

English Bridge

August 2007

Free to EBU members



Heather and Jeremy Dhondy get Gold, Janet de Botton's team Bronze at the 3rd European Open Championships (other England medals – see pages 7 and 21)

INSIDE: THE EBU'S NEW STRATEGY FOR BRIDGE



Bridge Overseas



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Prices quoted on overseas holidays are for half board, flights & transfers unless otherwise stated. The only addition is the bridge fee. Bridge is licensed by the EBU - masterpoints, trophies, vouchers and/or prizes.

UK & Ireland bridge breaks are for half board and include the bridge.

Retail agents for Balkan atol 252, Thomas Cook Holidays atol 1368, Panorama atol 0782 & Thomsons atol 2524.

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Farewell and Hello!

Sally Bugden

Farewell

BRIAN Cook's first issue as editor of *English Bridge* was June 2001. His clarion call was: 'Tell me what you want!' Brian certainly opened up the magazine to the membership and has been a consummate professional throughout his editorship. Personally speaking, he has been a pleasure to work with, and has provided a huge amount of support to the EBU's role in developing bridge in England. We thank him for his excellent contribution to this, our only universal means of communication to our members; he leaves the magazine in extremely good shape, and we wish Brian and his wife Tess the very best in the future.

Hello

The English Bridge Union is delighted to welcome the well-known bridge journalist and editor, Elena Jeronimidis, as editor of *English Bridge*.

Elena has been involved in editing the

highly respected *Bridge Plus* magazine since 1989 as well as other magazines, books and the Bridge Teletext pages of Channel 4.

Elena was born in Rome where she started her magazine career editing a student magazine published by the Vatican, at the tender age of 16! Elena says: 'I was bitten by the bridge bug after marrying Giorgio in 1970 and moving to England in 1971. Here I have enjoyed a varied career teaching Italian at university level, directing amateur theatrical productions, translating *The Hobbit* and other English books into Italian, bringing up two boys – and now concentrating on editing *English Bridge*.'

Elena has been involved in bridge administration at county and club level, and has also had an illustrious bridge-playing career. Her achievements include winning the Porthcawl WBU National Teams and coming second in the British Ladies' Teams. She has won the Year End Ladies' Pairs, twice, each time partnering Ruth Edmondson.

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English Bridge goes colour-coded – and other changes

Elena Jeronimidis



DO you remember the M&S Christmas advert? 'This is not just food,' cooed a seductive female voice, 'it is M&S food.' Now the same seductive voice tells us that it is not 'just M&S', it's *your* M&S.

To paraphrase: *English Bridge* is not just a bridge magazine, it is the EBU's bridge magazine. And it's not just *the* EBU, it is *your* EBU – which I reckon makes *English Bridge* 'your' magazine.

This in turn means that I need to hear from you: tell me what you like or dislike in *English Bridge* and what you would

like to see in it, so that I have a better idea of your requirements.

In this issue (have you noticed it has an extra four pages?), you will find old favourites and some new columns, in response to your replies to the Members Survey carried out a few months ago. Also, articles are colour-coded so you can easily identify which pages are your cup of tea when you first open the magazine. But I hope you'll read it all, and look forward to receiving your comments – criticism and praise are equally welcome!

Instruction



EBU News



Features



On-line Bridge



Reports



Holidays with Bridge

in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

AUGUST

10-12/13	nr NOTTINGHAM	Eastwood Hall Hotel	£179/£239 hb
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31-2/3 Sept	WINDSOR	Beaumont House	£189/£255 hb

SEPTEMBER

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<i>includes flights from Gatwick (other airports available on request)</i>			
28-30/1 Oct	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb
29-8 Oct	JERSEY	St. Brelades Bay Hotel	£855 hb†
<i>inc excursions & flights from Gatwick (other airports available on request)</i>			

OCTOBER

12-14/15	NORTH COTSWOLDS	Ettington Chase	£179/£239 hb
19-21/22	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb
26-29	CAMBRIDGE	Gonville Hotel	£255 hb

NOVEMBER

2-4/5	WORTHING	Berkeley Hotel	£175/£229 hb
<i>for anyone on their own, of any age</i>			
16-18	CHESTER	Queen Hotel	£179 hb
23-25/26	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

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For full details please telephone
Susan Levene (01273-734305) or Philip Dunn (01902-717761)
E-mail: SusanSelect@aol.com rattyd@ukonline.co.uk
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 † Agent for WCT plc ATOL 0749

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 2nd - 7th November - £205



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Duplicate Pairs Tactics with Andrew Robson

IT is fitting to begin my series on Duplicate Pairs tactics by recounting Graham Kirby's pithy tale entitled 'The Magic of Pairs':

'Board One. Partner Brian Callaghan psyches, I'm confused, Five Clubs redoubled minus eight, -3000 (old scoring).

'Board Two. Callaghan sneaks an overtrick in routine Four Hearts. An average round.'

Although most of you play mainly Duplicate Pairs, very little is written on the tactics. Because of the scoring method, these are totally different to all other forms of the game.

Your real opponents are the pair sitting in your direction at other tables. For each of those pairs you beat on a given board, you score two points (regardless of how much you beat their score by); one point for a tie (same score); and no points for a loss (regardless of how much your score is worse).

This means that you merely have to beat the other scores by a small amount. If partner plays a 1NT contract brilliantly and, with a little help from those friends to

his left and right, scores nine tricks, do not regret that you did not bid game. +150 will be a 'top', the same top as bidding game and scoring 400 or 600 for bidding and making 3NT. Therefore do not push for close games. Take this deal:

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

West	North	East	South
All Pass			1NT

North's 11-point hand is awful. No tens, no five-card suit, no sequences. It is not likely that game will be on (remember that



Andrew Robson

PAIRS TACTICS

12 points opposite is more likely than 14). Vulnerable at Teams, with a 500 game bonus at stake, you might invite game. Not at Pairs.

How should the play go? First of all, what is your trick target? No, not seven – you must maximise. West leads the ten of diamonds; note that this passive choice is far wiser than a spade, in the quest to reduce the all-important overtricks. You win the queen, and should attack spades, the suit in which you have *top* losers and are not creating *extra* losers. A spade to the ten loses to West's queen; diamonds are continued and you win in hand and lead the spade jack. This goes to East's king and you win a third diamond (best) and lead a third spade. West wins his ace, cashes his promoted diamond (you have thrown two clubs from table), and is now in difficulty. His best defence is to exit passively with a fourth spade (again, giving nothing away being the priority). You win on table and need to read the ending for your overtrick. East has been forced to make three discards, and very likely these will be a heart and two clubs. In that case you play ace and another club to set up your ten (if East threw two hearts, then ace-king would fell his queen and promote dummy's jack). Eight tricks made, but much less pressure than being in 2NT.

Andrew's Tip: Pass partner's 1NT opener with a moderate flat 11 points.

Why am I talking about a dull 1NT? Remember Kirby's words – this board is just as important as the Grand Slam on Board 19. □

1st – 6th February 2008

BAKER TILLY

LANZAROTE



CONGRESS

Gran Melia Salinas, Costa Tequise

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Join us for fun, friendly and perhaps challenging Bridge Breaks. Bridge licensed by the English Bridge Union. Hosted by bridge experts Jonathan and Jackie Hinden. £175.00 per person, per two night package.

♦ 12-14th October 2007 ♦

♠ 23-25th November 2007 ♠

Chicago & Rubber Bridge Weekend

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♣ 26-28th October 2007 ♣

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2008:

JAN 2 5 nts £215.00
JAN 25 3 nts £147.00
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England's first medals at the European Open Championships

THE 3rd European Open Bridge Championships ('Open' in the sense that all events are transnational, so partners and teammates can be from anywhere in the world) took place in June in Antalya, Turkey, at the beautiful 'World of Wonders' resort.

The first event was the Mixed Teams, contested by over seventy teams from twenty-four different countries. English interest was held throughout and our first medals were guaranteed when we had a semi-final line-up of Janet de Botton, playing with Artur Malinowski, Nevena Senior and Nick Sandqvist, against Heather and Jeremy Dhondy who had teamed up with Matilda and Lilo Poplilov from Israel. The match was tight throughout with good aggressive bridge from both sides.

One deal which contributed to the outcome was the following, where the Dhondys produced an effective auction:

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



REPORTS

Colin Simpson

Against silent opponents, the Dhondys bid:

West	East
Jeremy	Heather
1♥	1♣
2♦ ¹	1♠
4♣	3NT
5♠ ³	4♦ ²
All Pass	7NT ⁴

¹ Fourth suit forcing

² Cue-bid

³ Grand Slam Force for clubs

⁴ Expressing confidence!

ANOTHER UNIVERSITY EIGHTS RACE



THE much publicised race on the Thames is not the only exciting Oxbridge eights contest. One week after the boat race, thirty-two Dark and Light Blues celebrated the 10th Annual Alumni Match in Trinity College, Cambridge. Sixteen players from each university vied over 32 boards, the result of two team-of-eight matches determining the final score.

Cambridge won by 17 IMPs, the closest

result for many years, and now the series is 6-4 to Cambridge.

Matches are played in a friendly fashion, followed by dinner in a college, but the bridge standard is high. Alumni interested in playing should contact one or other of the two captains: John Robbins at johnrobbins@waitrose.com (Oxford) or John Newman (Cambridge) at whatmore.canisay@virgin.net

The key to the auction was the jump to 3NT, which, since the 2♦ bid was not game-forcing, showed extra values. When Jeremy Dhondy bid 5♠, Heather was expected to bid a grand slam if she held two top honours in clubs – and she duly did! At the other table, Nevena Senior and Nick Sandqvist bid to 6♣, making with an overtrick.

To the losing de Botton team the Bronze Medal and for the Dhondys the opportunity to try for Gold against the Russia team. After an early lead for Dhondy, the Russians fought back strongly but in a neck-and-neck finish our team won after a successful appeal. Incidentally, this is the second time the Mixed Teams has been won on an appeal, as well as being the second time in the short history of the event that an English pair was part of the winning team.

After the elation of our first medals, the competition continued with Mixed Pairs followed by the Open, Ladies and Senior Teams and ended with the Open, Ladies and Senior Pairs. In the next edition there will be an opportunity to give further coverage to our successes, but meanwhile turn to page 21 for news of all the English Medals. Well done to all concerned. □

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21st September 2007 - 14 nights

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Kefalonia

14th October 2007 - 14 nights

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£825 half-board (Operated by Clare Travel ATOL3298)

Caribbean Panoramas

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John exposes an honour card during the auction

JULIE was waiting by her front gate when John pulled up. 'So we're going somewhere new tonight? I am so excited! Where are you taking me?' asked Julie.

'I have found this really friendly bridge club,' replied John happily, not noticing Julie's look of total disappointment. 'I'm just worried about one thing: the Tournament Director has asked to speak to us before we start. Do you think he has heard about my reputation for getting things wrong?' asked John.

'I hope not! I had hoped to start at a new club with a clean sheet. Mind you, I had hoped for a break from bridge this summer as well . . .' replied Julie.

'We would have only got bored trying to fill our evenings with other things,' asserted John, leaving Julie speechless.

Soon after they arrived the TD strolled over to them. 'Welcome to our club, it's good to see new faces. I thought you ought to know that we don't follow all the EBU announcement rules here: as nearly everyone plays a weak no-trump, we have decided that you only need to announce a 1NT opening when it is *not* 12-14 with a balanced hand; we announce a 2♣ response to 1NT as Stayman even if there is a fourth response of 2NT that promises two four-card majors, since lots of our members play it that way; also we announce natural jump overcalls as weak, intermediate or strong, as we found that most people did it anyway.'

'I thought you had to follow EBU rules to the letter,' said John.


'No, at club level

we can vary the regulations as we wish, so long as we don't contravene the laws; however, if we are running a heat of a county or EBU event, then we have to abide by whatever regulations are laid down, including announcements.'

'Isn't that confusing?' asked John.

'No, most of our members only play in our normal weekly duplicate nights. Those who play in county and EBU events are quite capable of remembering what they have to do,' replied the TD.

John and Julie settled down to play; they were pleasantly surprised to find that nearly everybody took the trouble to introduce themselves and welcome them. All went well until:

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

West	North	East	South
Julie		John	
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♦	End	2♥

2♦ was announced by South as 'Hearts', which prompted John practically to drop all his cards on the table in surprise. He managed almost to recover the situation bar one card: the king of hearts dropped face-up on the table and Julie shook her head in disbelief, realising that a new bridge club hadn't managed to bring new habits.

The TD strode to the table and, when the situation was explained to him, said: 'Well, it is good that new members have brought me a challenge. I can't ever remember having to cope with an honour card exposed during the auction.' John hung his head in shame as the TD thumbed through his law book, until he came across Law 24; 'West must pass when next it is her turn to call and, if East-West end up as defenders, the king of hearts becomes a major penalty card.'

As John expected North to hold a five-



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

card heart suit, he passed throughout, although he was surprised when South passed 3♦. He wasn't too perturbed by the fact that he had to lead the king of hearts as it was his natural lead but, as the play progressed and North went just one off, he was sufficiently put out by the fact that North did not hold a heart suit to call the Director back to the table.

'I am sorry to be a nuisance on my first night, but South announced 'Hearts' when North bid 2♦ and now it turns out that North just has a weakness take-out into diamonds.'

'What else am I supposed to do? Surely everyone knows that 2♦ followed by 3♦ shows a weak hand with diamonds,' said North defensively.

'There is no problem with using 2♦ followed by 3♦ to show just diamonds, provided that the 2♦ bid is alerted rather than announced,' replied the TD. 'If you announce 2♦ as showing hearts, there must be an absolute guarantee that a five-card heart suit is held.'

'If I had known that 3♦ just showed a weak hand, I'd have bid 3♥,' said John.

'And made it!' added Julie.

The TD went away to consider all that he had heard and on his return he said: 'Had East known that 3♦ showed a weak hand with just diamonds, I am sure he may well have bid 3♥, most likely making made nine tricks, so I am going to adjust the score to 140 to East-West.'

After they had left the table Julie turned to John, and said: 'Three visits from the Director on one board – and I thought that you were turning over a new leaf!'

'But only one was my fault,' pleaded John.

'Yes . . . This time!' replied Julie prophetically. □



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Crockfords swings and roundabouts

IT is the last match of the final of Crockfords. Your team (*de Botton*) is in second place, one victory point behind the leaders (*Mizel*) and half a dozen or so ahead of third. You consider that you need a sizeable win, for your rivals are playing the team in last place, while other teams behind you may catch up unless you can make it impossible for them to do so. You arrive in a routine 3NT as South with these assets:

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All pass	1NT*
* 15-17			

West leads the king of hearts which holds, continues with the queen which also holds, and persists with the jack on which East shows out. Plan the play (a) in normal circumstances and (b) in the given circumstances.

If you can make four spade tricks, you will make the contract. If you can't, you may make an extra trick from diamonds. There are thus two possible lines of play:

Line E ('Eggs in one basket') – play a spade to the king and run the ten, succeeding when East has the queen of spades and failing when he doesn't;

Line C ('Combining chances') – play a spade to the ten, succeeding when West has the queen of spades, or the queen of diamonds without the ace.

If the location of each of the three crucial cards – the queen of spades, and the queen

and ace of diamonds – were simply a 50-50 chance, it would be correct to follow line C. That would work half the time (when West has the queen of spades) plus a quarter of the rest of the time (when West has the queen, but not the ace, of diamonds), while line E would work only half the time (when East has the spade queen). But it's not as simple as that. West has five hearts and East two, which means that West has eight non-hearts and East eleven. The chance that West has the spade queen is thus only 8/19, while the chance that East has the spade queen is 11/19. Line E, then?

Just a moment. Line E will work 11/19 of the time, or 57.89%. Line C will work 8/19 of the time (West has the queen of spades) plus some fraction of the other 11/19 of the time. That fraction is specifically 4/9 (the chance that West has the diamond queen given that he doesn't have the spade queen) times 10/17 (the chance that he doesn't have the diamond ace, given that he does have the diamond queen but doesn't have the spade queen). All of that comes to 57.24%, which is less than 57.89%. Line E after all, then?

Just another moment. In normal circumstances, where you are not playing for a swing, line E would be correct. But given the state of the tournament, now is perhaps a good time to follow line C, because taking slightly anti-percentage actions and enjoying a little good fortune is the accepted way to retrieve a trailing position. You want, in short, to do what declarer in the other room won't do, and hope for the best.

'Just another moment!'

One piece of information I have so far withheld from you is that declarer in the other room is Surrey's Frances Hinden, whom you know not only to be a fine player but a mathematical wizard. She will have worked out in seconds what has taken you about half an hour – that line E is technically correct – and she will have followed it. So you follow line C, and you go two down when East turns up with the queen of spades and West with the ace of diamonds, and you lose 11 IMPs, and you wish you'd never taken up this stupid game.



David Burn

REPORTS

The first half of the match ends, and your team is 25 IMPs ahead despite your own best efforts. But the leaders are ahead by 42 IMPs and, provided they don't lose any in the second half, they will score the maximum 25 VPs and you won't be able to catch them. You go to the bar, muttering darkly about vacant places and state of the event considerations and whether drinking hemlock would be a better idea than hanging yourself. Fortunately the bar doesn't have any hemlock, so you sit and watch the television with Jack Mizel and Andrew McIntosh.

Wigan Athletic and West Ham United perform heroics on the football field, escaping relegation in dramatic fashion. You go back upstairs, wondering if . . . Your team-mates emerge, and have done enough to ensure that 25 VPs are added to your score. Half of the *Charlwood* team, who are opposing *Mizel*, come out of the playing room, and a quick glance at their scorecard indicates that they have played at least as well as the *Latics* and the *Hammers*. You wait for an eternity. To their great credit, *Charlwood's* players have retrieved almost all of their half-time deficit, and you have won. The Director hands the Crockfords Cup to Janet de Botton, who promptly hands it to you because the thing weighs half a ton. Not such a stupid game, after all.

Crockfords Final Leaderboard:

1. Janet de Botton, Jason and Justin Hackett, Artur Malinowski, Nick Sandqvist, David Burn.
2. Jack Mizel, Alexander Allfrey, David Bakhshi, Tony Forrester, Andrew McIntosh, Andrew Robson.
3. Brian Senior, Espen Erichsen, Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior. ☐

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What sort of hand can I open with a strong artificial two-level bid?

Can you tell me in clear and unambiguous language on what I can and cannot open a strong artificial two-level opening bid such as a Benjamin 2♣, please?

This question has come from many readers wishing to understand the changes that have come into effect on August 1st.

Last year the EBU introduced a new *Orange Book* which highlighted rules for what you could and could not open with a strong artificial bid. The new rules caught out a number of players, and made many deeply unhappy. For example, in the 2007 Tollemache final, this hand was held:

♠ 4
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7 2
♦ –
♣ A J 5 3

It was opened with a strong, artificial 2♣ at several tables. This was not permitted, because the hand

did not meet the necessary standard at the time and the players who did it (quite a few of them) had an adjusted score awarded against them.

So what's the problem? Why shouldn't you open 2♣ Acol or Benjamin on whatever you want to? The answer is **disclosure**. If your opponent opens 2♣ and it is described as strong and forcing, you are likely to think of hands with more than half the pack in high cards. If the hand turns out to contain a solid eight-card suit and nothing else, it is essentially pre-emptive and you are unlikely to appreciate this unless told, and so you may fail to compete. It is not uncommon for the other side to have game on after such an opening. For many years players had opened such bids, which technically were not permitted but the regulation was buried in the *Orange Book* and no-one got very excited. Once the rule was highlighted prominently and enforced, lots of people got very excited and the EBU received much correspondence which has been considered recently. The regulations have now been amended to allow hands such as the one above to be opened with an artificial bid. Before we move to the new rules,

consider the following two hands:

Hand A

♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7
♥ 2
♦ –
♣ J 10 9 3

Hand B

♠ A K Q 8 7 6
♥ 2
♦ A K 9 4
♣ K 4

If both hands are opened 2♣ Benjamin and both are described as 'Strong and forcing,' the opponents are likely to be disadvantaged when considering whether to compete because Hand A is, essentially, pre-emptive, while Hand B contains considerable defensive strength.

What are the new rules?

First, what has *not* changed? You can continue to open a strong natural two on whatever you like. What you do have to do, though, is describe it properly. Be aware that if you open the following hand with a strong 2♠ and your partner announces it as 'Strong, forcing,' you can expect your opponents and probably the director to get a bit upset:

♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5
♥ 2
♦ 3
♣ 3 2

It undeniably contains eight playing tricks but under no reasonable description is it strong. That

does not mean you can't open the hand 2♠ – but you must describe it properly.

When deciding whether you can agree to open a hand with a strong artificial two bid, you must meet *one* of the following three tests:

- Subject to proper disclosure, does the hand contain as a minimum the normal high-card strength associated with a one-level opening bid, and does it have at least eight *clear-cut* tricks? Or:
- Does it meet the rule of 25 (arrived at by adding your high-card points to the sum of your two longest suits)? Or:



Jeremy Dhondy

EBU PROBLEMS

c. Does it have at least 16 high-card points? If the hand meets any of these, then it is OK to open it with a strong and artificial opening, which includes a Strong Club.

It is easy enough to produce hands which meet one of these tests. The trick is to draw the dividing line and the idea of the revised ruling is to enable players to open more hands with strong artificial bids but to minimise the problems caused by opponents being misinformed.

What is clear-cut? A-K-Q-J-x-x-x is seven clear-cut tricks because the strong likelihood is that the suit will play for seven tricks although, of course, the cards could be divided so that it does not. A-K-Q-x-x-x-x would not be seven clear-cut tricks because, although the suit will play for seven tricks opposite a singleton about 68% of the time, this is not a strong enough probability.

Why is the minimum 16 points? Surely it was 14 previously? The regulations for the past year would not allow any two-level opening where there were fewer than 14 HCP. Now the normal strength associated with a one-level opening bid is permitted. The restriction prohibiting treating 4-4-4-1 hands of 16+ as strong is also abolished. **Who decides whether a marginal hand is permitted?** Whenever an arbitrary line is drawn, there may be a problem just either side of it. In the first instance, a director will make a decision, guided by example hands provided by the L&E.

Is a new Orange Book going to be published? No, but there will be an updated version on the EBU website (see also the item on page 39 in this issue). □

E-mail your questions to Jeremy Dhondy at ebuproblems@btopenworld.com or write to the Editor at 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR. Please include your name and address.



David Bird

Beat today's experts

1. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ A 7
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ AK 10 9 7
 ♣ A Q 9 2



♠ K 4 2
 ♥ AK 7 5 2
 ♦ 8 6 5 4
 ♣ J

West	East
Sohtorik	Kolankaya
1♦	1♥
2♣	3♦
3♠	3NT
4♣	4♥
4NT	5♣
6♦	

We start with a deal from the final of the

2007 Turkish Championship. Yusuf Sohtorik bid his two suits and Aytug Kolankaya showed jump preference for diamonds, indicating game-try values.

West's 3♠ was a stopper-showing probe for no-trumps initially, but became a cue-bid once West continued with 4♣ over 3NT. East showed his heart control and West then bid RKCB, the 1430 5♣ response showing one key card. The resultant contract of 6♦ was a fine one. If trumps are 3-1, you can ruff two clubs and set up a long heart to discard the remaining club loser.

