

English Bridge

June 2010
Issue No. 229

The EBU members' magazine



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



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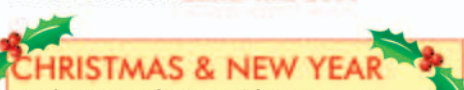
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English Bridge

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ENGLISH BRIDGE
is published every two months by the

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

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Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

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You are important to us

Sally Bugden, Chairman



I AM delighted to be able to welcome over 45,000 members to this June issue of *English Bridge*. You will be receiving this a little later than usual – we wanted to ensure that all our new members get the magazine and the sheer volume has meant that the one off change over to universal membership took a little longer than we thought!

I would like to take this opportunity to take you on a quick tour of your magazine. We have a lot on offer for club players and have contributions from some of your favourite writers and experts, including Mike Swanson and his 'Julie and John' series illustrating why we all need good tournament directors, Heather Dhondy providing hints on play, Andrew Robson on the best way to approach playing duplicate pairs, Jeremy Dhondy answering those questions that keep you awake at night and we have our 'Club Players Quiz' and 'Caption Competition'. On top of all of this we have David Bird, the most prolific bridge writer in England – nay the world – today, who continues to entertain us with his 'Cholmeley School' stories. More guidance from David Bakhshi on useful conventions and Andrew Kambites on better defence. There is advice on bidding and play for the less experienced from Sandra Landy and June Booty. Check out the EBU pages, where we have a one-off feature on the EBU staff and how they can help you make the most of your membership, our 'In a Nutshell' feature and a whole host of information on courses and competitions. And then, of course, we have our most popular pages of all, your letters. Lastly, one big tip: don't believe all that Simon Cochemé writes . . . !

Please, please ensure you keep the welcome letter that you have received with


this magazine in a safe place, it tells you all about your membership of the EBU. Please put your membership key fob card on your key ring, so you have your EBU number with you at all times. The letter really serves as a reference document and guides you to the people and places where you can get more information. If you have access to the internet, I recommend that you check out our website www.ebu.co.uk where you can access information on the full benefits of membership. Alternatively you can phone the EBU office on 01296 317200 and talk to Karen or Clare, who can ensure that any questions you have are answered. And don't forget our Bridge Shop where members and affiliated clubs can get discounts on all things bridge-related.

Many of the pages in *English Bridge* are taken with adverts for holidays and bridge products and services. We would like to thank all our advertisers for their continued support. All of the holidays have their bridge licensed by the EBU – what does that mean, you ask? Well, it means that you have the security of playing within the jurisdiction of the EBU, so if there are any issues with the bridge-playing, both you and the holiday operator can come to us and ask for our assistance. And on top of that you can also win Master Points!

You are very important to us. And to ensure that we meet your needs we will be running an on-line membership survey before the end of 2010 to measure how our new universal membership is working for you and gather your views on the services we provide.

Until the next time . . . have fun, enjoy this magazine and make the most of your membership of the EBU. □

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Instruction



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A New Challenge!

If Bridge is the King of card games, then surely Poker is the Queen. Just check your TV schedules to see how popular the game has become.

The EBU has linked up with leading internet Poker site, Full Tilt Poker, to offer EBU members a special introductory offer when they join Full Tilt. Very simply, when a new member has 'spent' US\$16 on the site, Full Tilt will add a US\$40 bonus to their account. All you have to do to qualify for this bonus is to quote the bonus code, EBU01, when signing up to Full Tilt. This is in addition to Full Tilt's standard introductory offer, which could be up to US\$600.

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

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

Fancy a new challenge to complement your Bridge-playing activities? Then why not give Full Tilt Poker a try? After all, what have you got to lose?



Leave in partner's take-out doubles more often at pairs

HAVE you ever crowed that you haven't doubled the opponents into game all year? Well to be honest it's nothing to crow about – it almost certainly means you're not doubling enough.

Say the bidding begins

West	North	East	South
3♣	Dble	Pass	?

As South, you must decide what to do in response to partner's take-out double. Here are four possible hands you might hold:

Hand 1 ♠ A Q 7 3 2 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ K 7 ♣ 7 5 2	Hand 2 ♠ A 7 5 3 ♥ K J 7 3 ♦ Q 10 ♣ 7 4 2
Hand 3 ♠ 7 4 ♥ J 9 7 4 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ 8 6 4 2	Hand 4 ♠ 8 6 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ J 9 4 2

1. You must jump to 4♠. It would be a major (excuse pun) error to bid just 3♠, even though it is generally a mistake to push too hard for games at pairs. Even facing a minimum double, 4♠ should be easy provided partner is reasonably shape-suitable.
2. 4♣. Again you must go for game, as a minimum-level response is consistent with holding a Yarborough. You bid 4♣ to ask partner to pick a game, that way ensuring that a major-suit fit is found (should there be one).
3. 3♥. You would jump with a decent 9 points, so this bid shows 0-8. No problem.
4. This is where it gets interesting. I am convinced (and so is the computer – after thousands of hands have been entered in similar scenarios) that the winning action at pairs is to pass partner's double. And that's regardless of the vulnerability (which we

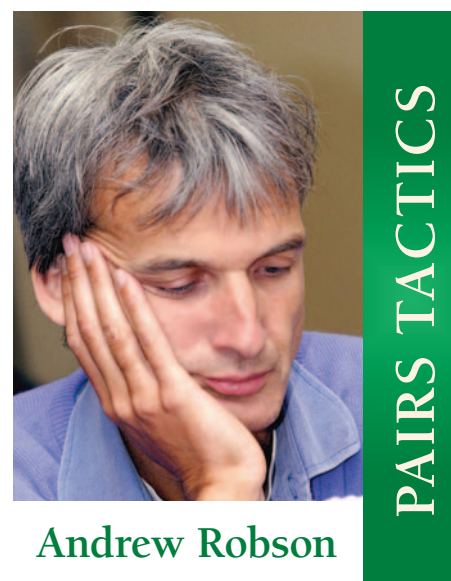
have not yet mentioned*). Yes, once in a while the opponents will make their doubled part-score – into game and you'll get a bottom. Most of the time, however, you'll defeat the contract and do very nicely, thank you. At teams (or rubber) you'd probably be well advised to bid 3♦, as the cost of 3♣ doubled into game is painful (although it would not surprise me to hear that passing 3♣ doubled was a long-term winner there too).

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

West	North	East	South
Dble ²	Pass	Pass ³	3♦ ¹ Pass

- 1 No one could accuse South of having made a frisky pre-empt.
- 2 Whether you would double a 1♦ opener or overcall with 1♥ would be a matter for debate (in the modern style, many would bid 1♥ to locate a 5-3 fit, planning to double later). Over a 3♦ opener, double (rather than 3♥) is clear-cut: you don't have the luxury of the overcall-then-double route.

*The vulnerability is almost always hugely relevant in competitive auctions. However, sometimes the factors counter-balance one another. For example, while it is superficially more attractive to double a vulnerable opponent (larger penalty), do bear in mind that he is likely to have a better hand for his vulnerable pre-empt.



Andrew Robson

PAIRS TACTICS

- 3 The key decision. Passing is risky, of course. But does bidding 4♣ feel like the way to garner match-points? Sometimes it's a good idea to take an action that, if successful, will reward you with a good result.

4♣ (doubled) would have been very unpleasant for East-West. 3♦ doubled was different. Yes, declarer could have made his doubled contract. However, he did not have X-Ray vision – a point you must always bear in mind when opting to defend.

West led the ace of spades, East encouraging with the eight (standard 'throw high means aye' signals). West cashed the king of spades and followed with the three, East winning with the queen. That lowest spade from West sent the message that East could underlead the king of clubs (he would lead the highest of his two remaining spades without the queen (or king) or clubs).

Declarer beat the queen of clubs with dummy's ace and could have made his contract if he had led a trump to the ace (felling West's singleton queen), then finessed the queen of hearts and dumped his club loser on the ace of hearts. Naturally, however, he assumed that East had better trumps to convert the double. He finessed the jack, and now West could win the queen and lead to East's king of clubs. East had to score a trump trick with his ♦10-9-x and that meant down two.

Andrew's Tip: Leave in partner's take-out doubles more often at pairs – pay off to the odd bottom. ☐



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Bridge at Cholmeley School

The Matron's accurate evaluation



BRIDGE FICTION

David Bird

'It just shows how much luck there is in the game,' declared the Matron, as she took her seat at the Headmaster's table. 'If I'd remembered to draw that last trump, I would have made it.'

The Headmaster and the Reverend Benson exchanged a glance. Luck played its part in the game, it was true. Having the Matron as your partner suggested that your luck had run out.

The Matron, who liked everything to be neat and tidy, rested her pen exactly in the middle of her scorecard. 'Ah well,' she said with a sigh. 'Perhaps we'll be luckier on this board.'

The players leaned forward to draw these cards:

N/S Game. Dealer: South.

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

players. What on earth had gone wrong with the Matron's evaluation on this occasion?

'But, of course, it's an eight-loser hand,' continued the Matron. 'Three losers in spades, two in hearts, two in diamonds and one in clubs. With eight losers you raise to the three-level. It's all so easy once you've read Madge Warner's flipper on the Losing Trick Count.'

Stefan Götel ruffed the diamond lead and took a successful club finesse. He cashed the ace of clubs, everyone following, and ruffed another diamond in his hand. When he played the ace-king of hearts and ruffed a heart in dummy, the suit proved to be 3-3. Another diamond ruff in his hand left these cards still to be played:

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

West	North	East	South
Rev. Benson	The Matron	Headmaster	Stefan Götel
			1♠
Pass	3♠	4♦	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

Stefan Götel was well pleased with the play so far. He had taken the first eight tricks

and another two trump tricks would give him the contract. With a reassuring smile at his partner, he led the seven of hearts from his hand.

