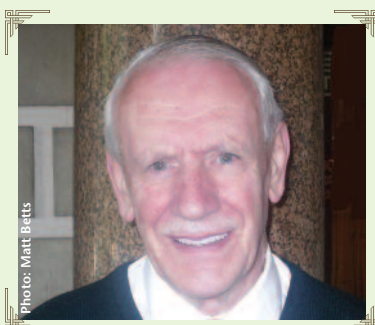
### Bill McCarthy



Bill has been a Thame Bridge Club member for over seventeen years, and has captained one of its club teams for many years. He has also been on the committee for Aylesbury Bridge Club for at least ten years. He was the sole scorer until Bridgewebs came into use. He set up his own website to show the Aylesbury Club results and ladders.

Bill duplicates board for both Aylesbury and Thame Bridge Club, as well as Oxfordshire CBA home county matches; directs at both clubs, and has taken on responsibility for movement cards.

### Ted Bond



Ted has for three decades performed many duties for Yorkshire CBA. He was a County TD in the '80s, Vice-Chairman from 1990 to 1994 and since then his main posts have included Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and League Secretary. For most of the 1990s Ted was one of Yorkshire's delegates to the EBU Council.

Ted computerised the YCBA accounts, and also undertook the mammoth task of transferring well over 2000 members records to the computer. He also created a program that checked the eligibility of players in the Yorkshire League

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2010

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

### JANUARY 2011

- 7-9 Camrose Trophy  
**Republic of Ireland**
- 7-9 Midland Counties Congress  
**Bransford**
- 8-9 Manchester Congress  
**Manchester**
- 10-12 BGB Winter Sim Pairs  
**Clubs**
- 21-23 Lady Milne Trials  
**Young Chelsea, London**
- 29-30 Swiss Teams Congress  
**Hinckley**

### FEBRUARY 2011

- 8 Bridge England EBU Sim Pairs (**Clubs**)
- 9-14 Overseas Congress  
**Antalya, Turkey.**
- 12-13 Tollemache Final  
**Hinckley**
- 18-20 Junior Camrose / Peggy Bayer  
**Scotland**
- 25-27 Harrogate Spring Congress  
**Harrogate**

### MARCH 2011

- 4-6 Camrose Trophy  
**Wales**
- 5-6 Ranked Masters Pairs  
**Daventry**
- 7-11 EBU Stratified Sim Pairs (**Clubs**)
- 12 Manchester ODGP pairs
- 12-13 Leicester GP weekend
- London GP weekend
- Wilts & Avon GP weekend
- 13 Bedford ODGP teams
- Merseyside & Cheshire ODGP teams
- 18-20 Cumbria Congress  
**Windermere**
- 19 Young Bridge Challenge  
**Loughborough**
- 20 National Pairs Regional Finals  
**Bradford, Bristol, Leatherhead, Peterborough, Solihull**
- 27 Portland Pairs (**Various venues**)
- 27-28 Isle of Man Congress

### APRIL 2011

- 1-3 Cornwall CBA Congress  
**Falmouth**
- 8-10 Really Easy Spring Break  
**Derby**
- 8-10 Devon Congress  
**Torquay**
- 12-14 BGB Spring Sim Pairs  
**Clubs**
- 15-17 Lady Milne  
**Northern Ireland**
- 16-17 National Pairs Final  
**Hinckley**
- 22-23 Under-25 Pairs Championship  
**London**
- 22-25 Easter Festival  
**London**
- 23 Under-19 Pairs Championship  
**London**
- 29-1 May Cheltenham Congress
- 29-3 May Schapiro Spring Foursomes  
**Stratford-upon-Avon**
- 29-8 May Lambourne Jersey Festival  
**St Helier**

## '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.



## TEACHER TRAINING COURSES 2011

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



Aylesbury EBU HQ February 18-20  
Manchester Bridge Club July 15-17  
Aylesbury EBU HQ October 14-16

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](mailto: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 £100 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.

The next courses have been arranged at the  
Stowmarket, Suffolk – January 15-16  
Oxford Bridge Club – February 26-27  
Brierfield Bridge Club, Lancs – April 2-3  
Taunton, Somerset – April 16-17  
Patcham Bridge Club, Sussex – May 14-15

For details ☎ 01296 317217 or email [lisa@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lisa@ebu.co.uk)

Any clubs 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](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk). There are additional concessions available for clubs hosting the courses.

## CLUB DIRECTOR & COUNTY DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES 2010-2011



### ESSENTIALS £36

Leicester	Saturday 4 December
Harrogate	Sunday 12 December
Bourne Club, Farnham	Saturday 19 March 2011
Horsham	Saturday 2 April 2011
Brighton	Monday 15 August 2011

Additional courses are shown on the EBU website

### BOOK RULINGS £41

Leicester	Saturday 15 January 2011
Bourne Club, Farnham	Saturday 7 May 2011
Horsham	Saturday 21 May 2011
Brighton	Tuesday 16 August 2011

### JUDGMENT RULINGS £41

Churchdown, Gloucs	Saturday 4 December
Aylesbury EBU HQ	Wednesday 8 December
Newark	Saturday 8 January 2011
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 15 January 2011
Darlington	Saturday 29 January 2011
Cambridge	Sunday 13 February 2011
Leicester	Saturday 19 February 2011
Bourne Club, Farnham	Saturday 11 June 2011
Horsham	Saturday 25 June 2011
Brighton	Wednesday 17 August 2011

### ASSESSMENT £46

Churchdown, Gloucs	Saturday 8 January 2011
Aylesbury EBU HQ	Wed 19 and Sat 22 Jan 2011
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 12 March 2011
Leicester	Saturday 19 March 2011
Darlington	Saturday 26 March 2011
Cambridge	Sunday 8 May 2011
Bourne Club, Farnham	Saturday 23 July 2011
Horsham	Saturday 30 July 2011
Brighton	Thursday 18 August 2011

### COUNTY TD PREPARATION COURSE - SAT 14TH MAY 2011.

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. The course will also cover use of the *White Book* (the TD Guide). There will be a limit of 12 places. Course fee £40. Bookings should be made through the Competitions Department in the usual way.

### 2011 COUNTY AND COUNTY REFRESHER COURSE

Details of the 2011 course will appear in due course.

### For further information, or to register for a course

☎ 01296 317203 or email [peter@ebu.co.uk](mailto: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 course 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.

### December 2010 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Love All  
Dealer West  
(Kwiecien)  
♠ K Q 8 4  
♥ A 6 5 4 2  
♦ K 6 2  
♣ 10
2. Love All  
Dealer West  
(Helgemo)  
♠ 10 8 6  
♥ Q 9 7 6 4  
♦ A K 2  
♣ 10 2
3. E/W Game  
Dealer South  
(Zia Mahmood)  
\*South passes  
♠ A Q J 10 2  
♥ K 10 8 5 4 2  
♦ Void  
♣ Q 7
4. E/W Game  
Dealer East  
(Versace)  
♠ J 10 8 7 5 3  
♥ A Q 10 5  
♦ 4  
♣ A 5
5. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Quantin)  
♠ K 8  
♥ A Q 10 9 5  
♦ 2  
♣ K J 4 3 2
6. Game All  
Dealer East  
(Larsen)  
♠ 7 6 4  
♥ 3  
♦ A K 10 7 6 3  
♣ A 8 2

## 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.

### December 2010 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Love All  
Dealer West  
(Ramer)  
♠ A J 9 6 5  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A Q 5  
♣ Q 3
2. Love All  
Dealer West  
(Helness)  
♠ K 7  
♥ A K J  
♦ Q 8 4  
♣ A K J 9 4
3. E/W Game  
Dealer South  
(Hamman)  
\*South passes  
♠ 6  
♥ A 7  
♦ A Q J 10 3  
♣ K J 9 6 5
4. E/W Game  
Dealer East  
(Lauria)  
♠ K 9 4  
♥ J 3  
♦ Q 10 9 7 6  
♣ K J 2
5. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Multon)  
♠ A 10 3  
♥ J 8  
♦ A Q 5 3  
♣ A 10 7 5
6. Game All  
Dealer East  
(Meltzer)  
♠ K 5 3 2  
♥ A K J 6 4  
♦ Void  
♣ K Q 6 5





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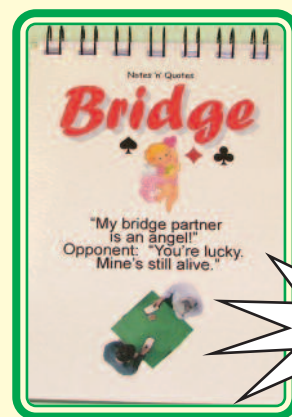
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# Doing well? Maybe not!

Rank	East / West	Name	Score
1=	5	Christine Morgan & Allan Pratt	75.00
1=	8	Anil Bhandari & Kegham Bedrossian	75.00
1=	11	Keith & Hedy Law	75.00
1=	12	Margaret Page & Tony Pigou	75.00
1=	13	Cuneyt Sazer & Gopal Srinivas	75.00
6=	4	Philip Devon & Fukuko Fitzpatrick	62.50
6=	14	Ted Booth & Leo Wang	62.50
8	7	Marion Shoosmith & John Lambeth	50.00
9	10	Cheryl Ould & Sue Millard	37.50
10=	1	Pat Bohan & Angelo Martelli	25.00
10=	2	Valerie Price & Wendy Gilbert	25.00
10=	3	Alan Bamford & Elisabeth Cocking	25.00
10=	6	Jim Duffy & Haig Tahta	25.00
14=	9	Christine Morgan & Allan Pratt	0.00

I TOOK a picture of the Bridgematic scoreboard after three rounds at Richmond BC last night, as it was showing a unique result . . .

*Allan Pratt (and Christine Morgan), Worcester Park*

## THE OCTOBER DEBATE

Thank you for your votes and comments.

75% of voters thought fourth highest leads are best.

## Redress

THANK you for publishing Allan Greenstein's letter in the October edition of *English Bridge*, which has cleared up the mystery of my missing glasses. As the injured party, I have spent many sleepless nights since the Brighton Congress wondering how, indeed, I should seek redress for this most shocking infringement and what level of compensation might be appropriate. I believe I now have the answer as below.

First and foremost I should state that, as a player of only extremely modest standard, my only ambition in attending events such as the Brighton Congress is to boost my meagre tally of Green Points. The obvious recompense, therefore, would be to transfer the quarter point won by Allan's team to my team. If EBU rules do not allow this, then I think that fair financial compen-

sation can be calculated on the following basis:

- Expected number of Green points to be won based on average performance level = 2
- £ sterling costs incurred in attending Congress were:
 

Train fare	35.00
Meals	35.00
Entrance Fee	80.00
Hotel	100.00
Bar Bills	250.00
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>£500.00</b>

Therefore average cost per quarter Green Point = £62.50 x 4 team members = £250.00

On a more serious note, I hope to have the opportunity of seeing Allan again at a similar event in the future – provided he promises not to borrow my spectacles again!

*Hugh Thomson  
(aka Mr North),  
Fringford*

## Accolade

I AM writing to applaud the attitude of a young pair I played against in the Swiss Teams Bowl at the Brighton Congress. Unfortunately I can't remember their names, but they were a young couple from Manchester and the lady had sprained her ankle in a (she claimed) non-alcohol related incident the previous night.

As East I held:

♠ AKxx ♥ Void ♦ AJxxx ♣ Axxx  
and with South as dealer the bidding proceeded

West North East South

Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble
Pass	2♥	End	

I felt I couldn't double the 1♣ bid as my partner was 100% certain to bid hearts, so I elected to bid 1♦. When North rebid 2♥, I decided to opt out as I took this as strong. The 2♥ wasn't alerted but as 1♥ had a special meaning for N/S, the 2♥ was really a 1♥ response. The contract made plus one with 4♠ cold our way.

At the end of the round I asked North if the 2♥ should be alerted. He said he wasn't sure and asked if I wanted to call the director. I replied it wasn't that important but had I known that 2♥ was not as strong as it looked, then I would have doubled. North insisted that I call the director and in the face of further reluctance on my part called the director himself. The director ruled that if the 2♥ bid had been alerted we would be playing in 4♠ 100% of the time and adjusted the score accordingly.

The pair were friendly and courteous throughout, gave a full and comprehensive explanation of their bids and enhanced my enjoyment of the event.

I feel that this is the spirit in which bridge should be played and I will certainly be reviewing my own attitude at the bridge table.

*Steve Moss, by e-mail*

## 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.

## Addendum

I WAS very amused by Simon Cochemé's articles on the 'Laws' of bridge.

Rubber bridge players will be acquainted with Cohen's Law that states: 'The prospect of success at money bridge is inversely proportional to the ability of one's opponents.' Tried and tested!

*Howard Cohen, Bushey*

## Concerns

HAS the EBU considered issuing any recommendations on the use of Bridgemates?

Two aspects concern me and they both relate to the computer screen showing the current position during play.

The first concern is that the knowledge of current positions could affect the way that players bid or play. The second concern is that players, having seen the screen, announce the current position when other players (including me!) would rather not know.

*John Brister, Norwich*

Andrew Petrie, Tournament Committee Chairman, replies: The Tournament Committee discussed the issue of Bridgematic protocol at its meeting in October and intends to issue some simple guidelines in the near future. □



David Bakhshi

IN the last issue we looked at the use of the Michaels cue-bid to show two-suited hands after the opponents have opened one of a suit. Now let's consider how the responder can deal with such intervention.

### How does the opener's partner cope with a Michaels overcall?

The responder has various positive options, including double, supporting partner's suit, bidding a new suit and bidding one of the opponent's suits. It is generally a practical approach to ignore the intervention, but the first option we shall consider is the use of double. Most partnerships use a double to show a hand that lacks primary support for the opener, but with sufficient values to give the partnership the balance of points (9+ HCP). The doubler also expresses an interest in taking a penalty.

A point for agreement is the subsequent use of doubles when the overcaller or his partner bid a suit, with common practice being to play that the opener's side are now in penalising mode and therefore subsequent doubles show a desire to defend (usually with four good trumps).

It is also a good idea to discuss how far the partnership are forced following the responder's double. A sensible agreement is to say that you are in a forcing auction unless the overcaller's partner makes a jump in response.

### What should the responder do if he has primary support for the opener?

A direct raise of the opener's suit is consistent with a hand that wishes to compete and is assumed to have insufficient values for a limit raise to the three level (similar to jump support after the opponents make a take-out double of

partner's one-level opening).

When holding a hand with invitational or better values, the responder can cue-bid one of the suits shown by the Michaels bidder. When the opening bid is 1♥/1♠, only one of the opponents' suits is known, so bidding this suit (the other major) shows a high card raise to at least three of the opener's major. However, when the opening bid is 1♣/1♦, both of the opponent's suits are known, leaving responder with two possible cue-bids.

Again it is important to agree the difference between bidding each suit. One cue-bid will show a raise of the opener's suit, but what should the other cue-bid show?

### What other hand types need to be dealt with?

Before deciding which cue-bid shows support for the opener's suit, it is worth considering the other potential problem hand types. The final option that we need to address is that of bidding a new suit as responder. When only one cue-bid is available, e.g. 1♥ – (2♥) – ? a bid of 3♣ or 3♦ is natural and forcing, with responder unable to show a more competitive hand immediately. However, when there are two cue-bids available, e.g. 1♣ – (2♣) – ? a cue-bid can also be used to show length in the unbid suit.

A popular treatment is to play that the lower cue-bid links to the lowest suit, and the higher cue-bid links to the higher suit. Thus, after the auction begins 1♣ – (2♣), a 2♥ response would show a good hand with clubs (an invitational or better raise), and 2♠ would show a good hand with diamonds (forcing to game). A 2♦ bid would simply be an attempt to compete and would not be forcing.

Similarly, when the auction begins 1♦ – (2♦), a 2♥ response shows a good hand with clubs (forcing to game), and a 2♠ response shows a good hand with dia-

monds (an invitational or better raise).

Here is an example of how one might cope with an opposing Michaels cue-bid:

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	2♠
4♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♣	All Pass

<sup>1</sup> Michaels, majors; <sup>2</sup> Clubs, game-forcing;

<sup>3</sup> Splinter; <sup>4</sup> Roman Key-card Blackwood;

<sup>5</sup> Two 'aces' without the ♠Q.

If responder had a weaker hand, without the ♦A for example, he would bid 3♣ after the 2♦ overcall, to show a competitive hand. With great support for clubs, opener can still make a splinter bid of 4♥, but responder would now sign off in 5♣.

### In summary:

- With no primary fit for the opener, the expectation that the partnership have the balance of points, and an interest in taking a penalty, the responder can start by doubling the Michaels cue-bid.
- When the opening bid is 1♣/1♦, the responder can cue-bid the lower-ranking major (hearts) to show a good hand with the lower minor suit (clubs), or cue-bid the higher major (spades) to show a good hand with the higher minor suit (diamonds).
- When the opening bid is 1♥/1♠, the responder can cue-bid the opponents' major to show a good raise, or bid 3♣/3♦ to show a good hand with length in the suit bid. □



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## Report

### GRAND SLAM FOR LEEDS

FOR the first time, the Great Northern Swiss Pairs tournament was held at the Hilton Hotel in Leeds. It was spread over two days, on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of October, and nearly two hundred and fifty competitors took part. Play stretched over twelve sessions involving no fewer than eighty-four boards.