'That's an easy one to bid,' you may be thinking. 'What can go wrong?' West at the

other table demonstrated what could go wrong by opening 1NT. This was a poor idea for several reasons. His five-loser hand, bursting with controls, was far too strong. He also had a low doubleton in hearts. Apart from that, he could easily show his 5-4 shape (1♦, followed by 2♣). After this ill-judged start it was not surprising that the auction ended in 3NT.

It is not always wrong to open a strong 1NT with 5-4 shape. It would make good sense on: ♠Q 6 ♥K 2 ♦K J 8 3 ♣A Q 9 7 6, since you are not strong enough to open 1♣ and reverse to 2♦.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ – 10, 7♦ – 6, games – 5, 6NT – 3.

2. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ 2
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ J 6 4
 ♣ J 7 6 4 3 2



♠ 10 8 5
 ♥ Q 7 4 3
 ♦ Q 8 7 3
 ♣ 10 5

♠ 9 7
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ A K 10 9 5 2
 ♣ 9 8

West	East
Khioupenen	Kholomeev
2♦	2♣
3♣	2♠
3NT	3♠
4♥	4NT
5♦	6♠

The deal comes from the final of the intriguingly entitled Bermuda Triangle Teams, with Russia facing Poland. As I see it, the first eight bids of the auction were impeccable. Kholomeev, East for Russia, bid his spades twice and showed club support. Khioupenen then cooperated with a cue-bid in hearts. The RKCB (1430 version) 5♦ response denied any key cards, so West's heart cue-bid was probably based on the king. Had East not bid clubs first, with the artificial 2♣ opening, it would have been obvious to bid the slam in clubs now, to protect the ♥K from the opening lead. Even when played from the East side, 6♣ is a much better slam than 6♠. Unless the defenders can claim two immediate heart tricks, you can draw trumps and run the spades.

Kholomeev bid 6♠ instead. He ruffed

the diamond lead, drew trumps and unblocked the three top clubs. When he led a heart, Zmudzinski (South) played a smooth low card. 'King,' said the Russian declarer and the slam was made. Had South led an unlikely low heart (or ace and another heart), he would have defeated the slam, leaving declarer with no way to avoid two heart losers.

The Polish East-West stopped in 4♠, after a somewhat feeble auction, and a big swing resulted.

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (West) – 10, 6♣ (East) – 8, 6♠ – 6, games – 5.

3. E/W Game. Dealer West.

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



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

West	East
Zhou	Lin
1♥	2♦
2NT	3♦
3♠	6♦

Next we visit the final of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association championships. West's 2NT rebid showed 12-14 points. Even so, the 3♦ continuation was forcing, which makes very good sense. There is little point in making a forcing rebid in a minor unless you have a slam in mind. West's 3♠ cue-bid expressed interest in such a project and this was enough to persuade Lin to leap to 6♦.

A heart or a club lead would allow an easy make and South did indeed lead a

club from the queen. If a spade is led, you can win with dummy's ace and try the ♥K immediately. If it is not covered by North, you can ruff and eventually rely on a club finesse.

At the other table the bidding started 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥ and East had to bid 3♣ to maintain the force. West showed preference with 3♦, but 3♠ – 3NT then ended the auction.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ – 10, games – 6, 7♦/6NT – 2. ⇨

4. Game All. Dealer East.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ A</p> <p>♥ 9 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ A 7 6 2</p> <p>♣ 9 4 3 2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 10 9</p> <p>♥ K 10 8 6</p> <p>♦ J 4</p> <p>♣ Q J 10 6</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ J 5 3 2</p> <p>♥ Q 7</p> <p>♦ K Q 10 9 5 3</p> <p>♣ A</p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q 8 7 6 4</p> <p>♥ A J 5</p> <p>♦ 8</p> <p>♣ K 8 7 5</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>W N E S</p> </div> </div>			
West <i>D'Ovidio</i>	North <i>Zhang</i>	East <i>Gaviard</i>	South <i>Wang</i>
Dble	2♠	1♦	1♠
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass

You may be surprised to hear that the last two women to be ranked 'best in the world' by the World Bridge Federation are both European. Catherine D'Ovidio of France was recently overtaken for the number one spot by Germany's Sabine Auken. D'Ovidio sat West on this deal, playing for France in an exhibition match against China.

When the Chinese South intervened with 1♠, D'Ovidio opened her account with a negative double, to keep hearts in the picture. North raised to 2♠ and Danièle Gaviard had nothing to say on her minimum hand. D'Ovidio contested with 3♦ and a casual observer might have expected this to end the auction. Not at all! Gaviard leapt all the way to 5♦ and

the contract was easily made. Even a trump lead would not disrupt declarer's prospects. She would win in her hand and ruff three spades in the dummy. Since the fourth-round ruff is with the ace, she would not suffer an overruff.

How did Gaviard find this bid, with a minimum hand including a possibly worthless ♥Q-x? She could guess from the North-South bidding that her partner held a singleton spade. Since she had not rebid her diamonds, it was likely that West held four-card support and in that case it would be possible to ruff several spades in the dummy. In other words, the two hands would fit remarkably well.

■ **Awards:** 5♦ – 10, part scores – 5, 3NT/2♠ (South) – 2.

5. Game All. Dealer East.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ 6 5 2</p> <p>♦ K Q 8 4</p> <p>♣ A K J 10 5 4</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>W N E S</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ A 10 8 7 5</p> <p>♥ K Q 7 3</p> <p>♦ 5</p> <p>♣ Q 8 7</p> </div> </div>			
West <i>Machno</i>	North	East <i>Igla</i>	South
2♣		1♠	
3♣		2♥	
4♦		4♣	
4♠		4♥	
5♥		4NT	
Pass	(Dble)	6♣	

The Poland Under-20 team faced Norway in the final of the White House Juniors tournament. A more politically correct writer than myself would have chosen a deal where the youngsters bid well, thereby proving what a bright future the game has. No, my eye has fallen on a small slam with two cashable aces missing.

West's 2♣ response was game-forcing but did not necessarily show clubs. 3♣ confirmed that a good club suit was held but by this time a round of bidding had been lost. East could hardly bid anything other than 4♣ and two king-based cue bids followed. Whatever your views may be on

cue-bidding aces and kings alike, perhaps we can agree that it is a poor idea to cue-bid a shortage in partner's main suit. How can he evaluate A-Q-x-x if you cue-bid equally on a king or a shortage?

East, who had so far not limited his hand (difficult at the best of times when 2♣ is game-forcing), now had a chance to sign off in 5♣. No, he chose RKCB, heard of just two key cards and had to play in 6♣ nevertheless. Ah well, unlike a certain crusty *English Bridge* writer, they have plenty of decades left to hone their bidding skills.

■ **Awards:** 5♣ – 10, 3NT – 9, part scores – 4, slams – 1.

6. E/W Game. Dealer North.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ 8 7</p> <p>♥ 10 6</p> <p>♦ K 5 2</p> <p>♣ K 10 8 7 6 5</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ Q 4 2</p> <p>♥ 2</p> <p>♦ A Q 9 8 6 4 3</p> <p>♣ 9 3</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ K 6</p> <p>♥ A K Q J 8 5 4</p> <p>♦ J</p> <p>♣ A Q 2</p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>♠ A J 10 9 5 3</p> <p>♥ 9 7 3</p> <p>♦ 10 7</p> <p>♣ J 4</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>W N E S</p> </div> </div>			
West <i>Cohen</i>	North <i>Fantoni</i>	East <i>Berkowitz</i>	South <i>Nunes</i>
3NT	3♦	Dble	Pass
6♣	Pass	5NT	Pass
6NT		6♥	Pass

The deal comes from the 2006 Fall North American championships in Honolulu. What would you say on David Berkowitz's cards when North opens 3♦? I am tempted to say that it is the world's most obvious 4♥ overcall. Such a bid, particularly when made at adverse vulnerability, shows a

decent hand. Although you are top-weight for 4♥, the action is eminently preferable to a take-out double, which may have unforeseen consequences.

Larry Cohen responded 3NT, which suggests some values, and Berkowitz was now nervous of rebidding only 4♥. In that case, may I suggest 5♥? His actual choice was 5NT, which usually means 'pick a slam'. Berkowitz must have had some other meaning in mind, since he corrected partner's 6♣ to 6♥ anyway.

Cohen retreated to 6NT and if world champion, Fantoni, had found a spade lead the slam might go twelve down vulnerable. Unluckily he chose a passive heart lead and (as the Honolulu bulletin insisted on putting it) 'this made 26 tricks difference!' Berkowitz scored 1470 instead of losing 1200.

At the other table the Italians bid to 6♥ and the Americans sacrificed in 6♠, which cost 500.

■ **Awards:** 4♥ – 10, 5♥/5♣ – 6, 5NT – 5, slams – 3.

AFTER a promising start our experts bid two poor slams, ending with a moderate 40 out of 60. Let's look for some worthwhile tips.

Tips to remember

- Do not open 1NT on a 5-4-2-2 shape when you can bid both your suits conveniently.
- A rebid of responder's suit opposite a 2NT rebid (1♥ – 1♠ – 2NT – 3♠, or 1♥ – 2♦ – 2NT – 3♦) should be forcing.
- Do not cue-bid a shortage in your partner's main suit. This makes accurate evaluation impossible.
- Bidding a major-suit game over an opposing pre-empt suggests a powerful hand. There is no need to show strength by starting with a take-out double instead. □

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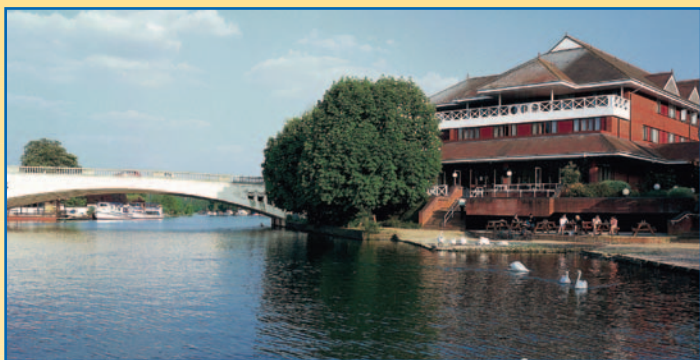
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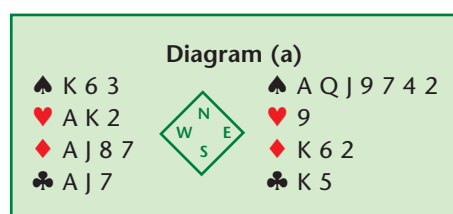
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The 2NT opening bid continued

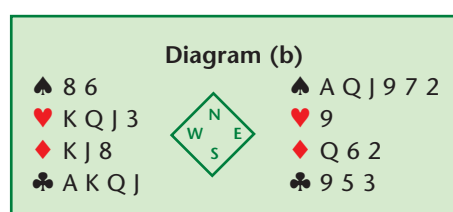
Red-suit Transfer bids – One-suited hands

AS with bidding over 1NT, the four-level transfer is used either when you want to sign off in 4♥/4♠, or when you want to set trumps and investigate a slam, as in Diagram (a):



West	East
2NT	4♥
4♠	4NT
5♦	7NT

Here East uses the 4♥ transfer to agree spades and then bids Roman Key Card Blackwood. Reassured by the 5♦ bid (1 or 4 key cards) that West has the ♠K and the three side-suit aces, East decides that West must have the ♥K or a minor-suit queen to make the grand slam lay-down.



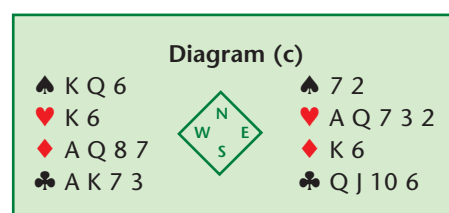
West	East
2NT	3♥
3♠	4♠

In (b), East makes a three-level transfer and raises to game to make a mild slam try. West is not interested so passes 4♠.

Two suited hands with a major and a minor

If you transfer opposite partner's 2NT opening and then bid a new suit at the

four level you are showing a two-suited hand with at least 5-4 shape. In Diagram (c), the auction shows a good sequence to the best contract.

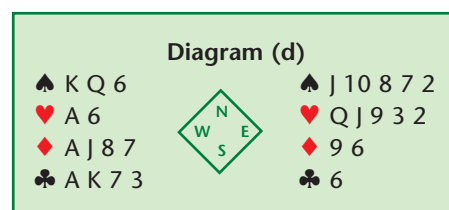


West	East
2NT	3♦
3♥	4♣
4♦	4NT
5♣	6♣

East has shown at least five hearts and at least four clubs. West shows he likes one of East's suits by making a cue-bid of 4♦. It is assumed that the agreed suit is clubs, the last bid suit, unless West gives preference to hearts at some stage. 4NT is Roman Key-Card Blackwood and 5♣ shows 0 or 3 of the key cards (the four aces and the ♣K).

Responder has both major suits

With five hearts and four spades responder can transfer into hearts and then bid 3♠. With five spades and four hearts responder bids 3♠ opposite 2NT. With 5-5 in the major suits and no slam ambitions, responder can go through 3♣ and then bid 4♥ if the response is 3NT, as in Diagram (d). This is consistent with my recommended bidding over 1NT.



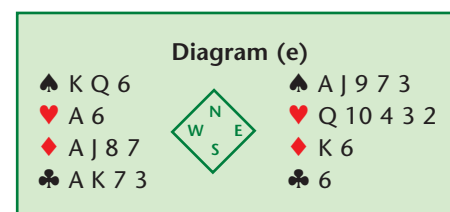
West	East
2NT	3♣
3NT	4♥
4♠	



Andrew Kambites

NO-TRUMP BIDDING

Conversely, in Diagram (e):



West	East
2NT	3♥
3♠	4♥
6♠	

With 5-5 in the major suits and wishing to make a slam try, responder transfers into spades and then bids 4♥. West, knowing that East has a 5-5 shape and (since he did not bid 3♣ initially) slam invitational values, is happy to bid the spade slam.

Hands with a minor suit

If you can bear to give up your beloved Gerber look at the auction below:

West	East
2NT	4♣
4♦	4♠
4NT	

The 4♣ bid shows an undisclosed minor suit and a hand worth a slam try. The 4♦ response is forced and asks: 'Which minor?', over which 4♥ would show clubs and 4♠ shows diamonds. 4NT is natural, saying: 'I don't like your diamonds.'

This use of 4♣ is clearly necessary if you play 4♦ as a transfer to 4♥ because you need to have some way of showing a diamond suit. □

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Hear hear!

THIS issue of *English Bridge* is the first one for over six years which has not been edited by my friend and occasional partner Brian Cook. Brian is a long-standing and valued member of the Kingsbridge Regal Bridge Club, and the occasion of his retirement presents an opportunity for me to introduce to readers the man they will know only as 'The Editor'.

Brian, as well as having been an excellent editor of the magazine, is both a teacher of bridge, and a very capable player. This year, for example, he played in the final of the National Pairs, and his team

won a local league, reached the final of the Devon Teams, and is through to the quarter-finals of the NICKO Plate. While the magazine has lost a fine editor, we look forward to seeing more of him at our club, now that he no longer has the 'Sorry, got a printer's deadline to meet' excuse!

On behalf of all the members of the Kingsbridge Regal Bridge Club, and no doubt also on behalf of many readers of *English Bridge*, may I thank Brian for all his efforts in support of our game, and wish him an enjoyable retirement.

**Steve Dooley, Chairman,
Kingsbridge Regal Bridge Club**

Health Warning

I WRITE to support the suggestion from Alex Shave (June 2007) that the bidder announces the meaning of her own bids. (At our club, this would regularise what some players do already.)

Moreover, why not extend this to the play? Instead of complicated discard systems, whose meaning is not known to some players, the defender 'announces' the intention of each discard, such as 'I would like a diamond please partner.'

Also, how often when you finesse a queen does the king lie in the wrong place? Declarer could 'announce' his intention to finesse, whereupon the def-

ender behind the queen is required to announce 'Holding king' (or 'Not holding king').

Similarly, it is very irritating when you rely on a 3-3 suit break to find they break 4-2. So declarer could announce 'Playing for 3-3 break', and the defender with four cards must announce 'Holding four'.

Clearly there is much scope for improvement in this new scheme of announcements!

**Mike McMorran,
Bournemouth**

The spoil-sports at the L&E Committee have asked me to point out that this is but a (wonderful) joke.

Psyching is legal

THE letter from L Haynes regarding the bad way his psyche was received was very sad. In the good old days players were congratulated on a good psyche!

Psyches were invented by Dorothy Sims at a time when bidding systems were unable to cope with some complex situations. She took full credit for her invention, which was seen

as a successful poker bluff.

Nowadays bidding systems can cope with much, but there are still situations when psyches are appropriate and no one should take offence. Indeed, the *Orange Book* assures us they are legal provided they are not part of an agreement between partners and are not 'fielded'.

Peter Dunn, Moulton

Penalties

REGARDING the continuing debate about 'bad behaviour' at the table, I wonder what action can be taken to eradicate one of the worst problems that beset Pairs evenings.

At the end of one of the boards North starts to score and announces quite loudly something along the lines of 'Right, that's Board 15, Four hearts, plus one, 450 our way,' prompting sighs of disbelief from the table that will be playing the board in a few minutes' time and all-round hisses of 'shush' that arrive too late to stop the damage.

This tends to happen a number of times at a number of tables throughout the course of the evening. The advent of Bridgemates has not changed things at all. How do we stop it? Heavy match-point fines? Public floggings?

Ed Glinert, Manchester

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agrees with the views expressed or that the
comments are factually correct.

Tell me, do!

I NOTICED some inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the June County News section. It highlights the difficulty of getting up-to-date, accurate information and different counties have different ideas of what should be reported. To me, copious details of county competitions are inappropriate for *English Bridge*, as all that appears in the county magazines anyway and means nothing to outsiders. Successes in congresses and national competitions are of more general interest.

Bob McRobert, Winchester

Do tell me what you want to read in County News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Serious fun

I'VE just opened my June issue of *English Bridge* and read the superb spoof article by Sally Bugden on 'Introducing Penalties'. If you are rude to anyone, including scorers and caddies (who's rude to caddies?), you will be fined a minimum of 20% of a top for a first offence, with escalating penalties thereafter. 'Gloating' is to be punished on the same sliding scale, although it remains permissible to say 'Well played' to partner. That last, I fear, is an error. The way some people say 'Well played' is definitely a form of gloating. What about: 'Well played, PARTNER!' or 'Well played partner, should be a top', or 'Well played partner, that's a top from here to Mars!' (looking pityingly at opponents).

There is of course a lot more that could be done (as a first thought, how about modifying Bridgemates to deliver a finely calibrated series of electric shocks to serial gloaters?), but well done to Sally and her committee (I assume there was a committee?) for setting the ball rolling.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, the EBU might like to contemplate the fate of laws that are impossible to implement or prove wholly arbitrary in their application. They fall into disrepute.

Discretionary regimes, if applied with good sense, tend not to suffer that fate.

Gwynn Davis, Bristol

Sally Bugden, EBU Vice Chairman, replies: Our research shows, and our players state, that bad behaviour turns people away from bridge. It is our duty to protect all players and thus enhance our game. □



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A memorable hand

THE following deal occurred in the Carousel Cup in Amsterdam, the top invitational teams event where our Junior and Under-20 teams had the opportunity to test themselves against the best in Europe:

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

South deals and opens 1♦, and North responds 1♠. Playing a weak no-trump, South should respond 1NT, the least of all evils. If, however, the strong no-trump is being used, then South's next bid is very difficult. 1NT is too weak and 2♥ is too strong. 2♦ doesn't feel right and 2♣ creates problems later. If the red suits break kindly, 7♦ makes easily; however, it is hard enough to get to the small slam. Perhaps North should respond 2♣, game forcing, and South can bid out his shape without the constraints of a reverse.

Try covering the East-West hands and decide on the best line to make 6♦ on a spade lead. In fact, it is the type of deal

which appears in books on expert card play. Win the spade ace and advance the diamond nine. If it holds, draw trumps and claim. If it loses, a heart can be ruffed in dummy and trumps drawn.

The more difficult scenario is a club lead, likely to be a singleton. Without seeing through the backs of the cards, a first round finesse against the jack of diamonds is unlikely. The strange, but winning line is to win the club ace and return the queen. If West ruffs, there is plenty of time to test the diamonds and ruff a heart for twelve tricks. Should West refuse to ruff, it is a reasonable assumption that he is looking at a trump trick, so revert to the diamond finesse.

Both the above plays appear to be counter-intuitive, but they equally rely on retaining trump control: i.e. if a trump trick has to be lost, lose it early to avoid problems later.

Send us a good deal from actual play and if our judge, Colin Simpson (who has provided this month's deal) likes it, we will publish it in this column. Entries by e-mail to amemorablehand@ebu.co.uk or by post to the Editor, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR. □

60th Birthday Anniversary

STONE Bridge Cub have been in existence for the last sixty years and to show that they are still forward-thinking they have just ordered a set of Bridgemates, the wireless electronic scoring devices. This has been made possible with a donation of half the cost from Brewin Dolphin Securities of Town Road, Hanley, Stoke on Trent.

To celebrate all this the club invited Andrew Robson to give two seminars, each attended by over eighty players. The celebrations continued with the club's annual dinner the following day, attended by one hundred and eighteen people. The guest speaker was Michael Amos, the new EBU Youth Officer.

The club has almost one hundred and forty members and keeps that number partly through the teaching that takes place at the club for beginners and improvers, and partly through its website, www.stonebridgeclub.co.uk, maintained by club member Brian Wiggins.

Stone B.C. President, Kath Adams, has been researching the minute books and says the final word ought to go to Mr E.C. Parr who, in 1958, said: 'The social side has ever been this club's strong point and its friendly atmosphere the envy of other bridge clubs for miles around.'

Romance across the table

IN June 2003 four players from the Peterborough Bridge Club, Richard Brewer, Mike Kennedy, Marion and Trevor King went off to play bridge at the Shrewsbury Congress. Little did they know that after the Swiss Teams life was going to change for one of them!

In the last but one round Trevor looked at the team they had drawn, and said to Mike and Richard: 'You're going to enjoy playing against these two women.' One of them was Jurdy Pearce from Cardiff. Richard's team lost by 1 VP, but he got the girl!

Jurdy moved to Peterborough a year later, but on 10th June 2007 she returned to Cardiff with Richard for their wedding in the fairy-tale setting of Castell Coch. Five bridge clubs were represented: Cardiff, Rhiwbina, Orton, Peterborough and Kendal.

Richard and Jurdy now play most of their bridge at Peterborough and Orton, but also enjoy weekend congresses around England and Wales.



Richard and Jurdy Brewer on their wedding day

2007 3rd EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: ENGLAND'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Mixed Teams (Gold): Heather and Jeremy Dhondy (with Matilda and Lilo Popilov of Israel; see article on page 7).

Mixed Teams (Joint Bronze): Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski, Nevena Senior and Nick Sandqvist.

Women's Teams (Silver): Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior (with Israel's Matilda Popilov).