The Reverend Benson ruffed with the jack of trumps and a club was thrown from dummy. When the elderly cleric returned the king of trumps, East showed out and declarer won with the ace. Dummy now held the singleton nine of trumps and declarer held the singleton ten. When Stefan Götel led yet another round of hearts, the Reverend Benson was powerless. Whether he ruffed high or low, declarer would score another trump trick. The doubled contract had been made.

'You only had eleven points, didn't you?' queried the Matron. 'Without my raise to the three level, we wouldn't even get to game.'

'Excellent bid, partner!' replied an amused Stefan Götel. Mind you, he thought, if Benson had led the king of trumps the game would have gone down. In the four-card ending West could have ruffed the fourth round of hearts with the jack and drawn the singleton ten and nine of trumps with his queen.

'Nothing we could do, Headmaster,' observed the Reverend Benson. 'I certainly had my double.'

The Matron smiled sympathetically at her elderly opponent. What could be more foolish than doubling opponents who were using the Losing Trick Count? A recipe for disaster if ever there was one! □

The Reverend Benson led the two of diamonds and down went the dummy.

'You'll hardly believe this, partner,' said the Matron, 'but for most of my bridge-playing life I would have raised to just Two Spades on this hand.'

Yes, indeed, thought the other three

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Bidding judgment

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Heather Dhondy

CP ASKS: Playing Benji, what should you open with:

♠ A K Q 10 9 6 4 3
♥ 6
♦ 7 2
♣ A 5

My partner opened a game-forcing 2♦, which got us into a lot of trouble.

According to the letter of the law, you are permitted to open 2♦; however, this does not make it a sound bridge action. A 2♦ opening in Benji shows a hand where you can make game in your own hand, requiring nothing from your partner. This hand falls short by one trick, but is nonetheless a powerful hand where you would be reluctant to open at the one level, since you require very little from partner to make game a certainty. For this reason, playing Benji, I would recommend opening 2♣.

DB WRITES: The bidding was:

West	Partner	East	Me
		1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

My 3♣ bid was based on (i) being not vulnerable and (ii) holding a six-card suit, a singleton heart and a 4-count. 3♥ doubled rolled in. As it turns out, 3♣ is at most one off. So the point is: am I debarred from protecting (at pairs) with very weak hands in case partner doubles for penalties or is partner debarred from doubling in this situation in case I've got a weak hand?

The short answer is that no-one is debarred from doing anything, but I would consider your action an unwise one, not because it might persuade the opponents to compete to 3♥, which I fear partner will double, but because I would expect to go for a sizeable penalty myself. Consider the hand on your left: West has, almost for certain, denied four spades, four hearts and four diamonds. Therefore he has a *minimum* of four clubs. In nearly all cases he will be delighted that he is out of a misfitting auction (the 2♥ bid in no way implies a fit) and has something to sink his teeth into!

I do not know your partner's hand so it is hard for me to apportion blame; however, if 3♥ only just made, I suspect he had a reasonable double at pairs.

CHRIS Burton writes: There are two schools of thought as to whether, after partner has opened a Weak Two and RHO has passed, a new suit bid by responder should be forcing or not forcing. I teach the method recommended in the EBU's course, i.e. that a new suit bid is non-forcing but encouraging, and I think that that is a sensible system. However, the alternative (known as 'RONF': a Raise is the Only Non-Force) seems to have a larger, or at least more vocal, following.

This is indeed a much-debated topic, including at the very top level of the game. I prefer to play (and teach) a change of suit as forcing, but there are plenty of experts who would disagree.

The first reason for my preference is that unless you are playing a Weak Two in diamonds, most changes of suit are going to force the bidding up a level, and often

from a major to a minor. Therefore you must be convinced that your suit contract is going to play significantly better than partner's in order to want to make this non-forcing bid. Partner's Weak Two will ideally be based on a good suit and should be playable facing a singleton, therefore the times when you are going to want to make this bid are low-frequency.

My second reason is that playing this bid as non-forcing leaves you with serious problems when you want to make a forcing change of suit. This is the most important point. Developing really good hands without a fit for partner becomes a big headache. Suppose you hold:

♠ A 3 2
♥ 3
♦ A K Q
♣ A K Q 9 6 4

and partner opens 2♥. Playing non-forcing responses, are you going to bid 3NT, 6♣, 4NT, or some other option? Facing:

♠ 6 5 4
♥ K Q J 6 5 4
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 3

you must play in 3NT, but facing:

♠ 4
♥ A 10 9 5 4 2
♦ 4 3
♣ J 10 7 2

you can play in 7♣.

If 3♣ is forcing you can comfortably respond 3♣, hear a 3♥ rebid on the first hand and settle in 3NT, whereas on the second hand partner will splinter with 4♠, and Blackwood will get you to the grand. □



Tony Gordon

THE second weekend of the 2010 Camrose Trophy was hosted by the Northern Ireland Bridge Union at the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast, in March. As hosts of the second weekend Northern Ireland were represented by two teams this year with their second team designated 'NIBU'.

Fine performances by Ireland (100 VPs) and England (99 VPs) during the first weekend gave those two teams a clear advantage going into the final weekend; however, with Ireland's Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon playing in the Australian Gold Coast Congress, England (Peter Crouch and Derek Patterson, Glyn Liggins and Willie Whittaker, Chris Dixon and Victor Silverstone, with Heather Dhondy as n.p.c.) were the favourites to win the trophy.

The two leaders faced each other in the first round and England gained an early advantage thanks to the deal below:

N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Crouch	Fitzgibbon	Patterson	Mesbur
		Pass	1♠ ¹
1♠ ²	2♣	3♦ ³	3♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
End			

- 1 Strong club 2 Natural or shortage
3 Pass or correct

2010 Camrose second weekend

Obstructive bidding by England made life awkward for Ireland and they ended up in 3NT played by South. That contract may appear safe, but when Peter Crouch led a spade, Derek Patterson deceptively won with the ace and continued with a low spade to give Adam Mesbur a guess that he, not unreasonably, got wrong when he followed with the nine and lost the first five tricks.



Derek Patterson

At the other table England bid 1♥ – 1NT – 3NT; however, this time North was the declarer and East began with three rounds of spades, so England scored +660 and gained 13 IMPs.

The match was close throughout and ended in a draw so Ireland stayed 1 VP ahead. England had much the better of a high-scoring, error-strewn match against Northern Ireland in the next round and emerged with a 25-4 VPs win. Glyn Liggins was the hero of the deal below from the second half:

Love All. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Murchan	Whittaker	Burns
		Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²
Pass	6♥	End	

1 Roman Key-Card Blackwood.

2 Two key-cards, no heart queen

6♥ was reached at all six tables, five times with South as declarer and once with North as declarer. At the other five tables a club was led, so South's spade loser went away on a top club and only a diamond trick was lost. However, at this table Liggins unerringly selected the ace of spades as his opening lead and his king of diamonds was the setting trick.



Glyn Liggins

Another 25 VPs in the next match against NIBU left England with a useful lead of 15 VPs over Ireland, and although they could only manage a come-from-behind 16-14 VPs win over Wales that saw their advantage reduced to 11 VPs, a draw in the last round against Scotland would be enough to see them home.

England trailed early on against Scotland, but Ireland were having their own problems against Northern Ireland, and when England recovered to beat Scotland by 16-14 VPs they retained the trophy by the comfortable margin of 14 VPs.

Final scores:

1. England 196 VPs; 2. Ireland 182 VPs;
3. Wales 167 VPs; 4. Scotland 150 VPs;
5. Northern Ireland 114 VPs; 6. NIBU 83 VPs. □

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John takes on the role of bridge expert

'There seem to be a lot of new faces here tonight,' observed John.

'Yes, it is the first night of competitive duplicate for the people who have been on the latest round of classes, so they might not be *au fait* with all the current rules and regulations,' replied Julie.

'I'll do my best to help them then. After all, I have more experience of that side of the game than most,' said John.

'But only because you are always getting things wrong!' said Julie with feeling.

Love All. Dealer West.

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Julie		John
Pass	Pass	1♦	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠

When John overcalled with 1NT, Julie

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announced it as 17 to 20 in an effort to be helpful. John then alerted Julie's 2♥ bid, which prompted East to ask what it meant.

'It's a transfer bid showing at least five spades,' replied John.

'We have been told that we must announce transfers, so why did you alert?' asked East.

'Because it was a transfer response to a 1NT overcall. Announcements of strength, Stayman and red-suit transfers only apply when it is a 1NT opening bid so technically Julie should not have even announced the strength of my 1NT overcall,' replied John.

'How confusing. I would have thought that it would have been easier to have the same regulations for both,' observed East before passing.

West wanted to lead a heart but he was worried that the opponents might make a fuss if he did so, given that his partner's question had drawn attention to the suit; therefore he opted to lead his partner's suit with the eight of diamonds. John, worried that the lead might be a singleton, rose with the ace and led the ten of spades and, when East played smoothly, he decided that the jack of spades was more likely to be in West hand and so he rose with the king of spades and then played the five of spades from hand in the hope that the ace was doubleton, which of course it was. East was now endplayed and John eventually emerged with ten tricks and a near top.

West was impressed with all that John had done and so decided to ask for some advice. 'Would it have been alright for me to lead a heart when my partner asked about the alerted bid?'

'So long as the heart lead is a clear cut choice, which I think it is on this hand,' replied John authoritatively. He could feel himself growing in stature and was full of optimistic enthusiasm as he took out his cards from the next board.



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

E/W Game. Dealer North.

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

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

John examined his rather nice 14-count and opened 1NT, giving Julie the chance to announce the strength. 'That's 12 to 14 points, but what a shame that John isn't the dealer,' said Julie in an exasperated tone.

The Director was called and he explained that West could accept John's opening bid out of turn but, if he didn't, John's 1NT bid would be cancelled and the bidding would revert to Julie who would have to pass throughout, though John could bid what he wanted. West felt he needed every advantage playing against an expert so he didn't accept the 1NT; after North and East had passed, John had to decide what to do and he opted for the aggressive course of action by bidding 3NT. This was not a success and he eventually emerged with four tricks and a bottom.

