

English Bridge

August 2011

Issue No. 236

The EBU members' magazine



Last call
for the
Brighton
Congress!

Remember: some weekday events can be entered on the day



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- 7th Beverley, Yorks 3nts from £199
8th Exmouth 5nts £299
12th Scarborough 3nts £199
25th(Bank) 4* Mercure Brandon Hall & Spa, Warwickshire 4nts £239
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17th Bowness on Windermere 4nts £299
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MAY

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- 5* Turkey, 5* Bulgaria, 4* Crete, 5* Kos, 4* Corfu, 4* Majorca, 4* Croatia

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A Chat with the Editor



Elena Jeronimidis

English Bridge

IF you are wondering what has happened to our Chairman's regular column, let me reassure you. The only reason it is not here, in its usual place, is that Sally had lots to write, so this month her article has moved to page 25.

I must thank all those (see Letters Pages) who have written in to comment on our celebratory June issue. A special big thank-you goes to the many 'EBU Babes' who have since sent me their bridge stories; they will appear in our October issue and will, I hope, stimulate even more 75-year-old bridge players to share their bridge experiences and love of the game with us all.

Sadly, this month the celebrations have been marred by two very unhappy events: one of England's best and most popular players, Michelle Brunner, and one of the most respected EBU tournament directors, Roland Bolton, both lost their long and valiant battle with cancer. Their obituaries are on page 21.

The European Scene

With a few notable exceptions, England has not had many successes at the European Open Bridge Championships, which this year were held in Poznan. So it's very well done the 'Badger' team (Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden, Paula Leslie and Graham Osborne) who, for the second consecutive time, have won a bronze medal in the Mixed Teams. Congratulations also to Paul Hackett, Tony Waterlow, David Price, Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, and Hans Gothe from Sweden (competing as 'Pharon' after the name of their sponsors, Pharon Independent Financial Advisers) for gaining silver in the Seniors Teams.

In case you are wondering what a Swede (a last-minute replacement for John Holland, unable to play) was doing in this stellar English team, bear in mind that these were not the European Teams Championships (held in even-numbered years) where players represent their country and vie for a place at the World Championships, but the 'Open' version, where participants are not subsidised by their bridge federations and can partner whomsoever they please, irrespective of nationality or standing. Though not as prestigious as the Teams Championships, the European Open attracts a large number of top players and generates some excellent bridge, as you can see from David Bird's report on pages 22-23.

Best Behaviour at Bridge

This letter from Graham Sadie, Cheltenham, arrived too late to be included in the Letters Pages, so here it is instead:

'Because of a series of mishaps, only three members of my Hubert Phillips team reached Worcester, home of our first-round opponents. We expected to concede a walk-over, but our hospitable opponents (Steve and Val Kennewell, Sue Evans and Dennis Loynes) were so kind as to find a good friend of theirs, Sue Lane, to join our team. As the Hubert Phillips is a pivot competition, that involved her playing for the first time with each of us. After providing this extraordinary assistance, the home team surely deserved to win, but the three new partnerships experienced beginners' luck. I write with some embarrassment that in a close match the generous hosts unfortunately did not prevail.'

'Is there an award for such sportsmanship?' I should like to nominate the Worcester quartet for the John Armstrong Award, which rewards sportsmanship in bridge. □

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Don't Go to Bed with an Ace

PLAYING teams or rubber, your objective is to defeat the contract. At pairs, restricting overtricks can be at least as important – if it's a standard contract that you're defending.

Recognising the time for a 'cash-out' defence is a key skill of the winning pairs player – making sure you are not left with an ace in your hand. I recall the very last board of the 2004 World Individual. I was on lead against a 3NT contract and my Bulgarian partner held the ace of hearts and ace-king of clubs. I led a heart to his ace at trick one giving him the chance to cash his ace-king of clubs; he could even switch to another suit (or return a second heart) and he would win his ace-king of clubs at tricks twelve and thirteen. At the table, he led a low club at trick two, on the off chance I would score the jack (I was marked with at most one point on the bidding – in fact I had none). That extra overtrick – declarer now made eleven tricks – turned an average into a bottom and cost your writer the gold medal. Ah well. I do not tell the story against my very apologetic partner. I merely tell it to illustrate the importance of not going to bed with a top trick.

Take this deal, West leading the queen of hearts versus 4♠. Plan the defence as East.

N/S Game. Dealer South.			
♠ K 8			
♥ 7 6 3			
♦ 10 8 3 2			
♣ K Q 9 7			
♠ 5 4 3			♠ 10 2
♥ Q J 10 4			♥ A 8 5 2
♦ Q 9 7 6			♦ A J 4
♣ J 8			♣ 6 4 3 2
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div> ♠ A Q J 9 7 6 ♥ K 9 ♦ K 5 ♣ A 10 5 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> <div> ♠ 10 2 ♥ A 8 5 2 ♦ A J 4 ♣ 6 4 3 2 </div> </div>			

West	North	East	South
Partner		You	
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

The first point is that you must rise with the ace (of hearts). Partner's top-of-a-sequence lead has told you that declarer holds the king and that card may be singleton. Here it is not, but it is still imperative that you rise with the ace. Fail to do so and declarer will win, draw trumps, run four rounds of clubs discarding his other heart, then lead towards the king of diamonds – twelve tricks and game made plus two.

What should you lead at trick two? Answer: cash the ace of diamonds. You would survive this time if you led a different suit – declarer has only eleven top tricks. But partner could have the king of diamonds and declarer a doubleton queen, in which case the defence will lose their third trick if you fail to cash out. What you cannot afford to do is lead a low diamond at trick two.

Cashing your two red aces may seem a somewhat primitive defence, but at least you have not gone to bed with them. What made you sit up and realise the need for the cash-out defence? Answer: it was the source of discards in clubs you saw in dummy. If dummy's clubs were ♣6-4-3-2 and yours were ♣K-Q-9-7, they'd be no rush, for declarer is not going to discard any of his losers on those clubs.



Andrew Robson

PAIRS TACTICS

Quiz: If you were playing teams or rubber and your diamonds were ♦A-J-9, how would you defend differently?

Answer: After rising with the ace of hearts, you would switch at trick two to the *jack of diamonds*, necessary to scoop all three tricks in the suit if the diamond layout is like this:

	Dummy	
	♦ 10 8 3 2	
Partner	♦ K 6 4	You
	♦ A J 9	
	Declarer	
	♦ Q 7 5	

Whether you should defend this way at pairs is more moot, for it carries with it the not inconsiderable risk that you will go to bed with your ace, should, as on the actual layout, declarer hold the king (and play it, subsequently discarding his small diamond[s] on dummy's clubs).

Andrew's Tip: Don't miss the cash-out defence when dummy has a source of discards. □

ERRATUM

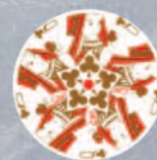
WE APOLOGISE TO MICHAEL CLAYTON, former Editor of *Horse and Hound*, and Editor-in-Chief of *Country Life* and *The Field*, for an error in the 'Two-minute Interview' published on page 42 of our June issue, where he is mistakenly named as 'Richard'. A correction has been made online at www.ebu.co.uk/general/biographies/players/documents/Two_minute_Interviews.pdf

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
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The Matron's Expert Defence



David Bird

BRIDGE FICTION

THE Matron lowered herself neatly into the East seat and smiled benevolently at her opponents. 'Are you having a good session, Headmaster?' she asked.

'All right so far,' replied the Headmaster. 'It's hard to say after just one round.'

'I scored a nice top on the last board we played,' announced the Matron proudly. 'One of the boys revoked against me.'

'Very careless!' declared the Headmaster. 'No-one ever revokes against me.'

'I suppose I shouldn't take the credit for it,' continued the Matron. 'Mind you, I did play the contract in rather a clever way. I expect most players would have drawn trumps first.'

The players drew their cards for this deal:

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

West	North	East	South
Stefan Götel	Reverend Benson	The Matron	Headmaster
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	5♣

It was Stefan Götel's policy to make aggressive leads against a small slam in a suit. In his opinion the notion of 'Don't lead away from a king' was complete nonsense. Without any hesitation, he

placed the three of clubs on the table.

The Reverend Benson smiled as he laid out the dummy. 'I've taken a bit of a gamble here, Headmaster,' he said. 'Your 5♣ response to Roman Key-card Blackwood showed zero or three key cards. I'm rather hoping that it's three!'

The Headmaster surveyed the dummy with no hint of sharing his partner's amusement. How unlucky to have Stefan Götel sitting West on this deal. Without the awkward opening lead in clubs, prospects would have been very much better. He could have played ace and another diamond; if West held the diamond king, this would catch him in a Morton's Fork. If he went in with the king, there would be two discards for the club losers.

Mind you, thought the Headmaster, Stefan was a good enough defender to play low when he held the king of diamonds. He could afford to sacrifice a diamond trick because declarer would then have two club losers. Unless West had started with ♦K-x-x, of course. Then his king could be ruffed down on the third round. After this club lead, it all seemed fairly hopeless.

The Headmaster drew trumps in three rounds, ending in the dummy, and called for the queen of diamonds. The Matron played low and the queen was run successfully. Perking up somewhat, the Headmaster continued with a diamond to the ace. He returned to dummy with a top spade and ruffed a diamond in his hand, the king appearing from the Matron.

'That went well!' exclaimed the Headmaster, facing his remaining cards. 'I can cross to the spade queen and throw one of these clubs on the jack of diamonds. Twelve tricks.'

'Well played, Headmaster,' said the Reverend Benson. 'My little gamble paid off.'

It was not Stefan Götel's policy to comment on his partner's play but on this occasion he caught her eye. 'Difficult for you, Matron,' he said. 'If you happen to cover the queen of diamonds, he goes down. He can't set up a discard on the suit.'

The Matron shook her head at this suggestion. 'Cover the first of touching honours?' she said. 'I hardly think that's a good idea.'

'After queen-king-ace on the first round, dummy's jack wins the second round,' Götel explained. 'Then my 10-9 can look after the suit.'

The Matron waved this argument aside as if it was from some heretical pamphlet. 'I dare say you do things differently in your country,' she replied. 'Over here we don't cover the first of touching honours. Isn't that so, Headmaster?'

The Headmaster followed a pragmatic approach when asked to arbitrate on any bridge matter. A conscientious Matron who accepted a salary some 30% below the going rate would be harder to replace than a run-of-the-mill temporary German master. 'You defended strongly, as always, Matron,' he replied. 'Expert play is not always rewarded on the score-sheet but it pays off in the long run!' □

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Declarer's Points and Shape May Provide a Clue to the Defence



Heather Dhondy

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

W N

and partner will play the two.
This is the position you have reached:

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

W N

PLAYING pairs, you are defending 4♥ by South after you have overcalled with 3♣ over South's 1♦ in second seat. Playing weak jump overcalls, you are a little strong for the bid; however, you have some flexibility when partner is a passed hand since game is unlikely, and you want to put pressure on the opponents if you possibly can. North made a negative double and South jumped to 4♥, which suggests that it is quite likely that the opponents are in a four-four fit.

You lead the ace of clubs to dummy's seven, partner's eight and declarer's four. How do you plan the defence?

It looks as though partner has begun a peter in clubs to show a doubleton. Play the king of clubs to confirm the situation

You have two club tricks, and know that the king of hearts will provide a third trick. If partner holds the ace of diamonds (unlikely on the bidding), there is no hurry for it, and there is little point going after spades. You know from the bidding and the play so far that declarer has at most one and if partner holds the king, then declarer's diamonds are running (count his points), and a forcing defence will not inconvenience him since trumps are dividing.

However, let's consider what might happen if you try a third club. With such poor trumps in dummy, continuing with a third round of clubs will force declarer to ruff with dummy's queen to avoid

partner over-ruffing. Now if partner's trump holding includes either the jack or ten, you will have promoted a second trump trick in your hand to go with your two club tricks.

This was the full deal:

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

W N E S

♠ K
♥ A J 8 5
♦ A Q 9 7 5
♣ Q 6 4

Note that if partner holds 8-x in trumps, declarer must rise with the queen of hearts on the third round of clubs and play a trump to the ace. If he finesses, you can play a fourth round of clubs to promote your heart nine. Declarer should find the right play, however, given your partner's failure to overruff the queen at trick three.

ENGLAND SCOOP VICTORY IN 2011 CORN CAIRDIS

CONGRATULATIONS to the English teams of (EBU) Sally Bugden, Peter Stocken, Andrew Petrie, Malcom Oliver; (Warwickshire) Adrian Knight, Leslie Reece, Peter Oldbury, Brent Wormald; (West Midlands BC) Jane and Cyril Hall, Tony Cundy, Tony Poole who scooped victory in the Corn Cairdis (Cup of Friendship) beating Ireland by 180 VPs to 177.

An Open Teams competition was held alongside the friendly international match, and congratulations are due to the winners: (Saturday) Roy Moore, Paul Hackett, Jason Hackett, Brian Senior and (Sunday) Margaret Wort, David Hulston, Bridget and Paul Hardstaff.

Heather's Hints

- Count declarer's points and work out his shape. These two valuable pieces of information often provide the clue to the winning defence.
- When your partner is a passed hand, you can widen the range of your pre-emptive bids. Remember that this can mean being stronger than expected, as well as weaker. □

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Non-promissory Stayman



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

JUST as John was about to take out his cards for the first board of the round, the Tournament Director approached him with a board in his hand.

'John, can you help? This is from the previous round and you appear to have twelve cards while East has fourteen.'

John sorted his hand and studied it while the Director did the same with the East cards, so that John could choose which of the fourteen was his (they didn't bother with curtain cards at this club).

'Yes I remember the hand,' said John thoughtfully. 'We got a top from doubling 5♦ and those fourteen cards were definitely all in the dummy so I must have only had twelve. We didn't play the hand out to the end, which is why nobody noticed.'

The Director shook his head despairingly and said: 'Well, in that case I am afraid that the score is cancelled and I shall give both pairs an average.'

When John started to protest, the Director added: 'Of course I should probably make it average minus as you failed to count your cards,' at which point John went strangely quiet.

After the Director had left, Julie said: 'I don't think you are entirely to blame, I really should have noticed that dummy had too many cards, so let's call it a joint effort and get on with the next hand.'

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
	Julie		John
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

¹ 12-14

John announced Julie's 2♣ as Stayman and, when Julie bid 2NT over John's 2♣, West became convinced that Julie must have a four-card heart suit, so he decided to lead a small club rather than fourth highest of his longest and strongest.

As soon as Julie tabled the dummy, West said: 'I want to reserve my rights.'

'But why? I announced 2♣ as Stayman, showed my spade suit and then Julie bid 2NT to show her 11 points,' replied John.

'Stayman followed by 2NT guarantees a four-card major, that's the way everybody plays it,' retorted West.

'Well, we don't,' chipped in Julie who was sure for once that John was in the right. 'Our only way to raise to 2NT is via Stayman, as we play a direct 2NT response as a transfer to 3♣.'

The Orange Book states that Stayman is announced whether it promises a four-card major or not

'In that case you should announce it as non-promissory Stayman,' said West angrily.

By now, despite not having been called, the Director was at the table as the whole room was aware of all the fuss. 'I have to agree with John,' he said. 'Stayman is merely an enquiry and there is no onus on the responder to have any particular distribution. The EBU's *Orange Book* (5C4) states that Stayman is announced whether it promises a four-card major or not. Players who want to know whether it makes such a promise may ask or consult the convention card.'

West triumphantly flourished John's convention card saying: 'There is no mention of it here.'

John grabbed West's card and replied, 'Firstly you didn't even look at my card to check and by the way there is no mention on *your* card that you guarantee a four-card major to bid Stayman.'

'Enough is enough,' said the Director. 'It would be helpful if everybody did write "non-promissory" on their card and you are

duty bound to inform the opposition if they feel the need to ask. Unfortunately, in reality virtually nobody

puts such detailed information on their convention card and nowhere is there an edict to say that they should. Now please play the hand out and move along quietly to the next board.'

John duly wrapped up eleven tricks for a top, and Julie smiled with sparkling eyes, leant across the table and squeezed his hand as she said: 'Well done partner, you really are a gem.'

John could feel his face turning bright red as he wondered to himself whether this was real or just a beautiful dream. □

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Michael Byrne

THIS month's trap is a commonly occurring situation that many people do feel comfortable with – but in reality they are committing transgressions they don't even know exist. Let's begin by looking at what an overcall shows.

What is an overcall?

An overcall is a short newflash of information to tell your partner that your hand is principally best played in the suit bid. The range is approximately something like 8-17 high-card points, and while most authorities agree on the minimum value, opinion is split on the higher value, which unlike house prices has been rising steadily for a long time.

An overcall is made for a variety of reasons – sometimes you want to win the contract, sometimes you want to pre-empt the opposition, sometimes you want to attract partner's attention to the best opening lead if your side is outbid. In each case you must have a clear reason for bidding – wanting to bid because you haven't opened the bidding all morning and 'Why should they play all the hands?' are not valid reasons!

Here is a common scenario; your left-hand opponent deals and passes, partner passes, right-hand opponent opens with 1♣ and your hand is:

♠ K J 7
♥ Q 3
♦ K 7 6 3 2
♣ J 4 2

Ten points and a five-card suit – perfect for an overcall, right? Wrong – there are many downsides to bidding.

Firstly, if your side is outbid (very likely), then you are not particularly keen to get a diamond lead. You're quite happy if partner

wants to whack out his fourth highest heart or spade – you have an honour in both. Partner leading the jack of diamonds could blow the suit, for example, if the next hand has something like ♦Q-10-x and declarer the ace.

Secondly, you are just giving the opponents more information that may help them when they come to play the hand. They will know where the points are and which finesses to take. By bidding you are exposing your honours in the majors to potential detection.

Thirdly, a diamond overcall has no pre-emptive value; what have you stopped the opponents from bidding?

Fourthly, and most importantly, you don't want diamonds as trumps! Imagine the next hand bids 1♥/♠ and partner leaps to 5♦; do you really feel happy? Even if partner has a lot of trumps and some distribution, you are going to struggle to get out for a profitable sacrifice, and your soft honours (queens and jacks) in the side suits means a slam is unlikely for the opponents.

By contrast, change the hand to:

♠ K Q J 9 7
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 7

Now it would be right to overcall even though the hand is poorer in high-card points. Your suit is great, you are happy to be raised, you are taking up a lot of

bidding space, and you won't be giving any help to the opponents if they end up playing the contract.

Does the vulnerability matter?

What about vulnerability – does that make a difference? Well, when you are vulnerable the opponents are more likely to play for penalties and try to double you, so while your hand doesn't have to contain

more high-card points, it is a good idea to make sure the suit is respectable and that your hand contains more playing strength.

♠ K Q 10 8 4
♥ 6
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ J 3 2

This is a hand where 1♠ is not unreasonable as an overcall over any opening bid non vulnerable, but vulnerable you'd need to think twice about it.

Double or overcall?

There is another problem associated with overcalls and that is when to make an overcall and when to double. One particular urban legend is that 'an overcall shows 10 or 11 points because with an opening hand you double'.

What rubbish! An overcall shows a hand with a five-card suit – often a major and is made so that you can find a 5-3 fit. A double is made on a hand looking to find a 4-4 fit or partner's long suit. This hand might catch a few unwary students out; 1♦ is opened on the right and you hold:

♠ K J 8 7 3
♥ K 8 7 4
♦ 8
♣ A Q J

With a good opening bid and a singleton diamond I would understand if anyone wanted to double for take-out on this hand – but they would still be wrong.

A 1♠ overcall gives you a good chance of reaching an eight-card fit in spades – partner needs only three to support. And more importantly, if you start with an overcall you can back in with a take-out double later on, if 2♦, 3♦ or even 4♦ comes back to you. That way you will find an eight-card fit in either major suit if one exists. By contrast if you start with a double, then you will be stuck later on: if a pre-emptive raise of 3♦ comes back to

you, you can't now bid your spades – to double and then bid a suit is a very strong bid, showing a hand too strong to have overcalled on the first round.

Overcalling at the two level

So far the common mistakes that we have considered have involved one-level overcalls, but what about overcalls at the two level? Is there a major difference?

Yes. To put it simply, while an overcall at the one level shows a five-card suit, an overcall at the two level shows a six-card suit. (When you are overcalling 2♥ over 1♠, there is more freedom as game is only two levels away, but in general it's easier to have blanket rules as they make it harder to forget.)

♠ K 10 4
♥ J 7 4
♦ A Q 9 6 5
♣ Q 2

This hand is a typical example of the pitfalls of overcalling when 1♥ is opened on the right. In a club duplicate the majority of players would bid 2♦, yet it is wrong to do so. You have a balanced hand (5-3-3-2 is one of the three balanced types) with little playing strength and a mediocre suit. There is no point in saying that you have 12 points – those points will do little to help you when partner puts down two little diamonds and 8 points and you go for 500 despite having half the deck between you.

An overcall at the two level (particularly in a minor suit) should have a good six-card suit with decent playing strength. Often the aim is to get to 3NT and a six-card suit is a trick better than a five-card

suit – that's like having another ace.

♠ K 10 4
♥ J 7
♦ A Q 10 7 4 2
♣ 5 3

This hand, despite containing fewer points, is much more suitable for an overcall; you have more playing strength and less defence, which means if you do incur a penalty, then the opponents might at least have a game on.

Let's review the dos and don'ts of overcalling:

Do:

- Make sure you have a good suit when you overcall – as well as attracting the right lead it offers some protection against incurring a penalty.
- Keep one eye on the vulnerability – yours and the opponents'. (Going for 500 is much less painful when they make 630 in 3NT).

Don't:

- Worry about having a low point count if the playing strength of the hand is up to scratch.
- Overcall at the two level if you have a five-card suit: you'll find yourself having to struggle in vain at the two and three level far too often.
- Give in to 'Bid when it's your turn syndrome': you must have a clear reason for overcalling, whether it be for the lead, to take up bidding room or to have a realistic chance of playing the hand. □

CROCKFORDS CUP 2010-2011



WINNERS of the 2010-2011 Crockfords Cup (in the picture, from the left) were Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Adrian Thomas and Peter Goodman, from Gloucestershire and Wales. The Plate winners (from Wales) were Patrick Jourdain, Mike Tedd, Tony Ratcliff and John Salisbury. For the first time, both finals took place at the same time and venue.

CAPTION COMPETITION



That's two bottoms in a row!

THE winner of our June competition, with the caption above, is Jackie Hinden of Brighton, who will receive a charming Victoriana bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 16). Other good captions were: *Did you have to push him so hard just because he revoked?* (Sally Izod, Cheltenham); *This isn't quite what I expected when you signed us up to a bridge holiday!* (Steve Sakstein, Stanmore); *According to the inscription, it's 75 years old!* (Dave Bryan, Upton, Chester); *It's bridge, Jim, but not as we know it* (Frank Fallon, Charminster); *See that chap down there, walking towards the river with all those rocks in his pockets? Isn't he the one who went off in that easy peasy 6♦ last night?* (M.J. Connolly, Lakenham); and *This stream is like our bridge partnership – ebbs and flows!* (Bill Roberts, Thornton-Cleveleys).

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



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The Language of Bridge V

English Bridge wants to expand its readership around the world and is looking for articles that would appeal to a global audience. Here are some research notes for those who would like to write such an article.



Simon Cochemé

BRIDGE WITH A TWIST

DOUBLES and penalties are a rich source of colourful expressions. The Dutch say *under the tram* for a contract that has been doubled and beaten. In Thailand they call an 1100 penalty a *Fiat*. The Italians themselves have a broader definition and say *getting a Fiat* for any penalty that coincides with a Fiat model number: 500, 800, 1100 and 1400. The Poles call an 800 penalty a *snowman*, and for them a big swing at IMPs is a *fat man*. In Iceland players say they have been *christened* if they concede a redoubled penalty of 1000, referring to the year in which Christianity came to Iceland.