Open Pairs (Silver): Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski.

Women Pairs (Silver): Nevena Senior and Sandra Penfold.

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EB07

The kibitzer knew best!

THE 33rd bridge encounter between the two Houses of Parliament took place, once again, at the sumptuous premises of the Crockford's Club in London W1. It was sponsored by Stephen Perry of London Export, and run by the EBU with assistance from Andrew Robson, resplendent in a black suit, sandals and no socks.

The running score being 16 all, both teams were determined to prevail.

The 2007 Lords v Commons match, played as a Teams of Eight with aggregate scoring, started off with the Commons in a frisky mood: they amassed 1480 points over the first seven boards, and were well pleased with themselves. Traditionally, the Lords make their come-back in the second half of the match, after the lunch break – when members of the Lower House perhaps enjoy their wine more than their Upper counterparts. This year, however, the Lords staged an onslaught as from Board 8, and eventually run away the winners with a net score of 4820 points.

The match is always played in the friendliest of spirits and calls for the Director are unheard of. Few of the competitors are familiar with duplicate bridge practice – and some don't have much experience at rubber bridge either! Most of them, though, are endearingly conscious of the fact that they would not stand much chance of representing the country at bridge, and often turn to the kibitzers for advice. One such occasion was when two enterprising MPs bid to a small slam and claimed twelve tricks at the end of play. Their disconsolate opponents turned to bridge writer David Bird, who had been kibitzing, asking how they could have beaten the contract. 'But you *have* beaten it!' replied a perplexed David, proceeding to demonstrate that only eleven tricks had been made. Amid much blushing and laughter, the correct result was then recorded, contributing to the Lords' victory. (EJ)

The teams: COMMONS: Michael Mates (Captain), Evan Harris, John Hemming, Tony McWalter, John Marek, Nick Palmer, Bridget Prentice and Robin Squire.

LORDS: (left to right in the picture): Lord Harrison, Lord May, Lord Kalms, Lady Billingham, Lord Baker, Lady Henig, The Earl of Caithness and Lord Skelmersdale (Captain). □

PRIZE PLAY QUIZ

A competition you can all enter

TAKE A look at the play situation below and give your answer. Please include a brief explanation of your reasoning.

There are three categories in our competition: for players up to and including County Masters; for those up to and including Regional Master; and for those with higher ranking.

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

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

West leads the ♥3 and East plays the ♥K. How do you set about the play?

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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. Julian Pottage will judge the entries and the first correct answer drawn in each category will win a prize.



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Sharpen your bidding with Splinters bids

BILL Mason from Southampton writes:

I played this hand recently with one of my regular partners, and though we stopped in 4♠, we both felt that there ought to be a way to judge to bid the making slam. Can you help?

Love All. Dealer North.		
♠ K 7 4		
♥ K Q 6 3		
♦ A K 9		
♣ 9 6 2		
♠ 9		♠ J 3 2
♥ J 9 8 5		♥ 10 7
♦ 10 5 3 2		♦ J 8 4
♣ K Q 10 4		♣ A J 7 5 3
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 10px;"> N W E S </div> </div>		
♠ A Q 10 8 6 5		
♥ A 4 2		
♦ Q 7 6		
♣ 8		

I opened 1♥ with the North hand, my partner responded 1♠, and I rebid 1NT. Knowing that we must have an eight-card fit, and around 27 points, partner then jumped to 4♠. I passed and we made twelve tricks after West led two rounds of clubs. Should I have bid on over his 4♠ bid, or should my partner have been the one to look for a slam?

Dear Bill

Thank you for sending me this deal, which raises several interesting points. First, it was right to pass 4♠: this bid did not invite a slam. With slam interest, South is expected to find an alternative route, which raises an important area for partnership discussion.

Most regular partnerships have well-developed methods after an opening bid of 1NT, but many find they lack definition after a 1NT rebid. There are several conventional methods one might consider: playing transfers, or 'Checkback' (assigning an artificial meaning to 2♣ and possibly 2♦). With natural methods, responder can show slam interest by jumping in a new suit, and making an ace-showing cue-bid if you agree spades at the three level.

A slam is excellent on the given deal

(despite the combined 27 points), because partner's singleton is not opposite any wasted values, leaving all his high-cards working to their full potential opposite your high-cards. There is a treatment, with which you may be familiar, which allows you to deduce that this is the case.

A Splinter is typically a double jump in a new suit, guaranteeing the values for Game, a fit, and shortage (singleton or void) in the bid suit. Partner evaluates his holding opposite the shortage, asking himself whether the Splinter has reduced the number of losers in the suit. Thus, possession of the ace, and/or length in the suit, is deemed to be useful; other honours, or shortage, are not useful.

Splinters are a powerful tool for evaluating the potential of low point-count distributional hands, and they can be employed after a 1NT rebid. On the hand you give, partner's best bid after your 1NT rebid is 4♣. This would tell you that responder has a slam-interested hand with



David Bakhshi

YOUR QUESTIONS

shortage in clubs, and that the partnership has a trump fit. The trump suit must be spades, and you can deduce responder has at least six, to be sure of a fit. To agree one's own suit in this way is technically called an 'auto-splinter' or a 'self-agreeing splinter'.

After the 4♣ bid, three club losers have become at most one, and you would cue-bid 4♦. Responder would make a cue-bid of 4♥, and now, after checking with 4NT (Blackwood or Key-Card), you can take the plunge and bid the spade slam with confidence. □

PRIDE OF THE MIDLANDS FORGES AHEAD

WEST Midlands Bridge Club, founded over forty years ago, has undertaken a half-million pound extension and complete refurbishment of their current premises. The installation of a lift, together with toilets on both floors for women, men and disabled, has brought the club's standards up to comply with all the latest regulations, while a totally new and enlarged kitchen is giving our incomparable Jayne the opportunity to display her culinary skills to even more advantage.

With over 500 members and bridge in various formats being played every day of the week, we have identified that the main future growth potential lies in the social and less competitive bridge areas, which encompasses nearly 70% of our members. Sunday lunch and bridge, and Saturday supper and bridge, are always popular, and it is intended that we will broaden this into other days of the week, with bridge in a variety of formats being played every morning, afternoon and evening.

We currently provide education at all levels and this life-blood of any club will be further expanded to give education facilities every day of the week.

On some evenings we already enjoy 30 to 40 tables in play, and the new enlarged premises will enable us to accommodate over 50 tables, while, in addition, 6 match rooms provide excellent facilities for our many league teams. Situated at the heart of England, West Midlands Bridge Club is handily placed and in close proximity to a network of motorways making access easy. This, together with generous parking facilities, makes it an ideal venue to relax and enjoy your bridge in a first-class environment.

The new club premises were opened on Saturday 30th June in a ceremony headed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull, together with our local MP, Lorely Burt. This will herald the start of a week-long celebration of bridge in various formats, with over £1,000 in prizes.

Roy Moore

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ AUGUST

- 10-19 EBU Summer Meeting,
Brighton
20 Closing Date for
Crockfords Cup
31-Sept 2 Junior Teach-in,
Loughborough University

■ SEPTEMBER

- 1 - 2 Open Trials Stage 1
Young Chelsea Bridge Club
7 - 9 National Women's Teams
Hinckley
14 - 16 Isle of Man Congress
Isle of Man
15 - 16 Open Trials Stage 2A
West Midlands Bridge Club
17 - 18 EBU Autumn Sim Pairs
Clubs
21 - 30 Guernsey Congress and
Seniors Congress
Guernsey
22 - 23 Bedford Congress
Towcester
29 One-day events
**Derbyshire, Oxfordshire,
Surrey**
29 - 13 World Championships
(Bermuda Bowl
and Venice Cup)
Shanghai
30 One-day events
**Avon, Cornwall,
Derbyshire, Hertfordshire,
Surrey**

■ OCTOBER

- 5 - 7 West of England Congress
Weston-super-Mare
6 - 7 Great Northern Swiss Pairs
Warrington
10 - 11 BGB Autumn Sim Pairs
Clubs
11 - 16 2nd Autumn Overseas
Congress, **Rhodes**
13 - 14 Junior Trials
Loughborough
20 - 21 Lederer Memorial Trophy
London
27 - 28 Open Trials Stage 2B
Young Chelsea Bridge Club
27 - 28 Malvern Congress
Bransford

■ NOVEMBER

- 2 - 4 Autumn Congress
Bournemouth
6 - 12 (Madeira International
Bridge Open – **Madeira**)
9 - 11 Seniors Congress
Daventry
9 - 11 NEBA Congress
Allensford
10 - 11 Open Trials Stage
Semifinal and Final
Young Chelsea Bridge Club
17 - 18 Middlesex Congress
Stevenage
22 - 2 (American Fall Nationals,
San Francisco)
24-25 Tollemache Qualifying
Hinckley

Two new friendly faces at the EBU

Club Liaison Officer:

Krys Kazmierczak

was born in 1950 in London, of Polish parents. 'I'm often asked how to pronounce my surname,' Krys says, 'and I usually answer "with difficulty!"'



The nearest equivalent in English is what I tell the bank: "Cash me a cheque." My first name is pronounced just like the English Chris. Krys's previous jobs have mostly been in tourism, including running his own natural history tour operator business.

As the EBU Club Liaison Officer, Krys hopes to be able to help the Union and its clubs work together more closely to make them more successful. He is undertaking a programme of visits to bridge clubs around the country. If your club would like a visit, drop him a line at krys@ebu.co.uk.

Youth Officer:

Mike Amos is

the EBU Youth Officer. His duties will be all things to do with bridge in universities and schools, as well as liaising with the Junior Squad managers (e-mail: mamos@ebu.co.uk).



'I've been playing bridge since I was 15 years old – over 35 years,' says Mike. 'That's longer than I've been doing almost anything else I still manage regularly – like drinking beer!'

Mike adds: 'It was when playing bridge in school that one of my life-long claims to fame began – as the player who has gone off in more "cold" vulnerable games than any other. Victor Mollo was right when he advocated Monster Points rather than Master Points. I'd be a Grand Monster three times over by now.'

Mike is a retired psychologist with many years' experience of teaching.

RESU

The 2006/2007 final was won by (David Burn, Ja Hackett, Artur M Sandqvist) who Hinden (Jeffrey Cooke, Graham aggregate points ning margin) ove final. This comple double for the who also won t **Cup** final only (see article and page 11).

Congratulations t and Andrew Gro won the 2007 Co county pairs. R Matthew Hoskin Southwell (Sussex and Alan Oddie (

Well done also to CBA, represente John Auld, Lloyd Rodgers, on winn **Cup** for county te Kent second and S

Reminders



The Competitions Department (☎ 01296 317203/5) may still take your bookings if you want to enter any of the events at the Brighton Congress (August 10-19), or the 2nd Autumn Congress in Rhodes (October 11-16). Enquiries about travel and accommodation in Rhodes to Bridge Overseas, free phone 0800 0346 246.

To enter the Junior Trials (October 13-14) in Loughborough, contact John Pain (john@ebu.co.uk).

There have been changes to the *Orange Book*. These are listed on page 39 in this issue and are explained on page 13.

**For all the latest news
go to www.ebu.co.uk**

Closing date for entries: 20th August

Crockfords Cup 2007 – 2008

England's premier teams championship

The competition, for teams of four, consists of five knock-out matches played privately, qualifying event and an all-play-all final. Up to sixteen teams will be seeded. Seeded teams will be exempt until Round Three (of sixty-four) and will not be drawn to meet until before the round of sixteen. Any team that defeats a seeded team will attain seeded status themselves.

Unseeded teams losing their first match will have automatic entry into the Plate.

**Entries ☎ 01296 317203/5
or e-mail comps@ebu.co.uk**

ULTS

Hubert Phillips
Janet de Botton
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Allerton, Jon
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A STRATEGY FOR BRIDGE

by Sally Bugden



Your role in future plans

INSERTED in this issue of *English Bridge* is a copy of the strategy proposals that the EBU announced at its shareholders meeting on 6 June. This initial phase of the strategy is intended to revitalise our clubs and their membership, resulting in a vibrant bridge playing community at all levels in England and achieving our aim of universal membership.

Why do we need to address the future of duplicate bridge in England?

It is the EBU's job to develop and promote bridge in this country. The changes that have occurred in society in the last twenty years mean that there is little or no teaching and playing of bridge in the family environment. We are constantly asked by our members about developing the game in schools, universities, amongst the middle aged and the elderly. We cannot do this without a strong and increasing membership base.

The proposals are based on research and analysis of EBU clubs and members, and also include investigations of best practice in Europe where France, Holland and Sweden have strong and healthy bridge playing communities which demand the type of services that we are proposing to offer our club players. These countries embrace universal membership.

Key features of the proposal

- The annual membership subscription and Master Point charges will be abolished.
- A Pay to Play (P2P) scheme will be introduced, in which a small table charge is levied for every player at every duplicate session in an affiliated club.
- A one-time only Registration Fee of £5 for new or lapsed EBU members.

- An extensive range of free services will be provided to affiliated Clubs, including a National Rating scheme.
- The annual Club Affiliation fee will be based on the number of duplicate playing sessions per week.

Our shareholders will be consulting with their county committees, clubs and individual members between now and the AGM on October 3rd, when a full discussion will take place on the proposals. There is also an FAQ section on the front page of our website where you can gather more information.

Your views are extremely important to us, and we look forward to receiving your constructive comments.

Announcing and alerting – on-line survey

At the beginning of August we will be conducting an on-line survey to establish the opinions of our members on the new Orange Book regulations on announcing and alerting which were introduced last August. We have visited several clubs around the country and discussed this matter and we have constructed our survey from their views. Please go to www.ebu.co.uk and follow the links from the home page to complete the survey which is only taking place on-line. The results of the survey with plans for the future will be published on the website and in the October issue of *English Bridge*.

We are undertaking many more web based activities as our membership survey showed us that the majority of you -over 88% - have access to the internet either at home or at work. Using the web saves our membership money not only on human resources but also postage. It also provides a more immediate response. If you do not have access to the internet and want to take part in our surveys please visit your local public library which provides free internet access and help if you have never used a computer before. □

Changes to Calendar Dates



Please note the
following changes
to calendar dates
for 2007:

National Women's Teams

This will take place on 7 - 9 September, at Hinckley.

EBU Autumn Congress

This has been moved from 19 - 21 October to 2 - 4 November. It will still be held in Bournemouth.

EBU Senior Congress

This will now be held on 9 - 11 November instead of 2 - 4 November, still in Daventry.

JUNIOR TEACH-IN WEEKEND

31 Aug - 2 Sept 2007
Loughborough University

All levels catered for,
from absolute beginners to
junior experts (age 8- 21)



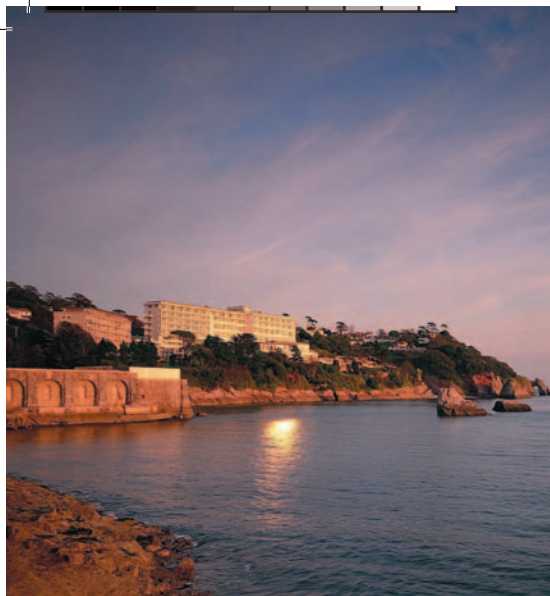
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Torquay Bridge Christmas House Party 2007

December 24th – 27th

Mid-week Bridge Break

December 27th – 30th

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A friendly team of hosts and directors

There are two house party programmes to choose from over the Christmas period December 24th – 27th and 27th – 30th. Both events containing six sessions of duplicate bridge, four duplicate pairs and two teams sessions.

Hosting the Christmas break will be John Pyner, an EBU National Tournament Director. John is a Life Master and has been in charge of many national events including Crockfords final. He will be assisted by his wife Maggs Pyner, herself a county player.

Seminars will be in the hands of Martin Jones, Grand Master and international player. A double Gold Cup and Spring Fours winner Martin has the happy knack of giving simple straightforward advice.

Other hosts are Steve Quinn, John and Joy Morrey-Brown. They are local and will give you advice on places of interest in the area. Steve is an EBU Tournament Director and Joy is well known as the driving force behind the Torquay Bridge Club Congress.

The mid-week break post Christmas has the same staffing except Neil Morley who replaces John Pyner. Neil is a senior EBU Tournament Director, known to many for his running of the Guernsey and Jersey Congresses as well as his successful bridge cruises with P&O.

What is included

- ❖ Three nights' accommodation including full breakfast;
- ❖ Complete Christmas fayre with a three-course dinner each night including wine;
- ❖ Lunch each day and all teas & coffees plus Christmas cake, mince pies and other goodies;
- ❖ Four Duplicate Pairs sessions and two Swiss Teams sessions;
- ❖ Prizes of weekend breaks, champagne and wines for overall rankings and session prizes;
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Mid week Christmas break. Price £214 each. Deposit £60 each (balance payable 28 days prior to the event). Includes three nights' accommodation with full breakfast, dinner each night and lunches. All teas & coffees plus session prizes.

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SPECIAL EVENTS
WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

Even the experts can botch the bidding of freak hands

THE Bonn Nations Cup has always been a top level competition, an invitation event for many of the top teams around Europe, and this year the field was especially strong. Teams from Romania, Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands, along with the German team that had won the Champions Cup last October, and Austria, Sweden and Turkey. Three of those countries had qualified last year in Warsaw for the Bermuda Bowl, so it wasn't going to be an easy ride!

The format was to split the twenty teams into two groups of ten, and have them play a complete round robin of nine ten-board matches. At the end of the round robin, the winners of each group would face each other in a head-to-head match. This meant that the competition was fierce, since only the winners could qualify.

England started well with a solid 20-10 VP win over Bulgaria, but faded badly in the next two matches, a 9-21 VP loss to Denmark, and then a heavy defeat (4-25 VP) against the strongest of the three German teams. Match four of nine was England vs Poland, the group leaders, and it was hard to see at the time that these two teams would be finishing respectively first and second in the group.

The deal below, taken from that encounter, saw a rarity even in today's world of computer-dealt hands: the thirteen-card fit.

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

With the spade finesse right for North-South, 5♦ is an easy make, simply losing one heart and one club trick. What is less obvious is that East-West have a paying save in 5♠: even doubled, it's only 100 points away (assuming declarer doesn't lose a trick in clubs) – much cheaper than 600 for a vulnerable game. It was not easy to find, though, especially since both East and West have a six-card suit, neither of which is spades...

At the table where Poland were East-West, they showed how to get spades into the bidding by overcalling 1♦ with 1♠. The full auction was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichocki</i>	<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Pikus</i>	<i>Woodcock</i>
1♠	2♠*	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

* Unassuming Cue-bid

West's 1♠ overcall is quite a distortion of the hand and not to be recommended. However, here it worked well in that it not only got West's side to 5♠ very quickly, but also it left the club suit totally concealed, so that North led his singleton and exposed his partner's queen straight away.

With England East-West, the auction was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Skrypczak</i>
2♣	3♣*	3♥	3NT
4♠	4NT	5♣	Dble
Pass	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

* Unassuming Cue-bid

Tom Townsend held the West cards and sensibly overcalled 1♦ with 2♣. The auction continued with 3♣ (once again the opponent's suit being used to show a good raise in partner's suit, the so-called 'Unassuming Cue-bid') and David Gold bid 3♥ as East. Since he had passed as dealer (not opening a Weak Two) there was an inference that he either had four spades, or



Michael Byrne

REPORTS

he had only a good five-card heart suit, backed up with club support for his partner. When South continued to 3NT, Townsend chimed in with 4♠, happy to play at the five level if his partner could only support clubs. When North-South finally got round to bidding 5♦, East had a comfortable 5♠ bid. This was doubled, and again West picked up the clubs to escape for one off, 100 to North-South and a flat board. Well judged all round!

In case you think it seems easy to reach a spade contract, at those tables where East opened a Weak 2♥ the spade fit was lost forever, East-West eventually conceding 600 when North-South bid and made 5♦.

'The most hilarious incident ensued at another table'

The most hilarious incident ensued at another table where South opened 1♦ and the next player overcalled 2♦ as part of the ghastly Ghestem convention, showing the two 'extreme' unbid suits. The East player, looking at his diamond void, convinced himself that 2♦ was natural and passed it out – six off for 300 to North-South!

The rest of the match was mostly flat and the eventual score-line was 18-12 VP to Poland. At this stage England were second from bottom in the group, but five straight wins resulted in a second-place finish. This was not enough to get us through to the knock-out stages but we continued in the Swiss event, and ended up winners of the Swiss and third-placed overall, behind Hungary and runners-up Poland. It was England's best result for seven years. □

England: Tom Townsend and David Gold (London), Andrew Woodcock and Michael Byrne (Manchester).



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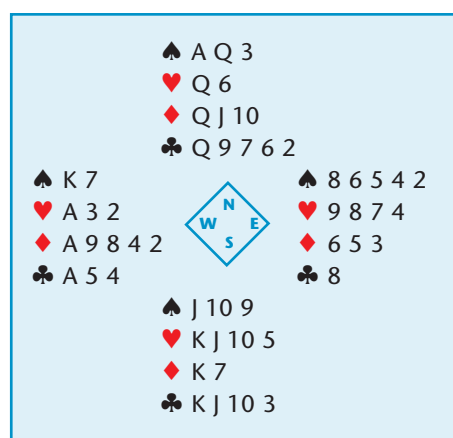
PRIZE DEFENCE ANSWERS

PIATNIK

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QUIZ Master Andrew Kambites gives his view of the best line of defence in our June competition and awards prizes in three categories.

1. What would you lead as West after the auction shown?



West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

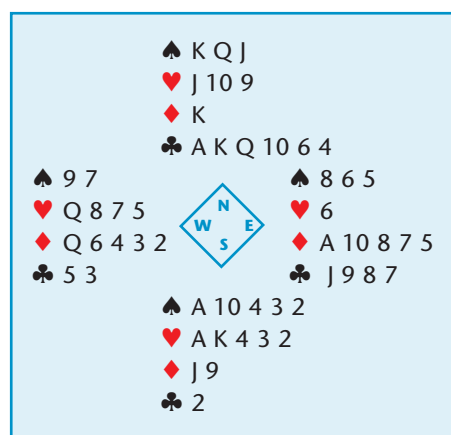
One of the cardinal principles of bridge is that you should not mislead partner in defence. However, here it is unlikely to matter since he is marked as having too few high cards to influence the play. In that case, might you profitably mislead declarer?

If you lead the standard ♦4 and then show the ♦2, you make it obvious that diamonds are 5-3. Declarer will drive out the ♣A and then might decide to take the successful spade finesse for his contract.

Suppose instead that you lead the ♦2. Declarer will believe that diamonds are 4-4, so it will seem safe to drive out the ♣A and ♥A rather than rely on the spade finesse. That allows you to take five tricks.