'Now you have seen John in a true light,' said Julie. 'One minute he's the expert and the next he's the village idiot. Still, I have to admit it's never dull!'

John wasn't quite sure whether Julie was paying him a backhanded compliment or not. He decided to keep his head down, concentrate harder, and not offer advice to strangers for the rest of the evening. □



David Bird

Beat today's experts

Bidding problems are on page 29

1. N/S Game. Dealer West.

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

West	East
Teshome	Kaye
1♣	1♥
3♣	3NT
4♣	4♣
6♣	

Simon Cochemé showed me this interesting deal from the Lady Milne trials. I don't see

the West hand as a 2♣ opener, although some pairs fared well after this start. If your version of the Multi includes strong two-bids in a minor, you would be well-placed. Otherwise, it is right to open 1♣.

Partner responds 1♥ and you have a rebid problem. 3♣ is non-forcing. 4♣ might work well but many pairs play this as agreeing hearts (showing a strong 6-4 type). It seems to me that 3♣ is the best rebid available and partner then bids 3NT. A slam is still possible, so you advance with 4♣. What should East bid now?

At least two Easts in the trials signed off in 5♣, ending the auction. Ouch! Partner is

looking for a club slam and East has the ace-queen of trumps and a side-suit king.

Everything points towards Alice Kaye's fine cue-bid of 4♣. This showed the ace or king of spades, along with interest in a club slam. It was then easy for Teshome to leap to 6♣. Well bid!

Perhaps the other Easts thought: partner's 3♣ was non-forcing, so she can hardly be looking for a slam. 4♣ is forcing, however, so what else can it mean?

■ **Awards:** 6NT/6♣ (10), games (6), 7♣ (4), part-scores (1).

2. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West	East
Atthey	Owen
2♦	1♠
3♦	2♥
6♦	4♣

England faced Northern Ireland in the Junior Camrose trophy.

Chris Owen, East for England, opened 1♠ and John Atthey had enough to respond 2♦. The 2♥ rebid is forcing in modern Acoll and Atthey continued with 3♦, which is non-forcing. What should East bid next?

Owen found the excellent bid of 4♣. Like East's 4♣ on our previous hand, this was a control-showing cue-bid. Just look at how much information it conveyed: (1) 'I am agreeing diamonds as trumps,' (2) 'I have some sort of club control (ace, king, singleton or void),' and (3) I am strong enough to

be interested in a slam.

One good bid deserves another! John Atthey realised that his hand was now very strong for slam purposes. He had seven excellent trumps and his ♠10-6-5 opposite a known shortage in partner's hand meant that the hands would fit together well. A slam would be good opposite as little as:

♠ A K x x x ♥ A x x x ♦ x x x ♣ x

Atthey leapt to 6♦, which was easily made. Well bid, indeed!

■ **Awards:** 6♦ (10), 6♠ (9), games (5).

3. Love All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Harrison	Sainsbury	Billingham	Mates
3♠	1♥	2♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	4♠	Pass

The deal is from the 2010 Lords v Commons match, staged at the Portland Club and sponsored by London Export. Sir Timothy Sainsbury opened 1♥ on the North cards

and many players would then pass on the East cards. Baroness Billingham, who is not known for her cautious bidding, entered with 2♦. What should West bid now?

Some pairs play that a change of suit (2♠) is forcing. Equally popular is to say that 2♠ is constructive but non-forcing. Lord Harrison did not risk this path, showing a strong hand with his jump to 3♠. When his partner raised to 4♠ he continued to 6♠, expecting to make plenty of tricks in spades and diamonds. I was impressed that they had reached a small slam after an opposing one-bid, but Evan Harris and Tony McWalter, for the Commons, were even more ambitious.

West	North	East	South
Harris	Baker	McWalter	Henig
3♠	1♥	2♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♠	Pass	6♠	Pass

After three cue bids, McWalter leapt to 6♠. Hoping for the diamond ace-king opposite, Harris bid one more. The ace of hearts was led and Harris saw that he would make the grand slam if North held the ♥A-K and the ♦K. (If North held three diamonds, he would be squeezed by the last spade.) Alas, it was South who held the ♦K!

■ **Awards:** 6♠ (10), 7♠ (6), games (5).

4. Game All. Dealer East.

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

West <i>Shih</i>	East <i>Chen</i>
1♠	1♥
3♦	2♥
4♥	3♠
5♦	5♣
	6♥

Our next port of call is the 2010 Chinese Taipei Open Trials. Chih-Kuo Chen rebid 2♥, regarding the East hand as a trifle short of a 3♥ rebid.

A 2♥ rebid tends to show six hearts because on most other hands you can rebid 1NT, 2♣, 2♦ or 2♠. (This inference would not be present after a sequence such as 1♥ – 2♦ – 2♥, where the opener might hold five hearts and five clubs and not be strong enough to rebid 3♣.)

Over Juei-Yu Shih's 3♦, East showed his three-card spade support. It would have been easy now for West to head towards a spade slam, but this would have failed since North held a spade trick. West instead bid

4♥, expecting this to be a 6-2 fit.

Chen held splendid trumps and the A-K of the unbid suit. He invited a slam with (yes!) a control-showing cue bid. West duly showed his diamond control and Chen leapt to 6♥ – a fine auction.

South led a diamond and declarer made the slam by ruffing a club in dummy and discarding a spade on the second diamond winner. If the defenders begin with two rounds of trumps, you might draw trumps and play the ♠A-K. If the ♠Q did not drop, you would fall back on a finesse of the ♦J.

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

5. Love All. Dealer West.

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

West <i>Jason H.</i>	East <i>Justin H.</i>
1♠	1NT
2♦	2♥
4♥	

Moving on swiftly, we visit the 2010 Slava Cup, an invitational event contested in Moscow.

Justin Hackett does not have enough to respond at the two-level and has to bid 1NT. On the next round he signs off in 2♥, showing a weak hand with long hearts (usually six hearts). What should West say next?

Jason Hackett appreciated the value of his hand. Partner might score six heart tricks, the ♦A-K and one or more club ruffs in dummy. He may also hold a useful honour in the minors. Quite rightly, he went all the

way to 4♥. Excellent judgement!

At other tables, the bidding started with the same four bids. Jack Zhao and Artur Malinowski both then rebid only 3♥ on the West cards. Their partners, Fu Zhong and Tony Forrester respectively, could see no reason to advance and the game was missed. With South holding ♥K-8 the defenders had no chance to beat the contract. Declarer ruffed one club low and one with the ace.

■ **Awards:** 4♥ (10), 3♥/2♥ (6), 1NT (4).

6. E/W Game. Dealer North.

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

West <i>Auken</i>	North <i>Nilsson</i>	East <i>von Arnim</i>	South <i>Fredin</i>
6♥	3♠	Dble	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	6♠

This is another deal from the Slava Cup in Moscow. North opens 3♠ and Daniela von Arnim doubles for take-out. Only 12 points, yes, but great shape. What should Sabine Auken say on her cards when South raises to 4♠? Some players would allow the two low spades to deter them from bidding a slam. Auken could tell from the North/South bidding that her partner was most unlikely to hold two spades and might well be void in the suit. She leapt to 6♥, eventually collect-

ing 1100 off the sacrifice in spades. This was the bidding at the other table:

West <i>Welland</i>	North <i>Forrester</i>	East <i>Zia</i>	South <i>Malinowski</i>
4NT	4♠	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	6♠

Welland's 4NT was not Blackwood; it showed two places to play. When he continued with 5♥ rather than 5♦, Zia read him for a good 5♥ bid and raised to 6♥. Wonderful stuff!

■ **Awards:** 6♥ (10), 6♦ (8), games (6), grand slams (5).



Sorry about that, but our experts were in dazzling form and scored a maximum 60 out of 60. If you scored anywhere near 50, you did well. Let's look for some bidding tips.

Tips to remember

- When a trump suit has been agreed, any suit bid at the four-level or higher is a cue bid. It shows a control in the suit bid (ace, king, singleton or void) and invites a slam.
- You hear some players say 'We don't use cue bids; they're only for experts.' It is simply not possible to bid well in the slam area unless you and your partner use cue bids. They allow you to judge (a) whether the hands are strong enough for a slam and (b) whether you have a control in every side suit.
- Some players cue-bid only when they hold the ace or void. The method known as ace-and-king cue-bidding, where you make such bids also with a king or singleton is much to be recommended. □



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



A day in the life of ...

Fulvio Fantoni

Fulvio Fantoni is currently ranked No. 1 in the world, and is one of only ten players in the history of the game who have held the 'Triple Crown', winning the World Pairs (with Claudio Nunes) as well as the Bermuda Bowl and the World Olympiad (with the Italian bridge team). Fulvio has won innumerable titles in Italy, Europe and the USA, and is affectionately known in the bridge world as the 'Official Gentleman of the Blue Team'.

IF I am not playing in a tournament, I am a reasonably early riser – although my partner, Iolanda, will tell you that my idea of 'early' depends on the time zone where my last tournament took place. At the moment I have just come back from playing in the Far East, so when I get up it's early ... in Japan!

I am away playing an awful lot, so I don't spend as much time at home as I would like. I have always lived in Ostia, on the outskirts of Rome, and I think it's the best place in the world. Being situated on the sea shore gives it a holiday atmosphere that makes relaxing very easy.

Being at home means not playing bridge and therefore having the chance of doing other things. Currently I am involved with teaching the bridge module in a Masters on Games Theory run by the University of Rome and I'm really enjoying it – even though it's hard work, as the teaching is done in English.

