

# English Bridge

August 2012

Issue No. 242

The EBU members' magazine



***The England Women's Team wins Gold at the European Championships in Dublin . . .***

***. . . and the Open Team finishes fourth, narrowly missing a medal but qualifying for the Bermuda Bowl in their best finish since 1991.***



## AUGUST

- 5th 4\* Dunkenhalgh, Lancs 4nts £199  
 11th Marco Polo Azores from £699  
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 19th 4\* Cheltenham Park 4nts £269  
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 24th (B/Hol) Ironbridge/Telford 3nts £199  
 26th Mercure Buckinghamshire 3nts £199  
 27th 4\* Old Ship, Brighton  
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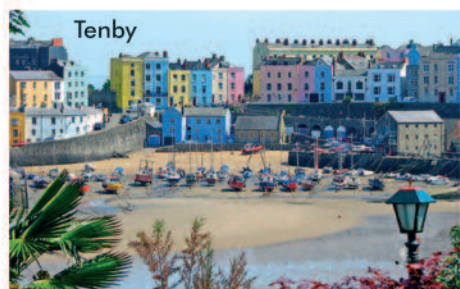


## SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Croyde Bay Resort 6nts from £299  
 6th 4\* Mercure Stratford 4nts £249  
 7th 5\* Golden Sands, Bulgaria 14nts  
 9th Mercure Lancashire. 4nts £199  
 11th Marco Polo French Leave 9nts from £599 Four French ports and more  
 13th Mercure, Banbury 3nts £199  
 16th 4\* Hythe Imperial Kent 3nts £249  
 21st Holiday Inn Ironbridge/Telford **DUPLICATE & ASSISTED PLAY** 3nts £199  
 23rd Jersey 5nts from £299 plus flight  
 23rd Bournemouth 5nts £279  
 24th 4\* Dassia Chandris Corfu 14nts  
 24th 5\* Turkey 7-14nts all inc fr £499 + flight  
 29th 4\* Maritimo Majorca 14nts

## OCTOBER

- 2nd 4\* Iberostar Creta Panorama, Crete 14nts **ALL INCLUSIVE**  
 4th 5\* Iberostar Kos 14nts  
 5th Marco Polo European Waterways Amsterdam, Seine, Rouen 5nts from £249  
 7th Chadwick, Lytham 3nts £225



The Belsfield Lake Windermere

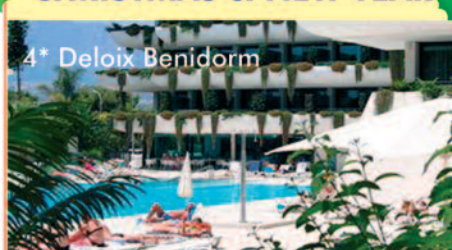


- 7th 4\* Cheltenham Park 4nts from £269  
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 26th 4\* Dunkenhalgh, Lancs 4nts £199  
 28th The Giltar, Tenby 5nts from £279  
 28th Bournemouth 5nts from £269

## NOVEMBER

- 4th 4\* Redworth Hall Co Durham 4nts £249  
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 18th 5\* Belek Turkey 7/14nts **ALL INC**  
 18th 4\* Palace Buxton 4nts £249  
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## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR



- 20th Marco Polo Canaries 14nts from £899  
 21st 4\* Benidorm 7-28 nts (14n £747 + fl)  
 24th Holiday Inn Ironbridge/Telford 4nts £349 F/B, 9nts £699  
 26th Mercure Buckinghamshire 4n £199  
 28/29th Ironbridge/Telford 4/5n £349/399  
 30th Three Counties Hereford 3n £299

## JANUARY

- 3rd Marco Polo Amazon, West Indies and Azores 42 nts from £2599  
 4th 4\* Benidorm 14 nts from £549 + fl  
 4th 4\* Playa La Arena Tenerife 7-42nts from £595 + fl (including short mat bowls)  
 20th 4\* Mercure Southampton 4nts £199  
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## FEBRUARY

- 1st 4\* Puerto de la Cruz 14nts from £795 + fl (including short mat bowls)  
 5th 5\* Lara Beach Turkey 7-42nts **ALL INCLUSIVE** from £299 plus flight  
 17th Esplanade Llandudno 5nts £199  
 19th 5\* Kemer Turkey 7-28nts **ALL INCLUSIVE** from £299 plus flight  
 19th 5\* Sunrise Queen 14nts **ALL INC**

## MARCH

UK breaks to Bournemouth, Buxton, Torquay, Co. Durham, Lancashire, Leamington Spa & Cheltenham

- 5th Mar 5\* Kemer (see 19 Feb above)  
 Late March 4\* Deloix Benidorm 7-14nts  
 19th Mar 5\* Belek Turkey 14 nts **ALL INC**



## APRIL/MAY

- 16th Apr 4\* Maritimo Majorca 14nts  
 6th May Jersey 5nts  
 6th May 4\* Port Mahon Minorca 7-14nts  
 14th May Crete 14nts **All Inclusive**  
 5\* Golden Sands Bulgaria (May)

## CRUISES 2013

No bridge fees, Daily Duplicate Sessions, workshops and seminars.



- 28th March Dutch Bulbfields & Gardens at Eastertime 7nts from £536  
 23rd August Fjordland Cruise 6nts from £499  
 5th September Treasures of the British Isles 10nts from £869



## English Bridge

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ENGLISH BRIDGE  
is published every two months by the

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**Printing:** Wyndeham Group

# Talk Talk



Sally Bugden, Chairman

USUALLY AT this time of the year, I write a review of what we have achieved at the EBU in the past twelve months. This year we are changing our communications schedule, and I will be compiling a full annual report which will be circulated to our Shareholders for the EBU's AGM in October – along with the short statutory annual report written by our auditor and attached to the accounts. A summary of the full report will appear in the December issue of *English Bridge* with the complete version available on our website.

Communicating with each other is probably the most developed and developing aspect of modern life. Marketing experts amongst you know that communications strategy verges on a science and it is enhanced by science – mobile and electronic devices of all sorts. We at the EBU know that we have a great deal of work to do to improve our communications within the resources available to us; we know, for example, that the website needs a complete overhaul and you can rest assured that we are addressing this.


However, above everything else we need to have the correct information about those we are trying to communicate with. We often receive pleas from our counties about providing up-to-date contact information about their members, and our staff spend a lot of time dealing with individuals who can sometimes become quite distressed because they haven't heard from us. So we are very aware of the need to get directly to an individual member and we can't do that without your help and the help of our clubs – which do a wonderful job in populating our database of members who have joined through them. So, if you change address or email and you want to keep up to date with

everything that is going on in your club, your county and nationally then please let your club know about these changes and this will ensure that you receive all our communications. Equally, if you don't want to receive information from us or you want to limit *English Bridge* to one issue for a household, then you can do that too: either phone us or go on to the members area of the website.

We also need to ensure that we are getting the right messages to the right people, and that is more difficult. We have tried very hard to identify what you as an individual are interested in, and have tailored some of our electronic communications to various sectors of our membership – *Tournament Focus*, *Events Focus* and *Club Focus* being examples that immediately spring to mind. And of course we have this magazine, the mainstay of the communications that come from the EBU. Elena and the Editorial Board try to ensure that there is something for everyone in *English Bridge* and we always welcome positive feedback and suggestions for future issues. We are constantly in touch with our national committees and the Aylesbury office staff to ensure that we are publicising their activities.

We will endeavour to improve our communications with you during the coming year. Of course the best communication is face to face and we do that every time we play bridge! At the beginning of this article I mentioned the AGM. Your shareholders – the elected representatives of your county – attend that meeting and can raise any issues that you want us to address. So please do communicate with us and together we can set up a dialogue which will ensure that we can engage with you to meet your needs and develop services that interest you and the duplicate bridge players of the future. □

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Front Cover Picture: Ron Tacchi

## NOTICE: 2012-2013 EBU DIARIES

We regret to have to inform members that we have been let down by the suppliers and the new diaries will not be here on time to be included with this issue. Instead, they will be mailed out together with the next (October) issue. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.



# Bridge Breaks and Holidays in the UK and Europe

Our objective is to provide unique and enjoyable holidays for players of all abilities. Duplimated boards are used for each evening session with hand records available. Unless there are unforeseen circumstances all our holidays will continue to be directed by Andrew Kambites or Bob Baker.

**HOTEL S'ALGAR, Menorca** • Seafront location and new spa facilities. Choice of bedroom or apartment.

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★ **NEW THISTLE CHELTENHAM, Cheltenham**

◆ 30 December 2012 - 6 January 2013 • Our first New Year visit to this wonderfully situated hotel • With free parking and a health club and spa, this promises to be a great start to 2013. Choice of three breaks, half board, from **£289.00**.



★ **NEW ATHENA ROYAL BEACH HOTEL, Cyprus**

◆ 23 January - 6 February 2013 • Our first visit to this Paphos beachfront hotel (left)

• Includes excursions to historic Kryenia and Bellapais. Two weeks, half board, from **£975.00**, based on flights from Gatwick and Luton. Flights from Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh are available at a supplement.

**ROYAL HOLIDAY PALACE, Turkey**

◆ 26 February - 12 March 2013

• Enjoy an **ULTRA** all-inclusive holiday at this 5-star hotel with 24 hour free bar/free food (right)

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**METEOR HOTEL, Croatia**

◆ 23 March - 6 April 2013 • Our fifth consecutive visit to this beautiful location (left)

• Conveniently located within an easy five minute walk of the heart of Makarska. Enjoy magnificent mountain and coastal views. Two weeks, all inclusive from **£999.00** including free local drinks between 11am-11.30pm, and transfers. Flights depart from Heathrow.

**DALMENY HOTEL, Lytham St Annes** ◆ 2 - 9 June 2013

• Awarded certificate of excellence from TripAdvisor • Back by popular demand. The hotel is situated on the sea front close to St Annes Pier and town centre. The bright lights of Blackpool and the Championship golf courses of Lytham St Annes are nearby.

Incredible value for money from **£417.00** per person based on a Premier Room with balcony and no sea view, or a Standard Room with sea view. Other options available. Cost includes bridge fees, dinner, and bed and breakfast.

★ **NEW Cruise: SHORES OF THE EMERALD ISLE** ◆ 18 - 29 August 2013

• Our first cruise on the *Minerva* (right) • Departing from Portsmouth, highlights of this exciting trip around Ireland includes visits to Dingle, Inishmore, Portrush, Oban, Dublin, Lundy Island and the Scilly Isles. Prices for this cruise start from **£1699.00** per person and include all excursions plus gratuities. For further information, contact Arena Travel on 01473 660800.



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# Pairs Tactics



**by Andrew Robson**

# Avoid Guessing in the Competitive Auction

I HATE to guess. For I might guess wrong. I like the opponents to guess. For they might guess wrong. My whole competitive bidding strategy is based on avoiding guesswork for my side and imposing guesswork on the opposing side.

Compare these auctions (you are East, non-vulnerable vs vulnerable):

*Auction A*

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♥	3♣	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	?*	

*Auction B*

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♣	5♥	1♠
			?*

\* The question marks indicate agonised pauses!

You'd much rather be East in Auction B, where it is the opponents who have the 'Last Guess', rather than A where it is you.  
Say you as East hold this hand:

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

If you bid just 4♥ (after 1♠ – 2♥ – 3♣), you know what will happen. South will bid 4♠ (where are the

twelve missing spades, after all?). If you then decide to bid on to 5♥ (you probably will), then the opponents are far more likely to judge correctly. Quite likely South will pass 5♥, having had the chance to emphasise his spades at the four-level, and North will now bid 5♠ over your 5♥. They'll probably be right to do so.

Who knows? But what you do know is

that if you immediately bid to your limit, 5♥, then shut up, it will be your opponents who have to pick up the pieces, knowing precious little about each other's assets. My guess is that South will reluctantly double, because he doesn't know his partner has secondary spade support, and North will similarly reluctantly pass. You don't know, but you have forced them to guess.

So make just one supporting bid – to the limit. Then sit back and enjoy your opponents squirming (naturally congratulating them at the end if they guess right).

**Love All. Dealer South.**

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

A green diamond-shaped card with black letters N, S, E, W at the corners.

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

♠	A K J 10 6 3 2
♥	K
♦	4 2
♣	A Q 4

## Table 1

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

<sup>1</sup> Feather-light, but in general disruptive tactics such as this do pay at pairs.

2 Yuk!

<sup>3</sup> Having emphasised his spades, South can leave decision-making to partner.

<sup>4</sup> No great fit, so 'takes the money'.

## Table 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♦	2♥	5♦ <sup>1</sup>	5♠ <sup>2</sup>
All Pass			

<sup>1</sup> Yes. Correctly bidding to his limit straight away.

<sup>2</sup> Nasty decision. South has not had the earlier opportunity to bid his spades a second time, so takes the reasonable (but losing) Last Guess to bid on to 5♠.

The key difference in the auctions above is East bidding straight to his planned endpoint of 5♦ at Table Two, imposing the Last Guess on South. When South reasonably chose to guess 5♠, East-West went plus. West cashed the ace of diamonds against 5♠, East signaling violently with the diamond king; and now West led a second diamond to East's queen. West had to come to the queen of spades and that was down one.

At Table One East took the dreaded two bites of the cherry, 4♦ then 5♦. This gave South the opportunity to bid 4♠ so that he could then pass 5♦ around to his partner. The ensuing 5♦ doubled went down three – losing a spade, a heart and three clubs.

Considering East's bidding tactics after the start:


West	North	East	South
2♦	2♥	?	1♠

I would award marks as follows:

**Bidding 5♦: 10 marks.**

**Bidding 4♦ then passing:** 8 marks.

**Bidding 4♦ then 5♦:** 0 marks (generous).

**Andrew's Tip:** Avoid guesswork in the competitive auction. Make just one supporting bid – to the limit. Then shut up. 

Congratulations to Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson, Tony Forrester and David Gold on winning the 2012 **Crockfords Cup**. The **Plate** was won by Sandy Davies, Keith Cornish, Tom Gisborne and Mike Pomfrey.



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03 Sept	4 nights	Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford upon Avon	£385
01 Oct	4 nights	Fosse Manor Hotel, Stow-on-the-Wold	£309
28 Oct	7-147 nights	Sol Don Pablo, Torremolinos	£389
		★ Limited number of single rooms without a supplement throughout the Winter	
07 Nov	14 nights	RIU Bellevue Park, Tunisia	£799
23 Dec	5 nights	Sketchley Grange Hotel, Leicestershire	£459
11 Jan	14 nights	RIU Garoe, Tenerife	£879
11 Jan	7-28 nts	Torviscas Playa, Tenerife	£769

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The two masters exchanged a glance. There was nothing grammatically wrong with Götel's English. He just put words together in a way that no true English speaker would contemplate. This was the first board of the round:

**Game All. Dealer South.**

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

♠ Void

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


♠ A K J 10 9 8 4

♥ A

♦ 3

♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
<i>Peter Cummings</i>	<i>The Matron</i>	<i>Norris Butcher</i>	<i>Stefan Götel</i>
4♥	Pass	Pass	2♣
All Pass			6♠

The Matron chuckled to herself as she sorted her cards for the next board. 'I would have doubled the slam on your hand, Peter,' she said. 'You had an Acol Two opening! Still, there's no point if you're going to lead a heart!!' 





# Friendly Five Star Bridge Tours



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21 - 23 2nts	Cobham	£186
	Warwick	£198
23 - 24 1nt	Cobham	£ 68
	Warwick	
24 - 27 3nts	Cobham	£364
	Warwick	£375
27 - 30 3nts	Cobham	£87 pn
	Warwick	£97 pn
30 - 2 Jan 3nts	Cobham	£364
	Warwick	£375

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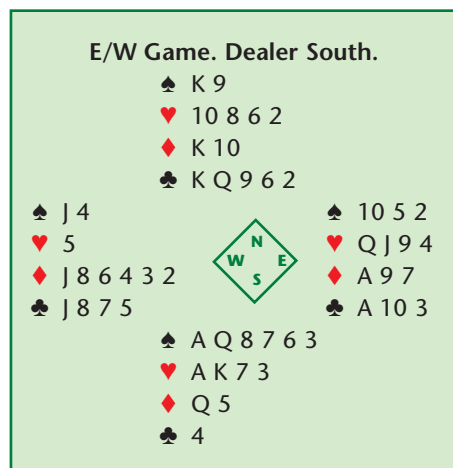


## Penalty Doubles of Game Contracts Part II

HOW WOULD you negotiate the following trump suit for the loss of just one trick?



When the deal occurred in a recent teams match, at one table declarer laid down the ace first. If an honour had appeared (or the ♥ 9 with West), he would have continued with a low card towards the ♥ 10 in dummy, thereby catering for all 3-2 breaks and many of the 4-1 breaks. When both East and West followed with small cards, however, declarer played the king next, West showed out and the contract went down. The full deal was:



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

West led a diamond to the ace and East returned the ♦ 9 to dummy's king. At that point declarer tackled the trump suit in the fashion described above, resulting in one down. Both the bidding and the play had been normal, so a flat board seemed likely. At the other table, however, there had been an unforeseen twist: East had doubled the final contract (also 4♥). To what effect?

Tricks one and two were the same but at trick three, declarer called for the ♥ 10, an audacious play! East covered with the jack, declarer won with the king and continued low to dummy's ♥ 8 and East's ♥ 9. Subsequently, declarer was able to finesse East's ♥ Q, draw the final trump and cash the spades to record 4♥ doubled making.

In a sense, the key to the play was in the bidding, which had advertised the bad trump break and caused declarer to adopt an unusual but, under the circumstances, correct line of play. Her chosen play of leading the ♥ 10 might have lost unnecessarily to many holdings, including a singleton honour with West, but declarer had been able to discount these possibilities because of East's final contribution to the auction.

Quite literally, East's double gave the game away!

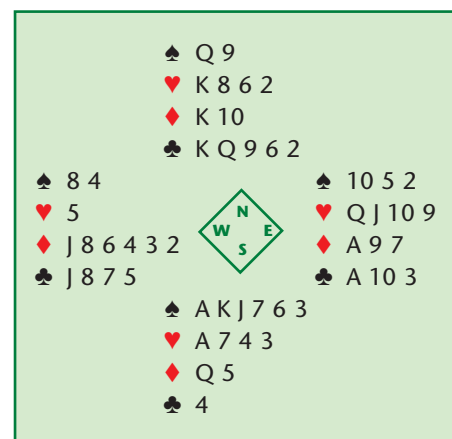
What should be made of East's double? After all, often declarer will be unable to make 4♥ despite being warned of the bad trump break – for example, North having ♥ K-10-x-x. Playing pairs, as long as the contract goes down, such a double is likely to turn an average into a top, roughly speaking and, therefore, might be considered a fair gamble.

In contrast, playing teams, the extra 50 or 100 gained by taking the contract one off is a small reward by comparison with the scenario described above, in which the team's loss of 12 IMPs could be attributed directly to the ill-conceived double.

On the above deal, a contract that had been destined to crash on the rocks of bad distribution was resurrected by East's double, which gave a blueprint of the heart suit – a blueprint that declarer was able to use to her advantage. *The key to a successful doubling strategy at teams is to ensure that declarer, despite being warned of the bad breaks, will still be powerless to avoid the impending shipwreck.*

If one were to improve East's hearts to ♥ Q-J-10-9, allied with the two aces, then a penalty double of 4♥ would be a highly attractive proposition. Even then, how would East feel if South removed to 4♠

and the deal turned out to be as below?



4♥ has no chance, yet 4♠ will make by throwing a heart loser on a club winner in due course.

At pairs, it would be madness not to double 4♥ on this East hand, because usually North-South will have no safe haven. At teams, however, because the reward for success might be small (an extra 2 or 3 IMPs), the decision is much closer and a good but cautious player might still choose to pass, the full hand vindicating his or her reticence. With a singleton spade, two aces and ♥ Q-J-10-9, even the most timid of players should double at any form of the game. This is because it is likely that partner will have length in spades, giving the opponents no escape route.

It should be remembered that whenever you double the opponents, you are giving information about your hand. It is possible that this information might be used to their advantage, either by executing a brilliant line of play that caters solely for the existing layout of the cards (revealed by the double), or to run from the ill-fated contract to one that cannot be beaten.

Playing teams, one should be very wary of making penalty doubles that will occasionally backfire in the manner described above – there should be a strong emphasis on the opponents being dead in the water. At pairs, a much less circumspect approach is to be recommended in this area. □



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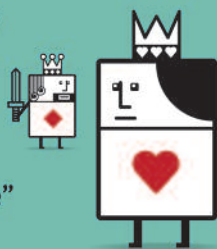
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## John Hesitates

‘THANK GOODNESS this round is over, that pair are so slow and it really affected my concentration,’ said John.

‘You may have your faults but playing slowly is certainly not one of them,’ replied Julie after deciding not to comment on John’s ability to concentrate.

**E/W Game. Dealer West.**

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

♠ K Q 8 6 4  
 ♥ K 8  
 ♦ K 10 8  
 ♣ 10 7 3

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

After East had overcalled 1♠, John sat and thought about what he should bid; double would be for take-out so that wasn’t an option and he was reluctant to bid 2NT so eventually he settled for a pass in the knowledge that Julie would be bound to bid again if she had spade shortage.

The instant that Julie put the Double card on the table West thrust his arm in the air, and called for the Tournament Director, as he was sure that John had spades and was going to leave the contract as 1♠ doubled.

‘John thought for an eternity before passing over my partner’s 1♠ and now Julie has doubled. She can’t do that!’ argued West.

‘At this stage all we need to do is agree that there has been a hesitation and let the

bidding continue. I would say however that, if John and Julie play Sputnik doubles as I believe they do, it is normal to re-open with a double in this situation on any opening hand that has a shortage in the overcaller’s suit, no matter how few High Card points are held,’ replied the Director.

After all that fuss, John felt riddled with guilt and didn’t dare pass, so his convoluted logic persuaded him to bid 2♠ in the hope that Julie would then realise he held spades. Of course it did anything but, and Julie duly alerted the 2♠ and, when asked, explained that it was game-forcing and merely asked her to describe her hand further. Over 3♦ John felt he had little choice but to bid 3NT even though he didn’t really have a club stop, and that ended the auction.

Before West chose his opening lead, John said: ‘I think it is fair to point out that, although Julie’s explanation of the meaning of my 2♠ is correct, that is not what was in my mind when I bid it.’

‘Fortunately I only have to tell you what the bid is supposed to mean, not what he

is actually thinking at the time,’ quipped Julie.

‘But then shouldn’t John actually tell us what he meant when he bid 2♠?’ asked West.

East then came to John’s rescue: ‘Actually I believe that John didn’t need to say anything at all. All we are entitled to know is what the meaning of the bid is according to John and Julie’s system.’

Convinced that John must have all the spades over his partner, West tried leading a club. John crossed his fingers, played small from the dummy and East took the king of clubs. John then took the spade switch in hand and played a club to the nine and ace of clubs. East now decided to take his ace of spades and John emerged with ten tricks and a near top.

‘Well done, partner; you got there in the end despite slowing down,’ said Julie. ‘However, I think in future you should play at your normal speedy pace so that you don’t have time to outthink yourself.’

John just nodded, not quite knowing whether Julie was being complimentary or not. □

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN ROBshaw!

THE SMALL friendly bridge club of Markeaton, Derbyshire, was founded in 1965 at the old Markeaton Bowls Club premises, formerly a golf club house. On development of the land into flats, the club relocated to the White Hart function room at Duffield. Three more moves later, the club now meets at the Weston Centre, Duffield, Belper, where it hopes to stay for a long time!

The one constant factor in all these changes has been the club founder, John Robshaw. He will be 90 on November 3rd, and in nearly fifty years has rarely missed attending the club’s weekly duplicate on Tuesday evenings. Although Markeaton is a democratic club, members often refer to it as ‘Johns club’! He is still the club Secretary and runs its affairs as efficiently as ever.

(Alwyn Lycitt)





# ERIC CROWHURST

20.7.1935 – 21.5.2012

ERIC Crowhurst achieved great success in bridge. He played five matches for England in the Camrose Trophy (all wins) and coached the national Women's team in the 1970s. He was in teams that won the Gold Cup in 1971 (and were runners-up in 1977), the Hubert Philips Bowl in 1979, the Crockfords Cup in 1980, the Spring Fours in 1980, 1981 and 1991, and the Autumn Congress Teams in 1965. He won the Two Stars Pairs in 1967 and the Life Masters Pairs in 1969 and 1972. He became a Grand Master in 1975, the thirteenth player to reach this rank, and in 2007 became a Premier Grand Master when that rank was introduced.



At county and club level he won most of the trophies at least once and also served on committees. He was made a life member of Berks & Bucks CBA and Reading Bridge Club.

Eric was always thinking about developments to make bidding more precise, and wrote several books. The ones that are most well-known are *Precision Bidding in Acol* (1974) and *Acol in Competition* (1980). The first check-back convention bears his name. He wrote regular articles for newspapers and magazines here and in the US. As a major contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Bridge*, he analysed over six hundred common suit combinations. He helped the game develop through his lucid explanations of Acol theory and through teaching. He was always willing to offer advice, if asked, and it was common for opponents meeting Eric for the first time to confess that his books were their 'bible'.