The *kiss of death*, an expression borrowed from everyday language, has become a bridge cliché in English. It means you have conceded 200 at pairs (usually one down, doubled and vulnerable) on a part score deal. I wonder whether the first person to use it had spotted the connection between kiss and double, both often abbreviated to 'X'. It hadn't occurred to me until I was told that Malaysian bridge players use *kiss* as slang for double.

In English a small card is occasionally called a *rag*, as in 'I held king-*rag*'. In Iceland small cards are known as *dogs*, and the Bulgarians call them *vushki*, fleas.

Romania sounds like a fun country in which to play bridge. I understand that, when running a long suit, it is traditional to cry: '*After me, boys!*' They also have a saying: '*One down is not down*', and, should you happen to misplay a contract, you might be told you play *like a boot*. A knave is known as *Jimmy*, presumably reverse-engineered from Jack, by way of James.

Many countries use their word for 'dead' for dummy, following the French example of *le mort*. Other countries prefer an inanimate male; Sweden has *wooden man*, Norway, Iceland and the Netherlands have *blind man*, Germany has *straw man*. Poland

opt for the animate and say *dziadek*, which means grandfather.

Clubs compensate for being the most lowly ranked suit by having the widest variety of names. The Turks call them *sinek*, flies, the Poles call them *zolzadz*, acorns, and the Italians say *fiori*, flowers. The Chinese are more specific and call them *plum blossoms*.


Italy's many world-class players know all the advanced plays, squeezes and the like. Lesser Italians are more familiar with these potentially costly card-play techniques: *il colpo dello struzzo*, the Ostrich Coup, taking a useless ruff in the hand with the longer trumps, and *la battuta dell'ammiraglio*, the Admiral's Salvo, drawing an extra, unnecessary, round of trumps. The one that is always costly is *il colpo dell'impiccato*, the Hanged Man's Coup: blocking a suit so that there is no entry to winners.

I am told the Chinese are taking the World Bridge Federation to court over the phrase *Chinese finesse* (where you lead an unsupported honour in the hope that it won't be covered), insisting that it be renamed a *Taiwanese finesse*. Maybe we should follow the Danish model and go for an elitist label rather than a national insult. The Danes say *knibning* (a pinch) for a finesse, and a Chinese finesse is known as *knibning polytekniker*, a Polytechnic finesse.

Landy (where a bid of 2♣ over an opponent's 1NT shows both majors) is sometimes referred to as *Staymanesque*. The Dutch for Landy is *Stayman-om-het-hoekje*, literally Stayman-round-the-corner. The Dutch also have a rather confusing meaning for *telefoonnummer*: not a large penalty, as in English, but a long suit without any honours, such as 10-8-7-5-4-2.

This is a deal designed to appeal to foreign readers. South was in 4♠ on the

lead of Jimmy-Hearts:

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

Declarer won in hand, drew two rounds of trumps and then played ace, king and another club, ruffing in dummy. He was soon one down, losing two trumps, a diamond and a club.

'Can you believe it?' he said. 'Trumps were 4-1!'

East and West were too polite to point out the correct line. Declarer should have played on flowers before touching trumps. He ruffs one of his acorn fleas with the blind man's dog. East overruffs but the contract is safe. Declarer cashes the king of trumps and comes back to hand and ruffs his other fly. East makes both his long trumps, but declarer doesn't lose any plum blossoms.

It was North who broke the silence. 'In my country we have a saying for when a hand is played like this; we say "One down is ..."'

'Not in England, we don't,' interrupted East, whose politeness didn't go as far as surrendering a good result.

'I was going to say "... is played like a boot",' concluded North. □



David Bakhshi

Suit Preference Signals

SO far, I have considered two common types of signal: the attitude signal, and the count signal. Let's now move on to the third most common category, the suit preference signal. In this article, I shall discuss the basic idea and uses of suit preference signals. Further applications of this type of signal will be discussed separately.


What are suit preference signals?

In contrast to attitude and count signals, suit preference signals are used to give information about suits other than the one in which the signal is given. The basic idea is that there is an assumption that the suit in which the signal is given is one which the defenders will not be pursuing, hence creating the need to give information about which suit should be played instead.

When do they apply?

The most common situation in which suit preference signals occur involves the case where a defender is playing a suit which he expects his partner to trump (*see Example A*). In such cases, it will often be necessary to inform partner which suit to return in order to be given a second opportunity to score a ruff.

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



North opens 1♠, South responds 2♥, North raises to 3♥ and South bids 4♥.

West leads the two of spades, dummy plays the jack. East wins with the ace of spades and returns a spade which West trumps. What should West play at trick three?

Without any form of signalling, West's decision would be a complete guess. However, if East could anticipate West ruffing the second round of spades, he would have the perfect chance to inform West which suit he would prefer him to return to receive a second ruff.


In a scenario such as this, East should assume that West's lead of dummy's first bid suit is a singleton. Thus, when he wins with the ace of spades, he will likely have the choice of returning a relatively low or a relatively high spade. The significance of the card that he chooses works in the

following way: given that West will be expected to trump the second spade, he will be unable to return a spade. It is also assumed that his partner will not wish him to return a trump. Therefore, when making a suit preference signal, East can either ask for diamonds (the *higher* ranking of the remaining suits) or clubs (the *lower* ranking of the remaining suits). The 'standard' way to do this is for a *low* spade to ask for the lower ranking suit, and a *high* spade to ask for the higher ranking suit.

Are suit preference signals only useful against trump contracts?

Since suit preference signals are an effective means of communicating where a defender's side suit entry lies, the principles can also be extended to no-trump contracts. The key is to identify when they will be more useful than either of the other two types of signals we have discussed. Consider the following situation (*Example B*):

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



South opens 1NT (12-14), and North raises to 3NT. West leads the five of spades.

Declarer plays low from the dummy at trick one. East plays the king of spades which wins the trick, then returns the two of spades. West wins with the ace of spades

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and returns a third spade. Declarer follows with the jack of spades at trick two, then wins with the queen of spades at trick three. He leads the ten of diamonds at trick four, and plays low from the dummy. East can win the king of diamonds, but then has to decide which suit to play in the hope that his partner can regain the lead to cash his last two spade winners. How should he decide which suit to try?

Again, this situation represents a complete guess without the use of signals. The third round of spades is the point at which West is free to signal. There is no need to give an attitude signal (he is 'known' to have led from a long suit), or a count signal (it is unlikely to matter to East whether West started with four or five spades). It would, however, be very useful to know the suit in which West holds an entry to his remaining spades in the event that East is the first defender to gain the lead. Thus, West can apply the principle of the suit preference signal. The only difference is that in a trump contract there are only two suits to choose between, while no-trump contracts can theoretically involve three suits. In *Example B*, however, East can assume that West will not wish to signal for a diamond return (dummy's strong suit). West can thus play a *low* spade at trick three to show a *preference* for clubs (the lower ranking suit), or a *high* spade to show an interest in hearts (the higher ranking suit).

How does one determine which type of signal will be most useful?

We will return to further applications of the suit preference signal but, in essence, they are most useful in situations where a defender wishes to communicate information relating to the suit in which an entry is held. The need to find this entry varies depending on the type of contract being defended. Against trump contracts, it is useful to show where an entry lies to enable additional ruffs to be delivered, while defending against no-trump contracts it can be necessary to signal the suit in which an entry lies to enable a defender to cash the winners which he has just generated.

It should be noted that these are specific situations which require a particular signal and occur in cases where neither attitude nor count signals would need to take priority. In order for a partnership to develop effective agreements, it is crucial to be clear which type of signal takes priority in any given situation. ☐

IN A NUTSHELL

by Jeremy Dhondy

ALERTING – A SIMPLE GUIDE

What is alerting?

A procedure to let your opponents know of agreements that you and your partner have.

How do I alert?

Use the alert card. Tap the table if you are not using bidding boxes. It is your responsibility to make sure *both* your opponents have seen the alert.

What should I alert?

- You alert partner's bids, not your own.
- You alert bids up to and including 3NT. You do *not* alert any bids above this level *except* for opening bids.
- You alert bids where you have an agreement with partner that the opponents need to know about.
- There are regulations for alerting doubles and the magazine for June 2010 contained these regulations. A copy is also on the EBU website.
- You do *not* alert any play of the cards.

Must I alert?

Yes. Alerting, where required, is compulsory.

When should I announce instead of alerting?

Announcing is a form of alerting. See

the August 2010 magazine, or look at the EBU website for details. You only announce in the following situations:

- A natural opening bid of 1NT.
- Stayman in response to a natural 1NT opener.
- Red suit transfers in response to a natural 1NT opener.
- Opening Two of a Suit bids that are natural whatever their strength.

What happens if there is no alert?

The opponents are entitled to assume that you have no agreement that would place the bid in an alertable category.

What happens if I am not sure if a bid is alertable?

If you are not sure but are going to act as if it is, then you should alert. As a general principle it is better to alert if you are not sure.

What should I say if I am asked about an alert?

Give the explanation of your agreement. Do *not* say: 'I am taking it as. . .' This gives your partner information to which he is not entitled.

What happens if I forget to alert?

Your opponents may be damaged. The director should be called to sort it out. He will decide whether the opponents have suffered damage or not.

THE EBU'S 75th ANNIVERSARY QUIZ

Result and answers

The winner of £100 in EBU prize vouchers is Mrs Pauline Ballard of Maidstone, Kent.

Answers: 1. Robert Sheehan; 2. Membership Development Action Group; 3. CAB (Two Clubs, Aces and Blackwood); 4. Baroness Henig of Lancaster; 5. Gerald and Stuart Tredinnick; 6. 1956; 7. Ely Culbertson, *Contract Bridge Complete* (1 point for each); 8. 1928; 9. Kempson; 10. Maurice Harrison-Gray, *Contract Bridge Journal* (1 point for each); 11. 1940s; 12. Sally Brock, Sandra Landy, Nicola Smith (Gardener), Pat Davies (1 point for each player); 13. David Price; 14. 1950; 15. Canon Basil H. Davis; 16. Hubert Phillips; 17. Leslie Dodds; 18. 1974; 19. Pembury School in Kent; 20. China; 21. A National Bridge Awareness Day in the York Railway Museum.



2011 Schapiro Spring Foursomes



EXTRA TIME DRAMA

by Derek Patterson

THE Schapiro Spring Foursomes is, for many, the most eagerly awaited congress of the year. The main event is a knock-out tournament with a twist – a team is eliminated only after its second defeat. Attracting top players from all over the world, a successful campaign represents a truly considerable achievement.

So imagine that you are in the final, sitting West in the closed room, playing extra boards against Sabine Auken and Zia Mahmood who have both won more major championships than anyone can remember. In fact, it is the last board of the set. Your team has remained unbeaten throughout the event and in total, you have played 263 boards already. You have been ahead throughout the final but your illustrious opponents have gradually pegged back your lead and forced extra boards. However, after some decent results in this set, you feel that you have one hand on the cup. You pray for a quiet deal . . . just one more boring hand!

However, things never seem to be quite that easy and before you know it, you find yourself on lead to 6♠, to be played by Auken, with this hand:

♠ Q
♥ A K 10 9 6 3 2
♦ Q 10 8
♣ 7 5

You have the horrible feeling that the destination of the trophy may depend on your decision and before making it, with no

place to hide, you reconsider the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Auken</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	2NT ¹	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ ²
5♥	6♠	All Pass	

¹ Heart support

² One key card

What would you lead?

We shall return to this potentially decisive deal later but first, please join me on a guided tour of the event in general.

The congress takes place over a bank-holiday weekend with teams playing each other in 32-board matches. By losing twice, a team is eliminated from the main event and becomes eligible for either the Punch-bowl or the Swiss Teams. In this way, the congress caters for all keen tournament players – the Schapiro Spring Foursomes really has got it all.

In the latter stages each match becomes a test of stamina as well as skill. This year, *Penfold* became the last undefeated team (which would prove significant later) and then went on to beat *Hinden* by 4 IMPs. In the other semi-final, Anita Sinclair, David Greenwood, Nafiz Zorlu, Salvador Assael, Sabine Auken and Zia Mahmood defeated *Mossop*, and so the finalists were confirmed.

Penfold took an early lead but a fight-back ensued and at the end of 32 boards, *Sinclair* had

won . . . well, almost! As the last undefeated team, *Penfold* could demand an extra eight boards and so the spectators were treated to the dramatic final board:

Love All. Dealer East.

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

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

♠ A 9 7 6 5 2
♥ J
♦ J 7 2
♣ 9 4 3

In the Open Room, Rumen Trendafilov, suspecting the heart void in dummy and reasoning, therefore, that the defence would need at least one diamond trick, identified that it would be necessary to attack the suit immediately for fear of the clubs being established for discards. Showing great nerve, he placed the eight of diamonds on the table! The lead had struck gold, the slam failing by two tricks.

West	North	East	South
<i>Assael</i>	<i>Penfold</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>N. Senior</i>
		Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	5♠	Dble	All Pass

In the Closed Room, Sandra Penfold decided not to look for slam. This paid dividends when East made a sharp double of 5♠. West, unaware of the long club suit, opted for a top heart lead, allowing Nevena Senior to garner twelve tricks in her doubled game contract. A superb combined effort for the Penfold team gave them a thrilling and thoroughly deserved victory (73-51 IMPs).

Congratulations to Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Kalin Karaivanov and Rumen Trendafilov on their magnificent performance. □



From the left: Kalin Karaivanov, Nevena Senior, Rumen Trendafilov and Sandra Penfold

How to Avoid Controversy

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

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

ANDREW BISSON of Oakham Rutland asks: 'If I open 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♠ and my partner bids 1NT and this is 6-9 HCP but any shape, possibly with a spade void, then does the 1NT need to be alerted?'

I think that this is alertable. It falls under 5E1 (b) of the alerting rules in the *Orange Book* which says alert if 'it is natural but has a potentially unexpected meaning'. It's not the lack of a spade stop but the potential off-shape nature of the 1NT bid which makes it alertable.

ALAN WHITE, Barnstaple, asks about a situation that cropped up recently: 'I was declarer in 3NT. Dummy had a singleton ♥A and seven clubs to the A-K-Q-J. A heart was led. I had ♥K but, I thought, no easy entries to my hand.

'I asked partner to run the clubs from the top and then realised, after the ace had been played, that I could get to my hand which held the ten of clubs, cash the ♥K and then return to dummy with a low club to make the contract.

'RHO objected when I changed my mind and called the director. She claimed that I had specified 'run the clubs from the top' and was committed to this action.

'The Director upheld her complaint and insisted that I proceed without being allowed to change the order of the club play.

'Was this a correct decision?'

I'm afraid you were given a wrong ruling. The advice in the White Book is as follows: 'Run the clubs — Declarers do say this when

running a long suit in dummy. It is no more than a statement of intent, however, and declarer cannot be held to it. For example, if declarer finds to his surprise that they are not all winners, he is allowed to change to an alternative line.

If it is felt that an opponent was misled, then an adjustment via Law 73F may be in order.'

It is also worth remembering that the advice is not to use phrases such as 'Run the clubs'.

DILIP MITHANI, Hayes, Middlesex, says: 'In our club we typically have 20 tables playing in two sections. We normally play a Mitchell movement where East-West move and North-South are stationary. Then we have one arrow-switch round and one winner. We have some members who feel that we should not arrow switch and so have two winners. My argument is that it would not make it any fairer as we play in two sections.

In my opinion a single winner is better. For those who want master points the number of points earned is higher for the winners. I agree with your argument about two sections because each pair is not playing all the others.

Mike Amos, who is one of the EBU's top directors, has written an article for the Ecats website about why you arrow switch. You can find it at www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/FAQ/arrowswitch.asp.

Incidentally, the mathematicians who talk endlessly about such things believe that the right amount to arrow switch is approximately one eighth of the boards so if you play 24 boards with eight three-board rounds, then you simply arrow switch the last round (actually it doesn't matter which round but by custom and



Jeremy Dhondy

ASK JEREMY

practice it is the last). With 12 two-board rounds then you should arrow switch the final two rounds.

Those who say you should have a N/S and an E/W winner should be invited (a) to give an argument as to why and (b) read the article.

COLIN BAMBERGER, Felixstowe, comments: Why don't rubber bridge players enjoy the environment of a duplicate club? It is my opinion that repetitive, sometimes less than courteous, requests for the services of the director on ordinary club nights is leading to a gradual erosion of membership.

If an opponent, particularly a new one, makes an error such as exposing a card or leading out of turn, at least consider waiving your rights and let the matter be rectified without penalty.

I entirely agree with you that any request for the director should be made courteously. There are certainly clubs where relative beginners are reluctant to proceed to the 'big boys' game not because they believe they will be outgunned but because of real or perceived unpleasantness.

That's why it is important that clubs have and enforce a 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' Code. While you can ask a director to waive a penalty, you are breaking the law by settling these things yourself — although that is not to say that we don't all do that sometimes. Many of the incidents that are reported to me would not have occurred if the director had been called, and too many players announce that they 'know the law on this' when they know nothing of the sort! □



Sandra Landy

Leading Against Suit Contracts

RECENTLY I have written about choosing the opening lead against a no-trump contract, where we choose first the suit and then which card to lead. But different considerations apply when the opponents are in a suit contract. Our reasons for choosing a lead against a suit contract might include:

- Cashing our winners in a suit before declarer can discard his losers.
- Making winners for our side to cash, if we get the lead.
- Leading a short suit so we can trump one of declarer's winners.
- Leading a suit which we think partner can trump.
- Leading a trump to cut down ruffing in declarer's and dummy's hands.
- Making a passive lead that gives nothing away.

How do we decide which option to choose?

♠ 10 9 4
♥ A Q 10 9 2
♦ 10 7
♣ 9 7 3

If South had opened 1NT, raised to 3NT by North, you would lead the ten of hearts, either hoping to find partner with a useful heart, or hoping that

partner will gain the lead in another suit and play back a heart. Even if declarer has the king of hearts, there is a good chance your side can win four heart tricks. But what would you lead if South opens 1♠ raised to 4♠ by North?

Now the ten of hearts would be a poor lead against 4♠. Underleading your ace of hearts could well give away a heart trick that declarer would not otherwise be able to make. And if your hearts become winners, it's unlikely you will be able to cash those winners, as either declarer or dummy will be able to trump them. Better to lead one of the other three suits; the ten of diamonds is appealing as you might even get a diamond ruff.

Don't underlead an ace against a suit contract. Of course once every ten years you will find a hand where underleading an ace is the winning lead, but it won't happen very often, it's far more likely to help declarer!

♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ J 7 2
♣ 9 7

North opens 1♣; your partner overcalls 1♦; South bids 1♠ and North raises to 4♠. Your lead?

If partner overcalls, he is showing his best suit is diamonds. An overcall is showing values in the suit and is often made for a lead should we end up defending. Lead the two of diamonds, a low card showing either three or four diamonds headed by an honour or a singleton. Partner has overcalled because he wants to help you find the best defence.

An overcall shows a good suit; it is a request to lead that suit. Once opponents have opened, you probably will end up defending. Overcalling on bad suits just shows declarer where the opponents' points are and rarely helps the defence.

♠ 10 9 4
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 9 7

North opens 1♣; partner overcalls 1♦; South bids 1♠ and North raises to 4♠. Your lead?

Here you don't have an honour in diamonds but you should still lead the suit; but which card should you lead? I play MUD from three worthless cards. Lead the six of diamonds, the middle one. On the next round play the eight to show that you started with three diamonds.

What would be your lead if partner had passed?

Make sure you and partner agree which card you lead from worthless holdings. In Standard English we play:

- Top of a doubleton, so ♣9 from ♣9-7
- Middle from three small, so ♦6 from ♦8-6-2

- Second highest followed by the fourth highest from four useless cards. With ♥8-6-5-2, lead the ♥6 and play the ♥2 on the second round.

However, if you are leading a suit headed by an honour, always lead fourth highest. Without partner's overcall I would have led the three of hearts, hoping to set up and cash heart winners before South's hearts are discarded on North's clubs.

Here is a deal where it is important to know what partner's lead means. North dealt and opened 1♦, you overcalled 1♠ and South bid 4♥, which ended the auction. Partner leads the six of spades:

Dummy

♠ Q 10 3
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A K J 10 8
♣ 7 5

You

♠ A K J 9 4
♥ 7
♦ 9 4 2
♣ Q 10 4 3



Dummy plays the ten of spades, you win with your jack and declarer plays the five. Hoping for the best, you play the ace (or king) of spades to declarer's seven and partner's eight. What should you do now? Should you cash one more spade, or try something else?

From partner's play in spades you know the six was a MUD lead, showing three spades. So declarer is out of spades. If partner has a trump trick it won't run away, but declarer's clubs might be discarded on dummy's diamonds – you must play a club now and hope partner has a useful holding.

But if partner had led the six of spades and then played the two, you would know partner only started with two spades and you would cash your king of spades before playing a club. □

Michelle Brunner

1953 – 2011

IT is with great sadness that we announce the death, on 24th June 2011, of Michelle Brunner at the age of 57.



Michelle was not just one of the world's best bridge players, but one of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet. Always ready for a giggle, she was tremendous fun to be with, and would be her usual bubbly self whatever company she was in – top bridge players, students, friends and casual acquaintances, we will all miss her unaffected friendliness.

Michelle was born in London on 31st December 1953, the middle of three sisters. Although her parents played bridge, it was her elder sister who taught her the rudiments of the game while Michelle was in the sixth form. Her bridge education continued at Manchester University, where she read Italian and French, and played with John Holland (who soon became her partner in life, and then her husband in 2008) as well as other talented people who still play the game at top level. Bridge was so much more attractive to her than her studies, though, that she never completed her degree course.

After a series of jobs in the leisure industry, Michelle founded her Mobile School of Bridge in 1995, and taught beginners and improvers until 2006. A popular bridge journalist, she was also the author of two very successful *Bridge with Brunner* books: *Acol Bidding for Beginners* and *Acol Bidding for Budding Experts*. Together with John Holland, Michelle also provided private teaching as well as coaching as a professional partner. Her fees, considering her standing in the bridge

world, were amazingly modest: she was not out to become rich, she would say – all she was out to achieve was to have her expenses paid so she could go on enjoying playing as much as possible.

As a player, Michelle Brunner's achievements are outstanding. She was a World Bridge Federation Life Master and an EBU Premier Grand Master. She was in the England winning team seven times in the Lady Milne, the Home Countries competition for women's teams, and she also won the Camrose – the open teams equivalent of the Lady Milne – three times, playing with John Holland as part of the England team. She also won several of the major national competitions at least once.

On the international stage, playing with a variety of partners, Michelle amassed an impressive collection of medals in mixed and women's competitions (pairs and teams): bronze and gold (first with Rosemary Hudson, then with John Holland and Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield) in the Common Market Championships; gold, silver and bronze in the European (first with Rosemary Hudson, later with Rhona Goldenfield – her partner since the late 1980s and a great personal friend). She also gained gold (with Gill Scott-Jones) at the 1985 Venice Cup, the world championship for women's teams, as well as bronze (first with Pat Davies, then with Rhona) and silver (with Sandra Landy) at the Olympiads.

In the last few years, Michelle mostly played with John Holland, and she played as often as her illness allowed and as brilliantly as ever. She put up a most gallant fight against cancer and her courage is well illustrated by the closing paragraph of the 'Day in the Life of . . .' which she wrote for *English Bridge* in April 2010: *'To be honest, if it wasn't for the fact that I can feel awful at times, I would be living a truly charmed life; but, however I am feeling, I don't allow the weather to depress me because, as I see it, the sun shines every day that I wake up.'*

A bright light has gone out in the world of bridge, but all those whose lives were touched by Michelle Brunner will always be the richer for it, and will remember her with great affection and admiration.

Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband, John Holland, and her sisters.

(Elena Jeronimidis)

Roland Bolton

1942 – 2011



ROLAND Bolton, an EBU Senior TD, was born on 2nd January 1942, and had an older brother, Donald and a sister, Marion, who both survive him. His sister has related that he was a 'naughty boy' when young and this was at odds with him being an altar boy and server in his local church.

Roland appears to have been around as a TD for ever. There cannot have been an EBU event over the years that he has not directed, with amazing skill and accuracy. Surrey was fortunate to have had him as their Chief TD for countless years until he retired in 2010. He loved his bridge, and played as often as he could with great enthusiasm and passion.

Roland was married for a period in the '80s but, unfortunately, this was not to last. In his working life as a process chemist with Borax, he travelled the world extensively, not only solving process problems on manufacturing plants in a myriad of countries but also planning and project-managing the construction of new, more efficient, plants in places as diverse as Manchester, Japan, South America and California.

He enjoyed travelling and continued to do so extensively after he retired, even after he became aware that he was unwell.

He was optimistic right up until the end, continuing to plan projects in his apartment, and also what he was going to do and where he was going to go when he recovered.

Everybody who knew him will be saddened by his passing. He had a heart of gold and would give you his last brass farthing if he thought you needed it. He lived respected and has died regretted.

(Neil Morley)



THE POZNAN MEDAL HUNT

by David Bird

THE 5th European Open Bridge Championships were held in Poznan, the city in west-central Poland where the first Polish state was created, 1000 years ago. The first event was the Mixed Teams, which started with 15 six-team groups, including strong representation from England. Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski, Nevena Senior and Nick Sandqvist won Group H. The *Badger* team (Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Paula Leslie and Jeffrey Allerton) won Group M. Christine Duckworth, Simon Cope, Susan Stockdale and Brian Callaghan won Group O, jointly with Sandra Penfold and Brian Senior, who were playing with two Bulgarians.

The *Badger* team were ultimately the most successful. They defeated a Russian team packed with front-line internationals in the quarter-finals and went on to meet the equally strong *Zimmerman* team from France in the semi-finals. With one third of the match remaining, the English team were in the lead. Luck then turned against them on two slam deals. This was the first:

Game All. Dealer: North.

♠ 6
♥ K 5 3
♦ Q J 10 9 7 4
♣ A Q J

♠ Q 2
♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ 10 9 5 3

♠ K J 10 8 7 4
♥ 8 6 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ 6

♠ A 9 5 3
♥ A Q J
♦ K
♣ K 8 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
Willard	Hinden	Multon	Osborne
	1♦	2♠	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

As the cards lie, 6♦ would be made (no club ruff is possible because the trump ace lies with the singleton club). However, there is nothing wrong with 6♣ – a very good slam. Graham Osborne won the spade queen lead with the ace and had to play a diamond while dummy's trumps protected him in spades. Franck Multon won with the diamond ace and, after several agonising seconds, found the king of spades continuation. This forced dummy to ruff with a trump honour and the 4-1 trump break then defeated the slam. Painful!

At the other table, Catherine D'Ovidio rebid 3♦ on the North cards and passed Philippe Cronier's 3NT. Nine tricks were made and *Zimmerman* gained 12 IMPs, rather than losing 13 if the clubs had been 3-2.

Two boards later, Cronier and D'Ovidio bid and made 6♥, which needed the ♦K onside. Hinden and Osborne took a look at the slam but decided to stay out of it. It was impossible to recover from these two body blows and *Zimmerman* won by 47-28 IMPs. The French team went on to defeat a strong Dutch squad in the final, winning by the extraordinary margin of 135-46. Many congratulations to Hinden, Leslie, Osborne and Allerton for the fine play that netted them a set of bronze medals!

The next event was the Mixed Pairs, where thirty pairs battled through to the final. England's Tom Townsend finished in an excellent sixth place, with his real-life partner Ewa Kater of Poland. Not far behind in ninth place were England international, Fiona Brown, and Hugh McGann of Ireland. Well

done also to Janet de Botton and Artur Malinowski (28th) and to Heather and Jeremy Dhondy (29th) – it is difficult indeed to qualify for these big finals.

It is a measure of the field's quality that mega-stars Sabine Auken and Norberto Bocchi could manage only twentieth position. Not content with their gold medals in the Mixed Teams, Catherine D'Ovidio and Philippe Cronier won further gold in the Mixed Pairs final, winning by a substantial 1.7%.

The next event was the Open Teams. Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Andrew Robson qualified second from Group E, but fell at the next hurdle – a one-day Swiss from which 32 teams emerged for the knock-out. This deal from *Mahaffey* (USA) v *Konstanta* (Poland) caught my eye:



Mixed Teams bronze medallists: from the left, Graham Osborne, Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Paula Leslie

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

West	North	East	South
Witek	Meckstroth Rodak		Rodwell
2♠	Dble	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Dble	All Pass

West's 2♠ showed a two-suiter. Over 4♠ I expected Rodwell to bid 4NT, showing two places to play. Rodwell went straight to 5♥, confident of support in the other major. Over West's 5♠, he bid his other suit and ended in 6♥. An air of mystery descended when East doubled the slam. Was this intended as Lightner?

Without the double, West would doubtless have tried his luck with the lowest spade (the ♠6). If partner could read it as lowest from five, he would treat it as suit preference for a club return. After East's double it was not so easy for Witek — he could 'see' a void diamond in the East hand!

To gasps from the spectators on Vugraph, West led the ♦3. Rodwell surveyed this card like a golden eagle spying a vole. West's long minor was surely diamonds and an opening lead of the lowest spot-card could only denote a void club. There was no need to risk a finesse of dummy's ♦Q. 'Ace, please,' said Rodwell. After drawing trumps, he played a club to the nine and was soon claiming an overtrick for +1310.

The eventual finalists in the Open Teams were Michel and Thomas Bessis, Josef Piekarek and Alexander Smirnov (France / Germany), playing against the USA's Jim Mahaffey, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Sam Lev, Jacek Pszczola and Gary Cohler. It seemed all over when the European team led by 51 IMPs. No, the Americans stormed back and won by 155-133 IMPs.

In the women's final, Turkey's *Kapadokya* team (Mine Babac, Dilek Yavas, Serap Kurunoglu, Lale Gumrukcuoglu) led throughout against a very strong *Netherlands I* squad (Carla Arnolds, Bep Vriend, Jet Pasman,

Anneke Simons, Laura Dekkers and Marion Michielsens). This was a splendid win for the Turkish women, whose delighted smiles brightened the following day's bulletin.

Meanwhile, in the Senior Teams, *Pharon* (Tony Waterlow, Paul Hackett, Colin Simpson, David Price, Gunnar Hallberg, and Sweden's Hans Gothe) were marching all the way to the final. I was impressed by this defence in the semi-final between *Pharon* and *Kutner*:

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg Stasica	Gothé	Wala	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The first five bids were the same at the other table, but then Hackett (South) bid 3♥. Waterlow bid 4♥ and easily made the contract, East scoring his three honour cards.

So, could 3NT be beaten? Gunnar Hallberg led the ♥7, Hans Gothe winning dummy's jack with the king. If East switches to the ♠3 now, declarer can succeed by covering with a low card. Gothe did better by leading the ♠7. Declarer ducked and East's card won the trick. Next came the ♠8, covered by the queen and king.

Uncertain who held the ♠10, Hallberg switched to the ♣8. The spotlight was now on Gothe. If he wins with the ace, declarer will have nine tricks. West's ♣8 had proclaimed a bad suit, however, and Gothe correctly played low on the trick. Declarer won with the ♣Q and ran the ♦J to East's king. This was the defenders' fourth trick and Gothe promptly tabled the ♠A for one down. A fine defence!

In the final the *Pharon* team was beaten 111-64 IMPs by France's Patrick Grenthe, Guy Lasserre, Francois Leenhardt, Patrice Piganeau, Philippe Poizat and Philippe Vanhoutte. So, the England Seniors added a set of silver medals to their several recent medals in international championships. Our congratulations to them!

The championships ended with three further pairs events. The gold medallists in the Open final were Artur Gula and Mikolaj Taczewski of Poland, with David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend in 13th place. The Netherlands' Carla Arnolds and Bep Vriend took gold in the Women's final, with England's Catherine Seale and Catherine Jagger 19th. Aleksander Jezioro and Jerzy Russyan of Poland won gold in the Senior final, with England's Tony Waterlow and Paul Hackett in 11th place. Congratulations to them all. □



Senior Teams silver medallists: from the left, Colin Simpson, Tony Waterlow, Hans Gothe, Paul Hackett, Gunnar Hallberg and David Price. The team was supported by Pharon Independent Financial Advisers of Canterbury

ANSWERS TO THE JUNE LEADS QUIZ

by Alan Mould

All of the June problems were about correctly interpreting partner's final double. In each case the opening lead is dependent on what partner is asking for. (New quiz: page 55.)

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

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Dble	All Pass

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♥A; (b) ♦J; (c) ♣10; (d) ♣4.

Partner's is a classic Lightner double asking for an unusual lead. Mostly (but not always) partner will have a void, and wants you to try and find it.

(a) ♥A: 6 marks. This is a 'hedging your bets' lead. If you don't know what partner wants, you can lead the ♥A and hope that the sight of dummy and/or partner's signal may help you. This is sensible when you are genuinely unsure what to lead, but not here.

(b) ♦J: 3 marks. Sixty years ago this would have been correct, as a Lightner double was a command to lead dummy's suit. Long ago it was realised that this was far too rigid and partner should make an intelligent choice.

(c) ♣10: 10 marks. The indicated lead. Surely the most likely reason partner has doubled is a club void and is trying to get you to lead one. In these situations the lead

is also suit preference so you should lead the ♣10 asking for a heart back.

(d) ♣4: 7 marks. See above! Still, the lead would have worked, so it gets 7 marks.

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

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

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♠5; (b) ♥Q; (c) ♥5; (d) ♦A.

What would you normally have led without a double? Surely your most likely lead is a heart, the suit partner has bid. It is therefore useful to play doubles like this as asking you to lead *your* suit, not partner's. The marks have reflected this.

(a) ♠5: 10 marks. In line with the discussion above, this gets top marks.

(b) ♥Q: 6 marks. This is what you would have led without the double so it ignores the implications of partner's double.

(c) ♥5: 3 marks. It is just about possible to find combinations where it is right to lead the low heart and have declarer finesse to your honour on the second round (declarer

holding K-J-x and partner the ace, for example) but they are few and far between and most likely this will simply confuse partner. It also again ignores the double.

(d) ♦A: 2 marks. This is an admission that you have no clue what the double is. Unless you play double as asking for neither suit (very unusual!) all this will do is give away a tempo and most likely the contract.

Hand 3	
♠	7 2
♥	Q 7 5 3 2
♦	8 6 2
♣	A 6 4

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

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♠7; (b) ♥3; (c) ♦8; (d) ♣A.

Is partner sitting there with a flat 20 count? Surely not! This double is again Lightner asking you to find an unusual lead – partner will have either a solid suit, or a good suit and an entry.

(a) ♠7: 10 marks. If partner has a good suit then it is most likely to be spades. This then must be the lead likely to get them down and gets the 10 marks.

(b) ♥3: 3 marks. This is what you would have probably led without the double. With the double it must be rated as a poor lead. Partner has asked you to do something unusual and you have ignored the request.

(c) ♦8: 7 marks. If partner is asking for an unusual lead, this must be a runner. It is more likely, though, that partner has a major rather than a minor since the opponents have not looked for a major-suit fit.

(d) ♣A: 5 marks. This will certainly give away a tempo and quite likely the contract. It will only work if partner has a solid suit as you will be able to switch at trick two. Still, at least it takes some cognizance of partner's double, so is better than a heart in my view. □

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: James Bentley,
Oxford

Regional: Peter Breakell,
London

Open: Joe Angseesing,
Cheltenham



Sponsored by PIATNIK



THE BUSINESS STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE

Sally Bugden, EBU Chairman, reports

AT the AGM in 2008, the EBU Board launched its strategy document, *Bidding for the Future*, which covered the period 2009-13. Since that time I have reported on its progress in the 2009 and 2010 August issues of *English Bridge*. We give you a progress update in August to ensure that you can approach your shareholders if you have any questions that you would like asked at the AGM in October, and for our shareholders to measure the Board's performance against its plan so it too can question us at that event – unfortunately the October issue hits your doormats too late for you to have time to consider what is happening in your organisation.

This is my last update on the strategy launched in 2008. During this coming twelve months we are going to review our strategy and launch a new version to address development of the EBU from 2012-17.

CLUBS

We have put a process in place for the new elected Club Committee to start its regional meetings this autumn. Each county should have either elected or appointed a club representative to meet in one of eight regional forums. These regional meetings will elect a representative to attend a national Club Committee meeting towards the end of this year. If you want to know who your county club representative is, please contact your county or Krys Kazmierczak at krys@ebu.co.uk.

Our Club Teacher Courses are beginning to take place more frequently. If you wish to attend a course which provides you with teaching advice and, very importantly, advice on how to recruit and welcome individuals of all ages to your club, then please contact John Pain at john@ebu.co.uk.

EDUCATION

As well as establishing our club courses, we have completed research into current county education activities. At our County Chairmen's meeting at the end of June, we are going to be looking at best practice and discussing how we can further develop bridge teaching locally to encourage more people to play our wonderful game.

TOURNAMENTS

Many tournament players responded to our online survey at the end of last year. We are currently looking at the length and location of our tournaments to assess whether shorter more local tournaments will be more popular. We are also looking at enhancing club competitions.

Many of you will be aware that the EBU will be running our simultaneous pairs competitions from April 2012. We are extremely excited about this initiative and the effect it will have on the enjoyment of our club players. We will be writing more about this in the October issue.

SIMPLIFICATION OF REGULATION

The Laws and Ethics Committee strive to ensure that regulation remains as simple as possible, and I would like to remind readers that the *Tangerine Book* and the easy-to-follow flow charts are available on the L & E section of our website.

We are currently in the process of updating our clubs and counties on the advice and guidance we can provide on disciplinary matters.

SELECTION

The Board is proud of its Selectors who have managed to elicit such excellent performances from our international players of all ages on a reducing budget. I am sure you will join with me in wishing our women's team the very best of luck in the Venice Cup which will take place in the Netherlands in October.

We were delighted that so many of you took part in the Bridge England Simultaneous Pairs in February which raised funds to support our international players. Please consider taking part next year when we will be running this event on 7th and 8th February 2012.

MANAGING THE ORGANISATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Aylesbury has managed the largest number of members the EBU has ever had with a considerably reduced staff – we recently found out that the salary bill for Aylesbury was larger in 1998 than it was in the year to 31 March 2011. Our strategy plan for 2012-17 will look at the needs of Aylesbury and staffing in line with the development of members services and duplicate bridge for that period.

Succession planning and organisation development will be addressed in the coming month with the County Chairmen.

We are delighted that one of our affiliated clubs has become a registered charity and that our work with the Charity Commissioners has encouraged us to formalise our approach to them. We will be asking the shareholders to approve a resolution at the AGM in October for the EBU to work towards becoming a registered charity.

SOCIAL BENEFITS OF BRIDGE

We continue our work with Baroness Henig and the members of the All Party Parliamentary Group to gain recognition for the importance of bridge playing for young people in schools as well as the benefits for us all in terms of mental and social activities as we grow older. We will be holding a MinibrIDGE day for journalists in London in September to further this cause.

THE NATIONAL GRADING SCHEME

I am indebted to all members of the working party who have spent so much time and effort on this project, which is nearing completion. I would also like to thank all those clubs which took part in the initial pilot. We will be launching this in the near future; we will publicise the NGS in *English Bridge*, on our website and in *Club Focus* and *Tournament Focus*.

DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION.

The responses from the counties' consultation with their members on democratic representation resulted in the retention of the current system based on the parliamentary model. Please exercise your rights and use the shareholders, your county representatives, to put any relevant issues to the AGM.

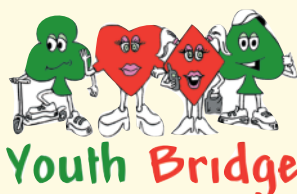
Until next time, enjoy your bridge . . .



JUNIOR TEACH-IN WEEKEND

26 – 28 August 2011
Loughborough University

All levels catered for, from absolute beginners to junior experts (ages 7 – 21)



Only £125 per student

Inclusive of all meals, two nights' accommodation, activities and bridge fees



Accompanying adults welcome (£140 each)

Entries ☎ 01296 317 217/218

TEACHER TRAINING COURSES 2011

Partner Teacher Training Courses –
courses for prospective teachers

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

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

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

Club Teacher Training Courses NEW courses for affiliated clubs

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

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

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

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

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

Any 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. There are additional concessions available for clubs hosting the courses.

CLUB DIRECTOR & COUNTY DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES 2011



ESSENTIALS £36

~~Brighton~~

Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury

~~Monday 15 August FULL~~

Sunday 11 September*
Wednesday 12 October

* A different date was shown in an earlier magazine.

Additional courses are shown on the EBU website.

Dates for courses in early 2012 will be available soon.

BOOK RULINGS £41

~~Brighton~~

Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury
EBU HQ, Aylesbury

~~Tuesday 16 August FULL~~

Sunday 2 October
~~Wednesday 9 November FULL~~
Wednesday 16 November

JUDGMENT RULINGS £41

~~Brighton~~

Tunbridge Wells
Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury

~~Wednesday 17 August FULL~~

Saturday 3 September
Sunday 23 October
Wednesday 14 December

ASSESSMENT £46

~~Brighton~~

Wantage
Huddersfield
Sheffield
Tunbridge Wells
Warrington
EBU HQ, Aylesbury

~~Thursday 18 August FULL~~

Saturday 3 September
Sunday 11 September
Saturday 8 October
Saturday 8 October
Sunday 11 December
Wednesday 18 Jan 2012

Brighton courses are FULL for this year.

2011 COUNTY AND COUNTY REFRESHER COURSE

September 17 and 18, Coventry Hilton

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

COUNTY TD PREPARATION COURSE

Saturday May 12, 2012

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

For further information, or to register for a course

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

NEW CONCESSIONS FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ AUGUST 2011

- 12-21 Brighton Summer Meeting
Hilton Metropole Hotel
15-18 Brighton Seniors Congress
Hilton Metropole Hotel
15-17 Really Easy Congress
Hilton Metropole Hotel
16-18 Next Step Congress
Hilton Metropole Hotel
26-28 Junior Teach-in Weekend
Loughborough

■ SEPTEMBER 2011

- 3-4 National Women's Teams
West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull
10-11 Bedford Congress
Milton Keynes
12-13 EBU Sims
Affiliated Clubs
16-25 Guernsey Congress & Seniors Congress
Guernsey
24-25 Surrey GP Weekend
Pairs Sat, Teams Sun
Premier League
24-25 **Richmond Bridge Club**
24-25 Derby GP Weekend
Pairs Sat, Teams Sun
25 Cornwall ODGP teams
25 Westmorland ODGP Pairs
Castle Green Hotel, Kendal
25 Herts ODGP teams
30-2 Oct West of England Congress
Weston-super-Mare

■ OCTOBER 2011

- 1-2 Premier League
tba
1-2 Great Northern Swiss Pairs
Hilton Leeds City Hotel
1-2 Felixstowe Congress
7-9 Isle of Man Congress
The Villa Marina, Douglas
12-13 BGB Sim Pairs
13-18 Overseas Congress
Kos
21-23 Autumn Congress
Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon
29-30 Malvern Congress
Brandsford
29-30 Kent Congress
Tunbridge Wells BC
29-30 Lancashire Congress

■ NOVEMBER 2011

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



EBU News

NATIONAL PAIRS



THIS tournament will have some changes. The main ones are highlighted below. Full details in the EBU diary or on the EBU website.

- New format for 2012
- Player entry fees for club heats reduced
- Players in heats need not be EBU members (but if they want to take up a qualifying position in the regional final on 18 March 2012 then they must be)
- Green Points are awarded at all stages
- There will be two national 50-pair finals held at Hinckley Island Hotel on 15-16 April 2012. The first final is open to the top 50 qualifiers. The second, new one is restricted to pairs with, at most, one life master (and no higher ranked player) and no player in the top 60 of the Gold Point list.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

- HMCA healthcare benefits
- Special Rates at Barceló hotels
- Spend EBU Prizes at Barceló Hotels
- Household Insurance Scheme
- Club Insurance
- Car Hire
- Travel Insurance

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

WOMEN'S TEAMS

SEPTEMBER 3-4, 2011

'THIS really is a fabulous event and I would encourage all women bridge players, whatever your standard, to form a team and give it a go this year. The new venue, the West Midlands Bridge Club, will be a great location, with hotels only a short way away (see entry details at the bottom of page 28).' So says June Booty-Taplin, Tournament Director, National Women's Teams 2010.

'I was very fortunate to be directing this event last year, it was a super weekend. The ambience was amazing. Everyone was extremely courteous and I often heard laughter, although I never did discover whether this arose because of general chit chat or when declarers saw their dummies!

'The format of the event enhanced the weekend, allowing for some very intensive bridge for those experienced players who were performing at their best, and offering a more relaxed second day for those who were less experienced or not at the top of their game. For the first day teams were split into two sections (some teams are 'seeded' so that a proportion of the strongest teams are in each section). The teams in each section played a round robin, playing a match against each of the other teams in their section and getting a result at the end of each match, which was charted on a large board. Two teams from each section qualified for the final on the second day, the winners from each section playing against the team that was second in the other section. Meanwhile the teams which did not qualify played a Swiss teams event. The two winning teams from the finals played a head-to-head match for the Whitelaw Cup.'

(June Booty-Taplin)

P2P REBATES

EBU members who played more than 150 club Pay-to-Play sessions in the year 1 April 2010 – 31 March 11 have received a rebate. These rebates are being held as credits on their EBU membership account. Members can check their account and amount of any rebate by logging into their member area on the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk/members_1.1b_beta/

Rebates can be used against Competition Entries or to purchase items from the EBU Bridge Shop. Rebates over £5.00 can also be claimed as a cheque or money transferred directly to a bank account if members provide the EBU with their bank details: account number, sort code and name the account is held in. To claim a rebate, please contact Clare Dumbarton at clare@ebu.co.uk or ☎ 01296 317225.

'BRIDGE LICENSED BY THE EBU'

When you see this in an advertisement in *English Bridge* it means:

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

NOTE that all County events advertised have an EBU licence.

YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU!

AFTER you have dipped your toes into the club duplicate and competed in other of your club events, what is the next stage?

Since most of us are averse to travelling long distances, one should look at what your county has to offer. England has thirty-nine affiliated counties. To find out what is going on, visit the relevant website (you can find the address in the County News section in the magazine). Should you not have a computer, in your EBU diary there is the address and telephone number of your county secretary who will be only too happy to assist you.

Are you afraid that you may not be good enough? The answer is you should not be. At the end of a session of bridge, whether you come first or last, if you can say to your partner: 'I enjoyed playing with you, let's do it again,' you have achieved your main objective.

What should be your first step? I would suggest, together with some bridge playing friends, join the local league, which is for teams of four. Normally you will start off in the bottom division, or in some counties they have a Newcomers league. During the season you would expect to play between seven and eight matches. Some counties leave you to organize the dates, while others

have a fixed monthly evening. Most of the counties allow you to play as many different players as you wish during the season, while a minority limits your team to six. The leagues have promotion, but basically you will be playing against other teams of your same standard.

Feeling a bit more adventurous? Counties organise pairs and teams events where you will meet players of all different standards. Such events include County, Men's, Ladies', Mixed and Newcomer Pairs. In addition there is usually at least one Teams event.