Normally, however, my routine consists of spending mornings and early afternoons in front of my computer (which fulfils the roles of office worker, entertainer and friend). At the moment I'm trying to lose weight, so breakfast and lunch provide just short breaks away from my three monitors (yes, three – I work better that way). Mostly I'm busy organising the bridge holidays I run, but I also contribute to the company's website, www.fantonivacations.it, and my personal website which should go live soon.

In the afternoons, I pick up my son from school and take him to football practice three times a week. I also go and watch all his matches at weekends. Luca is 13, a

wonderful son and a very good football player! Of course I would say that, but I am not one of those besotted dads who make nuisances of themselves with the referee and the organisers. In fact, I have never even spoken to the officials who run Luca's team and some time ago, when he grumbled that he was in the third team, I just told him to work harder. He did, and now has the satisfaction of being in the first team on merit.



Photo: Elena Jeronimidis

As a lad, I was just as anxious to do well – but at bridge. My father taught me to play when I was 10, and as I grew up and improved, my dream was to step on to the podium one day and hear the national anthem played for my achievements. That dream came true when Claudio Nunes and I won the World Pairs; gaining gold as a representative of my country was a great moment in my life. I would be a lot happier if my country was not run by Silvio Berlusconi, but I suppose one cannot have everything in life!

My bridge career took a steep turn for the better when I became a bridge pro, and I have a huge debt of gratitude to my Italian sponsor, Francesco Angelini, who took a chance on me when I was still quite young. The retainer he pays me (on which, as an honest citizen, I pay tax) enabled me to stop being an accountant and concentrate on developing as a bridge player. I am also lucky that my contract gives me the freedom to play on the national team, as well as on some foreign teams or with friends like junior player Giuseppe Delle Cave. We won the Italian National Pairs together, and were both well chuffed.

Fulvio's Top Tip

Make playing bridge a pleasant experience for others as well as yourself

MANNERS matter more than skill at the bridge table. A few months ago I played in a charity event at the Wimbledon Bridge Club and rejoiced in the friendly atmosphere that prevailed there. That's what bridge is all about: a game to be loved and enjoyed together with others.

Sadly, I must admit that I don't always find such a congenial ambience in many of the clubs and tournaments where I play in other parts of the world. Bad manners often come to the fore and spoil the game for everyone. Some people say that this is because bridge is a competitive game, but I don't see why being competitive should mean being rude. Rudeness is simply rudeness, and aggression does not belong in bridge – in fact it spoils it, and therefore needs to be weeded out.

Sometimes I wonder whether some players turn up at the club just so they can yell for the Director to come to their table! This does not mean that the laws must not be respected – quite the opposite. But calling the Director must not be a form of verbal assault on the opponents.

Bridge attracts both social as well as competitive players, and it behoves all of us to keep it a game that fills our hearts as well as our minds. If your behaviour puts fellow players at ease, you'll enjoy your game more.

Although on the whole I am an accommodating person, as regards partners I am quite picky: at bridge, the main thing for me is that I should enjoy playing, so given the choice between an excellent player who bores me or puts me on edge, and someone maybe less good with whom I share a sense of fun, well ... you can guess. I also expect my partners to play quickly (to compensate for my own slowness) and to be prepared for the odd disaster – I must confess that I like taking risks.

The qualities I look for in my partner in life are obviously different, and Iolanda is as sweet and understanding as I could wish for. We tend to stay in in the evening, and watch at least one film – action movies or thrillers – on our state-of-the-art home cinema. We are also great fans of TV programmes like CSI and NCSI. Or we play games on the computer – that's where the extra monitors come in really handy! □



David Bakhshi

The Landy defence to a 1NT opening

IN this article, I will look at an effective yet relatively straightforward convention: Landy. Originally the idea of Alvin Landy, it is a convention which allows an overcaller to show a two-suited hand following an opening bid of 1NT. In a nutshell, by bidding 2♣ over the opening 1NT, the overcaller shows that he holds both majors.

Why is it useful to play a conventional defence to an opening bid of 1NT?

The main disadvantages in playing a natural defence lie in the frequency with which one can disrupt the auction as an overcaller, and the ability to find the best fit available. When holding a two-suited hand, it is clearly desirable to show both suits at once, as this will allow partner to choose the best one for the partnership. This is particularly important when holding both major suits, since they make it more likely that we can win a competitive auction (we can outbid the opponents without raising the trick level).

How does Landy allow an overcaller to show a two-suited hand?

By sacrificing a natural bid, one can increase the range of hands that can enter the bidding. In this case, the least useful natural bid is 2♣. This is therefore given a conventional meaning, and is used to show both majors.

What are the requirements for a Landy 2♣ bid?

This is a matter for partnership agreement, but it is sensible to vary the requirements according to both position and vulnerability, as well as the form of scoring.

The basic principle is that it is generally a good idea to prevent the opponents playing in 1NT, so a 'direct' overcall should be based on two good suits. A useful rule of thumb is for the suits to be at least 5-4 in length, with at least two honours in each suit (when non-vulnerable). However, with extra length, less high-card strength is necessary. When vulnerable, it is advisable to be 5-5 in the two suits, or for the overcaller's hand to be 5-4-3-1 with opening values.

In the 'protective' position (i.e. 1NT – Pass – Pass – ?), a good working assumption is that the high-card points are approximately evenly divided between each partnership, so you can afford to compete more aggressively. Successful match-point players will bid when 4-4 if non-vulnerable, and on many 5-4 hands when vulnerable.

Consider what you would bid in all situations with Hand A:

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

A sensible approach would be to overcall 2♣ in the direct position when non-vulnerable, and to bid 2♣ in the protective position at any vulnerability. However, with a heart more and a diamond fewer, it would now be acceptable to bid 2♣ in all positions and vulnerabilities.

How does one respond to a 2♣ overcall?

- With at least four cards in either major, the responder can make a limit bid at the two, three or four levels.
- When holding equal length in the majors, the responder is keen to discover which suit is best for the overcaller. This can be achieved by

using 2♦ as a conventional response. This simply asks the overcaller to bid his longer (or better) major.

- With unequal length, the responder can bid his longer major at the two level with a relatively weak hand. When holding invitational values, however, he can start by bidding 2♦, and then raise to three of the overcaller's longer major if a fit has now been found.
- With no fit for either major, the responder can make an invitational bid of 2NT (around 12-14).
- It is common to play that the responder can also make a game forcing enquiry bid by raising to 3♣. This typically requires a hand worth around 15 points, and asks the overcaller to bid his longer major at the three level, or to bid 3♦ with equal length in both of his suits.

Consider how to continue after partner bids 2♣ when holding Hands B and C:

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

With Hand B, the responder can make an invitational jump to 3♠. With Hand C, he bids 2♦, intending to pass the overcaller's next bid (two of his longer major).

Can we still play in clubs if we adopt Landy?

There are two ways in which the partnership can try to play in clubs. One is for the overcaller to jump to 3♣ (with a good six-card suit). The second way is for the overcaller's partner to pass when the conventional overcall has been made.

How should opener's partner deal with Landy interference?

Following a direct overcall of 2♣, regular partnerships should agree the meaning of 'double', a bid of 2♥/2♠ and a bid of 3♥/3♠.

It is sensible to play that doubling shows some values (8+ points), and leads to penalty doubles by both players thereafter.

Common treatments of major-suit bids are to either play them all as natural, or to use 2♥/2♠ as stopper-asking bids, and jumps to 3♥/3♠ to show game-forcing hands with a shortage in the bid suit and at least 5-4 in the minors.

What happens if third hand bids after partner makes a 2♣ overcall?

If third hand (the opener's partner) doubles the 2♣ overcall, the overcaller's partner can now pass to show clubs, make a natural bid of 2♦, or redouble to ask the overcaller to bid his longer major. The meaning of higher bids can remain unchanged.

If third hand bids a suit, then the overcaller's partner can double for penalties or make natural bids as before.

Here is an example of Landy in action:

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

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

- 1 Majors
- 2 Asking for the longer major
- 3 Invitational

In summary:

- It is useful to have a bid which shows both majors when the opponents open 1NT.
- The requirements for an overcall vary according to vulnerability and position.
- The overcaller's partner makes a limit bid with a known fit. With equal length, he can bid 2♦ to ask about the overcaller's longer major. ☐

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Entries to the Editor, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk by June 20th 2010. **Please make sure you include your full postal address even if entering by e-mail.**

♠ A K 10 4
♥ 8 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ A J 7 6

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
End			

Any diamond (10); ♠A (7); ♥8 (5); ♠4 (3); ♣6 (1).

Always difficult when the opponents have bid your suits and have stopped at a low level. A club looks as if it is going round to the opener's suit. The fact that partner has not protected with 2♥ suggests that he does not have reasonable hearts. You might lead ♠A to have a look at dummy. The ♠4 could be a disaster. That leaves a diamond, which could well be partner's suit anyway.

♠ A 5 4 2
♥ K Q 2
♦ 8
♣ A Q 10 7 2

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble
4♣	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦
Dble	End		

¹ Diamonds and hearts

♦8 (10); ♠A (7); low spade (4); ♣A (3)

You have made a very aggressive 4♣ bid and pushed the opponents to make a tough decision. It is almost certain that the ♥A is with South and if we do not attack the suit we have two heart

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

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

♠	A 6 5	W	N	E	S
♥	K 10 7 6 4				3NT*
♦	Q J 10 4	End			
♣	6				

*Solid minor with no more than one stop outside

♠	A Q 10 8	W	N	E	S
♥	Q 7 5	Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
♦	6	Pass	3♥*	Pass	2♥
♣	Q J 10 7 6	End		(*non forcing)	4♥

♠	10 4 2	W	N	E	S
♥	J 10 9 7	Pass	3NT	Dble	1NT
♦	Q 10 8 7				End
♣	6 5				

ANSWERS TO APRIL OPENING LEADS QUIZ

QUIZ master Paul Hackett gives his views on the best leads, and marks them in order of merit.

tricks so a heart lead is out of the question. South is likely to be short in clubs which makes a club lead unattractive. There is a case for leading the ♠A to have a look at dummy but safest is a trump lead even though it's a singleton.