At the table, Eric was a joy to play with both for his partner and the opponents. He was very calm, had a good sense of humour and rarely criticised; he would never take advantage of weaker opponents' mistakes. Sadly he had not been able to play bridge for the last few years as Parkinson's Disease took its hold.

Eric lived most of his life in Reading. After Leighton Park School he went to Southampton University where he started playing bridge seriously and formed some lasting partnerships. After qualifying as a chartered accountant he worked in Reading for Simmonds (later Courage) Brewery; when the brewery closed he went solo, continuing working into his late sixties.

Outside bridge, Eric was a keen follower of sport, especially football and cricket. He was a season-ticket holder with Reading FC when they were based at Elm Park. He often took the opportunity to watch Sussex playing cricket at Hove; sometimes this happily coincided with his trip to Brighton to play bridge in the summer teams.

Eric was devoted to his family: his wife Anne, daughters Emma and Susan and, more recently, his grandson Sam.

(Pat Dowdeswell)

## Report

### JERSEY CONGRESS

THIS YEAR'S Jersey Congress, the 45th, sponsored by the Lambourne family, was held at a new venue, the Westhill Country Hotel (*photo below*) situated just over a mile from the capital, St. Helier.

The first weekend was devoted to the Championship Swiss Pairs and the second to the Championship Swiss Teams, both green-pointed. Midweek there are Seniors and Open competitions.

When you arrive at the hotel you might be greeted by Rosie and Daisy, both Bernese Mountain dogs, if they are not sleeping – which is what they do most of the time. In the five-acre grounds are heated swimming pools, a fish pond with huge goldfish and free range hens which provide eggs for breakfast.

The bedrooms are a bit on the small side but all have en-suite bathrooms, televisions, and tea and coffee making facilities. There is no lift but there are a few ground-floor rooms. A pleasant change from large hotels is that food is brought to your table. One guest described the hotel as being a two star hotel with four star food.



The hotel runs a complimentary bus service several times a day to St. Helier. Bus services in Jersey are good but to get the most out of a visit a car is required. The road surfaces are excellent; however many roads are narrow and the signposting is rather haphazard.

The Island was occupied by the Germans in July 1940 and liberated in May 1945. Sights from those days include the Underground War Tunnels, an Underground Hospital, pill boxes and gun emplacements. Gorey Castle and Elizabeth Castle are both worth a visit. The Jersey Museum details the history of the island from neolithic times to the present, and on Thursdays rides on steam trains are possible at the Steam and Motor Museum. If the weather is good there are fantastic walks especially on the north coast from where it is possible to see Guernsey to the north and France to the east.

An absolute must for animal lovers is a day at the Durrell Wildlife Park, a charitable trust committed to saving species from extinction. The Park achieved world-wide fame in 1986 when a gorilla named Jambo protected a five-year-old boy who had fallen into the enclosure. Informative talks are given at various points throughout the day; feeding times are advertised.

Next year's Congress starts with the pre-congress pairs on Friday 26th April and will finish on Sunday 5th May. This year numbers were up 20% on the previous year. Arrangements have been made to accommodate more tables next year. The hotel already has provisional bookings for over fifty guests – not surprising when dinner, bed and breakfast costs less than £55 per night.

(Roy Garthwaite)



## Opening 2♣ (Part I)

FOLLOWING ON from last time when we looked at opening 2NT, this month we take a step up and look at the strongest bid you can make in Acol – the game-forcing 2♣ opening. (For the purposes of this article I am assuming that you play Acol and not Benjaminised Acol.)

There are many popular misconceptions about the 2♣ opening, primarily that you need precisely 23 or more points to open it. As with most bidding, this is an accurate point range for the balanced hands, but should be tempered with a touch of judgement on the distributional ones. When considering opening a shapely hand with 2♣ just ask yourself the question: 'If I open with a one-level bid and the bidding goes all pass, might I have missed a game?'

This sort of hand is often treated poorly:

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

Yes, it's only 20 points, but partner only needs two hearts and three spades to the ten in a zero count for

you to wrap up seven spade tricks, two hearts, two ruffs and the king of clubs after a favourable lead. If you open 1♠, you may then have to write down the unusual score of +230 – and have some explaining to do!

So the definition of a 2♣ opener should be: **'23+ points, or any strong hand that can reasonably expect to make game opposite a very poor hand that will pass a one-level opener.'**

Two-suited hands are often powerful if you have a fit in either suit:

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

Again, this hand is more likely to produce slam opposite no points than it is to go off in game, so 2♣ should be the right

opening. There is also a subtle point about which suits you have: if you held a void in spades and a heart suit, then it would be less crucial to open 2♣ as even if your 1♥

opening is passed by partner the next hand will often bid 1♠ (but relying on your opponents to rescue you from your errors is a rather risky strategy).

On the flip side of the coin you sometimes get people opening 2♣ with hands that might produce a lot of tricks but cannot properly be described as strong:

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

This hand will clearly produce ten tricks opposite a Yarborough, but it is a gross distortion to open 2♣, as it is essentially pre-

emptive in nature. The most sensible course would be to open 4♥ to deter a cheap sacrifice, or perhaps 1♥ to disguise the nature of the hand if you were feeling sneaky. **A 2♣ opener must be reserved for hands of power and quality** that only need a few cover cards to make game or a slam. (The 2007 regulation changes make it illegal to open 2♣ on hands below 16 HCP unless they satisfy the Rule of 25 or have eight clear tricks and opening points.)

What about balanced hands? Well, they are very simple: with 23+ points, open 2♣. A minimum rebid of no-trumps indicates 23-24 and is non-forcing; partner can pass if he has nothing, but should raise you when he has a queen or even a jack in a long suit.

As with all balanced hands it is OK to add a point on for long suits if you have good controls:

♠ A J 10  
♥ A Q  
♦ K J 10  
♣ A Q J 10 5

This powerful 22-count is easily worth an opening 2♣ bid; treat it as a 23-count and re-

bid 2NT. The club suit is worth one more point, and the intermediate cards will be useful. If partner has nothing, then you'll play in the same 2NT as if you opened it, but you will hit the jackpot when partner is able to raise you holding, say, the queen of diamonds and jack of hearts.

After a 2♣ opening and 2NT rebid, the bidding proceeds in exactly the same way as after a 2NT opening, so Stayman and Transfers apply, enabling you to get to your 4-4 or 5-3 major-suit fits as usual. It also puts the bidding on a sound footing as it places you and partner in more familiar territory, and you should aim to get there:

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

Even holding two doubletons it is far better to open 2♣ and rebid 2NT, which will keep you low when partner has nothing, and

help you find a 4-4 heart fit if one exists.

What about balanced hands of more than 25 points? Ostensibly you would open 2♣ and rebid 3NT (25-27) over a 2♦ response, but such a sequence is very unwieldy and should be avoided at all costs if you have a sensible suit to bid. Such sequences come up very rarely, however, and are not worth worrying too much about. If your worst problem in bridge is that you keep picking up balanced 25 counts, then you are a lucky player indeed!

Let's review the dos and don'ts of the 2♣ opening:

### Do:

- Open 2♣ whenever you have 23+ points, or any strong hand that can reasonably expect to make game facing a hand that will pass a one-level opener.
- Remember that if partner opens 2♣ and rebids 2NT you can pass, as he is showing 23-24 balanced only.

### Don't:

- Open 2♣ when you have a bad hand with a long suit that should be opening a pre-empt.
- Forget you can add on a point for a long suit in no-trumps, or treat a 5-4-2-2 hand as balanced if your points are spread out. □



# 51st EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Golden Girls Win in Dublin

by David Bird

ENGLAND SENT a strong Open team to the 2012 European Championships, contested in Dublin: Tony Forrester and David Gold, Peter Crouch and Derek Patterson, Alexander Allfrey and Andrew Robson (non-playing captain Simon Cope, coach Ben Green). The last of these pairs had to withdraw due to a family illness and it was fortunate indeed that we could fly out such strong replacements as David Bakhshi and Tom Townsend.

Crouch chose an elegant line on this deal, played against the Norway – Italy – France team who have relocated to Monaco, so that they and their sponsor can represent Monaco:

**Love All. Dealer West.**

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

Diagram: A diamond suit diagram showing North (N) and South (S) positions. North has the King (K) and Queen (Q). South has the Jack (J), 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Patterson	Helness	Crouch
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♠	Pass	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Crouch opened a strong 1♣, rebidding 2NT. Patterson made a transfer response of 3♦, Crouch breaking the transfer with a leap to 4♥. The Norwegian (er . . . sorry, Monégasque) West led the ♣3 to East's ace and back came the ♦7. How would you have played the contract?

If you play the queen or ten, losing to West's king or jack, you will need to guess very well in the trump suit subsequently. Crouch rose with the ace of diamonds and

cashed the club king, followed by the major-suit aces. Entering dummy with a spade ruff, he was then able to discard one diamond on the jack of clubs and the other on the ten of clubs. East scored two trump tricks to go with the club ace and the game was made.

At the other table, Fulvio Fantoni of . . . yes, Monaco played in 4♥ as North. Gold (East) led a spade to dummy's ace and declarer dislodged East's club ace. Back came a diamond and Claudio Nunes followed the same attractive line.

When this board was played in the England-France Women's match, both Souths finessed the ♦Q on the first round. The French West favoured our declarer with a trump return, crushing her partner's trump holding, and the contract was made. Nevena Senior found the better return of a diamond, declarer continuing with ace and another trump for one down.

The Open teams were divided into two groups of seventeen, with nine from each group to qualify for the final. The three top teams in Group B were Monaco, England (yes!) and Russia. Group A was led by Italy, Israel and Bulgaria. The carry-overs were calculated and the final began with this position at the top: Monaco 156 VPs, England 143 VPs, Italy 135 VPs, Germany 134.5 VPs, Russia 127 VPs. With nine further matches to play, against the

qualifiers from Group A, England was in the silver medal position. The top six teams would eventually qualify for bridge's Holy Grail: the Bermuda Bowl.

Meanwhile our splendid Women's team: Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale, Sally Brock and Nicola Smith (NPC Jeremy Dhondy, coach David Burn) were leading the field in their event, which was all-play-all. There were fireworks on this board when England faced Scotland:

**N/S Game. Dealer West.**

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

Diagram: A diamond suit diagram showing North (N) and South (S) positions. North has the King (K) and Queen (Q). South has the Jack (J), 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2.

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Adamson	Senior	Symons
4♣	Dble	Pass	6♦
All Pass			



*The England Open team: from the left: David Bakhshi, David Gold, Peter Crouch, Tony Forrester, Simon Cope (NPC), Derek Patterson, Tom Townsend and Ben Green (Coach).*



*The England Women's team on learning of their win: from the left, Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Nevena Senior, Sally Brock, Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale; at the back, NPC Jeremy Dhondy (on the left) and Coach David Burn.*

Scotland's Sheila Adamson doubled for take-out and Anne Symons went straight to 6♦. Senior had no wish to double this, of course, since North-South might well have a making slam elsewhere. Declarer lost a club and two trumps, going two down.

At the other table, Nicola Smith found a better sequence on the South cards:

West	North	East	South
Punch	Brock	McGowan	Smith
4♣	Dble	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

The 5♣ response showed a powerful hand with two places to play. The spade fit was found but what would the reward be? Liz McGowan led the king of clubs and Samantha Punch followed with a suit-preference ♣3. East was not pressed to find the diamond switch and West ruffed for one down. Just 3 IMPs in the England plus column.

At three tables in the Open event South ended in 6♠ and West then found the brilliant lead of the ♣3, putting partner on lead for a diamond ruff.

After a series of great results, and with just four matches to play, the leading positions were: England (yes, indeed!) 286 VPs, Turkey 271 VPs, France 266 VPs. The six top teams would qualify for the Venice Cup.

The England Seniors team included five of the squad that won the world championship in 2009: Gunnar Hallberg – John Holland, David Price – Colin Simpson, and Paul Hackett playing with Tony Waterlow (NPC Simon Cochemé). They faced Poland on this deal:

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

West	North	East	South
Romanski	Holland	Kowalski	Hallberg
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	3♥
All Pass			6♣

Hallberg, passed initially as South and responded with a transfer bid of 3♥ when John Holland opened 2NT. North would have rebid 3♠ only with at least three-card spade support (an excellent method, which announces spade support immediately and allows partner to cue-bid when a slam is possible). Holland's actual 3NT denied

three spades and Hallberg leapt to 6♣.

When Jacek Romanski led a diamond, all was easy. Hallberg was able to ditch the heart loser, draw trumps and set up the spades for the loss of one trick. At the other table Paul Hackett found the better lead of the ♥3, Waterlow winning and returning a diamond. The Polish declarer ruffed in his hand and took an immediate spade finesse, going one down for a 16-IMP swing to England.

Do you see the line of play that declarer missed? He had a chance to discard all five losing spades from the South hand! Suppose he wins the diamond switch, throwing a spade, and calls for the king of hearts, covered and ruffed. He plays the ace and king of trumps, followed by the jack of hearts, throwing another spade. When the nine of hearts falls, he can draw the last trump and throw three more spades. If the nine does not fall, he can return to his hand with a diamond ruff and take the spade finesse.

With twelve games played, and seven still to play, the England Seniors were in 9th place, 9 VPs away from a qualifying position for the world finals.

England faced Bulgaria early in the Open final. Townsend and Bakhshi found a special defence on this deal:

## Championships Facts and Figures

- 27,792 boards were played at the 51st European Team Championships.
- This was Nicola Smith's seventh title, moving her into third place on the all-time list (a position she shares with France's Sylvie Willard).
- The England Seniors were sponsored by Pharon Independent Financial Advisers of Canterbury.



### E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Mihov	Bakhshi	Karakolev
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The Bulgarians used the Smolen convention to show 5-4 in the majors. When Stayman does not reveal an immediate fit, responder bids his four-card major, allowing the opener to play the contract if there is a 5-3 fit in the other major.

Townsend found the one lead to trouble declarer, the jack of spades. East won with the king and the defenders now needed to score three diamonds and the ace of hearts. Bakhshi made life very awkward for declarer by returning the ♦Q. The contract can be made now only by covering with the king, leaving the remaining diamonds blocked. This would be wrong move if East held, say, Q-J-10-x-x and West had A-x. When Georgi Karakolev eventually played low, Bakhshi continued with the ace and jack of diamonds. South won with the king and had to play hearts, Townsend claiming two tricks for one down.

At the other table West led a diamond to East's ace. Tony Forrester won the second diamond and set up the heart suit to score +430. 3NT was reached at 15 of the 18 tables and defeated only three times.

Thursday was not such a wonderful day. The England Seniors scored 14-16 VPs, 16-14 VPs and 11-19 VPs against the teams placed 1st, 3rd and 4th. Not so bad, but they fell to 11th place. The Open team scored 15-15 VPs, 13-17 VPs and 12-18 VPs, dropping to 3rd place behind Monaco and Italy. Our Women overwhelmed Germany 25-4 VPs but then lost 8-22 VPs to the Netherlands, Carla Arnolds making 6♥ via an unbelievably complex squeeze on the final board. England were still in gold medal position but only by 10 VPs. Tomorrow

the Women would pick up 18 VPs for a bye and then face Sweden in their last match. My fingers were crossed.

Good early news on the Friday! The England Open team had a great 19-11 VP win over mighty Italy (Lauria – Versace, Bocchi – Madala). They followed with a 16-14 VP win against Ireland and an 11-19 VP loss to Sweden, dropping to fourth place. Their last match, on Saturday, would be against Israel.

Meanwhile, our Women's team began their last match, against Sweden, with an 8 VP lead over France. This was the explosive first board against the Swedes:

### Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Andersson	Senior	Johansson
	2♦	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Pia Andersson opened with a multi 2♦, showing 23-24 balanced or a six-card weak-two (so their card says) in one of the majors. With a four-card differential in the majors, it was reasonable for Senior to assume that North held spades. She bid 4♦, Leaping Michaels to show diamonds

and a major suit. Dhondy responded 4♥, to play in partner's major, and this ran back to South. What action should she take?

North had indicated a six-card major and South did not think it could be hearts, since East-West would then have bid to 4♥ with only six trumps between them. Concluding that her partner's suit was spades, she bid 4♠. A mightily relieved Dhondy (who *did* know which major North held) doubled. Accurate defence then collected a nerve-settling 1100. East played in 3♦ at the other table and that was 14 IMPs to England.

In a match of few swings, Sweden scored a 16-14 VP victory. France were beaten by the Netherlands, so England became European champions and added another set of gold medals to their substantial haul over the years. Many congratulations to them! 1st ENGLAND 351 VPs, 2nd FRANCE 342 VPs, 3rd TURKEY 333.5 VPs.

Although our two anchor pairs contested the key matches and played a greater number of boards, further tribute is in order for Fiona Brown and Susan Stockdale. They headed the entire field in the final Butler rankings with a superb average of +0.97 IMPs per board.

The Seniors team finished 10th out of 19. 1st FRANCE 337 VPs, 2nd POLAND 328 VPs, 3rd SCOTLAND 325 VPs.

Our Open team beat Israel 17-13 in their last match, securing fourth place. 1st MONACO 304 VPs, 2nd NETHERLANDS 290 VPs, 3rd ITALY 286 VPs, 4th ENGLAND 279 VPs. When you think that England were headed only by Italy (who had won eight of the previous nine European championships), Netherlands (the current world champions) and Monaco (who fielded two of the very best pairs in the world), this was a memorable achievement. Well played, indeed! □



The England Seniors team: from the left, back: Colin Simpson, David Price, Gunnar Hallberg, Simon Cochemé (NPC); front: Tony Waterlow, Paul Hackett, John Holland.



## If All Seems Lost, Cash Your Trumps!

**N/S Game. Dealer South.**

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	3♦	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

PLAYING TEAMS, what call would you make with the North cards in response to partner's 1♥ opening?

You are just about worth a response, but certainly not enough to bid at the two level, which rules out 2♣. 1♠, although not describing your hand very well, is all you are left with. East bids 3♦, South bids 3♥ and this is passed back to you. Should you raise to four?

Now that you know partner has six hearts your hand has improved, and if this had been a free, jump rebid, the losing trick count would tell you that you should bid game. However, here partner's bid could be a little stretched in competition, so the raise becomes questionable. At the table, our North decided to have a go at game.

West leads the three of diamonds to

East's ace and the queen is returned. You follow low and West ruffs with the eight. West now switches to the ace of trumps, East following with the jack, and leads a second trump, East discarding. You win and then draw the last trump; now, how do you plan the play?

This is the position you have reached:

♠ 8 4 3 2  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ A J 10 7

♠ A K  
♥ 10 9 6  
♦ K 7  
♣ 2

You are left with a diamond loser, and with only one entry to dummy you are not going to be able to establish clubs. The answer must come from a squeeze. We know that East is guarding diamonds but it seems likely that both defenders can guard spades, and quite possibly also clubs, so how is this going to work?

Begin by cashing all your trumps, retaining three spades and two clubs in dummy. East must keep two diamonds and a club honour to prevent setting up a finesse position, therefore coming down to two spades. Now play two rounds of spades and the king of diamonds, and it's West's turn to be squeezed.

This was the full deal:

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

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

♠ Q 9 6  
♥ J  
♦ A Q J 10 9 4 2  
♣ Q 4

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

Could the defence have done better?

East should have switched to a trump at trick two, and relied on the fact that the clubs were not coming in, since he knows the diamond situation. If partner's trumps are good enough to defeat the contract, he will not need to ruff this diamond.

### Heather's Hints

- When the opponents are preempting, thereby creating problems in the auction, partner's bid is often stretched. This is necessary in order that we may compete effectively, and not sell out to their contract. You should take this into consideration when making a close decision to raise to game.
- If all seems lost, try cashing your trumps – all of them! Watch the discards carefully and count the cards gone in each suit. Keep sufficient cards in each suit that there is a threat to establish a long one. On this hand it was vital to keep three small spades in the dummy. Sometimes the defenders simply throw away the wrong cards, and sometimes they are genuinely squeezed. □

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## Bridge and the Olympics

**This August will see two great sporting events: the Bridge at the World Mind Sports Games in Lille and the Olympics in London. And, no, the start of the 2012-2013 Premier League does not make it three.**

THE FIRST Bridge Olympiad was held in the Olympic year of 1960 in Turin and thereafter it was held every four years, until 2004 in Istanbul.

The **High Jump** is not unusual in bridge, with 1NT-6NT the most common of the five-level jumps. Lower jumps can be more of a problem; hands up if you have ever bid a 4♥ splinter . . . and been left to play there.

Great Britain has never won the Open event, finishing second in 1960 and third in 1964 and 1976.

This is a bidding sequence from the Norfolk Congress a few years ago:

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

East's 3♦ bid was a splinter, agreeing hearts. 4♣ was a cue bid. 5♦ was Exclusion Roman Key Card Blackwood (excluding the ace of diamonds). 5NT showed two of the remaining four key-cards, without the queen of hearts. West's bidding was, after the lowest possible start, a fine example of a **Triple Jump**.

The British Women won Gold in 1964 in New York City. Since then they have been bridesmaids on six occasions, with

four silver medals and two bronze (the last as England, following the devolution of Great Britain into the home countries in 2000). Nicola Smith (née Gardener) was part of the team in all six of these lower-podium finishes.

The Seniors event was added to the games in 2000. Unlike Open and Women players, the Seniors will not have to undergo random drugs tests.

There were changes to the Bridge Olympiad in 2008 – two good and one bad. There was also some excellent news and some glorious news.

The dressage segment of the Equestrian Three Day Event includes the **Half Pass**. We all know what a Half Pass is, don't we? Where a player fiddles with the Pass card before selecting a bid (or vice-versa).

The first of the good news: the event became a multi-sport affair, like the main Olympics, with Chess, Draughts, Go, and Xiangqi (Chinese Chess) being played alongside Bridge. Second, the event was played at the Olympic venue for the first time, in this instance Beijing, soon after the Paralympic Games. I was there as a spectator and it was wonderful to walk past the iconic Bird's Nest stadium every day on my way to the Fencing Hall, where the bridge was being played.

The bad news was that, although bridge and chess are both recognised as sports by the IOC, the whole event was called the 1st World Mind Sports Games, rather than

the 1st Mind Sports Olympics. Despite this, it was formally treated as the continuation of the Olympiad, and informally referred to as such.

The excellent news was that the England Open team, after thirty-two years in the wilderness, claimed the silver medal, losing to Italy in the final.

The glorious news was that Nicola Smith (with a little help, I hasten to add, from Sally Brock, Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Anne Rosen and Catherine Draper) finally got her Olympiad Gold. The English Women held off a fight-back by the Chinese Women to win by 1 IMP.

The 2nd World Mind Sports Games will be held in Lille. At a press conference at the World Championships in October 2011, Jose Damiani, President of the International Mind Sports Association, said he was keen to hold the Games in the same country as the Olympics. He went on to say that London was not viable, Manchester was removed from consideration because of rioting, and Cardiff had insufficient funding to support the tournament.

Why is an athletics relay like a bridge auction? Both require three passes to conclude satisfactorily.

Lille will be a glorious festival of bridge. Many small nations will never qualify for World Championships but at the event formally known as the Olympiad all bridge-playing countries, maybe as many as seventy, will be welcomed. □

Many Olympic sports share terminology with bridge; tennis has aces and double faults; wrestling has its slams; diving has double somersaults. We all know what a double somersault is, don't we? Where you make a penalty double and your partner assumes it was for take-out (or vice-versa).





## Counting Winners and Losers

ONE OF the essential strategies that declarer must adopt when dummy is displayed is to count his winners and losers. In practice, counting losers is only of use in a suit contract – in no-trumps declarer should concentrate on where his winners are coming from. So this article will focus on the play of the cards in trump contracts.

Counting (in its many different forms) is the bedrock of success at bridge. On the sight of dummy declarer should look to see where his tricks are coming from and where his opponents' tricks might come from. Let's look at a very simple example deal to start with:

**Hand 1**  
South plays in 4♠.  
West leads the ♦10.

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

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

If declarer counts his winners, South can see five spade tricks, three diamond tricks and two club tricks. That makes ten winners in all – that's useful, in a contract of 4♠! If South counts his losers, then he should see no spade losers, three heart losers, no diamond losers and no club losers.

This is what you might expect – ten winners and three losers, making a total of thirteen. However, not all hands are so

straightforward. Suppose we alter Hand 1 a small amount, giving North the ♣Q:

**Hand 2**  
South plays in 4♠.  
West leads the ♦10.

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

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

Now there are eleven winners (five spades, three diamonds and three clubs) but still three losers (all in hearts). Oddly, perhaps, the winners and losers don't add up to thirteen. Where we have more winners than we need, that doesn't matter (you can't have too much of a good thing after all).

The effect on Hand 2 is that the ball is in the opponents' court. If they were to lead a heart they could take the first three tricks. If, however, they fail to do so (and remember that the opponents have to make a blind opening lead), then one of your losers will disappear. In the case above West has led a diamond. Declarer can win that, draw trumps and play off the diamonds and clubs. On the third club South can discard one of his hearts, disposing of one of his losing cards.

The exercise of counting winners and losers is so important that it bears much repetition. The next deal is more subtle as it requires declarer to think about how

trumps might split. South is again declarer in 4♠ and this time West leads a heart.