The competition was fierce with a field drawn from all over the North of England and further afield as well. Amongst the ordinary club players there was a heavy sprinkling of county, national and even a few players of international standard.

To reflect the size of the field, prize money of over £2200 was up for grabs for the top 17% of the total number of players.

The Treasurer of the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association, Lesley Millet, remarked: 'This fixture was a financial success as well. We will be using the profits to improve our services and develop education and awareness of bridge throughout the Yorkshire area.'

As with other premier competitions, this event was licensed by the national governing body, the English Bridge Union, but the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association was actually responsible for organising and running the event. To mark the importance of this, the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Jim McKenna and the Lady Mayoress, Councillor Andrea McKenna, had kindly agreed to open the competition. Councillor McKenna welcomed the players to Leeds and encouraged everyone, between matches, to take advantage of the many benefits that Leeds has to offer, particularly the high-quality shopping.



Photo: Ron Millet

*The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Jim McKenna, with Yorkshire CBA Chairman, Philip Mason*

The Chairman of the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association, Philip Mason, commented: 'With four thousand five hundred members in Yorkshire, this is a fitting start to the celebrations and events that we are planning to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association.'

The overall winners were South Yorkshire pair, Tom Gisborne and Sandy Davies, with 182 points out of a possible 220 – a remarkable performance. In joint second place were Bill Taylor and Rob Miller, and Kath and Alan Nelson, both pairs scoring 163 points for their efforts.

*(Ron Millet and Graham Jepson)*



David Bird

# Beat today's experts

Bidding problems are on page 29

## 1. Love All. Dealer West.

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



♠ A J 9 6 5  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A Q 5  
♣ Q 3

West <i>Kwiecien</i>	East <i>Ramer</i>
1♥	1♠
2♠	2NT
4♣	4♦
4♥	4NT
5♠	6♣

This month's deals are all from the 2010 Spingold Trophy, contested in New Orleans. This is a truly international event nowadays. In fact, only three of the top twenty seeds were all-American teams.

What should East say at his second turn? At the other table, East very reasonably raised to 4♠. After a single raise, he could hardly expect partner to cover enough losers to produce a slam.

Poland's Roald Ramer decided to investigate further with a forcing 2NT. This is a useful device, particularly for those who are willing to raise to 2♠ on three-card support. Michal Kwiecien's 4♣ was a splinter bid,

showing four-card spade support and at most one club.

After two cue-bids, East bid Roman Key-card Blackwood, hearing of two key cards (the ♠K and the ♥A) plus the ♠Q. Hoping that his partner also held the ♥K, he then bid 6♠.

West did not hold the ♥K and there was no play for the slam. East was guilty of 'hoping that partner held the perfect hand'. Partners rarely do! Apart from that, East had already invited a slam, with his 4♦ cue bid; he should have bid 4♠ at his next turn.

■ Awards: 4♠ (10), 5♠ (6), 6♠ (1).

## 2. Love All. Dealer West.

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



♠ K 7  
♥ A K J  
♦ Q 8 4  
♣ A K J 9 4

West <i>Helgemo</i>	East <i>Helness</i>
Pass	2NT
3♦	3♥
3NT	4♣
4NT	5♣
6♥	

Norway's Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, 2007 Bermuda Bowl winners, picked up these potential slam hands in the Spingold Round-of-16.

Helgemo responded with a transfer bid of 3♦, showing at least five hearts. His 3NT rebid then offered partner a choice of games. With three hearts and a ruffing value, Helness clearly preferred to play in hearts. Just in case partner held close-to-slam values, he showed his maximum hand with a cue bid of 4♣ rather than simply bidding 4♥.

Helgemo had just the sort of hand that his partner had visualized. He bid Roman

Key-card Blackwood, hearing of three key cards, and leapt to 6♥.

South held the ♠A-Q but the transfer bid had protected the ♠K from the opening lead. Helness won South's trump lead, drew a second round and continued with the ♣A-K. When the ♣Q fell doubleton from South, he drew the last trump and easily made the slam. If the clubs did not provide two spade discards from dummy, he would have led towards the ♠K.

■ Awards: 6♥ by East (10), 6♥ by West (7), 6NT by East (6), games (5), 6NT by West (3).

## 3. E/W Game. Dealer South.

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



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

West <i>Zia</i>	East <i>Hamman</i>
1♥	2♦
2♠	3♣
3♠	4♥


After a pass from South, Zia opened in his longest suit, hearts. His reverse to 2♠ showed extra values and on the third round he bid the spades again. This showed five spades and, because he had opened 1♥, six hearts.

Hamman had a strong hand, yes, but his riches in the minors were not worth much opposite a major two-suiter. Quite rightly, he signed off in 4♥.

At the other table, Jean-Christophe Quantin made the old-fashioned opening bid of 1♠ and their auction was 1♠ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3♣ – 3♥ – 3NT – 4♥. This was not ideal because East would doubtless have given preference to spades when holding equal length in the majors.

■ Awards: 4♥ (10), 3NT (8), 5♥/4NT (4), slams (1).

#### 4. E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ J 10 8 7 5 3 ♥ A Q 10 5 ♦ 4 ♣ A 5		♠ K 9 4 ♥ J 3 ♦ Q 10 9 7 6 ♣ K J 2
<b>West</b> <i>Versace</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Lauria</i>	
1♠	Pass	
4♠	2♣	

We move on to the Spingold semi-finals, with Italian mega-stars Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace sitting East-West. East passes and hears his partner open 1♠ in the third seat. What should he respond?


Much of the world regards it as automatic to respond 2♣, the Drury convention. This shows a good raise in the major and allows the partnership to stop low if the opening bid was light in the third position (or minimum in the fourth position). Some bridge authorities view the convention with disfavour because it allows responder to 'field'

a very light, semi-psycho opening bid in the third seat. So far as I can tell from the internet, the EBU allows the Drury convention at Level 2 events or above.

Versace held only 11 points opposite a passed hand. Once his spades were supported, however, he could count only two losers in spades. That gave him a five-loser hand – good enough to try his luck in a vulnerable game, which was easily made. Drury was used successfully at the other table, too.

■ **Awards:** 4♠ (10), part scores (5).

#### 5. E/W Game. Dealer West.

♠ K 8 ♥ A Q 10 9 5 ♦ 2 ♣ K J 4 3 2		♠ A 10 3 ♥ J 8 ♦ A Q 5 3 ♣ A 10 7 5
<b>West</b> <i>Quantin</i> 1♥ 4♣ 4♥ 5♣	<b>East</b> <i>Multon</i> 2♣ 4♦ 4♠ 6♣	


With a five-loser hand, Jean-Christophe Quantin raised partner's clubs to the four level. Three cue-bids followed and Quantin then judged he had done enough on his hand, signing off in 5♣. Franck Multon was happy to bid a sixth club with his three aces and the excellent slam was reached. It needs the ♥K to be onside or the ♣Q to fall in two rounds. As the cards lay, thirteen tricks were available.

At the other table Sontag and Berkowitz started 1♥ – 2♣ – 3♦, where 3♦ was a splinter bid agreeing clubs. Berkowitz rebid

3NT, with his ♦A-Q opposite the known shortage, and that ended the auction. What do you make of that? 3NT would be OK with ♦K-Q-x-x but I think East should have investigated a club slam on his actual hand.

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (10), 6NT by East (8), games (6), 7♣ (4).

#### 6. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 3 ♦ A K 10 7 6 3 ♣ A 8 2		♠ K 5 3 2 ♥ A K J 6 4 ♦ Void ♣ K Q 6 5
<b>West</b> <i>Larsen</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Meltzer</i>	
2♦	1♥	
3♣	2♠	
4NT	4♣	
	5♠	

On now to the final of the Spingold. Rose Meltzer opens 1♥ and reverses to 2♠ over partner's 2♦ response. The train is still on the rails at this stage but what should she say over partner's fourth-suit-forcing 3♣?

East's 4♣ showed her shape, yes, but it left partner with nowhere to go on his hand.

Kyle Larsen tried to sign off in 4NT but this was taken as Roman Key-card with clubs agreed. The bidding was now up to 5♠ and West decided to pass before the doubles came. Two down was the result.

How should the bidding have gone? Since West's 3♣ was fourth-suit forcing, there was no reason for East to place him with four clubs. East should have closed the auction by bidding 3NT.

■ **Awards:** 3NT (10), 5♣/4♠/4♥ (5), 5♠ (1).



A disappointing mixed bag from our experts, who will receive no bonus payment this month. They managed 42 points and many of you will have left them in your wake. Let's look for some bidding tips.

### Tips to remember

- Do not look for a perfect fit. Partner will rarely hold the cards that you are hoping for.
- When partner offers you a choice of games, via a transfer sequence, you can show a maximum fit by cue-bidding at the four-level. Partner should bear in mind that you did not break the transfer.
- A fourth-suit forcing bid is artificial and does not show the suit that is bid. Indeed, if partner held four cards there he might well have bid no-trumps instead. On the rare occasions when you hold four cards opposite partner's fourth-suit bid, you should retreat into no-trumps. □

## THE ART OF PLAYING BRIDGE AT HOME

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# Around & About

## NEW VENTURE IN SURREY

ASHTREAD Bridge College is a new venture for Ashtead, Surrey, aimed at widening interest in the game. Already there are two excellent drives in the village, each available monthly, but neither specifically caters for beginners so attendance at either is difficult until mastering the rudiments of the game. Teaching fills this gap.

Prior to starting the college, Ashtead resident John Cumming attained qualification as an EBU Partner Teacher via training at EBU headquarters. This specifically included the teaching of beginners and how to help them surmount early hurdles.



*John Cumming at work at the beginning of the autumn term 2010*

Classes began in January 2010 at Ashtead Cricket Club and students now number thirty. The cricket club is a sparkling venue outstripping most other similar halls in terms of comfort and facilities. Car parking is completely stress-free. Students are keen and teams events at New Haw and Guildford feature in the year's activities. The college's recently developed website is at [www.bridgewebs.com/ashteadcollege](http://www.bridgewebs.com/ashteadcollege).

## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SUTTON Coldfield Bridge Club, Warwickshire, celebrated its 75th anniversary on the occasion of its annual Edgar Foster competition. The cup was first played for in 1935 when the club was started in the basement of a house in Sutton Coldfield. Now, seventy-five years later, the club is well-established in purpose-built rooms and the celebratory cake was cut by Nick Malden (aka 'NTM') who has been a member since 1966.

The winning team of Nick Woosnam, Mike Morriss, Anne Woosnam and Barbara Wren received the cup from President Ann Bailey along with a celebratory bottle of champagne.

## TREND-SETTERS IN SUFFOLK

A MATCH with a difference was staged recently between two Suffolk bridge clubs, involving players' skills on the fairway and around the green baize.



*Clare Bridge Club's Richard Evans (left) and David Price*

The contest between Clare and Bury St Edmunds involved four pairs from each club playing eighteen holes of golf followed by the same number of boards of bridge – and a scoring system which aimed to give equal weight to both disciplines.

Following the morning session of greensomes, Bury were three holes or points up but Clare, whose team included David Price, a 28+ handicap golfer but world champion bridge player, came good in the afternoon bridge session to finish nine points clear.

However, the view of both sides was that the event itself was the real winner and in addition to planning a repeat against Bury in twelve months time, Clare is seeking similar matches against other bridge clubs. Patsi Barnes, who is the current ladies captain at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club as well as being a prominent member of the Bury Bridge Club, helped to arrange the event with Nick Farr, chairman of Clare Bridge Club, and she said: 'I do hope this will become an annual event. We have really enjoyed it.' Nick commented: 'It was a great day. The toughest part was working out a scoring system for the match which took equal account of the golf and the bridge.'

The final format involved four pairs from each club playing 18 holes of greensomes – so, with each hole won worth a point, theoretically 72 points were up for grabs. Golfers' handicaps were ignored and the matches were played on level terms, with scores aggregated and carried forward to the bridge.

In the bridge, 72 points were also at stake via two rounds of two teams of four matches, with each round consisting of nine boards. Each board was worth two points but a board could be halved – in the same way a golf hole can be halved – if there was a difference of 30 points or less between the two scores (e.g. 420 and 450).

Working out a fair scoring system was the hardest nut to crack, particularly as there appeared to be no precedent. Quite a few hours were spent fine-tuning the points per board and hole formula, admittedly mostly in the pub after Clare's Monday evening bridge session – but the end result seemed to work.

# Around & About

## LORD MAYOR VISITS MANCHESTER BRIDGE CLUB

THE Lord Mayor of Manchester made a civic visit to Manchester Bridge Club in September, when he made presentations to three current World Champion members of the club: Catherine Draper, Gold Medallist in the 2008 Women's Teams at the World Mind Sport Games in Beijing, and Paul Hackett and John Holland, crowned Seniors Bridge Champions in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2009.

The Lord Mayor highlighted the prestige the club has brought to Manchester over many years. He congratulated the club on being at the forefront in bringing the film star Omar Sharif to Manchester in the early 1980s, and for being the main inspiration of the first Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships that brought almost thirty national teams to Manchester in 2002.



*The Lord Mayor of Manchester receiving bridge instruction from three world champions!*

In addition, the Lord Mayor observed how much the club has done to encourage bridge in the community by introducing many hundreds of players to bridge through its teaching programmes.

The Lord Mayor also wished success to club members John Hassett, Jeff Morris and Gary Hyett, who would be representing England in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships in Delhi, and Michael Byrne, captain of the England Under-21 team competing in the World Bridge Championships in Philadelphia.

## THE 'STUBBS TREE-HOUSE' TEAMS OF FOUR



*The 'balcony' table at the tree-house in Stubbs Walden*

EIGHT intrepid members of the Doncaster Bridge Club suppressed their vertigo and played a match in the tree-house that Peter Stocken built this summer in the boughs of a sycamore tree in his Yorkshire garden. Access was by a staircase up into a neighbouring cherry tree, then across eight yards of Indiana Jones-style rope walkway, mercifully with neither a bad guy at one end applying an axe to the rope, nor natives shooting poisoned arrows from the other.

As the tree-house was twenty feet above the ground, certain Health 'n Safety regulations came into force, overriding anything the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee might have had to say: Fit-showing Jumps and Weak Jump Overcalls were banned. Strong Jump Overcalls were permitted as long as the Director (Peter, perched in a nearby walnut tree) deemed the bidder was strong enough. Splinters were unavoidable. In the play, it was noticeable that declarers invariably chose to finesse rather than to play for the drop.

At the half-way point, the 'Jane' team was 25 IMPs ahead, but in the second half the 'Tarzan' team manufactured several swings (not, thankfully, from bough to bough) and prevailed by 10 IMPs.

The 'Jane' Team was Brian and Mary Stones with Dagmar Aykroyd and Janice Elliott, while the 'Tarzan' team was Shaune and Mick Chapman with Geoff and Linda Atkinson.

## BRIDGE CLUBS SUPPORT GOOD CAUSES

MEMBERS of Huddersfield Bridge Club raised £950 for their new local Kirklees Admiral Nurse Team (see the charity's website [www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)) by running a charity team event on 3rd October.

Despite the event clashing with a national tournament in Leeds, the club filled eighteen tables. Many more than the seventy-two present contributed to the day by buying raffle tickets, making donations and helping with the organisation. A group of volunteers led by Elizabeth Calvert ran a soup kitchen – serving a vast variety of homemade soups donated by friends, members and Kirklees & Manchester Admiral Nurses.

The winning team of Michael and Pauline Booth, Val Newsome and Anne Drake clocked up an impressive score of 78 out of 100.

A CHEQUE for £1,690 was presented to the representatives of Emmaus by the Cadet Section of Thanet Bridge Club. Emmaus, for whom the Duchess of Cornwall is patron, is a charity providing housing, rehabilitation and training for the young homeless. Over the past twelve years the Cadet Section has raised over £25,000 for charity through donations of all tuition fees.

In addition to this Thanet Bridge Club holds an annual charity drive which raises in the region of £500 – £600 for a chosen local charity.

Thanet Bridge Club is a small provincial club in Kent, with some 110 members. Its aim is to provide a good game of bridge in a friendly and courteous environment. □



Andrew Kambites

# Frozen Suits

## Part II

IN the first deal you are East. Your partner leads a highly satisfactory six of spades to dummy's ten and your queen. What switch do you make at trick two?

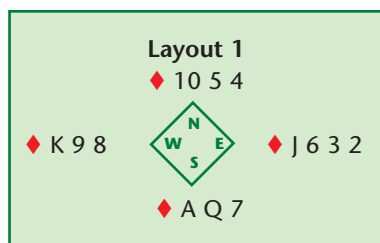
### Love All. Dealer South.