This is the last set of answers to Prize Defence Problems conducted by Andrew Kambites. A new Prize Play Quiz, also sponsored by PIATNIK, starts on page 23.

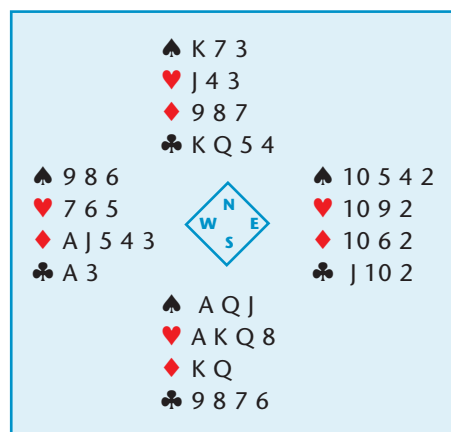
2. Your partner, West, leads the ♦3. How do you defend?



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

You must hope that declarer has a heart loser. All you can do is to try to ensure that declarer cannot set up and use dummy's club suit. You should win the ♦A and play back a second diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. Declarer now cannot avoid taking the heart finesse.

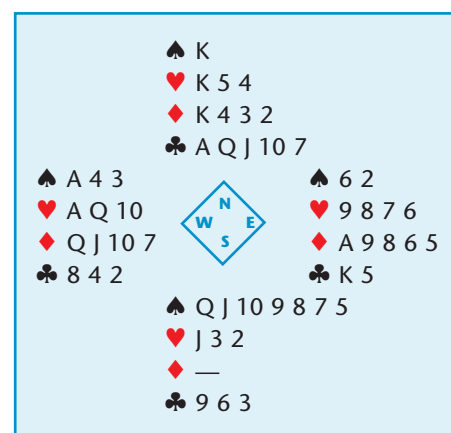
3. You lead the ♦4 to your partner's ♦10 and declarer wins with the ♦Q. At trick two, declarer leads the ♣6 from hand. Plan the defence.



West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

With a combined total of at least 29 points declarer surely has enough tricks for his contract, unless you can gather five tricks first. Partner has at most 2 points, so you have little chance of finding an entry to his hand to enable him to switch back to a diamond through declarer's ♦K. Hence, your only chance is to hope that declarer started with just doubleton ♦K-Q. Rise with your ♣A and lay down the ♦A. If you play low on the club declarer will gratefully scoop in his ninth trick with dummy's ♣K.

4. Your ♦Q lead is covered by dummy's ♦K and East's ♦A. Declarer ruffs and leads a trump. Can you defeat 4♠?



West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Win the ♠A and try to work out where three more tricks might come from. You will need partner to have the ♣K and must certainly try to establish heart tricks before dummy's clubs can be used for heart discards. The only switch that works with the above layout is the ♥Q. Declarer takes dummy's ♥K but East later gains the lead with the ♣K and leads back a heart. □

Congratulations to the winners:

Open: Don Smedley, Aston on Trent

Regional: Roy Edmunds, Ipswich

County: Geoff Lacey, Harpenden



Sandra Landy

Leading questions

MOST players find bidding far more exciting than card play and failure to reach the best contract can lead to lengthy discussions. But try as I may I cannot get the same enthusiasm for that other area where the two partners must communicate – defensive card play.

The only way one defender can pass information to their partner is by the cards played. Partners can have agreements about what it means to play a particular card in a particular situation. Of course if they have those agreements, they must take notice of the cards their partner plays.

The opening lead

Just last week, I played with a new player. She had, correctly, overcalled the opponent's 1♥ opening bid with 1♠, but the opponents still reached 4♥. The opening lead was the ♠10. I held ♠4-2 and dummy

had ♠8-7-3. Declarer won ♠A. I won a heart trick and had to decide what to play back. In the end I played a spade and was amazed to discover partner had started with ♠K-Q-J-10-9. She explained she had led fourth highest – wasn't that correct?

My answer was *no*. Our agreement is that we lead the top card of a sequence. From K-Q-J-10-9 any card will do to drive out the ace of spades. But the king of spades gives information to partner about the spade holding too; leading the king of spades shows a holding that includes the queen of spades and that makes it likely that spade tricks can be cashed by the defence, so partner can judge where the defensive tricks are coming from.

Honour leads in no-trumps

The aim of the opening lead to 3NT is to win five tricks before declarer can cash nine. Sometimes we have to give up a trick to establish our winners. For that reason we normally lead our strongest suit. Where the honours held in the suit you are leading form a good sequence, that is

usually the best suit to lead – see the table at the bottom left in this page.

What should you play on partner's lead?

1. Partner leads the jack of clubs, dummy has two small clubs. You have ♣K-7-4, what card should you play?
2. Partner leads the six of spades, dummy has two small spades. You have ♠K-10-8; what card should you play?
3. Partner leads the queen of diamonds, dummy has three small diamonds. You have ♦A-6, what card should you play?

To check your answers look at the table on the left to check possible holdings for partner. It should guide you to selecting the best card – don't read on till you have decided!

On 1, play the king of clubs. Your side can take the first five club tricks if partner has ♣A-J-10-9-6 and will always lose two tricks if partner only has ♣J-10-9-6-5.

On 2, play the king of spades; playing the ten of spades will allow declarer to win his jack of spades when partner has ♠A-Q-9-6-2.

On 3, play the ace of diamonds and return the six of diamonds. Set up partner's suit and hope partner can get on lead to cash the diamond winners.

The lead of a king against no-trumps

Suppose you are on lead to 3NT with ♦A-K-J-10-5. Clearly this is the best suit to lead, as maybe your side can take the first five tricks. A fourth highest diamond could give an unnecessary trick to the queen of diamonds, so you try the king of diamonds to have a look. (See table at the top of the next page.) ➡

♠ K Q 9 6 2 ♠ A Q 9 6 2 ♠ K J 9 6 2	Lead ♠6. When suits have two honours, lead a low card. Most people agree to lead the fourth one down counting from the top. Maybe partner has a useful honour card. Partner will normally return the suit you lead if they win a trick.
♥ A K Q 2	Lead ♥A. Play cards from the top down. The ♥2 will become a winner if neither opponent has four hearts. Do not lead a fourth highest ♥2 or declarer may win a trick with ♥J.
♦ Q J 10 9 8 ♦ K J 10 9 8 ♦ K Q 10 9 2 ♦ A Q J 9 2 ♦ Q J 9 8 4	When honours are in sequence, lead the top one Lead the ♦Q Lead the ♦J Lead the ♦K Lead the ♦Q Lead the ♦Q
♣ A J 10 9 6	Lead ♣J, the top card of an internal sequence. Perhaps declarer has ♣K-Q which must make one trick. But if partner gets in and returns clubs, you may have four winners to cash. Or maybe partner has ♣K and you can cash five club tricks straightaway.

Deal	You hold	Dummy has	Partner plays	Declarer plays
1	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7	♦ 2	♦ 3
2	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7 4	♦ 2	♦ 3
3	♦ A K J 10 5	♦ 9 7 4	♦ 8	♦ 3

What you want to know is: how many diamonds does each player hold? Who has the queen of diamonds? If declarer has it, is it in a holding of two, three or four cards?

- If declarer has ♦ Q-3, you should play your ♦ A next and the queen of diamonds will drop.
- If declarer has ♦ Q-4-3, you should switch to another suit and hope that partner gains the lead and can play back a diamond
- If declarer has ♦ Q-6-4-3, partner has a singleton diamond and you will have to give up a diamond to declarer's queen in order to establish your diamond suit. Or maybe you should switch to another suit and not give a trick away.
- If partner has the diamond queen, you can carry on playing diamonds from the top or perhaps lead a low diamond to partner's queen.

Rules for playing to partner's king leads against no-trumps

See the table below for examples.

- If partner leads a king, you play any honour you hold at trick one.
- Without an honour, give a count signal: play high-low with two or four cards, and low-high with three cards.

In the problem posed, the opening leader knows partner does not have the diamond queen. In the table above, on Deal 1 partner has one or three diamonds; declarer probably has ♦ Q-x-x, so switching to another suit makes sense. On Deal 2 partner has one or three diamonds and declarer has either ♦ Q-x or ♦ Q-x-x-x; play the diamond ace hoping the queen drops. On Deal 3 partner has only one or two diamonds – hope it is the two, and switch to another suit and wait for partner to gain the lead and play a diamond through declarer.

West leads ♥ K from	East has	East plays	Why
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ Q 9 4	♥ Q	Play honour
♥ K Q 10 9 7	♥ J 4 2	♥ J	Play honour
♥ A K Q 10	♥ J 4 2	♥ J	Play honour
♥ K Q J 10 9	♥ A 3	♥ A	Play honour
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 2	♥ 7	Show two
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 6 2	♥ 2	Show three
♥ A K J 10 8	♥ 7 6 4 2	♥ 6	Show four (or two)

The examples in the last table have been taken from *Really Easy Defence*. □

TEACHER'S REPORT

THE Weald of Kent Duplicate Bridge Club recently invited students from my classes to come along for a taster of club bridge. Club members were forewarned of the event; all students sat E/W; a host was available; and the Director relaxed the pace of play and announced that 'the students could do no wrong!'

Fifteen students attended and the afternoon was so successful that we are going to repeat it later in the summer and possibly make it a regular feature in our programme of events. The students made the effort, some travelling quite a distance, realising this was an opportunity not to be missed. We have gone some way in dispelling the hard image of club bridge. Val Golding

The Two-minute Interview

Janet de Botton



JANET de Botton is the captain and sponsor of the team that has won both the Crockfords Cup and the Hubert Phillips Bowl in 2007.

What is your main occupation?

Tate Trustee for ten years.

When did you start playing bridge?

I learnt with David Parry in 1998, and started playing rubber bridge a year later.

How long had you been playing before your first major success?

Six years. My team won the National Swiss Teams in January 2003. I played with Jason Hackett, and Nick Sandqvist played with John Holland.

What made you decide to compete in the Open field rather than in Women's bridge?

I needed all my time and energy to develop my team and consequently I never played with a woman player enough to form a partnership.

What would you change in bridge?

I don't think enough emphasis is put on partnerships. There are many good individual players in England but I don't think we have a successful world challenging team because we have so few developed partnerships. I also think sponsors should be encouraged more by the EBU, as great players need to be nurtured and looked after. I'm good at that!

What are your hobbies outside bridge?

None!



Michelle Brunner

A 1NT opening can include a five-card major

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

WHEN I was a little girl . . . seriously, though, haven't all bridge players grown up with the notion that an opening 1NT bid describes a balanced hand? I and the *Bridge Encyclopedia* (I'm pleased to quote), reckon that includes not just 4-3-3-3 and 4-4-3-2 hands but 5-3-3-2 shapes as well. I can't believe that anyone would entertain the idea of opening 1♣ or 1♦ when their balanced hand includes a five-card minor, since the pre-emptive 1NT opening bid is so carefully designed to simultaneously describe your exact shape and strength. So, why the debate? Because, for some reason, there is a school of thought which strongly disagrees with the premise of making this natural, normal, reliable, sensible, descriptive, logical and patently obvious call just because their balanced hand contains a five-card major. OK, I'm prepared to admit that, occasionally, you will achieve a more favourable result in pursuit of opening the bidding with your five-card major while I am festering in 1NT but, having the courage of my convictions, I have few scars to illustrate those rare incidents.

The 1NT opening bid – in particular the weak variety (that has to be the subject of another debate!) – is the most powerful bid in the system and if you don't use it, you lose it! To convince you, let me start by asking you to consider your rebid. Open 1♥ or 1♠ with a ropey five-carder and (unless your opponents unwittingly come to your aid) you will be forced to rebid your ropey five-card suit. That will, more often than not, lead to a ropey result when your combined fit in that suit is negligible and partner doesn't realise the need to rescue you as he expects you to hold either a six-card suit or a hand that is certainly not balanced. Next, I want you to imagine that

you end up defending and you have to suffer the consequences when partner misguidedly leads your moth-eaten suit (the subject of possibly another debate).

If those two issues alone do not constitute perpetrating a criminal offence, consider, too, the shame in losing the pre-emptive quality of the 1NT opening bid. There is a subtle, yet substantial, difference between the ease of competing over a suit opening bid (even when it is a major) as opposed to the often more dangerous nature of taking action over 1NT. Whilst most bridge players recognise such vagaries as being inherent to the world of bridge, they do little to lessen the pain and, instead, worry unnecessarily about the prospect of losing the possible major-suit fit! Allow me to allay your fears in that department too.

'Owning an eight-card fit does not necessarily mean that you should play in it'

Owning an eight-card fit does not necessarily mean that you should play in it. I could give you plenty of everyday example hands where concealing your 5-3 or 5-4 major-suit fit will propel your partnership into the only contract capable of generating a plus score for your side as, for example, when you have only to make seven, eight or nine tricks in no-trumps as opposed to the equivalent eight, nine or ten required for the major-suit strain. If you have concerns that by not opening your major-suit, your partner might fish out the wrong opening lead should you end up defending . . . well, who's to say your suit will provide the best start to the defence anyway!

That said, the ensuing auction might steer partner towards leading your undisclosed five-carder anyway. I expect my fellow

debator will also raise the issue of the potential benefit of locating a possible major-suit fit early in the auction in order to pre-empt the bidding effectively in anticipation of highly-competitive action. Indeed, whilst opening 1NT may conceal such a fit temporarily, it does not exclude the possibility of the opener re-entering the auction at a later date if he so wishes. An auction such as 1NT – (Pass) – Pass – (2♥) – 2♠, or 1NT – (2♠) – Pass – (Pass) – Double for take-out, is not uncommon.

Let's not forget, too, that all transfer systems (especially with the sophistication of transfer breaks) enable you to discover a nine or ten-card fit and if partner insists on launching to game on the strength of that information, your balanced assets will not come as a shock. By opening 1NT you will not only warn partner that your hand is limited and balanced, you will also present him with the opportunity to pre-empt the auction – now with a degree of safety – in either his own suit or, indeed, by raising directly to 3NT.

Last, but not least, if the prospect of missing your eight-card fit still haunts you, you could always incorporate the five-card Stayman convention into your repertoire, although I hesitate to recommend it as I do not play it!

The advantages of opening 1NT with a five-card major are clear, each strengthening my case incontrovertibly. To conclude, it's evident that I am passionate about opening 1NT with a five-card major but, hey, I don't think that it is necessarily right to open *every* hand thus. Holding, say, ♠AKQJ3 ♥76 ♦Q54 ♣432, even a firm believer like me can envisage the possibility of getting a better score by opening 1♠ but, notwithstanding, that's not guaranteed is it? □

A 1NT opening should not include a five-card major

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



THE DEBATE

Heather Dhondy

BIDDING systems are developed around trying to find the correct game contract, and rightly so. In a study I have made, about 55% of all contracts are played in game (slams 7%, part-scores 38%), and in teams matches around 55% of all swings are generated from game contracts (slams 10%, part scores 35%). Therefore the main focus of our attention should be in reaching the best game.

It is long established wisdom that if an eight-card major-suit fit can be found, this is likely to result in the optimum contract. Not always, but more often than not. Even playing pairs, where one might be tempted to bid 3NT for the extra 10 points, it more often than not results in one fewer trick, whenever the major suit game allows for ruffing a suit good, or taking a ruff in the short trump hand etc. – not to mention the times where there is a weak suit that the opponents can exploit in no-trumps. The same cannot be said for minor-suit fits. Now, needing eleven tricks, the optimum contract is more likely to be 3NT. Hence opening 1NT with a five-card minor is recommended by all.

**‘It is the game contracts
that we want to get right’**

To play a system whereby opener will bid 1NT on all 5-3-3-2 distributions, will mean that on occasions the 5-3 major suit fit will be lost. To mitigate this problem, some choose to use five-card Stayman in response. However, this does not solve all problems, and creates quite a few others as well. Whether playing five-card Stayman or not, in part-score hands, responder, holding the three-card fit, will simply pass 1NT, or perhaps remove to his or her own five-card suit, and you may end up playing

in a 5-2 fit with a 5-3 alternative available. In game hands, responder will raise 1NT to 3NT if you are not playing five-card Stayman, and the 5-3 fit will be lost. Playing five-card Stayman will help with that aspect; however, let's consider what additional problems it causes:

- You will no longer be able to bid Stayman on weak three-suiters with short clubs, or with 4-5 (either way round) in the majors, since 2♣ must always now show at least an invitational hand.
- If the opponents come in over ordinary (promissory) Stayman, as the 1NT opener you can be sure that partner holds a four-card major. This may help you to compete with confidence holding both majors (or you can at least take a calculated risk holding one). Playing five-card Stayman, this no longer applies.
- Perhaps the biggest downside of all is that responder is almost obliged to use 2♣ whenever he holds an invitational or better hand, and has at least one three-card major. This means that on many occasions extra information has been needlessly revealed to the defence, which can only work to their advantage.

Moving on from finding the 5-3 fit, there are other advantages to opening your five-card major. Say the auction becomes competitive: are you not better placed having shown your major suit? Of course

you are. If partner has a fit, he can bid straight to the level of the fit, and pressurise the opponents' auction. If the opponents pre-empt against you, your fit may well be hard to reach if you open 1NT, whereas opening your suit removes all the problem.

On the occasions where you end up defending, partner will have a blind lead if you open 1NT, where opening your suit may well help him. Having said that, your opening bid does not guarantee a good suit in the same way that an overcall would, so partner is not obliged to lead your suit, and can exercise judgement. However, it might provide a useful guide if an opening lead is not indicated by the responder's hand.

**Playing Acol, rebidding a major
at the two level promises no
more than five cards in the suit**

Playing Acol with a weak no-trump, an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ shows no more than four of the suit, and a rebid of the same suit promises no more than five of the suit. Therefore, there is nothing wrong with opening and rebidding your suit holding only five. On occasion you will end up in a 5-1 fit at the two level, where you would prefer to be playing 1NT.

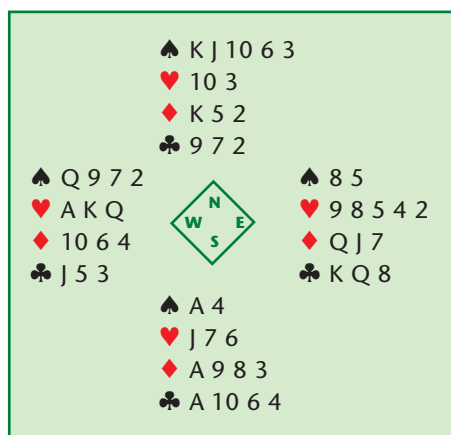
This is perhaps the strongest argument for opening 1NT with a five-card major, but remember: it is the *game contracts* that we want to get right. You can't always reach the best part-score, whatever your methods, but you can maximise your chance of ending up in the optimum game – though not by opening 1NT with a five-card major. □

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE, STEVE EGINTON AND RICHARD FLEET DEBATE
WHETHER THE NATIONAL TEAM SHOULD HAVE A PRIVATE SPONSOR**



Brian Senior

MY last two articles have featured Trump Reduction Plays and Endplays. Sometimes, the two techniques have to be combined as otherwise a defender's trump holding cannot be picked up.



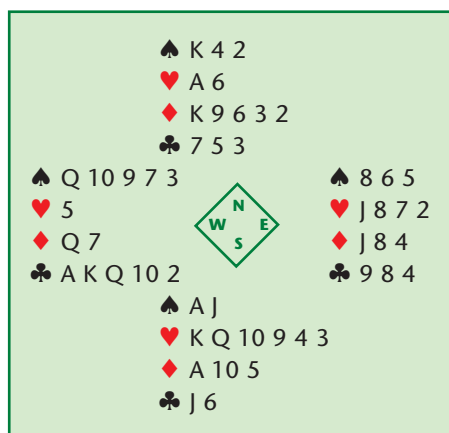
South plays in 2♠ after opening 1NT and completing North's 2♥ transfer bid. West starts by leading out the three top heart honours.

How should declarer continue?

The third heart is ruffed in dummy and declarer plays a spade to the ace and a second spade, finessing the jack. It would be a mistake to cash the king of spades now, relying on an even break in the suit. Instead, simply cash the ace and king of diamonds, and the ace of clubs, then exit with any minor-suit card. Eventually, the defence will have to lead a spade into the king-ten tenace, or give dummy an opportunity to ruff with the ten of spades.

Either way, the marked spade position ensures that declarer will make eight tricks and his contract.

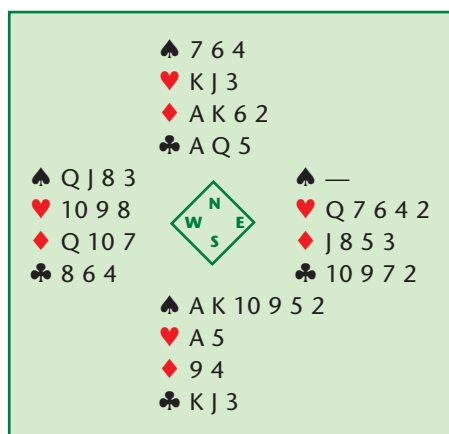
Trump Reduction and Endplay



West bids both black suits but South eventually plays in 4♥, against which West leads out the top three clubs. Declarer ruffs and, when West shows out on the second heart, pauses to take stock. He appears to have a diamond loser, so must find an endplay to avoid losing a heart trick. The solution is to continue with three rounds of spades, ruffing the third one, then play ace, king and a third diamond. When East wins the third diamond, he is endplayed to lead into the heart tenace at trick twelve.

Bringing off the impossible

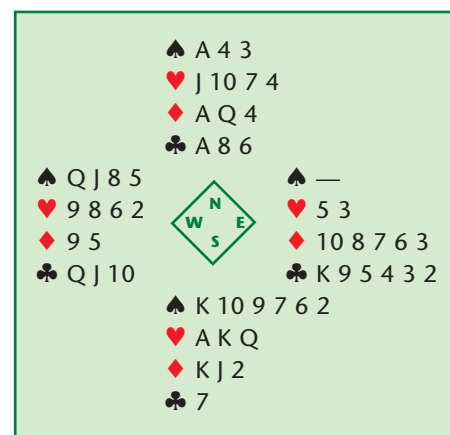
Sometimes, a trump reduction and endplay may allow what appears to be an impossible contract to succeed.



6♠ is an excellent contract. Declarer wins

the heart lead and plays a top trump, ready to claim his contract if both defenders follow suit. When East shows out, declarer will curse his luck as West turns out to have all four missing trumps. All is not yet lost, however, though some good fortune will be required.

Declarer continues by playing ace, king and a third diamond, ruffing low. Three rounds of clubs and the king of hearts are cashed and now declarer must judge whether to ruff the last diamond or heart in hand. The heart is the normal choice and if everything has passed off peacefully declarer's last three cards are the king, ten and nine of spades. Exiting with the ten or nine endplays West, who comes to only one of his two 'certain' trump winners.



This 6♠ is similar to the previous example, but there is a little more to it.