**Hand 3**  
South plays in 4♠.  
West leads the ♥K.

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

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

Now the count of winners and losers depends on whether the spades break favourably or not. If spades are 3–2, then declarer has five spade winners, a heart winner, two diamond winners and two club winners (ten winners in all). If declarer looks at losers, there are no spade losers, two heart losers, a diamond loser and no club losers. That makes ten winners and three losers. If, however, the spades break 4–1 (or, horror of horrors, 5–0) then the number of winners decreases while the number of losers increases.


Anyway . . . when declarer can see enough winners for his contract, then he should usually aim to draw trumps and set up his winners in the other suits. In the specific case of Hand 3, South should win the heart lead and play off the three top trumps. Assuming that the suit breaks 3–2, then declarer should switch his attention to diamonds and drive out the diamond ace.

Often we meet puzzling hands where we count winners and losers and they don't add up at all (we see eight winners and only three losers, for example). Where we

Mike Scoltock and Jeffrey Allerton (Surrey) won the 2012 **Corwen Trophy** for County Pairs, ahead of Andrew Southwell and Ian Lancaster (Sussex).

have 'extra' tricks, then it means we can usually discard our losers if given the opportunity. We have already seen one example in Hand 2.

More tricky are the cases where the winners and losers add up to less than thirteen. In these cases it is often the right plan to try to make the extra tricks by ruffing the losers.

Hand 4	
South plays in 4♠.	
West leads the ♥3.	
♠	Q J 10 8
♥	A J 10 6 5
♦	Q 6 3
♣	8
	
♠	A K 6 5 3
♥	K Q 2
♦	4
♣	Q 9 6 4

On this deal there are ten winners (five spades and five hearts) but only two losers (one club and one diamond). How can we make this work to our advantage? Well, the solution is to make an extra trick by ruffing a club in the dummy (the hand with the shorter trumps, note).

The opponents have led a heart (which could well be a singleton), so declarer must first draw trumps. Let us assume that they split 3–1. Now declarer can run off dummy's heart suit if he wishes, throwing some rubbish from his hand. South now concedes a club to the opposition and waits patiently until he regains the lead. At that point South can lead his club and ruff it on the table. In effect South makes six trump tricks and five heart tricks for a total of eleven winners and two losers.

It is important to realise that extra tricks can only be made by ruffing in the 'short hand' – in this case that's the North hand. Declarer makes five spade tricks plus one extra ruff for six in all. Ruffing a diamond in the South hand doesn't help, as declarer still only makes five spade tricks. This is a very important point, which will be explored in a later article. Players (even experienced ones) often make the fundamental mistake of trumping losers in the hand with the long trump suit. In essence they have achieved nothing by doing this. □

## Top Table

## Tony Forrester

**Tony Forrester is the most capped England player. He has won most of the national trophies at least once and the Gold Cup an amazing ten times. Among his achievements are coming second in the 1987 Bermuda Bowl and winning the European Teams in 1991.**



### When did you start playing bridge?

My parents taught me after a selection of unsatisfactory O-levels. Curiously, my exam results improved after that. Most odd.

### How often / where do you play?

Just major events. I have not played serious local bridge since my days at Wakefield, which I still remember fondly.

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

I have always sought an eclectic mix of partners, because I feel you learn more from a varied diet of styles and theories. I have at least ten favourites over the years, which shows that the approach has worked.

### What do you do for a living?

I write for the *Daily Telegraph* and dabble in sports betting on the side.

### What are your favourite bridge books?

For technique superbly explained, Terence Reese's *The Expert Game*. For humour and fun, Skid Simon's classic *Rubber at the Club*.

### What are your hobbies?

Any sport where you can hit, kick or throw a ball. Walking in the Black Mountains. And here's one you would not expect: shopping.

### What would you change in bridge?

Improve dress code; scrap alerting procedure. Focus on 35+ age group of professionals who are looking for a hobby in later life. Streamline the EBU (sorry, it is too cumbersome).

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

My first Gold Cup win comes close, but it has to be the European Championships with Andrew Robson in 1991. Probably the best bridge of my life.



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# Insufficient Bids and Other Problems

Email your questions to Jeremy Dhondy at [ebuproblems@btopenworld.com](mailto:ebuproblems@btopenworld.com) or write to the editor, Elena Jeronimidis, at 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR. Please include your name and address even if writing by email.

PAUL HAINSWORTH asks about insufficient bids: North deals and opens 1♠. East calls 1♥ and South immediately says 'insufficient bid'. East, without pause for thought, says 'Oops, sorry,' and makes good his bid to 2♥. South objects, saying: 'I want to accept the insufficient bid,' and calls the TD.

Does the law give South that right, even though he did not call? Or is a call the only way of accepting an insufficient bid? Or is East entitled to make good his insufficient bid?

Does North or West have unauthorised information?

South's first words should be 'Director, please!' rather than 'Insufficient bid!'

There will have been a pause for thought because East did not correct his call until South had said 'Insufficient bid'; however, this does not really matter.

If East corrected it and then South bid, he would be deemed to have accepted it and any rights he might have would be lost (Law 27A1).

If East corrects it before the director has arrived, then 27C applies. His rectification is accepted and the director will now have to rule on whether West will or will not be silenced for the rest of the auction. If East had changed his bid to 2♦, for example, then it means something different and his partner would be barred from bidding. If, however, the call is corrected from 1♥ to 2♥, then 27B1 applies and the auction usually continues without penalty so the quick answers are:

1. You do not have to call to establish an insufficient bid and indeed will be deemed to accept it if you do.
2. East should wait for the director but it is a weakness in the current law (in my opinion) that if he does not and

corrects it in the same denomination, he will most often escape without penalty.

3. The non-offending side can never have UI in this situation. Any information that they have is authorised. There are some corrections which may give information. The offender's partner will probably be barred from bidding anyway if this happens but there might be UI positions in the defence. There is quite a useful flow chart at [www.ebu.co.uk/documents/flow\\_charts.pdf](http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/flow_charts.pdf) which your TD might find of use.

GEORGE from Burton asks: After a 1NT opening, my partner and I use a 2♣ overcall to ask for a four-card major. Recently my partner alerted and replied Stayman to an enquiry. After the round, one of our opponents insisted that we could not call it Stayman, as Stayman could only be used by the responder. I disagreed and stated that our responses are the same as Stayman rather than Landy. Who is correct?

It is unusual to describe a defence to 1NT as Stayman. I think it will generate queries and therefore even if you do play it in the same sort of way it will be no quicker, and on occasion slower, to describe it this way.

Given that your aim is to find a major-suit fit, I imagine you might bid 2♣ on, say, ♠ K J x x x ♥ A Q x x ♦ x ♣ Q x x. If partner had a four card major opposite that, then he would bid it but usually, if playing this sort of defence, he would bid 2♦ with equal length (whether 2-2, 3-3, or even 4-4) to ensure the partnership gets to the best fit, whereas if he were 1-3 in the majors he would bid 2♥. You can't really afford to bid 2♦ on this sort of hand, as you would end up playing in the 5-1 fit if

you did and the bid meant what you have described.

The hand opposite the 2♣ bid is not as tightly restricted as a 1NT opener in shape or points, so that player may make responses that are not as typical responses to Stayman might be. For example, if my partner bid 2♣ asking for a major and I held:

♠ A Q x x ♥ x ♦ K Q J x x ♣ A x x, I would bid 4♠ not 2♠ and I can think of other hands where I might respond in a minor at the three level or bid 3NT.

For all these reasons I would not describe the bid as Stayman, and would suggest that 'showing the majors' is a better description.

DAVE PARKIN asks: Is fourth suit forcing the only method of finding out if partner can help in a suit?

If your side is involved in a constructive auction i.e. no opposition involvement, then in addition to fourth suit you can have an auction like: 1♠ – 2♦ – 3♦ – 3♥. As the opener has raised diamonds, he won't have four hearts, so it is unlikely that you are trying to play in hearts. This sort of bid is likely to be suggesting that 3NT is a possible contract and that you have heart values and not club values. If on the rare occasion when, as responder, you are 5-6 in the red suits, you can always remove 3NT to 4♥.

Most players would use a sequence like 1♠ – 2♠ – 3♣ as a long suit trial bid asking for help in clubs. Similarly the sequence 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♠ – 3♣ would suggest you have five spades, and are making a try for game and directing partner towards his club holding.

If the opponents bid then, of course, you can use the cue-bid of their suit to ask for a stop for no-trumps as in the sequence 1♦ – (1♥) – 1♠ – (2♥) – 3♦ – (Pass) – 3♥. □





## Fourth Suit Forcing

THE NEED for the use of the fourth suit as an artificial bid has been known since the 1950s, when it was written about at length by Norman Squire. Eric Crowhurst developed the idea further in the early 1980s.

The way that most people understand the concept is that after three suits have been bid in a natural fashion, the need to make a completely natural bid in the remaining suit is remote. There are usually clear alternative bids available, such as no-trumps if a decent holding in the remaining suit is held. Thus the introduction of the fourth suit became known as an 'artificial' device to extract information from partner.

Most players appear to me to erroneously use it simply as a device to locate whether a stopper is held in the one remaining unbid suit for no-trump purposes, since it is plainly pretty daft to try no-trumps with one suit unbid and then get wiped out in that suit immediately once play develops!

My suggestion for the meaning of fourth suit forcing (FSF) is that it simply seeks to extract information from partner (it can be from opener or responder, since either player is able to introduce FSF). It can be used for any of the following reasons:

1. To allow partner to bid no-trumps with a stopper in the fourth suit (probably still the most common application).
2. To allow the responder to support one of opener's suits in a *forcing* rather than *invitational* fashion. Thus  $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit - 3\clubsuit$  is invitational (9-12 points approx.), whereas supporting clubs *via* FSF is stronger, i.e.  $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit$  - Any  $- 3\clubsuit$  is forcing to game (13+). This saves space enormously, rather than having to make the cumbersome jump to  $4\clubsuit$  to show a good raise. That clearly loses room and takes you beyond 3NT - so often the best final contract!
3. To enable responder to rebid his own suit later in a *forcing* manner.

The values required for the introduction of FSF have also changed over the years. Messrs Squire and Crowhurst essentially argued that you needed the values for the next level of no-trumps, i.e.

- 10+ at the one level,
- 11+ at the two level,
- 12+ at the three level.

My attempt to move us all on into the 21st Century is to suggest that FSF is always a *game-forcing* bid (usually based on a good 12+ points). This will allow for much smoother understanding for all aspiring partnerships.

**KEY POINT: Fourth Suit Forcing is game forcing!**

The following hand *must* use FSF:

♠	A Q J 7 5 2
♥	7 5
♦	A 8 2
♣	K 4

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$   
 $2\clubsuit - ?$

Do *not* commit by bidding either no-trumps or spades; simply bid  $2\diamondsuit$  then later bid spades, which is now forcing. Simple!

So many players wrongly bid  $3\spadesuit$  with the above hand over  $2\clubsuit$ , which is only invitational, showing six cards in spades with about 10-11 points.

Perhaps a more common example is:

♠	A Q 8 4 2
♥	6 3
♦	7 5 4
♣	A K 2

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$   
 $2\clubsuit - ?$

Bid  $2\diamondsuit$  as FSF, showing a game-forcing hand with no clear direction.

What will happen after FSF has been introduced is that the opening bidder (or responder on occasion, if it is the opener who has used FSF) will attempt to 'describe his hand' rather than just blithely showing whether he has a stopper or not. Thus with:

♠	3
♥	A Q 10 7 6
♦	K 7
♣	K Q J 6 5

After:

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$   
 $2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit$   
?

While the  $\diamondsuit$ -K-x represents a stopper and so many would automatically bid no-trumps now, a *much* better bid would be  $3\clubsuit$ , accurately describing the shape of the hand. You can still bid no-trumps next time if necessary.

So if you do not bid no-trumps after FSF, *you have not necessarily denied a stopper in the fourth suit!*

### Fourth Suit Forcing at the One Level

I prefer  $1\clubsuit - 1\diamondsuit - 1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit$  still to be used as FSF. (By choice some partnerships shade this down a bit to 10+ points.)

Some use  $1\spadesuit$  as a natural bid and employ  $2\clubsuit$  as FSF. I do *not* recommend this style. So long as you can raise  $1\spadesuit$  naturally with four cards, there should never be a problem, in my opinion.

### Raising the Fourth Suit

If playing FSF as game-forcing, then a raise is best played as entirely natural and shape-showing. If not played as game-forcing, this bid used to be played as 'a hand too good to limit' - a frighteningly complex use which far more often led to disaster rather than clarity for even top partnerships!

### Jumping in the Fourth Suit

E.g.  $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit - 3\diamondsuit$

There are two possible mainstream ways to play this:

- a) A control-showing bid agreeing the last bid suit (agreeing clubs in the example shown).
- b) Natural, at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds forcing to game.

My personal preference is for a), but this is very much a matter for individual part-

nerships to agree on.

Playing my suggested methods, if you do actually want to describe a spade/diamond two-suiter you simply introduce the fourth suit then *rebid* it next time.

### Fourth Suit as a Passed Hand

There is a good case for using FSF as a passed hand as well, though clearly you cannot now have a game-forcing hand to describe. A maximum pass would be closer to the mark and you can still explore for no-trumps, or show a good raise etc.

### When Not to Use Fourth Suit Forcing

If you *do not* have game-forcing values, you should strive to make a limit bid wherever possible. This will often be to bid no-trumps or to return to opener's first suit (giving preference). Thus:

♠ J 6 5	1♣ – 1♥
♥ K 8 7 2	1♠ – ?
♦ A 8 5	Bid 3♣ <i>not</i> 2♦ FSF!
♣ K 7 4	This is only an invitational hand, so describe it for what it is.

This hand demonstrates clearly why opener should have at least five clubs and four spades for this auction, since responder must be able to give jump-preference with only three-card support (and about 10-12 points). Note that bidding this way does *not* prevent no-trumps from being reached, whereas using FSF would prevent the partnership from coming to rest in 3♣.

The old-fashioned Acol style of bidding four card suits up the line has now surely been rejected by most people. If you have two four-card suits, I recommend either opening the major (best), or opening the minor then rebidding no-trumps next. Thus the above auction always shows at least 5-4 and responder can feel quite uninhibited in bidding his hand properly.

### To Summarise

1. Fourth Suit Forcing is a 'must' for all partnerships. It allows proper communication during an auction, so that all forcing/non-forcing sequences can flow smoothly.
2. A simplistic but playable approach is to stick to FSF being aimed exclusively to finding no-trump contracts. I hope I have convinced you otherwise. Good luck! □

## IN A NUTSHELL

by Jeremy Dhondy

## CALLING THE DIRECTOR

The Director should be called if there is an irregularity (see Law 9). The wording changed from 'must' to 'should' in the 2007 laws meaning you may be fined for the failure to do so rather than you will be fined for this.

### Who can point out an irregularity?

All players except dummy. Dummy may however do so at the end of the hand. This might occur if he has spotted a defender's revoke that declarer has missed.

### Who can call the director?

Any player once an irregularity has been pointed out, so if declarer decides not to call the director and the defenders collude in this, dummy can now do so.

### Do I ever lose any rights by calling the director?

No. Law 9B1(d) explains this.

### What happens if the director is not called?

Rights to an adjustment of the score may be jeopardised by the failure to call the director. Beware those players who

say there is no need for the director because they know the law. Often they don't! There are occasions when something does not come to light until later and the director can still be called then but will want to know why there was a delay. All players are responsible for calling the director once there has been an infraction.

### Can I 'reserve my rights'?

There are occasions when there is no director available or perhaps he is playing and has not met the board yet. With some infractions such as an action after a hesitation you can say 'reserving my rights' and then call the director at the end of the hand (if however your opponents dispute the alleged hesitation, the director needs to be called there and then). However, once you have started on the next board normally your rights will have expired. When it is an infraction such as a misexplanation or insufficient bid, the director needs to deal with the problem immediately.

## UNIVERSITY BRIDGE SOCIETY LEADS THE WAY

**BRIDGE-PLAYING university students please take note:** bridge at Manchester University has been recognised as a Mind Sport, thanks to the endeavours of members of the University Bridge Society (see photo). This is how Michael Coop, Chair of the society, tells the story:

'With the Portland Bowl being the only source of competition for universities, we wanted to try and obtain for bridge the status it deserves while also competing with other universities and schools across the UK. To this end, we campaigned to the University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU) to recognise games such as Bridge, Chess, Go, Chinese Chess and Checkers as Mind Sports and not just as 'Leisure/Entertainment'. We were classed with activities such as Beer Pong and Dubstep – which we felt didn't reflect what bridge is about! After a thirty-minute grilling by a panel of eighteen students and members of the Union Assembly, they agreed by 16 votes to 2 to recognise bridge as a Mind Sport. The Activities Officer, Amaya Dent, supported our argument during the debate. It is to be hoped that other university bridge societies will follow suit and this should help bridge to become more popular as a university sport.

'Our next step is to contact the Athletics Union for their support of bridge being classed as a Mind Sport. It is our hope that we can gain BUCS points for the Manchester Athletics Union by competing in inter-university bridge matches.'

For further information on the debate, as well as the idea put forward to UMSU, visit [www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk/content/union-assembly-idea-mind-sports](http://www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk/content/union-assembly-idea-mind-sports) or contact Michael Coop at [bridge.society@gmail.com](mailto:bridge.society@gmail.com)





# Prize Leads Quiz



by Alan Mould

## Answers to June Problems

### Hand 1

♠ K 4  
♥ Q 9 5  
♦ J 5 4 2  
♣ K J 4 3

### Hand 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dble <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♠
All Pass			
<sup>1</sup> Take-out			

**Pick your lead out of:** (a) ♠K; (b) ♥5; (c) ♦2; (d) ♣3.

(a) ♠K: **1 mark.** All I can say is why? One mark for optimism.

(b) ♥5: **7 marks.** It seems reasonable to attack an unbid suit to try and set up tricks, so this would be my second choice.

(c) ♦2: **4 marks.** In general, leads from J-x-x-x are not great and here it is too liable to be slow and/or potentially give a trick away to be particularly valuable.

(d) ♣3: **10 marks.** This is my choice. It is almost always right to lead trumps against these sort of sequences in order to cut down the ruffs. Even if this lead is into the ♣A-Q, it is unlikely to cost a trick and even if it does, it may come back again.

**Pick your lead out of:** (a) a spade; (b) ♥A; (c) ♦K; (d) ♣8.

(a) A spade: **5 marks.** It could be right if it is necessary to cut down the ruffs, but that seems fairly unlikely on the bidding.

(b) ♥A: **4 marks.** It needs a very precise lie of the cards for this to be correct, essentially needing partner to have at most a singleton and both opponents at least two hearts each. Still, if the opponents do have ♥K-x opposite ♥x-x you may need the ruff to beat the contract.

(c) ♦K: **1 mark.** This is a desperate lead and needs partner to hold the ace or the ♦Q-J. It will lose far more often than it gains, and the auction does not call for such speculation.

(d) ♣8: **10 marks.** I see no reason not to lead what is in front of my face. The easiest way to beat this hand (and which needs least in partner's hand) is to take club ruffs, so I lead my singleton. It is also pretty safe as I am unlikely to give declarer anything he couldn't and wouldn't have done for himself anyway.

★★★★★

### Hand 3

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

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Dble <sup>2</sup>	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>3</sup>	All Pass
<sup>1</sup> Majors; <sup>2</sup> Values; <sup>3</sup> Penalties.			

**Pick your lead out of:** (a) ♠K; (b) a heart; (c) ♦A; (d) ♣2.

(a) ♠K: **1 mark.** This would be my fourth choice. It cannot be right to help the opponents set up their suit or set up the cross-ruff by leading it.

(b) A heart: **10 marks.** You have the balance of the high cards and partner's double shows a decent trump holding. It is almost always right in such circumstances to lead trumps so that partner can draw trumps and stop the ruffs.

(c) ♦A: **4 marks.** This could be right if it is necessary to take ruffs to beat the contract, but is more or less playing partner for a singleton diamond, which is very unlikely. Also, you have no quick entry.

(d) ♣2: **6 marks.** It could be right if you have to set up tricks in this particular suit, but declarer may well have length and strength there. Partner's doubles did not show clubs. □

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

**Master:** Rupert Timpson,  
Chadlington,  
Oxon

**Regional:** Michael Kaye,  
Kintbury,  
Berkshire

**Open:** Danny Roth,  
Chigwell,  
Essex



Sponsored by **PIATNIK**

# New Prize Leads Quiz

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

## PIATNIK

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This elegant twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards ('Time Pieces') is the prize on offer this month.

For information on the new Piatnik cards visit [www.gibsonsgames.co.uk](http://www.gibsonsgames.co.uk)

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

Entries to the Editor,  
 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR,  
 or e-mail [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)  
 by 20th August 2012.

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

## THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

### Hand 1

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	1NT
All Pass			3NT

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♠2; (b) ♥8; (c) ♦10; (d) ♣2.

★★★★★

### Hand 2

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

West	North	East	South
5♣	6♣	All Pass	1♠

Pick your lead out of: (a) a spade; (b) a heart; (c) ♣A/♣K; (d) ♣2.

★★★★★

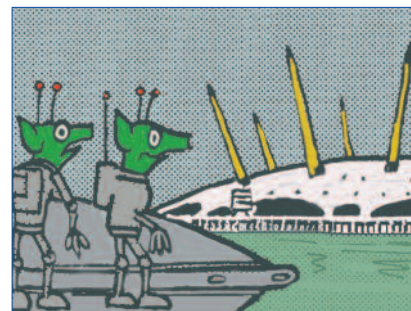
### Hand 3

♠ 10 9 7 3  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ K Q 10 7 3  
 ♣ 10 7 3

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

Pick your lead out of: (a) ♠10; (b) ♥5; (c) ♦K/♦Q; (d) ♣3.

## CAPTION COMPETITION



Are you sure the EBU advert said 'Bridge for All'?

THE winner of our June competition, with the caption above, is Penny Hodgson of Mountsorrel, Leics, who will receive an elegant bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 17). Other excellent captions were: *Are you sure that this is the venue for the Green Pointed Pairs?* (Len Macauley, Staining); *I see the Director has already arrived* (David Bryan, Chester); *I don't think it's their Leader, I think it's a Dummy* (James Foster, Beckenham); *That's not the Brighton Congress venue!* (Bomi Kavarana, Tadworth); *I know we are green, but to open with just 5 points...* (Dave Robinson, Sheffield); *I think it's a kind of sputnik* (Michael Wilkes, Worcester); *Do you think wearing sandals with socks will be an acceptable dress code?* (Derek Williams, Blackpool); and *Don't worry partner, we're green, they're vulnerable, let's take our chances!* (Richard Perryman, by email).

The cartoon for our new competition is below. Please send your bridgy captions (multiple entries accepted) to the Editor, *English Bridge*, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or by e-mail to [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk) not later than 20th August 2012. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



**Sponsored by Bridge & Golf Gifts Direct**



10 – 19 August 2012

# Brighton Summer Meeting



## Hilton Metropole Hotel

The event incorporates  
the Really Easy Congress (13-15 August)  
the Next Step Congress (14-16 August)  
and the Seniors Congress (13-16 August)

- First weekend: Green-pointed Swiss Pairs AND two NEW Swiss Teams events **NEW**
- Mid-week events include a 'Play with the Experts' Pairs, a Mixed Pivot Teams, and a Mixed Pairs (all Green-pointed events)
- Second Weekend: Green-pointed Four Stars Swiss Teams AND the NEW Stratified Swiss Pairs **NEW**

**Entries: EBU Comps Dept.**

**☎ 01296 317 203 / 219**

21 – 30 September 2012



# GUERNSEY CONGRESS

La Trelade Country House Hotel  
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A national green-pointed congress  
featuring mid-week

**THE GUERNSEY SENIORS CONGRESS**



Entries / enquiries to EBU Competitions Dept

**☎ 01296 317 203 / 219**

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



# EBU News

## ALEC SALISBURY AWARD



*Mary Mills with the Nottingham High School team  
that won the Schools Plate at the 2012 Youth Challenge event*

THE English Bridge Union has awarded Mary Mills the Alec Salisbury Award for 2011 in recognition of the outstanding service she has given to the development of bridge at her school, Nottingham High School, over many years.

Mary has been teaching maths at Nottingham High School (an all-boys independent school) for over twenty years. She first started playing bridge with friends as a student at Nottingham University. However, it was not until Mary started teaching at West Bridgford comprehensive in Nottingham and became involved in a team of eight, that she got a feel for what the game was all about.

At Nottingham High School, Mary, assisted by her colleague John Allen, runs a lunchtime bridge club. The club meets

three times a week and numbers vary from eight to twenty boys playing. The club is open to all age groups and beginners.

Nottingham High School BC have had a team in the Notts team-of-eight evening leagues. This has been a valuable experience for the young players over the years, and has given them a good insight into competition bridge. More recently the players have practised on-line. The school also runs a two week House Bridge Competition and takes part in various simultaneous pairs events.

Over the years, the school has achieved success at the schools challenge at Loughborough, winning the Schools Cup, the Harry Scully Trophy and this year, the Schools Plate.

The award was presented by Graham Jepson in front of many of Mary's bridge students.