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

♠ K Q 9 2  
♥ 8 7  
♦ J 6 3 2  
♣ 9 6 3

North	South
1♠	1♥
4♥	2♥

You must realise that a diamond switch isn't safe. Suppose diamonds are as in layout 1:



Left to play diamonds on his own declarer will lose two tricks because West's king is sitting after declarer's queen, and your jack is sitting after dummy's ten. The diamond suit is frozen. If you lead the two, declarer can play low from his hand and your partner has to play the king. Leading

a low diamond releases the hold your jack has on dummy's ten. That is not to say that under no circumstances is it correct to play a diamond. You might realise there is some risk in playing a diamond, but perhaps there is a greater risk in *not* playing a diamond. The crucial question is whether declarer might be able to use any winners in dummy to discard diamonds in his hand. Certainly if there was an ominous looking long suit in dummy it would be right to lead a diamond, whatever the risk. However, dummy does not look very threatening here. Declarer may have ♣Q-x doubleton and may be able to use dummy's ♣A-K to discard a diamond loser, but in that case declarer might be left with a spade loser. If you cashed your diamond tricks, then declarer would discard a spade instead. Declarer doesn't seem to have much to spare for his 4♥, and the spades are certainly lying badly for him. I would recommend a passive switch at trick two, maybe to the seven of hearts.

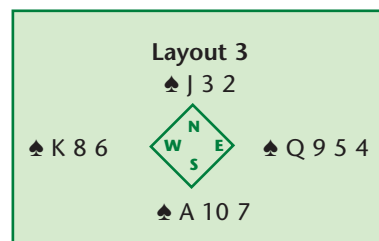
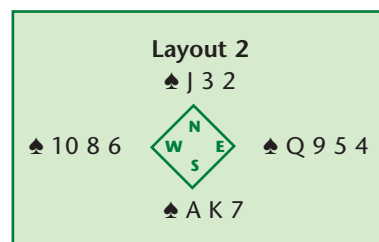
Note that if you took the same example and replaced dummy's ten of diamonds by the seven of diamonds there would be no danger that dummy's diamond suit is a frozen suit, and a diamond switch would be correct and safe.

### The imperfect art of risk assessment

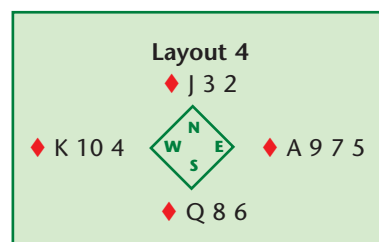
Of course the examples seen so far have had fairly clearcut solutions. Life is not always that simple and often defenders are left not with the perfect science of working out the 'correct' defence, but instead with the imperfect art of risk assessment. There might be risks in opening up a suit which could be frozen, but alternatively if you sit back and wait, declarer's side suit might turn out to be solid enough to allow him to discard dummy's losers in our suit.

*The nearer in rank an honour is to an honour sitting before it in dummy, the greater the risk that the suit might be frozen.*

If East leads from a queen while dummy has the jack, there is a high risk that you are giving away a trick, for example layouts 2 and 3. The queen and jack are adjacent honours.



If East leads from an ace while dummy has the jack, there is a lesser risk of opening up a frozen suit. The dangerous combination is the diamonds in layout 4. There are two missing honours between ace and jack.





Please do note that this article just looks at single suit combinations. I am trying to teach you to recognise frozen suits. However, I am certainly not telling you that you must never switch to a suit that might be frozen. In the first deal there was no need to switch to diamonds because it was unlikely that declarer would be able to discard any diamond losers he has in his hand on anything in dummy. If you change dummy so that there is a suit that is likely to provide discards, there is no point in sitting back and waiting for your diamond tricks. You would then have to take what you can quickly. There is a general principle here:

*If declarer is going to have to eventually play a suit for himself, then it is to your advantage to let him get on with it. Most defenders are far too active. They lead a spade. That doesn't work well, so they switch to a club when they regain the lead. Every time they open up a new suit they run the risk of conceding an easy trick to declarer. Much of the time it is best to let declarer do his own work. Get rid of the Victorian work ethic which leads so many defenders to believe that they must do something positive for their side. Much of the time good defence is about just avoiding doing any self-inflicted damage.*

In the last deal West leads the four of spades against 4♠. Declarer draws trumps

in three rounds ending in dummy, and leads the queen of hearts. How should West defend after taking the ♥A?

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



North

2♣<sup>1</sup>  
4♣

South

1NT  
2♣

<sup>1</sup> Stayman

A West player who decided to switch to a diamond through dummy's weakness solved declarer's problem over which defender had the ♦Q. Declarer had:

♠ K J 7 5 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ K 9 8

Better defence, found by another West, was to lead a heart back at declarer. He won in dummy with the jack and ran the jack of clubs. West won the queen, cashed his ace of clubs and played a third club. West profited from his excellent passive defence when declarer misguessed the position of the queen of diamonds. Note that the diamond suit was not frozen, but it was still likely that declarer would have to play diamonds himself so best defence was to leave diamonds alone. □

## IN A NUTSHELL: ANSWERING QUESTIONS

**A short reference table provided by Jeremy Dhondy**

If your opponents ask questions about your system, then:

- They are entitled to know about your agreements with your partner.
- They are entitled to have a full explanation so if you have responded 5♥ to a 4NT Roman Key-card Blackwood and you are asked about it, don't say 'Two aces,' rather say 'two of the five aces without the queen of trumps'
- They are entitled to know about other similar situations. If you haven't agreed whether, say, 2NT is unusual in a particular auction, your opponents are entitled to know that in similar situations you have discussed it is unusual.
- Your opponents are only entitled to know what your agreement is, not what is in your hand (see Mike Swanson's article on page 13).
- If you have no agreement, then say: 'No agreement.'
- Never say: 'I'm taking it as . . .' This is because with these words you are giving information to partner that he/she should not have.

## CAPTION COMPETITION



Now for lesson 53 on strip squeezes . . .

THE winner of our October competition, with the caption above, is Graham Sadie, London, who will receive a charming Victoriana bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 13). Graham also sent in: *Bienvenue au Jason Hackett club de bridge naturiste!* Other good captions were: *It's the first time I've caught both defenders in a strip squeeze!* (David Bird, Chandlers Ford); *Would you Adam and Eve it, we haven't got a fourth!* (Sandra Williams, Dronfield); *Do you know the parseltongue convention?* (Tony Scrace, Andover); *I know God's only popped out to create a new Universe but do you think I can have a peep at his hand?* (Roger Brown, Sandown); and *Speed up please, they've already finished in the clothed room!* (Paul Thornton. Kirby Lonsdale).

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](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk) not later than 19th December 2010. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



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Ian Payn

# Women are as good at bridge as men

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](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)

BOYS like guns. Girls like dolls. Men can read maps. Women can't. Men like sport. Women like shopping.

All the preceding claims are facts, scientifically proven and hard-coded into our collective subconscious. Except they're not. Scientific facts, that is. What they are are vague generalisations, handed down through the generations until they're accepted as absolute truths. Similar things leap out of the newspapers every day. 'Scientific research shows . . .' Scientific research normally shows no such thing. Hysterical journalism extrapolates unsound conclusions from properly conducted research. 'Red wine good for you!' screams Monday's headline. 'Red wine gives you ingrowing toenails!' screams Tuesday's. All tommy rot. My favourite absurd sexist cliché is that men can't multi-task. Well, I can, I can do half a dozen things at once without the slightest problem. And I know men and women who can barely do one. So you can sling that piece of nonsense in the bin, for starters.

My second favourite is 'men are better than women at bridge'. If this means that more men enjoy success at bridge at the highest levels, then all well and good. They do, and there's a reason for this (which we'll come back to shortly) but if our dear Editor's Friend (who started this, see the August 2010 *English Bridge*, page 54) thinks that he is better at bridge than fifty per cent of the world's population simply because of his gender, he needs his head examining.

The most common place to play bridge (for now) is a bridge club. Walk into any

bridge club and you'll find a few genuinely good players, a few hopeless ones and a large mass of average players. I am convinced that if you held a practical bridge exam for five male and five female players from any of those groups (or any number you like) in which both parties were given exactly the same problems then the women would score the same as the men in their peer group. Not better, but not worse. There is no proven correlation between gender and the ability to play bridge, or indeed any mind sport.

So, why are all the world's top bridge players men? I'll tell you in one word, albeit a poncey one: *milieu*.

Men have taken over the top echelon. They strut around as though they own the card room, acting like animals protecting their turf. Take a look around the top end of any competition, and there they are, with their aggressive swagger, their egotistical posturing and their supercilious body language (don't write in: I don't think body language can be supercilious either, but I like the phrase). The talk is of 'carting out' opponents with pushy doubles, the emphasis at the table is on wallowing in self-proclaimed genius – it's all, frankly, too much, my dear. This is certainly the reason that I won't be playing in the Bermuda Bowl anytime soon. (There may be other reasons, obviously, but I don't have the space to dwell on them.) Is it any wonder that this macho atmosphere is unpalatable to all but the hardest women?

So, it's not anything to do with ability, it's to do with attitude. Okay, attitude is part of the game, and part of the secret of success, but it's nothing to do with the ability to count up to thirteen or remember what trumps are. Speaking of attitude, if the Editor's Friend wants to bring his three best mates from his club and play against four of

my lady friends, ooh, let's say Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Sally Brock and Nevena Senior for a nice forty-eight board match, well, the best of luck to them. Think I'm being unfair? Okay, crank it down a notch and they can play against my Gold Cup / Crockfords / Hubert Phillips teammates for the last umpteen years: Jane Moore, Christine Duckworth and Gillian Salt, with another woman replacing me (is our consistent failure to win these events because I'm saddled in a team with three women, or because they're lumbered with me?). I don't fancy the gents in that one much, either. Note, by the way, that 'Editor's Friend' is a fictional construct rather than the real editor's friend, who made a passing comment which I have pounced upon and ridiculed for dramatic purpose. That's not to say that I agree with the real editor's friend, I just wouldn't have given it to a real person in the neck quite so much.

At the risk of labouring the point (but we have to get to the end of the page somehow), in the 2010 Buffet Cup (see page 11), Team Europe's most successful pair in the teams were women – Auken and Von Armin (tying, admittedly, with Fantoni and Nunes, but ahead of the Hackett twins, Helgemo – Helness and all the other male worthies). One swallow doesn't make a drink, of course, but if this proves nothing else, it proves that on the day women are capable of competing with men at the top level, and winning.

So there you have it. A cogent, rational explanation of why women are as good at bridge as men (I can't quite bring myself to support the thesis that they're better)? Scientifically proven facts backing my case? Well, none of the above, really, just a load of self-serving rubbish. But no more rubbish than claiming that men are better than women at bridge. □



When you have finished reading this magazine, please recycle it.

# Women are not as good at bridge as men

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

THE Bermuda Bowl, the World Teams Championship, has been played 39 times. In all that time, there has been exactly one woman in one winning team, and she was a sponsor paying a team of top American professionals. In this country, the British Championship (the Gold Cup) has been won by 180 different men (some of whom have won it more than once) but only ten women. The first division of the English Premier League has 34 men and five women playing. Of the 78 players in the Tollemache final in February, only five were women. There was one woman in the top ten pairs in the 2010 Brighton Swiss Pairs, while the overall entry was almost exactly one third women and two thirds men.

That avalanche of statistics gives one consistent message: that the top bridge players in both this country and the world are virtually all male. Ask any good player (of either sex) if women's bridge is the same standard as open bridge at the top levels and you'll get nothing but laughter. There is no debate to have.

There are however two questions that are worth debating. The first is 'Why?' and the second is 'So what?'

'Why?' is difficult to answer in one page: one might equally well ask why very few of the top chess, poker or backgammon players are female.

In spite of the occasional headline to the contrary, studies consistently show that the average IQ scores of men and women are equal. However, on almost all forms of test more men have extreme scores, both high and low – so there are more both very intelligent and very stupid men than women. A high IQ may not be a direct indication of anything other than being good at IQ tests, but the pattern of men having a wider range of ability is consistent across most intellectual pursuits. It is

certainly plausible that this will be true in bridge as well.

There is a lot more to being a good bridge player than just card play technique. Men tend to be more competitive, more dedicated and may simply care more about winning. This can be seen in the 'real world' where there are many more men at the top than there are women, whether they are running a company or running a country. It's true that some of this may be cultural and historical rather than genetic, but it's hard to deny that the bias is there.

There's also the influence of family. Of the juniors who were my contemporaries, many of the women gave up playing seriously when they got married or had children. If you look at the top female players in England, they are virtually all either single, or their partner is a very good bridge player. An informal survey indicates the same is true in Australia (just as an example). There does seem to be a trend that when women marry non-bridge players they give the game up, while the reverse does not happen.

In conclusion, there are plenty of physical differences between the genders (including in their brain chemistry) so I don't think it is surprising that there is a range of mind sports where men outperform women.

'So what?' Is this discussion an argument for women to give up playing open bridge? I do believe that men, on average, have an inbuilt advantage over women, but I'm not some Ms Average Everywomen. Just because four players chosen at random from the top fifty men will almost certainly beat a team chosen from the top fifty women doesn't mean that any male bridge player at the local club is better than his wife. That's like saying that men are heavier than women on average, therefore I must weigh less than my husband. No-one can seriously claim that all women are incapable of being



Frances Hinden

THE DEBATE

good players. There are women in England competing in, and winning, all the top events – it's just that there are more men.

There are various ways to gain a psychological advantage at the bridge table. One is being so well-known as an expert that your opponents assume they will lose and play badly. Another is to be underestimated: if your opponent doesn't believe you capable of making a deceptive play, then any false card will always work. Speaking personally, I have no objection to playing against the editor's friend-in-a-pub who thinks that a mixed pair (or ladies' pair) are bound to be easy opponents. I shall just take my IMPs and thank him for the game. □

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Julian Pottage

# Club Player's Bidding Quiz

Answers to problems  
on page 16

<b>Hand 1</b> ♠ A 10 9 7 5 ♥ K 9 6 2 ♦ Void ♣ K J 10 6	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Double.</b> A double is still for take-out at the three level, asking partner to bid a suit. By doubling, you bring all three of your suits into play. It would be a mistake to overcall 3♠, which would show only one of your suits.</p>	W	N	E	S				3♦	?			
W	N	E	S										
			3♦										
?													

<b>Hand 2</b> ♠ 9 7 6 3 ♥ 10 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 10 6 5 4 3	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>2♣.</b> Although you have only 3 high-card points, you need to adjust for short suits when you have support for partner. Adding two points for the singleton and one for the doubleton, you have 6 points in all, enough to give a simple raise.</p>	W	N	E	S			1♠	2♣	?			
W	N	E	S										
		1♠	2♣										
?													

<b>Hand 3</b> ♠ A K Q ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q 8 7 4 ♣ K J 8 7	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>1NT.</b> Regardless of whether you play a weak or strong 1NT opening, a 1NT overcall shows about the same strength as a strong no-trump. You need to have a stopper or two in the suit opened, which you certainly have here. While it is true that your intermediates are poor, suggesting that the hand is not quite worth 15 points, having the king-jack of clubs over the club bid makes up for that.</p>	W	N	E	S				1♣	?			
W	N	E	S										
			1♣										
?													

<b>Hand 4</b> ♠ Q 8 ♥ A 4 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ K 10 9 7 4 2	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>3NT.</b> Adding a point or two for the six-card club suit, you have easily enough points to bid game. You do not want to think about playing in clubs. To make game in clubs you need to make eleven tricks rather than nine. At the table, 3NT was laydown – and that was when partner had a bare 12 points.</p>	W	N	E	S				1NT Pass	?			
W	N	E	S										
			1NT Pass										
?													

<b>Hand 5</b> ♠ Void ♥ A 9 6 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ A K 10 9 8 5 2	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>4♣.</b> Fortune favours the brave. You have so much shape that there is little risk of running into a penalty double. Perhaps your side can make a club contract or score a profitable sacrifice. You do not need to worry about pushing your opponents into game. Their trump suit is breaking badly and North can bid 4♠ whether or not you bid 4♣.</p>	W	N	E	S		1♠	Pass	3♠	?			
W	N	E	S										
	1♠	Pass	3♠										
?													

<b>Hand 6</b> ♠ A J 6 5 ♥ A Q J 2 ♦ K 9 3 ♣ A 10	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">?</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>1♥.</b> With 19 points, you are not quite strong enough to open 2NT. Holding 4-4 in the majors, you open 1♥ since this makes it easy to find a 4-4 fit in either major. If partner does not bid spades or support hearts vigorously, you intend to rebid in no-trumps. □</p>	W	N	E	S	?			
W	N	E	S						
?									