♠	10	W	N	E	S
♥	9 8 6 5 4	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
♦	9 8 3	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
♣	Q J 8 6	Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
		Pass	6NT	Pass	7♣
		End			

♣Q/8/6 (10); ♠10 (9); a diamond (5); a heart (2).

This hand is from a Crockfords match and the opening lead made a huge difference. As it proved at the table, a red-suit lead may give declarer a trick, whereas a black-suit lead is unlikely to hurt partner. I prefer a club lead as on the auction the ♠A might be missing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Hilton Stansfield,
Bamford, Rochdale
Regional: Roy Edmunds,
Shotley Gate, Ipswich
Open: John Shaw,
Codnor Park, Notts.



Simon Cochemé

Simon's Rule of Laws: A law has a name in its name.

The three most famous are **Hamman's Law** (often quoted in bidding competitions), **Burn's Law** (popular with on-line commentators), and the **Law of Total Tricks** (also known simply as **The Law**).

Hamman's Law states that, if you have a choice of bids, and 3NT is one of them, then bid 3NT. Bob Hamman is a (very) multiple world champion, so he knows what he is talking about. **Hamman's Second Law** is couched in personal terms and will be useful if you ever happen to partner him; 'Don't play me for the perfect hand, I never have it.'

Burn's Law says that, when you play in a suit contract, you should choose a suit in which your side has more cards than your opponents. David Burn is not a multiple world champion, but this is excellent advice. There are examples of games being made on 4-2 fits, but you should not seek to add to them. Burn went on to produce another Law: You can't make 3NT on a cross-ruff. How true. The corollary is that when you lay down dummy in a no-trump contract, never put a suit bid by partner on your right. Partners are easily confused.

The Law of Total Tricks is an exception in that its developer, Larry Cohen, unaccountably failed to call it *Cohen's Law*, a missed opportunity for self-promotion if there ever was one. The law states that the total number of tricks available on a deal is equal to the total number of trump cards both sides hold in their respective best suits. For example, suppose that East-West hold ten hearts between them and North-South hold nine spades. Then the total number of tricks that the two sides can make should be (close to) nineteen. Loosely related to the Law of Total Tricks

The Laws of Bridge

In the last issue we looked at the Rules of Bridge, a few of which are in the Law Book. Now we move up the scale to some Laws, none of which are in the Law Book.

(a sort of in-law law) is the concept of bidding to the level of the fit. This says that you can bid pre-emptively to the level of the combined trump holding, so with ten spades between you, bid to 4♠. This could have been Cohen's Second Law; he really should get himself a new PR advisor.

Sod's Law is named after J.R. Sod, who played bridge for Great Britain twice in the late 'thirties. The original Sod's Law concerned leading from a K-Q combination. If you choose to lead it, you will always find the jack in dummy and declarer with the ace; if you don't lead it, then it would have been the winning lead. **Sod's Second Law** asserts that if you drop a card while sorting your hand, it will fall face up if it is an honour card, and face down if not. This was popularised outside the bridge world as *Murphy's Law*, something to do with toast and butter.

In the early years of bridge Ely Culbertson espoused the **Law of Symmetry**, which said that if your hand had, say, a 5-4-3-1 distribution, then one of the suits would also break 5-4-3-1. Wisely he did not call it Culbertson's Law of Symmetry; it has since been shown to have no basis in mathematical fact.

So, think up something to do with bridge, call it a Law, stick your name in front of it, and, *voilà!*, you're famous. Anyone can do it. Why don't you send your best ideas in to Elena? (*Yes, please – Ed.*) Let me set the ball rolling.

Cochemé's Law: When faced with a choice between a simple finesse and a squeeze, go for the squeeze. No-one is impressed with a finesse.

Here is a real-life example of my law in action (*diagram in next column*).

The lead was the seven of hearts, and North carefully arranged dummy so that the clubs were not on his right (Burn's corollary). It seemed to South that he had eleven easy tricks and three chances for a twelfth: the club finesse, the diamond

finesse, or the spade break.

The lead was won in dummy and the club finesse lost to West, who returned a club. Declarer played the king and ace of spades, finding that they broke 5-1. Then he ran the clubs, throwing two diamonds from dummy, and took the diamond finesse. It failed and South bemoaned his bad luck. 'Everything was wrong, partner,' he sighed. 'Nothing I could do.'

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

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

North disagreed. 'When West plays low on the queen of diamonds, why not play East for the king instead?' he said. 'You have an automatic squeeze if you go up with the ace. Come back to hand with the ace of hearts and play the queen of hearts as your squeeze card. East can't keep the king of diamonds and two spades.'

North was right. If declarer had followed Cochemé's Law he would have triumphed, and maybe the hand would have been written up in *English Bridge*. □

CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

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

Julian Pottage gives the correct answers on page 24.

Hand 1

♠ A 10 8 7 3	W	N	E	S
♥ J 3			1♥	Pass
♦ K 5 4	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
♣ 8 4 2	?			

Hand 2

♠ K J 10 8 4	W	N	E	S
♥ K Q 4 2			Pass	3♣
♦ A 10 8 6	?			Pass
♣ Void				

Hand 3

♠ 8 7 6 5 4 3	W	N	E	S
♥ K Q 6	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
♦ A K 6	?			
♣ 8				

Hand 4

♠ A K 5	W	N	E	S
♥ K Q 9 7 6 4	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
♦ K 8 4	?			
♣ 3				

Hand 5

♠ A Q 3	W	N	E	S
♥ A K 3	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
♦ A Q J 4	?			
♣ K 8 4				

Hand 6

♠ Q 8	W	N	E	S
♥ A 9 8			1NT ¹	Pass
♦ A 7 2	?			
♣ 8 6 5 4 2				

¹ 12-14 points

A little extra chance

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

PLAYING pairs, you are the declarer in 4♥ as South after East has opened 1NT (12-14) and you have overcalled with 4♥.

West leads the king of diamonds, which you win in dummy with the ace, East contributing the six. You run the ten of hearts, taken by West with the queen. West continues with the diamond queen, East playing the two; you ruff in hand and play a top trump. West discards a diamond; East wins with the ace and now switches to the queen of spades; West follows with the three, and you win with the ace. Plan the play.

This is the position you have reached:

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


It is time to count East's points. In spades we can assume that he began with the queen



Heather Dhondy

Heather's Hints

and jack because of his switch to the queen. In trumps, we know he has the ace, and in diamonds he has at most the jack. That's 8 points, therefore he must hold the ace of clubs – but you cannot be certain of the location of the jack. You could simply ruff your third diamond, draw the trump and play West for the jack of clubs but can you improve on that? There is the possibility that East holds the ace-jack doubleton in clubs, and you should cater for that now. Instead of ruffing the diamond back to hand, play a club. If East plays low, you will have to hope that West holds the jack; the play is completely safe since it is impossible for East to get a ruff, and gives you that small extra chance. The full deal was:

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

Heather's Hints

- Count the defenders' points. You may be able to ascertain the location of a crucial high card from their bidding, or indeed their inability to open the bidding.
- Always consider if you can give yourself an extra chance, however slim, if it is at no risk. ☐

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Bridge People

TREKKING FOR CHARITY

A member of the Farnborough Village Bridge Club, Richard Anscombe has recently completed a trek in the Himalayas to see Mount Everest. He was with a group of fifteen others, plus four guides and five porters. This is how he describes his experience. . .



AS we went higher and higher, so the air became thinner and thinner as progress was made towards Everest Base Camp and breathing became more difficult. It is hard to describe the beauty and magnificence of the mountains and the scenery in general. However, there were lots of reminders of how harsh the environment is in the Himalayas. At Periche there is a memorial to all those who have died on Everest and it is quite a long list. While we were there the names of those who died last year were added, including a close friend of one of our guides.

After reaching Base Camp, where we saw an avalanche on Nuptse, the plan was to cross the high Cho La Pass to Gokyo but we were informed that during the previous week there had been a white-out and three people had died. We were strongly advised not to cross the pass but descend the way we had come.

Most days we were woken at 6 am, had breakfast at 6.30 and were on the track at 7 o'clock. The mornings all started with a clear blue sky but the temperature only began to rise when the sun cleared the mountains. Generally it clouded over mid-afternoon. The early starts meant that we had the best part of the day weather-wise for our trek.

We stayed in various lodges overnight. They were made out of plywood with corrugated tin roofs and no heating. Every night the temperature dropped to well below freezing and at Loubuche it touched -20 Centigrade. The toilets were either outside or in a well-ventilated (cold) lean-to.

The people are very poor. Most live in a one-roomed dwelling and wash themselves and their clothes in streams or by the side of the track. Everything has to be brought in by yak train or by porters as there are no roads or railways. Many of the porters looked very young and they carried enormous loads on their backs.

Am I pleased to have done it? Yes. Would I recommend it to others? Yes, provided they are prepared for hardship. Would I do it again? No. Once is enough. □

You can make a donation in support through JustGiving.com. Richard Anscombe is supporting the Alzheimer's Society. All donations will be gratefully received.

Of partners and opponents

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

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

JENNY ELDRIDGE, Isleworth, writes: The following is a hand I played recently with my partner. I was West:

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

My 3NT showed 18-19 points and I was astonished at being left in 3NT by my partner, with his holding of four spades. Am I wrong? We got a bottom.

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



When the dummy was laid down, I could not hide my disappointment and asked why I was left in 3NT with a four-card spade fit. Partner blamed me for bidding 3NT, and said I should have rebid my spades. I was dumb-struck. Everyone, without exception, was in either 4♠ or a spade slam.

On the way home, my partner then said to me (because I had questioned him) that he did not want to *ever* play bridge again with me.

Was I wrong in my questioning?