## GB WIN SENIORS CAMROSE

THE *Great Britain* team came first in the Seniors Camrose in Ayr. Congratulations to Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Gunnar Hallberg, John Holland, Victor Silverstone and Tony Waterlow. Since GB (as the Patron's team) is ineligible, Scotland in second place took home the trophy. The full table reads:

1. Great Britain	178 VPs
2. Scotland	172 VPs
3. England	154 VPs
4. Republic of Ireland	147 VPs
5. Wales	135 VPs
6. Northern Ireland	109 VPs



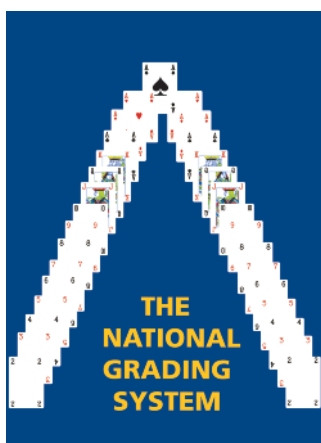
# EBU News

## LAST CALL FOR CROCKFORDS

LAST CALL for entering the 2012-2013 *Crockfords Cup* competition: entries must be in by 6th August 2012.

*Crockfords* is England's premier open teams championship, played as knock-out matches, but with the last eight surviving teams meeting in an all-play-all final in May.

There is also a free-of-charge *Plate* event for unseeded teams losing their first match.



## NGS FAQ

*DO MY results count forever?*

The older the result, the less it counts for. Once it is more than 1000 boards in the past, it will cease to count towards the value of your grade.

*How does the effect of a board or a session that I play today diminish over a period of time?*

The speed at which the effect of a past session diminishes will depend on how often and how many boards you play. The more you play, the faster it diminishes.

*What use will this data be put to?*

In addition to giving us grades, it will also be possible to use this for such things as stratification and to run handicap events.

*My club runs a pairs event which uses IMP scoring. Will this be included?*

Yes. The score is converted to a match-point equivalent. A number of clubs who run 'Butler'-type pairs events have been doing this for some time.

*Looking at my sessions on the website, why does my grade sometimes seem to go down after a good result?*

This can happen if you were playing with a strong partner or against weaker opponents or in a relatively weak field. However, there is a further possibility. Your sessions are displayed in order of date played, but the NGS grade is recalculated when older sessions are submitted (or corrected) late. So occasionally your grades are not displayed in the order they were calculated, and this can give rise to this apparently anomalous effect.

Allowing for this, your grade will normally go up if you score above par and down if you score below, but your grade can also go up or down, even when you score on par, because older results are being given less weight.

*How often will grades be updated and when are corrections possible?*

We currently allow nine days after the date of an event before it is processed by NGS. This is both to allow any corrections to results to be spotted and submitted before the results are used to update grades, and also to increase the chance that your sessions will be processed in the order in which they were played.

However, the system will take account of corrections submitted at any subsequent time, and will recalculate the affected session and the overall grades, as part of the following day's NGS processing.

For more questions and answers see [www.ebu.co.uk/ngs](http://www.ebu.co.uk/ngs)

## ADVANCE NOTICE

THE NEXT winter Overseas Congress, organised by the EBU and Bridge Overseas, will be held in Fuerteventura from 6th February to 12th February 2013. Further info from the EBU Competitions Department ☎ 01296 317 203 / 219. For accommodation and travel, ring Bridge Overseas ☎ 0800 034 6246.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ■ AUGUST 2012

- 10-19 Brighton Summer Congress  
**Hilton Metropole**
- 13-15 Brighton Really Easy Congress  
**Hilton Metropole**
- 14-16 Brighton Next Step Congress  
**Hilton Metropole**
- 13-16 Brighton Seniors Congress  
**Hilton Metropole**
- 24-26 Junior Teach In  
**Loughborough University**

### ■ SEPTEMBER 2012

- 1-2 National Women's Teams  
**West Midlands BC, Solihull**
- 7-9 Isle of Man Congress
- 10-14 EBU Autumn Sim Pairs, **Clubs**
- 15-16 Bedford Congress
- 21-30 Guernsey Congress
- 22-23 Premier League (1st w/e)  
**Richmond/Young Chelsea**
- 29-30 Surrey GP Weekend
- 29-30 Derbyshire GP Weekend  
**EMBA, Spondon**
- 30 Herts GP Swiss Teams  
**Wodson Park, Ware**
- 30 Westmorland GP Event
- 30 Cornwall GP Swiss Teams  
**Wadebridge**

### ■ OCTOBER 2012

- 5-7 West of England Congress  
**Weston-super-Mare**
- 6-7 Great Northern Swiss Pairs  
**Hilton Leeds City Hotel**
- 6-7 Felixstowe Congress
- 6-7 Premier League (reserve w/e)
- 8-12 British Sims Clubs
- 10-16 Overseas Congress  
**Marmaris, Turkey**
- 19-21 Autumn Congress  
**Stratford-upon-Avon**
- 26-28 Really Easy Congress  
**Wroxton, Nr Banbury**
- 27-28 Premier League (2nd w/e)  
**Manchester**
- 27-28 Lancashire Congress
- 27-28 Kent Congress  
**Tunbridge Wells BC**
- 27-28 Malvern Congress  
**Bransford**

### ■ NOVEMBER 2012

- 2-4 Seniors Congress  
**Daventry**
- 9 Children in Need Sim Pairs  
**Clubs**
- 9-11 NEBA Congress  
**Gateshead Marriot Hotel**
- 9-11 Premier League (3rd w/e)  
**Solihull**
- 10-11 Middlesex Congress  
**Barnet**
- 12-15 Children in Need Sim Pairs  
**Clubs**
- 15-18 Champions Cup  
**Eilat, Israel**
- 16-3 Dec EBU Balmoral Cruise with Paul Hackett  
**Cape Verde Islands**
- 17-18 Tollemache Qualifier  
**Daventry Hotel**

### ■ DECEMBER 2012

- 8-9 Gold Cup Finals  
**West Midlands BC, Solihull**
- 15-16 Senior Camrose trials
- 21-23 Junior Channel Trophy (provisional), **England**
- 27-30 Year End Congress, **London**
- 28-30 Year End Congress, **Blackpool**

## EBU DIARY

Please note that if you don't qualify to receive the October issue of *English Bridge*, you will not receive the Diary either. See [www.ebu.co.uk/pay2play/magazine%20points.pdf](http://www.ebu.co.uk/pay2play/magazine%20points.pdf)

## NICKO

ENTRIES TO the *NICKO*, the National Inter Club Knockout competition, must be in by 21st September 2012.

It is open to teams from all affiliated bridge clubs, and each club may enter as many teams as it wishes.

If a team loses its first match in Rounds 1 or 2, it goes – free of charge – into the parallel *NICKO Plate* competition. **Green Points are awarded for matches won.**

Strong teams (those with two or more Grand Masters or above, or ranked in the top forty of the EBU Gold Point scheme at the end of August) will be exempted until Round 2 or Round 3. Strong teams will *not* be eligible for the *NICKO Plate*.

Further information from the EBU Competition Department. Entry forms will be available for download from [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)



## NEW STANDARD SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

*Frances Hinden explains*

FROM August 1st this year the Laws and Ethics Committee are introducing a standard schedule of penalties to be applied by Tournament Directors at EBU events. The objective is not necessarily to increase the overall number of penalties given but rather to ensure consistency. We believe that people don't usually object if they are fined for, say, misboarding but what is very upsetting is to discover that someone else was not fined for exactly the same offence. The full list can be seen at [www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/misc/publications.htm](http://www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/misc/publications.htm)

### Types of Penalty

Penalties are always bridge related, and are most commonly given in the form of a 'fine' or reduction to your score. There are two types: Procedural and Disciplinary. Procedural penalties (PPs) are exactly as they sound. The Laws explain that these are given for 'any offence that unduly delays or obstructs the

game, inconveniences other contestants, violates correct procedure, or requires the award of an adjusted score at another table'. You will normally only be penalised if you have caused a problem for another pair: talking loudly may generate no more than a telling-off, but arguing about how you could have got to 7NT so vehemently that another table hears you and can't play the hand will result in a fine. PPs can also be given if the TD thinks you really ought to know better, e.g. if you use a complex system but haven't bothered to fill out a system card. Disciplinary penalties by contrast (DPs) are given for bad behaviour or for the 'maintenance of courtesy and good order' (as the Laws put it), and can range from a warning or a small fine to disqualification or eventually a ban from the EBU.

### Can I Appeal Against a Penalty?

Most fines are only given after an initial warning, although some

serious offences will incur a penalty at once. However, be aware that a 'warning' may be an announcement to the room as a whole that (for example) any BB@B offence will be subject to an immediate penalty. You will also discover that if you can't play a board and it's your fault, then you will get a score of at most 40% (or -3 IMPs), whether or not it's a first offence. If you think you have been given a penalty unfairly, then you can appeal a PP in the usual way; an Appeals Committee cannot enforce any change to a DP, but they can recommend a change to the TD. However, be careful about appealing penalties: Appeal Committees are very unlikely to overrule a TD who has given one unless it is out of line with EBU guidance, but they have been known to increase the penalty!

If you are disqualified from an event you can also, in theory, appeal; however, the need to keep an event running and maintain the TD's authority means that would (almost) never lead to your reinstatement.

### The Aim of the Schedule

Finally, this schedule is designed only as guidance to TDs and is explicitly not a firm set of regulations. Less experienced players should be given much more leeway if they are playing in a 'Novice', 'Next Step' or similar event. DPs in particular need the TD's judgement and may be adjusted for mitigating or aggravating circumstances, which should be explained at the time ('You are the country's most irritating player' is, sadly, not an objective reason to increase a penalty). Your club may like to adopt the schedule as written or you could start with the same list of offences but replace many of the penalties with additional warnings.

## NOTES FROM THE L&E CHAIRMAN

THE 2012 versions of the *Orange*, *Tangerine* and *White Books* came out on August 1st. Changes are minor. With the *Orange Book* all the Level 2 information has been taken out of the main text and placed on its own to both slightly shorten and simplify the book.

At least twice this year I have come across people using the original 2006 book; ignoring six years of updates is unlikely to assist in getting the right information except, perhaps, by luck even though large tracts have not changed. The most up-to-date version can always be found on the website in pdf form and can be downloaded and printed. The L&E will also provide e-reader versions of both *Orange* and *White Book* in time for the 2012 update for those who want to put it on to their Kindle.

For 2013 the L&E are going to consider a more significant revision. By then it will be seven years since the last major re-write. It may be appropriate to review alerting and announcing regulations, for example. Items which are allowed or disallowed will also be reviewed.

If you have any views that you wish to put before the L&E then please let the Secretary, John Pain, know by writing to [john@ebu.co.uk](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk). We will first discuss the 2013 revision at the L&E meeting in the second half of September.

*(Jeremy Dhondy)*

## 2012 CORN CAIRDIS



ON THE weekend of May 5th-6th in Letterkenny, County Donegal, England retained the Corn Cairdis Trophy against the Republic of Ireland by 369 – 350 VPs.

The English teams (*photo above*) were: (Club) Adrian and Prue Knight with Alaric and Tony Cundy from the West Midlands; (County) Joyce and Bill White with Babs and Tim Matthews from Manchester; (Officials) Hazel and Barry Capal with Philip Mason and Peter Stocken.

## 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 2012 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Nielsen)  
♠ A K J 6  
♥ A Q 10 9 8  
♦ A K  
♣ J 3
2. E/W Game  
Dealer East  
(Gullberg)  
♠ K  
♥ Q  
♦ A K J 10 7 3  
♣ 9 6 4 3 2
3. E/W Game  
Dealer North  
(Gitelman)  
♠ 8 6  
♥ 6 3 2  
♦ 10 9  
♣ K Q 10 7 4 2  
\*North opens 1♠
4. Love All  
Dealer North  
(Thomas Bessis)  
♠ J 9 8 2  
♥ K 6  
♦ A 9 7 4 2  
♣ J 7  
\*North passes, South bids 3NT
5. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Hou Xu)  
♠ A 5 2  
♥ A 10 7 6  
♦ 9  
♣ A J 8 6 4  
\*North bids 1♠, South bids 2♠
6. E/W Game  
Dealer North  
(Asbi)  
♠ Q 10 7 5  
♥ 8 4  
♦ 10 9 6 4  
♣ A K 8  
\*North passes, South bids 3♠

## Beat Today's Experts

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

### August 2012 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Boesgaard)  
♠ 7 4 3  
♥ 5 2  
♦ J 6 3 2  
♣ K 10 7 5
2. E/W Game  
Dealer East  
(Karlsson)  
♠ A 9 8 7 5  
♥ A K 10 7 5  
♦ 8 4  
♣ K
3. E/W Game  
Dealer North  
(Moss)  
♠ A Q  
♥ A 7  
♦ K Q J 7 5 4 2  
♣ A 9  
\*North opens 1♠
4. Love All  
Dealer North  
(Del'Monte)  
♠ A 10 7 5 4  
♥ A J 7 5 2  
♦ Q  
♣ 10 3  
\*North passes, South bids 3NT
5. E/W Game  
Dealer West  
(Sun Miao)  
♠ 8 6  
♥ Q J 5 4  
♦ A 8 4  
♣ Q 7 5 3  
\*North bids 1♠, South bids 2♠
6. E/W Game  
Dealer North  
(Tobing)  
♠ Void  
♥ A Q 6 2  
♦ A K Q J 8 3  
♣ Q 10 5  
\*North passes, South bids 3♠





## SUMMER SALE

### Really Easy Books

Now Only £6 each  
(except *Really Easy Bidding*)

*Really Easy  
Play in No Trumps*

*Really Easy  
Play with Trumps*

*Really Easy Mistakes*

*Really Easy  
Modern Acol*

*Really Easy Defence*

*Really Easy  
Competitive Bidding*

*Really Easy Slams*

*Practice –  
Beginning Bridge*

*Practice –  
Continuing Bridge*

## SUMMER SALE

### EBU 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pen



Last chance to purchase  
Limited stock  
**£1.99 each**  
Silver coloured in suedette pouch

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**Gold Backs Only**  
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but include VAT.

**Offers end 31st August 2012.**

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No further discounts.

Prices do not include p&p,  
but include VAT.

**Offers end 31st August 2012.**



## More NGS Concerns

I CONSIDER it unsatisfactory that you have responded 'That's not correct. The documentation online states . . .' to the member who wrote (June 2012) complaining that playing with a weaker partner adversely affected his grade. I believe there is truth in this member's assertion. I have played twelve times in the past year with players 6-7 grades beneath my own, and have beaten par on only three occasions, and incurred an average shortfall per session of 2.25% against par.

While top grades must fairly accurately reflect the number of mistakes one makes, when two lower-graded players play in partnership, some of their mistakes cancel each other out. A grade King playing with a grade 5 benefits very little from 'cancelling errors', so that in a grade 6 duplicate their assumed pair grade of 9 overrates them against the field.

The NGS Committee has done so much excellent work in devising and implementing the scheme; surely it would be within their capability to test this scientifically, by surveying results achieved by partnerships whose grades differ by, say, 5 or more.

**Mike Griffiths,  
Paddock Wood**

*Jeremy Dhondy replies:* If you play in a scratch partnership then whether the player is better or worse than you there is clearly room for misunderstanding during the session and results may not be as good as with a regular partner. If you play with a player several grades below you then the percentage required for your grade to be maintained or improved is lower than it would be with a higher-ranked partner. To play twelve sessions and incur a 'shortfall' is not any more surprising than tossing a coin twelve times and finding it came down heads seven times.

## Silly Game!

Playing a duplicate session at Leeds Bridge Club, this was our last board of the evening:

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

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

Can you guess the contract played?

The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
2♣	All Pass		

1♣ was alerted and explained as being as few as two clubs since they were playing five-card majors. 2♣ meant at least 5-5 in the majors. As East, because I held 4-4 in the majors, no clubs and South might be short of clubs, I thought that 2♣ was natural, and passed. So we ended up playing in 2♣ with *only one club* between us!

The result was five down, minus 250.

Incredibly, this was an exact 50%; some N/S made 5♣; nobody played in 3NT.

What a stupid game . . .

**Peter Doerfler, Leeds**

*Oh dear! Thinking that partner has made a mistake or forgotten the system never wins the post-mortem!*

## June Debate

ANDREW Robson just wins the argument due to the increased opportunity re: frequency. Could have done with perhaps more discussion as to whether singleton ace should be treated as a special case.

**Bill March, by email**

## Bali, Here We Come!

INSPIRED by the article in *English Bridge* on the forthcoming European Championships in Dublin, a friend and I decided to travel to Ireland to experience a big international event, and to lend our support to the England teams.

With 72 teams from 34 different countries taking part, all smartly attired in their national colours (well, nearly all), there was a real feeling of *entente cordiale*, with the woes of the European debt crisis far from everyone's mind.

It was exciting to rub shoulders with the Fantonis, Bocchis, and Helgemos of this world, as well as to be able to discuss the bridge with English, Welsh and Scottish players and officials, particularly David Burn and Simon Cochemé.

We spent our time in both the Vu-Graph Room, with Barry Rigal and fellow commentators' incisive analysis of the hands, interspersed with their good-humoured banter; and in the Open Room, where four spectators only were allowed to sit around a table of their choice, and witness the bridge at close quarters. When England made a brilliant play, it was difficult not to stand up with a triumphant fist-pump!

The organisation by the Irish Bridge Union, who took on the task at only three month's notice when Greece pulled out, was first class, and, together with their traditional hospitality, we had a really wonderful time.

With the Open and Women's teams both qualifying for the World Championship next year, it just remains to start planning our trip to Bali . . .

**Chris Bickerdike, Cornwall**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Send your letters to the Editor,  
Elena Jeronimidis, 23 Eyleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, or e-mail [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)  
(please include your postal address)  
The editor reserves the right

## Anomaly?

IN a recent duplicate, scored by cross-imps rather than match-points, our already good score was inflated by 26/24 due to a sit-out round. We gained nearly 3 IMPs on each unplayed board, which looked generous. Almost everything had gone our way, and the adjustment factor seemed to be saying that our good luck would have continued, but surely some regression to the mean should be allowed for. Also, each board is worth the same at MPs, but at IMPs some generate bigger swings than others. Why should a pair gain or lose (say) 3 IMPs by not playing a board where there is no scope for a swing?

Perhaps the adjustment factor should depend on the type of scoring. In many cases, changing the method applied would not affect the result (the pair who finished just behind us also had a sit-out), but I wonder whether the EBU or the world bridge authorities have looked at the apparent anomaly. By the way, I do like cross-imp duplicate scoring, which is very popular at my club. The arguments for cross-imps are well put by Gordon Rainsford in the latest *Tournament Focus* – always a good read – on the EBU website.

**David Hull, London** □

**THE JUNE DEBATE – Thank you for your votes and comments. The majority was in favour of Splintering on a singleton honour.**




# Around & About

## HOLIDAY BRIDGE



IN APRIL, twenty-eight members of the Doncaster Bridge Club attended their annual bridge and walking weekend in Windermere. The views over the Lake District were beautiful and inspiring. Bridge was played on an evening at their base, the Belsfield Hotel. One particular bridge hand (not computer generated but shuffled at the table), provided a great deal of interest, and I am indebted to Geoff Kenyon who provides below a commentary of the hand:

Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

<sup>1</sup> Precision

On the lead of the five of diamonds, the nine was played from dummy. South took the trick with the queen and returned a diamond. The defenders then cashed all the six diamonds, dummy discarding two hearts and two spades. North then led the queen of spades which was ducked in dummy. A second spade was won by South who returned a club. North won the trick with the king of clubs and cashed the remaining two spades. At trick twelve a club was played, taken by South who then took the last trick with the ace of hearts.

Zero tricks! A disaster for declarer? Not really: every other North-South was in 3NT (making nine, ten or eleven tricks), so minus 350 was a top for East-West! (Brian Stones)

## BRIDGE TENT AT ASHTEAD

MIDST WEEKS of summer gales and rain the appointed day dawned bright and clear but with a gale of wind from the west. It was not the best of gazebo-building days!

Yes, it was Ashted Village Day. Not just any old Ashted Village Day but Ashted Diamond Jubilee Village Day in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's sixty years on the throne. This deserved special attention as Ashted Bridge College set about preparing for the event and primary amongst prizes was a supply of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee playing cards purchased from the EBU shop.

A sale of fine second-hand bridge books graced the stall, the construction of which included flag poles made from the cardboard internals of carpet rolls, topped with St George's flags sporting the card symbols. In the end, after several attempts with iron-on ideas, the symbols got done with simple spray-on paint. A set of second-hand velvet curtains decorated the table top together with advertisements for all associates.



The 'bridge tent' at Ashted Village Day

The event was held in league with Leatherhead Bridge Club, Surrey Hills Onward Learning and Women v Cancer with fantastic enthusiasm and participation from all – students to the fore. Jenny from WvC found a free day and came along to help with fairy cakes, again sporting iced card symbols. The punters couldn't resist such delicious offerings and they all went to the hungry thousands (8,000 attendees, I heard) enhancing the takings for the charity.

The proceedings were opened by the media presenter Evan Davis whose mother plays at Leatherhead Bridge Club. So, duly, Evan was dragged round by mother to inspect the ABC gazebo and to have a chat. That was great and the crowds rolled in. We were quite overwhelmed.

Sandwiches and a glass of wine helped us through lunch and with the Tea Tent not far away we were well supplied.

Guy set up a Double-Your-Money game which intrigued hordes of marauding boys who came back for more and more. 'Roll the bones!' he cried and four sixes could win £5. Proceeds to WvC, of course.

A big thanks to Leatherhead Bridge Club, Surrey Hills Onward Learning and Women v Cancer for their wonderful help.

(John Cumming)

# Around & About

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

MIDDLESEX COUNTY Bridge Association was 75 on December 16th 2011, and has been celebrating ever since. Throughout 2012 free guest lectures have been organised, challenge matches have been played, and a one-day green-pointed teams event took place in April.



*Middlesex CBA's 75th Anniversary Teams winners: (from the left) Jerry Cope, Richard Hillman, Jeremy Dhondy and Alan Kay.*

Throughout its anniversary year, the county has been supporting St Luke's Hospice, [www.stlukes-hospice.org](http://www.stlukes-hospice.org) – a charity that cares for people with illnesses that are no longer curable.

## FIRST OF MANY



*ABC Open Swiss Teams winners: from the left, Mal Loveridge, Mary Smith, this year's Norfolk County President, Masuma Ali and Kevan Mann, plus ABC committee member Jeannette Pamplin in the middle presenting the prizes.*

THE FAST-GROWING Afternoon Bridge Club, which was only founded in Costessey in February 2010, has come of age with its first-ever Swiss Teams event open to the whole county of Norfolk.

It was outright victory despite a tough field for Mal Loveridge's team – and it felt like more than a bridge triumph for Mal, who has battled back from a devastating car crash last year and is now decidedly back on form: look at the photo, no crutches! 'I was really elated – and pleased too for Kev, who hasn't been playing that long,' said Mal.

The ABC Swiss Teams will be taking up its new annual slot in January, from 2013. *(Jane Scarfe)*

## CYCLING FOR CHARITY (AND TO PLAY BRIDGE!)



*David Wing (and his bike) in front of Exeter Cathedral*

DAVID WING, from Middlesex, is currently on a cycle tour of all fifty-one cities in England, which will include each city cathedral and an EBU affiliated bridge club, while raising money for the Alzheimer's Society.

As David said to the EBU: 'At 65 I wanted to do something crazy before the Grim Reaper gets me. Thus the City Cup project evolved as a vehicle to achieve three things: a personal physical challenge – over 1,000 miles of cycling; involvement with, and promotion of, our wonderful game; and support for the Alzheimer's Society.'

David's other objective is, of course, a chance to play bridge! His plan means that a City Cup event will be held at every bridge club and a cup presented (as a gift from David) to the club. Each cup will be engraved with the name of the city plus the winners' names and David hopes this will become an annual event.

At the time of writing, eight events have already taken place at Plymouth, Exeter, Truro, Bath, Bristol, Wells, Gloucester and Worcester. David said: 'All have been wonderful evenings and the charitable donations overwhelming – many thanks to all those involved. I am really grateful'.

If you would like to see photos and read updates from David's City Cup project, please visit the EBU blog: <http://ebunews.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/David%20Wing>. Each update includes the winners of the City Cup and some interesting information about the cathedral.

If members would like to sponsor David and help the work of the Alzheimer's Society, please visit David's Just Giving website: [www.justgiving.com/citycup](http://www.justgiving.com/citycup) *(Matt Betts)*



# Bidding Quiz



by David Bird

## Beat Today's Experts

Answers to Problems on Page 31

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

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



West  
Nielsen  
1♥

East  
Boesgaard

WE START at the final of the Danish Team Championship. How would you bid that powerful West hand?

As I see it, the hand is too strong to open 2NT. It contains 22 points, yes, but with two chunky major suits it is worth more than that. I would open 2♣ and rebid 2NT, which East would raise to 3NT.

If you want to hold back a bit, then open 2NT. What I simply don't understand is opening 1♥.

There are two reasons why this is not a

sensible idea. Firstly, the bid may be passed out when you have a good game available, which is what happened here. Secondly, when partner does find a response you may not be able to express what a huge hand you hold.