Some counties organise their own congress, while others have a green-pointed event. Part of the object of these is to raise money for the county and for you to have an enjoyable day out.

If you are successful at some of your county events, such as the County Pairs or Teams you are invited to go forward to National finals (the Corwen for the pairs and the Pachabo for the teams). In addition each county sends their winning teams of eight to the Garden Cities and selects their best players to represent them in the Tollemache and the inter-counties league.

So as they say in *Star Trek*: 'Live long and prosper.' I am sure you will enjoy it.

(Paul Hackett)

LAWS & ETHICS AUGUST UPDATE

THE Laws & Ethics Committee have published updated versions of the *Orange*, *Tangerine* and *White* Books. These versions are electronic only and can be found on the EBU website. All apply from August 1st 2011. In all cases, changes from the 2010 versions are highlighted in the new versions. Changes to the *Tangerine Book* follow those listed below for the *Orange Book*. Changes to the *White Book* are technical and not listed below.

Orange Book Changes

- There are no new agreements licensed for this year.
- There are no major changes to alerting regulations.
- Some tidying of wording has taken place.
- Feedback from the online survey and the Club Committee made it clear that significant change was not wanted.

The existing rules for alerting doubles have not materially changed, so if a double is specifically for take-out it remains not alertable. Such calls as a 'non-penalty slam' double above the level of 3NT, or a 'take-out' double that has an unusual agreed range of HCP are alertable.

Section 5E1 which asks you to alert (or announce) if a bid is not natural, or is natural but has a

potentially unexpected meaning, has been extended to cover doubles and redoubles also. This is in line with the general principle of alerting, that is to draw the opponents' attention to any call by partner that may have a special meaning.

Section 5E2 has clarified that doubles of some bids that might not be thought 'natural' are still not alertable if they are for take-out: this includes preference bids, transfer completions and similar auctions. The suit being doubled is always one that the opposition have shown in the auction, although it may be the bidder's partner who actually has length in the suit. An example auction is:

1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Dble		

If double is take out of hearts, it is not alertable.

In 10C2 there are occasions where a call might show, for example, 'spades and a minor' The Laws and Ethics Committee confirms that this is 'one meaning' within the context of the regulation.

In 11L3 the definition of a South African Texas 4♣ or 4♦ has been changed from a 'strong' 4♥ or 4♠ opening to a 'good' opening. This is to highlight that these bids are not governed by the Extended Rule of 25. □

3 – 4 September 2011

National Women's Teams

A National Green Point Event

West Midlands Bridge Club, Solihull

Organised by Warwickshire CBA and
West Midlands BC on behalf of the EBU

Entries / enquiries:

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk/NWT
e-mail: NWT@warwickshirebridge.co.uk
☎ 07977 481399



12 – 21 August 2011

Brighton Summer Meeting

A National Green Point Event incorporating

The Really Easy Congress (15 – 17 August)

The Next Step Congress (16 – 18 August)

The Seniors Congress (15 – 18 August)



Entries / enquiries to:

EBU Competitions Department

☎ 01296 317203 or 01296 317219



Some midweek events can be entered on the day

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.

August 2011 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Bakhshi)
♠ A K 8 7 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ 10 9 8 3
♣ 5
2. Game All
Dealer East
(Jiang Gu)
♠ A 10 9 5 4 3
♥ K 7
♦ A
♣ A J 4 2
3. Love All
Dealer East
(Mukherjee)
♠ J 6 5
♥ Q 7
♦ A K Q J 10 8 3
♣ 8
4. E/W Game
Dealer South
(Berenice Folkard)
♠ A K J 10 8 5
♥ A 10 6
♦ K 2
♣ K 3
*South opens a 12-14 1NT
5. Love All
Dealer West
(Liz Havas)
♠ J 9 7 6 3
♥ K Q J 8
♦ K 10
♣ 9 3
6. N/S Game
Dealer North
(Karaivanov)
♠ A 6 5 4
♥ A 8 2
♦ K 10 2
♣ Q 9 8
*North passes

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.

August 2011 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Del'Monte)
♠ Q 3
♥ 3
♦ A K Q J 7
♣ K Q 7 6 2
2. Game All
Dealer East
(Xiaodong Shi)
♠ K Q J
♥ A 10 3 2
♦ K 10 7 6 5
♣ 6
3. Love All
Dealer East
(Saha)
♠ 8 4 2
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ 6
♣ A K J 9 3
4. E/W Game
Dealer South
(Di Smart)
♠ 6 3
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 9 7 6 5 3
♣ Q 10 2
*South opens a 12-14 1NT
5. Love All
Dealer West
(Margi Bourke)
♠ A 5
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ A Q 9 7
♣ A Q 10
6. N/S Game
Dealer North
(Trendafilov)
♠ Q 9 7 3
♥ K J 10 5 4 3
♦ 9
♣ 7 6
*North passes

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 36-37



Did you beat the experts? – Pages 36-37

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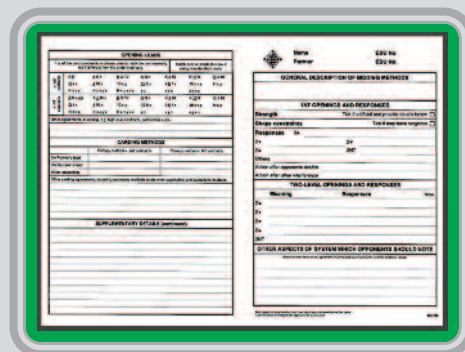
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The June 2011 Issue

I VERY much enjoyed the 75th Anniversary edition of *English Bridge*, and appreciate the effort that went into it. It was eye-opening and occasionally surprising, and some modern-day observations were insightful. The one thing that might have been missing was a good historical perspective on that year for bridge. It was barely ten years into Contract Bridge; it was largely played at home as what we call 'rubber' bridge. The big challenge of this new variety of bridge was that games and slams had to be bid as well as made. The great minds of the day had to grapple with methods of hand evaluation combined with a bidding 'system' that would enable a partnership to find not only the best suit or no-trumps to play in, but also make a good judgement as to whether a game or a slam should be called. I think what we see in the multitude of bidding systems in use in 1936 is different ideas still fighting it out for supremacy. But amongst those systems are surely all the essential elements of modern bidding. There are no-trump bids showing a range of point-counts, forcing bids, doubles that are not intended for penalty, an understanding of the pre-emptive value of high bids.

So, in response to the sentiment expressed of 'haven't we come a long way', I would say rather that *they* had come a long way. The pioneers we witness in 1936, doing things we might find even comical at times, were doing the hard work of finding out what worked well and what didn't work so well. Their efforts enabled others to refine their ideas into the robust and effective bidding systems that we take for granted today. We owe them our gratitude.

Mike Fisher, Woodbridge

I HAVE just spent five minutes with the June issue, which arrived today. Nothing in it I'll go back to, so it's ready for the recycling bin.

Can I have my money back?

Steven Gibbs, by e-mail

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed this month's magazine.

Please do keep up the green 'Did You know...?' boxes once the celebrations have ended.

Tim Greenhill, Billingshurst

A GREAT issue! My favourite articles were those by Richard Fleet and Matt Betts. One small regret: Matt made no mention of the German long jumper Lutz Long's advice to Jesse Owen to adjust his run up in the long jump qualifying. Having had two foul jumps, Owen did as Long suggested and qualified for the final, which he won. (Hitler might not have appreciated Long's sportsmanship!)

Bob Rowlands, London

I WAS fascinated by Simon Cochemé's article 'The Language of Bridge IV' (*English Bridge*, June 2011), in which he discusses bridge terminology from times gone by. I was surprised, though, when Simon said that 'A' ('West' in modern terminology) was also known as 'Eldest Hand'.

As a child growing up in the late fifties, one of my most treasured possessions was Hubert Phillips's *Book of Card Games*. Throughout the book the term 'Eldest Hand' was used in the description of a number of games including bridge. In each case I understood it to be a generic term meaning, quite literally, the hand that had been in existence for longest – in other words, the hand dealer dealt to first. That would mean that in bridge 'Eldest Hand' would always be the player sitting to dealer's left.

**Keith Sheppard,
Wokingham**



READING the June edition of the magazine was of interest to me, as my father is mentioned and he won the Gold Cup in 1936; I can remember cleaning it!

I have a replica of the Gold Cup and a photo of the team (above) but only the names of Harry Ingram (my father, on the far right) and Stan Hughes. Does someone know who the other two men are?

Patricia Dry, Ferndown

The team was (from the left): Stan Hughes, Tommy Simmons, Herbert Newmark, and Harry Ingram. In 1936 they not only won the Gold Cup but were also selected en bloc for the European Championships.

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.

Oddity

RECENTLY I played at the King's Lynn Congress, using EBU dealt boards. In discussion over a beer with teammates, we got to looking carefully at the hand records. There was comment about a particular feature of the distributions. I have then kept an eye on the hand records for my club – Norfolk and Norwich – and seen a similar feature. I am no mathematician but from 'feel' the feature is odd and is way beyond what my unskilled expectations would anticipate – and I would like to have an assurance from someone with mathematical skills that what is occurring every time I examine the hand records is in fact within the boundaries of normal distributions.

So what is this oddity? Within five-card or longer suits, I find that there are four 'consecutive' cards of a five-card block around 30-35% of all five-card or longer suits. Just to clarify, (x-)x-6-5-3-2 or A-K-Q-J-x would count as four consecutive cards but 10-8-6-5-3 does not.

Can a mathematical expert tell me that 30-35% is normal – or is there some oddity in the dealing system that is in common use?

Roger Cortis, Norwich ↷

Views

THE suggested protocol for the use of Bridgemates does not seem to me to go far enough.

I do not want to know the percentages immediately after the board has been played, nor do I wish to know that our opponents scored, for example, 87%! Some players are only too anxious to 'announce' their score, and I think this should not be permitted.

The use of these devices has already caused me and my partner to give up playing in congresses, after many years of doing so, nor will we play in clubs or county events where Bridgemates are used.

Progress? I don't think so.

Peter Mohan, Bedford

News

THE International Bridge Press Association's book of the year is *The Cardturner* by Louis Sachar. Sachar is the author of *Holes*, the best selling book for teenagers made into a record-breaking film. *The Cardturner* is a bridge story, a love story and a ghost story – it is also a jolly good read! It has already encouraged some youngsters to try their hand at bridge.

If EBU members are looking for a present for 10-16 year old nephews or nieces, family, friends, etc. they might think of giving them this book. It could well interest a new generation of youngsters to take up our wonderful game.

**Maureen Dennison,
Osterley**

Louis Sachar was featured in a 'Two-minute Interview' in our February 2009 issue, and The Cardturner was reviewed in the Editor's Chat in the October 2010 English Bridge.

The Sting

I WAS playing a while ago for my golf club in a local league Golf and Bridge match against another golf club. As usual in these matches, the bridge is a trifle unpredictable. I picked up the South hand below:

♠ K 6 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 8 5
♣ 5 3



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

The bidding proceeded 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥ – 4NT (steam-age Blackwood) – 5♦ (one ace) – 6♥ – End. West led the ♣Q and the sight of dummy did not make the contract look too promising. We need a very friendly diamond distribution to get close to making, I thought. However, let's make some effort, so win with the ♣A at trick one, then heart to the jack, small diamond from table – East produces the king of diamonds! Ruff this, and lead a heart to the queen which draws the trumps. Then ace and queen of diamonds throwing clubs from hand; on the second of these LHO plays the ♦9. Now the ♦10 produces the ♦7 from East, so the diamonds are 4-4; I ruff the ♦10 intending to throw my last club on the established ♦8 – my greatest con ever.

That is until I observed that West had discarded on the ♦10. So it's East who wins the greatest-con-of-all-time tag, by playing ♦K from ♦K-J-x-x-x when I led a diamond from table at trick three. Brilliant – I wish I'd done it.

Tony Parkinson, Reading

Names

I ENJOYED Heather Dhondy's letter (April issue) about combining the names of bridge partnerships.

It explains why Jason and Justin Hackett are known as *Hack-etts*, the first part coming from Jason's surname and the second from Justin's (or maybe the other way round).

Henry Cosgrave, London

Hard Work

'A GRAND slam in no-trumps where you hold sufficient top cards so no finesse or end-play is needed,' writes Mike Duncan (June Letters) explaining the term 'slam dunk' as applied to bridge (June Letters). Does this marvel ever occur in real life?

Playing at the club the following hand was dealt:

Game All. Dealer East.

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

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

♠ J 7 5 4
♥ J 9 4
♦ 2
♣ 10 9 8 6 5

Our opponents played in 4♥ making thirteen tricks. Unbelievably, this actually was below average for us!

Most people can work out that there are probably fifteen tricks available here (six hearts, six diamonds, two aces and at trick fourteen there is a spade/club criss-cross squeeze on North). However, at the club no-one bid a slam of any kind: 4♥ was the usual score, one person made thirteen tricks in no-trumps somehow and two pairs only made twelve tricks.

How do you only make twelve tricks? Sometimes it is very hard to get a good score!

John Portwood, by e-mail

Monaco Affair

I AM delighted to hear that Monaco has signed up the *Fantunes*, *Helgerness* and Frank Multon. And why not? All top football clubs spend millions of pounds to hire the best players in the world and African gold medal standard athletes find new homes in Scandinavia and the Middle East.

In the modern over-crowded world genuine skill is at a premium and talented individuals should have every opportunity to sell it to the highest bidder.

I look forward to Monaco's results in the next Bermuda Bowl competition.

Diip Guha, Chesterfield

THE thought of the European Championship, an event which is only a few years younger than the game of contract bridge itself, being regarded as no more than a money-making opportunity for professionals is abhorrent.

If the Championship ceases to be a genuine representative event, it will no longer be justifiable to expend members' money on supporting our teams – let them pay their own way.

May I suggest that it would be appropriate to lobby the European Bridge League and World Bridge Federation in order to ensure that this sort of chicanery is outlawed: perhaps a minimum residence criterion of five years for someone wishing to represent a new country would be the answer.

**Richard Fleet,
Berkhamsted**

WHO cares what happens at the top level of the game? The way it is played, it is nothing to do with me and other average club players, so why should we worry about who represents Monaco?

John Purvis, London □

Shapely and Balanced Hands

Send your questions to multiple world champion Heather Dhondy
c/o the editor at 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk.

Please include your name and address even if writing by e-mail –
though we are happy not to publish your name to protect the guilty!



Heather Dhondy

ASK HEATHER

SATI MCKENZIE writes: How would you bid these East-West hands?

♠ A		♠ Q x
♥ A K Q x x x x		♥ J x
♦ J x x x x		♦ Q x x
♣ Void		♣ A K Q J x x x

West opens and the auction goes: 1♥ – 2♣ – 3♥ – 4NT – 5♠ – 6♥. The 4NT was Roman Key Card Blackwood; 5♠ should show two key cards and the queen of trumps. West felt it would be better to show one fewer key card on that hand. The contract went two off.

What would constitute a 'sensible' bidding sequence to stop in 4♥?

Hands of extreme distribution, such as the West hand, are always difficult to evaluate and describe. They are statistically rare, and therefore little space is afforded to them in a bidding system. Having said that, the sequence given breaks two fundamental rules of bidding.

1. *Don't use Blackwood when you do not know what to do over the response.* It is ill-advised to use Blackwood with holdings such as Q-x or Q-x-x since, if you are missing a key card, you will have no idea whether the slam is making, or missing the first two tricks.
2. *Never lie about your number of aces.* If you are embarrassed about your previous bidding, that's too bad, but two wrongs don't make a right.

Over the 1♥ opening bid, the responding hand is very close to forcing with 3♣. Given the collection of queens and jacks outside, however, and being just a 15 count, I would respond 2♣. Opener now has a choice of whether to introduce the diamond suit, or stress the good-quality heart

suit by jumping to 3♥. I prefer your choice of 3♥ given the disparity in the suits. Facing this auction, East is clearly close to slam in terms of high-card points, but we need to stop and think about what we need from partner in order to make slam a decent contract. Both spades and diamonds will need to be controlled, which means at least ace in one, and king in the other, and in addition, partner's trumps will need to be A-K-Q-x-x-x or better. Although this hand will make slam a good contract, they are a specific set of cards, and partner doesn't always have quite the hand you need. I would therefore take the slightly pessimistic approach of raising to 4♥. However, if I had a convenient cue-bid to make below game (e.g. if I held: ♠ Q x ♥ J x ♦ A Q x ♣ K Q J x x x), I would do that instead.

RD asks: Please would you clarify for me the 1NT opening? I have always opened 1NT on any 12-14 balanced hand including a five-card minor but recently it was obvious that this was not the best bid. If the hand has only 12 points and is not brilliant, can I pass or should I open 1♦/1♣?

I would certainly advise you to open all balanced hands of 12-14 points 1NT, including hands with a five-card minor. When you say that it was 'obvious' that this was not the best bid, I assume that you have had one or two bad results from making such an opening, which is unfortunate; however, bridge is a game of percentages and odds, and you will inevitably get some bad results by using any method of bidding.

I would, however, try to persuade you that any hand of 12 points with a five-card minor is worth an opening bid, and if a

weak no-trump is your method (and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that), then 1NT is your bid. If you open one of a minor instead, you may find yourself with rebid problems since a rebid of 1NT would show a stronger hand.

KS asks: Holding six diamonds, five hearts, two singletons and 11 points, my partner opened 1♦ and after my 1♠ bid (with 11 points), bid 2♥. As this would normally show 16 points, is this the best way of bidding such a hand?

You ask a very good question, and one about which even the top players are not unanimous in their view. You can shade the 16 points needed for a reverse when you have extra shape, as in the example you give with a 1-5-6-1 distribution, but 11 points is too weak to consider this. Your choices are to open 1♦ and rebid 2♦, or to open 1♥.

Opening 1♦ has the advantage that you have bid and rebid your six-card suit and shown your point count. The obvious downside is the possibility of missing a heart contract.

Opening 1♥ and rebidding 2♦ has the advantage of showing both suits without lying about your point count. However, partner will be misled about your suit lengths, and will give you preference (or even false-preference) to your shorter suit.

My opinion is that when your shorter suit is a major, you do better to show it, so I would open 1♥. Neither is perfect, but to conceal a five-card major twice while rebidding a minor is worse than misleading partner over your respective suit lengths. □

Around & About

LOCAL BRIDGE CLUB KEEPS AMBULANCE FLYING

MEMBERS of the Trowbridge County Town Bridge Club have presented a cheque for £2,000 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance service. The money was raised from a highly successful Swiss teams event and raffle held at St James's Church Hall, Trowbridge.



Local businesses were very generous in giving raffle prizes, knowing that this essential service relies on charitable donations and fund-raising in order to keep operating.

The flourishing Duplicate Bridge Club, founded less than four years ago, already has a loyal membership of almost one hundred drawn from as far afield as Bath, Box, Devizes, Melksham, Frome and Trowbridge. It meets in beautiful surroundings at the Trowbridge Cricket Club and uses computer-dealt hands and up-to-the-minute electronic scoring. Visitors are always welcome, and tuition and a 'pairing' service are offered. *(Diana King)*

'TIME FOR A CUPPA'

THE Oakfield Bridge Club held a 'Time for a Cuppa' event in aid of Dementia UK and Admiral Nurses, which raised £390 for the charity. The club was formed in May 2010 and operates from the Freemasons Hall in Uppermill, Saddleworth, Oldham.

A host system operates at all sessions. On Monday afternoon an EBU registered teacher gives a thirty-minute lesson followed by assisted play. On Tuesday evenings regular duplicate sessions are held and the club took part in the WBF World Charity Pairs and raised £65 for UNICEF – a small amount but Oakfield is as yet a very small club! The club website is at www.bridgewebs.com/oakfield. *(David Sumbler)*

MORPETH STUDENT PARTY

MORPETH Bridge for All teachers held their annual wine and cheese party, including a competition, for students past and present at Storey Park Community Centre. There were 66 students this year – their numbers grow every year! Eight brave students had only been learning for a very short time and played in a separate 'gentle' section alongside the more experienced players.

The bridge competition was directed by Norman Gray who created a relaxed atmosphere. The winners of the main group were Moyra and Cyril Meehan playing N/S and Susan Turner – Ken Wharrier playing E/W. The beginners' group winners were Christine Hayward – Susan Horton.

If anyone is interested in learning the game of bridge please contact Tessa Lee ☎ 07773 889597.

FROM BEGINNERS TO WINNERS

NEWENT Bridge Club's Jack Prichard Salver is awarded annually to the winners of the Mixed Pairs.

The trophy, a handsome silver salver, was presented to Newent Bridge Club by Jack's family in 2000. He was a very keen bridge player and one of the club's founder members. Jack farmed for many years at The Green Farm, Newent, and is survived by his widow, Nan, who was also a member of the Newent Club. When he retired from farming, Jack spent a great deal of time playing bridge at a number of clubs in the area. He was an excellent player, becoming County Champion one year.



This year the Salver was won by his daughter, Anne Wathen, and her partner Terry Britton (*in the photo above*). Both Anne and Terry are very new to bridge, being recent 'graduates' from the club's classroom run by Ken Vowles on Friday evenings. From beginners in October 2008 to winners of a prestigious trophy in April 2011 takes some doing – well done to both.

Newent Bridge Club plays on Wednesdays and Fridays in Sheppard House, Foley Road, Newent. A new course for beginners starts in October 2011, on Fridays. Details may be found on the website www.newentbridgeclub.org.uk. *(Hylary Kingham)*

Around & About

NOTHING RETIRING ABOUT ABC!

DELEGATES to the Norfolk Pension Fund Members Event got a welcome break from financial advisers and funeral planning when the Afternoon Bridge Club took a stand to promote the game county-wide. Some four hundred retired employees of Norfolk County Council, assembled at the Holiday Inn Norwich North for their annual get-together, got the full marketing treatment on the joys of bridge – either returning to the game after a break to do boring things like earning a living or learning it from scratch as their brand new retirement challenge.



Former Geography and Sports teacher Alan Vincent (*above in the picture with Jan Wells*) feared his memory and maths skills weren't good enough for bridge – but ABC Secretary Jan Wells assured him that counting to 13 was all that was required. 'And there was I thinking only very clever people could learn bridge,' said Alan.

ABC produced a flyer promoting their own Costessey-based club and bridge classes – while pointing out that alternatives were available across Norfolk for those living elsewhere in the county. Norfolk CBA thought the promotional event such a good idea that they kindly funded half the cost of the leaflet.

For information about the club see www.afternoonbridge.org.uk

CELEBRATIONS



From the left: Krys Kazmierczak, Darren Evetts, Gaynor Hull (club member), Malcolm Oliver and Gordon Fox

ON March 20th Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Club started their 40th Anniversary celebrations with a luncheon attended by 100 members at the Stratford Oaks Golf Club. This was followed by a week's programme of bridge events at the club's own premises in Holtom Street. Sessions catered for all standards of player including a highlight 'Play with the Stars' evening which was attended by special guests Malcolm Oliver, Board Director of the EBU, Krys Kazmierczak, EBU Liaison Officer, and Warwickshire CBA Chairman, Darren Evetts and their partners. In his welcome address the club Secretary, Gordon Fox, expressed appreciation for the Certificate of Congratulations presented to the club on the EBU's behalf by Krys Kazmierczak. Gordon also welcomed the presence of founder members Andrew Holtom and John Parkes. Despite the strong presence of the guests, the hosts could be commended for taking four out of five of the top places!