It would be normal of your partner to support spades immediately. It is true that you could only have four spades to bid 3NT but so what? Your partner has four spades, a singleton and the values for game. Personally I would have bid 4♣ splinter over 1♠.

Incidentally, one reason why a common practice has developed of rebidding 2NT with all 15-19 hands after the auction has started with a two over one e.g. 1♠-2♥ is so that 5-3 fits can be discovered more easily and players do not have to jump to 3NT with very good hands.

It is better to avoid directly criticising partner at the time although sometimes it is easier said than done!

VERA IREDALE via e-mail asks: Is there a points limit on opening a weak two in a major?

You can have any range you want if opening a weak two but:

- There must be one, so saying 'we have never discussed it' is unacceptable.
- It can vary from one vulnerability to another e.g. it could be 5-9 vulnerable but 3-9 not vulnerable
- If it is too strong, then you may not describe it as weak so any opening that included an opening bid should not be announced as weak. In fourth position some players have a range of 10-14. That should be announced as intermediate.
- If you open a Multi, then there is a prescribed range which is a maximum range of 5 points not lower than 4 and not higher than 12.

RON BOOTH via e-mail says: I opened 1NT and the next hand passed. My partner responded 2♣ Stayman. This got overcalled with 3♣ which was not alerted. I asked if 3♣ was natural and my left hand opponent told me I was not allowed to ask questions unless the bid is alerted. Is he right?

No he is not! The Law permits you to ask questions when it is your turn to call or play. Players who pronounce on the law are, in my experience, frequently wrong. It is better to phrase the question in a neutral way such as: 'What do you understand by the 3♣ bid?' If a player tells you the Law and you have any uncertainty



ASK JEREMY

Jeremy Dhondy

about it, you should call for the director to establish the correct interpretation.

M.J. HIPKIN by e-mail asks: My wife and I play Five Card Majors, so a 1♣ opening shows an opening hand that does not contain a five-card major suit. This, of course, is always alerted.

Recently, my left-hand opponent opened 1♦, and the bidding proceeded to a contract of 5♥, played by West. I led the ace of diamonds, and when dummy went down I was surprised to note that it contained only three diamonds and two clubs. The contract was duly made, as it had been by all the other East-West pairs.

At the end of the play I queried the opening bid and asked why it had not been alerted, and was informed that they played 'Better Minor' and that it was not alertable. Later I checked this out with our Director, and he confirmed that this was indeed correct.

This surprises me, because I assumed that any conventional bid, like 1♣, always had to be alerted.

If you play Five-card Majors and Better Minor and your minor is always three or more cards, then there is no need to alert. If your minor may be two cards long, and usually this would only apply to the 1♣ opening, then it is alertable. The *Orange Book*, Section 5G1(a), covers this. The reason for this is that a three-card suit is considered to be natural not 'conventional'. Another example would be the auction (all by your side) 1♥ - 2♥ - 3♦, where 3♦ is a long-suit game try but might be on three cards. This also is not alertable. □



Julian Pottage

Club Player's Bidding Quiz

Answers to problems
on page 21

Hand 1	W	N	E	S
♠ A 10 8 7 3			1♥	Pass
♥ J 3	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
♦ K 5 4	?			
♣ 8 4 2				

4♠. The losing trick count gives you nine losers, which suggests a pass. However, with a five-card spade suit, which you have certainly not promised, and a nice 8 high-card points, you need to make an upwards adjustment. The ♠10 and even the ♥J could be useful cards, for which the LTC makes no allowance.

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

Pass. You should not fight partner in the auction. A pre-empt in second seat should show a good suit. If you bid 3♠ (forcing) or 3NT, you are unlikely to improve the contract – you are much more likely to make it worse. With long clubs and little else, how can partner's hand be of much use to you?

Hand 3	W	N	E	S
♠ 8 7 6 5 4 3	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
♥ K Q 6	?			
♦ A K 6				
♣ 8				

2♠. While they may be only eight high, the spades are a six-card suit. You also have a singleton on the side. Playing with a trump suit gives you time to develop your winners. If partner has a singleton spade and the suit breaks badly, that is just unlucky.

Hand 4	W	N	E	S
♠ A K 5	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ K Q 9 7 6 4	?			
♦ K 8 4				
♣ 3				

3♥. You have rather better than a minimum opening: 15 HCP and only five losers. What is more, you have a good six-card heart suit. The jump rebid in your suit shows both features – the extra hearts and the extra strength. Having responded at the two level, partner cannot pass this.

Hand 5	W	N	E	S
♠ A Q 3	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ A K 3	?			
♦ A Q J 4				
♣ K 8 4				

2NT. Opening 2♣ and rebidding 2NT describes your hand perfectly – a balanced 23-24 points. You have no need to jump – your 2♣ opening already announced a very good hand. Although this rebid is not forcing, partner will only pass with a very weak hand.

Hand 6	W	N	E	S
♠ Q 8			1NT	Pass
♥ A 9 8	?			
♦ A 7 2				
♣ 8 6 5 4 2				

Pass. You have 10 points, not enough to look for game facing a 12-14 1NT opener. It would be a mistake to add on a point for the five-card club suit because it is so poor. Even if you did, you would be taking something off for the doubleton queen. Just be grateful that partner should not have to struggle to make 1NT. □

The Two-minute Interview

Francine Winham



FRANCINE WINHAM is an acclaimed photographer, best known for her work in the world of jazz. After a spell as a film director, in 1991 Francine started training as an opera singer and has performed in productions both home and abroad.

How did you start playing bridge?

When I was a teenager my aunt taught me whist – which I have now forgotten how to play. Later a group of friends learned to play together, having bridge parties with total beginners. We felt very grand. I started to read bridge books, and we'd sit around testing each other on the quizzes in the books.

How often do you play?

Probably on average twice a week nowadays. I used to play at weekends all night with the curtains drawn, and then be astounded to see light coming in the window when we finally went to bed at about 5 or 6 in the morning.

What does bridge mean to you?

It's my main form of entertainment (except for singing). I've met many very good friends through bridge and although I'm hooked on Sudoku, it's much more interesting to read bridge books and do bridge problems when I'm on my own.

If you could change one thing about bridge, what would it be?

It would be good if the rules in duplicate about what needs alerting and when one has to announce could be the same here and abroad, especially the USA.

What are your hobbies apart from bridge?

Singing, tennis, and formerly skiing. The singing is now mainly jazz and I attend lots of 'open mics' (music competitions open to all).

How to approach the play in no-trump contracts

THIS month we are going to look again at some 'Really Easy' declarer card play. When you play in a no-trump contract, small cards in long suits can often make tricks for you but you frequently have to be prepared to lose tricks in that suit first before you can enjoy the rewards. This is called 'establishing a suit'.

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

South is the declarer in 3NT. North-South's uncontested auction was 1♣ – 1♦ – 1NT (15-16 points) – 3NT. West leads the three of hearts, and when dummy goes down South must stop and take stock and form a plan. There are two easy winners each in spades, hearts and diamonds and one in clubs, making a total of seven. Two more tricks need to be found. It is possible, though unlikely, to make another trick in spades by finessing the ten. This would require West to have both the queen and the jack in order to succeed and would only yield one extra trick. If, however, South tries to establish the club suit and make some of the small cards become winners, this will very often yield the extra two tricks required. All that is needed is for one of the opponents to hold two clubs and for the other to hold three, and this will happen 68% of the time, which is an excellent chance.

So, win the first trick in dummy (there is no point in ducking as West can switch to

another suit, such as spades, where you are just as weak). Next play a small club to the ace and then lead another club, which you know you will lose. Win the return (probably another heart) and lead another club, which will again lose. However, after the opponents have taken their two heart winners (you knew from the opening lead of the three, which looked like fourth highest from an honour, that they were breaking 4-3), they will have to give you the lead back and you can cash all of your remaining tricks, including two small clubs and bring the contract home.

When to lose your losers

Whilst the line suggested above will succeed, it is usually better to lose the losing tricks before cashing your top honour(s) to retain control of the suit. Sometimes it is essential to do this, as in the following deal:

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

Again South is in 3NT following the uncontested auction of 1♣ – 1♦ – 2NT (17-18 points) – 3NT. This time it is not clear-cut what North should bid at his second turn but the partnership has 25 or 26 points and, although North knows that his partner has at least two cards in diamonds making an eight-card fit, 3NT is often an easier contract to make than 5♦ and it scores more if overtricks are made.



June Booty

REALLY EASY BRIDGE

West leads the jack of hearts (the top of an honour sequence is the correct choice rather than the fourth highest).

Again South will count his winners and form a plan once he can see dummy and before playing to the first trick. There is one certain spade winner (he is lucky that West did not lead that suit at trick one) and two certain heart winners, thanks to the lead, and two each in diamonds and clubs, for a total of seven. Again, two more need to be found. It may be possible to make an extra one from clubs because South holds a long suit but the partnership have a much better holding in diamonds, having eight between them. Again South needs his opponents' cards in that suit to break 3-2.

This time it is a little different though, because if he plays the ace and king of diamonds and then a small one, there will be three winning diamonds in the dummy but no way for declarer to reach them. So here it is essential, after winning the first trick in the South hand, to play a small diamond from both hands, letting the opponents win a trick early. Upon regaining the lead declarer can now cash his winners, making the contract, and in fact an overtrick.

Summary

- As declarer, make a plan when dummy is laid down, before playing to trick one.
- Small cards in long suits will often become winners if that suit is led often enough and they become established.
- Be careful to ensure you retain an entry to enable you to cash established tricks. □

Last on December letters

THE December 2009 issue had in it a letter by Bill Broughton, about bad language. I agree with him. Surely we should keep it as simple as possible, especially for newcomers.

In my opinion, the worst piece of bad language, which is slowly creeping into bridge, is the phrase 'the setting trick.' Does it mean the trick which makes the contract, or the trick which loses the contract? There is no clue in those three words.