At the other table East-West were playing a strong 1♣ system and therefore did not face the same problem.

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

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

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



West  
Gullberg

2♦  
3NT

East  
Karlsson

1♠  
2♥

Amsterdam. What should West bid at his second turn?

Daniel Gullberg leapt to 3NT, trusting that his club length would prevent the cashing of too many club tricks. He won the heart lead with the queen and led the ♦J to South's ♦Q. The defenders' clubs were blocked (North held ♣AJ10 to South's ♣Q875) and South in fact returned a low spade. Declarer overtook his king with the ace and took his nine tricks. The alternative line of crossing to the ♠A at Trick 2, cashing two more hearts and finessing in diamonds would also have worked.

This was the bidding at the other table:

West (Fisher)	East (Gerstner)
	1♠
2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥
3NT	

2♦ was forcing to game in the 2-over-1 system. North led the ♣A, cashed two more club tricks and switched to a spade. Declarer won with the ♠K and overtook in hearts. He finessed the ♦J, cashed four more diamonds and gave South a club to revive dummy's stranded major-suit aces. (A trump lead defeats 5♦.)

■ **Awards:** 3NT (10), 5♦ (7), part scores (4).

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

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



West  
Gitelman

North  
Grue  
1♠

East  
Moss  
3NT

South  
Cheek

We move now to the 2012 Vanderbilt, contested in Memphis. All the top seeds fell on stony ground . . . and in the final *Diamond* (seeded 8th) faced *Amoils* (seeded 14th).

What does Brad Moss's 3NT overall mean? It shows a long and strong minor suit with a spade stopper. Often the minor suit would be near-solid and the 3NT bidder would hold the ♠K. Here Moss had a one-loser diamond suit (he hoped) and two spade stoppers.

If instead East held a balanced 25-count, he would start with a double instead.

South led a heart from ♥J109854 (North

holding ♥KQ). Declarer won the second round of hearts and tested the clubs. They broke 3-2 and he scored nine tricks with a spade finesse. If clubs had not run, he would have switched to diamonds, hoping that North held no more hearts when he won with the ♦A.

The bidding and play was the same at the other table, except that declarer was allowed a late diamond trick for +630. (A heart or a club lead would threaten 6♦.)

■ **Awards:** 3NT (10), 5♦ (9), 5♠ (7), 6♦ (6), 6♣ (5), 6NT/part-scores (3).

#### 4. Love All. Dealer North.

<div> <div> ♠ Q 6 3 ♥ 10 9 8 3 ♦ J 10 6 5 ♣ 6 2 </div> <div> ♠ A 10 7 5 4 ♥ A J 7 5 2 ♦ Q ♣ 10 3 </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ J 9 8 2 ♥ K 6 ♦ A 9 7 4 2 ♣ J 7 </div> <div> ♠ K ♥ Q 4 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ A K Q 9 8 5 4 </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ N ♥ W ♦ S ♣ E </div> </div>			
West Bessis	North Diamond Pass	East Del'Monte 1♠	South Platnick 3NT
4♠	Dble		

Later in the Vanderbilt final, this deal arrived. What should the young French player, Thomas Bessis, do over South's 3NT overcall?

Some would double, some would pass. Both of these are very risky options when declarer is likely to have seven running club tricks and a spade stopper. (As it happens, the defenders can beat 3NT by one trick.)

Bessis bid 4♠ as a two-way bet. It might be a good sacrifice against a successful 3NT; it might also be a making contract. This was easily the best action, as I see it.

There was no defence against 4♠ and John Diamond put some icing on the opponents' cake with a very speculative penalty double.

At the other table, Darren Wolpert (South) preferred to double rather than bid 3NT. Geoff Hampson bid 3♦ on the West cards. This was a fit-jump, showing a sound raise in spades with a diamond side suit. North passed and Eric Greco (East) rebid 4♠. He played there undoubled, also making ten tricks.

■ **Awards:** 4♠ (10), 3NT doubled by South (5), 3NT undoubled by South (4).

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

<div> <div> ♠ A 5 2 ♥ A 10 7 6 ♦ 9 ♣ A J 8 6 4 </div> <div> ♠ 8 6 ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ Q 7 5 3 </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S </div> </div>			
West Hou	North Wang	East Sun	South Shi
1♣	1♠	Dble	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	

Next we visit the 5th China Elite Tournament (travel costs are much reduced in these days of the internet). A 4-4 fit and a point-count of just 13 opposite 9 does not usually produce a good game. Look how the East-West hands fit, though. Declarer can afford to lose a spade, a heart and a club and still make the game.

Hou Xu opened a natural 1♣ and Sun Miaomiao made a negative double over the 1♠ overcall. South raised the spades and West now had a good hand facing the heart suit that had strongly been suggested by East's double. The 3♥ rebid might have been a bit of a stretch, from East's point of view, since

West would be reluctant not to show a heart fit. Nevertheless, he raised to 4♥. Well bid! There was no particularly hostile lie of the cards and the heart game was made with an overtrick. At the other table West played in 1NT, making four clubs and three aces for +90. Can you imagine the bidding?

There wasn't much of it, because West opened 1NT! He was playing Precision Club, so could not open 1♣ and did not fancy opening 2♣ or 1♦. Unlucky.

■ **Awards:** 4♥ (10), part-scores (6), 2♠ by North (3).

#### 6. E/W Game. Dealer North.

<div> <div> ♠ Q 10 7 5 ♥ 8 4 ♦ 10 9 6 4 ♣ A K 8 </div> <div> ♠ Void ♥ A Q 6 2 ♦ A K Q J 8 3 ♣ Q 10 5 </div> </div>			
<div> <div> ♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S </div> </div>			
West Asbi	North Kamto	East Tobing	South Soebroto
3NT	Pass	1♦	3♠
	Pass	6♦	

We end at the Telkom Indonesia Open. What would you have done on Taufik Asbi's West cards over 3♠?

A double is normally played for take-out. If you pass, partner will quite often pass too and you may miss a game.

Asbi bid 3NT. This is not such a stretch as

you may imagine, since his spades were worth more than 2 points sitting over the spade length. With a three-loser hand Robert Tobing very reasonably bid 6♦, hoping that his partner would fill two of the gaps. The ♥K was onside and all thirteen tricks were made.

At the other table East opened with a strong club. South again overcalled 3♠ and West's 3NT closed the bidding.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ (10), 7♦ (8), games (5), 3♠ doubled by S (3).



Our experts score 55/60, recovering from their awful effort in the last issue. An impossible score for you to beat – sorry about that – but maybe we can pick up some useful bidding tips.

### Tips to remember

- When the opponents bid and support a suit, your partner's points are likely to be where they are most useful: in the other three suits.
- When you have a fit for partner you should show it, even if the opponents' bidding forces you to bid one level higher than you would like.
- Be wary of doubling a 3NT overcall when you have somewhere to play on your cards. A 7-card solid minor plus a stopper in the opener's suit does not leave them far short of making 3NT. □





## Opening Light is Losing Strategy

Two top players debate a hot bridge topic. Tell us whose argument has won you over by emailing [elena@ebu.co.uk](mailto:elena@ebu.co.uk)

AS AN old fashioned-player I hold to the belief that opening poor hands is, in the long term, losing strategy. Opening bids should be sound in the first two seats. Quite what constitutes 'sound' is, of course, what this debate is all about – and it's not always about points.

I think it is foolish to open the bidding with weak two-suiters, especially if the main suit is poor. Also it is rarely right to open a one-bid on an 11-count 5-3-3-2 hand too weak for a weak no-trump. Previous crimes of this sort include the following two examples (opening 1♥ on Hand 1 and 1♦ on Hand 2) perpetrated by team-members of mine in local league matches. These idiocies generated unwelcome adverse swings to nobody's surprise but themselves.

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

Both of these hands, of course, should be passed in first or second seat. There is little virtue in opening either hand before partner has spoken; Terence Reese dismissed the practice of opening weak hands with poor suits with the droll comment that they were '500-fodder'. The first hand can wait and listen to the auction, with a second round intervention being descriptive of a weak two-suiter. Hand 2 has too little offensive potential (and too much defence) to be worth opening (if you *must* bid then try opening a weak 1NT). 11-point opening bids should have some tactical merit in opening the bidding. Even if Hand 2 is altered a little with concentrated values (see Hand 3, top of next column), it still isn't worth opening 1♦. The point here is that partner, looking at a good hand as the

Hand 3
♠ J 8
♥ K 7 5
♦ A K 10 7 6
♣ 7 5 3

1♦ opening bid will attract the right opening lead if LHO becomes declarer but it has little other merit. If you judge this hand an opening bid, then you should open 1NT; if you judge it isn't an opening bid, then you should pass. With a major there is more excuse to open 5-3-3-2 hands, but even here it is dubious tactics.

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

Opening Hand 4 with 1♠ in the first two seats (despite the good suit) is debatable at best (it is an obvious opening bid in third seat, where making life awkward for the opponents and attracting a lead are important strategies). I would always pass this hand in the first two seats; 5-3-3-2 hands just contain too many losers. Of course, opening Hand 5 with 1♠ in first or second seat is simply barking mad.

Hand 5
♠ Q 10 7 4 3
♥ K Q 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q J 10

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

auction progresses, will be wondering what prompted you to open the bidding. It is unlikely to occur to partner that it is because you are a raving lunatic. True, a

1♦ opening bid will attract the right opening lead if LHO becomes declarer but it has little other merit. If you judge this hand an opening bid, then you should open 1NT; if you judge it isn't an opening bid, then you should pass. With a major there is more excuse to open 5-3-3-2 hands, but even here it is dubious tactics.

Also, I think it best not to open weakish 5-4-3-1 (or 5-4-2-2) hands if you can't bid both of your suits. For example, consider the next hand:

Hand 6 is a perfectly respectable, if minimum, opening bid of 1♠. However, Hand 7 (top of next column) is, at best, a very doubtful opening bid of 1♥. I

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

would certainly pass this hand in the first two seats. The difference, of course, is that Hand 7 will be forced to rebid 2♥ over a 2♦ response (and how would you feel if the response were 1NT? The chance of you getting a plus score now must be very slim). At least on Hand 6 you can show both suits over any response from partner.

4-4-4-1 hands are another frequent source of minus scores. Many authors have pointed out that these hands rarely seem to play well in practice and there is little merit in straining to open the bidding on minimum values. The argument 'I have eleven points and a singleton so I must open the bidding' is banal, although many players adhere to it. I would happily pass Hand 8 in the first two seats:

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

If the opponents win the auction they are welcome to play – it won't be easy for them. Yes, if they only bid hearts I will be there with a take-out double as it looks as though we have a trump fit but if the opponents are bidding something else . . .

So, in summary, I believe in opening bids on sound values. Roughly speaking, I open 12 point hands and 11 point hands when I can be confident of bidding both suits. I do not believe in opening 10 point hands with a six-card minor (what's the point? It just makes it easier for the opponents to overcall and win the auction) nor with substandard major-suit hands.

Of course, that doesn't mean that I won't subsequently bid on the second round of the auction; I just don't believe it is right to mislead partner as to my defensive strength with a substandard opening bid. □



# Opening Light is Winning Strategy

Or write to the Editor, English Bridge, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR. Short comments for publication are welcome.

IN 1973, Reese and Dormer suggested a minimum of 13 points for an opening bid\* in *The Complete Book of Bridge*. This was based on the premise that you need 26 points between the hands to make game, and thus it ensured a hand would not be passed out with game making. That may have made sense at rubber bridge, when the emphasis was on bidding and making games and slams, but modern duplicate bridge has a different emphasis: at both teams and pairs the few big scores are relatively less important than getting more of the smaller swings right. Competitive bidding today is thus much more aggressive than it was forty years ago.

The best way to get involved is to open. You start to describe your hand before the opponents can get going while if you pass, you give up the advantage of being dealer. If you have something worth saying you should bid, whether at the one level or higher. An opening bid may let you:

1. Tell partner what to lead;
2. Bid constructively to a good game;
3. Make bidding harder for opponents;
4. Let partner know you have some defensive cards.

A pass (or a pre-empt) is perfectly acceptable if your opening bid isn't going to do at least two of these. Opening 1♥ or 1♠ on a 10-count with a decent six-card suit or two five-card suits is not very controversial, so let's look at a 1♣ opening. Here's a hand (Hand 1) that I think is a clear opening even vulnerable against not ...

## Hand 1

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

... and some possible layouts:

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

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

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

After a 1♣ opening as South, you have a reasonable chance of getting to 7♣ even with East-West bidding hearts; if you pass, the auction might start (1♥ – on 11 HCP!) – 2♦ – (3♥): good luck even getting to a small slam!

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

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

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

If you pass, West can open 1NT, raised to 3NT by East and this will make with overtricks on a spade lead. If you open 1♣, East-West have no hope of bidding game.

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

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

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

If you pass, the auction might go: (1♠) –

Pass – (2♦) – 3♣ – (Dble) and you concede 800; after your 1♣ bid West overcalls 1NT and East raises to 3NT for –400. Alternatively you could pass both times, but then you might find it's like the previous layout and a club is the only lead to beat 3NT.

Admittedly, partner might have Hand 2:

## Hand 2

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

After you open 1♣ you will get to 3NT that might easily go three down, while a pass gives you the chance of playing in a club part-score. That is the biggest risk of a light opening; I believe that the first three layouts are more common.

An alternative to opening at the one level is to pre-empt (e.g. 3♣ on my sample hand). If you pre-empt on this minor-suited hand you can't afford also to do so with a typical ♠ xx ♥ x ♦ xxx ♣ KQ9xxxx because partner will have no idea what to do. Similarly:

## Hand 3

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

Hand 3 is not suitable for a weak 2♠ – partly because hearts might be better, but mainly because partner has no right to expect two aces and so much playing strength; you definitely don't want to pass, so you must open at the one level.

What you should do as responder is to forget the idea that 'opening bid opposite opening bid means game'. If partner will open on distributional 9- or 10- counts, be wary of forcing to 3NT with a balanced 12 opposite without a fit.

To conclude, there is nothing original here. As far back as 1969 Cohen and Lederer said it for me in their book *All About Acol*: 'Acol players believe firmly in the principle that the safest form of defence is attack ... these light openings frequently impede the opposition to such an extent that they miss their own best contract.' □

\*Including length points e.g. 12 HCP with a five-card suit, or 11 with a six-card suit.





## Evaluating Balanced Hands

WHICH OF these two hands would you prefer to have for a 1NT opening?

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

I find that inexperienced players can look at it from a negative point of view. They can point to the fact that in Hand A they have at least one honour in every suit except spades, and even in spades the four-card suit offers some security against opponents running too many tricks.

Of course, if partner has Hand C he will raise to 3NT:

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

How do you fancy your chances in 3NT with Hand A opposite Hand C in Layout 1?

Layout 1	
♠ 7 5 4 3	♠ A J 6
♥ J 7 6	♥ A 5 3
♦ Q 4 3	♦ K 7 5 2
♣ A K Q	♣ J 6 5

You could be held to as few as six tricks: three clubs and one in each other suit.

Now evaluate Hand B opposite Hand C in Layout 2.

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

Now you have excellent chances of nine tricks: one spade, one heart, three diamonds (provided the missing cards break 3-2) and four clubs. Of course opponents might just set up five tricks before you can make nine, but still you would want to be in 3NT.

There may be danger suits in Layout 2; however, there are excellent opportunities. Any danger hardly matters in Layout 1. There are few opportunities because you have nowhere to go for tricks. Whatever they lead, you are going down. Players who worry first about the dangers are getting their priorities wrong. If you are in a contract for nine tricks you have to have realistic prospects of nine tricks.

Many players would count 12 points with Hand A or Hand B and just regard the inevitable minus score with Layout 1 with a shrug of the shoulders. 'Partner, we had 25 points, we had to be in game'. The purpose of this article is to examine precisely why Hand B is so much more effective than Hand A, and to see if we can recognise desirable and undesirable features. To do so, I will look at one feature at a time.

**Length tricks 1:** The clubs in Hand B become worth a whole extra trick in comparison to Hand A! The reason is the fourth card in the suit which enables the jack of clubs in Hand C to become a winner rather than be squashed under the

♣A-K-Q. Note that the fourth club in Hand B is far more effective than the fourth spade in Hand A, because the ♣A-K-Q make it much easier to promote the length card as a winner.

**PRINCIPLE:** A hand has greater trick-taking potential if the high cards are concentrated in the long suits. Beware of holdings like A-K-Q or A-Q-J. A-Q-J might look quite attractive (if you are missing the king and the finesse works) but there is too much of a chance that partner similarly likes K-10-9. Huge duplication of values and only three tricks!

**Length tricks 2:** A length trick in diamonds is far more likely in Layout 2 than in Layout 1. The 3-2 break required in Layout 2 is 68%. The 3-3 break required in Layout 1 is only 36%. To make a length trick you need length in a suit (a fourth card.) Note that there is far more trick-taking potential in a hand with two four-card suits (4-4-3-2 shape) than with only one four-card suit (4-3-3-3 shape). Of course 5-3-3-2 gives even greater trick-taking potential.

**PRINCIPLE:** 4-3-3-3 shape has the least potential of all balanced hands.

### Isolated Honours

What purpose does the jack of hearts serve in Layout 1? Very little! Comparing honour cards, the jack of hearts in Layout 1 has been replaced by the jack of diamonds in Layout 2. It serves a vital purpose, backing up the king and the queen of diamonds. So how could you tell that the red-suit honour holdings in Hand B were likely to be more useful than in Hand A?



When you have finished reading this magazine, if you don't want to keep it please recycle it.



**PRINCIPLE: honours (particularly queens and jacks and to a lesser extent kings) are far more likely to make tricks if they back each other up, in the same hand. Isolated honours are often not worth their point count.**

You can envisage this by trying to make two tricks out of the hearts in Layout 3 or the diamonds in Layout 4. Assume outside entries to allow you to play your suit to best advantage:

Layout 3	Layout 4
♥ K 5 4	♦ K Q 4
	
♥ Q 3 2	♦ 5 3 2

Your chances of two heart tricks in Layout 3 are poor if you have to tackle the suit yourself. The missing ace of hearts will take either the heart king or the heart queen. Your prospects of two diamond tricks in Layout 4 are far better. If West has the ace of diamonds the defenders cannot stop you leading up twice to dummy's honours.

Of course there is another feature that could improve either of these hands: intermediate cards – tens and nines.

Layout 5	Layout 6
♠ A 3 2	♣ A 10 2
	
♠ J 5 4	♣ J 9 4

Your chances of two tricks from the spades in Layout 5 are very poor. On the other hand, with Layout 6 you can take two club finesses with a 75% chance of making two tricks.

### So How Should You Evaluate Balanced Hands?

I start by counting points, so with Hand A or Hand B my initial evaluation is 12 points. Then I look for plus or minus values.

With Hand A there are lots of minus values: high cards in short suits, 4-3-3-3 shape, isolated honours in the red suits and no intermediates. This is an extreme

hand with no plus factors and I would devalue it by perhaps two points: a clear-cut pass.

With Hand B the fourth club (backed up by the ♠A-K-Q), no isolated honours and the 4-4-3-2 shape are far more positive factors. However, there are no intermediates, so I would not feel it necessary to adjust it up or down. It is a typical 12 points: open 1NT but treat it as a minimum.

With Hand D below I would adjust upwards by a couple of points: open 1NT but treat it as a maximum.

Hand D
♠ 10 9 5
♥ 10 7
♦ K 10 9
♣ A K Q 10 9

A word of warning here. Understanding these principles will improve your bridge but don't go overboard. The majority of hands have good features and bad features which cancel each other out and therefore need no adjustment. Many players gain understanding of these principles and feel the need to adjust every hand. Their evaluation is affected by their mood: optimistic or pessimistic. When you first start upgrading or downgrading hands maybe it is a good idea to never add or subtract more than one point.

I will end by slightly adjusting Hand A, giving Hand E below. What do you do with Hand E if partner opens 1NT?

Hand E
♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ J 7 6
♦ Q 4 3
♣ A K J

Yes, 11 points. Yes, you might have a theoretical combined 25 points. But there is not the slightest case for doing anything other than pass. By the time you have adjusted for the numerous minus values it is worth perhaps 9 points. Pass and collect top after top watching the rest of the room failing in 2NT or 3NT. Of course you will collect the odd bottom if partner has 14 points, all the finesses work and all the suits break. You just need a partner who understands that good judgement brings in far more tops than bottoms – a formula for consistent success. □

## 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 54.

Hand 1	W	N	E	S
♠ 7 3			1♠	Pass
♥ A Q 6	?			
♦ Q J 9 5				
♣ 10 7 3 2				

Hand 2	W	N	E	S
♠ J 9 7 5		1♥	Pass	Pass
♥ 6 4	?			
♦ K 10 9				
♣ A J 5 4				

Hand 3	W	N	E	S
♠ K 10 9	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ A Q J 6 4 3	?			
♦ Q 2				
♣ K 5				

Hand 4	W	N	E	S
♠ J 10 9 3			1♣	Pass
♥ K 5 4 3	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
♦ Q 8 6	?			
♣ A 10				

Hand 5	W	N	E	S
♠ J 10 6 4			1NT	Pass
♥ 8 4 3	?			
♦ A K 8 3 2				
♣ 6				

Hand 6	W	N	E	S
♠ Q 9 3 2				1♦
♥ A K J 8 4	Dble	1♠	2♥	2♣
♦ 2	?			
♣ K Q 9				



# Preserving the Past

by Jeremy Dhondy

BY THE time you read this the EBU will have had its 76th birthday. Organised bridge in England is even older. In December the Gold Cup final will be 80 years old.

One of the duties of any organisation is, I think, to have regard for its history; in our game, that includes club, county and the national organisation. Few of us are winning gold stars for this but people do care. I travelled home on the tube after the Year End Congress a few years ago shortly after Peter Hasenson's *Bridge Almanack* had been published. Opposite me was a player clutching his newly acquired copy and as each station went by there was a comment about a result, a player, something he had forgotten. 'Well, that just isn't right!' he declaimed to curious looks around Leicester Square. 'Maybe it is,' he said at Green Park as people left a few seats around him in all directions.

I looked on all the county websites and there are some shining beacons. Manchester has an extensive archive of its history researched and kept up to date by Rodney Lighton. Kent have just appointed an archivist and there are a few more, but generally the picture is one of our past disappearing into the ether. The same is true of most of our clubs and lest this become a blame session, the EBU is not exactly beyond reproach. BGB has improved and now has an archive of past home international results and players and a developing photo gallery but there is much from the past still missing.

## Nothing New Under the Sun

At the EBU's headquarters in Aylesbury there is a library. Some famous players from the past, such as Rixi Markus and Terence Reese, have donated their libraries to the EBU and other individuals have also made contributions. In this year's European Championship in Dublin one of the talking points was the Monaco team which comprises players who have recently represented Norway, Italy and France. There has been a furious row

about whether they should or should not be allowed to play. Strong opinions have been heard on both sides. All of this is not new: in 1946 the selectors, organisers and correspondents of the *Contract Bridge Journal* were arguing furiously as to whether what they referred to as 'aliens' should be permitted to play for England. They didn't mean ET, of course, but émigrés from Russia and Austria amongst other countries. The magazines from the past give a fascinating insight into the past of our game. In various years from the past you can read of the players who were



*Bridge players at Crockford's Club in its heyday  
(from the photo archives of Rixi Markus)*

going to give up because of entry fees reaching five shillings (25p), bidding boxes, complexity of conventional agreements, alerts, announcements and restrictions on their smoking. I'm embarrassed to tell you that a letter to the magazine from me on the topic of smoking restrictions was quite strident, although I did not threaten to give up playing. I don't quite remember the year but judging by the views expressed, it must have been before 3rd September 1984 – when I gave up! The Rules & Ethics Committee of the 1950s had to deal with applications for conventions in which calling a spade a spade was decidedly not the main point. The Selection Committee of 1950 found that a player going to the 1950 World Championship was ill and had to be replaced. As one player was being congratulated on his selection in all quarters, another was

actually being selected leading to much recrimination on all sides.


## Aiming for a Full Record

So, if you are still with me, what is the point of this? As a member of the EBU board I've been going on at the others about our record. To be fair, other than going a bit glassy-eyed when I mention it for the forty-third time, they are all quite supportive. I think we should have a record of our history, of results, of who our famous figures (both players and officials) are. It

might include books, magazines, photographs and more but for sure the web will play an important part. There was a sad day sometime in the mid 1990s when a member's house was burgled. Sad not only for him but as a successful player he held, at the time, several national trophies, none of which have ever been seen again. They were insured and replaced almost immediately but anything from 15-65 years of results had disappeared forever. I want our library to be sorted out with the chaff going and the wheat remaining. The web is the perfect repository for all this and I want our website to contain a full record of our past players and our past

results (some progress has been made on this already and can be seen on the website at [www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/history/default.htm](http://www.ebu.co.uk/competitions/history/default.htm)).

What can *you* do?