Andrew Kambites successfully rounded off the week's celebrations by giving an entertaining two-session seminar on Protective Bidding and Building the Perfect Partnership. *(John Peace)*

BRIDGE RUNNERS

AFTER five months of training, four members of the national bridge Junior squads, plus Coach Alan Shillitoe, made it to the startline of the Reading Half Marathon with aspirations ranging from personal bests to completing alive. The Reading Half is one of the biggest in the country and this edition attracted over 12000 runners. All the youngsters and the Coach made it round, and Ben Paske surprised even himself by setting a spanking pace. The run was a great team-building success, and has got Coach Shillitoe looking out for other interesting ways to get the junior squads together and throw them out of their comfort zones!

In the photo, from the left: Kyle Lam, Ben Paske, Alex Roberts, Tommy Brass, and Alan Shillitoe, complete with finishers medals.





David Bird

Beat today's experts

Bidding problems are on page 29

1. N/S Game. Dealer West.

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

West	East
Bakhshi	Del'Monte
1♠	2♦
4♣	4NT
5♥	6♦

We start at the 2011 Vanderbilt in Louisville, Kentucky. Our very own David Bakhshi had a splendid tournament in a brand new partnership with Ishmael Del'Monte of Australia. Their team eventually lost narrowly in the final.

On this deal from the semi-finals, East responded with a game-forcing 2♦. (The species of player that makes a jump shift on a two-suiter is almost extinct nowadays). A 3♣ rebid would be natural and

forcing, so Bakhshi's 4♣ was a splinter bid, agreeing diamonds and showing at most one club. East completed the auction with Roman Key-card Blackwood and the excellent slam was easily made. Our congratulations go to David for his fine showing in this championship and several other recent events.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ (10), games (6), 6♠ (5).

2. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ A 10 9 5 4 3	♦ N	♠ K Q J
♥ K 7	♦ W	♥ A 10 3 2
♦ A	♦ E	♦ K 10 7 6 5
♣ A J 4 2	♦ S	♣ 6

West	East
Jiang Gu	Xiaodong Shi
1♠	1♦
2NT	2♠
4♣	3♥
4NT	4♦
7♣	5♠

Later in the same semi-final, this grand slam was bid against Bakhshi and his partner. At all four tables of the Vanderbilt semi-finals, East rebid 2♠. This is clearly the right action, despite holding only three spades. If you disapprove of raising on three trumps, it will cost you in the long run. Sometimes you will rebid 2♦, playing there, and find that you have missed a good spade game

Jiang Gu's 2NT was an artificial relay and the 3♥ response suggested 3-4-5-1 shape. After two cue-bids, West bid RKCB finding the ♥A and the ♠K-Q opposite.

Knowing from the earlier shape-showing bid that East held a singleton club, West was able to bid the excellent grand slam.

Curtis Cheek and Joe Grue also reached 7♠, flattening the board in this match. Both teams stopped in 6♠ in the other semi-final.

■ **Awards:** 7♠ (10), 6♠ (6), games (3).

3. Love All. Dealer East.

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

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

The deal comes from the final of the 2011 Indian Winter Nationals, with *Formidables* facing *Dhampur Sugar Mills*.

After a start of 1♣ – 1♦ – 1♥, some players like to use 1♠ as natural, showing four spades. They then use 2♠ as the artificial fourth-suit-forcing bid.

Bhabesh Saha had no spade stopper and had to rebid 3♣ after this start. Sumit Mukherjee continued with 3♦, which would not have been forcing had he bid it on the second round. Saha marked time with 3♥ (he could not hold five hearts after his previous bids) and Mukherjee then decided to play in 3NT.

It was a fine decision! Even though the partnership was unlikely to hold a spade stopper – East might have bid 3♠ rather than 3♥ with a half-stopper such as ♠Q-x – there was a good chance that the defenders would not be able to take five spade tricks. Meanwhile, it was possible that the defenders could cash three spade tricks against the alternative game in diamonds. 3NT was duly made when spades broke 4-3.

■ **Awards:** 3NT (10), part-scores (5), 5♦ (4).

4. E/W Game. Dealer South.

<p>♠ A K J 10 8 5 ♥ A 10 6 ♦ K 2 ♣ K 3</p>		<p>♠ 6 3 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ 9 7 6 5 3 ♣ Q 10 2</p>	
<p>West Folkard</p>		<p>North Lachman</p>	
<p>Dble 2♠</p>		<p>East Smart</p>	
<p>Pass</p>		<p>South Snashall</p>	
<p>2♠</p>		<p>1NT Pass</p>	

Next we visit the final of the 2011 Australian Women's Trials. South opens with a weak 1NT and Berenice Folkard makes a penalty double. Her hand is far too strong for an overcall of 2♣ and unsuitable for 3♠.

If East held 4 or more points, she would pass the double in the expectation of picking up a penalty. Di Smart's actual hand was weak and she was entitled to remove the double into her five-card suit. What should West say now?

West's bid of 2♠ is exactly right! At two other tables (the boards were shared with

the semi-finals of the men's trials) West jumped to 3♠. It is false logic to think that your minor-suit kings lie over the opening bid and are therefore the equivalent of aces. Partner has shown a weak hand and there is no reason to think that you will be able to cross to dummy twice to lead towards the kings.

Not surprisingly 3♠ went down where it was bid, so Folkard's accurate auction was rewarded.

■ **Awards:** 2♠ (10), 1NT Doubled (8), 3♠ (5), 2♦ (4).

5. Love All. Dealer West.

<p>♠ J 9 7 6 3 ♥ K Q J 8 ♦ K 10 ♣ 9 3</p>		<p>♠ A 5 ♥ A 9 6 4 ♦ A Q 9 7 ♣ A Q 10</p>	
<p>West Havas</p>		<p>East Bourke</p>	
<p>Pass</p>		<p>2NT</p>	
<p>3♣</p>		<p>3♦</p>	
<p>4♣</p>		<p>4♥</p>	

This is another deal from the Australian Women's Trials final. The first question is: should West open the bidding? On some 10-counts including (say) ♠K-Q-J-9-4, you might stretch to open 1♠. Not here, with this straggly spade suit.

Margi Bourke opened 2NT in the third seat and Liz Havas responded 3♣. This was Puppet Stayman, a convention that asks the opener if she holds a five-card major. You might make such a response if you held three spades and only one heart, for example, expecting a 5-3 spade fit to play well.

A response of 3♠ or 3♥ would show a five-card suit. Bourke's actual 3♦ response showed an unspecified four-card major.

Havas would now rebid 3♠ with a heart suit and 3♥ with a spade suit. This so-called 'Puppet' mechanism is aimed at making the 2NT opener the declarer. Havas's actual 4♣ showed both majors and was a mild slam try. (With a weaker hand and both majors, she would bid 4♦.) Bourke then closed the auction with 4♥.

By bidding in this way, Havas gave up the chance of playing in a 5-3 spade fit. For that reason some players reserve a special response (3♠) to show five spades and four hearts.

■ **Awards:** 3NT/4♥ (10), 6♥/4NT (7), 5♥ (6).

6. N/S Game. Dealer North.

<p>♠ A 6 5 4 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ Q 9 8</p>		<p>♠ Q 9 7 3 ♥ K J 10 5 4 3 ♦ 9 ♣ 7 6</p>	
<p>West K'vanov</p>		<p>North Pancheva</p>	
<p>2NT</p>		<p>East T'filov</p>	
<p>4♥</p>		<p>Pass</p>	
<p>Pass</p>		<p>South Chernev</p>	
<p>Pass</p>		<p>Pass</p>	

We end at the 2011 Bulgarian Trials. Rumen Trendafilov opens with a weak 2♥ in second seat. Do you like that action, with a four-card spade suit on the side? I am very happy with it. He has good hearts and the length in spades may give his LHO a difficult call to make. It was now Kalin Karaivanov to respond.

Why do so many players overbid opposite a weak two? West holds a weak 1NT. He has some sort of heart fit, yes, but no ruffing value. He should pass!

West ventured a 2NT relay response. Their convention card does not reveal the meaning of the 3♦ response but it was enough to propel the world-class Bulgarian stars into a hopeless game, which went two down. North was a passed hand, so there was no question of West bidding for pre-emptive reasons.

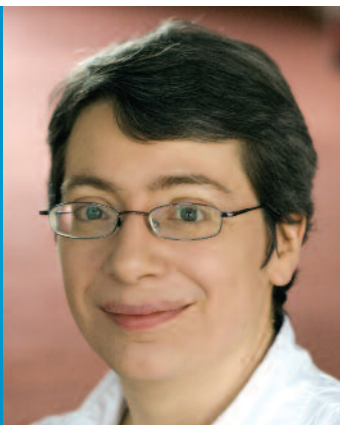
■ **Awards:** 2♥/2♠ (10), 3♥ (7), 3♠ (6), games (3).



Our experts fall at the last hurdle but still manage an impressive 53/60. If you scored more than 45, you did well. Let's look for some useful bidding tips.

Tips to remember

- When a bid at a particular level would be natural and forcing (1♠ – 2♦ – 3♣), a bid at the next level (1♠ – 2♦ – 4♣) is a splinter bid.
- Puppet Stayman is a worthwhile convention when responding to 2NT. It allows you to detect when the opener has a five-card major.
- Do not join the hordes of players who overbid opposite a weak two-bid. When you hold a weak 1NT type, remember that partner would surely have used a transfer response to sign off in two of his suit, had you been first to speak. □



Frances Hinden

Weak Jump Shift Responses Are Best

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

If partner opens 1♣ or 1♦, I like to play that a jump to two of a major shows a hand like a minimum weak two – about 4-8 points and a six- or seven-card suit. To see why, suppose you hold:

♠ K Q J 9 7 2	Partner	You
♥ A 10 4	1♦	1♠
♦ 9	2♣	?
♣ 7 3 2		

The textbook bid is an invitational 3♠. Partner might have any of these hands:

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

♠ A
♥ 7 2
♦ K Q 10 7 6 2
♣ K Q J 4

You might make 3♠ on the first, but you'd rather be in 2♠. 3NT is best on the second and 4♠ on the last but partner is forced to guess.

This hand is neither a typical strong jump shift, nor a weak one, so why is it relevant? We need to think about different hands with six spades. Here are four possible hands for responder:

Hand 1	Hand 2
♠ K Q J 9 7 2	♠ K Q J 9 7 2
♥ 10 4 2	♥ A 10 4
♦ 9	♦ 9
♣ 7 3 2	♣ 7 3 2

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

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

Playing standard methods, on the first hand you respond 1♠ and bid 2♠ over a minimum rebid. On the second, you respond 1♠ and then jump to 3♠ to show an invite. On the third, you respond 1♠ and then show a game force in some way (inventing a heart suit, bidding the fourth suit, jumping to 4♠ . . .). On the last, you make a strong jump shift with 2♠ then rebid 3♠ to show a very strong hand with a good suit.

Suppose instead you play an immediate 2♠ response to show a weak hand. Now you respond 2♠ directly on the first hand, and have told partner exactly what you have. You have forced the next player to bid at the three level if he wants to come into the auction – and he could have a strong hand if opener is minimum. On the second hand, you respond 1♠ and bid 2♠ next, showing an invitational hand with six spades. You've shown your hand a level lower than in standard methods, allowing more room to look for the best game, or to stop with a misfit. On the third example, you respond 1♠ and then force to game next round (no difference). On the fourth, you respond 1♠ then jump to 3♠, again showing a strong hand with long spades. In summary, on the first two hands you are better off playing weak jump shifts, and on the last two you are in the same position.

If playing an immediate jump shift as weak is so good, why is it not universal? When contract bridge developed in the UK, the general approach was 'the more

you bid, the more you've got' and it was necessary to jump on strong hands to stop partner passing later. This led to strong two openings, strong jump overcalls and strong jump shifts. In North America, where weak twos and weak jump overcalls are usual, weak jump shifts are also more popular (although strong jumps are still 'standard'). A more serious handicap is when you have a strong hand with support for partner. Suppose partner opens 1♦ and you have:

♠ A Q J 8 4
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ K 10 7 4
 ♣ K 3

This is an easy hand to bid in standard methods: you jump to 2♠, then raise diamonds and have shown a slam try with good spades and primary diamond support.

If you are going to play weak jump shifts, you need another way to show this. One popular method in response to a 1♥ or 1♠ opening is to play a response of 2NT to show a game force with four-card support; it is certainly more difficult when opposite a minor because you also need to offer spades as a possible contract. However, this is a very rare hand compared to a weak response with long spades and in any case opener's rebid might solve the problem (he might raise spades, for example).

Using these jumps to show a single-suited hand is only one approach – there are plenty of more complex conventions possible. I haven't even mentioned three-level jumps in response to 1♥ or 1♠ (showing support for partner is popular). However, the many alternatives at the two- and three-level reflect the general belief that strong jump shifts are simply less useful than the other possible uses for the bids. Why not try giving them up for a while and see what happens? □

Strong Jump Shift Responses Are Best

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



Brian Senior

THE DEBATE

WHENEVER we consider whether a bidding treatment or convention is a good idea, we cannot look at it in isolation. Rather, we need to look at it in context: how well does it fit into the overall structure of our system. For example, a pre-emptive jump raise such as $1\heartsuit - 3\heartsuit$ fits far better into Precision Club, where a nine-card fit is assured and partner is limited, than into weak no-trump Acol, where our four-card raise may find only an eight-card fit and partner may hold a balanced 15-16, when we could turn a plus into a minus by driving to the three level in a dubious cause.

And so it is with the strong jump shift. If we play two-over-one game-force, then not only are the three-level jump shifts not needed so much to show strong hands, because to respond $2\spadesuit$ and follow up with $3\spadesuit$ is forcing to game, but there are also other, more necessary uses for these jumps – perhaps to show an invitational single-suiter, perhaps to show raises in partner's suit. However, the strong jump shift has always been an integral part of the Acol system, and it is within that context that I suggest it is still a good idea, even if it may have fallen out of fashion.

Firstly, we do not *need* the jump shift for any other purpose in the way that we do in some other systems. Invitational single-suiters are catered to by auctions like: $1\heartsuit - 2\heartsuit - 2\heartsuit - 3\heartsuit$, and $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\heartsuit - 3\spadesuit$. Nor do we need Bergen or other fancy raises other than a 2NT strong high-card raise in partner's suit to aid in slam exploration. As I suggested earlier, the pre-emptive jump raise is not such a good fit with four-card majors and a weak no-trump, so we don't require three different ways to raise to the three level. Indeed, if we are tempted by Bergen-style raises because of the Law of Total Tricks, then to raise to the three level, when we will often have

only an eight-card fit, is actually going against the Law.

Which only leaves weak jump shifts. A weak jump shift works best when partner will have a limited balanced hand a high proportion of the time. This makes it a particularly good fit with a $1\clubsuit$ opening which includes virtually all weak no-trump openers, an increasingly popular approach. It is a relatively poor fit with a method in which partner's one-of-a-suit opening will never be a balanced minimum and often an unbalanced hand covering a wide point range. Whether we agree that the weak jump shift is played as 2-6 HCP or 5-9 HCP, we will sometimes sit with a beautiful hand as opener and curse silently when partner pre-empts us.

Jump shifts make it easier to describe strong hands

It is not just that weak jumps sometimes make life difficult for partner rather than the opposition, they also make it harder for responder to describe a strong hand. A traditional strong jump shift shows around 16+ HCP with a good five-card or longer suit. It may be single-suited, it may be two-suited where the second suit is a fit for partner, or it may be a 5-3-3-2 type where we intend to rebid in no trump. It is never a non-fitting two-suiter.

The problem with not playing strong jumps with our Acol is that, when we have a hand that is suitable to make one, we have to bid around the houses, making a simple bid, then using fourth suit to set up a force, then hoping that partner's response doesn't prevent us following through with the descriptive bid we hoped to make. We lose definition. And, with all due respect, while the top players may be able to use their fine judgment to overcome this problem most of the time, the mass of players

simply do not have that fine judgment to bring to bear.

Say we pick up:

\spadesuit A Q J 8 6 \heartsuit 8 6 \diamondsuit K J 4 \clubsuit A J 2.
Partner opens $1\heartsuit$ and over our $1\spadesuit$ response rebids $2\diamondsuit$. We are too strong for 3NT so go through fourth suit and, over $3\clubsuit$, partner bids 3NT. He may do this with 11 HCP or with 16 HCP. In the former case 3NT may be the limit, while in the latter 6NT may be cold. So we could raise to 4NT, perhaps? And would we not also have to do that with 18-19 HCP? These deals where both players have around 16 HCP often see missed slams. Start with a strong jump shift of $2\spadesuit$, then bid 3NT at our next turn – a problem hand for everyone else in the room becomes simple.

I am not for one moment advocating that every 16+ hand should make a jump shift. Bids that use up a lot of space should give a lot of information. While I would jump to $2\spadesuit$ on the example given above, swap the majors around and hear partner open $1\spadesuit$ and I would not dream of jumping to $3\heartsuit$ on \heartsuit A-Q-J-8-6. A jump which cramps the bidding to that extent should guarantee a very strong suit or it creates more problems than it solves.

How about:

\spadesuit A K Q J 9 6 2 \heartsuit 10 3 \diamondsuit K 3 \clubsuit K 8.
Partner opens $1\diamondsuit$ and we jump to $2\spadesuit$. Now we can rebid a forcing $3\spadesuit$ to set trumps. Try it after a simple $1\spadesuit$ response. Partner rebids $2\clubsuit$ and we have to bid $2\heartsuit$ as $3\spadesuit$ would not be forcing. Or, worse, opener rebids his original suit and we have to invent a bid in a doubleton to set up a force. Whatever we do from there, we are in a much worse position than had we simply made a strong jump shift in the first place.

Slam deals are both important and fun. Properly used, strong jump shifts help us to bid them more accurately. \square



Andrew Kambites

Entries and Communication

Part I

Establishing Long Suits

IN the first deal your four of clubs lead is won by East's king, declarer following with the six. East returns a club and South inserts the ten. How should you defend if the club East returned was: (i) the nine? (ii) the five?

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

North	South
3NT	1NT
	Pass

This is all about knowing which card you would expect East to return from any particular club holding. If East wins West's opening lead and he chooses to return West's suit:

- (i) If East started with three cards in the suit, then he returns the higher of his remaining two cards. The return of the nine is clearly a next highest from three. You can win the jack but don't delude yourself that if you play the ace the queen will fall. Declarer still has the queen guarded. You should win the jack and switch to a heart. You need East to have an entry to lead another club through declarer. The heart switch is obvious because if partner has the ace of diamonds he will gain the lead with it later.

- (ii) If East started with four or more cards in the suit, then he returns his original fourth highest, unless there is a strong possibility that the remaining two cards might block the suit. The return of the five is clearly from an original four-card holding, indeed you can work out that partner started with exactly ♣ K 9 7 5. You must take your jack and cash the ace. A good partner will drop the nine under your ace to avoid blocking the suit.

★★★★★

In the next deal West leads the nine of spades against 3NT and dummy plays low. Can you defeat this contract?

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

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

Declarer has:

♠ A J 8 ♥ A 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 5 ♣ K 4 3

If you play the queen, then declarer will allow it to win the trick. You can continue spades but declarer will win and when

West comes in with the ace of clubs, he will have no spade left to return. Declarer has two spade tricks whatever you do. You can force him to win trick one by playing a low spade. You must now hope that declarer tackles clubs before diamonds. West takes his ace of clubs and returns his last spade. As the clubs are played you discard three diamonds and a heart.

★★★★★

In the final deal West leads the queen of hearts against 3NT. North plays a low heart. You are East. Plan the defence.

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

North	South
3NT	1NT
	Pass

From ♥Q-J-8-6-3 West would have led a fourth highest ♥6, so West has led from a holding headed by ♥Q-J-10 or ♥Q-J-9. If you allow partner's queen to hold the trick, then you will take trick two with your king, and will have no heart left to return. We say that the suit is *blocked*. You must overtake the queen with your king and return your second heart, called *unblocking*. □



Paul Bowyer Reviews Andrew Robson's New Online Bridge Column

THIS is a decidedly different way to get your daily 'fix' in terms of a bridge article. Instead of reading a short piece in the paper you can now view a deal on the internet. There are few awkward diagrams to pore over (with fewer still of the attendant misprints); instead you get a view of Andrew Robson himself as he talks you through the deal of the day. The graphics are clear – the bidding appears in a standard matrix and then the cards are played at a sensible pace so that clarity is maintained but interest doesn't flag. Simply put, it is excellent. The hands are wide-ranging in terms of level and of origin, and all have points of interest. There are tips for near-beginners and for regular club players as well as hands played by, and in some cases butchered by, international trialists – so there is something here for everyone.

The format, even for an aging technophobe like me, is easy to understand; you simply have to get to today's hand with a few clicks of the mouse, click on the 'Play' button, sit back, watch and listen. If you aren't sure, didn't understand the point of the hand, got interrupted by something or other, or the cat sat on the keyboard – no problem, you can start over again. The author's (is that the right word here?) style is amiable, relaxed, clear and authoritative. The display and presentation (where the bidding appears and the cards are played) is both comprehensive and comprehensible.

Previous hands are archived and easily

accessible. There's a free sample of the style at www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/bridge/article2937093.ece#tab-3 which is well worth a look.

So, for the first part of this review all is sweetness and light – in terms of the bridge content: top marks for innovation, for style and for substance. Could it be done better? Unlikely.

There is what some old fogeys like me may consider a bit of a hitch, however, which you ought to be aware of. Let's see how you reach these articles. You can try Googling 'The Times' and click on 'The Times Online' or you can type www.thetimes.co.uk into your browser. When you then click onto the 'Puzzles' part at the top of the page, you are faced with a subscription box, asking for all of £1 for 30 days. A bargain! After wading through all the usual paraphernalia that seems to accompany every online transaction, you find that you have signed up to full online access to *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and that you will be charged £8.66 every month after thirty days have expired. Should you wish to discontinue your subscription, you need to cancel it before the month expires (check the terms and conditions to ascertain the relevant timescale) to avoid being charged at the full rate for future months.

So that's the deal, take it or leave it. To view the excellent animated bridge column you have to sign up for the whole kit and caboodle. The choice is yours. □

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

PETER Lee and Bob Rowlands (Surrey), Stuart McPhee and Chris Cooper (Oxford), and Dave Franklin and Gerry Stanford (Sussex), who came respectively first, second and third in the *Corwen Trophy*, the EBU tournament for leading pairs in the County Pairs Championships.

Also, well done to Steve Ray, Dave Roberts, Damian Hassan and Martin Kane, representing NEBA, for winning the *Pachabo* for County Teams of Four. Chris Wormleighton, Jim Deacon, Daniel Baines, Robert Miller, Mark Hodgson (Northants) were second, and Chris Jagger, Julian Wightwick, Jonathan Mestel and Catherine Jagger (Cambs & Hunts) were third.

The final of the *Garden Cities* for Club Teams of Eight was won by David Ewart, Gunnar Hallberg, Gordon Rainsford, Don Goodwin, Tim Gauld, Paul Martin, Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery (Young Chelsea, London).

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

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

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 42.

Hand 1

♠ Q 8 3
♥ K 6
♦ A K Q 8
♣ K 9 6 5

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
?			

Hand 2

♠ K 9 7
♥ 10 3
♦ J 10 9 6 5
♣ Q 4 3

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

Hand 3

♠ A 3
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ A 5
♣ K J 5 3 2

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
?			

Hand 4

♠ 5 4 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ A K 4
♣ J 10 3 2

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Dble Pass	
?			

Hand 5

♠ J 10 7 5
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 6

W	N	E	S
		1NT	Pass
?			

Hand 6

♠ A K 10 9 8
♥ Q 7
♦ K
♣ K Q 9 8 3

W	N	E	S
		1♦	Pass
?			



Julian Pottage

Club player's bidding quiz

Answers to problems on page 41

Hand 1

♠ Q 8 3
♥ K 6
♦ A K Q 8
♣ K 9 6 5

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
?			