My bet is that this phrase emanates from the US who seem determined to destroy, apart from anything else in the world, the English language. And the UK trendies follow. Please EBU, keep it simple.

Eric Lodge, Darlington

AS a new player, I too, find the unusual use of verbs rather annoying and confusing at times. Perhaps someone should invent a simple code to describe play as is used in chess.

John Toller, Desborough

I WOULD like to echo Steve Dannell's ('In short[s]' letter) sentiments on dress code.

I accept that a dress code has to be flexible enough to cater for various tastes and styles, but shouldn't it also be clear enough so that members know what they are and are not permitted to wear? A clear position is apt to protect not just those who might be offended by seeing naked legs, but also those that feel that the wearing of either shorts or skirts is no cause for alarm. Reasonable enough that the TD should ultimately be the arbiter of what is acceptable and what is not, but with a clear position on dress I'm sure these kind of potentially awkward and alienating judgements should scarcely need to be made.

Jack Terry, Fishponds

Aspects of Benji Acol

I WAS very interested to see Ron Klinger's articles on Benji 2♣ and 2♦, but I was surprised that they lacked one of the key features that attracted me when I first met the system. That's its ability to extend the range of 'Strong Two Bids.'

In ordinary Acol, a 2♣ opener can show balanced 23-24 hands with a 2NT rebid, and 25-26 with 3NT. Benji can use both 2♣ and 2♦ openers in a similar fashion to yield four ranges rather than two. The ranges are subject to partnership agreement, but the one below fits in nicely with the weak no-trump opening and no-trump rebids.

A 2NT opening shows a good 19 or 20 points and is most useful when 19 includes many tenaces and is thus likely to benefit from the opening lead.

A 2NT rebid after opening 2♣ shows 21-22 points.

A 2NT rebid after opening 2♦ shows 23-24 points.

A 3NT rebid after opening 2♣ or 2♦ shows respectively 25-26 and 27-28 points.

Tom Vickers, Twickenham

BENJI Acol seems to mean different things to different people. While it is universally agreed that 2♦ is a game force, there seems to be no general agreement about the meaning of the 2♣ and 2NT opening bids.

Most people in my club (and online players) play a 2♣ opening as showing eight playing tricks in an unspecified suit or 19-20 HCP with a balanced hand. A 2NT opening shows 21-22. However, many commentators (as well as the EBU convention card) reverse the no-trump openings so that 2♣ shows 21-22 and a 2NT opening shows 19-20.

In his recent articles on Benji Acol Ron Klinger recommends opening 2NT with 21-22 HCP but advises against opening 2♣ on any type of balanced hand other than 23-24.

The moral of this is that when you sit down with a strange partner (either face to face or online) who claims to play Benji, it is worth finding out exactly what is meant.

John Josephs, Northampton

THE APRIL DEBATE

Thank you for your votes and comments. 99% of voters thought that Benji Acol is a good system.

Handicaps

ARE the Brighton Congress organisers going far enough in their handicapping system (April 1st issue)? As well as the bidding cards they are taking away, perhaps they could also remove the 1♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣ bidding cards on a sliding scale depending upon expertise.

Just for interest, in chess, handicapping the better players involves them having a piece (or two) missing. I'd like to see Paul Bowyer attempting to make 7NT with twelve cards without the aid of Benji Acol!

John Bowness, Leicester

Top drawer

I DID enjoy the April issue, particularly the article by Andrew Robson and Michelle Brunner's tip. I find it surprising that so many players switch off when defending with a poor hand and agree with Andrew and Michelle that it is often possible to gain a top score in duplicate when you are defending with a lousy hand.

Although I like to see aces and kings in my hand, I positively enjoy defending with a poor hand just to see how well I can do!

Peter Berlanny, Drayton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

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

April Debate

I WAS very surprised by the April Debate; I think that the focus fell a bit wide of the mark.

It seems to me that there aren't many people wondering whether they should play two Weak Twos or zero; a more relevant question is whether to play two Weak Twos or three.

A better debate would have outlined the advantages of having two ways to open strong hands compared with the advantages of freeing up the 2♦ bid for a Weak Two, Multi, or even Flannery, mini-Roman, or something still more exotic.

Stefanie Rohan, London

We covered the Multi 2♦ in the June 2009 issue, and I felt that a debate along the lines you suggest might be too close to that one. The discussion on Benji Weak Twos vs Acol Strong Twos, on the other hand, had been requested by readers.

BENJI Acol is far older than 1970 as Paul Bowyer's article implies: the original article by Albert Benjamin was published in 1953.

Incidentally, S.J. Simon recommended Weak Two bids in third seat, Acol Two bids in other positions.

Richard Fleet, Bucks ➤

LETTERS CONTINUED from page 26

April Debate continued

I COME down firmly in support of Andrew Kambites. This is not entirely surprising as I play Benji whenever I can but I am not blind to arguments against. However, where I disagree with Paul Bowyer is that he has basically attacked the method based on how players see things and not on the method *per se*.

I would also argue that the reason Benji gets a poor reputation in some quarters is because players do not understand what is meant to be shown and far too little effort is put into discussing what bids actually mean. That does not mean that, in principle, a method does not have merit. It means that players themselves do little to understand and improve, even fine-tune their methods.

Andrew on the other hand is very specific about what constitutes a decent and sensible basis for agreement. It is good to see he has covered the definition of the Weak Two, the stupidity of the 19-20 2NT rebid and the poor habit of some players of defining pre-emptive-style hands as part and parcel of their agreement.

Mick Aldridge, Northants

THE debate in the April issue only served to remind me why I changed to Precision several years ago. I am no expert but it has always seemed to me that Weak Twos have proved their worth over the years and any system that does not include them is at a disadvantage.

For me, all the difficulties and disadvantages described by Andrew Kambites and Paul Bowyer do not exist in strong club systems and I do not understand why they are not more popular in this country.

Paul Whetton, Ipswich

MY vote goes to Andrew. My main issue with Paul's article is the question of 'frequency'. Weak Twos in the majors are relatively frequent and can be effective both pre-emptively (when the opponents' hands are strong) and constructively (when partner has a good hand). That is the primary purpose for employing them.

I would also question Paul's use of an eight playing trick Strong Two bid with a two-suited hand. Modern theory is very much tending towards a one-level opening when two-suited, to give even more bidding space to such hands. A corollary of this is that if eight playing trick hands are always single-suited, then partner can be pretty confident that opener has (at least) a six-card suit.

**Peter Clark,
Welwyn Garden City**

ANDREW Kambites is the clear winner. I prefer the Reverse style as this affects Basic Acoll structure less. 2♦ for me is a strong unspecified one-suiter or three suiter. The key is to use 2♥ as a double negative to 2♣ and that means all balanced hands of 23+ can be opened with 2♣.

Add this to Frances Hinden's excellent ideas published last year (more example hands please!) and you have a complete system suitable up to the top of the county tree.

Tim Greenhill, Billingshurst

Other letters making similar points came from Philip Howard (by e-mail), Keith Jackson (Cheam), Ian Kemp (Ware) Patrick Kent (Ditchling Common), Shirley Pritchard (London), Tim Warren (Chobham).

Early Warning

IN the information release on the EBU website about requirements for players representing clubs in the NICKO and Garden Cities, a suggestion is made that there may be a requirement for those players to have played twelve duplicate sessions in the year at their home club. Twelve is a larger number than the one I have in mind. There are many clubs who meet just once or twice a week, which would restrict their members' chances of representing the club – some may struggle to find eight strong players for a Garden Cities team.

I understand the EBU's wish to establish the *bona fides* of players representing clubs in the NICKO and Garden Cities competitions. I also understand that the EBU does not want clubs bussing in top players for these competitions, who have little association with the clubs they are representing. I am sure also that it is not the EBU's intent to prevent loyal club members from representing their own bridge club. Unfortunately, at the moment your criteria for representation do appear to be worryingly one-eyed and may need revising.

**Julian Mitchell,
East Sussex**

Andrew Petrie, Tournament Committee Chairman, replies: We have received a number of e-mails on this topic, nearly all supportive of the reasoning behind the change but querying the details. We will not make a final decision on this issue until we have some extensive data from P2P submissions (see article on page 35), in October at the earliest. I will make sure your views, as well as other members', are properly considered when we come to that decision.

When in Rome

WITH regard to the letter entitled 'Diplomacy', in your April issue, I entirely agree with Andrew Petrie's statement about acceptable dress at EBU events (and possibly not only then) where tournament directors can insist on competitors wearing proper clothing.

Frankly I find it bad enough nowadays to have to hear all the 'ok' and 'hya there' to have to also dress down at special occasions. Besides, I am sure that most Americans would be quite happy to have to dress up to English elegance, as always was this country's reputation. When in Rome do as the Romans do!

Giovaristi@onetel.com

3 for a win

IN the light of England's impending success in the World Cup, I propose the EBU introduces a change to the scoring of match-pointed pairs. Instead of the traditional two match-points for every pair whose result you beat, you should now receive three match points, soccer-style. This will not significantly change the tactics for winning pairs play, but will lead to both more adventurous bidding (a grand slam on a finesse is now a reasonable proposition) and declarer play (it will become worth risking your contract for an overtrick). Thus the game will become more exciting, just as three points for a win in soccer has led to more exciting football matches (allegedly).

I understand the chess world is considering a similar proposal, aimed at reducing the number of boring short draws.

Mike Wenble, Berkshire ➤

THE ART OF PLAYING BRIDGE AT HOME
SEE www.bridgeassistant.net

LETTERS CONTINUED from page 27

What a hand!

AT our Newent club, this hand was played at eighteen tables and I think I've heard seventy-two views on how it should be bid!

Love All. Dealer South.