- Nag your club to keep a record and find details of its fine servants and players of the past.
- Volunteer to help your county or club produce an archive.
- Ask your county or club chairman at the next AGM what they are doing to preserve their association's past.
- Look in your loft to see if you have any bridge memorabilia.
- If you have any old magazines you no longer want, photos that are of bridge in the past or suggestions as to how our bridge past can be preserved better, contact me at [ebuproblems@btopenworld.com](mailto:ebuproblems@btopenworld.com) 

## Landmark Promotions March 2012 – June 2012

### LANDMARK PROMOTIONS

- There are currently four landmark promotions (Master, 5000 Master Points; Regional Master, 10,000 MPs including at least 25 Green Points; Life Master, 60,000 MPs including at least 150 Green Points; and Grand Master, 120,000 MPs including at least 600 Green Points). 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 Puma Hotel.
- The winner of the most black points in each affiliated club's events enters the Annual Prize Draw for the Club Champions with a first prize of £400.
- The annual local and national awards continue.

## Avon

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



AT the County AGM held in May Andrew Urbanski was elected as the new Chairman (and congratulations are also due to Andrew on his appointment at the EBU as Clubs Liaison Officer) and the county would like to thank Eric Page for his excellent service as Chairman. Other positions in the county are held by Mike Short (Treasurer), Robert Glass (Tournament Secretary), and Sue O'Hara (Secretary).

In the *County Leagues, Division 1* was won for the second consecutive year by the team of Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith and Steve Tomlinson, with the Covill team in 2nd place. In *Division 2* the winners were Mike Davies, Jack Terry, Tim Brierley, Mike Elliott, Paul Keightley and Peter Sampson.

At the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress* Andrew and Cathy Smith won the *B Final* of the *Championship Pairs*. Steve Tomlinson and Nelson Stephens won the *One-day Welsh Senior Swiss Teams* in Newport. Congratulations to Brian Dyde, Peter Sherry, Phil Channack, Brian Wibberley for reaching Round 6 (last 16) of the *NICKO*. Trevor Ward – David Jones have won the *Gloucestershire Knock-out Teams*.

In the final *Western League* match of the season against Somerset there were big wins for both the A team (Mike Short, Gareth Evans, Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson, Jeremy Rickard, Robert Glass, Aidan Schofield and Robert Covill, 20-0) and the B team (Cathy and Mike Davies, Eric Page and Colin Oakley, 18-2).

## Bedfordshire

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



THE BBA held its first *Charity Pairs* event in April; it was a great success with 14 tables in play. Winners were Peter Flippant – Terry Pearce and the proceeds of £571 were donated

to the Bedford branch of the Alzheimer's Society, this year's nominated charity. The event was featured on 3-Counties Radio's 'Treasure Quest'.

The County AGM in May was followed by the *Simultaneous Pairs*, won by Derek and Janet Marsh. For those who qualified, the *Champions' Trophy* was contested at Wilstead in June; with 12 tables in play, winners were Alan Oddie – Ron Davis.

On a sad note, Vice-chairman of the BBA Christopher Parkin passed away on 3rd May after a long illness. Chris was a founder member of the BBA in 1964 and served on the County Committee in several roles.

**Diary dates:** Sept 13, Opening Pairs, Wilstead, 7.30pm. Sept 15-16, Bedford Congress, to be held at the Heron's Lodge Guide Centre in Milton Keynes with the Championship Pairs on the Saturday and the GP Swiss Teams on the Sunday. Entry forms and further details are available on the BBA website.

## Berks and Bucks

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



WE regret the passing of John Williams and Eric Crowhurst, major figures and Life Members of BBCBA. John was Tournament Director for many years and also Chairman; an obituary of Eric appears on page 12 in this issue.

The *County Teams* was won by Richard Bowdery, Jack Mizel, Steve Eginton, Sally Brock and Barry Myers, and Richard, Steve and Barry, with Ed Scerri from the losing finalists, were 4th in the Pachabo, only 1 VP behind the joint seconds.

We were delighted to be able to re-establish the *Student League* for Second Year students, the winners, Cuebidi, captained by Nirmal Dutta, were presented with the *Margaret Hatch Memorial Trophy* at a very enjoyable Pro-Am (see photo below). The runners-up, captained by Gillian Foulkes, received the *SBBC Trophy*. Next year we will also have a *Graduate League*, open to students for two years following their second-year course.

The *County Pairs Final* was played in

April and Chairman Nigel Thompson says a big 'thank you' to his wife Dory for his 70th birthday present and promises to keep the *Rex Avery Trophy* well polished! The other three pairs to qualify for the *Corwen* were Vic Savage – Kevin Elstow, Joan Murphy – Bob Holder and Mike and Joan Bennett. The *Plate* was won by Tony Parkinson – Andrew Parker.

Other results: Club Teams (*Committee Cup*): Alan Boothroyd, David Benjamin, David Herod and Norma Lord of Burnham. Club Pairs (*Waller Bowl*): Ed Scerri – Chris Burley of Richards. *Senior Pairs*: Pauline Serby – Alan Boothroyd. *Ladies' Pairs*: Carole Mueller – Carol Humphreys (for the 11th time!). *Men's Pairs*: David Patterson – Brian Geary. Friendly Pairs (*Finchampstead Trophy*): Janet and Bill Irvine. *Annual match*: Bucks beat Berks.

**Stop Press:** Congratulations to Sally Brock, again European Ladies Champion!

## Channel Islands

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

JERSEY Congress: the new venue was a great success, and the top placed CI players were: *Pre-Congress Pairs*, 5th Norman Le Cocq – Rosemary Pallot; *Swiss Pairs*, 8th Graham Boxall – Sue Rankin; *Swiss Pairs CI Non-expert Trophy*, Pat Self – Sue Corbet; *Country Club Teams Trophy*, 2nd Howard Basden-Smith, Marion Miles, Graham Boxall and Sue Rankin; *Mixed Pairs*, 8th Graham Boxall – Sue Rankin, *Championship Pairs*, 8th Graham Boxall – Sue Rankin; *Swiss Teams*, 10th Harold Walden, Brian Youd, Jackie Rumball and Robert Brouard; *Senior Pairs*, 5th Fiona Honey – June Le Blancq.

County results: *Mixed Pairs*: 1. Fiona and John Honey, 2. Susie Farnon – Robert Plumley, 3. Chris Hill – Jane Knight.

Jersey results: *Winter Cup*: 1. Jane Knight, 2. Sue Rankin. *District Open Pairs*: 1. David Hole – David Friswell, 2. Robert Brouard – Carl Harrison. *Men's Pairs*: 1. Ken Wise – Peter Pitcher, 2. Peter Evans – John Honey. *Ladies' Pairs*: 1. Hilary Wise – Gill Pitcher,

## Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

Mr J Amor, Kent  
Miss Z Covrigaru, Middx  
Mr D F Eddleston, Herts  
Mr D A Gold, London  
Mrs QTJ Harding, Herts  
Mrs J Mitchell,  
Staffs & Shrops  
Mr P Norman, Dorset  
Dr N Stelmashenko,  
Cambs & Hunts



Photo: Berks & Bucks CBA

'Ams' Nirmal Dutta and Gillian Foulkes and 'Pros' Tony Williams & Hilary Hinman are shown (front row, right-to left with their prizes) together with the director Anders Wallen, the host Nigel Thompson and the Berks & Bucks Student League Organiser Derek Cook.



## Landmark Promotions

### Avon

#### Master

Mr P Bennett  
Mr M Brady  
Mr C Bushby  
Mr J Buxton  
Ms S Lawson  
Mr C Oakley  
Vanessa O'Callaghan

### Bedfordshire

#### Regional Master

Mr RE Brown  
Mr AD Mason  
Mrs PM Smith

#### Master

Mr K Jani  
Mr B O'Connor

### Berks. & Bucks.

#### Regional Master

Mr G Brisbane  
Mr L Duff  
Mrs BM Hughes

#### Master

Mr LF Andrew  
Mrs V Astles  
Mrs S Bell  
Mr AP Cohen  
Mr P Dolphin  
Dr DE Freedman  
Mrs LA Higham  
Ms E Howe  
Mr CPD Johns  
Mrs CA Joss  
Maura Manocha  
Mr P Rackstraw  
Mr D Salmon  
Mr K Sheppard  
Mr Ian Sirkis  
Mr William Smyth  
General MT Tennant  
Mrs HJ Tennent  
Mr RK Wilkinson  
Mr KDB Williams  
Mrs EM Wilsey

### Cams & Hunts

#### Grand Master

Dr N Stelmashenko

#### Life Master

Mr P Barden  
Mr TR King  
Dr JW Liebeschuetz

#### Regional Master

Mr JG Haslegrave  
Ms SP Mealing

#### Master

Mr J Cairns  
Mrs C Graves  
Mr IA McWhinney  
Mr PA Watson

### Channel Islands

#### Regional Master

Mrs PA Self

#### Master

Mrs S Corbet  
Mrs VL Rose

### Cornwall

#### Life Master

Mr RJ Mabley  
Regional Master  
Mr B Relton  
Mrs EM Relton

2. Rosemary Pallot – Marion Miles. *Upper Restricted Pairs*: 1. Howard Basden-Smith – Marion Miles, 2. Carl Harrison – Robert Brouard. *Highfield Men's Pairs*: 1= Graham Boxall – Eric Todd, Robert Brouard – Carl Harrison. *Ladies' Pairs*: 1. Jane Knight – Catherine Rynd, 2. Fiona Honey – June Le Blancq.

Guernsey results: *District Individual*: 1. Robert Plumley, 2. Sylvia Lawrence-King, 3. Ralph Laski. *Island Bridge Club Individual*: 1. Robert Plumley, 2. Liz Thompson, 3. James Fattorini.

**Diary dates**: Sept 21-30, EBU Guernsey Congress. Oct 3, Start of Guernsey Winter League (a new event). Nov 2-4, Interisland weekend in Jersey.

## Cornwall

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Viv Mably and Richard Lingham, runners-up in the *Pairs* at the *Cheltenham Mid-week Congress*.

The *Jo Brown Memorial* was won by Brian Colvin – Monica Gumb, from George and Sheila Norman. £165 was raised for Cornwall Leukaemia Trust.

The Shufflers (Wendy Miller, Jo Bryant, Wally Heaton, Wendy Thornton) have again won the *Western League*, and Jo and Wendy Miller (playing with Jan and Ken Keast) won the *Green-Pointed County Knockout*, beating Rod Bell, Owen Prior, Stephen Crouch and Ian Macfarlane in the final.

Pauline Deal is stepping down from the post of Tournament and Entries Secretary, after five very busy years planning of the county programme, and has had a major role in seeing that it runs smoothly. Her efficiency and calm will be greatly missed. Rod Bell is also giving way, to Chris Nichols, as Chief Tournament Director but this is a more gradual process and he will still be running five county events this year.

The Falmouth Beach Hotel, where the annual Cornwall Congress has been held for the last three years, was destroyed by fire in April. It will be rebuilt but will not be available for the 2013 Congress, which will be held at the Falmouth Hotel on the dates already fixed, Friday March 1st to Sunday March 3rd. Please contact the Congress Secretary, Jenny Cant ☎ 01726 852182 or [jennycant@hotmail.com](mailto:jennycant@hotmail.com) for further details.

**Diary dates**: Sept 16, AGM and Individual competition, Ladock. Sept 23, Falmouth Swiss Pairs, Falmouth BC. Sept 30, Green-Pointed Swiss Teams, Wadebridge School.

## Derbyshire

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



THE highest placed Derbyshire pairs in the *Midlands Fitch* and *EMBA Plate* for Mixed Pairs were Beth Wilson – Adrian Pilling in 3rd place, and Jayne and Graham Burgess in 4th. Alex Hogg, Peter Kelly, Don Smedley and John Griffin, representing Derbyshire, ended

7th in the *Pachabo Cup*. Alex Hogg also led the team which won the *Swiss Teams Championship* at the *Summer Bank Holiday Congress*.

Margaret Watson – Don Smedley won the *Bill Pratt Trophy* for Mixed Pairs. Amanda and John Sowter were the runners-up.

**Diary dates**: Aug 16, Second Round of the Two Counties. Aug 29, Final Round of the Summer Pairs. Sept 5, Final Round of the Summer Swiss. Sept 12, India Cup. Sept 13, Final Round of the Two Counties. Sept 19, First Round of the Brigden. Sept 26, First Round of the Winter League.

Derbyshire and Leicestershire Green-pointed Swiss Weekend is on Sept 29 and 30. Entry forms are on the DCBA website. All entries and enquiries to Mrs Amanda Sowter, 30 Park Grove, Derby DE22 1HD. ☎ 07812 369243, email [amanda@amanda667.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:amanda@amanda667.wanadoo.co.uk)

## Devon

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Joe Fawcett on being in the winning team at the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes* and on reaching the *Crockfords Final*. Also to Warner Solomon who played in the England team that came 3rd at the *Seniors Camrose*.

The *Devon Teams* (WMN) was won by Stefan Lindfors, Jim Grant, Joe and Gillian Fawcett, who went on to represent Devon in the *Pachabo*. Congratulations to Stefan Lindfors, Alex Maddocks, Rob Lawy, Alex Hogg, joint winners of the *Swiss Teams* at the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress*. Phil Palmer – Jenny Flood won the *Open Swiss Pairs* and came 4th in the *Seniors Swiss Pairs* at the *Welsh Seniors Congress*.

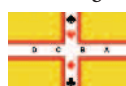
Well done to the winning teams in the following competitions: *Devon Knock-out Teams*: Lindfors. *Devon Knock-out Teams Plate*: Quinns. *Inter-Club Teams*: Barnstaple (Marsden). *East Section League*: Div. 1: Glenday; Div. 2: Hamlyn; Div. 3: Lake. *South Section League*: Div. 1: Walton; Div. 2: Nelson. *North Section League*: Div. 1: Ritzen; Div. 2: Boxall.

The *Kevin and Ann Slee* (Victor Ludorum) *Trophy* was won by Ian Walsh. Ann Slee, Alison Pollock, Ruth Edmondson and Brigid McElroy won the *AGM Teams*; only eight teams took part, so let's hope it will be better supported next year.

£1,350 was raised for the Devon Air Ambulance by the *DBA Simultaneous Pairs*. Thanks are due to all the clubs that took part over the last year and to Paul Ainsworth for all his hard work organising these events.

## Dorset

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



*GEE Trophy*: 1. Helen Ackroyd, Ann Sharples, Tim Dunsby, Krzysztof Ginda; 2. Janet Smith, Matthew Phillips, Doris Hutchinson, David Gill. *Udall Trophy*: 1. Tim Dunsby, Krzysztof Ginda, Mike McMorran, David Gill; 2. Stephanie Donner, Roy Riley,

Ron and Lynne Heath.

*Western League*: Dorset have won the overall league with the A team finishing 3rd and the B and C teams finishing 2nd. Well done to all players who have represented Dorset this season.

Other notable results: Janet Smith – Alan Wilson, 5th in the *Corwen Trophy*. Allendale C (Kelly Courtney, David Gill, Chris Guy, Hugh Kevill-Davies, Eugene Sheehan) reached the quarter-finals of the *NICKO*. Chris Stevens – Hilary Brain won the *Teams* at the *Cornwall Congress* and finished 3rd in the *Cheltenham Mid-week Congress*.

In the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress* in Bournemouth, Martin Brook – Helen Ackroyd reached the *A Final*; David Gill – Mike McMorran, Krzysztof Ginda – Jacek Skora and Robin Wright – Matthew Phillips reached the *B Final*; Chris Stevens – Hilary Brain and Mark Hooper – Jon Holland finished 5th= in the *Swiss Pairs*; Janet Smith, Harold Wayne, John Gardner, Margot Wilson and Ann Sharples finished 5th in the *Swiss Teams*.

In the *Hampshire Green Point* event, Margot Wilson, John Gardner, Janet Smith, Alan Wilson came 2nd; Nick Forrest, Sally Cairns and team-mates 3rd; and Robin Wright, Andy Kittridge, Eugene Sheehan, David Gill were 7th.

**Diary dates**: Aug 26, Weymouth Cup, Multi Teams, Dorchester. Sept 9, Men's / Ladies' Pairs Championship, Christchurch Bridge Club. Oct 14, Simeon Cup Pairs, Allendale Bridge Club.

## Essex

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



IN the Essex Expert Event for the *Warboys Cup*, the winners were Sandy Riach – David Clark, 2nd were Yvonne Dias – Alan Greenstein, and 3rd Val Mollison – Brian Davies.

The *Essex League First Division* champions are: *South East Essex* – May and Baker (Jill and Roger Tattersfield, Alaric Cundy, Chris Megahey, Ted Cockle and Martin Smith); *West Essex* – Waltham Foresters (Tony Verran, Stuart Dunstan, Remi Tatur, Phil Mattacks and Andy Barker).

Results of other recent Essex competitions are as follows: the *Essex Jubilee Bridge Triathlon* was won jointly by Graham Foster and Alan Aylott. *Essex Mixed Teams of Four*: Audrey Hartley, Alison Spencer, David Cooper and John Williams. *Essex Pairs*: 1. Tony Philpott – Nigel Bardsley, 2. Peter Oake – Simon Moorman, 3. Ted Cockle – John Williams. *Consolation Final*: 1. Rod Hudson – John Birch, 2. Anthony Verran, 3. George Wilcox – Alan Cohen. *Eve Goblots: Ladies*: 1. Sue Taylor, 2. Margaret Curtis, 3. Winnie Godber; *Men*: 1. Chris Megahey, 2. Alaric Cundy 3= Chris Taylor and David Sherman.

In the *Corwen Trophy*, P. Oake – S. Moorman came 6th and M. Curtis – D. Sherman were 10th.

Robert Elliott – Sandy Riach came 2nd in the *EBU 75th Anniversary Sim Pairs*.

## Landmark Promotions

### Master

Mrs R Hale  
Mr Colin Hollister  
Dr P Laming  
Mr Brian Morgan  
Mr M Reeve  
Mr Brian Rogers  
Mrs N Tarling

### Cumbria

### Master

Mr TF Baelz  
Mr W Davies  
Dr K Longstaff  
Mr Sam Norman  
Mr Barry Ogden  
Mr Graeme Walker  
Mr Philip Walker

### Derbyshire

### Life Master

Mr MM Caporn  
Miss J Starsmore

### Master

Mr TJ Hanson  
Mr M Harrison  
Mr DF Mann  
Dr L Rose

### Devon

### Regional Master

Mr D Gilbert  
Mr NJ Mack

### Master

Mr PM Guppy  
Mrs T Ratcliffe  
Mrs LJ Starling  
Mrs P West

### Dorset

### Grand Master

Mr P Norman

### Life Master

Mr E Hudson

### Regional Master

Ms L Angus  
Mr P Craven  
Mr P White

### Master

Mr Matthew Phillips

### Essex

### Life Master

Mr S Moorman

Mr RP Register

### Regional Master

Mr ET Field

### Master

Mr R England  
Mr P Ewers  
Mr AJ Flaherty  
Mrs L Forrest  
Mr Z Klemmer  
Mr AT Livesey  
Mr T Metcalfe  
Mrs SA Mitchell  
Mr DE Obey  
Mrs SR Tyrrell  
Mr Neil Zussman

### Gloucestershire

### Master

Mr D Ballinger  
Mr Mike Gander  
Mr J Nixon  
Mr BM Pacini  
Mr RK Walker

## Gloucestershire

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



WE are introducing a new event for next season, the *Club Player's Championship*, open to players below the rank of National Master. There will be five rounds played on Sunday afternoons at different clubs in Gloucestershire. They will all start at 2.15pm, finish at 6pm, and will include a tea and an expert commentary on the hands to take away. You can play in as many as you want but the more you play the better your chances. Win points for yourself and your club at each event. There will be trophies for *Best Pair* and *Best Club* at the end of the competition.

The dates are: Sept 2nd 2012, at Chipping Campden Bridge Club; Nov 4th 2012, Newent Bridge Club (this will also be for the *Leonard Cup*); Jan 13th 2013, venue to be confirmed; March 3rd (also for the *No Fear Cup*), venue to be confirmed; and Apr 14th, Churchdown Bridge Club (also for the *Ace of Clubs*).

Monday night competitions start again in September with the *Autumn Swiss Pairs*, *Swiss Teams* and the *County League*.

Also, don't forget the *Clubs League* which is open to all. You don't need to be a formal club – just four or more people. Matches are played in people's homes and there are usually six or seven matches per season, about one a month arranged at dates to suit the two teams involved. For more information or to enter contact David Hauser at [partners@gcba.org.uk](mailto:partners@gcba.org.uk)

Congratulations to Nigel Pitel, John Councer and Angelos Agathangelou with their expert Anne Swannell for winning the *Steve Darke Salver* (Play with an Expert). Also Val Constable, Jim Simons, Patrick Phair, Ian Constable and Roy Collard winners of the *Pivot Teams*.

## Hants and IoW

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



AT the start of the 2012-2013 season, HIWCBA are combining with Dorset CBA for the *Men's & Ladies' Pairs* competition.

It is to be held at Christchurch Bridge Club, Bournemouth. The club is at the Indoor Bowls Centre, Kings Park, BH7 6JD. For detailed instructions, e-mail Helen Ackroyd at [helen.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:helen.ackroyd@gmail.com) who will also take your entries for this event – or Lillian as usual.

In the 4th round of the *Gold Cup*, Jeremy Baker's team has knocked out the holders, Peter Lee's team. Fantastic! Keep it up.

Two HIOW pairs with out-of-county team-mates did well at the *Devon Congress Swiss Teams*: Christine and Richard Ray were 3rd and John Jones – Adrian Fontes 4th.

County Results – *Pottage Cup*: 1. Mac Lowcock – Karen Dewar, 2. Tracy Adams

– Steve Tearle, 3. Jeremy Baker – John Sherringham. *Bayer No Fear Pairs*: 1. Jan Hunter – Vanessa Porter, 2. Joanne and Chris Pryce. *Philip Graham Teams*: 1. Miles Cowling, Chris Kinloch, John Dakin, Richard Harris; 2. Jeremy Baker, John Sherringham, Guy Lawrenson, James Guiton. *Basingstoke Cup*: 1. And-over. *HICKO*: 1. Charter (Tony Elliott, Peggy Bennett, David Heywood, Diana Townsend, Margaret Tree). *Solent Cup*: 1. Petersfield (Mike Kinsey, Dave Hinkin, Steve Preston, Heather Maidment, Stuart Burdett, John Shaw, Owen Leigh, Mike Fithyan). Results of more of the annual events will have to wait for the next edition, due to space limitations.

**Diary dates:** Sept 9, Ladies'/Men's Pairs, at Christchurch Bridge Club. Sept 23, Candover Mini-Swiss teams. Oct. 7, Lincoln Mixed Pairs/Simmons Trophy. Oct 21, Wessex Swiss Teams. All the above will be held at Romsey, starting at 2pm, unless otherwise noted. Entries to Lillian Craigen ☎ 02380 254276 or [lillian.craigen@sky.com](mailto:lillian.craigen@sky.com)

## Herefordshire

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

PETER Watts, Sarah Mathews, George Barrett, John Griffiths and Roman Klis did the double of winning the *Teams' League Division One* and the *Knock-out Teams*. Congratulations to them.

The *Teams League Division Two* was won by Michael and Angela Lane, Peter Flagg and Derek Wolfendale; and the *Restricted Teams League* was won by Eileen Richards, Anne Slater, Joan Walters, Jean Pickering, Elaine Riddle and Jean Mullan.

The *Knock-out Teams Plate* was taken by Dave Weller, Nick Duberley, Guy Vander Gucht and Paul Ford.

HBA have two restricted pairs competitions (based on MP ranking). In the *Next Step Pairs* the winners were Janet Dowdle – Andrew Davis, followed by Diane and Stephen Martin, then Sybil Prout and Christine Barnes. The *Ace of Spades* was won by Michael Green – Bill Williams.

The *Avocet Pools Cup* was won by Liz Drew, June Holmes, Harry Cleveland and Kate Neale on a split tie from Carol Brown, Albert Brown, Geoff Harrington and Madeleine Harrington.

The *Charity Swiss Teams for Clubs* was won by John Thacker, Cathy England, Dave Weller and Sarah Weller; Geoff Harrington, Bob Underhill, Stephen Booth and David Lait were only 1 VP behind.

In the *Western League*, the A team came 7th, the B Team 4th and the C team 8th. Overall, we were 7th. Not a good year!

Full results of all county competitions are on our website.

**Diary dates:** Friday Sept 7, Annual General Meeting, 7pm, Saxon Hall, Hereford. Friday Sept 28, Inter-club Teams Round 1, 7pm, Ledbury Community Centre. Friday Oct 13, Ladies' and Men's Pairs, 7pm, Tarrington Community Hall.

## Hertfordshire

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



CONGRATULATIONS to the Herts team of Celia and Derek Oram, Alan Kaye and David Walker who were equal 2nd in the

### Pachabo Cup.

Congratulations also to all those who have performed well in the county competitions: *Championship Pairs*: 1. Derek and Celia Oram, 2. Alan Doyle – Stan Harding. *Senior Pairs*: 1. Martin and Bobby Rodney, 2. Hazel Miles – Bob Turnham. *Cadet Pairs & Intermediate Championship*: 1. Bob Veal – John Hanlon, 2. Peter Byford – Colin Haywood. *Marjorie Lukyn*: 1. Bill Kenny – Peter Leary, 2. Anita Blanchard – Barbara McKinnon. *Mixed Pivot Teams (AGM)*: 1. Bernard and Margaret Eddleston, Pat Barnett and Tony Slater. Also well done to the teams from Hemel Hempstead who won the *Cadet Teams* and to Welwyn C for winning the *Desmond Flockhart Trophy*.