6NT. Partner's raise of your no-trump bid is quantitative, inviting you to bid a slam. With a maximum for the 15-17 points that you have shown with your 1NT rebid, you accept.

Hand 2

♠ K 9 7
♥ 10 3
♦ J 10 9 6 5
♣ Q 4 3

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

3♦. Your partner's double is for take-out. With little support for hearts, you simply bid your longest suit at the lowest level. Although you have some values when you have not promised any, 5♦ is a long way off. You do not want to punish partner's enterprise for competing the part-score.

Hand 3

♠ A 3
♥ K Q 10 8
♦ A 5
♣ K J 5 3 2

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
?			

1♥. Keep the bidding low and show your second suit. You have no need to jump to show some extra values or to rush to your stoppers. By taking things slowly, you leave yourself room to show those other features later in the auction.

Hand 4

♠ 5 4 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ A K 4
♣ J 10 3 2

W	N	E	S
		1♣	Dble
?			

1NT. While you have no suit to show, you do have some values and a stopper in opener's suit. This bid shows about 7-9 points and a stopper in the opponent's suit. With these values, there is no need to invent a suit.

Hand 5

♠ J 10 7 5
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 6

W	N	E	S
		1NT	Pass
?			

2♣. You can use Stayman on a weak hand so long as you can handle any of opener's rebids. Here, with support for all the suits that opener can bid in reply to 2♣, including diamonds, you are fine. You intend to pass at your next turn. A suit contract should play better than 1NT. Most of the time you will find a 4-4 fit.

Hand 6

♠ A K 10 9 8
♥ Q 7
♦ K
♣ K Q 9 8 3

W	N	E	S
		1♦	Pass
?			

1♠. With a two-suited hand you should start the auction slowly to give yourself a chance to show both suits. As usual, when you plan to bid two suits, you should bid the major before the minor. ☐

END OF AN ERA

AFTER 55 years as Honorary Secretary of the Essex Contract Bridge Association, Margaret Curtis retired at the County AGM in May, and was presented with a silver salver to mark this great achievement.



For many years, the Association was run by Margaret, particularly after the death of her husband, George, when she also took on the role of Tournament Secretary. As a token of gratitude, Margaret has now been invited to be President of the ECBA.

Apart from Essex, Margaret has done, and continues to do, sterling work for the EBU as our delegate and shareholder. She was the first woman on the board of Directors, a position which she held for thirty-one years, during which time she became Vice Chairman. She has also served on the Tournament Committee since 1981, holding the post of Chairman for several years. In recognition of this, Margaret was made a Vice-President of the EBU, and was given the EBU Gold Award in 2000.

Margaret has a very impressive record of bridge achievements, having won every Essex tournament over the years, and represented the county in the Tollemache Cup, Eastern Counties League and Metropolitan Cup, and has had numerous successes in National Events.

(Jill Tattersfield)



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



Landmark Promotions March 2011 – June 2011

LANDMARK PROMOTIONS

- There are currently four landmark promotions (Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master). When you are promoted to one of these four levels, you receive a good-quality gift and free entry into the Ranked Masters pairs.
- All other promotions enter a four-monthly Master Point draw with three prizes – first prize is two nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for two people at a Barceló Hotel.
- The winner of the most black points in each affiliated club's events enters the new Annual Prize Draw for the Club Champions with a first prize of £400.
- The annual local and national awards continue.

Congratulations to the newly promoted Premier Grand Masters:

Mr JC Allerton, Surrey
Mr PA Bowyer, Leicester
Mr JW Hassett, Manchester
Mrs KA Penfold, Yorkshire

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

Mrs JA Barnes, Berks & Bucks
Ms J de Botton, Middx
Mrs D Georgevic, Warwicks
Mr RG Morton, London
Mr J Murrell, Sussex
Mr PAE Nicholls, Kent
Mr KW Sowerbutts, Yorks
Dr SP Tomlinson, Avon
Mr N Woodcock, Lancs

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk



THE *Avon County League* season has now concluded, so congratulations to the winners of the respective leagues, who are: *League 1*, Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith, and Steve Tomlinson; *League 2*, Gareth Evans, Myles Ellison, Marc Lee, Damian Nicholls, Richard Farrer and Bernard Mitchell; *League 3*, Sandra Cooper, Terry Butler, Mike Brady, Brian Etheridge and Sheila Hodges.

Congratulations to Sue O'Hara – Nelson Stephens for winning the *Open Swiss Pairs* at the *Welsh Seniors Congress*.

In the *NICKO*, the team of Irene Robinson, Mike Huggins, Aidan Schofield, Robert Covill and Jeremy Rickard has reached the 6th round (last 16). In the *NICKO Plate*, the team of Gareth Evans, Marc Lee, Damian Nicholls, Richard Farrer and Bernard Mitchell has also reached the last 16.

At the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes* held in Stratford over the first May bank holiday weekend, Robert Covill, David Jones, Aidan Schofield and Trevor Ward were part of the team that reached the *Punch Bowl* final.

Congratulations to David Jones for reaching the final of the *Welsh Cup (Welsh National Knockout Teams)*.

In the *Pachabo*, the Avon representatives (Andrew, Cathy, and Ralph Smith, and Steve Tomlinson) finished 8th.

The Avon consolation *Knockout Plate* event has been won by Huw Oliver, Tony Gammon, Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



AT the recent *BBA County AGM* on May 12, David Gillling was elected as new Chairman, while Christopher Parkin remains as his deputy. Janet Marsh takes over as new Secretary with new Committee members Derek Marsh and Michael Collins. The EBU *Sim Pairs* followed the meeting and trophy presentations, and winners with 64.6% were David Dickson – Alan Oddie.

The new BBA Committee met recently and it was decided to form a 'Competitions Sub-Committee' under Derek Marsh who is the new Competitions Secretary. Colin O'Hara has been appointed as the new County Representative to the Eastern Regional Club Committee (of the EBU).

For those who qualified, the *Champions' Trophy* was held at Wilstead on the evening of June 9, and winners with 63.3% were Ron Davis – Alan Oddie; congratulations to them.

The *Bedford Congress* takes place at The Guides Centre in Milton Keynes (opposite the National Badminton Centre) over the September 10-11 weekend. Entry forms available from the BBA website.

Berks and Bucks

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Burley – Ed Scerri who won the *Men's Pairs* and to Pat Dowdeswell who won the *Ladies' Pairs* in partnership with your editor Elena Jeronimidis, making one of her rare but very welcome appearances at a BBCBA event. The *Perkins Cup*, played as a multiple teams, was won by Mary Hughes, David Owen, Pat Dowdeswell and Mike Ribbins. Richard Palmer was the winner of the *Victor Ludorum*.

The *League of Four*, played in people's houses, had four divisions; the winning captains were: *Div. 1*, Mike Perkins; *Div. 2*, Pat Hamilton Brown; *Div. 3*, Rob Wilkinson; *Div. 4*, Keith Sheppard – congratulations to all of them.

The *League of Eight* had a new experimental structure this year, with the lower divisions being divided into geographical groups to reduce travel times; the majority reported they preferred the new format, so it will be retained for next season. The winners were: *Div. 1*, Reading A (despite New Amersham A winning all their matches, Reading A were 1 VP ahead of them); *Div. 2*, Slough A; *Div. 3A*, Amersham CC B; *Div. 3B*, Lane End A in a very tight finish, tied on 122 VP with Bourne End A but winning the head-to-head; *Div. 4A*, Austenwood D; *Div. 4B*, Burnham D.

Bucks got their revenge for last year's heavy defeat in the annual *Berks v Bucks Match* winning all three matches.

Congratulations to Christine Cook – Gillian Smith who won the *Friendly Pairs* for the *Finchampstead Trophy*, ahead of Hilda Hope – Joy Orford.

We have a full house of 56 tables for our *Green Point Swiss Teams* on June 26.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

JON Cooke reached the semi-finals of the *Spring Foursomes* in Stratford.

Cambridge (Rod Oakford, Sue Oak-

ford, Mike Seaver, Julian Wightwick, Victor Milman, Nadia Stelmashenko, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Jonathan Mestel, Chris Jagger, Cath Jagger, Jon Cooke) won the *Garden Cities Regional Final*, and then finished 3rd in the *National Final*. Chris Jagger, Julian Wightwick, Catherine Jagger and Jonathan Mestel were 3rd in the *Pachabo*.

At the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress*, Chris Jagger finished 3rd in the *Pairs A Final*, which was also reached by Paul Fegarty – Catherine Curtis and Joanne Caldwell – Ian McDonald; Jon Cooke – Catherine Jagger were 3rd in the *Teams*.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/



IN April the *Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge* was played. The top ranked CI pair in the Swiss pairs was Brian Youd – Sue Rankin from Jersey, who finished 7th out of 56. They also won the midweek championship pairs with Roz Bavin – David Hole from Jersey coming 2nd. The *Mixed Pairs* was won by the Jersey pair of Marion Miles – David Hole who won the *Collins Trophy* and the *Fox Cup*. The next highest CI pair was Ann Burnett – Howard Basden-Smith from Jersey who won the CICBA prize for being the top CI pair apart from the winners.

The *Swiss Teams* was the final event of the congress and the top CI team was that of Robert Plumley, Susie Farnon, Mike Bane (all from Guernsey) with David Friswell from Jersey. They finished 4th out of 27 teams.

County Competitions: the final of the CI *County Mixed Pairs* was won by Susie Farnon – Robert Plumley with 2nd place going to Lynne Williamson – John Hibbs all from Guernsey.

Jersey District results: the *Open Pairs* was won by Chris Hill – Jane Knight with Howard Basden-Smith – Marion Miles 2nd. *Guernsey District results:* the final of the *Individual* competition had joint winners of Anne Babbe and Martin Jones. The *Teams* final will be played between



Photo: B&BCBA

Gillian Smith (left) and Christine Cook, winners of the Berks and Bucks Friendly Pairs

Landmark Promotions

Avon

Grand Master

Dr SP Tomlinson

Life Master

Mr M Davies

Master

Mr AC Clarke

Mr R Mardon

Mr N Swift

Mr B Wibberley

Berks. & Bucks.

Grand Master

Mrs JA Barnes

Life Master

Mr SP Cope

Mr M Wenble

Regional Master

Mrs J Bennett

Mr M Bennett

Mrs CE Moir

Master

Mr A Aston

Mr P Baker

Mr A Barker

Mrs J Chisnall

Mrs Jane Crowhurst

Mr BS Geary

Mr PJ Hodgson

Mrs R Montague-Johnstone

Mr CH McKail

Mr B Myers

Mr GL Parker

Mrs C Smith

Mrs S Strawson

Mr T Strawson

Camb. & Hunts

Regional Master

Brig. DA Man

Master

Mr R Collis

Mr A Kueh

Mr H Lockwood

Mr R Millington

Mr J Phelps

Mr STS Stokes

Chann. Islands

Life Master

Miss J Rumball

Mr C Tostevin

Cornwall

Life Master

Mrs MD Boxall

Regional Master

Mrs C Bishop

Mr RGS Draycott

Mrs V Mably

Master

Mr GCH Jones

Mrs J Plumb

Cumbria

Life Master

Mr AP Bartlett

the teams of Dick Langham, Rudi Falla, Lynne Williamson and John Seymour against Brenda Lihou, Brenda Walker, Robin Endean, Cath Bott and Sue Shaw.

Cornwall

www.cornwallbridge.co.uk



SADLY, we have lost Sylvia Copestick, one of our most popular ladies. Although in her mid-eighties, she was still very active and her death came as a shock. Sylvia played regularly at Wadebridge, and quite frequently at Bodmin. She played in county events and, in 2009, was part of the winning county team of four.

Congratulations to Colin Pote – Pat Meade, winners of the *Marie Gregson-Brown* in April, who have now won the second running of the *Jo Brown Memorial Tournament*; Irene Rowlandson – Monica Gumb were, again, 2nd; £222 was raised for the Leukaemia Trust. Also, congratulations to Janice and Ken Keast, who were the national winners of the EBU *Spring Simultaneous Pairs*, with a score of 70.69%; Dave and Dommie Boxall were an excellent 5th nationally.

Colin Pote, Mike Booth, Val Manicom, Pat Meade and Andy Tooley have won the *Cornish Green-Pointed Knockout* competition, from the Keasts, Wendy Miller and Jo Bryant. After trailing by 10 IMPs at half-time, the winners built up a formidable 68-IMP lead and the match was conceded.

The Liskeard Lot (Colin Pote, Mike Booth, Janet and Roger Putnam) have again won the *Eastern League*, and the Shufflers (Wendy Miller, Wendy Thornton, Wally Heaton and Jo Bryant) won all ten matches, to retain their *Western League* title with a crushing 170 VP.

Diary dates: Sept 11, AGM and Individual competition, Ladock. Sept 18, Falmouth Swiss Pairs, Falmouth BC. Sept 25, **Green-pointed Swiss Teams**, Wadebridge School.

PS. We have received late news of the death of Dave Gilford, who played at Liskeard, Plymouth and Bodmin. He was an enthusiastic supporter of county and national competitions.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



THE winners of *Div. 1* in the *Inter-Club League* were, once again, East Midlands White, way ahead of British Rail A (2nd) and Derby A (3rd).

Sheila Kelly – Cedric Cockcroft won the *Bill Pratt Trophy* for the *DCBA Mixed Pairs Championship*, just ahead of Maggie Beale – John Griffin.

Derbyshire players have been very successful this year in national competitions: Richard Edward's teams have been battling with the top players in the country to great effect. One of his teams reached the final (last eight) of this year's *Crockfords Cup*; team-mates were Bob Ross, Don Smedley, John Griffin, John

Auld and Sandy Fulton. His other team of Bob Ross, Peter Kelly, Alex Hogg, Don Smedley, and John Griffin has reached the fifth round (so far) of the *Gold Cup*. Peter Kelly – Alex Hogg were 8th in the *Corwen Trophy*. Howard Melbourne and his partner won the *Premier Pairs* event at the EBU's *Bournemouth Congress*. Alan Kenny, Jeff Calladine, John Shaw and Richard Horsley took home the *John Colley Trophy* for winning the 'B' Final at the *Harrogate Congress*.

Diary dates: Aug 18, Second round Inter-county Challenge (Derbys v Notts). Sept 7, Final round of Summer Swiss. Sept 14, India Cup. Sept 15, Third round Inter-county Challenge (Derbys v Notts). Sept 28, First round of Winter League. Dates for regular events can be viewed on the DCBA website.

The Derbyshire and Leicestershire **Green Pointed Swiss Weekend** is on Sept 24 and 25. Entry forms are on the DCBA website. All entries and enquiries to: Mrs Amanda Sower, 30 Park Grove, Derby. DE22 1HD, ☎ 07812 369243, e-mail: amanda@amanda667.wanadoo.co.uk

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Jette and Alan Bailey who came 2nd in both the *Championship Pairs* and the *Swiss Teams* (playing with Bob and Jacky Baker) at the EBU *Cheltenham Mid-week Congress*.

Jim Grant, Stefan Lindfors, Alan and Jette Bailey won the *Devon Knockout* and therefore qualified to play in the *Pachabo*. Once again Ann Slee has won the *Victor Ludorum*.

The *Western County's B League* was won by Devon B; they qualify for the National Final at Solihull in July. A team will be selected from among those pairs who took part in this win. Devon A finished 3rd and Devon C 6th. Devon came 2nd overall. The following teams were winners in the *Section League: East – Div. 1:* Willi Hamilton; *Div. 2:* Steve Quinn; *Div. 3:* Peter Keith. *South – Div. 1:* Tim Walton; *Div. 2:* Roland Wilkinson. *North – Div. 1:* Carol Ritzen; *Div. 2:* David Meek.

At the AGM on June 19, 18 teams played in the *Swiss Teams* which was won by Allison Pollock, Ann Slee, Brigid McElroy and Ruth Edmondson. This season the *Charity Sim Pairs* raised £910; we hope to increase this amount next year as non-affiliated clubs can participate. Thanks to Paul Ainsworth for organising these events.

Congratulations to Jim Grant – Stefan Lindfors, playing with Bob McRobert – Rob Lawy, who have reached the last 16 of this year's *Gold Cup*.

Dorset

www.bridgewebs.com/dorset



AFTER the AGM and subsequent meetings the Dorset committee is now: Tim Dunsby – Chairman, Ron Heath – Secretary, Julian

Gregory – Treasurer, Andy Kitteridge – Membership Secretary and Helen Ackroyd – Tournament Secretary. Many thanks to all of you who are prepared to give up your time for the Association.

Udall Trophy: 1. David Berwitz, Chris Guy, Krzysztof Ginda, Tim Dunsby, 92 VPs; 2. Eugene Sheehan, Roy Riley, David Gill, Mike McMorran, 75 VPs; 3. Ron and Lynne Heath, John Holland, Hugh Kevill-Davies, 72 VPs.

Dorset Knockout: congratulations to Ann Sharples, Bob Mott, Chris Stevens, Keith Bartlett and Barrie Cantello who beat Roy Riley, David Gill, Eugene Sheehan and Doris Hutchinson by 43 IMPs in the final. They went on to represent Dorset in the *Pachabo*.

Outside the county, Weymouth A (Chris Stevens, Hilary Brain, Hannah Kearns, Eileen Rundle, Alastair Cowley) have now reached the 6th round of the NICKO.

Diary dates: Aug 21, Weymouth Cup Multi-teams, 1pm, Fordington Hall, Dorchester. Sept 4, Men's/Ladies' Pairs, 2pm, Crosfield Hall, Romsey; this is a joint Dorset/Hampshire event for the first time. September, tba, Frost Rose Bowl: this event is being brought forward and will be the qualifying round for the County Knockout.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



CHANGES to the ECBA Committee were made at the AGM in May. The Hon. General Secretary, Margaret Curtis, decided to resign after 55 years in this post (see page 42); the new Hon. General Secretary is Audrey Hartley. Sandy Riach has taken over as webmaster from Jill Tattersfield who stood down after many years of service.

The *Essex League First Division* champions are: *South East* – Taylors Dummies (Sue and Chris Taylor, Steve Cade-Bowyer, Simon Moorman.) *West Essex* – Waltham Foresters (Tony Verran, Stuart Dunstan, Phil Mattacks, Andy Barker.) The *Premier League* winners were also Waltham Foresters.

Results of other recent Essex competitions: the *Switch Cup* was won by Loughton Collier (Peter Scotting, Phil Collier, Michael Watson, Sandy Riach). The *Novices Pairs* was won by Carolyn and Alan Veats, with Jackie and Len Robinson 2nd. *Gwen Herga: Ladies:* Catriona Lovett – Maureen Vede, *Men's:* Chris Chorley – Michael Wren. *Essex Pairs:* 1. Tony Philpott – Nigel Bardsley; 2. Graham Foster – Steve Cade-Bowyer; 3. Chris and Sue Taylor. *Consolation Final:* 1. Margaret Curtis – David Sherman; 2. Bernie Harrison – Dave Duffy; 3. Bill and Angela West. *Eve Goble's: Ladies:* 1. Jill Tattersfield, 2. Margaret Curtis, 3. Sue Taylor; *Men:* 1. Simon Moorman, 2. Roger Tattersfield, 3. Ray Clarke.

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

Landmark Promotions

Derbyshire

Life Master

Dr R Ross

Master

Mrs J Allsop

Mr P Knighton

Mr JV Robshaw

Devon

Life Master

Mrs AM Husk

Regional Master

Mrs BA Carr

Mr N Massey

Mr GA Watkins

Master

Mr CW Clifton

Mrs C Crocker

Mrs GI Eveleigh

Mr BM Foster

Mrs Eve Mathews

Mrs ML Wade

Direct

Life Master

Mr MJ Newman

Dorset

Life Master

Mr RA Riley

Regional Master

Mrs A Allerton

Mrs H Kearns

Master

Mrs F Keene

Essex

Life Master

Mrs WA Clark

Regional Master

Mrs W Logan

Master

Mrs FR Alexander

Mrs E Bowman

Mr Paul Cast

Mr TJM Glover

Mrs P Johnson

Mrs J Pateman

Mr R Perera

Mrs Pat Peters

Gloucestershire

Regional Master

Mr JW Polhill

Master

Mr CP Fleming

Mrs V Glendenning

Mr R Small

Hants and I.O.W.

Life Master

Mr WM Kinsey

Mr B Tobutt

Regional Master

Dr JW Parlour

Master

Mrs AM Brewster

Mr AA Brewster

Bruce Buchanan

Mr KW Goldie

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk



WITH the round up of the winter/autumn events given in the last edition of the magazine and the summer events in full swing, the only GCBA event to report on is the *Steve Darke Trophy* which was held after the AGM for the first time. Three team mates are allocated an expert to play with and the winners were Nicky and Ray Mitchell and Eira Arkley with expert Roy Collard.

This gives a chance to report on some of the successes of Gloucestershire players in national events.

Pride of place must go to Paul Denning and Patrick Shields who followed up their triumph of being in the Wales team that won the *Camrose Trophy* for the first time in the history of the competition, by winning the *Crockfords Cup* with their Welsh Colleagues (see page 13). The *Crockfords Cup* is the most prestigious knockout competition run by the EBU and former winners include most of the greats from the past. Gloucestershire can be proud that in fourth place in the same competition were three other Gloucestershire players: Richard Chamberlain, Richard Butland and Daniel McIntosh.

With the addition of Paul Denning these three also came fourth in the *Pachabo Cup*, a competition for the winners of all the county premier team competitions.

The two Richards also had success winning the *Championship Pairs* at the *Cheltenham Congress*, while the winners of the *Swiss Teams* were Tony Hill, Alan Wearmouth, Roman Klis, Peter Waggett.

At the EBU inaugural *Mid-week Congress* held in Cheltenham (no confusion there!) Tony Hill – Martin Garvey won the *Championship Pairs*, and David Athey and Andrew Kamites were two of the winners in the *Swiss Teams*.

Hants and IOW

www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/



THE AGM for HIOWCBA was held on June 5. Members of the committee are unchanged as are charges for county events. Financially (as stated before audit) the year made a small profit. The main point of debate was the definition of the role filled by the shareholders representing HIOW in the EBU. This awaits an answer from the EBU for their views and will then be discussed further.

Hampshire was well represented in the *National Pairs Final* with Eleanor Rice – Stewart Strachan coming 7th, and Bob McRobert and out of county partner coming 12th. Congratulations to them and also to Chris Bradley – Guy Lawrenson, who came 7th in the *Corwen Trophy* (a national competition for the best county pairs – in our case the top four pairs in the *Pottage Cup* competition qualify for entry).

The *HIOW Green Point Event* in May

was entered by 44 teams and our county members featured high in the list of successful teams: 1. Steve Preston, Andy Hughes, Nick Craik, Dave Huggett; 3. Helen Ackroyd, David Berwitz, Ann Sharples, Robert Mott; 4= Andrew Bennett, Keith Bennett, Ros Concanon, Dave Hinkin, and David Lewis, Joyce Blatchford, Phil and Manny Navarro.

County Results: *Pottage Cup*: 1. Pauline Serby – John Moore; 2. Phil Downham – Mac Nurmohamed; 3. Owen Lee – Mike Kinsey. *Finale Pairs: Seniors*: 1. John Moore – Pauline Serby; 2. Jeremy Baker – Sheila Stubbings. *Intermediates*: 1. Loise Mellor – John Pearson. *Juniors*: 1. John Hawkins – Mike Gowlett.