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## Worcester players enjoy themselves at the EBU Overseas Congress in Crete

by Sue Lane

SOME of us had doubts about getting to Crete as our local 'tour organiser', Tony Gervis, lifted £150 from each of us and promptly went to America and Canada for four months. This trip was foreshortened when his camper van and *all* his belongings sank in a lake at the bottom of a glacier.

Roll call was at Birmingham airport at 06.00 on Tuesday 12th October, except for Neville who thought it was on Wednesday. All present, all checked in, three hours delay announced – deep joy! We were given vouchers for food; these did not work for wine, unfortunately. An impromptu Pilates class was held – 'tree' being one of the positions, except for Marian who, it was decided, was more of a shrub.

Four hours later, with the boards saying 'Boarding in 5 minutes' for over an hour, we took to alcohol. As is ever the case, we should have done this sooner – within ten minutes our flight was called and we took off five hours late.

Neville remained on an alternative timeline as he had to be phoned for breakfast the following day.

Wednesday morning saw an expedition to the local Supermercado. The hoard of alcohol etc. was so huge that Tony wheeled it back the half mile or so right into the five star hotel in a supermarket trolley.

The second session of the Swiss Pairs saw Sue Evans (South) in 6♦. West led the king of clubs; this was a card Sue had in her hand. Dummy went down: there were seven diamonds in dummy, unfortunately there were also seven in Sue's hand. Sue was playing with cards from Board 23, the others board 22. The score was adjusted to 60-40 to Dodo and Agnes. It seemed as if the directors needed practice in this ruling, as against Sue Lane and Tony Gervis in the

Mixed Pairs the same thing happened, with Peter Jordan and Lynn Hayes opposite, and the score was adjusted to 60-50 to Sue and Tony (our best result).

When your partner opens 1NT weak and you have 19 points, it helps if you have an agreed understanding of your responses. Steve Edmonds thought long and hard: 4♣, 4NT, 2♣? As he was thinking, his hand took over and passed. It also helps to have an understanding partner.

Friday evening was the most relaxed event, the Pivot Teams. The Worcester Team Pink (*in the photo below*) appeared to much applause.

tators went for a swim; there were very few steps into the pool and as Sue E slipped over the side into the water, a cry of 'Tsunami!' was heard.

The World Table Tennis finals were held on Monday morning. As the table was alongside the indoor pool, whoever hit the ball into the water was expected to get it back. Sue L (bad knees), Heidi (bad leg), and Marian (perpetual shortness) thought that they could all play on one side of the table, with Marian holding the bat above the table in a sort of windscreen-wiper action. Also on Monday the same superfit group decided to play the World Water

Volleyball finals (it took some time to persuade the Hotel to give us the net back). It is amazing how translucent men's white underpants are when wet – refer to David Wing for more details, or to Linda and Maureen who first spotted the potential. Veronica Petrie played by drowning, Maureen managed not to get her hair wet. Whilst we were doing this, Tony was off up a mountain taking photographs until tackled by a concerned farmer who made Tony promise to be nice to the sheep.

Ken Carpenter took to eating brussel sprouts with his breakfast, seemingly not just to make Sue L recoil in horror. Ian Lineker seemed to spend the week asking deep and meaningful questions (not getting it at all) – his wife Georgina spending as much time ignoring him. He did seem to be under orders not to tell his terrible jokes.

There was one major success in the congress: Paul Hammond, Paul Tapster, Jimmy Ledger and Maureen Hannah won the Swiss Teams with a match to spare.

Paul T was also the winner of the 'Hammond Ludorum' for our group, Sue E in second and Paul H in third – he can't even win his own competition. □



Photo: Tony Gervis FRPS

Bridge Overseas rep Lindsey Reynolds (centre) with 'Team Pink': Tony Gervis, Maureen Hannah, Jimmy Ledger and Linda Gervis

Sunday morning was the now annual Wimbledon finals (Crete heat) between Dennis, Paul H, the lovely Linda and the ever elegant, even in borrowed trainers, Maureen. Play lasted about an hour and a quarter, ending in a tie break; it seemed that the game should be renamed 'Bloody Net' as these words were heard frequently. Following the match, players and spec-



Sandra Landy

# Leading an ace against no-trumps

ALMOST all leads to no-trump contracts carry a message. It's up to partner to remember what the message is and react in an appropriate way. Particularly so is the lead of an ace or king, because it is a lead that we rarely make and which requires partner to give a specific signal. With both the ace and king heading the suit you decide to lead, does it matter which one you decide to play? Yes it does, but only if you have agreed with your partner what the leads mean. If you have never discussed it, you can't blame partner if he misreads your lead.

In Standard English the lead of an ace normally shows that you have the king as well and asks partner if they like your lead. For example, as West you hold:

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

South, the dealer, opened 1♥, you passed, and North responded 2♣. Your partner passed and South rebid 2NT showing 15-16 points. North

now bid 3♠, over which South bid 3NT. How should you be thinking when you decide what to lead?

South's bid showed 15-16 points and as North made a responder's reverse it's likely that North has at least 13 points, giving North-South at least a combined 28 points. You have nine points, so at best partner has three points, quite possibly even fewer.


We normally lead a four card or longer suit against 3NT hoping to set up winners in our long suit, so on many auctions your choice would be the two of spades or the two of hearts. But here both suits have been bid by the opposition, making them unattractive leads and quite likely to cost your side a trick.

While we don't have four diamonds,

diamonds is undoubtedly our strongest suit. Maybe partner has diamond length. And if partner has long diamonds headed by the queen, we might be able to take the first five tricks in diamonds. It may be an optimistic thought, but have you got a better idea? So you decide to lead diamonds, but should it be the ace or king?

In Standard English the king is a strong lead, showing a good suit headed by at least three honours, so the lead from a holding such as A-K-4 should be the *ace*! The lead of an ace normally, but not always, shows the king and asks partner to give an encouraging signal if he has a good holding in the suit. This is done by playing as high a card as can be spared. Good holdings are ones headed by the queen, or the jack if the queen is doubleton in dummy – or any six-card suit is good as the queen is likely to drop doubleton from declarer's hand.

Partner should discourage by playing a small card with a poor holding. Here is the full deal:

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

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

West leads the ace of diamonds. What card should East play?

*Remember:* partner's lead of an ace

against a no-trump contract, normally shows a suit like A-K-x or maybe longer. It asks you to encourage by playing a high card if you hold the queen. You should also encourage with any six-card holding. Here East has an easy decision and should play the nine of diamonds

Would you consider leading your ace from either of the hands below? On both deals South opened 1NT, North replied with a Stayman 2♣, South bid 2♠ and North bid 2NT which South raised to 3NT.

Hand 1	Hand 2
♠ Q 5 3 2	♠ K 2
♥ Q J 3	♥ A K 3
♦ 6 4 3	♦ Q 10 5
♣ A K 7	♣ 8 6 5 4 3

On Hand 1 North hasn't actually bid hearts, but has implied holding four hearts by using Stayman. The bidding suggests that North has 11, or maybe 12, points and that South has 14 or a good 13 points. So North-South probably have almost exactly a combined 25 points. You have 12, so that leaves just 3 points for partner. South has shown spades and North has implied hearts, making either major-suit lead unattractive. It may be a disaster but leading the ace of clubs looks the best lead to me.

Did you choose the heart ace on Hand 2? It is very unlikely to be the winning lead. If North has four hearts – and declarer must have at least two hearts – partner cannot have five hearts headed by the queen. Lead a club and hope that your high cards in the other suits provide enough entries to allow you to continue leading clubs and eventually establish club winners.

Next time I will look at what it means to lead a king against opponents' no-trump contract. Before that article appears why not discuss ace and king leads with your partner, to check you are on the same wavelength. □



# A day in the life of ...

## Michael Byrne

*Michael Byrne is the England Under-21s Squad Leader and has represented England over thirty times as a player for the U21, U25 and Open teams, as well as a captain and coach for many of our junior, schools and girls teams. Domestically he has won a whole host of competitions and finished runner-up in the Gold Cup when only a junior. His greatest achievements are leading the England Under-21s team to Silver Medals in the World Championships in Beijing in 2008 and again this year in Philadelphia.*

MY typical day depends on which day of the week it is – I split my time between teaching bridge, which I do six sessions a week, and working from home on my bridge articles, lessons and seminars. On a Monday I get up late and sort through the six hundred hands I have stored in the filing cabinets in my living room, in preparation for the week's lessons. The first lesson on a Monday afternoon is by far the biggest and we often get around twenty tables, which translates to a lot of names to remember! I give the same talk five times a week, so by the Thursday morning I have it down to a fine art and have worked out which jokes to use and which to miss out!

Tuesday is an office day, so I spend it writing lessons, articles for the EBU magazine, and any seminars I am working on. Despite junior training weekends only being once every two months, I seem to be constantly looking for good hands and exercises to give to the kids.

I also have quite a lot of contact with the staff at Aylesbury, and the e-mails fly back and forth about the various international events for which I am helping to train and select teams.

In the evening I teach a supervised class at Manchester Bridge Club, which gives me a good chance to talk to people and discuss the latest bridge news or arrange matches.

Wednesdays are my busiest days as I teach in the morning, then race into town to run the University Bridge Club (which luckily only meets during term time). We started it last year, and having to teach total beginners alongside people who have

played before makes for a challenging time.

After rushing home, I gobble down dinner, which is often stir fried prawns or tuna as I don't eat meat but love fish. (Despite running all over the place, I always make sure I eat properly and get my five recommended daily portions of chocolate.)

After dinner I dash out to the Wednesday night duplicate at Manchester Bridge Club. I've been playing every week for eleven years and I never miss a Wednesday night unless I am away.

On Wednesdays I try and get an early night (no later than 1am) but with team matches to play on BBO (against past and present juniors), hands to look over,

and inane conversations to carry out on-line, it's not always that easy.

On Thursday I have my most traditional day, with a lesson in the morning then straight on to one in the afternoon. I get home around 5 and just have time to sort through the day's e-mails before going out to play bridge again, either with a pupil or in a local league match.

Fridays I reap the rewards of all my evening lessons as I don't work, which gives me a chance to sort things out ready for the weekend. Almost all of them are taken up with bridge, either U21 training weekends, serious bridge events such as the Premier League, or congresses when I often play with former squad mates or current members of the junior squad. One of the biggest advantages of being squad leader is watching how quickly young players improve and turn into top internationals.



### Michael's Top Tip

***Spades are a mighty weapon,  
unleash them on your foes  
at all opportunities!***

Spades are the boss suit and you should wield their power like a broadsword, cutting down those pesky clubs, hearts and diamonds like the peasants they are.

People often don't realise just how important the spade suit is, but it's my favourite suit and it should be yours too.

Here is a hand from an exercise I was given as a junior international. The bidding at Game All goes 3♥ – Pass – 4♥ to you. What do you say? You hold:  
♠A Q 8 7 4 ♥6 ♦K 6 ♣A J 7 6 4  
With 14 points it isn't obvious that you have to do anything; it could be right to pass. But you will be amazed how often in competitive auctions it is right to bid 4♠ over 4♥, and here it was too. The full deal was something like this:

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

You think it is a bit lucky that 4♠ makes while 5♥ does too? Perhaps it is, but moaning about luck will not save you from losing lots of IMPs when you concede –650 and team-mates record –620. Of course on a bad day you will be doubled and go down 800, but take it on the chin and move onto the next hand with northern stoicism.

This year I was knocked out of the Spring Fours by one of my first Under 21s – I wasn't sure whether to be proud or angry!

At the end of the weekend I try and remember to keep in touch with my family, particularly my sister and my nephew, Declan (*in the photo with me*), who live in Canada – Declan is only 20 months old and can already hold thirteen cards (admittedly, in his mouth). I am sure he will be a great bridge player as his mother was always much better at cards than I was, but sadly she moved to another continent to avoid learning bridge. He would be eligible to represent about four different countries, though, which might get confusing. □

## Ian Muir (1949–2010)



IAN died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday 11th September 2010 after an unsuccessful fight against cancer.

Ian was born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire on 17th July 1949 to a card-playing family – always a good start. He went to the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, where he was part of a successful school bridge team that also included Ian Spoors, with whom he remained a close friend. After leaving Newcastle Polytechnic, Ian started work at the North Eastern Electricity Board, leaving after a few years for a brief flirtation with private industry, then joining British Gas, for whom he worked until 2005. Fascinated by computers and IT, Ian was fortunate to work in a field that genuinely interested him.

Ian married Liz in 1971 and they were a happy couple. They continued to play bridge together, playing a major part in founding and running Cramlington Bridge Club. The birth of Jennifer, in 1975, completed Ian's family unit; they shared many a happy time and lots of laughter together, and especially a love of watching football.

Ian's playing career flourished when he had a regular partner in Jimmy Ledger, but afterwards, though he continued to play, he never established another long-term partnership. He began directing when his club, Cramlington, ran one-day Congresses, and he rapidly progressed through NEBA events to become a director on the National Panel in the 1980s. His deserved promotion to Senior Congress Tournament Director reflected the skill which he brought to the job and the admiration of his colleagues on the directors' panel. He was a director whom it was always a pleasure to work with – conscientious, well-organised, tactful and kind.

His many friends will miss his integrity, humour, and love of bridge.

*Chris Benneworth*

## ON-LINE BRIDGE

### A WORLD'S FIRST

*by Barrie Partridge*

A RECENT editorial pondered a possible debate on whether women are as good at bridge as men (*see pages 40-41 for the actual debate*). Bridge Club Live, the only EBU-affiliated on-line club, decided to do away with debate and set up a challenge. Chris Harris of Birmingham and Frances Oestricher of London stepped forward to captain the two teams. Each put together eight pairs.

The teams room in BCL can accommodate several series of eight board matches with opponents automatically swapped after four boards. The format had everyone playing three consecutive matches. Each sex would have an A team-of-four and three B teams. Each B team would play against each of the B teams of the opposite sex and the A teams would play against each other throughout. Each eight board match would have an IMP to VP conversion.

Battle commenced at 8pm one Saturday. This was the first board of the second match:

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

At one A table, Corneliu Rimboiu of Romania played the only game contract with any chance, 4♠, from the South seat, after opening 1♠ and being raised by Andy Fenn (Herts) to 4♠ over a 2♦ overcall by Monica Lucy (Beds), who, after cashing two top diamonds, switched to a deceptive three of clubs. South took in hand and led the four of spades. With the fortunate layout, declarer wasn't going to go wrong. West put in the jack and the queen took

the trick. Declarer carefully led the three of spades and finessed the six! West took and returned a heart, taken in dummy. Declarer led the nine of spades and the rest was easy. Everyone assumed that South had five spades (hence the contract in the bag) and so the killing defence of a diamond continuation (giving a useless ruff and discard) was difficult to find.

Two boards later at the other A table, my partner, Mike Read (Staffs), also had to play for a precise layout after I put him into 5♣ doubled against Petra Mansell (South Africa) and Eve Doyle (Worcs):

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

After cashing two top spades, West switched to a low heart and South now had no choice but to take the ace, cash the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, finesse the queen of clubs and ruff another diamond. Bingo! The king dropped and a trump to the ace allowed a heart discard on the queen of diamonds. Phew!

But the men in the A team were more accident prone and the ladies played steadily throughout. Although the men were 1 IMP up over twenty-four boards, we made the mistake of concentrating our good boards in the middle match and the ladies were up 32-28 in VPs. When our scores were added to those from the B matches, the ladies had won by 137-103 VPs and they reign supreme! That is – until next time! □

[www.bridgeclublive.com](http://www.bridgeclublive.com) is the address for friendly, fast and fun on-line bridge.

## Landmark Master Point Promotions July – October 2010

### CONGRATULATIONS

to all who have achieved a Landmark Promotion between June 30th and October 29th.

It is possible that some of you will have been promoted further in this period – such promotions will be publicised via the promotions listings on the EBU website as well as in the Members Area at [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk).

### Congratulations to the newly promoted Premier Grand Masters:

Mr EP Latham, Yorks

Mrs J Latham, Yorks

Mr AJ Macnair,  
Berks & Bucks

### Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

Mrs WJ Angseesing, Glos

Mr R Bowdery,  
Berks & Bucks

Mr PJ Bowles, Devon

Mrs C Bradley,  
Hants & IOW

Mr TR Brierley, Avon

Mr RP Greenhalgh, Lancs

Mr JM Leese, Warwicks

Mr A Prothero,  
Merseyside & Cheshire

## Avon

[www.avoncba.org.uk](http://www.avoncba.org.uk)

THERE was a good representation of local players at the *Somerset Congress* held over the first weekend of October in Weston-Super-Mare and a large attendance overall. In the *Swiss Pairs*, Mike Huggins – Aidan Schofield finished in 2nd place. In the *Swiss Teams*, Trevor Ward and David Jones were in the winning team, Chris King and Steve Tomlinson finished in 3rd place and Huw Oliver, Tony Gammon, Robert Glass and Jeremy Rickard were joint 5th.