Final congratulation go to Celia and Derek Oram, joint winners of the *Victor Ludorum (Open)*, Roger Livesey (*Intermediate*) and Peter Leary (*Cadet*).

**Diary date:** Sept 30, Green-pointed Swiss Teams, Wodson Park, Ware, 12 noon start.

## Kent

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Crouch and Derek Patterson who came 4th at the *European Teams Open Series* and were also in the winning *Crockfords* team,

with Norman Selway and Nick Irens 2nd. Pat Collins, Malcolm Lewis, John Short, Steve Auchterlonie were in the runners-up team in the *Crockfords Plate*.

At the *Canterbury Green-pointed Swiss Teams* in May, the winning team was Ian Draper, Alex Hydes, Jeremy Willans and Simon Cope. At the *Jersey Congress*, Diana Avis and Colin Wilson were in the winning team in the *Swiss Teams*, winning the *Jersey Tourism Trophy*. Steve Auchterlonie – Mark Benson won the *Tuesday EBU April Simultaneous Pairs*, playing at Ashford.

Norman Selway – Kay Preddy won the *Larsky Cup* (Kent's Premier Pairs Competition). The *Arnold Cup* (Kent Knock-out Teams of Four Championship) winners were Norman Selway, Kay Preddy, Pat Collins, Derek Patterson and Peter Law. The *Gill Cup* (Kent League North West Division 1) was won Peter Stacey, Devi Breeze, Carol Homden, Colin Washbrook, Paul Saunders, Chris Burton. The *Dover Cup* (Kent League East) was won by Brian Crack, Shirley Goldwin, Frank Wright, Malcolm Lewis, Chris Lohan, David Ellerby.

Mike Rafferty is now KCBA Competitions Secretary and Colin Crouch has joined the committee as Mid-Kent Area Secretary.

**Diary dates:** Sun Oct 14, Dyer-Smith



## Landmark Promotions

### Hants and I.O.W.

#### Life Master

Mrs C Fearon  
Mr I Fearon

#### Regional Master

Mr CG Ashton

#### Master

Mr R Brown  
Mrs Filomena Navaro  
Mr MF Saunders  
Mr B Thomas  
Mrs JM Vinnicombe

### Herefordshire

#### Master

Mrs JE Hardy  
Mr JH Meredith  
Mr AT Shadforth  
Mrs EM Walker  
Mrs Y Wilken  
Mrs CJ Winney

### Hertfordshire

#### Grand Master

Mr DF Eddleston  
Mrs QTJ Harding

#### Life Master

Mr RL Shadbolt  
Mr H Silverman  
Mrs R Tiplady  
Mr AH Williams

#### Regional Master

Mrs SJ Barnett  
Mr E Cirket

#### Master

Mr JA Charters  
Mr David Ellam  
Mr D Evans  
Mr C Haywood  
Mr RC Keech  
Miss M McAvoy  
Mrs F Stoker  
Mr Phil Taylor  
Mrs L Weston

### Isle Of Man

#### Regional Master

Mrs AG Kissack  
Mr JF Kissack

#### Master

Mrs YM Bain

### Kent

#### Grand Master

Mr J Amor

#### Life Master

Mrs N Adamson  
Miss FAL Connell  
Mr E Richart

#### Regional Master

Mrs CJ Whyman

#### Master

Mr D Andrews  
Mr A Kinchin  
Mr RS Lambert  
Mrs H McNeil  
Mr M Mortimer  
Mr N Roach  
Mr Terry Smith

### Lancashire

#### Life Master

Mrs JM Brearley  
Mr JB Brelsford  
Mr BC Irlam

#### Regional Master

Mrs L Hepworth

Cup (Kent Mixed Pairs Championship), 11am, Tunbridge Wells. Oct 27-28, Swiss Pairs/Green-pointed Swiss Teams in the 53rd Kent Congress, Tunbridge Wells.

### Lancashire

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



IN the *Pearse McNamara Trophy* match against Cumbria, Lancashire won by 168 IMPs. The winning team was David Pendlebury, Judy Brearley, Ewart Evans, David Briggs, Duncan and Diane Ault, Mike Cragg, Barbara Heaton, John and Ros Halliwell, Clive and Barbara Henderson, Barrie and Julia Newall, Bill and Liz Wattleworth, Mike Tomlinson, Des King, Brian Dormand and Angus Kirby.

*Doyle Cup*: 1. Tracy Capal, Boris Ewart, Alan and Kath Nelson. *Sowerby Cup*: 1. Alex Wilkinson – Colin Mitchell. *Madeline Berney Swiss Pairs*: 1. Bill Alston – Andrew Petrie. *Blackburn Swiss Pairs*: 1. Roger Smith – Lynda Yates. *Bolton Bank Holiday Swiss Teams*: 1. Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Irving and Joy Blakey.

**Diary dates**: Aug 4, Northern Bridge League, Round 1. Aug 5, Preston Pairs, Preston BC, Aug 25, Northern Bridge League, Round 2. Sept 3, LCBA Council, Bolton BC. Sept 7-9, Bolton Congress, Bolton BC. Sept 16, LCBA Mixed Pairs, Bolton BC. Sept 22, Northern Bridge League, Round 3. Sept 29, Pendle Witch Pairs, Brierfield BC.

### Leicestershire

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Susan Stockdale and team-mates on winning gold at the *European Women's Teams* in Dublin.

The Barkby Bridge Club in Leicestershire has now unfortunately closed because of lack of players. The Club has successfully run an *Annual Charity Swiss Teams* raising thousands for local charities and next year will be the 25th and last event.



Photo: Chris Duckworth

Chris Duckworth (right) and James Smith of London MBA hand over a cheque (for £635) from the Café Bridge event to Rachel Corry of Age UK Wandsworth.

The 2012 AGM was held in June. The committee reports were heard and adopted, and officers were elected as follows: Chairman: John Wilcox; Treasurer: Henry Cooklin; General Secretary: Robert Northage; League Secretary: Richard Smith; Fixtures Secretary: Dick Pathan; Membership Secretary: Pat Beasley (also acting Minutes Secretary).

The guest of honour was Peter Harvey, who has played bridge in Leicestershire since the 1960s. Peter entertained the meeting with reminiscences about his experiences, and then presented trophies to the competition winners. These included: *Samani Salver* (Handicapped Teams of Four Knockout), won by Clarendon 1; *Stanley Trophy* (Butler Pairs Championship), won by Tim Glover – Peter Neville; *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 Alison Nichols, Brenda Colman, Keith Preston and Ken Vernon; *Gimson Trophy* (Pairs Championship) won by Jim Mason – Nick Stevens; *Leicestershire Cup*, won by Mick Mahoney, Peter Halford, Trevor Barrett, John Milne and Brian Marlow.

**Diary dates**: Sept 16, Midland League v Warwickshire (away). Sept 29-30, Green Point Swiss Pairs/Teams, Spondon. Oct 3, Stanley Trophy Round 1. Oct 14, Midland League v Staffs & Shrops (home). Oct 17, Otto & Edith Bowl Mixed Pairs, County BC. Oct 28, Pairs League Round 1. Oct 31, Stanley Trophy Round 2.

### Lincolnshire

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



SCUNTHORPE Bridge Club members were sad to learn of the death of Len Middleton in March. He was an enthusiastic club member, and a valued former committee member.

The *County Championships* were held in April at the excellent venue of the Festival Hall, Market Rasen; regrettably this did not reverse the trend of falling attendances. Results – *Pairs Qualifying*:

1. M. Waters – D. Page, 2. M. Ladlow – M. Parsons, 3. R. Hughes – D. Mellor. *Pairs Final*: 1. M. & V. Llewellyn (*Arthur Wilson Trophy*), 2. A. Green – N. Dyer, 3. M. Ladlow – M. Parsons. *Consolation Pairs*: 1. R. Wall – B. Smith (*The Bell Trophy*), 2. D. Burton – J. Gaunt, 3. K. Stewart – I. Ridgewell. *Teams Qualifying*: 1. M. Ladlow, M. Parsons, R. Wall, B. Smith. *Teams Final*: G. Elwick, D. Caldwell, M. & V. Llewellyn (*Dutton Trophy*). *Teams Consolation*: 1. B. Hughes, S. Wimbles, T. and B. Goodacre (*Turner-Brumpton Cup*). Other awards – *Lucy Osbourne Cup* (Over 60s Pairs): M. Ladlow – M. Parsons; *Non-expert Plate*: B. and S. Keast.

Louth Duplicate Bridge Club members enjoyed a bridge holiday to Warwickshire in April, and they are hoping to make it an annual event. After last year's great success, Andrew Robson is returning to Louth for another 'Masterclass' on January 15, 2013; tickets £12; ring Martin Sizer ☎ 01507 602249.

In the first round of the 2012-2013 *Champion Pairs League* held at Lincoln (Eastgate) Bridge Club in June, the result was: 1. M. Ladlow – M. Parsons, 2. M. Perry – N. Dyer, 3. A. Green – J. Longmuir; fifteen pairs competed.

### London

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



CONGRATULATIONS to David Bakhshi, David Gold and Tom Townsend for coming 4th in the *Open Series* at the *European Teams* in Dublin. Well done also David Gold and Andrew Robson who won the *Crockfords Cup* and were runners-up in the *Spring Foursomes*; also to Tom Townsend, Bernard Teltscher, John Matheson and Willie Coyle, losing semi-finalists at the *Spring Fours*, and to Tom Townsend, David Bakhshi, Nick Irens and Espen Erichsen, runners-up in *Crockfords*. At the *Spring Congress*, David Gold won the *Pairs A Final* with Rob Cliffe and Millie Jones 3rd, while Nick Boss – Richard Johnson were 3rd in the *B Final* and Simon Pollack won the *Swiss Pairs* with Roland Gronau – David Wing 3rd. In the *Swiss Teams*, Helen Erichsen, Fiona Huthchison, Guy Hart, Heather Bakhshi were 1st=. The YCBC team of Anne Rosen, Heather Dhondy, Anthony Golding, Francis Morton, Chris Duckworth, Brian Callaghan, David Burn, Rob Cliffe won the *Garden Cities Regional Semi-final*. In the *Jersey Swiss Pairs*, Alan and Olivia Woo were 1st with Mike Fletcher 2nd. In *County Swiss Teams*, Marc Smith won in Hants and Alex Hydes won in Kent, with Tim Chanter, Helen Wildsmith, Mandie Campbell, Benjy Hackenbroch 3rd.

County results: *Garden Cities Heat*: 1. YCBC. *Café Bridge*: 1. Jan Malcolm – Theresa Smith. *Fox Shammon Trophy*: 1. Mark Davies – Julia Holland. *London Trophy*: 1. CMC Cameron McKenna; *Della-Porta Plate*: 1. HM Treasury. Full results can be seen at the LMBA website.

**Diary dates**: Sept 6, AGM, YCBC, 7.00pm. Sept 18, Café Bridge in Clap-

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Mrs Patty Hearne  
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Mrs Sandra Robinson  
Mr Stanley Woods

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Mrs AJ Nichols

### Master

Mr CM Allen  
Mr A Ansari  
Mr E Blount  
Mr DR Buckley  
Mr EL Hudson  
Mr BC Hughes  
Mr J Parker  
Mr R Parks  
Mrs V Rees  
Mr B Wilton

### Lincolnshire

#### Master

Mrs Evelyn McPherson

### London

#### Grand Master

Mr DA Gold

### Life Master

Mr PG Chapman  
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Miss S Dunn

### Regional Master

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### Master

Mr K Clow  
Ms Hannah Cornfield  
Mr VM Floriean  
Mrs D Guerrini  
Mr PA Hill  
Dr CF Hough  
Miss A Jones  
Miss M Molony  
Mr Tam Shameem  
Ms A Sinclair  
Szczepan Smoczynski  
Mr David Thompson

### Manchester

#### Regional Master

Mr E Thornton-Chan

### Master

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Mrs MA Gee  
Mrs DJ Kirwan  
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### Merseyside/Cheshire

#### Regional Master

Mr P Nuttall

### Master

Mr A Bailey  
Mr TP Browne  
Dr CM Edwards  
Mr Bernard Farrell  
Mrs J Hopewell-Taylor  
Mr Stephen Lloyd  
Mr M Reid

### Middlesex

#### Grand Master

Miss Z Covrigaru

### Life Master

Mr AV Mutukisna

ham, 11am; contact Sati McKenzie at [sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com](mailto:sati.mckenzie@googlemail.com). Sept 29-30, Lederer Memorial Trophy, YCBC; spectators welcome from 1pm each day; contact Stefanie Rohan at [daisy\\_duck@btopenworld.com](mailto:daisy_duck@btopenworld.com). Oct 7, Mixed Pairs Championship, YCBC, 1pm; contact Nigel Freake at [gelohnake@waitrose.com](mailto:gelohnake@waitrose.com)

## Manchester

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



MICHAEL Newman – Michael Byrne won Manchester's last *Green-pointed Pairs*. Sinead

Bird and Sarah O'Connor played for the *England U25* in the Amsterdam *White House Teams Tournament* and finished 5th out of 24. Christine Benson – Richard Acaster finished 14th nationally in the *Portland Pairs*. John Holland was a member of the Liggins team which won the *Spring Foursomes*. John Hassett, Jeff Morris, John Holland, Michael Byrne came 4th in a high-quality field in the final of *Crockfords*; the same four players, plus Michael Newman and Bill Hirst, are through to the last 16 in the *Gold Cup*. John Hassett – Jeff Morris finished 13th in the *Corwen Trophy*. In the *Yorkshire Congress* at Harrogate, Michael Byrne – Hugh McGann won the *Pairs* while Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield, Joy and Irving Blakey won the *Teams*; the Blakeys also won the *Consolation Pairs Final*.

The *Manchester League* was won by St Titus (Michael Byrne, Michael Newman, Alan Mould, Gary Hyett, Rodney Lighton). The *Higson Cup* was won by Isolated Menaces (John Holland, Bill Hirst, Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield). The annual MCBA *Player of the Year* award for 2011-2012 was won by Michael Byrne in the *Expert* category; the *Intermediate* category was won by Chris Hine and Stephen Ward.

At the AGM in May a new Selection Committee of Barbara Lewis, Peter Jones, Rodney Lighton, Michael Newman and Ian Kane was elected. Kath Nelson has taken over as League Secretary. She is keen to hear from players wishing to play in the league and can be contacted on ☎ 0161 9291849, or [kvnelson0161@gmail.com](mailto:kvnelson0161@gmail.com)

We are sorry to report the death of Phil Laddin who was an active member of MCBA before he retired to Spain.

## Merseyside/Cheshire

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



THE winners of the *Lady Connell Trophy* (County Teams and our *Pachabo* qualifier) were David Stevenson, Liz

Commings, Peter Hall, Daniel Miller. The runners-up were Julian Merrill, Paul Roberts, Matt Foster, John Hampson. The *Cheshire Salver* (*Lady Connell* consolation event) was won by Barbara Serres, Gareth Thomas, Roger Allison, Peter Richmond.

The *County Women's Pairs* was won by Joan King – Gill O'Neill; Karen Lloyd

– Gill Jones were the runners-up. The *County Mixed Pairs* title went to David Stevenson – Liz Commings.

At the *Shropshire Congress* in April, David Stevenson – Liz Commings won the *Swiss Pairs*, with Julian Merrill – Paul Roberts 2nd. Paddy Murphy – Chris Pope won the North Wales Pairs event (*Laszlo Trophy*). The *May Day Swiss Pairs* winners were Paddy Murphy – Liz Commings. In the *Green-pointed Swiss Pairs* event in May, the winners were Bob Pitts – John Hampson, with Danny Miller – Peter Hall runners-up.

The annual match between Merseyside and Dublin resulted in a win for the Irish (full report and pictures on the County website).

Congratulations to Alex Roberts on his selection for the *England U20* team for the *World Junior Championships* in Beijing.

*Merseyside League* – the winners for this season are: *Swiss Teams*: Dusty Millers Blue; *Division 1*: Sutton; *Division 2*: Peninsula; *Division 3*: Green Team. *KO Cup*: Sutton; *Consolation Cup*: Aigburth; *Pairs*: John and Pauline Rudolf.

**Diary dates:** Aug 4, NCL (Northern Counties League) Round 1. Aug 25, NCL Round 2. Sept 10-11 EBU Sim Pairs (Sept 10 at MBC). Please note: Oct 9, Lady Connell qualifiers, LBC; Oct 18, Lady Connell Qualifiers, Deva BC.

## Middlesex

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



MIDDLESEX players were amongst the medals at the recent *European Championships*: Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior were part of the gold-medal winning English *Ladies* team while Victor Silverstone won a silver medal for Scotland in the *Seniors* competition.

Congratulations also to Alex Allfrey who was part of the team that won the *Crockfords Cup*; Alex was also a runner-up in the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes*. Well

done to Victor Silverstone and Tony Waterlow, who were part of the Great Britain Team that came first in the *Seniors Camrose*, and to Catherine Seale, who won the *Spring Bank Holiday Championship Pairs*. In the *Corwen Trophy*, Anne Rosen – Jeremy Dhondy finished 3rd. Simon Cope won the *Kent Swiss Teams*.

In the county, Neil and Anne Rosen, Jeremy and Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior and Martin Jones defeated the Silverstone team in the *Middlesex Cup*. The *Middlesex Plate* was won by Jacqui Tobias, Uday Hegde, Jerry Harouni, Steve Root and Greta King; the runners-up were Jonathan Harris, Ivor Miller, Steve Capal and Barry Murray. The *Mixed Pairs* was won by Gill and Lynton Stock, with Trevor Morris and Vanessa Clarke 2nd. The *Middlesex Committee Cup* was won by Gary Jones, Jacqui Tobias, Derek and Celia Oram. Jeremy Dhondy won the *Victor Ludorum*.

Winners of the *Middlesex Leagues* were: *Div. 1* (*Peter Edelman Trophy*): Jill Feldman, Jeremy and Heather Dhondy, Neil and Anne Rosen, Keith Bennett. *Div. 2*: Tony Mutukisna, Frank Wharton, Tim Stanley-Clamp, Ben Ritacca, Richard Spencer. *Div. 3Y*: Rosella and Lester Emanuel, Sylvie Grant, Gill Walker, Judy Haring, Linda Quigley. *Div. 3Z*: Ken Drane, Wiktor Staniaszek, Lawrence Powell, Vic Martin, David Arundel.

Please consult the county website for the Autumn schedule.

## Norfolk

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



ANGLO-German relations received a much-needed boost when the Norfolk & Norwich Bridge Club paid a return visit to Koblenz (photo below), as part of a twinning initiative. Robbie Roberson admitted that the Norfolk team came second out of two – but had his excuses ready: 'We made short work of the Germans in Norwich last year, so understandably they wheeled out their



Norfolk & Norwich Bridge Club's team comprised (left to right, front row) Trish Raywood, Christine Buchanan, Helen and Peter Gaskin, Freda Roberson (non-playing), Robbie Roberson and, in the back row, May Massey (non-playing), Ian Buchanan, John Massey and Barbara Hacker.

Photo: Norfolk & Norwich BC



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Mrs LJ Burns  
Mr R Burns

### Master

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Mr Lester Emanuel  
Mr David Horan  
Mrs U Jobanputra  
Mr M Leigh  
Mahendra N Patel  
Mrs S Patel  
Mr H Shah  
Mr S Shah

### Norfolk

### Regional Master

Mrs M Dewhurst  
Mr P Smith

### Master

Mrs P Cook  
Mr CJ Cunningham  
Mr B Roberts  
Prof A Young  
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### North East

### Master

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Mrs DA Craig  
Mrs Anastasia Potter  
Mrs B Thompson  
Ms Ruth Turner  
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### Northamptonshire

### Life Master

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Miss D Simpson

### Master

Mr C Bodenham  
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### Nottinghamshire

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### Master

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Mr F Illingworth  
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Mrs V Stevenson  
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### Somerset

### Life Master

Mrs A McBride

### Master

Mr DS Brooke

best players to return the compliment and beat us by some margin!' he said. And the warm welcome and lavish hospitality made up for it – even for bridge players.

Norfolk County President Mary Smith is appealing for more teams of four to play in the League – and doesn't want bridge players to feel intimidated: 'We are in the bottom division at the moment so there's nowhere to go but up. If you are an average Norfolk club member, give it a go,' she said. Matches take place on the third Friday evening of the month, September to December and January to April at the Royal British Legion Hall on Aylsham Road, Norwich.

Christine Buchanan is celebrating the success of her twenty-table fund-raising *Bridge Day* which raised over £1600 for Norfolk Broads Environmental Study Centre The How Hill Trust. 'A huge thank you to everyone who supported this excellent cause,' she said.

Finally, here's advance notice that next year's *Norfolk Congress* is relocating to Wensum Valley Golf Club in Taverham, near Norwich, on 5-7 April 2013.

## North East

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



THE winners of the *Kempson Cup* (Knock-out Teams of Four) were Martin Kane, David Broadhead, Bill March, Damian Hassan. This was the twentieth time Bill March has won the event, a remarkable achievement! The winners of the *Kempson Plate* were Bo Hnyda, John Eglington, John Greaves, Harald Volkmann

The *North East League* was won by the team of Hayden Dando, Martin Kane, Mike Ferguson, Dave Broadhead and Damian Hassan, who then represented the NEBA in the *Pachabo Cup* finishing 6th out of 31 teams.

The NEBA *Summer Swiss Teams* was won by Brenda Osborne, Mike Stanbury, and Janet and Frank Springett.

The NEBA AGM was held in May and Ken Spragg stood down as Chairman after three years in office. He was replaced by Ann Caygill, with Val Gibson joining the Executive as Vice-Chairman. Amongst the trophies presented at the AGM were the *Player of the Year* which went to Martin Kane for the third year in a row, and the *John Clark Salver* (for the most successful club) which was won by Hurworth.

## Northamptonshire

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



WE are sad to report that Bruce McKenzie passed away on 24th April. He was a driving force behind Stamford Bridge Club and served as Chairman for 28 years up to 2000 and President thereafter. Despite failing health, he insisted on attending the formal opening ceremony of the new Stamford Bridge Clubhouse, named

'McKenzie House' in his honour. Bruce also served on the county committee and was a former county Chairman.



Bruce McKenzie,  
much missed President of  
Stamford Bridge Club.

The joint *Bedford and Northants Congress* will be held on Sat. 15 (Pairs) and Sun. 16 September (Green-pointed Teams) at Heron's Lodge Guide Centre, opposite the National Badminton Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes, MK8 9LG. Entries can be made online on the Bedfordshire CBA website or to Rita Keable, 170 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 2TS, email: [congress@bedsbridge.co.uk](mailto:congress@bedsbridge.co.uk)

The *Broke Cup Final* was won by Maggie Jones, Brian Davies, James and Shirley Dutton, David Flower. Maggie also won the *Winter League Play-off* with Jim Bainbridge, James and Shirley Dutton. Bill Chadwick, Chris Wiggins, Chandra Ramamoorthy, Mike Gore Browne won the *Betts Bowl*.

Congratulations to Northampton A who won the *Inter-club League, Division 1*, for the first time since 1989 when it was changed to the current format. The *Division 3 Play-off* was won by Northampton B by 1 IMP. The county won both the B and C divisions of the *Eastern Counties' League* and will represent the league in the national finals.

Jim Deacon, Robert Miller, Ian Clarke and Chandra Ramamoorthy won the *Leicestershire Green-pointed Swiss Teams*.

**Diary dates:** Aug 25, Charity Salver, Kettering. Sept 8, Winter League N/E, Stamford. Sept 15, Bedford Congress Pairs; Sept 16, Bedford Congress Teams. Sept 19, Winter League S/W, Northampton.

## Nottinghamshire

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

IN the first County match of the new season, against Derbyshire, the first, second and third teams all lost: 1-19, 2-18 and 0-20.

The *Inter-Club Pairs Final* was won by Brian and Barbara Pilbin of Keyworth Bridge Club, with Sally Axford – Doreen Ratcliffe, also of Keyworth, 2nd. In the *Retford Swiss Teams*: 1. Sandy

Fulton – Rob Atkinson, Gerry Franklin and Steve Mulligan; 2 John and Irene Auld, Lloyd Eagling, Keith Rodgers. In the *Midland Mixed Championship*, Mike and Daphne Coggles were 2nd. In the *Priday Cup*: 1. Gordon Fullerton, 2. David Burgess, 3. John Auld.

The winning teams in the *League* were Gambit, Retford B, Phoenix Red and Woodborough X. The winning teams in the *League for Teams of Four* were Parsons Pack and Minx.

At the AGM Angela Fullerton and Marie-Claire Adderley resigned from the Committee and Lloyd Eagling resigned the County Captaincy. Their contributions over a number of years have been much appreciated. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected and Lloyd is continuing on the Committee. However the positions of County Captain and Chief Tournament Director remain to be filled, and the Committee would welcome suggestions.