Diary dates: Sept 4, Ladies'/Men's Pairs. Sept 18, Harrop Swiss Mixed Teams. Oct 2, Mixed Pairs. Oct 16, Wessex Swiss Teams. All the above will be held in Romsey and start at 2pm. Entries to Lillian Craigen at least four days before if possible, ☎ 02380 254276 or e-mail lillian.craigen@sky.com

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

THIS year the major County Teams competition (the *Avocet Cup*, run by the Fownhope Club) achieved only a disappointing seven entries despite the attraction of lunch, and so was played as Multiple Teams rather than as a Swiss competition. The winners were Robin Lewis, Paul Smith, Ben Britton, Chris Chowney with 89 VP; 2nd were Carol and Albert Brown, Pat Jenkins, Ian Murray-Watson with 71 VP, and June Homes, Janet Holder, Elizabeth Drew, Kate Neale were 3rd with 67 VP.

The *Next Steps Pairs* competition was run by the Birches Club and attracted 16 entries: 1. Richard Cottam – Peter Landau (61.3%); 2. Ralph Rea – Richard Manuel (59.8%); 3. Andy Lowe – Richard Malim (55.9%).

The *Open Section* of the *In-House Teams League* was played as a single division with 7 teams. The winners (to represent the County in the *Pachabo*) were John Griffiths, George Barrett, Peter Watts, Sarah Mathews, Nigel Edmondson and Tony Truluck with an impressive 115 VP out of 120; 2nd were Carol and Albert Brown, Ian Murray-Watson and Pat Jenkins with 80 VP. Six teams played in the *Restricted Section*; the winners were Diana and Stephen Martin, Susan and Gordon Young and Jody Stott with 92 VP out of 100; 2nd were Judy Kingston, Heidi McDougall, Elizabeth Dinnen, Allen Kingston, Ruth Gibbon and Janet Hardy with 73 VP.

Congratulations to Roman Klis who was in the team that won the *Swiss Teams* at the *Cheltenham Congress* from an entry of 67 teams, and to Ben Britton – Chris Chowney who finished 3rd with 61.3% from a strong field of 92 pairs in the *Championship Pairs* at the *Cheltenham Mid-week Congress*.

Diary dates: the AGM of the Herefordshire Bridge Association will be held on Friday, Sept 9, at 7pm at the Bartestree Village Hall, hosted by the Marches Bridge Club. Sept 30, Draw for HBA KO

Teams competition followed by the play of the first-round matches, Ledbury Community Centre, 7pm. Oct 14, Round 1 of the Inter-Club Teams League, Ledbury Community Centre, 7pm.

Hertfordshire

www.hertsbridge.co.uk



AS announced at this year's AGM, congratulations go to the winners of the *Victor Ludorum* awards for the 2010-2011 competition:

Open: Anne Flockhart and Mike Hancock (joint winners); *Intermediate*: Jill Mumford; *Cadet*: Sharon Richmond and Roger Perrott (joint winners). Congratulations also to the winners of the *AGM Mixed Teams*: Sheila Evans, Bill Blackman, Peter Clark and Maggie Dawson.

A good result for Welwyn Garden City BC, representing the county, whose team of Sheila Evans, Bill Blackman, Roy Button, Karima Basse, Derrick Kime, Tim Nash, Tara and Stan Harding qualified for the final of the *Garden Cities Trophy* where they came 4th.

Anne Flockhart: after more than thirty years on the HBA Committee and Chair of the Selection Committee, Anne has decided to retire from the Committee. She has contributed enormously over that time and it is fitting that she should wish to retire after a particularly successful season for the Hertfordshire teams.

Harry (Big Harry) Goreing: it is sad to report the passing of Harry Goreing, a supporter of county bridge for over forty years.

Diary dates: Tue Sept 6, Senior Teams, 11am, Bridge Centre. Sun Sept 25, **Green-pointed Swiss Teams**, 12 noon, Wodson Pk, Ware. Fri Oct 28, Club Winners Cup, 7.30, Bridge Centre.

Isle of Man

www.manxbridgeunion.org



THE Manx Bridge Union held two consecutive general meetings on May 15: first a special general meeting to approve a

new constitution for the Union and second, the Union's 44th Annual General Meeting, which was conducted under the terms of the new constitution. The new constitution incorporates the EBU's P2P arrangements and generally updates the previous constitution while leaving many of its main provisions unchanged. The AGM transacted the necessary business efficiently. The Chairman, John Large, reported on a satisfactory year with increased attendances at the Union's competitions. The finances were sound and the introduction of the website and the electronic scoring system had been welcome improvements. The Committee was re-elected with just one change: Paul de Weerd stood down as Competition Secretary and was replaced by Liz Kelly. Paul will administer the 2011 Manx Congress, but will hand over to Liz after that.

Arrangements are well in hand for the 2011 Congress, which will be held a month later than usual on October 7-9.

Landmark Promotions

Mrs J Hole
Pam Merrell
Mr M Navarro

Herefordshire
Regional Master
Mr I Murray-Watson
Master

Mrs R Gabb
Hertfordshire
Life Master
Mr M Westley
Regional Master
Mr NA Rawlins
Master

Mrs Dinah Buckingham
Mrs N Cherry
Mr P Cooper
Mrs M A Gooch
Mr R Perrott
Mrs S Richmond
Mrs RA Tite

Kent
Grand Master
Mr PAE Nicholls
Life Master

Mr J Condon
Mr SL Syplwczak
Regional Master
Mrs A Jasper
Mr R Meredith
Master

Mr I Cotton
Mr JM Dennis
Mr RC Gibbons
Mrs Maggie Piazza
Mr Peter Quinton
Mr F Waller

Lancashire
Grand Master
Mr MA Nicholson
Mr N Woodcock
Regional Master
Mr DW Briggs
Master

Mr Chris Brooks
Ms MA Brown
Mr I Fowler
Mrs Anita Goldberg
Mrs ML Monk
Mrs Joan Roddan
Mrs C Wallbank

Leicestershire
Premier Grand Master
Mr PA Bowyer
Life Master
Dr PG Neville
Regional Master
Mr M Ayers
Mrs B Cooklin
Master

Mr DC Betterley
Mrs D Bowden
Miss Y Coggins
Prof. RC Fraser
Mr WM Harvison

The change of date is a consequence of the Commonwealth Youth Games which are being held on the Island on the Congress' traditional weekend leading to a shortage of hotel accommodation. As always, hopes are high for a good attendance of both locals and visitors at the Island's small and friendly congress.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to the *Corbett Cup* winners, Chislehurst Bridge Club, who went on to win the *Southern Heat Regional Final* of the *Garden Cities* competition. In the *National Final*, they came 2nd narrowly beaten by 3 VPs, pipped in the last match by London YCBC. The team was Derek Patterson (Captain), Patrick Collins, Ian Draper, Mike Hampton, Michael Prior, Keith Ashcroft, Bill Charlwood, Jon Chapman. John Hemington replaced Jon Chapman in the final.

Congratulations to the winners of the *Arnold Cup (Kent Knockout Teams of Four Championship)*: Norman Selway, Kay Preddy, Pat Collins, Derek Patterson and Peter Law. The *Gill Cup (Kent League North West, Division 1)* was won by Norman Inniss, Stefan Syplwczak, Ossie Saaed, Colin Game; *Kent League North West Division 2* was won by Richard and Helen Gibbons, Jacky and Neil Wotherspoon, Graham Clements, Jan Johnson. The *Dover Cup (Kent League East)* was won by Nicky and Stan Adamson, David McVey, Steve Auchterlonie, Mark Benson. The *Brook Shield* for the *Kent Area League* winners final has not been played yet.

At the *Jersey Congress*, Gwyneth Davies – Ian Draper were joint winners of the *Swiss Pairs*. In the *EBU Spring Pairs 2011 Sims* on the Wednesday, Liz Blande – Mike Rafferty came 2nd overall in the country.

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

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



IN the first round of the *Northern Bridge League* Lancashire B finished 5th out of 8 counties and Lancashire C 4th out of 7.

The *LCBA Knockout Teams of Four* has been won by Brian Irlam, Paul Hepworth, Ken Renno and Brian Ripley, who represented Lancashire in the *Pachabo Cup*, finishing 15th out of 30 counties.

Congratulations also go to Preston A on winning *Division 1* of the *Fylde and District Bridge League*. *Divisions 2, 3 and 4* were won by Southport B, Poulton B and Clifton B respectively.

Lancashire has four clubs in the top thirteen (for attendance) of EBU affili-

ated clubs: Bolton, Southport, Bury and Brierfield.

Hector Barker Pivot Teams: 1. Michael Prior, Catherine Draper, Andrew Woodcock, Ollie Burgess. **Sowerby Cup:** 1. Paul Evans – Alan Whittam. **Doyle Cup:** 1. Michelle Brunner, John Holland, Sandy and Dick Fleishman. **Madeline Berney Swiss Pairs:** 1. Andrew Lum – Andrew Holborn (split tie); 2. Max and Sandra Richman. **Blackburn Swiss Pairs:** 1. Ken Renno – Brian Ripley. **Bolton Bank Holiday Swiss Teams:** 1. Jeff Smith, Peter Jones, Brian Ripley, Barrie Newall.

Diary dates: Aug 7, Preston Pairs, Preston Bridge Club. Sept 2-4, Bolton Congress, Bolton Bridge Club. Sept 5, LCBA Council, Bolton Bridge Club. Sept 10, Northern Bridge League, Round 3. Sept 18, LCBA Mixed Pairs, Bolton Bridge Club. Sept 24, Pendle Witch Pairs, Brierfield Bridge Club.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk



THE 2011 AGM was held on June 15. The Committee reports were heard and adopted. The new Committee (elected unopposed) comprises: Chairman John Wilcox, immediate past Chairman Nick Stevens, Treasurer Henry Cooklin, General Secretary Robert Northage, League Secretary Richard Smith, Fixtures Secretary Dick Pathan, Membership Secretary Pat Beasley (also acting Minutes Secretary). There were no nominations for Tournament Secretary, so the TSC will operate for now with John Wilcox as convenor.

Robert Northage was elected a Life Member of the LCBA in recognition of his long service to the Association in the essential and demanding role of General Secretary.

The guests of honour (the son and daughter of the late Ramnik and Mangala Samani), presented the trophies to the 2010-11 competition winners, including: *Samani Salver (Handicapped Teams of Four Knockout)*, won by Hinckley A (Bill Hood, Nick Stevens, Mike Deakin and Martin Wilson); *Stanley Trophy (Butler Pairs Championship)*, won by Brian and Sheila Stockdale; *Joseph's Bowl (Teams of Four Knockout)* won by Tony Odams, Nick Stevens, Duncan Happer, Jim Mason and Paul Bowyer; *Butterworth Trophy* (for first round losers in the *Joseph's Bowl*), won by Brenda Coltman, Alison Nichols, Keith Preston and Ken Vernon; *Gimson Trophy (Pairs Championship)* won by Simon Stokes – Yasser Haider; *Leicestershire Cup*, won by Susan Bowyer, Paul Bowyer, Duncan Happer, Kerri Nash, Jim Mason and Simon Stokes.

Diary dates: Sept 11, Midland League v Derbyshire (away). Sept 14, Stanley Trophy round 1 (Glenfield). Sept 24- 25, **Green Point Swiss Pairs / Teams** (Spondon). Sept 28, Otto & Edith Bowl Mixed Pairs (County BC). Oct 9, Midland League v Warwickshire (home). Oct 20, Pairs League Round 1.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



ONLY two clubs competed for the *Charles Heward Trophy* in June, a multiple teams of four competition, one player of any rank, three below master; why aren't clubs encouraging their lower-ranked players to try county events? Winners were Scunthorpe – Mike Llewellyn, Megan Williams, Sue and Bill Keast. Congratulations!

In the *Midland Counties League* our teams began the new season against Oxfordshire with a defeat for the A and C teams by narrow margins, but a memorable win for our B team (A. Green, D. Mellor, J. Brocklehurst, B. Parsons, Mr & Mrs Goodacre, Mrs L. Tolbutt, J. Longmuir) over our historic nemesis.

The long-awaited first round of the *Champion Pairs League* was held in June. Clubs have nominated 24 pairs to play in this prestigious competition. Scored by the Butler method, the top six were: Carole Rushforth – Lo Tolbutt, Roy Hughes – Andy Milner, Mike Perry – Nick Dyer, Stuart Knox – Al Brown, Alan Andrews – Harry Coates, Nick Hunter – Alan Millington. The next round will be held on Thursday, August 4 at Louth Indoor Bowls Club, 6.50pm

It is with much regret that we announce the sudden death of Tim Walker, the popular Chairman of Lincoln (Eastgate) Bridge Club. Tim was well known as a solicitor in the Lincoln area, but more recently, after his retirement, he became involved in tournament directing, and directed the inaugural round of the County Champion Pairs League on June 14. On June 15 he was happily playing at the club duplicate, but he sadly passed away the next day. Always charming at the bridge table and away from it, Tim will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to David Bakhshi for reaching the finals of the *Vanderbilt* at the *US Nationals*, to Simon Gillis who won the *Iceland Express Teams*, and to Chris Duckworth – Brian Callaghan who came 2nd in the *Mixed Teams* at the *Gold Coast Congress*. Chris and Brian also won the *Portland Pairs* with Anouk Riviere 2nd, and came 2nd in the *Easter Festival Swiss Pairs*. Also at Easter, Alex Hydes won the *Championship Pairs*, Arthur Wolstenholme – Angus Tayler won the *Under-19s Pairs*, and Willie Whittaker was 2nd, and Helen and Espen Erichsen 3rd, in the *Swiss Teams*. At *Crockfords Finals* Nick Irens, Espen Erichsen, David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend were 2nd, Bernard Teltscher 3rd and Richard Johnson 2nd in the *Plate*. Richard was also 3rd in the *Pairs B Final* at the *EBU SBH Congress* with Heather Bakhshi. Rob Cliffe – Mike Vail

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were equal 3rd in the *Harrogate Swiss Pairs*, Tim Chanter – Helen Wildsmith 3rd in the *Regional Masters*, Martin and Margaret Nygren 2nd in the *Hamilton Cup* at the *Spring Fours*. In Jersey, Alan and Olivia Woo and Alex Hydes won the *Swiss Teams*, and David Wing – Roland Gronau were 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs*.

County events winners: *London Championship Pairs*: Brian Ransley – Marc Smith. *London Trophy Pairs*: Bob Bowman – Arun Suri. *LMBA One-Day Swiss Pairs*: Malcolm Harris – Maria Budd. *LMBA One-Day Swiss Teams*: Paul Hackett, Roger O'Shea, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett. *Café Bridge*: Mary Anne St Clair-Ford – Venetia Harper. *Garden Cities Heat*: Young Chelsea A (Paul Martin, Tim Gauld, Ryan Stephenson, Liz Clery, Ian Payn, Rob Cliffe, Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan). *Fox Shammon Trophy*: Bernard Tetscher – Victor Silverstone. *London Trophy*: Reform Tuesday (Chris Dunabin, John Reid, Richard Pollitzer, Sos Green). *Della Porta Plate*: Cheeky Chaps (John Cox, James Palmer, Ricky Choudhuri, Simon Scanlan).

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



ISOLATED Menaces (Michelle Brunner, John Holland, Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield) have won the *Manchester League*. St Titus (Michael Byrne, Michael Newman, Rodney Lighton, Alan Mould) have won the *Higson Cup*. In the *Plate*, an Astra Zeneca team triumphed for the second year running. This year it was AZ Kings (Barbara Moore, Anne Jeater, Jim Straffon and Lindsey Cook).

At the AGM Pat Buxton retired as Tournament Secretary after ten years of dedicated service. The County presented her with a cash gift which she has donated to charity. The new Tournament Secretary is Irene Davies. The new Selection Committee is Barbara Lewis, Peter Jones, Rodney Lighton, Michael Newman and Alec Smalley.

The annual MCBA *Player of the Year Award* for 2010-2011 was won by Michael Newman in the *Expert* category. The *Intermediate* category was won by Ann Thornton and David Matthews.

Congratulations to John Hassett, Jeff Morris, Bill Hirst, Howard Melbourne, in coming 5th in the *Crockfords Cup*. John Holland and Michelle Brunner were unable to play because of illness.

Well done to Pauline and John Rudolf who won the *Yorkshire Congress Pairs*.

Manchester Bridge Club won the *Regional Final* of the *Garden Cities Trophy* held at Bradford Bridge Club. *Corwen Trophy*: Sue Richmond – Steve Raine finished 13th in a field of 104 pairs. *Pachabo Cup*: Manchester (John Hassett, Bill Hirst, Jeff Morris, Stuart Shalom) finished 5th out of 30 teams.

John Hassett has qualified to play in a remarkable eight national finals this year.

Diary dates: Sat Oct 1 and Sun Oct 2,

EBU Premier League, Manchester Bridge Club; spectators welcome.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk



QUITE a few local players made the trip to the *May Congress* in Killarney, with many of them finishing well up the prize lists. Pride of place goes to Dave and Jean Keen who with Bill Hirst and Patrick Collins retained the *Mixed Teams* title. Beth Wennell won the *Swiss Pairs* in partnership with Suzy Lawson and Ted Reveley was a member of the foursome that won the *Men's Teams*.

Congratulations to Peter Kaufmann and David Stevenson who retained the *Teams* title at the *Northern Ireland Spring National Congress* with Northern Ireland's Robin Burns and Ian Lindsay.

County events: the *Ladies' Pairs* event was won by Pauline Norman – Sally Clark. The *Mixed Pairs* title went to Ann Dorricott – Barry Griffies who finished 9% ahead of the field. The *County Teams* event for the *Lady Connell Trophy* was won by Ted Reveley, Bill Niccol, Stuart Matthews and Alan Stephenson.

In the annual Liverpool v Dublin match, the win went to Dublin – full details on the county website.

The leading places in the *One Day GP Event* in May were: 1. Peter Kaufmann – Chris Pope; 2. Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield; 3. Michael Byrne – Tom Slater

The *Merseyside League End-of-season Pairs* event was won by Stuart Scholes – Richard Davies. The winners of the *Mayday Swiss Pairs* were Diane and David Ault, with Ric and Julia Dearing runners-up.

Diary dates: Sept 10, NCL 3. Sept 17-18, MBC Congress. Oct 16, Chester Bowl, Deva BC. Oct 22, NCL. Nov 4, 13th Waterworth Cup, MBC. *Lady Connell heats*: Sept 29, MBC; Oct. 11, LBC; Oct. 14, Deva BC.

Middlesex

www.middlesexbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Nevena Senior who won the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes*. Well done to Victor Silverstone and Ian Panto who finished third in the *Crockfords Cup*. In the *Spring Bank Holiday Swiss Teams* Marion Robertson was part of the winning team, and Janet De Botton, Nick Sandqvist and David Burn came 2nd. Nick and Janet finished 2nd in the *Championship Pairs A Final* with Ian Pagan coming 3rd.

Around the country, Middlesex players have had their successes with Nevena Senior winning the *Kent Green Point Swiss Teams* and Peter Hasenson – John Vos winning the *Warwickshire Green Point Swiss Pairs*.

In county news, congratulations to Victor Silverstone's team (Gerald Haase, Ian Panto, Tony Waterlow, Mike Vail and

Lynton Stock) that defeated the Schogger team in the *Middlesex Cup*. The *Middlesex Committee Cup* was won by Jill Feldman, Peter Hasenson, Jeffrey Alper and Simon Cope. Well done to Jacqui Tobias for winning the *Victor Ludorum Trophy*.

Winners of the *Middlesex Leagues* were: *Div. 1 (Peter Edelman Trophy)*: Jill Feldman, Jeremy Dhondy, Heather Dhondy, Neil Rosen, Anne Rosen, Keith Bennett. *Div. 2*: Vanessa Clarke, Trevor Morris, Jacqui Tobias, Peter Tobias, Steve Foster. *Div. 3Y*: Gulab R. Shah, Pradip Shah, Mansukh C. Shah, Pravin H. Shah, Bakul M. Shah, Naresh S. Shah. *Div. 3Z*: Jonathan Harris, Ivor Miller, Steve Capal, Barry Murray, Martin Pope.

Please consult the *Middlesex Member's Handbook*, or the county website, for the Autumn schedule.

Norfolk

www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/



THE *Thetford Green Point Weekend* was again well organised and well supported. Congratulations to the organisers, Mike Harnden and his wife Barbara, who with Mike Walsh and Matt Milson won the *Swiss Teams* event. Congratulations, too, to Stuart Langridge – Simon Cochemé (London), who were 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs*.

The county A team opened their new season *Eastern Counties League* account with a win over Hertfordshire, 14-6. The B and C teams fared less well, losing 2-18 and 3-17 respectively.

Paul Whittle – David Thompson won the *Harry Hunt Trophy*, David Newstead – Mike Whiting won the *Swaffham and Dereham Trophy*. The *County Summer Open Pairs* winners were: 1. Roger Cortis – Stuart Langridge; 2. Robbie Roberson – Bhadri Bhadrinath; 3. Roger Amey – Dave Newstead, and 4. Nigel Block – Mervyn Scutter.

Forthcoming attractions: Sept 7, YMCA Trophy, Norfolk Girls School. Sept 11, Robertson Cup. Sept 25, Norfolk Championship Teams; the last two events both at Bawburgh Village Hall. The County Open Pairs events continue throughout August on Fridays at the Norwich Girls School.

North East

www.neba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to the team of Steve Ray, Dave Roberts, Martin Kane and Damian Hassan (photo next page) on winning the *Pachabo* (for the teams-of-four champions of each county association) in June. Coming after the NEBA's *Tollemache* win, this has been the most successful year in the NEBA's history.

Hurworth A came 2nd in the *Northern Heat* of the *Garden Cities* competition and so qualified to play in the *National Final*.

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At the 2011 AGM the cumulative awards for 2010-2011 were announced with Martin Kane winning the *Player of the Year* and Brunton winning the *John Clarke Salver* for the top club.

The *Summer Swiss Teams*, held at Hexham, was won by the Hexham team of Jocelyn Gordon, Pam Niven, Bill and Sheila Rodger. They won on a split tie from the Whitley Bay Team of Pat Tuff, Ajit Shivdasani, Ian Rankin, Mike Stanbury.

Diary dates: the NEBA Congress takes place at Allensford on Nov 11-13, 2011. Last date for entries to the Inter-club League, the Kempson Cup and the North East League is Aug 31, 2011.

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/



THE *Winter League* will start in September. The *Saturday* event will be held at Stamford starting at 7pm on the six Saturdays: 17 September, 8 October, 12 November, 10 December, 7 January, 4 February (entries to Trevor Thrower). The *Wednesday* event will be held at Northampton starting at 7pm on the six Wednesdays: 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 14 December, 18 January, 15 February (entries to Jim Bainbridge). There will be a playoff between the winners of the two sections.

The *Broke Cup* is a teams-of-four knockout event with the winners representing the county in the *Pachabo*. First-round losers compete in the *Betts Bowl* so everyone is guaranteed at least two matches (entries by the end of August, to Jim Bainbridge).

The joint **Bedford and Northants Congress** will be held on September Saturday 10 and Sunday 11, with *Pairs* on the Saturday and *Green-pointed Teams* on the Sunday, at Heron's Lodge Guide Centre, opposite the National Badminton Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes, MK8 9LG. Northants members are asked to support this event. Entries: online on the Bedfordshire BA website or to Rita Keable, 170 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 2TS, 01525 377906; e-mail: congress@bedsbridge.co.uk.



Photo: EBU

NEBA winners of the Pachabo Cup: (from the left) Steve Ray, Dave Roberts, Damian Hassan and Martin Kane.

Northants won all their matches in their first match of the season in the *Eastern Counties League*, the A team and B teams both winning 20-0, with the C team winning 17-3.