We have seen the basic technique before. Declarer wins the club lead in dummy and, when East shows out on the ace of spades at trick two, looks for an endplay against West. To achieve this he needs to ruff twice in hand to come down to the same trump length as West. At trick eleven, the ten of spades from hand will endplay West and hold him to just one trump trick. Declarer must ruff two clubs in hand and cash six red tricks along the way. The key to the hand is to appreciate that, while West must be following to three rounds of hearts, it ⇨

may not be necessary for him also to hold three diamonds.

Because declarer has to be able to cash three hearts, he starts by doing just that. Now a diamond to dummy and a club ruff, a second diamond to dummy and, with West known to hold a fourth heart, dummy's heart winner is cashed while the last diamond is thrown from hand. Finally, a club is ruffed and the ten of spades led for the endplay.

Had West held only three hearts, declarer would have had to cash a third diamond instead of the fourth heart.

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

North-South have done quite well to stop in only 4♥ with a nine-card fit and such controls and playing potential. West leads a club in response to East's overcall and East wins then plays two more top clubs.

It pays to be a pessimist whenever your contract looks to be easy, as here, and if declarer plays too quickly he will go down on the above layout. The only threat to the contract is a 4-0 trump split and, with East marked with long clubs, it will surely be West who has the length should hearts break so unkindly.

It is important that declarer ruffs the third club in hand. West follows and declarer cashes a top heart, discovering that West has all the trumps. Ace, king and a diamond ruff is followed by ace, king and a spade ruff. A diamond from hand forces West to ruff high but now he is endplayed.

At trick eleven, the heart ten would now have been bare and declarer down to all trumps. When he led a low trump, West could win the jack and the queen-nine would be equals against the king-eight after the ten had fallen under the jack.

I like this example, because the key play is made before declarer becomes aware of the bad trump split. This type of careful play really deserves to be rewarded by a lie of the cards that makes it necessary. □

Wine, cheese and some great hands

THE official opening of a new EBU-styled 'Learn and Play' club, *Count to 13*, Kingshill, Kent, incorporated a 'Play with the Expert' event. Sandra Landy was the guest of honour, accompanied by seven other top players who have represented England at some time in the past. Other distinguished guests included Barry Capal and Sally Bugden of the EBU.

The club's aim is to ensure that players

of all standards are welcomed and supported equally. Each week there will be a section for more experienced players and another for improvers. The latter will start with a fifteen-minute talk focussing on a particular topic, followed by a 16-board Pairs duplicate with hands illustrating the theme of the week.

Count to 13 B.C. meets on Mondays. Details on www.count213.com.



Sandra Landy (right) and Gerald Tredinnick playing against East-West winners Molly Cooke and John Walker

CHANGES TO THE ORANGE BOOK: STRONG HANDS

IN the current *Orange Book* there were changes to the rules for Strong Openings to stop the unfortunate habit of players using a 2♣ opening as a pre-empt when a hand has eight playing tricks but is not a strong hand. Unfortunately, this excluded some hands that would normally be opened by an Acol Two even when played traditionally, for example:

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

As a result, the definition of the minimum strength for a Strong opening has been altered from 1st August 2007 to any of:

- Subject to proper disclosure, a hand that contains as a minimum the normal high-card strength associated with a one-level opening and at least eight clear cut tricks, or:
- Any hand meeting the Rule of 25, or:
- Any hand of at least 16 HCPs.

Examples:

- ♠ A K Q J x x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x ♣ x does count as eight clear-cut tricks.
- ♠ A K Q x x x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x ♣ x does not.

It thus is illegal to play a 2♣ opening that may show any suit and a hand weaker than the above. However, a 2♥ opening that shows hearts could be played as weaker than above, but should be announced as 'Intermediate to Strong, forcing' (or 'non-forcing'). Similarly, it is permitted to announce a weaker opening that covers more than one category as 'Weak to Intermediate' (see page 13).

Note: the definition of minimum strength for Strong Openings also applies to Strong Clubs, Either/or Clubs (e.g. Polish), Strong Diamonds, and Strong (artificial) No-trumps (e.g. Romex, Vienna). □



Fran Bramzel



Just like any bridge club!

ran high and, often, tempers were raised. I have to admit, too, that sometimes we laughed till we cried.



IT'S easy to be a bridge critic – when you can see all four hands and not have to crane your neck or sidle around the outside of the card table.

In *Bridge Club Live!* we have the option of seeing all the cards from the start (spectating), or 'looking over the shoulder' of just one player (kibitzing), seeing exactly what that person sees.

I prefer spectate mode. My analysis is usually better! All my finesses work and I never lead into declarer's tenace. Best of all, I don't forget about 'lurker' trumps or get fooled by a defensive false card! My bidding, of course, is exemplary.



Many years ago, as a bridge beginner, I used to sit for hours at my local club and watch the 'experts' play rubber bridge. Some really were experts – future and past England players, Internationals from other countries, Gold Cup winners etc. Most were simply good club players – with endless cups of coffee and countless cigarettes fuelling the time-worn anecdotes that are heard at bridge tables all over the world.

'Draw trumps partner – you would probably make it then.'

'Are we too high enough already?'

'Believe *me*, partner – not them.'

'Is it too late for me to double?' (When opponents have already gone three off)

'One off is good bridge'.

We used to sit in the early hours playing all sorts of strange card games. I remember Clobyosh, Kirke, Goulash, various forms of Rummy and of course the killer of them all, Barboo.

Money changed hands during these late-night – early-morning games; adrenalin

Almost unbelievably, practically the same atmosphere can exist on-line.

We make strong friendships with virtual strangers who live in various parts of the world – people we may never meet face to face. Often, two friends start playing in the Daily Match-point Pairs room, move to a Daily (auto-movement) Tourney, then go back to MPs before joining up with another pair to make a team and play in the new (auto-movement) Teams Room.

Our Improvers and new members are encouraged to kibitz. Watching others play is a wonderful learning tool.

Kibitzers come and go. Some watch for a few minutes, then go to play some boards. Some stay longer. Some chat to the table in between hands. Sometimes, when players and kibitzers are 'friends' the banter continues throughout the hands too. Of course, kibitzers are savvy enough to be

quiet if the auction or play is complex or if they are asked not to chat.

The amazing thing is, that although the members are of many different nationalities – but the language of the table when in play is English – the jokes abound. Bridge-players' humour seems to cross continents. The chat is almost the same as it used to be: light sarcasm over a serious and constructive post mortem.

Sometimes, it is hard to realise that we are not all in the same room of our local club.

The circle of kibitzers around tables in 'Special Competitions' can be the liveliest of areas as the spectators chat amongst themselves. Oh, what joy to see good players locked in combat – and we can see all their mistakes!!

Of course we also see why they are so good and appreciate their more subtle plays.

But the best, wittiest, sharpest, most cruel, chat comes when things go wrong. You can absolutely *feel* the atmosphere.

Are we cruel? No. Just being bridge players – as in any bridge club! □

SOLUTION TO DIRECTORS QUIZZES ON PAGE 31

Answer to Question 1

Law 45D. Only one side has played to the next trick, so it must be corrected. The ♣10 goes back into East's hand and the previous trick is replayed with defenders changing cards without penalty. North leads ♦6, East replaces the ♥Q with ♦K, South changes ♦J to ♦A, and West changes a heart to a diamond. Declarer wins the trick and leads to the next one.

Answer to question 2

Questions the TD should find out about:

Did North follow the 'stop' procedure properly?

Did East wait for ten seconds after the stop? Yes.

Did East pause for longer than the ten seconds? Almost certainly.

Law 16A. TD should rule that there was a hesitation. West has unauthorised information through East's hesitation and should not choose an action suggested by the hesitation. West has no reason to bid, but partner's hesitation suggests he is close to bidding and this helps West to make a dubious double. Using Law 16A2, the TD should cancel the double and put the score back to 4♠ making ten tricks.

NAMYATS: what is it?

HOW good a hand do you show when opening 4♥ or 4♠?

Many partnerships do not have a specific understanding, so that the strength of such bids have quite a wide range. This can lead to problems, as illustrated by the following deal which occurred at the EBU Ranked Masters Pairs event earlier this year.


♠ K 8
♥ 8 7
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ A K J 4 3

At favourable vulnerability, holding this hand, South heard partner open 4♥ in first seat. East overcalled 4♠, and a decision had to be made.

The problem was that if South tried for slam, only to find he wanted to stop at the five level, then he had missed the opportunity of a juicy penalty (surely 4♠ doubled would go at least two off for +500). If on the other hand he 'took the money' then it would be insufficient recompense should the slam be making.

The vast majority of South players decided to succumb to the temptation of the penalty on offer, and to punish the vulnerable intervention with a double.

This proved to be the wrong decision, as the full deal was:

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

Both 6NT and 6♥ were excellent contracts (even 7♥ could be made), whereas 4♠ could only be defeated by two tricks.

Was South's judgement to blame, was North's hand too strong for 4♥, or was this just a case of bad luck?

Many players try to avoid this type of 'bad luck' by adopting a convention known as 'Namyats'* ('Stayman' spelled backwards), whereby they can differentiate between 'good' and 'bad' 4♥ and 4♠ openers. With the weaker hands they still open four of their major suit, but with a good hand such as the one above, a conventional opening bid of 4♣ (showing hearts) or 4♦ (showing spades) is made.

Some find it useful to make an even more specific agreement so that 4♣/4♦ promises either a solid suit, or a suit missing only one of the top three honours, but with an outside ace to compensate.

Such agreements make it far easier for the responder to judge if slam is a good proposition. On the featured deal, for instance, if South knows of a solid suit (or a semi-solid suit with the ace of spades) opposite, then slam is an odds-on prospect.

Two gadgets for the price of one

If you are thinking of trying this convention, then you may wish to incorporate an additional gadget.

It is possible for responder to bid the suit directly above the opening 4♣/4♦ as a relay, asking opener to show any shortage (which is likely when holding a seven-card suit, and certain with an eight-card suit). Opener will then cue-bid a singleton or void, but will simply rebid his major without one (i.e. with a 7-2-2-2 shape). Obviously, responder must be prepared to play at the five level as the cue bid will often be made at that level, e.g. 4♣—4♦—4♠/5♣/5♦, where 4♣ shows a good heart pre-empt, 4♦ asks about shortage, and 4♠/5♣/5♦ shows a singleton or void.

Even without this 'extra', the use of Namyats as a part of your armoury will mean far greater accuracy in your major-suit pre-emptive bidding. For example:

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

Hand B
♠ 9 6
♥ K Q J 9 7 6 3 2
♦ 7
♣ 10 4



Ed Scerri

BRIDGE EXTRAS

Hand C
♠ 9 6
♥ A K Q J 9 7 6 3
♦ 7
♣ 10 4

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

With a hand such as Hand A, you can open 3♥. With something like Hand B, open 4♥. Holding either Hand C or Hand D, you can open with a conventional 4♣.

Hands stronger than the examples above can be opened with a strong two bid, or perhaps even with your game-forcing bid.

Before adopting this convention, two possible drawbacks should be considered. The first is the loss of the natural four-level minor-suit pre-empts, but supporters of Namyats will argue that this is a small price to pay for the additional definition gained in the majors. The second is the danger of one or other of the partnership forgetting that they have adopted this convention, which, as you can imagine, will lead to a very silly contract. I speak from personal experience when I say that once such a disaster occurs, then the convention is unlikely to ever be forgotten again – in the same way as the words of my partner will never be forgotten, when having made only three tricks in our 4♣ contract, he calmly said: 'It's a good job that the defenders' trumps broke 5-5 partner, or else I might have been *eight off*!' □

*Although Namyats was named and popularised by Sam Stayman, it was originally invented by Terence Reese and Jeremy Flint as part of the now obsolete 'Little Major' system. It is often confused with a similar convention called 'South African Texas' which utilises 4♣ and 4♦ transfer responses to 1NT openings to show pre-emptive hands with hearts and spades respectively.

COUNTY NEWS

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

Mr P Crouch (Kent)
Dr R G Harris (London)
Mr P Kaufmann (Middlesex)
Mrs D V Philipps (Dorset)
Mr F V Savage (Berks & Bucks)
Mrs N Senior (Middlesex)

Master Point promotions

Avon

Premier Regional Master
Mr B Crymble
4 Star Premier Master
Mr GT Gowling
Premier Master
Miss E E Barwell
Mr A Schofield
2 Star Master
Mr G Mobley
1 Star Master
Mrs M Robertson
Advanced Master
Mr M Churchill
Mrs B Freeman
Mrs JW Lowther
Master
Mr C J Jones
County Master
Mr DT Lewis
District Master
Mr J Buxton
Mrs C Stevens

Bedfordshire

Premier Life Master
Mr B Shiebert
13 Star Premier Master
Mr R Stanley
7 Star Premier Master
Mr T Pearce
6 Star Premier Master
Mr C Watson
1 Star Premier Master
Mr S Gibbs
Mr R Last
3 Star Master
Mr R F Gaudoin
2 Star Master
Mr P Malpass
Advanced Master
Mr C Challinor
Mr P F Habersham
Master
Mrs J F McKillop
Mrs P M Smith
County Master
Mr J O Bell
Mr T D Drakard
Mrs V Eaton
Mr T Lusty
District Master
Mr J Findlay
Club Master
Mr P Adderley
Mrs M Brown
Mrs P Ellis
Mr M Francis
Mrs V Jarrett
Mr E D Lowther
Mr R Perrott
Mrs S Richmond

Berks & Bucks

Grand Master
Mr F V Savage
6 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs M Bradshaw

5 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs M Hughes
2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr G C Dickens
Premier Regional Master
Mrs S Belcher
Mr M B Miller
7 Star Regional Master
Mr T V Cullen
5 Star Regional Master
Mrs S Newman
4 Star Regional Master
Mrs G C Vickers
8 Star Premier Master
Mrs NM Allen
7 Star Premier Master
Mr AH Williams
6 Star Premier Master
Mrs P Gordon
5 Star Premier Master
Mrs V M Morris
1 Star Premier Master
Mr M Wenble
2 Star Tournament Master
Mr T Garrett
1 Star Tournament Master
Mrs E Dougal-Biggs
Tournament Master
Mrs B Wileman
5 Star Master
Mr G Reid
3 Star Master
Mr M Burch
Mr D Cook
Mr I K Soffe
2 Star Master
Mr R Burnett
Mrs S Davies
Mrs J Hollands
Mrs PA Rhys-Davies
1 Star Master
Mr M Bennett
Mrs F Cugnoni
Mr W Irvine
Mr J V Roy
Ms C H Toffliff
Advanced Master
Mr C N Jackson
Master
Mr DJ Baker
Mr JW Calder
Mrs M Carver
Mr M L Jordan
Mr D H Littlejohn
Mr R J Lott
Mrs M Murtagh
County Master
Mrs J Buckley
Mrs C L Bushnell
Mr K G Butler
Mr R G Cheetham
Mr N Crabtree
Dr DW Cullington

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk

IN the *Gold Cup*, the team including Mike Elliott and Tim Brierley (Denning, Shields, Thomas and Goodman) has won its 5th round match against Grant of Devon to reach the last sixteen. In the *NICKO*, congratulations to the West of England team (Andrew Urbanski, Tony Gammon, Brian Goalby, Huw Oliver, Mike and Tony Letts) which is through to the quarter-final. We wish them well in their next match.

In the South West Regional Final of the *Garden Cities Trophy* for teams of eight, Avon was represented by the West of England Bridge Club (Gareth Evans, Andrew Urbanski, Alan Jones, Jeremy Rickard, Bernard Mitchell, Damian Nicholls, Robert Covill, Aidan Schofield). The team won with a superb second-half performance.

League winners: County League 1: (for the second year running) Graham Hartley, Richard Dunn, Mike Elliott, Tim Brierley and Paul Keightley. *County League 2:* Pat Chant, Peter Tilley, Mike Short, Margaret Harris and Richard Kendall, who are promoted to League 1 next season.

In the *County Knockout Final*, the winners were the team led by Andrew Smith (Cathy and Ralph Smith, and Steve Tomlinson). The final of the *Knockout Plate* was won by the team led by Mark Reeve (Marc Lee, Alan Jones, Jack Terry and Robyn Dower).

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



THE *Champions Trophy* was the final event for County members this season. We had 15.5 tables representing the leading pairs from most county competitions and club championship events. Prizes were awarded to the top ten pairs. Winners: Angela and Richard Chester.

The BBA AGM re-elected Ron Davis, Val Lawson and Janet Marsh as County Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary respectively. Chris Parkin continues as Treasurer with Louise Smith taking over as Membership Secretary. Richard Chester and Les Calver remain committee members, joined by Monica Lucy, Peter Scott and Stewart Pye. John Neville is County Auditor and Masterpoint Secretary. Jon Williams was awarded Life Membership for his contribution and achievements in bridge.

In the *Simultaneous Pairs* heat that followed, Bob Brown and Phil Gee were top N/S. However, it was a storming result for Terry Pearce and Les Calver, who came first E/W with 69.6% and 6th in the overall national ranking.

Division 2 winners were Late Entry (Dominic Connolly, David Woulds, Angela Chester, Richard Chester). Dominic has now moved to Sydney, Australia; no doubt he will keep up his successful partnership with Dave Woulds on-line!

The *Knockout Cup* was won by Spartak Kempston (Alan Shillitoe, Greg

Ward, Iain Roberts, Phil Gee, Rita and Brian Keable).

Alan Oddie started well in his new role as county captain with both the A and C teams beating Suffolk 16-4 in the first match of the new ECL season.

Diary dates: in the Parkin Cup on Sunday July 15, Hertfordshire will be aiming to retain the trophy in Bedfordshire's Inter-county Teams event. Invitations have been sent out so, if your county wishes to enter a team, please contact BBA county secretary Janet Marsh. Entry is now open for next season's League and Knockout Teams of Four.

Berks and Bucks

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



APOLOGIES to David Perkins's team who won the *League of Four* and the *Brown Cup* – not Mike Perkins's team as in the last *English Bridge*.

Division 2 was won by Steve Johnston, *Division 3* by Nigel Thompson, and *Division 4* by Lee Duff.

County events winners: *Victor Ludorum:* David Owen. *County Teams Championship:* Steve Johnston, Pat Dowdeswell, Mike Ribbins, David Owen. *Friendly Pairs:* Graham Reid and David Elford. *Men's Pairs:* David Owen and Charles Chisnall. *Ladies' Pairs:* Carole Mueller and Carol Humphries. *Swiss Teams:* Richard Palmer, Dick Davey, Nicola Sutton, Harvey Bengen. Bucks trounced Berks in all three matches in the Berks vs Bucks annual encounter.

AGM: except for Roger Barrett, all current members of the committee agreed to serve for another year and they have been joined by three members, Nigel Dent, Steve Johnston and Richard Palmer, who volunteered to join the committee at the AGM. Anders Wallen is our new treasurer. Margaret Hatch was given Life Membership of BBCBA. A presentation was made to Roger who has been our treasurer for many years, and also to Daphne Santon for her work in organising the League of Four for the last ten years. Liz Pratt has taken over as the League of Four secretary.

For reminders of our events and results join our egroup by sending an email to bbcba-subscribe@egroups.com

Diary Dates: July 31 closing date for entries to the League of Four; Aug 8 Fixtures Meeting for the League of Eight at SBBC; Sept 9 closing date for entry to the GolfPrint Heat (if you play golf why not make up a team from your local golf club?); Sept 17 Club Meeting at SBBC to discuss the EBU Strategy Plan; Sept 23 Mixed Multiple Teams; Oct 7 Swiss Pairs.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

CAMBS and Hunts welcome Peterborough Bridge Club as a newly affiliated club. The club's charity event in May raised £420 for the Peterborough Branch of The Huntingdon's Disease Association.

Chris and Catherine Jagger, Julian

Wightwick and Jonathan Mestel won the final of the *County Knockout*. The *County Knockout Plate* was won by Sue Oakford, Nadia Stelmashenko, Eryl Howard and Eric Campbell. In the Cambs and Hunts *League, Division 1* was won by Ely 1 (John Aspinall, Julie Aspinall, Peter Burrows, Myra Burrows, Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis); *Division 2* was won by Thursday 1 (Joanne Caldwell, Kevin Smith, Gladys Gittins, David Carmichael, Ian McDonald); and *Division 3* was won by Royston (M Leach, B Symes, M Thrower, D Fogg, E Blackman).

Jubilee Swiss Pairs winners: Rod and Sue Oakford. Andre Kueh and Jonathan Cains won the section for those with under 5,000 local points. The ascenders' prizes went to Joanne Caldwell and Ian Macdonald.

In national knock-out competitions, Cambridge came 2nd in the regional final of the *Garden Cities*, giving them a chance to defend last year's victory in the final, and Chris and Catherine Jagger's team has reached the 7th round (last 8) of the *NICKO*. Catherine Jagger, Jonathan Mestel, Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis narrowly lost the final of the *Punchbowl* at the *Spring Foursomes*, while Chris Jagger's team reached the last seven of the main event. Trevor and Marion King won the *John Colley Trophy* (teams Consolation Final) at the *Yorkshire Congress*.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/

THE *Lambourne Jersey Bridge Festival* took place at the end of April and was a great success. In the mid-week events, Jane Watts-Wakeham and Andrew Thompson won the *Open Pairs*. In the *Mixed Pairs*, Marion Miles and David Hole were first and Gill and Peter Pitcher second (all from Jersey). The winners of the *Swiss Teams* and the *Lambourne Cup* as the highest placed C.I. team were Jersey's Brian Youd, Sue Rankin, Gill Hall and Maureen Nelson.

Domestic competitions winners: *County Mixed Pairs:* Clarice Alder and James Fattorini. *Jersey District Open Pairs:* David Friswell and David Hole. *District Upper Restricted Pairs:* Rosemary Pallot and Norman le Cocq. *Lower Level:* David Humpleby and Muriel Holmes. *Ladies' Pairs* at the Highfield Club: Jane Knight and Catherine Rynd. *Men's Pairs:* John Panter and Eric Todd. *District Individual* in Guernsey: Peter Keeling.

The finalists for the *District Teams* are Robert Plumley (Susie Farnon, Lynda Mildon, Colin Tostevin and Ralph Laski) and the Allen team (Mike partnering Andy Hall and Margaret with Jill Morgan).