**Diary dates:** on Wednesdays the Black and Farr Cups alternate.

## Oxfordshire

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



AT the well-attended AGM, many players were congratulated on their success over the past year. County Captain Chris Cooper and his team-mates won the

*Dawes League* (first time in living memory). The *President's Cup* winners, Nick Smith, Alan Wilson, Dan McIntosh and Stuart McPhee will represent the county in the *Pachabo*. Mike Webley, Geoff Nicholas, Dinah and Andrew Lintott won the *Chester Cup*. Wallingford A won the *Wessex League* in Div. 1; Banbury, Div2; Oxford C & D, Divs. 3 and 4 respectively; University B, Div. 5. Nick Smith won the prestigious *Premiership* award. Other prize-winners were: *Mixed Pairs*: Dave Dobson – Diana Nettleton. *OBA Sim Pairs*: Stephen Rotherham – Paula Hopkinson. *Tues Championship Play-Off*: Chris Wilson – John Williams. *Tues Teams Ladder*: Dinah and Andrew Lintott, Geoff Nicholas, Mike Webley. *Tues Pairs Ladder*: Ian and Val Constable. *Tues Butler Pairs*: Nick Smith – Alan Wilson. *Sadler Seniors' Salver*: Krishan Jalie – Geoff Nicholas. The *Oxford Times Cup* (generously sponsored by Oxford Times newspaper) for less experienced players was won by Claire McDonagh – Ruth Kim. Formal proceedings were followed by free bridge and refreshments.

Oxfordshire, under the chairmanship of Robert Procter, has made great strides in welcoming newcomers into its competitions, the culmination of which was the introduction of a *Social Congress* for students and less experienced club players to run alongside its main *Congress*; Barbara Jordan was appointed as its Manager. Congratulations to Gary Diamond – Russell Tenzer, winners of the *Social Congress*. In the main *Congress*, Aleksandar Lishkov – Cathy Rowland won the *Pairs*, with Heather

## Landmark Promotions

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Mr Roy Rowe  
Mrs RS Tyley

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Regional Master  
Mrs VB Lupton  
Mr RG Pringle

Master  
Mr Mike Barlow

### Suffolk

Master  
Mr JW Stacey  
Mr M Sutherland

### Surrey

#### Life Master

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Mrs SP Price  
Regional Master

Miss HC Barnes  
Mrs A Binder

Mrs L Burwood-Smith  
Ms M Conway

Ms M Page  
Mr RM Rule  
Mr LR Springate  
Mr S Whiteside

### Master

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Mrs MJ Brindle  
Mrs SM Brown  
Mrs Ann Brunsden  
Mrs D Cave  
Mr JM Dawkins  
Mrs V Foster  
Sandra Grossman  
Mr Inu Kassam  
Mr AJ Mann  
Mrs JA Monti  
Mr RJ New  
Ms L Osborne  
Mrs G Sarsby  
Mrs Liz Scott  
Mrs J Simmons  
Mr J Solarski  
Mrs J Sperry-Jones  
Mr Bjorn Tiller  
Mrs Sheila White  
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Mr A Worth

### Sussex

#### Life Master

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Regional Master

Mr R Harris  
Mr P Lindsten

### Master

Mrs J Atchison  
Mr Mike Ayres  
Mr M Beglin  
Roger Bill  
Mr MJ Butler  
Mr F Cameron  
Mr B Davies  
Prue Davies  
Mrs M Dickinson  
Miss PMJ Higham  
Mrs BR Linfield  
Mrs JM Mellor  
Mr P Mellor

and Matthew Tan, Sue and Richard Millard winning the *Teams*.

**Diary dates:** Tues Sept 11, EBU Sim Pairs, Oxford BC.

## Somerset

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Roger Sweet and Graham Heal who came a very creditable 5th in the final of the *National Pairs*.

The *County League* was won by the Taunton Club led by Nigel Maggs. The final of the *Championship Teams Knockout* was won by Roger Sweet, Michael Whittaker, Colin Simcox and Frank Colman, who went on to represent Somerset in the *Pachabo*.

Somerset won the *C Division* in the Western league.

Colin Simcox won the *County Victor Ludorum*. Mike Smith – Ray Beech won the *Percentage Pairs*. The AGM *Swiss Teams* was won by V. Dunn, A. Taylor, Y. Coggins and G. Weston.

**Diary dates:** Oct 1st, seminars by Andrew Robson.

## Staffs and Shrops

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



ROGER Keane – David Beavon finished 11th in the *Corwen* and were the leading county pair. In the *Pachabo* our team of

Anne Jones, John Seymour, John Parsons and Edward Levy finished a respectable 8th.

Paul Hackett finished 2nd in the *Bournemouth Pairs*, while Justin also finished 2nd in the *Cheltenham Midweek Congress Pairs*.

Paul was disappointed with his performance in the *Senior European Championships* in Dublin, but we hope his team will do better in the World Championships in Lille. Paul will be representing Europe in the *Buffett Cup*, partnering Irishman Tom Hanlon.

Any pairs or teams who fancy playing in the league next season are asked to contact Judy Mitchell on ☎ 0174 323 5374. Why not give it a shot? You may well enjoy it!

## Suffolk

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



IN the *Winter League* Maria Allnutt, Chris Chambers, Peter Gemmell, Debby and Peter Sutcliffe clinched the *Suffolk Premier League* title with a victory in the final match of the season. Runners-up were Jane and Andrew Moore, Jenny and David Price. The *Division Two* play-offs have reached a final, between teams Barker and Less.

The AGM *Pairs* was won by Helen Mason – Norman Less with Norman Denny – Rosemarie Mascall 2nd. The *Mixed Pairs* was a sell-out with Graham Beeton – Sue Flin winning and Roger and Jill Tattersfield runners-up.

The three pairs that represented Suffolk in the *Corwen Trophy* finished out of contention but in the top half of the 110-pair field.

By winning the *County Club Teams-of-Eight*, Colchester qualified to represent Suffolk in the *Garden Cities Regional Final*: Eric Newman, Mike Sherer, Rick Hanley, Alan Green, Graham Beeton, Jeff Orton, Neil Bresler and David Cooper came 6th from nine in a tightly-bunched middle group.

In the first *ECL* match of the season against Herts, the 'A' Team drew (10-10, IMPs tied), the 'B' Team lost (3-17) as did the 'C' Team (4-16).

We are busy preparing for our *Felixstowe Congress* which we hope will build yet again on last year's record numbers.

**Diary dates:** Sunday Sept 9, ECL Match vs Norfolk (home). Sunday Sept 9, Ipswich Swiss Pairs, 2pm, I&K club. Friday Oct 5, Charity Pairs, 2pm, Cavendish Hall, Thurston. Saturday Oct 6 and Sunday Oct 7, Felixstowe Green-Pointed Congress.

## Surrey

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Scoltock and Jeffrey Allerton (*photo below*), who took over from Peter Lee – Bob Rowlands to make it consecutive Surrey wins in the *Reg Corwen Trophy*.

Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Mike Scoltock and Jeffrey Allerton were runners-up in the *Pachabo Cup*.

Sue and Richard Millard were part of the team that won the *Swiss Teams* at the *Oxfordshire Congress*. Wynne and Tony Gifford won the *Senior Pairs Trophy* at the *Jersey Congress*.

At county level, Derek Eneas – Rosemarie Thompson won both county club representative events: the *Mary Edwards Cup* for club pairs champions on behalf of Chipstead, and together with Christine Dyer – Roger Hitt the *Wan-*

*borough Cup* for club teams champions on behalf of Bletchingley.

The county is trying a new event this year, on August Bank Holiday Monday: *Swiss Teams* at Banstead on Monday August 27, starting at 1pm and finishing about 9.30. Cost will be £16 per person to include a plated tea. Please support this new venture.

Enter via the Surrey web site or contact Frances Trebble ☎ 01252 679883 or email [f.trebble@ntlworld.com](mailto:f.trebble@ntlworld.com)

## Sussex

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



**SUSSEX Clubs Teams of Eight:**

1. Horsham Club (Duncan Curtis, Andrew Morris, Ian Lancaster, Andrew Southwell, Mick Carrington, Martin Pool, Dave Franklin and Gerry Stanford); 2. The Avenue Club (Shefton Kaplan, John Williams, Andy Ryder, Mike Allen, Julian Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Peter Clinch and Liz Hoskins). *Basic Bridge at Hastings:* 1. Garrick Oliver – Marion Boswell, 2. Stephen and Katharine Kennedy.

*Henfield Candles:* 1. Eddie Lucioni, Jean Smallwood, Fran Thornton, Irvin Caplan; 2. Andy Willard, Joy Mayall, Eddie and Kathy Williams. The *Non-expert Prize* went to Margaret Drake, Shirley Robinson, Hazel Beveridge and Dave William.

In the Kent *Green-point Swiss Teams* Jeremy Willans was in the team that won. In the *Hants & Isle of Wight Swiss Teams*, Malcolm and Karen Pryor were in the winning team, well done to all of them.

In the *Reg Corwen Trophy*, Andrew Southwell – Ian Lancaster were 2nd – a brilliant result.

**Diary dates:** Sept 14-16, Autumn Congress, Patcham. Sept 19, NEW Golf/Bridge, Haywards Heath. Sept 23, Kremer Dersch, Eastbourne. Oct 21, Ladies' Pairs, Patcham. Oct 31, NEW Midweek Swiss Pairs, Henfield.



Surrey winners of the 2012 Corwen Trophy, Michael Scoltock (left) and Jeffrey Allerton.

Photo: EBU



## Landmark Promotions

Mr B Salmon  
Miss L South  
Mr RJ Turvey  
Mr NJ Utting  
Mrs LC Whitlam

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

## Warwickshire

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



OUR congratulations to Susan Stockdale and her team-mates, who won the Women's Gold Medal at the *European Teams Championship* in Dublin.

Congratulations to Dave Rutter – Dave Pratt for winning the county *Green Point* event. The *Mixed Pairs* was won by Dodo Georgevic – Robin Ogg with Ruth Coubrough – Pete Nicholds 2nd.

Congratulations also to George Cuthbertson, Ian Handley, David Jones, Garry Watson, Steve Wood, Mike Leese for winning the *Goodman Cup*.

The *County Charity Pairs* event in aid of the Air Ambulance Service was won by Val Cooper – Mike Butler. The results of a survey after the event can be seen on the website.

The *Fledgling Pairs* was won by Vicki Hudson – Sharon Sutton with Sushi and Stephen Abercrombie 2nd. Joint winners of the *International Replay* were Steve Green – Martin Jones.

Elayne Meakin is now taking entries for the next *W.P.L.* series starting in September. The cost is £70 per pair for the year or £40 per pair per series if received by 31st August, after which the cost will be £80 and £45. Cheques should be made out to WCBA. Further details can be found on the website.

**Diary dates:** Sat-Sun Sept 1-2, National Womens Team's, WMBC. Sun Sept 23, Frank Cup (Goodman Qualifier), WMBC, 1pm.

## Westmorland

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



TWO Westmorland teams were drawn against each other in the first round of the *Hubert Philips Bowl*, the England Mixed Pivot Teams-of-Four championship. In a very close match Sally and

Philip Wraight, Dave Harrison and Paul Thornton were beaten by Sally Ann and Mike Rothwell, Malcolm Hartley and Michael Cox. Good luck to the winners for subsequent rounds.

**Diary dates:** Sept 30, Open Swiss Pairs, Castle Green Hotel. Enquiries to [Ellwoodnz@aol.com](mailto:Ellwoodnz@aol.com)

## Wiltshire

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



ALTHOUGH there were a few changes to the WCBA committee at the recent AGM, each of them was pre-announced and the well attended meeting was otherwise brief. Phil Green and Diana King stood down after nine years of meritorious work. Sonia Blandy also stood down because of conflicting workloads. Gerry McAinsh and Brian O'Donnell have volunteered to succeed them, which brings a wider club representation to the committee.

Joan Crook – Helen Cleland won the *Handicapped Pairs* which followed the meeting.

Congratulations to Kathy Hodgson – Keith Williamson for gaining 4th place in the *Corwen Trophy*.

For next season, would all teams get their entries in for the leagues and knockout as soon as possible?

## Worcestershire

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



THE AGM was held in May, David Thomas, who continues as Chairman, updating members on an excellent year for the county. As usual, after the meeting and prizegiving, there was a briefer than usual *Pairs* event. The fact that it was expected to be a little lighthearted didn't deter Mike Theelke – James Taylor from posting a score some 9% clear of the rest of the field!

In competitions, Georgina and Ian Lineker followed their win in the *Veterans*

*Pairs* in April with a similar result in the *Seniors Pairs* in June. Full results: 1. Ian and Georgina Lineker, 2. Stewart Fishburne – Mike Willoughby, 3. Susan Sharpe – Jane Morton.

By the publication date, the *Grand Prix Teams* will be underway. This competition, which excludes County First Team players from having standing in the results, has proved very popular as the First Team players act as substitutes as required. This results in a competitive yet social atmosphere with a prize for the most successful slam bidders over the season. The next heat will be on September 3, and all county members are invited to enter a team – it's not too late!

## Yorkshire

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Fiona Brown who was in the winning *Women's* team at the *European Championships*.

Also congratulations to the following winners: *Crockfords Plate*: Sandy Davies, Tom Gisborne, Mike Pomfrey, Keith Cornish. *Jersey Congress, Multiple Teams* and *Swiss Teams*: Cheryl and Dave Duddell; *Seniors' Teams*: Janet and Ted Latham, Heather Hobson, Roy Garthwaite. *Garden Cities Trophy, Regional Final*: Sheffield (Frank Littlewood, David Musson, David Waxman, Richard Pike, David Fletcher, Raphael Grossman, Ian Johns, Matthew Kiggins). *Yorkshire Congress: Women's Pairs*: Fiona Brown – Susan Stockdale; *Mixed Pairs*: Roy Garthwaite – Heather Hobson; *Men's Pairs*: Roy Garthwaite – Philip Mason; *Moortown Cup*: Hugh McGann – Michael Byrne; *York Mount Group Trophy*: Joy and Irving Blakey; *Chairman's Plate*: Basil Caygill – Martin Cantor; *Fell-Vincent Cup*: Joy and Irving Blakey, Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield; *John Colley Trophy*: Dominic Pinto, Phil Morrison, Adam Dickinson, Phil Smith; *Scarborough Trophy*: Marion Curran, Pat Barton, Margaret McCabe, John Moor.

*Waddington Shield*: Sarah Teshome, Richard Winter, Bill Townsend, Tony McNiff. *Seniors Knockout*: David Musson, Graham Jepson, Sandy Davies, Tom Gisborne. *West Yorkshire Swiss Teams*: Steve Haley, Mike Nicholson, Paul and Hilda Williams. *Yorkshire Masters, Grades 1, 2 & 3*: George Bak – Steve Blackburn, Dave Butler – Bob Brown, Lauri and Margaret Andrews. *Leeds Swiss Pairs*: Bill Townsend – Jack Stocken.

*Scarborough Congress: Pairs*: Richard Hilton – Pauline Cooper; *Swiss Teams*: David Lewis, Martin Carlile, Steve Roswald, Mel Wilder. *Yorkshire Mixed Pairs*: Ian and Julie Grant. *Bridlington Congress: Pairs*: Barbara Boaler – Julia Staniforth; *Swiss Teams*: Graham Jepson, Frank Littlewood, Richard Pike, David Waxman.

**Diary dates:** Sept 2, Huddersfield Rose Bowl. Sept 16, Garforth Swiss Teams, Collingham, Sept 20, Kath Grimoldby Simultaneous Pairs. Oct 6-7, Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Hilton Hotel, Leeds. □



Photo: Worcs CBA

Worcestershire CBA County Chairman David Thomas (left) presenting the County Championship Pairs Trophy to winners Joyce Skelton and Mike Theelke.

# LOCAL MASTERPROMOTIONS

## May – June 2012

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](http://www.ebu.co.uk)  
Landmark promotions are published in the April, August and December issues of *English Bridge*.

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## EBU 75th Anniversary Sim Pairs

### THE MAY 2012 SIM PAIRS NATIONAL HEAT WINNERS

Clockwise from top left: David Gunn and Hetty Jackson (*Castle Morpeth Bridge Club, Tuesday 8th*); Edward Leatham and Bryan Cross (*Shaftesbury Bridge Club, Wednesday 9th*); Terry Boyd and Omer Jamall, *Blackheath Bridge Club, Thursday 10th*; Vera Sand and Madhuben Shah (*Friends Bridge Group, Friday 11th*); and David Price and Tony Aldous (*Clare Duplicate Bridge Club, Monday 14th*). Congratulations to them all!



## Virtual Bridge – Real Friends

by *Barrie Partridge*

ONCE AGAIN, Bridge Club Live's major annual Pairs event has been played as a Double Elimination Knockout with the same format as the EBU Spring Foursomes.

The winners were David Southcombe of Oxfordshire and David Woulds of Bedfordshire. In the final, in front of scores of spectators, they defeated by 54%-46% last year's winners and No 1 seeds from South Africa and Bulgaria. This board helped the two Davids through their semi-final match:

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

David Southcombe played in 6♣ with a trump lead. Many pairs went off in slam when the obvious diamond finesse failed, but David was in no hurry. He took four rounds of trumps finishing in dummy and led a diamond towards his hand, but when East played the eight of diamonds, he inserted the ♦9 to give himself an extra chance when the layout was as it was.

### More Battles of the Sexes!

The ladies have now defeated the men in all three of our Battles of the Sexes. The final board of the second event was the one most talked about:

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

Outside of the match between the two A teams, no fewer than four pairs, two male and two female, managed to bid freely to 7♠, all with completely different auctions, only to find West cashing the club ace. Surely the North-South pairs for the A teams would be more sensible? Not where I was sitting North, as I really messed things up after I opened a Multi 2♦ and we spiralled out of control to a contract of 7♠. But, unlike the previous four tables, I had an advantage in that I was playing this slightly flawed contract from the North seat and East made the seemingly sensible

lead of a low heart, and I soon claimed the first eighteen tricks. We had an undeserved windfall, unless, that is, our teammates were to have other ideas!

At our other table, the ladies sitting North-South, after three rounds of bidding, reached the contract of 7♠ to be played by South. Can you feel a swing of 17 IMPs coming on, dear reader?

The male West player knew exactly what he was going to do. He was going to double and he was going to lead the ♠A and the contract was going to go off! This was not the best plan ever conceived because North knew exactly what to do, too! Over the double, she bid 7NT. This was passed out and East was on lead, and who could blame him for not finding a club lead? Declarer quickly claimed the same first eighteen tricks and it was a flat board!

### Online Bridge

I am often asked if online bridge is less personal than playing face to face. It need not be so. As with any club, it is what you make of it. Many of our members meet at reunion events. One hundred members met for our annual bridge-filled weekend at Hinckley in February. Many more meet up at EBU congresses. Our members also arrange other social get-togethers; these have recently included a lunch gathering in Potters Bar and a barbecue in Southampton. There are discussions every day on our forums within the club website, and these cover everything from bridge hands to social matters. Many of us sponsored 64-year-old member Rod Barrett as he ran the London Marathon in five hours in aid of a brain tumour charity following the death of his niece. Two of our overseas members in Christchurch, New Zealand, were made homeless by last year's earthquakes but were soon back playing online bridge. Impersonal? Not at all! The club's motto is: 'Virtual Bridge – Real Friends'.

### 'BRIDGE LICENSED BY THE EBU'

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

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

All County events advertised have an EBU licence.

**NOTE:** Any events licensed by another National Bridge Organisation will not be able to have master points credited to members' records save for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland with whom the EBU have a reciprocal agreement.



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



26 – 28 October 2012

# REALLY EASY AUTUMN BREAK



## Wroxton House Hotel

Wroxton St Mary, Banbury,  
Oxfordshire OX15 6QB

☎ 01295 730777 (ref. 37501)

The hotel package is £167 per person  
(£139.90 per person sharing).

Make reservations directly  
with the hotel.

### Bridge fees: £40 per person

Four sessions of bridge plus two  
days half-board at this charming  
country house hotel.

The event starts with dinner on  
Friday evening at 6.15pm followed  
by the first session of bridge. A  
bridge lesson on Saturday morning  
followed by bridge in the after-  
noon and evening with dinner.  
Finally, on Sunday, a Swiss Pairs  
event with a break for a light  
lunch. The event finishes around  
3.30pm.

**ENTRIES LIMITED TO 36 PEOPLE  
(RESIDENTS ONLY)**

Suitable for the more  
experienced novice with up to  
about 5 years experience.

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

# Club Bidding Quiz

by Julian Pottage



## Answers to Problems on Page 41

Hand 1	
♠ 7 3	
♥ A Q 6	
♦ Q J 9 5	
♣ 10 7 3 2	

W N E S  
1♠ Pass

?

INT. With 9 points but  
no five-card suit, you are  
not quite good enough  
for a two-level response.

If partner rebids two of a minor or does  
anything encouraging, you can bid again  
to show that you are maximum for your  
initial response. Note that you do not up-  
grade for the ten and the nine – having  
one of each is merely average.

Hand 2	
♠ J 9 7 5	
♥ 6 4	
♦ K 10 9	
♣ A J 5 4	

W N E S  
1♥ Pass Pass

?

**Double.** In the protective  
(reopening) position, you  
should mentally add 3  
points to your actual  
values to determine whether you have  
enough to keep the bidding alive. Given that  
you have four spades, you would surely have  
doubled 1♥ in second seat with three more  
points than this, so you double now.

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

W N E S  
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass

?

3♥. The jump rebid in  
your own suit shows a  
non-minimum opening  
and at least a reasonable  
six-card suit. This describes your hand  
nicely. As partner has responded at the  
two level, your jump sets up a game-  
forcing situation.

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

W N E S  
1♣ Pass

?

3♠. The jump raise shows  
four-card support and  
about 11 points or 8

losers. You are not worth insisting on game  
when partner might have a minimum  
opener. Equally, a single raise would not do  
justice to the hand. This jump is very similar  
to raising a 1♠ opening to 3♠.

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

W N E S  
1NT Pass

?

2♣. You can use Stayman  
to ask partner for a four-  
card major when you  
have a weak hand so long  
as you can cope with any reply. Here you  
intend to pass whatever partner bids. If it is  
2♠ or 2♦, you have almost certainly im-  
proved the contract. Even 2♥ on a 4-3 fit  
should be playable as the ruffs will be in the  
short-trump hand.

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

W N E S  
1♦

?

4♥. You have a better  
hand than you have  
shown for your initial  
double. Moreover, the fifth heart is a huge  
card. The bidding suggests that your  
partner is short in spades, which  
means the two hands will fit well. □

## PACHABO RESULTS

Congratulations to Cambs & Hunts, winners of the 2012 competition; they were  
represented by Chris Jagger, Julian Wightwick, Jonathan Mestel and Jon Cooke.

## CLUB DIRECTOR & COUNTY DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES 2012-2013



### ESSENTIALS £37

<del>Brighton</del>	<del>Monday 13 August FULL</del>
Darlington	Saturday 8 September
Cambridge	Saturday 6 October
Aylesbury EBU	Wednesday 17 October

### BOOK RULINGS £42

<del>Brighton</del>	<del>Tuesday 14 August FULL</del>
Darlington	Saturday 17 November
Cambridge	Saturday 17 November
Aylesbury EBU	Wednesday 21 November

### JUDGMENT RULINGS £42

Billericay	Sunday 5 August
<del>Brighton</del>	<del>Wednesday 15 August FULL</del>
Oxford	Saturday 29 September
Cambridge	Sunday 9 December
Aylesbury EBU	Wednesday 12 December
Darlington	Saturday 23 February 2013

### ASSESSMENT £47

<del>Brighton</del>	<del>Thursday 16 August FULL</del>
Billericay	Sunday 16 September
Oxford	Saturday 10 November
Aylesbury EBU	Wednesday 16 January 2013
Cambridge	Sunday 20 January 2013
Darlington	Saturday 27 April 2013

**New courses planned:** Applications are now open for courses to be run in the period November 2012 to May 2013. Please contact [john@ebu.co.uk](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk) at the EBU if your club would be interested in hosting the courses and there has been nothing in your area for the last two years.

### COUNTY TD AND COUNTY REFRESHER COURSE

15-16 September 2012

£165 for one night full board + all course fees

Hilton Hotel, Coventry

This is for county nominees, anyone who has passed the club TD course with distinction.

The Refresher Course is for anyone who has previously been on the County Course.

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

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

### 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.)**

## TEACHER TRAINING COURSES 2012

Partner Teacher Training Courses –  
courses for prospective teachers



Aylesbury EBU HQ October 19-21, 2012

**(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)**

Dates for 2013 will be arranged shortly

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

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

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

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

**West Midland BC, Solihull, August 18-19** (Limited spaces available)

**Farnham, Surrey, August 25-26** (Spaces available)

**Stamford Bridge Club, Lincs, September 1-2** (Spaces available)

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

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

### JUNIOR TEACH-IN WEEKEND

24th – 26th August 2012  
Loughborough University

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British  
teams  
event



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the 2013 competition:  
**17th September 2012**

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Enquiries to Sandra Claridge  
[claridge31@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:claridge31@tiscali.co.uk)

Entry form on  
[www.bridgegreatbritain.org](http://www.bridgegreatbritain.org)



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- Minors and Misfits
- Doubles
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- Making Overtricks in Suit Contracts
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- Trump Reductions & Coups
- Playing Doubled Contracts
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- Partner of Leader vs No-trump Contracts
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