Congratulations to Jim Deacon, Robert Miller, Daniel Baines, Chris Wormleighton, Mark Hodgson who finished 2nd in the *Pachabo*, competing against the teams of four winners of other county associations. Congratulations to Ian Clarke – Christine White, who won the *Warwickshire Swiss Pairs*, and Trevor Thrower who was in the winning team at the *Shrewsbury Congress*.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

IN the first *County Match* of the season against Leicestershire, Notts 1st and 3rd teams won 20-0 and 15-5 but the 2nd team lost 0-20.

At the AGM, Jackie Parsons retired from the Committee. She was thanked warmly for her work over a total of forty years. The remainder of the Committee were re-elected.

The winning teams of the divisions of the *League* were Retford A, Woodborough A, Wollaton Park, and East Bridgford. In the *Teams of Four League*, the winning teams were DJAT and Acolites. In the *Priday Cup*: 1. John Auld, 2. Lloyd Eagling, 3. Gordon Fullerton.

The *Retford Swiss Teams* was won by the Lincolnshire team of Ted and Brenda Goodacre, Paul and Barbara Evans.

Diary dates: on Wednesdays the Black Cup (commenced 25th May) and Farr Cup (commenced 1st June) competitions continue in alternate weeks. Details of the new season's events, commencing in September, will appear on the website.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Oxford University, winners of the *Portland Bowl* and Ed Jones and partner on winning the *Pairs Championship* of the Baker Tilly Easter Festival, London, where Alastair

Gidman and team-mates finished 3rd in the *Swiss Teams*. Stuart McPhee – Chris Cooper performed well to reach 3rd place in the *Corwen* final from a field of over one hundred pairs.

The *Oxfordshire Congress*, over-subscribed this year, featured Oxfordshire players winning all three events: Debbie Roberts – Geoff Nicholas, the *Swiss Pairs*; Alan Wilson, Nick Smith, Dan McIntosh, Stuart McPhee, the *Swiss Teams*; Robert Gasser – Alison Withers-Green, the *Sandra Landy Trophy*.

Peter Cherrett, Eleanor Rice, Pauline Serby, Peter Briggs won the *Chester Cup*.

At the well-attended county AGM, Robert Procter was applauded as the newly-elected county Chairman. Other newly-elected committee members were Vicky Fleming, Claire MacDonagh, Krishan Jalie and Alan Wilson as Membership Secretary, Education Officer, Club Committee Representative and EBU Shareholder respectively. Free refreshments and duplicate bridge followed formal proceedings.

Congratulations to Nick Smith on winning the *Premiership*, a rolling ladder based on results from all county events. Jo Murray – Malcolm Currie won the *Mixed Pairs Championship* with Helen Lawton-Smith – John Slater winning the *Fitch*. The *Tuesday Pairs Championship* was won by Chris Wilson – John Williams; the *Tuesday Teams Ladder* winners were Andrew and Dinah Lintott, and Geoff Nicholas; and the *Tuesday Pairs Ladder*, Andrew and Dinah Lintott.

Wessex League winners were: Div. 1, Menagerie A; Div. 2, University A; Div. 3, Wantage A; Div. 4, Aylesbury B; Div. 5, Witney B.

Diary dates: Sept 5, OBA Management & Wessex League Meeting, Oxford BC, 6.30pm. Sept 11, Midlands League v Warwickshire (away).

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to all of the following: Gina Howard who is our *Victor Ludorum* champion, with Graham Heal 2nd and Jackie Waters 3rd. Gina Howard,

Sheila Coda, Graham Heal and Colin Juleman, who beat Taunton Flood's team by 40 IMPS in the final of this year's *County Teams Championship*. The *Percentage Pairs* was won by Sheila Coda – Jackie Waters; 2. Les Botting – John Cockram; 3. Doone Hoong – Mike Toft. Langport won the A Division of the *County League* with Taunton 2nd; Winscombe won the B Division with Taunton 2nd; Langport won the C Division with Bridgwater 2nd.

In the *NICKO Plate* the Yeovil team of Rachael Brown, Frank Colman, Peter Gurman, Colin Simcox and Ray Walder have reached the round of the last 16.

Dave Latchem – Ron King (from Wilts) took 2nd place in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress* in Bournemouth. At the same event, Rob Lawy was a member of the team that took 6th place in the *Swiss Teams* and

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Ms JF Tickner

Wendy Miller was 5th in the *Pairs B Final* and 8th in the *Teams*. In the *A Final Pairs* event at the *Cheltenham Congress*, Alan and Jette Bailey came 2nd, and Bob and Jackie Baker 8th; in the *Swiss Teams*, together, they took 2nd place. Rob Lawy was in a team that was runner-up in the *Punchbowl Cup* at the Spring Fours.

Diary dates: Sept 11, Paul Jones. Sept 23, a two-session Seminar, Woolavington Village Hall (☎ 01749 830579 to apply for a place). Sept 25, Mendip Swiss Teams. Sept 30th to Oct 2nd, West of England Congress.

Staffs and Shrops

www.staffsandshrops.org.uk



JUDY Mitchell ran another successful *County Congress* at Shrewsbury School. *Pairs*: 1. Jason and Paul Hackett; 2. John Sampson – Richard Jephcott; 3. Ewart Evans – Michael Tomlinson. *Teams*: 1. Dan Crofts, Lawrence Haynes, Trevor Thrower, together with Manchester's Gary Hyett; 2. Ewe and James Ewington, Chris Simpson, Paul Jones; 3. Ian Roxburgh, Ray Jolland, Roy Wood, Barbara Heaton.

Lawrence Haynes and Geoffrey Jones were comfortable winners of the county *Men's Pairs*; 2. Robin Adey – Geoff Jones; 3. Mike Cornes – David Clarke. *Ladies' Pairs*: 1= Jenny Matthews – Anne Jones, and Celia Day – Jane Stirton; 3. Marion Jordan – Margaret Dash (only 2 points behind!). *The Mixed Pairs* was won by Judy Mitchell – James Vickers; 2. Celia Day – David Clarke; 3. Robin Adey – Pat Andrews.

Staffordshire (Dan Crofts, John Parsons, Edward Levy, Paul Hackett) finished runners-up to Warwickshire in the *Midland Bowl Trophy*. Our leading pair in the *Corwen* were Roger Keane – David Beavon. Paul Hackett represented England in the *Seniors Camrose*, where the team finished third.

There is still time to join *Andrew Robson's Masterclass* on Friday Sept 30. It is being held at Holmcroft Youth and Community Centre, Newlands Avenue Stafford. The afternoon class (2pm – 5pm) is on *Signalling in Defence*. There is a fish and chips supper with home-made puddings available at a cost of £6 followed by an evening session (7pm – 10pm) on *Competitive Bidding Tactics*. Each session costs £10 and you are welcome to come to either or both. Contact Kath Adams ☎ 017 8239 7996 or e-mail kathbertadams@hotmail.com for bookings or further information.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



THE *New Members Invitational Pairs*, which required at least one member of the pair to have been new to the SCBA/EBU since the introduction of P2P, was won by Christine Cooke – Peter Brown with 65%, followed by Tony Clement – David Price with 62%, and

Robert Hume – Derek Phillips with 61%.

In the *Winter League*, the *Premier Division* was won by Chris Chambers, Jim Gobert, Maria Allnutt, Debbie Marriott, Peter Sutcliffe, Peter Gemmell, with a match to spare.

In other competitions, Elaine and Alan Green won the *Mixed Pairs* with 65%, from Jane and Andrew Moore with 63% and Barbara & Malcolm Carey with 62.5%. Rosemarie Mascal – Norman Denny won the *AGM Pairs* with 66%, from Judy Birley – Audrey Tillett with 62% and Barbara Barker – Alan Green with 59%. Basia Malinowska, Rick Hanley, Mike Malin, Eric Newman won the *Pivot Teams* with +43 IMPs.

The Colchester DBC, representing Suffolk in the *Garden Cities Regional Finals*, finished 5th of the eight-teams competing.

Bill Tweddell, Rick Hanley, Eric Newman, Michael Sherer, representing Suffolk in the *Pachabo*, finished a creditable 10th of the 30 teams competing.

In Suffolk's first match in the *Eastern Counties League*, the A team beat Bedfordshire 15-5, but the B and C teams lost by the same score.

Diary dates: Sat Oct 1, **Felixstowe Congress Green-pointed Pairs**; Sun Oct 2, **Felixstowe Congress Green-pointed Swiss Teams**; both at Felixstowe Leisure Centre. Further details of these and other events can be found on the SCBA website and in the county's magazine, *Table Talk*.

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk

FIRSTLY, many congratulations to Bob Rowlands – Peter Lee (photo below) for winning the *Reg Corwen Trophy*.



Peter Lee (left) and Bob Rowlands, winners of the Corwen Trophy.

Also well done to Marietta Andree – Janet Cahm for winning the *Sussex Swiss Pairs*. They also won the *Mary Edwards Cup* representing Walton & Hersham.

Peter Lee, Bob McRobert, Arun Suri, Bob Rowlands, Elizabeth Phillips won the *Lady Rose Cup*. Tim Cook, Liz Phillips, Malcolm Pryor, Bill Hodgkiss won the *Wanborough Cup* on behalf of Mayfield, and the club also won the *Affiliated League 2* and 3 final where they were represented by Andrew Barnett, Heather West, Keith Jackson, Peter Cogliatti, Tony Belton. Annabel Burrows, Philip Lee,

Sheila White, Danielle Gosselin won the *Novice League Final*.

The new *Club Challenge Trophy* begins next season with clubs holding heats during the week commencing August 22.

There is also a new teams league next year allowing promotion from our very successful *Intermediate League*. This league was won this year by Mary Pearce, David Pearce, Davina Arkell, Jan Benton.

Hopefully many players will take advantage of these new events – feedback to the committee is always welcome.

Enjoy the summer!

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk



AT the *Green Point Event* held at Ardingly in May Mark Denny – Tom Brogan were 2nd. At the *Kent Green Point Teams Event* Ros and Geoffrey Wolfarth won with Brian and Nevena Senior.

Henfield Swiss Teams: 1. Fran Thornton, Eddie Lucioni, Irvine Caplan, Jean Smallwood; 2. Valerie Chandler, Mike Godfrey, Laurence Chiswell, and David Hughes.

Crawley Bridge Club were very sad to lose a stalwart member, George Calvert, who died in June. He had been a member since 1999 and was a regular and popular member until 2010 when he became immobile after falling and breaking his hip. George was amazing as he still played golf till the age of 93. He was born in Northern Ireland in 1914 where he was a dentist, and he served in the Middle East during the second World War.

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk



THE recent County/EBU *Green Point Swiss Pairs Event* resulted in a three-way tie. Joint winners were Ian Clarke – Christine White, John Vos – Peter Hasenson, Andrew Lee – Tugrul Kaban.

Simon Creasey did well at the *WMBC Congress*. He won the *Men's Pairs* with Shanaal De Zoysa, the *Congress Pairs* with Mike Bell, and they, with Sinead Bird – Sarah O'Connor won the *Congress Teams*. Other winners were Prue and Adrian Knight (*Mixed Pairs*), and Ros Tulloch – Mary Costagliola (*Ladies Pairs*).

The *WPL* finished in June. Congratulations to George Cuthbertson – Ian Handley on winning *Div. A*, Barbara Roberts – Graham Cope winning *Div. B* and Sonia Vinn – Paula Leek winning *Div. C*. Elayne Meakin is taking entries for the new season starting in September.

All ladies are encouraged to enter a team in the *County/EBU National Womens Teams* to be held at the WMBC on September 3-4.

All oldsters are invited to the new *Seniors Pairs* competition: a one-session event to be held on Thursday, September 29, 1pm, at WMBC. Players must be at least 60 years of age on that date.

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Mr S F Willis

Congratulations to Dodo Georgevic on becoming the county's second female Grand Master.

Details of all County events can be found on the website www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk or e-mail Sandra Squires sandra-squires@email.com

Diary dates: Wed Sept 14, Moseley Bowl, 7.15pm. Thurs Sept 29, Seniors Pairs, 1pm. WMBC.

Westmorland

www.bridgewebs.com/westmorland



CONGRATULATIONS to Mike and Sally-Ann Rothwell who led the field in the *Corwen* for the first three rounds but then slipped up slightly in the fourth round to finish a very creditable 11th overall.

In the *Worldwide Bridge Sims* held in June, Malcolm Hartley – Michael Cox did well to finish 307th out of 5245 pairs.

A joint Cumbria/Westmorland team (Cumberland) finished 2nd equal in the first round of the *Northern Bridge League, B Division*. The *C Division* Westmorland team can only do better next time!

Diary dates: Sun Sept 25, Swiss Open Pairs, Castle Green Hotel, Kendal. Enjoy a weekend in the Lake District with a 'Spice up your Sunday' offer from Castle Green Hotel.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



WILTSHIRE'S bridge programme is primarily a winter season, leaving the summer months for planning!

The 2010-11 Season ended with a well attended AGM, at which the Committee were all re-elected. The *Handicapped Pairs* competition following the meeting was won by Peter Webb – Rosemary Fussell.

There are two main 'planning' aspects



Photo: Worces CBA

Richard Jephcott (centre) presents Ronnie Moore and Veronica Enticknap with the Worcestershire Philipps Final Trophy.

that the Committee are dealing with for 2011-2012. First is another change of venues. After a slightly nomadic year, next season it is anticipated that all our events both on Sundays and midweek will be held at Devizes Bowls Club. (Wilts members should check this out when the competitions handbook is issued.) Second is enlarging the winter leagues. Sufficient enquiries have been received from members that a working party is setting up a new structure, probably with three divisions.

And finally, as they say, congratulations to Jenny Gray on her promotion to Premier Life Master.

Worcestershire

www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk



WE are sad to report the death of two of the county stalwarts, Peter Edwards and Arthur Williams. Arthur had recently won the *County Teams* event and had been looking forward to playing in the *Pachabo*.

The County AGM was held at Droitwich on May 23, and was followed by a *Charity Swiss Teams* event and raffle in aid of St Paul's Hostel for the Homeless. We would like to express our thanks to outgoing Chairman Richard Jephcott who has worked tirelessly for the county whilst also maintained a high standard of play, especially when representing the County in the *Dawes League*.

Worcestershire players have produced strong performances in congresses and national events. Worcester Bridge Club won through to the final of the *Garden Cities Trophy* finishing a very creditable 5th overall. Maureen Hannah – Jimmy Ledger were joint first in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Jersey Congress*; Richard Jephcott – John Sansom were 2nd in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Jersey Congress* and achieved the same position in the *Swiss Teams* in the

Cheltenham Mid-week Congress, playing with Mike Theelke – Dodo Georgevic.

The 2011-2012 competitions season has got off to a good start, the *Grand Prix Teams* having a successful and entertaining first session on Monday July 11. The *Men's* and *Lady's Pairs* are scheduled to be held at Droitwich on Monday Sept 19. The ever-popular *Malvern Congress* will take place on Oct 29-30 – early entry is essential as it is again sure to be oversubscribed.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freemove.co.uk/



SANDRA Penfold was on the winning team in the EBU's *Schapiro Spring Foursomes*. At the EBU's *Cheltenham Midweek Congress*,

Martin Craven and Stephen Pollard were on the winning team in the *Swiss Teams*. Roy Garthwaite, Heather Hobson, Janet and Ted Latham won the *Swiss Teams* at the *Jersey Festival of Bridge*. At the *Really Easy Bridge* congress, Jacqui Hutchinson – Georgie Ramseyer won the *Swiss Pairs*.

Scarborough Congress: Ladies' Pairs: Beverley Godfrey – Nichola Cockerill-Smith; *Men's Pairs:* Roger Taylor – Steve Codling; *Mixed Pairs:* Bob and Lynda Pyke; *Championship Pairs:* Peter Franks – Stephen Codling; *Swiss Teams:* Philip Mason, Annette Jackson, Ray Lyall, Mike Jackson.

Yorkshire Mixed Pairs: Sandy Davies – Tom Gisborne. *Waddington Shield:* Tom Gisborne, Sandy Davies, Mike Pomfrey, David Banks (Sheffield). *Yorkshire Trophy:* Nick Woolven, Martin Edge, Adam Dickinson, Dominic Pinto, Alan Brosgrill, Robin Jepson (Leeds). *Yorkshire Masters Pairs: Grade 1:* Jack Stocken – Phil Godfrey; *Grade 2:* Alan Fell – Bob Brown; *Grade 3:* Margaret and Lauri Andrews.

Bridlington Congress: Championship Pairs: Ron and Marie Appleby; *Swiss Teams:* Sue Boag, Richard Hilton, Pauline Cooper, Philip Mason. *Sheffield Charity Teams:* Martyn James, Bruno Brugger, Chris Mullins, Jonathan Brayshaw. *Leeds Swiss Pairs:* Richard Pike – Nick Woolven.

Yorkshire Congress: Ladies' Pairs: Sarah Teshome – Fiona Brown; *Men's Pairs:* Peter Radley – David Duddell; *Mixed Pairs:* Fiona Brown – Michael Byrne; *Moortown Cup:* John and Pauline Rudolf; *York Mount Group Trophy:* Patrick Shields – Martin Kane; *Chairman's Plate:* Judith Biles – Stephen Pollard; *Fell-Vincent Cup:* Heather Hobson, Roy Garthwaite, Philip Mason, Pauline Cooper; *John Colley Trophy:* Alan Kenny, Jeff Calladine, John Shaw, Richard Horsley; *Scarborough Trophy:* Martin Craven, David Pollard, Ant Edwards, Neil Zussman.

Diary dates: Aug 16, Charity Event, Tickton. Sept 4, Examiner Rose Bowl, Huddersfield. Sept 18, Garforth Swiss Teams. Oct 1- 2, Great Northern Swiss Teams, Hilton Hotel, Leeds. □

AUGUST 20th is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of *English Bridge*. Please e-mail: elena@ebu.co.uk

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March – April 2011

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

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A day in the life of ...

Artur Malinowski

Artur Malinowski was born in Poland, moved to Norway and then England where he is now a full-time bridge professional. He won the silver medal at the 2007 European Pairs in Antalya, and was in the England Open team that took the silver medal in the World Mindsport Games in Beijing in 2008. He also has two bronze medals in the European Mixed Teams, and has won Crockfords as well as the Gold Cup.

MY wife, Marilyn, is the manager of TGR, one of the most prestigious bridge clubs in London, so her life and consequently mine revolve around the club. This is not a sacrifice for me because, although bridge is our work, as far as I am concerned it is also my hobby and I can happily talk, play and breathe bridge all day!

My day starts before Marilyn's, and I cherish my private time in the morning. I spend it reading *The Times* over several cups of tea; I like to know what goes on in the world and I enjoy learning about it from a good-quality newspaper. You won't catch me reading the news on the computer or, worse, on my mobile phone. I avoid technological gadgets, though I recognise and take advantage of some of their uses.

By the time I have finished reading the paper, I am ready to face whatever domestic matters need sorting out. When the chores are done, it is time for us to go to the club; fortunately we don't have to go far, as our flat is quite close by.

I like living in London. It is such a cosmopolitan city, and people don't mind where you come from. You can always find someone to chat to, and learn about new cultures. I find it quite invigorating after the twelve years I spent in Norway, where I thought people were much more insular and inward-looking. Mind you, I also like to get out of London and motor around: Marilyn and I will do so whenever we can, and we just stop where our fancy takes us. There are thousands of little villages in England full of character and history. I'm quite interested in history anyway, but

sometimes I think that I am starved of the physical evidence of it because so many buildings were destroyed during the last war in my native Poland.

Not that we go away all that often, because we like to spend time with our family – especially our 'little monsters', grandchildren Jake (10) and Spencer (6).

Also, Marilyn's a busy lady and, as a professional player, I play in all the events that my regular partner and friend, Janet de Botton, wishes to enter – and every now and then I enjoy partnering other bridge pros: it sort of helps with sharpening the tools of my trade.

At the club I am happy to partner players of different standards. I usually play rubber bridge, which is my favourite form of the game. It is much more relaxing than duplicate as it has no time constraints: you can pause for chatting and socialising. All of my friends are people I met playing bridge, and I see most of them at the rubber bridge table. I always think that the club performs a huge social role in providing members with the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. This relaxed atmosphere is enhanced by the fact that meals are served, which adds a note of conviviality (and keeps me nourished: Marilyn is a fabulous cook, but only has time for cooking at weekends).

Although I am not employed by the club as one of its teachers, I like to help with the supervised play sessions on offer. I have reached the stage where I have had so much out of bridge that I want to put something back into the game, and helping newcomers is both satisfying and worthwhile.



Artur's Top Tip

Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

We all have our 'bridge fears'. Some of us are afraid of playing in a new club in case it is not as friendly as the one we are used to. Others are afraid to have a game with a new partner in case he/she is not as good as or much better than us. Others still are fearful of playing in a tournament, at county or national level, because the required level of expertise is perceived as too high. Or we might be afraid of going on a bridge holiday because we think the other players may be too good – or too bad – for us to enjoy the experience.

My tip is: don't be afraid of new challenges! There is a lot to be gained in terms of learning by playing with or against better players. Equally, you can improve a lot by playing with weaker players. What's that old English saying? *Nothing ventured, nothing gained!* A new club, a bridge holiday, and even a big tournament may open new doors to you and provide you with a growing circle of friends, as well as the opportunity to improve your game.

And if I am not playing or coaching, I get involved with promoting and organising new activities, such as the very successful Auction Pairs recently held at TGR. There is always something to do at the club, and I enjoy doing anything to do with bridge – which is just as well, given that Marilyn's working day finishes very late.

My involvement with the game started by chance: I read a bridge book together with a friend from football at the age of 17, and I have not stopped learning and playing since. When I was in Norway, I worked for the Norwegian Bridge Federation and for a while I was the editor of the national bridge magazine. This was a welcome change from the odd jobs I had had to do for the first few years after leaving Poland with very little money in my pocket – and proof that an ear for languages helps in all walks of life. I am fairly fluent in seven languages, and I sport a proud Polish accent in all of them. This is not a problem in England, where people are tolerant, and it is this tolerance that, to me, represents the major charm of this country. I came to visit for two weeks nine years ago and I still live here very happily. □

YEAR OF THE DRAGON



AFTER winning this year's Camrose for the first time ever, Wales went one further and added the Seniors Camrose to their Home International titles.

Their victory was all the more remarkable since at the end of the first full round robin they languished fifth out of six, 31 VPs behind the overnight leaders, Ireland. However, the Sunday morning start of play signalled the beginning of an amazing come-back: Wales beat Scotland by 23-7 VPs and in the next match, crucially, annihilated Ireland 25-0 VPs throwing the competition wide open, with only 11 VPs separating the first- and fifth-placed team.

Thereafter they beat Northern Ireland by 20-10 VPs and Great Britain (the Patron's team) by 17-13 VPs, gaining the lead. Although they lost 14-16 VPs to England in the last match, the Welsh hung on to their lead and won the competition in style. Congratulations to Tony Disley, Roger Penton, Jim Luck, Mike Hirst, Liam Sheridan and Gwyneth Dew (*photo above*) on their performance.

The final table was:

1. Wales 162
2. Northern Ireland 156
3. England 155
4. Ireland 149
5. Great Britain 141
6. Scotland 132

England (fielding five world Seniors champions) were represented by Paul Hackett – Roger O'Shea, Gunnar Hallberg – John Holland, David Price – Colin Simpson, with John Williams as non-playing captain.

For the first time, the event was not only shown on Vu-graph on BBO, but also reported on regularly in real time on Twitter and Facebook.

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

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

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

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

Solutions to June Quiz: page 24



Alan Mould

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

Hand 1

♠ 7 6 5
♥ J 4
♦ A 8 6 4
♣ K 7 5 2

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

¹ Splinter

² Two aces without the trump queen

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

Hand 2

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

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

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

Hand 3

♠ K 8 6 4 3 2
♥ A Q 6 4
♦ 7
♣ K 4

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

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

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