At the Manor Club, the *Frank Money Trophy*, awarded to the best player after assessing the results over the year, was shared in a three-way tie by Anne Babbe, Don Babbe and Cliff Drillot.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freereserve.co.uk

THE final event of the Cornish bridge season was the play-off between the winners of the two leagues. It was won by last year's winners, the Shufflers

Master Point promotions

Mr L Ellis
Mr C G Elwell
Mrs N S Gardam
Mr N Higham
Mrs RJ Marshall
Mrs FM Sargent
Mrs C M Townend

District Master

Mrs S Bell
Mrs B E Callan
Mr I Clark
Mr M Mullard
Mrs C J Olivier
Mr H J Ridley
Mr C Robinson
Mr J Rotham
Mr D Russell
Mr R Sutton
Mr D Tilquin
Mrs E B Wallen

Club Master

Mrs M Bracken
Mr I M Brackenridge
Mr R J Davis
Dr I Haigh
Mrs L D Haigh
Mrs L A Higham
Mr N Jones
Mr H Kronsten
Mr S Lowry
Mrs A G Posgate
Mr F Rao
Mr P Riley
Mr R Sassoon
Mrs S Stokes
Mrs E M B Yeadon

Cambs & Hunts

Premier Life Master

Mr I M Watson

Premier National Master

Dr I McDonald
Mrs M R King

3 Star Regional Master

Mr F J Langford
Regional Master
Mrs S Parker

6 Star Premier Master

Mr PJ Somerfield
3 Star Premier Master
Mrs A Green

Premier Master

Mrs A Newman
Mr R R Newman
3 Star Master
Mrs B McWhinney

County Master

Mr G Gardner
Mrs M Gardner
Mr J G Haslegrave
Mr D Hodge

District Master

Mr A Ju Lui Kueh
Mr J Phelps
Mr G Whittle
Mrs G Whittle

Club Master

Mr D P Bell
Mr D Cotterell
Mr A Eckersley-
Waites
Mr P A Gilbert
Mr C Sills

Channel Islands

Premier National Master

Mrs C Hepburn
Miss J Rumball

Regional Master

Mrs C Bott
3 Star Premier Master
Mrs J Knight

1 Star Premier Master

Mr M Byrne

1 Star Master

Mr P Evans

Advanced Master

Mrs M A Bird
Mr M Coles

County Master

Mrs F Honey
Mr J S Honey
Mr PJ Williams

Club Master

Mr M Bane

Cornwall Premier National Master

Mr O Prior

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr R C Bell

8 Star Regional Master

Mr RH Jackson

6 Star Regional Master

Mr DH Daniel

5 Star Regional Master

Mr B Benfield

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs JM Congdon

Premier Master

Mrs J Cant

1 Star Master

Mrs S A Copestick

Advanced Master

Mrs LP Radford
Mr W F P Thomson

Master

Mrs J R Chambers
Mrs F I Ind
Mrs G L Stephens

County Master

Mrs I J Pascoe
District Master
Mr W Harris

District Master

Mr E E Tozer
Mrs E Tozer

Cumbria

5 Star Regional Master

Mr J Farmer

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Swan

3 Star Master

Mrs J Walker

Master

Mrs H Parsons

County Master

Mrs M J Millidge

Derbyshire

Tournament Master

Mrs M Pacey

5 Star Master

Mr RL Bardsley

1 Star Master

Mrs J Hough

Master

Mrs MJ Atkin

Devon

Premier National Master

Mr S Lindfors

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs H Mather

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Dr W T Hamilton

2 Star Regional Master

Mr N C Hamlyn

Mr MJ Kelsey

Mr JD Murray Brown

(Wendy Miller, Dave Stone, Joe Bryant and Wally Heaton) from the Western Division.

Congratulations to them all, and especially to Wally Heaton who has had an outstanding season. Playing with Joe Bryant, he retained the county *Men's Pairs*. He won the *County Teams of Four* (with Wendy Thornton, David Stone and Mick Robson) and, at the Newquay Congress, playing with Wendy Thornton, regained the *Tregudda Cup*, the main prize in the pairs event. Wally's team (Joe Bryant, Ken and Janice Keast) won the *County Knockout*.

Cornwall's B team won their section of the *South-Western League*. Cornwall were also, for the first time, the overall winners of the *South-Western League*. This is a particularly pleasing result as it is often difficult to field the strongest teams for away matches as the distances involved are considerable for players from the west of the county.

The Truro Club are now settled in their new venue, the Conservative Club in Lemon Street, and they meet at 6.30 on Wednesday evenings. Another change, of date in this case, is that the *Falmouth Swiss Pairs*, which in the past has been held in December, has been brought forward to Sept 22nd. From now on it will be the first event of the new season.

Another major change is that the *Cornwall Congress* is moving from Newquay to the Falmouth Beach Hotel; it will now be held from the 23rd to the 25th April 2008.

Diary Dates: Sept 9 AGM and CCBA Individual Championship, Ladock; Sept 22 Falmouth Swiss Pairs, Falmouth Bridge Club; Sept 30 Green-Pointed Swiss Teams, Wadebridge School.

Cumbria

www.ccdba.co.uk

THE *Murray League* for 2006 /2007 was won by the team of Glenda Lloyd, Peter Boardman, Colin Woods and Dave Mullany from the Barrow Club.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



THE *Eric White Cup* was won by Don Smedley, John Griffin, Howard Melbourne, John Armstrong, Alex Hogg and Peter Kelly. The *Plate* winners were Mike Clayton, Amanda Grimsey, Judy Lomas, David Wright and Tony Wakeling. The *Bill Pratt Trophy* for county mixed pairs was won by Mick and Sheena Haytack.

John Armstrong's team were second in the *Hamilton Cup* at the *Shapiro Spring Foursomes*.

At the county's AGM, county ties were presented to Howard Melbourne and Colin Band.

The electrical problems of the East Midland's Bridge Academy have been addressed, and thanks must go to Davis Briggs and his team of helpers for enabling play to take place in difficult circumstances.

Diary Dates: Sept 19 India Cup (multiple teams).

Devon

www.dcba.org.uk



THE *North Devon Congress* was held at a later date than usual this year, but was as always very well supported and a most enjoyable weekend. Winners: *Swiss Pairs*: David Southcombe and David Wouds. *Swiss Teams*: Joy and John Murray Brown, Jeanine Keith, Gwen Watkins, tied with Ruth Edmondson, Brigid McElroy, Alison Pollok, Ann Slee.

The AGM took place on June 17th. The *Western Morning News Cup* for the Devon Teams was won by Alan and Jette Bailey, Jim Grant and Stefan Lindfors. The *Western Morning News Plate* was won by Margaret and Robin Mardlin, Bill Oke and Julian Foster. The *Julia Chadwick Cup* for Devon Pairs was won by Jim Grant and Stefan Lindfors. The Chairman announced that the Victor Ludorum Cup was to be renamed the *Kevin Slee Trophy* in honour of Kevin Slee who died recently; this was won by Ann Slee. Following the meeting, 14 teams took part in the *County Swiss Teams* which was won by Cherry Taylor, Wendy Davis, June MacTaggart and Jean Adams.

Diary dates: Devon Teams (Western Morning News), entries by Aug 31; Sept 22 Devon Pairs Day (including Jack and Jill Cup); Sept 23 Devon Pivot Teams of Tour; Oct 27-28 Plymouth Congress.

Dorset

www.dorsetbridge.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Daphne Philipps on becoming a Grand Master. Daphne is the first woman to achieve this in Dorset and it is so richly deserved because she is a true Lady of Bridge.

At the *Jersey Congress* Margot Wilson and John Gardner won the *Multi-Teams* with John Thrower and Chris Jones. At the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress*, Richard Vessey, Claire Hillyard, Janet Smith and Michael Gore came second in the *Swiss Teams B Flight*.

Daphne Philipps and Miles Cowling were fourth in the *Corwen Trophy*.

County Winners: the final of the *County K/O* was won by Miles Cowling, Daphne Philipps, Bob Mott, Barrie Castello, Keith Bartlett. *Udall Trophy*: Miles Cowling, Phil Norman, Daphne Philipps, Martin Brook. *Allendale Trophy*: Helen Ackroyd, Martyn Hill-Jones, Michael Organ, John Howitt.

Dorset's first *One-Day Green Pointed Swiss Teams* attracted 33 teams. Congratulations to the winners, John Carter, Stuart Strachan, Mac Nurmohamed and John Jones from HIW; Dorset's Mike Organ, Helen Ackroyd, Ann Sharples, Keith Bartlett came second. I am sure all the participants would like to thank Helen Ackroyd, Ann Sharples, Julian Gregory and Hannah Kearns for all their hard work in organising this event.

Diary dates: Aug 5 Weymouth Cup, Allendale BC; Sept 16 Flemmich Cup, Westbourne BC.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



ESSEX players have had some good results in national events recently. In *One-day Swiss Pairs* events, John Williams and David Cooper won the *Kent* event; Richard Perryman and Michael Wren were 2nd in *Northants*. Sid Prince, Lionel Wernick, Cecil Leighton and Jacek Lapszys came first in the *Bedfordshire One-day Swiss Teams*. Sue and Chris Taylor won the *Consolation Teams* event (with non-Essex team mates) in the *York Congress*, and the team of Alan and Elaine Green won the *Suffolk Ringer Cup* for Mixed Pairs. Ann and Terry Clark won the Sims held on 10 May. Brian Berkley and David Cooper won the *BGB Spring Sims*.

In Essex competitions, the winners of the *Switch Cup* were Sid Prince, Margaret Curtis, Tony Philpott and Nigel Bardsley. The *Essex Plate* was won by Alan Green, Ian Green, Elaine Green, Ray Cornell and David Clark. The *League First Division* champions were: *West Essex* – the Waltham Foresters team of Tony Verran, Remi Tatur, Phil Mat-tacks, Andy Barker, Stuart Dunstan; *South East* – the May and Baker team of Jill and Roger Tattersfield, Alaric Cundy, Chris Megahey, Martin Smith, Ted Cockle. Winners of the *Non Expert Teams* were D. and M. Gilbert, R. Green, K. Thompson. Winners of the *Eve* goblets trophies, for overall results during the year, were: *Ladies*: Jill Tattersfield. *Men*: Chris Megahey.

Diary dates: Sept 7 Autumn Seniors Pairs.

Gloucestershire

www.s174474498.websitehome.co.uk/gcba/

SORRY this space has been empty recently but if you would like to see your results, or those of other Gloucestershire players, featured here, or if you have news to be included, please e-mail alanw22uk@yahoo.co.uk

The Inter-County Leagues began again with fixtures away to Worcester-shire, which resulted in wins for the first and second teams and a defeat for the third team. What a good venue Worces-tershire have at Cookhill.

Hants and IoW

hantsbridge.org



AT our AGM, another successful year was reported. The year's trophies were presented by our chairman, John Carter. The *Victor Ludorum* was won by John Jones for the third year in suc-cession. Also, we were proud to present the *Tom Bradley Award* to Dave Bessant for his outstanding work in introducing bridge to school children.

Congratulations to Bob McRobert who was part of the winning team in the *Silver Plate* and also for coming third in the National Pairs with his out of county partner At the *Dorset Green Point* event, the winners were Stuart Strachan, John Carter, Mahmood Nurmohamed, John

Master Point promotions

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs MJ Adams

1 Star Premier Master

Miss T Beard

Tournament Master

Mr B G Gittins

Mrs J C Gittins

4 Star Master

Mrs J Bucklar

1 Star Master

Mr A G Foot

Master

Mr W MacIntyre

District Master

Mrs J Barnes

Mr T D Barnes

Mr B M Foster

Mr S Gilbert

Mrs A Sandall

Club Master

Mrs R M Besant

Mrs V G Irish

Mr T J Neville

Mrs P Underwood

Dorset

Grand Master

Mrs D V Philipps

National Master

Mr PPP Cheu

3 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr R Vessey

2 Star Regional

Master

Mr MH Hooper

1 Star Regional

Master

Mr J Gregory

Mrs AH Macleod

Mr P Mallett

Regional Master

Mr P C Bowen

10 Star Premier

Master

Miss B Johnston

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr P A Sayer

Mrs A Trayler

Ms A Walters

1 Star Premier

Master

Mr C J Denton

Advanced Master

Mrs S Cairns

Master

Mrs W M Gibbons

County Master

Mrs C Brebner

Mr P Craven

Mrs PE Leatham

Mrs J Petran

Mrs M M Watts

District Master

Mr R M Bates

Mrs J P Kelly

Essex

Life Master

Mr J Mansfield

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Dr J C Williams

1 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr E Marks

9 Star Regional

Master

Mrs EA Savory

2 Star Regional

Master

Mrs IM Mamelok

27 Star Premier

Master

Mr AW Fifield

7 Star Premier

Master

Mrs CEM Irvine

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs BR Fearnley

1 Star Premier

Mr J Bernard

2 Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs J Atkins

Tournament

Master

Mrs WA Wagstaff

5 Star Master

Mrs A M Rastin

Mr L Raven

Mrs A Riddleston

4 Star Master

Mrs P A Bone

Mr SL Ensor

Mr DA Smith

3 Star Master

Ms B Cagle

2 Star Master

Mr C Comer

Mrs E Humphreys

Mr JR Sayer

Mr G K Thompson

1 Star Master

Mrs M Bird

Mrs A V Clarke

Mr P W Hunt

Advanced Master

Mrs R Abel

Mrs A Rogers

Master

Mr B Freedman

Mrs J G Marsh

Mr J S Szczuka

County Master

Ms C Archer

Mr T Archer

Mrs M M Crispin

Mr H W Luxmoore

Mr D Pitt

District Master

Mrs S Glover

Mr TJM Glover

Ms P Hardcastle

Mr J Murray

Mr N Sturtard

Mr F Wolton

Club Master

Dr S Bourne

Mr R England

Mr D S Gilbert

Mr R Green

Mrs Z Morris

Gloucestershire

National Master

Mrs V Rahim

7 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr AEM Pritchett

3 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr F T Shaw

4 Star Regional

Master

Mrs OSE Davies

1 Star Regional

Master

Mr G Barrett

Regional Master

Mr D McIntosh

6 Star Premier

Master

Mr K Vowles

Mrs G M Weaver

Premier Master

Mr N Pitel

5 Star Master

Ms PJ Phillips

4 Star Master

Mr B W Forster

2 Star Master

Mrs LA Raynor

Mrs P Roberts

Advanced Master

Mr J Dewhurst

Master

Mr ATW Brown

Mr J W Polhill

County Master

Mr F W B Pitel

Mrs M Sutton

Hants & IOW

Life Master

Mr JR Clark

Mrs KJ Vaile

Premier National

Mr M Y Nurmohamed

9 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr K R French

3 Star Regional

Master

Mr P Aubeck

Mr M J Ryan

1 Star Regional

Master

Mrs K Dewar

37 Star Premier

Master

Mr M C Mollart-Rogerson

18 Star Premier

Master

Mrs M Stothard

7 Star Premier

Master

Mrs CJ Palmer

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr D M Heywood

4 Star Premier

Master

Mrs D A Rivers

3 Star Premier

Master

Mr C A Hockley

2 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J J Ashby

Mr E Clucas

1 Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs M A Field

4 Star Master

Mr DA Goodlake

3 Star Master

Mr P Warren

2 Star Master

Mr CL Brock

1 Star Master

Ms A F Stone-Newark

Mrs P Welford

Advanced Master

Mrs M F Blewett

Mrs E R Carmichael

Mr TC Garvey

Ms S Hodgkinson

Master

Mrs R Gache

Mr G S House

Mr W A E Preston

Mr PWD Webb

County Master

Mr G F Abercrombie

Mr R Green

Mr M Hunt

Mrs D Isaacs

Mrs JH Wilkins

District Master

Mr A Collier

Mr J Finch

Mr R Khan

Mrs M A Perkins

Club Master

Mrs P Forrest

Mrs J Hole

Ms S Hoole

Mr A Prescott

Mr B G Richardson

Herefordshire

National Master

Mrs H Brace

1 Star Regional

Master

Mrs CE Malim

1 Star Master

Mrs JL Berrington

Mr P G Morgan

Advanced Master

Mr D C Rex

Master

Mr J H Crowe

Mr K S Dodsworth

Club Master

Ms R E Athay

Mrs J L Green

Mr K W J Green

Mr R H B Malim

Herefordshire

Premier National

Master

Mrs N Abisch

National Master

Mr R T Harden

Mr P Littlewood

Mr R L Turnham

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr P Levi

5 Star Regional

Master

Master Point promotions

1 Star Regional Master
Mr P L Morgan

8 Star Premier Master

Mr DE Reading

4 Star Premier Master
Mr P A Burt

3 Star Premier Master

Mr J A Anstead

Ms J L Connor

1 Star

Tournament Master

Mrs J Price

Tournament Master

Mrs M Gibson

4 Star Master

Mrs C Homden

Mrs E Joyce

2 Star Master

Mr D A Jones

Mr D R O Levy

1 Star Master

Mrs L Butler

Mr M R Cotterill

Mr G Ward

Advanced Master

Mrs M Fitzsimons

Mrs M J Hill

Mrs S Holden

Master

Mr R Howgill

Mrs ME Orriss

Mr J Plumpton

County Master

Mr P Banfield

Ms S Walsh

District Master

Ms V Cruwys

Mr R C Gibbons

Mr A Montgomery

Mrs P R T Wallis

Club Master

Mr RE Beveridge

Miss S M Briggs

Mrs P B Eliot

Mr G J Head

Lancashire

Premier Life Master

Mr P Hepworth

Premier National Master

Mr J B Brelsford

National Master

Mr DM Hilton

Mr R Shine

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs L D Stuart

2 Star Regional Master

Mr D L Holt

1 Star Regional Master

Mr S N Clarke

13 Star Premier Master

Mrs H Sutton

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Buckley

3 Star Premier Master

Mr A J Holborn

1 Star Premier Master

Mr D B Newall

4 Star Master

Mr B Bowden

3 Star Master

Mrs P Dowding

2 Star Master

Mr C B Wood

Mr J Wood

1 Star Master

Mr M A Speed

Mr R Waddington

Mr J D Wilson

Master

Mr P Hargreaves

Mrs I A Park

County Master

Mr JA Smith

Mrs S Truesdale

Club Master

Mrs G Jones

Mrs S Pickford

Mrs L Wilson

Leicestershire

Life Master

Mr D Happer

Mr M W Osborne

Premier National Master

Dr PG Neville

National Master

Mrs S Stockdale

5 Star Regional Master

Mr J Thompson

4 Star Regional Master

Mr M B Wheeler

3 Star Regional Master

Mr J E Taylor

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs J Lashley

12 Star Premier Master

Mr S Williams

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs V E Scott

6 Star Premier Master

Mr J G Ball

4 Star Premier Master

Mr G Brown

Mrs M Brown

2 Star Premier Master

Mr SA Francis

1 Star Premier Master

Mr P D Cross

Tournament Master

Mrs D Arnold

3 Star Master

Ms AR Grant

Mr R Jones

Mrs KM Stevenson

2 Star Master

Mrs A Baker

Mr JE Ronan

1 Star Master

Mr K Moseley

Mrs M Williams

Advanced Master

Mr G Foldys

Mrs S Hardie

Mrs J Hope

Mr B Illingworth

Mr J D Morris

Mrs R E Smith

Dr H Yang

Master

Mr J A Bowness

Mrs SA Fairry

Mr B Freeborough

Mr M Grocott

Mrs P M Inglis

Mr M Mort

County Master

Mr G Alford

Mr R W Baxter

Mr F Burgess

Dr K M Davis

Mr B Shadrack

Dr I Walters

District Master

Mrs J Chapman

Miss C Eyssade

Mr M Harvey

Mr A R Medlock

Mr B Moyles

Mrs M Pointon

Prof H Yang

Mrs K Yang

Club Master

Mr R Barker

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



At the Lancs CBA's AGM, Dr Austin Barnes was elected the new Chairman of the Association. All other officers remain the same.

Congratulations go to Andrew Woodcock and Catherine Draper on winning both the *Swiss Pairs* at the *North West Green Point Weekend* at Risley and the *Swiss Teams* with Nick and Sue Woodcock. Paul and Hilda Williams also appear to have struck a rich vein of form by finishing in the frame in most recent competitions. Andrew Petrie finished second in the *Northern Seniors Congress Pairs* playing with Giles Foster, whilst Roger Allison was in the team that finished second.

Local competition winners: *Grundy Cup*: Paul and Hilda Williams. *Madeleine Berney Swiss Pairs*: Pauline Lang and Steve Mattinson. *Blackburn Swiss Pairs*: Paul and Hilda Williams. *Bolton Spring Bank Holiday Swiss Teams*: Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, John Holland and Michelle Brunner. *Gazette and Herald Trophy*: George and Maureen McConkey, Glenn Oliver and Hettie Sutton.

Diary dates: Aug 12 Preston Pairs; Aug 25, Northern Bridge League Round 2; Sept 7-9 Bolton Congress, Bolton Bridge Club; Sept 14-16 Isle of Man Congress; Sept 23 Pendle Witch Pairs, Brierfield Bridge Club; Sept 29, Northern Bridge League Round 3; Sept 30, LCBA Mixed Pairs, Poulton Bridge Club.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk

THE county's 61st AGM's business was completed speedily, with approval of the reports of committee and treasurer, and elections being uncontested. The new committee is: chairman Hugh Cairns, vice-chairman Dick Pathan, treasurer Henry Cooklin, general secretary Robert Northage, league secretary John Thompson, tournament (and master points) secretary Neil Beasley, fixtures secretary Nick Stevens, membership secretary Pat Beasley, webmaster and minuting secretary John Wilcox; other members: Mike Ayers, Irene Krantz, Pat Watson and Steve Wright.

When shareholders John Wilcox and Robert Northage drew attention to the EBU Strategy Proposals (enclosed with this magazine) presented earlier in the day, the scene was set for ongoing debate. Proposed greater emphasis on BB@B led to strong endorsement by Guest of Honour Francis Maccabee and was welcomed by the meeting.

In the first matches of the new season Leicestershire recorded 20-0, 6-14 and 20-0 score-lines against Lincolnshire.

Last season's winners: *Stanley Trophy* (Butler Pairs): Jenny Grant and Bharat Thakrar. *Hyman Crammer* (Club Pairs): Bill Gray and Peter Halford (County Club). Jones (Handicap) Pairs: Joan Benton and Pat Dunham.

Diary dates: Aug 17 Summer Knock-

Out Cup and Plate, semi-finals play-by date; Aug 23 Three Counties, Spondon; Sept 6 League Meeting, and LCBA Committee Meeting, LGS; Sept 7 Summer Knock-Out Cup and Plate, finals play-by date; Sept 12 Stanley Trophy heat one, Glenfield; Sept 19 Josephs Bowl club heats, County and Glenfield; Sept 20 Three Counties, Spondon; Sept 26 League season first night; Sept 29-30 Green Point weekend, Spondon; Oct 3 Otto and Edith (mixed) pairs, incorporating the Midland Fitch qualifier, CBC.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



DUE to circumstances beyond our control, Lincs had to cancel their One-day Green-pointed Swiss Teams at Spalding for June 17th. The EBU has promised to reimburse the county for expenses incurred.

Congratulations to Dennis Mellor and Andrew Green on winning the *Corwen Trophy*.

The Annual Championships were held at Lincoln on 12-13 May. Teams were a little down on Sunday, pairs about average. Winners: *Championship Pairs*: Maurice Ladlow and Mo Parsons; *Consolation Pairs*: Mike Perry and Nick Dyer; *Open Pairs*: Peter and Brigid Hughes; *Championship Teams*: Harry Coates, Alan Andrews, John Hill, Ron Moss; *Consolation Teams*: Dennis Mellor, Andrew Green, Isobel Ridgewell, Keith Stewart; *Open Teams*: Mike and Christine Grant, Mary-Jo Mangion, Tony Waine. Helen Gillatt and Barbara Maplethorpe won the *Lucy Osbourne Cup* for the leading senior pair, and Bill and Eileen Barker won the *Margaret Briggs Trophy* for best improvers.

The final of the *Lincoln Gold* was won by Maurice Ladlow, Mo Parsons, Andrew Green and Dennis Mellor.