The new season has begun with nineteen teams entered in the *County Leagues* in Divisions 1-3 and a *Newcomers League* also running this year. There are sixteen teams entered in the *County Knock-out* which is the *Pachabo* qualifier.

The opening *Western League* match of the season against Dorset was disappointing, with the county suffering heavy losses in all three divisions.

In the BGB *Simultaneous Pairs* held on Thursday October 14 Mike Davies – Nelson Stephens finished in 18th place nationally in a field of almost 1750 pairs with a score close to 67%.

At the *Guernsey Congress* held during the last weekend in September, David Jones finished in 2nd place in the *Swiss Teams* whilst Janine Griffiths-Baker was 4th.

The *West of England Bridge Club Pairs Championship* has been won by Tony Gammon – Huw Oliver.

In the *Bristol Bridge Club Premier Pairs*, the winners during the last two months have been Sandra Cooper – Myles Ellison and Mike Letts – David Jones.

Avon has selected the team for the *Tollemache Cup* qualifier scheduled for the third weekend of November, which is as follows: Mike Elliott – Tim Brierley, Aidan Schofield – Robert Covill, Mike Huggins – Myles Ellison, Paul Keightley – Peter Sampson, Trevor Ward – David Jones with Mike Letts as non-playing captain.

## Bedfordshire

[www.bedsbridge.co.uk](http://www.bedsbridge.co.uk)



GRAEME Robertson recently won the *Paul Magerman Cup 2010* for his defence at the World University Championships in Taiwan. Graeme was also a member of the England U21 team that won a silver medal at the *World Championships* in Philadelphia, losing 138-182 in the *Youngsters* final to Poland (see page 22).

Rita Keable and Monica Lucy's all-ladies team were 6th out of 33 teams competing for the *Welsh Fours* in Cardiff in September. Also in September, Brian and Maureen Stairs, Alan Cooke and Maris Sheppard were 6th in the *Seniors' Teams*, 8th in the *Multiple Teams* and 9th in the *Swiss Teams* at the *Guernsey Congress*.

Closer to home, with twenty-three competing pairs, clear winners of the *Opening Pairs* held on September 23 were Alan Oddie – David Harris with

66.2%. At the very successful Bedford Congress, David Dickson – Maggie Willis were third in the *Teams*, playing with Bill Taylor – Jimmy Deacon, while the all-Beds team of Alan Oddie, Ron Davis, Iain Roberts and David Harris were 4th.

The BBA committee nominated Anne and David Gilling for the Dimmie Fleming Award (see page 26) for their contributions to local bridge. As Val Lawson is moving abroad, Chris Parkin has taken over as BBA County Chairman and EBU Shareholder. Chris is also chairing the Bedford Congress Committee.

**Diary dates:** the Seniors' Teams on Dec 9 and the One Star Pairs on Jan 13 are both Thursday events and start at Wilstead at 2.00pm. Please note, the One Star Pairs is specifically run for the less-experienced players in the county. It is open to non-EBU members as well as members. For full details, see the BBA website.

## Berks and Bucks

[www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk](http://www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to James Paul who was part of the England Under-21 team that won a silver medal at the *Philadelphia World Series* (see page 22).

Also congratulations to Mike Perkins and Ian Reissmann, who have been selected to play in the six-man England squad in the *Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships* which are to be held in New Delhi at the end of October (after this report is being written), and to Tim Rees and Gary Jones who have been selected for the Welsh team.

Also congratulations to the B&B team who faced strong opposition to win the *London Champions Cup* – a Teams-of-Four event for the winners of major London events and teams-of-four leagues in the home counties. The B&B team – picked from the winners or runners-up of the *Brown Cup* – was Mike Perkins, Ian Reissmann, Chris Cooper and Ben Paske.

Joan and Mike Bennett won the first event of the 2010-11 season – the *Fitch* competition for Married Couples held in September; Nicky and John Pendered won the *Non-expert* prize. The *Jarrett Cup*, held in October and played this year as a Butler IMP-scored pairs competition, was won by Derek Russell – Alex Jenkins.

David Beever was recently presented with theatre tickets in appreciation of the excellent way he has run the website for so many years.

The following team will represent the county in this year's *Tollemache Cup*: Addis Page (non-playing captain), John Howard – Tim Rees, Dick Davey – Richard Palmer, Gary Jones – Ed Scerri, Richard Bowdery – Simon Cope, Sally Brock – Barry Myers.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Mixed Swiss Teams. Jan 9, County Pairs Qualifier. Jan 30, Friendly Swiss Pairs. Feb 6, County Pairs Final and Plate. Feb 24, Improver Pairs.

## Cambs and Hunts

[www.cambsbridge.org.uk](http://www.cambsbridge.org.uk)

CAMBRIDGE A have reached the final of the 2009–2010 *NICKO*. Cath Jagger's team won the *National Women's Teams*. Chris Jagger was 4th in the *Swiss Pairs* at Brighton.

*Cambs and Hunts League: Div. 1* was won by Ely 1 (John and Julie Aspinall, Peter and Myra Burrows, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis); *Div. 2* by Crafts Hill (Peter Somerfield, Derek Oxbrow, Derek and Margaret Sayers); *Div. 3* by Ely 2 (captained by Brian Wynne); and *Div. 4* by University 3 (Ben Reilly, Carrie Oliver, J.J. Wilks, Ralph Owen, Jonathan Cairns, Andre Kueh).

Marion and Trevor King finished 2nd nationwide in the *EBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs* while earlier, in the *Spring* event, Joanne Caldwell – Kevin Smith had finished 3rd nationwide. The *Northants One-Day Green Point Swiss Pairs* was won by Rod and Sue Oakford. Nadia Stelmashenko – Victor Milman were 4th and Mike Seaver – Peter Bhagat were =7th. In the *Pairs* at the *Bedfordshire Congress*, Rod and Sue Oakford finished 4th, and Nadia Stelmashenko – Victor Milman finished 10th.

**Diary dates:** Dec 20, Peterborough Christmas Party. Jan 16, County Individual Final. Jan 22, Charity Bridge Drive, Fulbourn. Feb 6, County Pairs Final. Mar 12, Novice Pairs Tournament. Apr 9, Garden Cities Qualifier. Apr 17, County Swiss Pairs.

## Channel Islands

[www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/](http://www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/)



THE main event in the Islands has been the *Guernsey Congress* which continues to increase in numbers attending and

was directed with their usual friendly efficiency by Malcolm and Barbara Carey. The *Swiss Pairs* on the first weekend was won by Guernsey's Norwegian resident Rune Hauge and his partner Reider Laland, and they returned for the *Swiss Teams* in partnership with Anna Malinowski and Ingvar Erga to complete the double victory for Norway. In the mid-week events the *Pivot Teams* was won by Susie Farnon and Robert Plumley (Guernsey) in partnership with Rune and Reider (again!) and the *Mixed Pairs* by Peter and Gill Pitcher of Jersey. Mike Walsh – Graham Horscroft from the UK won the *Men's Pairs*. The prize for the top C.I. pair in the two Swiss Events went to Sue Rankin – Brian Youd of Jersey.

In County events, the result of the *Individual* was 1. Martin Jones (Guernsey), 2. Brian Youd, 3. John Seymour.

Sadly we have to report the deaths of two long-serving members: Ian Monahan (see page 9) was a British International who came to live in Guernsey and played a leading part in bridge in the Islands; Nan Lindsay's main sport was golf, where she was the C.I. Ladies' Champion for several years but she played a good game of bridge as well. They will be greatly missed and we extend our condolences to their respective spouses, Noi and Alec.



## Landmark Master Point Promotions

### Avon

#### Grand Master

Mr TR Brierley

#### Life Master

Dr HE Oliver

#### Master

Miss C May

### Bedfordshire

#### Life Master

Katy Kear

#### Regional Master

Mr PF Habershon

#### Master

Mrs J Noble

### Berks. & Bucks.

#### Premier Grand Master

Mr AJ Macnair

#### Grand Master

Mr R Bowdery

#### Life Master

Mrs LE Randall

#### Regional Master

Mrs W Sherwin

#### Master

Mrs J Allan

Mrs IG Balson

Mr PD Bamford

Mrs P Chantler

Mr P Checkley

Mrs Dorothea Childs

Dr C Cook

Mr J Downie

Mrs CM Roy

Mr GL Taylor

Mr RB Williams

### Cambs & Hunts

#### Regional Master

Mrs T Watts

#### Master

Jimmy Cheung

Mr T Crawley

Mrs A Lloyd

### Cornwall

#### Master

Mr J Bryant

Mrs J Scullion

Mr T Scullion

Mr R L Smith

### Derbyshire

#### Life Master

Mrs A Sowter

#### Regional Master

Mr JB Shaw

Mr J Squires

#### Master

Mrs L Hubbard

Mrs H Parr

Mr Kathryn Shaw

Mr P Thompson

### Devon

#### Grand Master

Mr PJ Bowles

#### Life Master

Mrs G Lankshear

Mr JA Lankshear

## Cornwall

[www.cornwallbridge.co.uk](http://www.cornwallbridge.co.uk)



THREE ladies who played at Cornish clubs have died recently. Kezia Wills, former Chair of Falmouth BC, played at Penzance and Truro until a stroke five years ago. She was 92. Hazel Mee ran a hotel in Boscastle before going to live in Spain. She was 72 and had played at Bude and Bodmin. Molly Granger, an accomplished pianist and a headmistress, who had translated the classics into Braille, played at four clubs until weeks before her death at 93. She was Wadebridge club champion two years ago.

There have been two notable Cornish successes in Devon: Rob Mabley – Sallie Green won the *County Mixed Pairs*, and Chris and Sandra Bickerdike, playing with friends from Devon, won the *Thurleston Swiss Teams*.

Our own season began with the *Individual Championship*, which was regained by Betty Hocking from Bill Thomson. The *Falmouth Swiss Pairs* ended in a tie between Bill Berks – Graham Buck, and Ken and Janice Keast. There was another tie in the *Wadebridge Green-pointed Swiss Teams*, with Chris and Sandra Bickerdike, Dave and Dommie Boxall getting the trophy, having beaten Sue Gregory, David Atkins, Maureen Baser and Ian Hopkins in the first round. Brian Edwards – Eileen Collings were the convincing winners of the *Mixed Pairs* from David Stone – Val Pitman. In the *Penzance Swiss Teams* John and Pauline Deal, Jean Martin and Heather Upton won well in the last round to overtake Robert Mabley, Sallie Green, Mike Booth and Clive Derryhouse.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Men's and Ladies' Pairs, Ladock. Jan 9, Falmouth Pairs, Falmouth BC. Jan 16, Star Masters and Tredova Cup, Ladock. Jan 30, Teams of 4, Ladock.

## Cumbria

[www.ccdba.co.uk](http://www.ccdba.co.uk)

OUR hearty congratulations go to Geoff Bell of Brampton and Carlisle for receiving the Dimmie Fleming award (see page 26). He has worked tirelessly to support bridge in the county and the award is well-deserved.

The *Northern Bridge League* season has finished and the Cumbria team continued their good form by winning the 'C' Division for the second time. Congratulations to all who represented Cumbria in the four matches and thanks to the team captain, Colin Woods.

The AGM *Pairs* event was won by Colin Woods – Howard Brown, with Geoff and Kath Bell second. The *IMP*

*Pairs* winners were Geoff and Kath Bell with Glenda Lloyd – Peter Boardman runners-up. The *Autumn SIMS Pairs* competition was won by Babs Matthews – Barry Ogden from Grange-Over-Sands; Sylvia and Peter Rydell of St Bees were 2nd. There was a good turnout for the *Pro-Am Teams* held at Eden Bridge Club, with Tim and Babs Matthews and Trevor Ward – Christine Skellon victorious; second place went to Rosemary Jackson, Marjorie Swan, Joyce Gallimore and Sylvia Rogerson.

**Diary dates:** County events for early 2011 are Jan 9, Pivot Teams at St Herbert's Centre, Keswick. W/c Jan 17, Winter Simultaneous Pairs held in clubs. Jan 23, Championship Pairs and Feb 13, February Swiss Pairs both at St Herbert's Centre, Keswick. Entry forms for these events may be found on the website.

## Derbyshire

[www.dcba.org.uk](http://www.dcba.org.uk)



DERBYSHIRE County Bridge Association hosted a *Green Point Event* in September at DCBA Headquarters in The Old School House. Marjorie Mound – Peter Greaves were the highest placed Derbyshire pair, taking 2nd place in the *Swiss Pairs*, organiser Amanda Sowter's team taking 3rd place in the *Teams* on Sunday. Jim Tomlinson was presented with a 'commemorative' plate for his sterling work as Midland Counties Match Secretary for twenty-five years.

Derbyshire won the *Midlands Counties Foster Cup Pairs Championship*, with Mike Spencer and Keith Sherwood winning the *Individual* cup. The *Eric White County Teams* event saw resounding wins for Elliott and Watson's team. The *Brigden*, with sixteen teams entered, saw excellent wins for Watson +88 and Briggs +50.

Please see the DCBA website [www.dcba.org.uk](http://www.dcba.org.uk) for info on future events.

## Devon

[www.devonbridge.co.uk](http://www.devonbridge.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Maureen Baser, Ian Hopkins, David Atkins and Sue Gregory who came equal first at the *Cornwall Green Point Event*, held in Wadebridge in September. Elizabeth Highton, Richard Lingham, Bob Blackmore and Ann Slee were 3d.

The following have been selected to represent Devon at the *Tollemache* qualifier at the end of November: Louise and Warner Solomon, Jim Grant, Stefan Lindfors, Ruth Edmondson, Brigid McElroy, Ann Slee, Richard Lingham, Allison Pollak and John Edwards.

Congratulations to Robert Mabley and Sallie Green who won the *County Mixed Pairs*, 18 September, by 1% above Robin and Margaret Mardlin.

**Diary dates:** Sunday Dec 12, One-Day Swiss Pairs, Torquay Bridge Club; contact Linda Starling ☎ 01803 291468. Wednesday Jan 5, National Pairs Qualifier; contact Jean Whitlam ☎ 01404 815318. Saturday and Sunday Jan 8-9, John Woolcott Weekend, ISCA Centre Exeter; contact Terry Cannon ☎ 01395 266448. Wednesday Jan 19, National Pairs Qualifier, Torquay Bridge Club; contact Terence Treeby ☎ 01803 844342.

## Dorset

[www.bridgewebs.com/dorset](http://www.bridgewebs.com/dorset)



CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Stevens who recently became a Grand Master.

*Flemmich Cup:* 1. Roy Riley, Doris Hutchinson, Eugene Sheehan and Mary Clews, 84 VPs; 2. Chris Stevens, Hilary Brain, Hannah Kearns and Eileen Rundle, 81 VPs; 3. John Gardner, Margot Wilson, Brian Browse and Paddy Bowen, 74 VPs.

*Simeon Cup:* 1. Pete Mallett – Hugh Kevill-Davies, 57.26%; 2. Martin Brook – Helen Ackroyd, 56.62%; 3. Eugene Sheehan – David Gill, 56.41%.

Other notable results: Helen Ackroyd, Martin Brook, Richard and Christine Ray won the *Green Point Swiss Teams* at Guildford. Bob Mott – Ann Sharples came 7th= in the *Swiss Pairs*.

John Gardner – Margot Wilson came 3rd= in the *Pairs* at the *West of England Congress*.

Ann Sharples, Bob Mott, Helen Ackroyd and Martin Brook have reached the last sixteen of the *Hubert Phillips Bowl*.

**Diary dates:** Dec 12, Chope Salver Mixed Pairs; Jan 9, Frost Rose Bowl Swiss Teams; both at the Allendale Community Centre.

## Essex

[www.essexbridge.co.uk](http://www.essexbridge.co.uk)



SADLY, we have to announce the death of our Vice President, Teddy Schram, at the age of 102 years. Teddy, with her late husband, Maurice, was responsible for the development of bridge in the south east of the county, and was instrumental in setting up the first clubs in this area. She received the Dimmie Fleming award in 1985 for services to bridge, and was still playing well into her nineties.

Several Essex players had some good results in recent *One-day Swiss Teams*. The *Herts* event was won by Winnie Godber, John Stimson and team-mates, with the team of Len Williams, Angela Spittal, Dave Brace and Eric Field fin-

## ENGLISH JOURNALIST WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Congratulations to Brian Senior on first reporting a deal from the 10th European Junior Pairs (held last July in Opatja, Croatia), that won the Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year Award from the International Bridge Press Association.

## Landmark Master Point Promotions

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Jean Walters

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Mr M Ayres

ishing in fourth place, having won all their matches. In the *Surrey* event, Jacek Lapszys, Manny Marks and team-mates finished in second place. In the *Essex/Herts Green-pointed Weekend*, Jill Hair – Paddy Murray finished 5th in the *Swiss Pairs*, and Sandy Riach, Robert Elliott and team-mates were 4th in the *Swiss Teams*.

At the *Felixstowe Congress*, Theo Todman – Colin Scott, won the *Open Pairs*.