Diary dates: Sept 2 AGM at Dunholme, 1.30pm, with free bridge afterwards. Since all County cups are now going to be presented, would current trophy holders please ensure these are handed in for the AGM.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Janet de Botton, Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski on winning both the *Hubert Phillips Bowl* and the *Crockfords Cup*, the latter also with David Burn. Also to Gunnar Hallberg, winner of the *Schapiro Spring Foursomes*; David Bakhshi, second-placed in *Crockfords*; and Tom Townsend and David Gold, who won the *Hamilton Cup* at the *Spring Fours*, and were half of the England team that won the Swiss Teams at the *Bonn Nations Cup*.

Other winners: Alice Kaye and Nicola Macdougall, members of the teams finishing first and second respectively in the *Portland Bowl*; Alan and Olivia Woo, winners, with Brian Callaghan, of the *Swiss Teams* at the *Jersey Congress*, with Mike Fletcher in the second-placed

team; Cecil Leighton, first in the *Beds One-day Swiss Teams*; Carl Nelson and Abigail Nichols, winners of the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Spring Bank Holiday Congress*, with Gordon Rainsford and Dom Goodwin second in the same event, while in the *Championship Pairs* Ross Harper and Martin Hoffman won the *B final* with Ned Paul runner-up.

London has also done well in representative events: Tim Gauld, Fergal Boland, Paul Martin and Mark Lehto won the *Oxfordshire Beck Cup*; Mike Hill, David Ould, Fergal Boland, Brian McGuire, Ross Harper, Martin Hoffman, Nigel Freake, Anne Catchpole, Ian Payn, Rob Cliffe, Liz Wright and Nick Wilson came second in the *Metropolitan Cup*, A section.

Local winners: *Newcomers Day*: Jo Living. *London Trophy*: Cameron McKenna (Chris Larham, Cicily Nichols, Mark Nichols, David Reuben). *Freddie Della Porta Plate*: Old Actonians (M Fitzgerald, Mike Davis, Harvey Thomas, Dominic Wallace).

Diary Dates: Sept 16 Mixed Pairs, 1.00pm at YCBC, contact Nigel Freake ☎ 020 8801 2884 (e-mail Nigel.freake@paper.co.uk); Oct 7 Junior Inter-county Teams, 12.00 noon at YCBC, contact David Muller ☎ 020 8204 3975 (e-mail dmuller@dircon.co.uk).

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Roberts and Jennie Marvin on their selection for the England Under-25 Women's European Championships held in July in Italy.

League winners: Agamemnon (Kath and Alan Nelson, Martin Braid, Michael Clarke). *League 2:* Inverted Minors (Joy and Irving Blakey, Jeff Smith, David Barton); *League 3:* Whitefield Albatrosses (Bernard Kaye); *League 4A:* Hydrangeas (Gordon Johnson); *League 4B:* The P.R.s (Ron Steedman); *League 5A:* Altrincham Z (Roy Higginbottom); *League 5B:* Watchus (Gordon Hadfield); *League 6A:* Icarus (Karen Reissman); *League 6B:* Science Sagas (Bev Pardoe); *League 7:* Rough Discards (Tony Wilson); *Newcomers:* Intelligent Solutions (Melanie Rankin).

At the county's AGM, Gordon Rice retired as Secretary and Steve Mattison retired as Green Point Secretary. Both received presentations in recognition of their excellent service to the County Association. New County Secretary is Michael Newman, 18 Ennerdale Ave, Astley, Manchester M29 7AR ☎ 01942 888490. The new Selection Committee is Michael Byrne, Kath Nelson, Dave Debbage, Bob Cooke, and Sid Travers.

The county can be very proud of its substantial participation in the European Open Championships in Antalya in June. Players that attended from our area include the Goldenfields, Holland, Brunner, Nelsons, Alexanders, Hacketts and Hassetts.

Gold Cup: Jeff Smith, Mike Clarke, Martin Braid and Alan Nelson knocked out the No 1 seeds to reach the last 16. The other Manchester team in the last

Master Point promotions

Mr T Clifford
Miss D C Coe
Mrs J M Hunt
Mr P F Hunt
Dr A J Krzeczowski
Mrs M Lucas
Dr J F Morris
Mrs A Moxon
Mr P Shah
Mrs L Simmons
Mrs B Stead
Ms F Walker

Lincolnshire

4 Star Master
Mr CJ Dee

2 Star Master
Mrs J Smith

1 Star Master
Mrs J S Gardner
Mrs J Walker

Advanced Master
Mrs M A Whaley
Miss S B York

County Master
Mr R Barrow
Miss A Crowther
Ms H Dunning

Club Master
Mrs V R Brammer
Mr R Loosley

London

Grand Master
Dr R G Harris

Life Master
Mr E Erichsen
Mr G Hallberg

National Master
Mr L Snapper

Premier Regional Master
Mr R Cumming-Bruce

Regional Master
Mr A J Clery
Dr M H Lehto

2 Star Master
Mr R Carr
Ms L Van Geuns

1 Star Master
Ms J Frank

Master
Mrs J B Griffiths
Mr G Hart

County Master
Mrs V Ansary
Mr J Drummond
Mr D Margo
Mrs Y Nakamasu

District Master
Mrs B Battiscombe
Mr R Hartheimer
Mr D Swallow

Club Master
Dr V Lesk
Mr C Nelson
Ms A C Nichols
Mrs C R M Panis
Ms M Stanley

Manchester Premier Life Master
Dr AF Jones

Premier National Master
Mr BG Hadfield
Mr DW Pennington

National Master
Mr R Lewis
Mr N J K Thomas

6 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs A Drysdale

Regional Master
Mr D C R Collier
Mr KJ Comrie
Mr D R Gray

4 Star Premier Master
Mrs L Furnival
Mrs E Rosenbaum

3 Star Premier Master
Mr E Glinert

Premier Master
Mr B Hobden

5 Star Master
Mr D M Ackroyd

3 Star Master
Mr DJ Bakewell
Mr P W Reed

2 Star Master
Mrs A Brough
Mr F Ogden

1 Star Master
Mrs P M Buxton
Mr P J Morgan

Advanced Master
Ms B Drewery
Mrs E McKinstry
Mr R Smith
Mrs S Thompson

Master
Mrs P A Booth
Mr AJ Coley
Mrs I Davies
Mrs S R Eastwick
Ms B Moore
Professor B Pardoe
Mr R Sinton

County Master
Mr G L Johnson
Miss J L Marvin
Miss A R Morris
Mr J W Parkinson
Mr J Parsons
Mr V Ridding
Mrs M Ward

District Master
Mr K Angus
Mr B Beever
Mr JA Bor
Mr A Boschi
Mr M Braid
Mr P G Brough
Mr EJ Cadman
Mr M Clarke
Mr B Clayton
Mr M Davies
Mrs S Dixon
Mr P Eagle
Mrs H Fisher
Mr K B Hassell
Mrs W Joyce
Mr S Kelsall
Mr G Leigh
Dr I C Mackie
Mr A Marvin
Mr D R Mitchell
Mr R Richardson
Miss S Richmond
Mr E Rose
Mr I Rosenberg
Ms J Stelfox
Mr JS Thomas
Mrs M Thornton
Mr E Thornton-Chan
Ms S Triggs
Mr A T Wilson

Club Master
Mrs S Bailey
Mrs I Buxton
Mr N Catterall
Mr P N Cook
Mr R Deane
Mrs P J Dunningham
Mrs R Fleming
Ms C Frost
Dr J C P Garrett
Mr P Gosling
Mr H Gray
Mr P Greene
Mr P Hayward
Ms J Hearson
Dr R Hill
Mr JA Hytner
Mrs B King
Mr S Last
Mrs M Lester
Mr J Lloyd
Mr M L Lockey
Mrs A B Luke
Dr M Mattison
Mr N P McGrath
Dr M S McPhillips
Mr J D Mitchell
Mrs S E Mitchell
Mr E Mole
Mr A O'Neill
Mrs T Porteus
Mr RG Pugsley
Miss M Rankin
Mrs J M Ravenscroft
Mr D Simmons
Mrs A Taylor
Dr M Wadsworth
Mr K A Ward
Mr P Wilkinson
Mr A Wood
Miss M Wynne

16 are Michael Byrne, Andrew Woodcock, Michelle Brunner, John Holland, Bill Hirst and John Hassett. *Crockfords*: Justin and Jason Hackett were playing in Janet de Botton's winning team. *NICKO*: Manchester B (Michael Byrne, Andrew Woodcock, Michael Newman, David Debbage, Kathleen Nelson) has reached the last eight.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk

THE County teams knockout event for the *Lady Connell Trophy* was won by Andy Prothero, Peter Garner-Gray, Simon Edwards and Chris Pope. The consolation event – the *Cheshire Salver* – went to Dave Shaw, Chris Raymond, Stuart Scholes and Steve Downes.

Other winners: County Mixed Teams Trophy (the *Andrew Rosebowl*): Ann Davies and John Green. This year the Open Swiss Teams (*Eric Howarth Trophy*) was designated as a green-pointed event and it certainly brought in a large field; it was won by Marianne Farr, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Michelle Brunner.

The annual match against Dublin was a huge success as always, the bridge taking the back seat to the sociability and friendliness of the event. Merseyside & Cheshire managed a 37 VP win over the weekend and look forward to defending the title in Eire next July (see our website for full details and pictures).

Bill Niccol and Ted Reveley have continued their recent congress successes at the *Cwmbran* event: they won the *Swiss Teams* with Tim Prior and Jon Williams, and followed that up by also winning the *Swiss Pairs*.

Finally, all of the members of the Merseyside League send their thanks to Ted Reveley who has given up his post of Match Secretary to the League after 29 years! We hope that his example will encourage others to offer some of their time to helping organise bridge within the County.

Diary Dates: Aug 4-5 President's Cup, Merseyside Bridge Centre – a major area event worth coming to watch on either day; Northern Counties League: Round 2 Aug 25, Round 3 Sept 29, Round 4 Oct 27.

Middlesex

www.btinternet.com/~mcba

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy and Heather Dhondy for winning the gold medal in the *Mixed Teams* at the *European Open Championships*. Well done also to *Mixed Teams* bronze medallists, Artur Malinowski and Nevena Senior. Congratulations to Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior and Nicola Smith for winning the silver medal in the *Women's Teams*. Artur Malinowski and Nevena Senior also won silver in the *Open* and *Women's Pairs* respectively.

Well done to Artur Malinowski for also winning the *Crockfords* and *Hubert Phillips* trophies, playing on the de Botton team. Finishing second in the

Crockfords final were Middlesex players Jack Mizel, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson.

Congratulations to Glyn Liggins, Neil Rosen, Andrew McIntosh and Martin Jones for retaining the *Shapiro Spring Foursomes Trophy*.

Jeremy Dhondy and Ian Pagan enjoyed a very successful *Spring Bank Holiday Congress* in Bournemouth. They were part of the team that won the *Swiss Teams A Flight*, and finished second in the *Championships Pairs A final*.

In the *WBU Seniors Congress*, Brenda and Geoff Foley finished second in the *Swiss Teams*.

Well done to the Ace of Clubs team (Anne and Neil Rosen, Ian Pagan, Catherine Seale, Peter Kaufmann, Ivor Miller, Jeremy Dhondy, Ian Draper) for winning the *Garden Cities Trophy*.

County events winners: *Championship Pairs*: Anne Rosen and Peter Kaufmann; *Middlesex Cup*: Jack Mizel, Artur Malinowski, Marilyn Nathan, Brian Senior and Nevena Senior. *Committee Cup*: Jacqui Tobias and Gary Jones with out of county team-mates. *MCBA Ranked Master Teams*: Gulab Shah, Bakul Shah, Pravin Shah and Mansukh Shah.

Diary Dates: Kindly check the county website for upcoming events, in particular the Middlesex Cup entry deadline and the Newcomer and Senior pairs. Do report points of interest for this column to Heather Bakhshi, e-mail hsbakhshi@aol.com.

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk

THE Norfolk County A team did well to hold last year's champions Northampton to a 10-10 draw. The B and C teams fared worse, losing by 15-5 and 13-7 respectively. Must do better, chaps.

The summer season programme is in full swing with a good turnout at all events. Trophy winners to date are: *Hudson Cup Final*: John Harrison and Nawal Fenwick; *Plate*: Eamon Bloomfield and Peter Cotes. *Dereham Trophy*: Mike and Barbara Harnden. *Lowestoft Trophy (Harry Hunt Cup)*: Roger Amey and Robbie Roberson. *Shaw Trophy*: David Newstead and Terry Noble. *Swaffham Trophy*: Roger Amey and Julie Aspinall. *Open Pairs (1)*: Richard Thornley and Malcolm Connolly. *Open Pairs (2)*: Peter and Helen Gaskin. *Open Pairs (3)*: Peter and Margaret Smith. *Open Pairs (4)*: Gabriel Ip and John Stevenson.

Diary Dates: Aug 5 John Harrison / EDP Cup, at Wymondham; Sept 5 YMCA Trophy, at Norwich Girls High School; Sept 9 Robertson Cup, at Bawburgh; Sept 23 Eastern Counties Cup First Round.

August 31 is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of English Bridge.
E-mail: elena@ebu.co.uk

North East

www.neba.co.uk



AT the AGM, the Constitution was amended to include the County Youth Officer as a member of Council, marking the importance that the Council attach to encouraging Youth Bridge in the area.

Northern Swiss Pairs: 1. Alan Lester and Peter Prince; 2. Ian Rankin and Mike Stanbury.

Winners: *Champion Teams*: Norman and Rosemary Gray, John Kingcombe, Jim Hodgson (Morpeth); *Champion Pairs*: Tony Jackson and Fred Dalton (Stockton). *Hurworth Congress: Pairs*: Tom Dessain and Dominic Maloney; *Teams*: Margaret Johnson, Eileen Cotton, Peter Burnip, Josephine Finney; *Open Pairs*: A and K Meins. *Kempson Vase* (Multiple Teams of Four): Terry King, Noel Bailey, Isi Mitrani, Ted Szymczuk; *Kempson Cup* (K/O Teams of Four): Clive Owen, Malcolm Oliver, Damian Hassan, Bill March; *Plate*: Tony Jackson, Fred Dalton, David Milner and David Joy.

The competition to represent the North East in the *Pachabo* was won by Clive Owen, Bill March, Julian and Val Gibson. Clive Owen was also the North-east's *Player of the Year*, and Morpeth won the *John Clark Salver* as the county's top club. The last event of the period was the *Arnold Deane Memorial Trophy*, won by Sadie Robson and Jocelyn Gordon.

Northeast players have been active further afield. At the *Yorkshire Congress*, Clive Owen, playing with a Manchester partner, won both the *Men's Pairs* and *Championship Pairs*; they came second in the *Championship Teams* playing with Malcolm Oliver and his Yorks partner. At the *Harrogate Seniors Congress*, Clive Owen and Malcolm Oliver were part of the team that won the *Championship Teams*, while Ian Rankin and Alan Lester won the *Swiss Pairs*.

Diary dates: Aug 8 Margaret Watts Memorial, St Georges; Aug 12 Cramlington Congress; Nov 9-11 NEBA Congress. Details of all our events are on the web at www.neba.co.uk

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/

County competitions will begin in September. The Winter League is a multiple teams tournament, September – February on Saturdays at Kettering Bridge Club, starting on Saturday 8th September, and on Wednesdays at Northampton Bridge Club starting on Wednesday 19th September. The play-off between the two winners will take place in March. Entries by the end of August to Peter Fountain if you wish to play at Kettering and to Mike Wiggins if you wish to play at Northampton.

The *Broke Cup*, the county's green-pointed teams k/o tournament, starts in September. First-round losers enter the *Betts Bowl* so everybody is guaranteed two matches. Entries to Jim Bainbridge by the end of August.

There have been a few matches played

Master Point promotions

Merseyside/Cheshire

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs G L O'Neill

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs S Stott

4 Star Master

Mr B Moore

Mrs J Oddie

1 Star Master

Mrs A Gregory

Advanced Master

Mr S N Hunter

Master

Ms J Still

County Master

Mr M Tedd

Club Master

Mr R F Baldwin

Middlesex

Grand Master

Mr P Kaufmann

Mrs N Senior

Premier Life Master

Mr A Robson

Premier National Master

Mr A Malinowski

Mr D Moss

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs A Blaine

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs SG Obrart

Regional Master

Ms F Hutchison

4 Star Premier Master

Mr AS Perelman

2 Star Premier Master

Dr I Budden

1 Star Premier Master

Ms S A Laikin

Premier Master

Mr M Christie

Ms P Cohen

Tournament Master

Mrs C V Griffiths

2 Star Master

Mr A S Thomas

Advanced Master

Mrs S L Barnes

Mr PW Blundell

Mrs M Lizoli

Master

Mr C P Murray-Bates

Mr M Swerling

County Master

Mr T Wheatley

District Master

Mr M I Esterson

Dr A Shah

Club Master

Dr F Andrews

Mr L Freeman

Mrs R Freeman

Norfolk

National Master

Mr MA Thompson

4 Star Regional Master

Mr AS La Chapelle

16 Star Premier Master

Mr P J Rowlett

9 Star Premier Master

Mr P Smith

1 Star

Tournament Master

Mrs B R Bensley

Tournament Master

Mr D J Gage

Mr B E Parkinson

5 Star Master

Mrs EA Melville

Mr C D Owen

4 Star Master

Mrs VJ Bobbins

2 Star Master

Mrs B Morgan

Mr R Morgan

Master

Mr RG Harrowven

Mr H P Marshall

County Master

Mrs V Rush

Mr V Shaw

District Master

Mrs JE Green

Club Master

Mr G Grist

Mr D Small

Northants

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr M N Gore

Browne

6 Star Regional Master

Mr B Davies

4 Star Regional Master

Mr AGP Evans

Evans

8 Star Premier Master

Mr P Double

6 Star Premier Master

Mr G Dolby

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs C M Luck

Mr E Luck

1 Star Premier Master

Mr U Cotuk

Advanced Master

Mr B Hill

Mrs JM Raven

Master

Mrs M R Sawyer

Club Master

Mr H Williams

North East

Premier Life Master

Mr M Kane

National Master

Mr T Robinson

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs RG Stead

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr S Hedley

12 Star Regional Master

Mr RR Richardson

5 Star Regional Master

Mrs T Wilkinson

Mr T Wilkinson

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs P M Owen

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs E Day

16 Star Premier Master

Mr T F Nunn

15 Star Premier Master

Mrs A Welsh

14 Star Premier Master

Mr A M Welsh

in the *Inter-Club League*. Northampton A have started well and are leading Division 1; Stamford D are leading Division 2 with 36 VPs; Towcester B are leading Division 3.

In the first county match of the season against Norfolk, the A team drew 10-10, the B team won 15-5 and the C team won 17-3.

The annual *Bedford Congress*, a joint venture between Beds and Northants, will take place on the weekend of 22nd-23rd September at Towcester Racecourse (championship pairs on Saturday and green-pointed Swiss teams on Sunday). Entries to Rita Keable, ☎ 01525 377906, or e-mail: congress@bedsbridge.co.uk. Entry forms also from the Beds and Northants websites.

Kettering Bridge Club's annual charity event, the *Charity Salver*, will take place on Saturday 25th August starting at 7:30pm.

Congratulations to James and Shirley Dutton who won the *Norfolk/Suffolk Green Pointed Swiss Pairs*, and to Graham and Berry Hedley who finished second.

Diary Dates: Aug 25 Charity Salver, Kettering; Sept 8 Winter League N/E 1, Kettering; Sept 19 Winter League S/W 1, Northampton; Sept 13 Winter League N/E 2, Kettering; Sept 17 Winter League S/W 1, Northampton.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to John and Irene Auld, Lloyd Eagling and Keith Rodgers who, having won the *NCBA Team of Four Championship*, went on to win the *Pachabo Cup* for Notts.

The inaugural *Inter-club Pairs Championship* was a great success. Ten clubs held heats, leading to a final of 24 pairs. The winners were Rita Brookes and Norma Graham (Woodborough).

The *Priday Cup* was won by Clive Kaye with John Auld second. The *Black Cup* (for mixed pairs) and the *Farr Cup* (for similar pairs) are already under way, and the *President's Cup* will begin on September 26th, alternating with the *Butler IMP Pairs* competition.

The *Retford Swiss Teams* was won by John and Irene Auld, Lloyd Eagling, Keith Rodgers.

Diary Dates (provisional): Sept 9 County Swiss Pairs Championship (enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 9232186). Entries to the teams-of-four league: Chris Clark ☎ 0115 9274939.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



WE are sad to report that Brian Claridge died on 19 June. Brian's good humour and fortitude throughout the long years of his illness never deserted him. At county and national events, his successes were legendary. He also served the game well as an administrator, working as EBU competitions secretary for many years. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sandra.

Please note this is your last chance to

enter the *Oxfordshire Green Pointed Swiss Teams* on Saturday 29 September (see advert on page 30).

The newly-established county newsletter (editor Malcolm Simpson) has been sent to all members together with the 2007/08 prospectus. Would all clubs and individuals please send their news, letters, suggestions and views on the EBU's new strategy to Malcolm.

In June, Keith Sadler retired from office having completed four years of outstanding service as County Chairman. At the Oxfordshire Congress he was presented with a cut-glass candelabra.

At the county AGM the following officers were elected: Secretary, Mary-Ann Sheehy; Treasurer, Lynne Hayes; Chief Tournament Director, Stephen Brown; Tournament Secretary, Rita Todd; Membership Secretary, Maxine Henry; President's and Chester Cups and Wessex League Secretary, Geoff Nicholas; Match Secretary, Nick Smith; Publicity Officer, Brenda Harris; Education/Training Officer, Alison Nicolson; Master Points Secretary, Sandra Claridge.

Sandy Constable, President of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association, having presented the prizes at the AGM, retired from this office after twelve years' loyal service. At the subsequent management committee meeting, Dr Evan Harris MP was elected as the county's new President.

Congratulations to John Briggs and Richard Sills (Oxford Bridge Club) on winning the *EBU National Newcomers Pairs*.

Diary dates: Sept 13 OBA management and Wessex league meeting, Oxford BC; Sept 16 Dawes league match vs Worcestershire (away); Sept 18 Simultaneous Pairs (OBA duplicate), Oxford BC; Sept 29 Oxfordshire GP Swiss Teams, Benson Village Hall.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Steve Tomlinson who, with Devon team-mates, won the *Cheltenham Congress Swiss Teams*.

More congratulations to Mike Powell and Brian Greenwood for winning the *County Percentage Pairs Final*.

Well done to Hilary Lawrence and Evelyn Leckie, playing at Curry Mallet, who were the overall winners of the *County Simultaneous Pairs*.

Staffs and Shrops

www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs/

IT has been an excellent month for Brian Nichols: together with Malcolm Mitchell he won the Teams at the *Easter Congress* at Blackpool. With his regular partner, Keith Shuttleworth, he won the Pairs in the *Shropshire Congress*. The next day Brian and Keith teamed up with Malcolm and Judy Mitchell, and finished second in the Teams.

League winners: Div. 1: Roy Martin, Peter Cartwright, Ian Pendlebury and

David Smith; Div. 2: Geoff Davies, Robin Adey, John Seymour and Ann Jones; Div. 3: Geoff Feltbower, G. Beckett, K. Holtom and I. Webb.

The *Bearn*, the pairs competition which qualifies pairs for the Corwen Trophy, was won by Margaret Dash and Arthur Ballham.

Ian Pearce and Mike Beach put in an excellent performance in the *Edgar Foster*, finishing second overall and helping the county finish runners-up to Worcestershire.

The *Staffs Cup* winners were Roger Keane, David Beavon, Paul Cutler, David Moir and Roy Edwards.

Judy Mitchell put in an extraordinary amount of work on the *Shropshire Congress* and much of its success can be laid at her feet. Sarah Amos and James Vickers did the directing in a full playing area. **Pairs:** 1. Keith Shuttleworth and Brian Nicholls; 2. Peter Richmond and Roger Allison. **Teams:** 1. Bill Hood, David Kenward, Roger Bryant and Rafal Langowski; 2. Malcolm and Judy Mitchell, Keith Shuttleworth and Brian Nichols. **Ladies' Pairs:** 1. Pam Booth-Jones and Margaret Tomkinson; 2. Kath Adams and Terry May. **Men's Pairs:** 1. John Hartley and Chris Tavar; 2. Keith Shuttleworth and Roger Bowles. **Mixed Pairs:** 1. Annette Lucas and Mike Cornes (holders); 2. Pam Ewan and Mike Sheriff.

Sue Anslow has announced her retirement as membership secretary. She has done a sterling job over the years, and the county would like to put on record their appreciation for all she has done.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



SADLY we report the death of Perry Darwen in Jersey, where he had lived for the past five years. Perry was an enthusiastic member and supporter of Suffolk Bridge for several years.

County events winners: *Pivot teams:* Birte Ditchburn, Peter Carlisle, Chris Kennedy and Jyl Marsh. *Clare Swiss Pairs:* Andrew and Jane Moore. *AGM Pairs:* Jeff Orton and Pauline Hanson. *Mixed Pairs* (an excellent turn-out): Alan and Elaine Green.

Diary Dates: Sept 9 Ipswich and Kesgrave Swiss Pairs 2pm; Sept 19 Ladies' and Men's Pairs 7.15pm at Needham Market; 21 Oct Club Teams of Eight 2pm at Colchester. Felixstowe Congress, 6-7 Oct, at Felixstowe Leisure Centre: please note that this year the Congress is a two-day event in response to feedback received at last year's event, with Pairs on Saturday and Teams on Sunday. It is hoped that members will give their support to this new format and ensure the continued success of our congress. Further information regarding the congress: contact Claude Stokes, claude.stokes@meadowside.me.uk, or ☎ 01255 674253. Entry forms are also available on the Suffolk website www.suffolkbridge.co.uk.

More information on Suffolk competitions from the Competitions Secretary, Rick Waters, ☎ 01379 870291 (e-mail rickwtrs@talktalk.net).

Master Point promotions

13 Star Premier Master

Mr A Couchman

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Chipperfield

8 Star Premier Master

Dr P J Prince

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs J Springett

5 Star Premier Master

Mr M Stanners

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Cannon

2 Star Premier Master

Dr B Hnyda

2 Star Tournament Master

Mr JC Kingcome

Mrs L Smith

Tournament Master

Mr D Black

Mr E Hunter

Mrs A Jackson

Mr P McDermott

Mr J Wild

5 Star Master

Mrs ED Cotton

4 Star Master

Mr AM Pryor

2 Star Master

Mrs M Dadds

Dr PA Dadds

1 Star Master

Dr MW Lambert

Dr C Shadforth

Advanced Master

Mrs J Burrell

Dr S K Mandall

Mr I Mitrani

Mrs C Rivers

Master

Mr J Rewcastle

Mrs G Wearmouth

County Master

Mrs A D Bryant

Mrs M J Waller

District Master

Ms M Bland

Mrs J Garside

Mrs P Hall

Mr B Hooper

Mr B J Lytollis

Mrs F J McSally

Club Master

Mr P Baker

1 Star Regional Master

Mr RE Fisher

4 Star Premier Master

Dr J M Barker

2 Star Premier Master

Mrs R Carpenter

1 Star Tournament Master

Mrs D M Ratcliffe

5 Star Master

Mrs J A Cadwallader

Mrs ER Overton

4 Star Master

Mrs M Mackie

Mrs M Mitchell

1 Star Master

Mrs SC Barker

Mrs J M Brook

Advanced Master

Mrs MC Adderley

Mr S Boden

Mr I A Buchan

Master

Dr R J Atkinson

Mr L J Harris

Dr R Haynes

Mrs E Redgate

County Master

Mr N C Lawrence

District Master

Mr J H Black

Mr R Ekins

Mr T Middleton

Mrs W Walker

Club Master

Dr D H Dunford

Mr D Hazledine

Mrs L M Jackson

Mr M C Parker

Oxford

Premier National Master

Dr C Cooper

Mrs M Sheehy

Dr K Talbot

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr P Jordan

2 Star Regional Master

Mr J O Simpson

2 Star Regional Master

Mr S E Powell

Mr K Robbins

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs R Finch

Mrs L Jones

Regional Master

J Mela

7 Star Premier Master

Mr C Steer

4 Star Premier Master

Mrs R Todd

Mrs M Henry

P Z Perry

Mr P Perry

2 Star Master

Mrs E J Dick

1 Star Master

Mrs G Marriott

Mrs EMT Saunders

Advanced Master

Mr M Chadwick

Mrs J Mitchell

Master

Dr P M Allan

Mrs P Bliss

Mrs P Rixon

Mr B J Wright

County Master

Mr I Angus

Mr J P Briggs

Mrs M D Jalie

Mr M Lucas

District Master

Mr J A Clacey

Mrs M Eynon

Mr M Q Laphorn

Mrs H Masheter

Club Master

Mr P Crewe

Mrs J M Joyce

Ms E Middleton

Miss D M Simon

Somerset

Premier Life Master

Miss C Macpherson

National Master

Mrs S Love

Mr NJ Maggs

Mr R Tapp

12 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr R W Day

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Miss M E Blackhall

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs R C Brown

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs E Roach

3 Star Regional Master

Mr D Hoong

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs J McDermott

1 Star Regional Master

Mr RB Harper

Mr C J Simcox

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs S Stuttard

1 Star Master

Mr P Jackson

Mr R Sharpe

Advanced Master

Mr T H C Noon

Master

Mrs SP Lefevre

Mr C Morton

District Master

Mr T J Stuttard

Club Master

Mrs V H Doodson

Mr K Maskell

Mrs H Vale

Staffs & Shropshire

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs CF Day

1 Star Regional Master

Mr P Cartwright

Regional Master

Mrs B Hackett

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs P M Andrews

4 Star Master

Mr BJ Marsh

3 Star Master

Mr M Legge

2 Star Master

Mr MC Buckley

Mrs P Grocott

Master

Mrs RM Crofts

Mrs LJ Mawdsley

Ms J Rose

County Master

Mr G Baldwin

Mrs HJD Millman

District Master

Mr AE Adams

Mr B McLaren

Mr E Purslow

Prof A E Underhill

Club Master

Mr B S Goldsmith

Mr W S Jones

Dr I W Lawrence

Suffolk

Premier Life Master

Mr A Moore

National Master

Mr G Beeton

Premier Regional Master

Mr J Green

3 Star Regional Master

Mr R Parish

1 Star Regional Master

Dr R Hanley

10 Star Premier Master

Mrs E Godden

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs PS Lang

1 Star Premier Master

Mr J Heath

Mr M Heath

2 Star Master

Dr H Lacey

1 Star Master

Mr AE Winchester

Mr M C Wisbey

County Master

Dr KP Yates

District Master

Mrs M Evans

Mr R Evans

Mrs F C M Moor

Surrey

Life Master

Mrs CM Dean

Mrs FM Harper

National Master

Mr A M Bamford

Mr DI Nastaszczuk

12 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr A G Afghan

10 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr J Osmond

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr BH Smith

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr Z Ahmad

Mr B J Themis

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs J Outred

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr G Clarke

Dr R J Kennedy

6 Star Regional Master

Mr K Bedrossian

1 Star Regional Master

Mr R W Rothwell

Regional Master

Mr J Goody

12 Star Premier Master

Mrs JP Cahm

9 Star Premier Master

Mr P M Chan

Mr J Ellis

Mrs K J McKimmie

8 Star Premier Master

Mr JA Clayton

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs AJ Madden

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs K B Tompsett

4 Star Premier Master

Mrs TP Scott

3 Star Premier Master

Mr D A Poffley

1 Star Premier Master

Dr W Y C Hung

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr MR Potter

Mrs A Smith

Tournament Master

Mrs AM Brower

Dr DM

Master Point promotions

Advanced Master

Mrs O Colley
Rev H C P Curtis
Mrs L Retzlaff
Mr R Retzlaff
Mr BP Vyas
Mr T J Welsh
Mrs A J Williams

Master

Mr D Gliddon
Mrs D M Green
Mrs PA Jubert
Mr M Ramzy
Ms J Tee
Mrs K Williams

County Master

Mrs J M Cretchley
Mr P A A Duncan
Mr JM Gatrell
Mr M Geach
Mrs T L Hewett
Dr J E Morgan
Mrs GM Roberts
Mrs J Wells

District Master

Mr P R Archer
Mrs C Clarke
Mr R Haydon
Mr L Phillips
Mr G Provenza
Mrs Y E Wallis
Mr R G Windebank

Club Master

Mr E Greenhalgh
Mr Z Niznik
Mr D Sparkes

Sussex

Premier National Master

Mr D Cross

National Master

Mr N A Roxburgh
Mrs J Rumsey
Mr J Vermeer

6 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs B Tolhurst

5 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr C E Endean
Mrs J Whiteway

Premier Regional

Master

Mrs C Backholer

6 Star Regional

Master

Mr R J Pyart

5 Star Regional

Master

Mr I Watt

3 Star Regional

Master

Mrs P Coulter

7 Star Premier

Master

Mr PJ Gates

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr A Vaughan

4 Star Premier

Master

Mr C Reimoser
Mr P Warren

2 Star Premier

Master

Mr A Gardiner

Tournament

Master

Mrs P C Clark
Miss R E L Lyford
Mrs SE Stedman

4 Star Master

Mr H J Collick
Lord Newton
Mrs J M Taylor

3 Star Master

Mrs HJ Kent
Mrs G Skelton

1 Star Master

Mrs G P Cowan
Mrs B A Miles

Advanced Master

Mr S Ackroyd
Mrs I E Gannon
Ms Z Karimjee
Mr S Marks

Master

Miss L J Barnett
Mr E H Barter
Mrs C Cooper
Dr J Cooper
Mrs M Cooper
Mrs D Ebsworth
Mr M Hancock
Mr W G Hensby
Mr T Kent
Mr J P Lennon

County Master

Mr D Benjamin
Mr M J Butler
Ms B Dixon
Mr M E Greenfield
Mrs E Koetser
Mrs J E Leith-Smith
Mr GFJ Miller
Dr D C Tye

District Master

Mrs H Coe
Mrs S Cottrell
Mr S E Crabtree
Mr L Rzonca

Club Master

Ms J Alderman
Mrs C Batten
Mr M Beglin
Mr J Boughiey
Mr M Causley
Mrs J Cole
Mr M Cooper
Mr R Hamilton
Mrs E R Higgins
Mr M J Hollingdale
Mrs E Hornsey
Mr R Naldrett
Ms J Norcross
Mrs J Ross
Mrs S Swain

Warwickshire

Life Master

Mr VJ Garrod

5 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr P A Day

1 Star Regional

Master

Mr A Bond
Mrs M Bond
Mr C M Lewis

10 Star Premier

Master

Dr M Thorley

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J M Coggle
Mr TPK Panikkar

Tournament

Master

Mr BC Crow

5 Star Master

Mr AL Wragg

2 Star Master

Mr R Williams

1 Star Master

Mrs C M Cooper

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Mr P B Adams
Ms L J Anderson
Mrs C E Begg
Mrs V Cooper
Mr L F Smith

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1 Star Master

Mr A F Wallis

Wiltshire

4 Star Regional

Master

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2 Star Regional

Master

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10 Star Premier

Master

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Mr D Lucas

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National Master

Mr M A Stretch

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs L Glasscock

4 Star Premier

Master

Major R M Macrae

1 Star Premier

Master

Mrs R Cannon

5 Star Master

Mrs O D Sansom

4 Star Master

Miss B M Lee

3 Star Master

Mrs P J Bird
Mrs DE Davies
Mr N R Humphries
Mr I R Leake
Dr D Watton

2 Star Master

Mr A S Tweedale

Advanced Master

Mrs J M Shergold

Master

Mr A J Tryndie

County Master

Mr K F Bales

District Master

Mrs M Riley

Yorkshire

Life Master

Mr D Lewis

Premier National

Master

Mr D Strawn

National Master

Mrs R Barker
Mrs SM Carter
Mrs P Gowland

Premier Regional

Master

Mr T Dessain
Mr R J B Hilton

8 Star Regional

Master

Mrs M Tebb

3 Star Regional

Master

Mr DH Goodyear
Mrs SM Goodyear
Mr B Graham
Mr R T Smith

2 Star Regional

Master

Dr PW Hempson

Regional Master

Mr A Foley

15 Star Premier

Master

Miss AS Hancock

14 Star Premier

Master

Mr M Porter
Mrs J R Thomson
Mrs JM Whiteley

9 Star Premier

Master

Mrs M Sandell

7 Star Premier

Master

Mrs M Johnson

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs A R Hawcroft
Mr I Johnson
Ms S Logan
Mr JB Smallbone

5 Star Premier

Master

Mrs KA Crebbin
Mr E J Crebbin

4 Star Premier

Master

Mr D Redfearn

1 Star Premier

Master

Mr J E Swiers
Mrs S Swiers

1 Star Tournament

Master

Mrs B Lake

Tournament

Master

Mrs JC Brennan

5 Star Master

Mrs E Griffiths
Mrs J M Payne
Mr PG Shaw

4 Star Master

Mrs G Nuttall

3 Star Master

Mrs S L Hird
Mr A C Jowett

2 Star Master

Mrs J McIntosh
Mrs J E Playle

1 Star Master

Mr K Baines
Mr P Carr
Mrs C Thompson
Mr DJ Waithman
Mr DA Westwell

Advanced Master

Mr J D Poynton

Master

Mr J R Angell
Mrs D Avery
Mr R Giles
Mr D Green
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Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



CHRIS Starr and Reg Thorpe won the *Chairman's Cup* after the AGM.

The Committee were delighted that Chris Dixon, with his wealth of experience, has joined the Committee. All of last year's committee are serving again this year. The selection sub-committee now consists of Chris Dixon (Chairman), Diana King and Katharine Hodgson. The Handbook should be delivered to clubs in late July.

There is exciting news for coaching in the county. Chris Dixon is keen to promote this and he is starting a series of masterclasses in the autumn. Information and entry forms on our website. Next season, assuming that we have at least eight entries in the KO competition, there will be a plate competition for first-round losers.

A duplicate bridge club is to open in the Wiltshire town of Trowbridge from 24 September. Based at the Trowbridge Cricket Club, it will run on Monday evenings from 7pm. There is a bar and other refreshments, duplicated boards with print-outs, computer scoring and its own website for information and results. The club aims to run good quality bridge in a friendly atmosphere in pleasant surroundings. The chairman is Graham Baskerville and the club has a Senior Director of county standard. Further information from the secretary, Diana King ☎ 01225 774488, www.trowbridgeclub.googlepages.com

Diary dates: Sept 15 Western League vs Cornwall; Sept 20 Premier League 1; Sept 30 Cliff Sibley Teams; Oct 8 Premier League 2; Oct 14 (provisional) Corsham Pairs; Oct 26 Premier League 3.

Worcestershire

www.wcba.freeserve.co.uk

At the AGM Joyce Skelton was elected Honorary Secretary of the Association (wcbasec@yahoo.co.uk). We gratefully thank Liz Boyes for her five years of unstinting service. On Sunday, 10 June County clubs met the County committee for a good exchange of ideas.

The *Foster Cup*, an annual three-cornered match between Staffs & Shrops, Warwicks and Worcs, was won by Worcs; Dick and Jane Rutter came first.

The *Open League* winners were the Striped Tailed Apes (Steve Allerston, Nick Forward, Brett Welch, Clive Finney). The *No Fear League* was won by Treble Trouble (Glyn and Joy Tomkinson, Don Farrar, Joyce Billingham) and the *Beginners League* by Hoarse Whisperers (Richard Davey, Sandra Bristol, Catherine Power, Bob Robinson, Liz Brandon). *Senior Pairs* winners were John Sansom and Richard Jephcott.

Because of difficulties in attracting entries from other counties, we are abandoning our annual Invitation Teams as such. The *Healey Cup* will now be presented to the winners of a

Worcs Inter-club Swiss Teams.

Diary dates: Aug 6 (new) Summer Swiss Teams, Holt; Aug 20 (new) County Swiss Pairs I, Holt; Sept 2 (new format) Healey Cup (see above); Sept 3 County Swiss Pairs II; Oct 1 Closed Teams Qualifier; Oct 8 Men's and Ladies' Pairs, Holt; Oct 13 Irene Allen; Oct 27/28 **Malvern Green Point Weekend Congress**; information from susan@eaglelane.co.uk

Yorkshire

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YORK Bridge Club (Mark Bratley, Danny Davies, Liz Reese, Sandra Penfold, Keith Sowerbutts, Phil Godfrey, Frank Dixon, Paul Breton) won the regional final of the *Garden Cities Trophy*. Yorkshire (Alex and Jakob Gembicki, Rob Turner, Roman Gembicki, Ian Johns, Barrie Partridge, Barbara Boaler, Julia Stanforth, Rod Hose, Mary Whymys, Stuart Coggrave, Pam Coggrave) won the annual *C-team Friendly* against Derbyshire.

Kieghley players Judith Biles and Stephen Pollard were members of the winning team in the *Swiss Teams* at the *Blackpool Easter Festival*.

County events winners: *Yorkshire Masters Pairs: Grade 1:* Barrie Partridge and Ian Johns; *Grade 2:* Alex and Roman Gembicki; *Grade 3:* Bob and Sarah Brown.

Bridlington Congress winners: *Bridlington Cup:* Roger Partridge and Denise Whitmore; *Lilian Fozard Salvors:* Shelagh Flett and John Scott; *Di Western Trophy:* John Scott, Shelagh Flett, Agnes Blewitt, Stan Collins; *Waddington Shield:* Dave Musson, Graham Jepson, Dave Robinson, Frank Littlewood, Richard Pike; *Yorkshire Trophy:* Melvyn Cohen, Terry Homberg, Derek Fraser, Arthur Selman, Sylvia Symons; *Yorkshire Mixed Pairs:* Mary Whymys and Dave Robinson.

Yorkshire Congress winners: *Mixed Pairs:* Alan Jarvis and Sue Pell; *Ladies' Pairs:* Fiona Brown and Sarah Teshome; *Men's Pairs:* John Holland and Clive Owen; *Moortown Cup:* John Holland and Clive Owen; *York Mount Group Trophy:* Peter Waterman and Dave Robinson; *Chairman's Plate:* Nevena Senior and Tim Smith. *Fell-Vincent Cup:* Fiona Brown, Steve Raine, Hugh McGann, Danny Davies; *John Colley Trophy:* Sue and Chris Taylor, Marion and Trevor King; *Scarborough Trophy:* Malcolm Young, Alan Kenny, Jeff Calladine, Richard Horsley.

Other winners: *Affiliated Club One-day Teams:* non-league event: Beau-chieff A (S Mulligan, B Milligan, G Foley, G Heane); league event: Leeds (Ronny and Lesley Millett, Godfrey and Jacqui Jackson). *John Gerrard Simultaneous Pairs:* Stan Collins and Cedric Cockcroft. *Malton Swiss Teams:* Hugh McGann, Danny Davies, Fiona Brown, Phil Godfrey.

Diary dates: Sept 2 Huddersfield Examiner Rose Bowl; Sept 23 Garforth Swiss Teams; Oct 14 Leeds Swiss Teams.

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Southport	To Be Arranged

For further information, or to register for a course, call **01296 317203** or
email peter@ebu.co.uk

Watch for details of new courses to be arranged in Cheltenham, Chichester and Workington

A full series of courses has been arranged by Stratford Upon Avon Bridge Club to be held at the Club.
Book Rulings and Judgement Rulings already held; Assessment - Saturday 11th August (£35) Course
fee includes tea and/or coffee; lunch available by arrangement.

To book for these courses only, please contact Don Devonald - don.suabc@btconnect.com

The annual **County TD and County Refresher Course** has been fixed for September 22nd and
23rd 2007 at the Hinckley Island Paramount Hotel. All inclusive cost is £150 per person.
Intending participants should preferably have the approval of their County Association. For further
details please contact Peter or John at the EBU Office 01296 317203/218.

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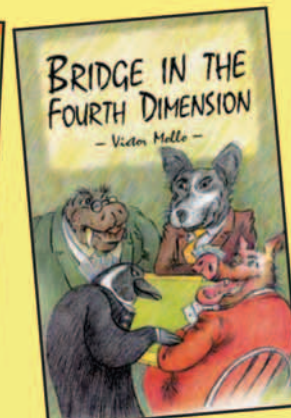


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Beat **today's** experts

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 2007 West Hands

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game all ♠ A 7
Dealer West ♥ 9 4
 ♦ A K 10 9 7
(Sohtorik) ♣ A Q 9 2

2. N/S Game ♠ 2
Dealer East ♥ K J 5
 ♦ J 6 4
(Khioupenen) ♣ J 7 6 4 3 2

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

4. Game All ♠ A
Dealer East ♥ 9 4 3 2
 ♦ A 7 6 2
(D'Ovidio) ♣ 9 4 3 2
South bids 1 ♠ and North raises

5. Game All ♠ —
Dealer East ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ K Q 8 4
(Machno) ♣ A K J 10 5 4

6. E/W game ♠ 8 7
Dealer North ♥ 10 6
 ♦ K 5 2
(Cohen) ♣ K 10 8 7 6 5
North opens 3 ♦ (weak)

Did you beat the experts? – Page 14

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 2007 East Hands

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. Game all ♠ K 4 2
Dealer West ♥ A K 7 5 2
 ♦ 8 6 5 4
(Kolankaya) ♣ J

2. N/S game ♠ A K Q J 6 4 3
Dealer East ♥ 10 9 8
 ♦ —
(Kholomeev) ♣ A K Q

3. E/W game ♠ 10 8 3
Dealer West ♥ —
 ♦ A Q J 7 5 3 2
(Lin) ♣ A K 2

4. Game all ♠ J 5 3 2
Dealer East ♥ Q 7
 ♦ K Q 10 9 5 3
(Gaviard) ♣ A
South bids 1 ♠ and North raises

5. Game all ♠ A 10 8 7 5
Dealer East ♥ K Q 7 3
 ♦ 5
(Iglu) ♣ Q 8 7

6. E/W game ♠ K 6
Dealer North ♥ A K Q J 8 5 4
 ♦ J
(Berkowitz) ♣ A Q 2
North opens 3 ♦ (weak)

Did you beat the experts? – Page 14