*Autumn Seniors*: 1. Alan Cohen – Bob Hair, 2. Winnie Godber – John Stimson, 3. Catriona Lovett – Mike Harbour.

**Diary dates**: Dec 3, Mixed Pairs. Jan 9, Swiss Pairs. Jan 14, National Pairs Heat. Jan 23, Play with an Expert.

## Gloucestershire

[www.gcba.org.uk](http://www.gcba.org.uk)



WE were all delighted that Ann Swanell and Derek Rue were awarded the Dimmie Fleming award by the EBU (see page 26.) This was richly deserved for their years of service to bridge in Gloucestershire, for which we are all grateful.

Why not make your New Year resolution to come and try out the GCBA competitions? The *Winter Swiss Pairs* starts on January 3 and the new *League* season on January 10. All are very welcome and you will be playing against people of a similar standard to yourself. If you need help with a partner or team-mates contact the Chief Tournament Director. Full dates on the website.

Also a great fun event on February 20, the *Cotswold Cup*. Enter as a pair, get drawn with another pair, and see how you get on. Teams get auctioned, so you have two chances to win. It's very enjoyable, with brunch and tea, and the money raised goes to charity. Help make this year's competition our biggest and best yet.

Peggy Phillips, Angela Hall, Ann Wilkinson and Alan Wearmouth won the *Steve Darke Salver*, a competition where three players team up with an expert. Norah Allen – Anne Swannell won the *County Ladies' Pairs* and Dan McIntosh – Patrick Shields the *Men's*. Wendy and Joe Angseesing, with Alan Wearmouth and Tony Hill, were victorious in the *Everett Cup* by one victory point.

Congratulations to Dan McIntosh for being part of the England Under-21 silver medal winning team at the *Youngsters* event in the Philadelphia *World Championships* (see page 22).

## Hants and IoW

[www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/)



THE *Surrey Green-pointed Swiss Events* in September resulted in some successes for HIWCBA members.

Helen Ackroyd, Martin Brook, Christine and Richard Ray won the *Teams* event, and Steve Auchterlonie and out of county partner won the *Pairs*. Congratulations to them and the

following winners in county events.

A very late finish to last year's *Cahalan Cup* resulted in a win for Madeline Lawson's team of Eleanor Rice, Stuart Strachan, John Jones, Mac Nurmohamed and Sula Turpin. They had been waiting for two months for the other side of the draw to catch up so that the finals could be played. It appears that teams of only four players often find it hard to find dates that they can all manage, so perhaps extra members make dates easier to organise.

*Harrop (Mixed Teams)*: 1. Richard Ray, Gary Reynolds, Christine Ray, Owen Lee; 2. Helen Kinloch, Tony Page, Lesley Lewis, Dave Willis. *Men's Pairs*: 1. Roger Johnson – Tim Parlour, 2. Dave Willis – Keith Bennett. *Ladies' Pairs*: 1. Sonia Blandy – Georgie Dalton, 2. Ann Tranter – Maureen Parlour. *Lincoln Salver (Mixed Pairs)*: 1. Christine and Richard Ray. *Simmons Vase (Married Pairs)*: 1. Christine and Richard Ray. *Simmons Plate (Unmarried Mixed Pairs)*: Eleanor Rice – Stuart Strachan.

**Diary dates**: Dec 5, Bloxham Open Swiss Teams. Dec 19, Yuletide Mini-Swiss Teams. Jan 16, Midwinter Mini-Swiss Teams. Jan 30, Candlestick Swiss Pairs (1pm start). Feb 13, Valentine Swiss Teams. All the above will be played at Romsey starting at 2pm unless otherwise listed. Entries to Lillian Craigen at [lillian.craigen@sky.com](mailto:lillian.craigen@sky.com) or ☎ 023 8025 4276.

## Herefordshire

[www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk)

THE *Green Point Weekend* (held jointly with the Gloucestershire BA at Ross-on-Wye) was scheduled for the first time in September rather than June. The *Swiss Pairs* (with 72 entries) was won by Jette and Alan Bailey from Devon with the best Herefordshire pair being Carol Malim – Lin Bennett. The *Swiss Teams* (with 35 entries) was won by Arthur Williams, Dodo Georgevic, Sue Lane and Marion Wilson from Worcestershire with Chris Chowney, Ben Britton, Mike Ralph and George Barrett the best Herefordshire team.

Although only eight teams have entered the *KO Teams* competition this year, there are nineteen teams contesting the *Inter-Club Teams League* which will be played over five rounds. Birches A shared the lead with Wyese B after the first round.

Ben Britton, Mike Ralph, John Thacker and George Barrett were 12th in the *West of England Congress Swiss Teams*.

Tom Paske won a World Silver Medal for the second time – this time as a member of the England Under-21 Team in the *Youngsters* event at the *World Bridge Series* in Philadelphia (see page 22).

**Diary dates**: Jan 21, Inter-Club Teams League Round 3, Ledbury, 7pm. Feb 8, National Pairs Qualifying Heat, Saxon Hall, Hereford, 7pm (please contact Hereford Bridge Club ☎ 01989 566326). Feb 15th, Mixed Pairs for the Ray Paul Salver, Bartestree, 7pm. Feb 26th, Club Teams of Eight for the Chadd Shield, Tarrington, 10.30am.

## Isle of Man

[www.manxbridgeunion.org](http://www.manxbridgeunion.org)



VISITORS dominated most of the competitions at the 44th annual *Isle of Man Bridge Congress* recently held in Douglas.

The only Manx success came during the first session on Friday afternoon, when Andy Elliott – John Stewart won the *Open Pairs*. Also on Friday afternoon Nick and Sue Woodcock were the first successful visitors when they won the *Mixed Pairs*. The *Swiss Pairs*, contested over three evenings, was won convincingly by David Stevenson – Liz Commins from the Wirral. The *Swiss Teams*, contested over two afternoons, was a keenly fought affair with the honours finally going to the Sheffield-led team of Sandy Davies, David Waxman, Tom Gisborne and Richard Pike. The events were well run by John Pyner, on his debut as Director of the Manx Congress, and the silverware and prizes were presented by Chairman of the Manx Bridge Union, John Large. Because of a clash of dates with the *Commonwealth Youth Games* which are to be held on the Island in 2011, next year's Congress will be held a little later than usual – on the second weekend in October.

Two major local competitions will have been decided by the time this magazine is printed: the *Island Championship Pairs* and the *Island Championship Teams*, held respectively on October 24 and November 14. Results will be included in the next issue. In the meantime, full details are accessible on the website. The third of the trio of Championships – the *Handicapped Pairs* – will be held on January 9.

## Kent

[www.kcba.org.uk](http://www.kcba.org.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Malcolm Lewis – Steve Auchterlonie, winners of the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Surrey Green-pointed Weekend*. They also came 3rd in

the *Swiss Teams* with Dave McVey – Mark Benson.

Clemency Schofield – Malcolm Lewis won the *Dyer-Smith Cup*, Kent Mixed Pairs' Championship; Mike Finch – Molly Freeman were 2nd; the *Hunter Cup* for the highest-placed married pair was won by Pat and Bernie Waters. Well done to all.

Congratulations to Keith Godfrey – Keith Gravestock, winners of the EBU *Tuesday Autumn Simultaneous Pairs*; 2nd were Bill Gardner – Nes Charles. Val Frearson – Susan Alley won the *Welsh Thursday Autumn Simultaneous Pairs*.

The preliminary heats of the Kent Pairs Championship for the *Larsky Cup* are now being played. Check the KCBA website calendar for the various venues. The final takes place in April.

**Diary dates**: Sunday Jan 10, Fleming Femina, Kent Ladies' Pairs Championship, and Hunter Homines, Kent Men's Pairs Championship, Tunbridge Wells, 11am. Sunday Feb 6, County Teams of Eight Competitions Qualifier (Corbett



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Cup, incorporating the Corbett Plate and Mitchell Salver.) Sunday Feb 20, County Teams of Eight Competitions Final (venue for these competitions to be confirmed).

## Lancashire

[www.lancsbridge.co.uk](http://www.lancsbridge.co.uk)



IN the *Northern Bridge League*, Lancashire A finished fourth out of four teams, Lancashire B second out of eight teams and Lancashire C fourth out of eight teams.

*Bolton Congress: Ladies' Pairs:* 1. Sue Whittam – Wyn Sutherland; *Men's Pairs:* 1. Nick and Andrew Woodcock; *Championship Pairs:* 1. David Tobias – Bernard Kaye; *Championship Teams:* 1. Alex and Tony Wilkinson, Adam Skalski and Philip Stephens.

*LCBA Mixed Pairs:* 1. Nick and Sue Woodcock. *Pendle Witch Pairs:* 1. Ian Kane – Ken Hassell.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Lytham Rose Bowl, Lytham Bridge Club. Dec 19, Santa Claus Pairs, Manchester Bridge Club. Jan 8-9, Manchester CBA Congress, Renaissance Hotel, Manchester. Jan 15 LCBA Butler Pairs, Brierfield. Feb 6, LCBA Championship Pairs, Blackburn Bridge Club.

## Leicestershire

[www.leicsbridge.org.uk](http://www.leicsbridge.org.uk)



THE *Otto & Edith Bowl* (Mixed Pairs) was won by Kerri Nash – Simon Stokes, with Sheila and Brian Stockdale 2nd and holders Gary Duddle – Irene Krantz 3rd. Sheila and Brian Stockdale, together with Panna Shah – Raj Shah are the *Midland Fitch Qualifiers*. The latter pair also won the non-expert prize.

The *Samani Salver* (Summer Knock-out Cup) was won by Hinckley A (Bill Hood, Nick Stevens, Mike Deakin and Martin Wilson), who defeated Melton in the final. The corresponding *Samani Silver Plate* competition was won by Golf (Tony Norman, Peter Recordon, Peter Travers and Bill Grindley), who overcame Blaby B in their final.

Brian Marlow – John Milne are the current leaders of the *Stanley Trophy* after just one round, with Roman Gembicki – Wojtek Charemza in second place.

Congratulations to Pat Watson who, partnered by Carolyn Fisher of Warwickshire, came second in the *Ladies' Pairs* competition in the recent *Guernsey Congress*; they were one half of the team placed 3rd in the *Multiple Teams*.

County results: September 5 vs Oxfordshire (away): 1st team lost 9-11, 2nd team lost 9-11, 3rd team lost 5-15. October 11 vs Derbyshire (home): 1st team won 15-5, 2nd team lost 2-18, 3rd team lost 2-18.

**Diary dates:** Dec 8, Stanley Trophy Round 3, Glenfield. Dec 12, Midland League vs Stafford, Rothley Centre. Jan 9, Midland League 7 vs Lincolnshire, away. Jan 12, Josephs Bowl Round of 16, Blaby. Jan 26, Stanley Trophy Round 4, Glenfield. Jan 26, Wilde Cup, CBC. Jan 31, LCBA National Pairs Heat, Rothley Centre.

## Lincolnshire

[www.lincsbridge.org.uk](http://www.lincsbridge.org.uk)



THE start of the new season has been disappointing. The *Vincents* on September 26 (*Men's and Ladies' Pairs*) had the lowest turn-out ever, 4.5 tables for each. *Men's* winners were Mike Grant – John Brocklehurst, runners-up Andrew Green – Roy Hughes. *Ladies'*: Brigid Hughes – Sylvia Bunton, runners-up Drene Brown – Mo Parsons.

Up-to-date news, results and competitions can be viewed on the county website.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Ghost Pairs; scores are compared with a 'Ghost' Pair and it is good fun; no pre-entry needed. Jan 16, Bainton Semi-final; Heats at clubs. Jan 30, Swiss Teams; pre-entry essential; tea included. Feb 13, Bainton Final; this is a County green-pointed event.

All the above are held at Dunholme Village Hall for 1.30pm start.

## London

[www.metrobridge.co.uk](http://www.metrobridge.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Gunnar Hallberg who won Gold in the *Rand Cup*, the World Seniors Teams; to Zia Mahmood who won Silver in the *Rosenblum Cup*, the World Open Teams – and to the other London members who did well in other events in the recent *World Championships* in Philadelphia, especially Andrew Robson, Tom Townsend and David Bakhshi, all of whom reached the finals of the *World Open Pairs*. Well done to Susanna Gross who was a member of the *Whitelaw Cup* winning team in the *National Women's Teams*. Also to David Gold and Olivia Woo who won the *Pre-Congress Pairs* and were third in the *Mixed Pairs* at the *Crete Congress*; Ken Barnett and Chantal Girardin, who won the *Herts One-Day Swiss Teams*; and Lorna Vestey, Martin Baker and Dave Strawbridge who were 3rd in the *Surrey One-Day Swiss Teams*.

County results: *Mixed Pairs Championship:* 1. Ryan Stephenson – Liz Clerly, 2. Richard Johnson – Heather Bakhshi, 3. Rob Cliffe – Heather Dhondy. *Champions' Cup:* 1. Berks & Bucks (Mike Perkins, Ian Reissman, Chris Cooper, Ben Paske); 2. YC3 (holders) (David Ould, Mike Hill, Rolf Alexander, Bill Hodgkiss); 3. TGR Super League (Sarah Dunn, Dom Goodwin, David Ewart, Tom Townsend).

**Diary dates:** Jan 16, Ian Gardiner Trophy, London Teams of Four Championship, YCBC, 11.30am; contact Sati McKenzie [sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com](mailto:sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com) or ☎ 020 7627 0977. Jan 29, Palmer Bayer Trophy, No Fear Pairs, YCBC, 1.00 pm; contact Chris Duckworth [chris.duckworth@lineone.net](mailto:chris.duckworth@lineone.net) or ☎ 020 7385 3534. Feb 20, London Championship Pairs, YCBC, 1.00pm; contact Nigel Freaake [gelohnake@waitrose.com](mailto:gelohnake@waitrose.com) or ☎ 030 8801 2884.

## Manchester

[www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/](http://www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/)



WITHOUT doubt, the biggest news is the second *World Championship* win for Paul Hackett and John Holland in the *World Transnational Seniors Teams* which took place in Philadelphia in October. Wonderful news also regarding the *Under-21s* team captained by Michael Byrne, which received a late call to play in the *Youngsters World Championship* and ended up with a silver medal!

*Northern Bridge League:* the final round of the 2010 season saw the Division A title go, once more, to Manchester. In the *National Finals* held in the summer for winners of County Leagues, Manchester were 2nd in the A Division (again), but the Manchester team of Ian Kane, Kenneth Hassell, John and Pauline Rudolf, Eve Lighthill, Sidney Travers, John Roberts, and Fred Bell won the B Division.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester made a Civic Visit to Manchester Bridge Club on 23rd September (see page 37).

Bill Hirst, John Hassett, John Holland, Michelle Brunner, Michael Byrne and Michael Bell are through to the quarter-finals of the *Gold Cup* after beating Paul Hackett's team.

*County Newcomers League*, first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, Manchester Bridge Club; eight teams playing – additional players welcome!

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Ben Franks Pairs, Manchester Bridge Club, 1pm. Dec 19, Santa Claus Pairs, Manchester Bridge Club, 2pm. Jan 8th and 9, Manchester County Congress, Renaissance Hotel Manchester; entries to Jeff Smith, e-mail [jasmith@nildram.co.uk](mailto:jasmith@nildram.co.uk) or ☎ 0161 702 3773; Pairs on Sat (1pm start), Teams on Sunday (11am start), Novice events each day. Jan 20, National Pairs Qualifier, Manchester Bridge Club, 7.30pm. Jan 23, Gazette Cup (teams of eight), 1pm.

## Merseyside/Cheshire

[www.mcba.org.uk](http://www.mcba.org.uk)



THE *Merseyside Bridge League* season kicked off with a two-session *Swiss Teams* event. The run-away winners were Dusty Millers Blue who won all of their matches comfortably.

Congratulations to Bernard Kaye, who with partner David Tobias of Manchester, won the *Pairs* event at the *Bolton Congress* in early September.

The *Merseyside Anniversary Teams* event was won by Joan King, Gill O'Neill, David Howe, Chris Whaley.

David Stevenson – Peter Kaufmann were winners of the *Teams* event at the *NI Spring Congress* with team-mates Robert Burns and Ian Lindsay (both NI). David was back in Northern Ireland for the *Autumn Congress*, partnering Liz Commins, and they finished 2nd in the *Teams* with Ciar Burns (NI) and Liz McGowan (Scotland). David and Liz Commins were also successful in the *Isle of Man Congress*, winning the *Pairs*.

The leading three places in the *North*



## Landmark Master Point Promotions

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Mr SJ Matthews

#### Regional Master

Mr P Holt

#### Master

Miss KE Beckett

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#### Regional Master

Mrs RI Emanuel

Mr M Gentry

Mrs E Nelson

#### Master

Mrs S Benson

Mrs H Jessen

Mrs M Jolliffe

Mrs R Shah

Mrs MC Simpkin

Mr R Spencer

Mrs A Swietochowski

### Norfolk

#### Regional Master

Mrs J Aylett

#### Master

Mr CG Bugden

Mr ND Tracey

### North East

#### Life Master

Mrs J Springett

#### Regional Master

Mrs M Cannon

Mr R Cuerden

Mrs HMR Hardy

Mrs J Lormor

Mr B Lumsden

Mrs DA Turner

#### Master

Mrs J Musson

Mr D Seymour

Mr J Taylor

Mr A Thwaites

### Northamptonshire

#### Regional Master

Eric Parsons

#### Master

Mrs M Watson

### Nottinghamshire

#### Regional Master

Mrs M Savage

Mr P Savage

#### Master

Mr D Dobbie

Ms A McLintock

Mr JR Pearson

Mr S Spencer

Mrs W Walker

### Oxfordshire

#### Regional Master

Mr JA Clacey

Wales Autumn Swiss Pairs were all taken by players from the Deva BC, with Paul Roberts – David Flacks the winners with a 77% score.

This year's Chester Bowl Charity Pairs was won by David Flacks – Julian Merrill. The proceeds from the event went to the NSPCC.

Issue No. 2 of the revived county newsletter is now available from either the county website or by e-mailing the editor [bob.pitts1@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.pitts1@btinternet.com).

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Merseyside Cup, MBC. Jan 10-11-12 BGB Sim Pairs, Clubs (MBC Jan 10). Jan15-16, Chester Congress, Deva BC. Feb 6, County Trials, MBC. Feb13, Merseyside & Deeside Cup (Pivot Teams), MBC. Feb 20, Jean Keen Trophy (Women's Teams), MBC. March 10, Charity Challenge, MBC. March 13, Eric Howarth Cup (Green Point Teams), Deva BC. Apr 3, Preece Rosebowl (Women's Pairs), Blundellsands BC. Apr 17, Charity Teams, MBC.

### Middlesex

[www.middlesexbridge.co.uk](http://www.middlesexbridge.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Shivam Shah who was part of the English Under-21 Team that won a silver medal in the *World Championships* in Philadelphia (see page 22).

In the *Metropolitan Cup*, the A Team of Tim Stanley-Clamp, Ben Ritacca, Steve Capal, Ivor Miller, Richard Hillman, Francis Morton, Peter Hasenson, John Vos, Jerry Harouni, Uday Hegde, Anne Rosen and Catherine Seale finished 2nd behind Surrey. The B Team finished 7th in their competition and the two C Teams finished 3rd and 8th in their competition.

Congratulations to Catherine Seale for winning the *Women's Teams* (for the second year running). Nevena Senior came second in the *Swiss Teams*.

In the *Bedfordshire Congress Teams* Gill Walker, Harry Silverman and Rosella Emanuel were part of the winning team, while Jacqui Tobias – Frank Wharton won the *Pairs* event.

Well done to Ian Pagan who finished second in the *Surrey Swiss Pairs*.

In the *Middlesex Newcomers Pairs*, Arti and Anil Lakhani finished first with Seema and Nagin Khajuria 2nd.

**Diary dates:** Dec 12, Ranked Masters Teams, Oshwal Bridge Club, 2pm; Jan 16, Middlesex Club Championship Teams of Eight, Eastman's, 1pm. Throughout December, January and February there are numerous qualifying heats for the National Pairs, the Middlesex Mixed Pairs and the Middlesex Championship Pairs. The County website has an extensive competitions calendar.

### Norfolk

[www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/)



THE County teams in the *East Anglian Counties League* are having a tough time this year. Against Suffolk the A, B and C teams all lost 5-15, 8-12 and 9-11. Bedfordshire were equally

severe, Norfolk A losing 0-20 and the C team losing 7-13. The B team saved the whitewash by drawing 10-10. There will be a brighter day tomorrow, folks.

A highly successful summer *Open Pairs* programme concluded with Peter and Margaret Smith winning the last event, a fitting result since Peter and Margaret were mainly responsible for the excellent organisation and scoring of the series.

Mike Walsh – David Newstead won the *YMCA Trophy*. The *Barbara Dick-Cleland Trophy* was won by Geraldine Bullimore – Tony Leggate and the *Buxton Trophy* went to Elena Kulinskaya – Ben Roberts.

The *Norfolk Championship Teams* was won by Roger Amey, Gerard Faulkner, David Newstead and Mike Whiting. The *Allwood-Wharton Club Teams of Eight* went to the Norfolk and Norwich A team (David Newstead, Roger Amey, Mike Walsh, Matt Milson, Mike and Barbara Harnden, Nigel Block, Mervyn Scutter, Allan Hourd, Robbie Roberson, Gabriel and Giles Ip, Peter and Helen Gaskin, and Neil and Laura Tracey). This team will represent Norfolk in the *Garden City Trophy*.

**Diary date:** Jan 16, Beccles Swiss Teams, Lodden; details and entry form from Peter Rowlett ☎ 01956 875011. County events are posted on the Norfolk website.

### North East

[www.neba.co.uk](http://www.neba.co.uk)



IT is with great sadness that we have to report that Ian Muir passed away in September. His obituary is on page 42.

The *NEBA Senior Pairs* was won by Bill Brumby – Jacqui Taylor and the *NEBA Swiss Pairs* was won by Liz Reese – Bob Watts. Further afield Margaret and Clive Owen won the first *Westmorland One-day Green Point Event*.

The Hurworth B team of David Broadhead, Damien Hassan, Clive Owen, Chris Owen, Malcolm Oliver and Martin Kane reached the final of the *NICKO Plate* where they lost to a Young Chelsea team.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Niman-Israel. Jan 9, Deane Salver.

### Northamptonshire

[www.northantsbridge.info/](http://www.northantsbridge.info/)

THE *Eden Cup* competition was won by Kevin Fogarty – Leszek Lubaszewski. In 2nd place, and winning the *Murchie Lerner Trophy* for the leading non-expert pair, were Hugh Williams – Brent Hill. These two pairs will represent Northants in the *Corwen*. The second prize for non-experts was won by Gill Webb – Brian Churchill. Session one winners were Maggie Jones – Jim Bainbridge, with Mary and Terry Knights winning the second session.

There have been two matches this season in the Eastern Counties League. The A team have won both their matches 13-7, the B team have won 18-2 and lost 7-13, the C team have lost 8-12

with the other match not taking place.

Robert Miller finished second in the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs*. Orton Bridge Club members Jillian and Stuart Martin played in the *Really Easy Autumn Break*, finishing the top North-South pair on both Friday and Saturday night, and 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs*.

Kettering Bridge Club's *Porch Trophy* will take place on Sunday, December 5. This is a two-session Swiss pairs event. Entries to Colin Tuton.

**Diary dates:** Sun Dec 5, Porch Trophy, Kettering. Sat Dec 11, Saturday Winter League, Stamford. Wed Dec 15, Wednesday Winter League, Northampton. Sat Jan 8, Saturday Winter League, Stamford. Wed Jan 19, Wednesday Winter League, Northampton.

### Nottinghamshire

[www.nottsbridge.org.uk](http://www.nottsbridge.org.uk)

IN the *County Match* against Derbyshire, Notts 1st and 2nd teams both lost 0-20, but the 3rd team, including the four young players Daniel Crook, Alex Allen, Simon Spencer and Ankush Khandelwal, won 16-4.

The *Notts Swiss Pairs Championship* was won by John Auld – Keith Rodgers, with Irene Auld – Lloyd Eagling 2nd. John and Irene Auld were 3rd, out of 75 pairs, in the *Derbyshire Green-point Swiss Pairs*. *Black Cup*: 1. John and Irene Auld, 2. Ellen Overton – Lloyd Eagling. *Farr Cup*: 1. William and Daniel Crook, 2. David Burgess – Gordon Fullerton.

In the 'Two Counties' events v Derbyshire, Notts won overall, Gambit, Woodborough and Nottingham Mechanics winning the 1st, 2nd and 3rd divisions respectively.

**Diary dates:** the full calendar is available on the website. On Wednesdays the President's Cup continues until the Christmas Party on Dec 15, followed by a pairs event on Dec 22 and an Individual event on Dec 29. On Jan 5, the Spring Event commences, interrupted by a BGB Simultaneous Pairs on Jan 12 and the National Pairs Heat on Feb 9. The NCBA Mixed Pairs is on Sunday Jan 9 and the Heat of the Team of Four Knock-out Championship is on Jan 23. (Enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 9232186.)

### Oxfordshire

[www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk)



IN recognition of Bill McCarthy's outstanding service to the county (serving as its Tournament Secretary for many years, Secretary of Thame Bridge Club until recently, and President of Aylesbury Bridge Club) he was presented with the prestigious Dimmie Fleming award at the EBU AGM (see page 27).

After the first weekend of the *England Premier League* Round 1, Chris Cooper's team, which included Alan Wilson and Nick Smith, were 2nd in the 'B' division; they are 4th after the second weekend.

A further outstanding result at the *Brighton Congress* was the performance of Andrew Murphy, with his team reaching 6th place in the *Four Stars A Final*. In addition, Andrew, Bryony

## Landmark Master Point Promotions

Dr C Whelan  
Mrs J Whelan  
Mrs I Woods

### Master

Mr T Dawn  
Mr CM Dobson  
Mrs J Gasking  
Ms YC Lee  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms H Strang

### Somerset

### Life Master

Mr JB Greenwood

### Master

Mrs MJ Dommett

### Staffs & Shrops

### Master

Mrs Marion Adams

### Suffolk

### Life Master

Mr G Beeton

### Regional Master

Mr MJ Del-Bo

Mr J Price

### Master

Mr D Cairns  
Stella Hjaltun  
Mr Michael Jude  
Mrs MR Knight  
Mrs G Winkworth

### Surrey

### Life Master

Mrs MA Lewsey

### Regional Master

Mr A Bannock  
Mrs SA Chandler  
Mr A Moon  
Mrs KB Tompsett

### Master

Mrs Betty Balding  
Mrs A Borthwick  
Diana Cook  
Mr Douglas Cook  
Mrs KM Evans  
Mrs AM Humphrey  
Mrs Mollie Jensen  
Mrs MI McMichael  
Mr R Middleton  
Mr Bob Page  
Mr DJ Pain  
Mrs B Pain  
Mr M Piper  
Mrs F Wallace  
Mr R Wheen  
Mrs W Young

### Sussex

### Life Master

Mr D Park

### Regional Master

Mr S Ackroyd  
Mr A Gardiner  
Mrs G Peppercorn  
Mr MC Read

### Master

Mrs ME Adkin  
Mr S Ash

Youngs and team-mates excelled in the *Mid-week Pivot Teams*, finishing as runners-up out of sixty teams.

Sixty juniors entered the EBU's three-day *Training Camp* at Loughborough University. Winners of the main *Pairs* event were Freddie Illingworth and partner.

Winners of the September *Seniors Pairs* were Norman Gascoyne – Colin Jones, with Amanda Potter – Michael Lucas winning in October.

Congratulations to Chris Cooper, Tim Dickinson and Nick Smith on their victory over a team of science fiction writers in BBC4's *Only Connect* quiz.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Swiss Pairs, Oxford BC. Dec 9, OBA Management Committee meeting, Oxford BC. Dec 12, Midlands League v Nottinghamshire (away). Jan 9, Midlands League v Derbyshire (away). Jan 16, Oxfordshire Golfprint heat, Oxford BC and Haddenham Swiss Teams, Haddenham. Jan 23, Harwell Cup (also qualifier for the Beck Cup), Oxford BC. Jan 25, Pro-Am, Oxford BC.

## Somerset

[www.somersetbridge.org.uk](http://www.somersetbridge.org.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS to Sheila Coda, Jackie Waters, Gina Howard and Sheena Lanham who were runners-up at the *National Women's Teams* competition.

Our County *Paul Jones* competition was won by Eric Cummings, Graham Heal and Gina and David Howard. Congratulations to them and to the runners-up, Chris Jones, Sheila Coda, Jackie Waters and Heinz Brunsch, and to the team that came 3rd: Tom Gibbard, Marion Blackhall, Patrick Cartwright and Barbara Parker.

Our congress at *Weston-Super-Mare* was as successful as ever and enjoyed by all. Many thanks must go to Ann Bawdon for all her hard work and to all the many others who contributed to its success. All the results can be found on our county website.

**Diary dates:** Jan 8, County Swiss Pairs, Woolavington. Feb 20, Yeovil Swiss Teams, West Camel.

## Staffs and Shrops

[www.staffsandshrops.org.uk](http://www.staffsandshrops.org.uk)



TETTENHALL Bridge Club celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding with an excellent lunch. Afterwards members and guests played for the *Anniversary Trophy*, which was won by Roma Smith – Linda Glasscock.

Jim Marchant won Wolverhampton's *Individual* competition. The County teams lost their Dawes matches against Warwickshire but won two of their three matches against Gloucester. In October, Shrewsbury Bridge Club played for the first time in the *County's Inter-club Simultaneous Pairs*, which was won by a Shrewsbury pair, D. Smith – Roger Bowles.

Congratulations to Paul Hackett on winning his second world championship (see page 21).

## Suffolk

[www.suffolkbridge.co.uk](http://www.suffolkbridge.co.uk)



SUFFOLK'S annual *Felixstowe Congress* was a great success again this year.

Thanks to all those who took part, and congratulations to the main prize-winners: *Swiss Teams*: 1. Gabriel Ip, Giles Ip, David Wing and Adrian Scheps (104 VPs); 2. Peter Brown, Keith Manley, David Haig Thomas and Peter Markwell (92 VPs); 3. Jane and Andrew Moore, David and Jenny Price (90 VPs). *Pairs Championship*: 1. Jackie Davies – Chris Smart (65.8%), 2. Andrew and Anne Stimson (58.6%), 3. Graham and Malcolm Pollack (56.0%). *Consolation Pairs*: 1. Keith Ashcroft – John Griffiths (68.8%), 2. Anne Segal – Frank Morrison (58.3%). *Open Pairs*: 1. Theo Todman – Colin Scott (66.5%), 2. Colin Bamberger – Robert Green (64.2%).

Other competitions: the *Suffolk Men's Pairs* was won by a comfortable margin by Julian Lang – David Morran (123 MPs) from Richard Evans – Nick Farr (103 MPs); Paul Whetton – Ralph Parish, and Rick Hanley – Jeff Orton tied for third place close behind (102 MPs). Maria Allnutt – Debbie Sutcliffe won the *Ladies' Pairs* (121 MPs) from Jenny Morley – Alison Head (111 MPs) and Anne Wilmer – Caroline Gemmell (106 MPs).

In the *Eastern Counties League* all three Suffolk teams won against Norfolk (A 15-5, B 12-8 and C 11-9) and all by turning around the result in the last eight boards. The Suffolk B and C teams also won against Hertfordshire (13-7 and 16-4 respectively), but the A team lost (3-17).

**Diary dates:** Sunday Dec 5, Championship Teams of Four, Ipswich Indoor Bowls Club, 2pm. Sunday Jan 23, Mid Anglia Pairs, Risbygate, 2pm. Sunday Feb 13, Jyl Marsh Individual, Framlingham, 2pm.

## Surrey

[www.surreycountybridge.org.uk](http://www.surreycountybridge.org.uk)

CONGRATULATIONS to the Surrey team (Mike Scoltock, Brian Powell, Ian Swanson, Ken Ford, Mike Ellis, Paul Mumford, Bob James, Tony Eastgate, Anthony Moon, Arun Suri, Peter Lee,

Bob McRobert) who won the *Metropolitan Cup A Flight*. Another Surrey team were runners up in the *B Flight*.

At the *Surrey Green Point Weekend* in Guildford Janet Cahm – Marietta Andree were runners-up in the *Swiss Pairs*, following on the heels of their win in the *Ladies' Pairs* at the *Guernsey Congress*. 5th place in the *Swiss Teams* went to the highest-placed Surrey team of Mike Skelly, Tony Fincham, Rob Simpson and Michele Lundqvist.

At the EBU *Overseas Congress in Crete* Angela McCready – Christine Dyer were runners up in the *Swiss Pairs*.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Ladies'/Men's Pairs, Oxshott. Dec 12, Teams of Four, Blethchingley. Jan 9, Senior Pairs, Oxshott. Jan 16, Affiliated Clubs Teams of 8, Richmond. Jan 30, Mixed Pairs, Old Woking. Please contact Frances Trebble ☎ 01252 679883 for further details or book via the website.

## Sussex

[www.sccba.co.uk](http://www.sccba.co.uk)



*METROPOLITAN Cup*: in Division 'C', Sussex were first with Peter Brown, Joy Mayall, Yves LeBrec, Philip Hunt, Jill Armstrong, Liz Hoskins, Richard Newton and Andy Ryder. In Division

'B', Sussex were 2nd, and in Division 'A' Sussex were 3rd.

*Autumn Congress results: Mixed Pairs*: 1. Eddie Lucioni – Jean Smallwood, 2. Jeremy Willans – Jill Skinner. *Venture Pairs*: 1. Richard Lowe – Sheridan Stevens, 2. Brian Gould – Brenda Linfield. *Pairs Final*: 1. Jeremy Willans – Jill Skinner, 2. George Phillips – Valerie Frearson. *Pairs Secondary Final*: 1. Mary Oates – Alan Jeffery, 2. Roger Pyart – Tilly Hennings. *Swiss Teams*: 1. Yves Le Brec, Anthony Whiteway, John Jackson, Leon Northeast; 2. Jill Skinner, Jeremy Willans, Michael Prior, Keith Ashcroft.

Congratulations to Hazel Beveridge, David Williams, Doug and Jackie Jay, who won the *Surrey Green Point 'B' Flight Swiss Teams*.

We are very proud of Peter Langston who was awarded the Dimmie Fleming Award for services to bridge at club and county level. He was one of ten people to be given this award in 2010 (see page 27).

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

BASINGSTOKE Bridge Club's oldest member, Miriam Walpole, celebrated her 95th birthday on Sunday 24th October. At the club on the previous Friday she was presented with a birthday cake and bouquet of flowers.

Miriam is a wonderful lady: 95 years young, she plays bridge twice a week at the club and has many other interests. These include scrabble, poetry, music, sport on television and mathematics, of which she was a teacher. She learned to play bridge in 1932 at the age of 17 and has enjoyed the game ever since. All her friends at Basingstoke wish her health, happiness and many happy returns.



Photo: Helen Kinloch



## Landmark Master Point Promotions

Mr M Cooper  
Mr A Eames  
Mrs I Field  
Mr SE Fishburn  
Mr C Graham-Hyde  
Mr Roy Greenbaum  
Mr Russell Gross  
Mr K Hotchkiss  
Dr M Howes  
Mrs AM Hunt  
NM Derek Jones  
Mr MJ Kennedy  
Ms KL Lyons  
Mr Ian Paul  
Mrs Valerie Paul  
Mrs J Sibson

### Warwickshire Regional Master

Peter HP Jones  
Mr S Rutter  
Roger Saines

### Master

Mrs A Carmichael  
Mr J Kimberley  
Mrs J Miller  
Mrs BD Parker  
Mrs M Pinner  
Mr C Shepherd  
Mr R Thomas

### Westmorland

### Master

Mrs DA Atkinson  
Mrs SJ Howse  
Mr CJ Wilkinson

### Wiltshire

### Regional Master

Dr W Simpson

### Master

Miss ES Helme

### Worcestershire

### Regional Master

Dr M Heard

Mr C R Moore

Mrs A Phillips

### Master

Mrs GJ Solomon  
Mr RC Whittington  
Mr D Williams

### Yorkshire

### Premier Grand Master

Mrs J Latham

Mr EP Latham

### Life Master

Mrs N Mayo

### Regional Master

Mrs JM Whiteley

### Master

Mrs B Baxter

Mr K Baxter

Mrs Sylvia Bridge

Mr JR Chadwick

Mr P Green

Mrs JP Littlewood

Mr PG Meredith

Mr CR Mullins

Mr DJ Poisson

Mrs B Tree

*East Grinstead Basic Bridge Pairs:*  
1. Roger Stevens – Rita Lyford, 2. Sue Cottrell – Christina Withnell.

In the *Crete Overseas Congress* winners of the *Pivot Teams* were Ros and Geoffrey Wolfarth, Nanette and Alan Gillespie.

**Diary dates:** Dec 5, Bognor Basic Bridge Pairs. Jan 16, New Year Swiss Teams, Henfield.

## Warwickshire

[www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk)



IN this season's *Inter-county League* the Dawes team beat Worcestershire 19-1 and Staffordshire 20-0 but then lost 3-17 to Oxfordshire. The Porter team drew 10-10, won 17-3 and 16-4. The Markham team won 15-5, 16-4 and 17-3.

Sutton Coldfield B.C. and its *Edgar Foster Teams Trophy* both celebrated their 75th anniversary recently (see page 36). This year's winning team was Mike Morriss, Nick Woosnam, Barbara Wren and Anne Woosnam.

Congratulations to Sujun Kundu – Mike Leese and Steve Wood playing with Richard Winter of Yorkshire on winning the *Derbyshire Green Point Teams* event.

The *Moseley Bowl* was won by Leslie Reece, Adam Wood, Brent Wormald, Peter Oldbury.

Sixteen teams entered the *Frank Cup*; the winners were: 1. Gareth Roberts, David Kenward, Rob Helle, Roger Bryant; 2. Glyn Preece, Peter Heatherington, Ben Green, Jason Hackett; 3. Tony Poole, Tony Kundy, Gordon Clark, Peter Oldbury. The leading eight teams qualify for the County's premier knock-out teams competition for the *Goodman Cup*.

**Diary dates:** Jan 7-9, 61st Midland Counties Congress, Bank House Hotel, Bransford. Tuesday Jan 11, National Pairs heat at WMBC, 7pm. Sunday Feb 20, Garden Cities Qualifier at C. and NWBC, 1.45 pm (pre-entry via clubs).

More information from [www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk) or Sandra Squires [sandra-squires@email.com](mailto:sandra-squires@email.com).

## Westmorland

[www.bridgewebs.com/westmorland](http://www.bridgewebs.com/westmorland)



WESTMORLAND *Open Swiss Pairs* took place in September at Stonecross Manor Hotel in Kendal. Much planning had gone into the event as it was Westmorland's first green-pointed event for many a year.

One hundred and sixteen people took their places at 11am as the computer clock ticked its way down through each of the seven seven-board rounds. At the end of the event Peter Jeffreys, the Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and making the event so successful. He thanked Ken Johnson for doing such an efficient job, John Ellwood for a lot of the organisation as well as other members of the committee for their contributions.

Clive Owen thanked Westmorland for a well run tournament and

'threatened' it could be on its way to becoming a not-to-be-missed event. Indeed, it is already booked for September 25, 2011 at the Castle Green Hotel. Hope to see even more there next year.

**Prize winners:** 1. Clive and Margaret Owen, 2. John Halliwell – Charlie Colson, 3= Brian Irlam – Michael Tomlinson and Glenda Lloyd – Peter Broadman; Highest non-experts: Helene Thygesen – Sandra Bell. Westmorland's highest-ranking players were Mike Howse – Geoff Lacey (5th).

Although a very small county, consisting of only three clubs, Westmorland has managed to field teams in both the B and C sections of the *Northern League*. To their credit, they have finished in 6th and 7th position. John and Wendy Ellwood won the non-expert prize at *Scarborough*.

**Diary dates:** Dec 9 and Jan 27, County Grand Prix Night, Kendal. Sat Jan 29, County Function, Royal Windermere Yacht Club.

## Wiltshire

[www.wcba.co.uk](http://www.wcba.co.uk)



THE Wiltshire season has started with Pat Davies – Chris Dixon winning a well attended *Corsham Pairs*. Roy France – Sam Sloan were runners-up, closely followed by John Perry – Marianne Lewin 3rd.

The *Cliff Sibley* teams competition was very competitive, with winners from Swindon Club Kathy Hodgson, Keith Williamson, Bob Bannister and Andrew Law eventually pulling away from the runners-up from the Bath Club, Valerie Austwick, Pat Davies, Richard Samter and Roger Karn.

Both the *Premier* and *All Comers* leagues have played an early season round. The only observations from these matches are that both leagues will be as competitive as usual.

## Worcestershire

[www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk](http://www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk)



STEPHANIE Forward – Linda Gervis won the recent *Worcestershire Ladies' Pairs*, with Mike Willoughby – Stewart Fishburne winning the *Men's* event.

The *Irene Allen Non-Expert Swiss Pairs* has been won by Barry Brice – Roy Withers, with Angela Cowdry – Peter Adams taking the *Richard Lewis Trophy*.

Worcestershire pairs have done well in events outside the county. At the *Guernsey Congress*, Brian and Carol Varley won the *Seniors Pairs*. Arthur Williams, Dodo Georgevic, Sue Lane

and Marian Wilcox won the *Teams* event at the *Gloucestershire Green-pointed Weekend*. Martin Rees, Louie Kennedy, Alan Boyes and Bernard Palmer, representing Pershore Bridge Club, finished second in the *Shakespeare Teams*. Well done to all.

**Diary dates:** Mon Dec 6, Mixed Pairs. Mon Dec 20, Christmas Charity Swiss Teams. Jan 7-9, 61st Midland Counties Congress.

## Yorkshire

[www.ycba.freeseerve.co.uk/](http://www.ycba.freeseerve.co.uk/)



YORKSHIRE junior player Tom Rainforth was a member of the England Under-21 team, finalists in the *Youngsters* series at the *World Championships* in Philadelphia (see page 22).

The YCBA's re-launch on behalf of the EBU of the *Great Northern Swiss Pairs* proved a great success. Opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the event attracted fifty-seven tables and the winners were Sheffield pair Sandy Davies – Tom Gisborne. The previous month Sandy and Tom, with David Waxman and Richard Pike, had won the *Swiss Teams* at the *Isle of Man Congress*. Barbara Boaler – David Beresford won the *Derbyshire Green-pointed Swiss Pairs*; Richard Winter was on the winning team in the *Swiss Teams*. Agnes Blewitt, Peter Baxter and Janet and Ted Latham won the *Multiple Teams* at the *Guernsey Congress*.

A well-deserved EBU Dimmie Fleming Award was given to Ted Bond for outstanding services to bridge at county level (see page 27). Ted has served the YCBA in many capacities since the early 1980s, most recently as League and Membership Secretary.

Congratulations to Janet and Ted Latham, both promoted to Premier Grand Master.

In the *Northern League*, Yorkshire B won their division. Yorkshire A were 3rd in the top division; in the C division the NW team were 3rd and the SE team 6th.

Congratulations to the following on their performances in county events and club congresses: *Huddersfield Examiner Rose Bowl*: Heather Hobson, Pearl Murphy, Janet and Ted Latham. *Kath Grimoldby Simultaneous Pairs*: 1. John Taylor – Alice Dennison (Richmondshire); 2. Chris Boyes – Malgorzata Hirsz (Leeds); 3. Terry Marsh – Martin Brailsford (Beauchief). *Garforth Swiss Teams*: Roger Bielawski, Katja Markert, Adrian Ford, Nicholas Adamski.

**Diary dates:** Dec 19, Mixed *Pivot Teams*, New Earswick. Jan 9, Yorkshire League (fourth match). Jan 16, Yorkshire Pairs, New Earswick. Jan 23, Yorkshire League (fifth match). Jan 29, Yorkshire Schools Pairs, Harrogate. Feb 6, Doncaster Swiss Pairs. □

**DECEMBER 19 is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of *English Bridge*. Please e-mail: [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)**





Elena Jeronimidis

# A chat with the Editor

I HOPE no-one will mind if this is a shorter chat than usual, but there was just so much stuff to fit into this issue that some simply had to spill into this page.

## Master point promotions lists

Mike Kaufmann, Middlesex, writes: 'There were no Master Points promotion tables in the October 2010 magazine. Did no one go up the rankings?' The answer is that, yes, life went on much as usual, and lots of people went up the rankings, but we had warned members in the June magazine that as from the August issue we would only publish Landmark Promotions and that we would do so every other issue, to reflect the changes in the Rewards and Recognition scheme also reported on in June.

Having said that, a reminder in October would not have come amiss (*mea culpa!*) to save readers fruitless searches and disappointment. Now that the EBU has 49,000 members, there is regrettably no way we can publish *all* promotions: they would take up an extra twelve to fourteen pages, which

would mean severely slashing the number of articles currently featured. In other words, *English Bridge* would turn into a digest, and no longer be the magazine that the majority wants.

The Editorial Board, however, is keen to find a way of not disappointing members and we hope to come up with a solution as from the next issue. In the meantime, please check the promotion lists on the EBU website, where they are regularly updated.

## World success

Our Under-21s have done us proud and, having been invited at the eleventh hour to compete in the Youngsters event at the World Bridge Series held in Philadelphia, they went all the way to the final, eventually settling for a silver medal (*see report on page 22*). Three of our Seniors (*see page 21*) added a second world title in their category, playing with American team-mates.

The World Bridge Series, where all events (except for the Juniors and Youngsters) are now transnational and open to all comers,

may not be as prestigious as the world championships featuring the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, but it is a pretty tough competition, so England can be well pleased with these results.

We should also be grateful to those people who very generously responded to Michael Byrne's appeal, as Under-21s' captain, for funds to enable the team to travel to Philadelphia. Their help is very much appreciated by the team and the EBU.

## Beginner Friendly

Maureen McConkey from Southport has asked that we 'grade' our articles, so beginners can more easily find material suitable for them. I am wary of grading, as I fear it might discourage readers from dipping their toes into topics they might benefit from reading, but I think it would be great to have a 'Beginner Friendly' little logo to highlight suitable articles. If there is a talented artist out there who could help design it, I'd like to hear from you. If I use your effort, you'll receive a little prize! ☐



## How to ensure that you and your partner in life receive only one copy of *English Bridge between you* (if you so wish) . . .

- Log on to [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)
- Click on 'Member Login' (left-hand menu).
- Enter your EBU number in the 'User' box and your password in the 'Password' box (they are both on the letter you received with the June issue). Click on 'Login'.
- In the 'My Details' area, *untick* 'Receive Magazine'. Click on 'Update' – it's done!
- Make sure your partner does *not* do the same or neither will receive the magazine!



## LEARNING FROM THE STARS

AN intent kibitzer focuses on Zia Mahmood's play at the recent Lederer Trophy, organised annually by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association, where spectators are allowed to watch the great of the game at the table.

Winners this year were the *Gold Cup Team*: Alexander Allfrey, David Bakhshi, Peter Crouch, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson. Runners-up were the *Women Gold Medallists* (Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Sally Brock, Nevena Senior, Susan Stockdale, Fiona Brown) with Zia's *All Stars Team* in third place (Zia Mahmood, David Gold, Simon Gillis, Erik Saelensminde).

A parallel 'Play with the Stars' event was won by Paul White and Shirin Moazed from Hurlingham Bridge Club, and Pip Railing and Martin Jones of Andrew Robson Bridge Club.



Photo: Gordon Ransford



This charming twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards ('Monet Giverny') is the prize on offer in our series of quizzes set by Paul Hackett. For more information on the new Piatnik cards please visit [www.gibsonsgames.co.uk](http://www.gibsonsgames.co.uk).

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.

## 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. Suggestions and markings will be in the next issue. In each example you are on lead as West.



Paul Hackett

Hand 1	
♠	A Q 9 3 2
♥	9 5 3
♦	K 9 5
♣	A 9

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	2♣	4♥
4♣	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	End	

Hand 2	
♠	A K Q 10 9 6
♥	K 4
♦	10 9 6 5 2
♣	Void

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♥
4♣	5♥	End	

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

W	N	E	S
2♦	4♥	4♣	1♥
Pass	5♥	End	Pass

Entries to the Editor, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, or e-mail [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk) by December 19th, 2010.

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

## ANSWERS TO OCTOBER OPENING LEADS QUIZ

Hand 1	
♠	5 3
♥	10 9 5 3 2
♦	K Q 5
♣	9 6 2

W	N	E	S
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	End	

♦Q (10); ♦K (9); ♥3 (8); ♥10 (6).

Spades and clubs look out of the question so it all revolves around the red suits.

The advantage of leading a diamond is that you need fewer high cards in partner's hand to beat the contract – but which diamond? The modern theory is that the lead of the ace or the queen asks for attitude and the king for count. Thus I have marked the queen as the best lead. A heart could also work as on the bidding dummy is likely to be short in hearts.

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

W	N	E	S
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	End	
♥J (10);	♥A (9);	♠3 (6);	♣Q (1).

We can eliminate diamonds on the bidding. The ♣Q is highly speculative but once in a blue moon might work. Partner has not raised spades or doubled 2♠, so is unlikely to have a top honour. The best chance is to find partner with a heart honour. Which heart to lead? The jack gains in some circumstances, while the ace has the advantage of seeing the dummy. The players who found the ♥J lead were well rewarded when dummy had K-x and partner had Q-x-x-x-x.

Hand 3	
♠	A Q 10 6
♥	6 2
♦	A 9 4 3
♣	9 7 6

W	N	E	S
	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
End			
♠A (10);	♠6 (8);	♦3 (6);	any club (2)

The bidding has told you that South has denied four spades.

The advantage of leading the ace is that if dummy has K-x-x and declarer has J-x-x we have not given a trick. The slight disadvantage is that it may be difficult for partner to gain the lead. This hand came from the Senior Camrose and indeed the spades were K-x-x and J-x-x. A club lead looks too passive. A diamond lead could well be right.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Susan Taylor,  
Weybourne, Surrey

Regional: Norman Massey,  
Wellington, Somerset

No entrant in the Open category was successful, so that prize goes to the second-best entry overall, sent in by County Master John Stacey of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



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