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

South variously opened 1♦, 2♦ (weak), 3♦ or 4♦. Whatever your preference, there is some merit in each of these bids and I think you could spark a lively debate over the opening bid alone. Most Wests then either made a take-out double or an intermediate or strong jump-overcall. One player 'took a view' and bid 6♥, and a couple used a Michael's Cue-bid to show 5-5 in the majors.

North then bid some number of diamonds ranging from a simple raise to a triple jump (1♦, Double, 5♦), most of which silenced East. South then generally raised to game, unless already bid by North.

Some Wests, not having had any support from East, made a disastrous penalty double only

to find that 5♦ doubled, is virtually cold. I doubt many pairs would find the lead of a small heart to the king and a club return. Some elected a 5♥ overcall which again sometimes ended the auction. Some Norths decided that having no defence to 5♥, they'd sacrifice in 6♦, which is an excellent result for N/S costing at most 100 if doubled.

At this point some Easts decided that having said nothing throughout and if West could bid 5♥ without the king of hearts, they would bid 6♥. Again, excellent judgment giving E/W a good score.

The red mist was beginning to descend and so a couple of South's took their cue from North and sacrificed in 7♦ – an excellent result for N/S costing at most 300 if doubled.

The E/W top went to the pair who bid 7♠ after N/S bid to 7♦. South was on lead and, convinced that North must hold four diamonds to bid seven and therefore one opponent (probably East, as he bid 7♠) was void in that suit, he led the 'safe' ace of clubs. Two minutes later, after drawing trumps and unblocking the heart king, East couldn't suppress a wry smile as he discarded his losing diamond on the fourth heart.

Now that's what I call a hand!

Brian Dorey, Newent

Good for a laugh

PLAYING at the bridge club, my LHO opened the bidding with 1♣ and the bidding went:

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I led and won the first trick.

I noticed that dummy had four spades but only ♥A-K-10 so I assumed that they preferred a 5-3 fit in hearts rather than a 4-4 fit in spades.

As I also had four spades, I led one, everyone followed and declarer won the trick.

I won the third trick so I led another spade for my partner to ruff but she followed.

When we had finished playing the hand I asked my RHO why she had bid 2♠ when she had only two spades in her hand. 'It tells my partner that I have exactly 11 points after he has bid 1NT,' she replied. 'Only if I opened 1NT,' replied LHO.

Even though the opposition got a top, my partner and I could only laugh.

Edward Newman, Luton

Support

IN response to the April 'Chat with the Editor', I thought I'd send a quick note to say well done on the design of the cover for the February issue. I thought it was excellent. Yes, it would have been even better if there'd been a 'who's who', but that's very minor in the scheme of things.

I also agree with your comments about covering the Premier League, and competitiveness. Regarding your third topic, all I can say is that it's rather sad if people write abusive messages to the editor of a bridge magazine.

Tim Warren, Chobham

The Poor Man's Duplimate

IN your April issue, Jeremy Dhondy makes a very good case for computer-dealt hands but then goes on to say that the main drawback is the cost. Not so! I have used computer-dealt hands at my club for two years and don't have a dealing machine! See below . . .

Most clubs would like to have computer dealt hands with print-outs but are put off by the cost of the dealing machines. At my bridge club, the Darley Club in Troon, I have found a neat solution. I have purchased 'Dealmaster' software (only £32) and we make up the hands manually from the computer print-out. The members like them and hence won't be thrown when they meet computer-dealt hands in tournaments. As well as getting a print-out of the hands, they get 'Deep Finesse' computer analysis showing the number of tricks that can be made with best play on both sides.

If the hands are suited by the members at the end of a session, it takes about forty minutes to make up twenty-four boards. If a non-playing member of the club isn't available, then you simply find a bright teenager who wants to earn some pocket money! The alternative is to have two sets of boards: get the members to make up the boards for the following week's session – no one remembers a single card! (*Note: this is illegal! — Ed.*)

Give it a try at your club, you won't regret it. Once your members get used to more exciting hands with the print-outs, they will never want to go back to the old ways. After all, has any club who introduced bidding boxes ever gone back to silent bidders?

Ian Dalziel, Troon □



Submission No. 1

At 4.49pm on 1st April the EBU received their very first Pay To Play submission.

Welwyn Garden City Bridge Club had a ten-table duplicate in the morning.

Congratulations to Susan Early and Nora Cherry (North-South) and Michael Pearce and Ann Kaplan (East-West) for winning the first session of the new era.

– CUT OUT – CUT OUT – CUT OUT –

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.

June 2010 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Teshome)
♠ A 6 4
♥ A
♦ A
♣ K J 10 9 8 5 4 2
2. Love All
Dealer East
(Atthey)
♠ J 7
♥ 10
♦ A K J 10 7 6 5
♣ 10 6 5
3. Love All
Dealer North
(Lord Harrison)
♠ A Q 10 8 4 3 2
♥ Void
♦ Q 6 4
♣ A 10 3
***North opens 1♥**
4. Game All
Dealer East
(Shih)
♠ A K J 9 4
♥ 4 3
♦ A K J 8
♣ J 4
5. Love All
Dealer West
(Jason Hackett)
♠ J 9 8 6 3
♥ A 5 4
♦ A K 6 2
♣ Q
6. E/W Game
Dealer North
(Auken)
♠ 8 4
♥ A K Q J 2
♦ K J 9 4
♣ J 5
***North opens 3♠,
South bids 4♠**

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15

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.

June 2010 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Kaye)
♠ K 10 5
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ 10 7 5 3
♣ A Q
2. Love All
Dealer East
(Owen)
♠ A K Q 8 4 3
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ Q 9 3
♣ Void
3. Love All
Dealer North
(Baroness Billingham)
♠ K 6 5
♥ Q 9 3
♦ A J 8 7 2
♣ K 6
***North opens 1♥**
4. Game All
Dealer East
(Chen)
♠ 10 3 2
♥ K Q J 10 9 6
♦ 5
♣ A K 3
5. Love All
Dealer West
(Justin Hackett)
♠ 4
♥ Q J 10 9 3 2
♦ 5 4
♣ K 9 7 3
6. E/W Game
Dealer North
(von Arnim)
♠ Void
♥ 10 8 7 4 3
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ A Q 9 7
***North opens 3♠,
South bids 4♠**

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15

– CUT OUT – CUT OUT – CUT OUT –

EBU SHOP OFFERS

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HALF-PRICE 32-PAIR TRAVELLERS
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No further discounts.
Prices do not include p&p.
Offers end 30 June 2010.

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please let us know
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the price where possible.**



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No further discounts.
Prices do not include p&p.
Offers end 30 June 2010.





EBU News

Who's who at the EBU

– and what they do for you

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our staff and how they can help you make the most of your membership. All of our staff help with the front-line services directly delivered to our members; they also have to fulfil administrative functions that ensure that these services are delivered effectively and efficiently including monitoring, budgeting and accounting. If you need to contact any of us, just phone 01296 317200 or e-mail postmaster@ebu.co.uk.

Members Services

Club and Membership Support

Matt Betts – Press and Communications Officer (since 2007)



Matt is responsible for promoting bridge and the EBU throughout England at all levels through Press and Media. If you require help promoting your bridge club and its activities locally, Matt is your man. He also co-ordinates the Minibridge initiative for primary schools for the EBU and is eager to set up this initiative in your area with your education authority. Matt is also responsible for the production and editing of our electronic newsletters: *Club Focus*, *Tournament Focus*, and *Brighton Focus*, amongst others.

Michael Clark – IT Support Officer / Webmaster (since 2004)



Michael is the architect of the IT systems that support Pay to Play and Universal Membership. He can answer all your questions on membership as he maintains the EBU's membership database. Alongside this important work, Michael is responsible for the website, produces the diary every year, and looks after bridge presentations on Vu-Graph and BBO.

Krys Kazmierczak – Club Liaison Officer (since 2007)



Krys exists to help you make the most of EBU affiliation and is happy to visit you to explain about services the EBU can provide to your club or advise on membership development. He is also the key co-ordinator and advisor to the Club Committee, and co-edits *Club Focus*.

Ian Mitchell – Technical Support (since 1998)



Ian provides support for those who need help in scoring their bridge events, and will also help you with any queries that you have on Master Points. Ian is also part of the team that can answer questions about regulations and the Laws of Bridge. He has played a key role with Michael Clark in the provision of technical support and systems for Pay to Play and Universal Membership.

Education Department

John Pain – Education Manager (since 2001)



John is your first port of call about all matters on Education. He co-ordinates the club teacher and partner teacher programme of courses and our club tournament director training. John is also responsible for updating our teaching materials in the Bridge for All programme and on the EBU Teachers Association (EBUTA) website. He also restructured the 'Teach Yourself Bridge' online program from Standard American to Acol. He compiles newsletters for teachers and students, and is always available to provide advice to students and teachers alike. John also helps run the Really Easy Tournaments for novice players.

John fulfils another important role as secretary to the Laws and Ethics committee, which looks after rules and regulations of the game in England and deals with disciplinary issues on behalf of the membership.

Lisa Miller – Education Assistant (since 1984)



Lisa helps John look after all the Bridge For All students and EBUTA teachers. If members want to register students, buy books, pay EBUTA subscription, then please contact Lisa.

Tournaments Department

Max Bavin – Tournaments Manager / Chief Tournament Director (since 1984)



Max is the manager of the Tournaments Department which organises all the national competitions and congresses, which includes everything from venue bookings to tournament director provision. However, Max also helps clubs and counties with technical matters such as laws, regulations, Master Points, bridge movements etc. Max has a wealth of expertise and experience, and is a valued member of the Laws & Ethics Committee, the Tournament Committee and the Selection Committee. ➤



EBU News

Peter Jordan - Tournaments Administrator (since 2000)



Peter is the voice you will hear if you phone to find out more about our competitions. He is responsible for co-ordinating entries and all of the pre-tournament administration for EBU competitions and congresses. Peter also deals with the knock-out competitions, including the National Inter Club Knock-Out, and works on the front of house at our Brighton tournament – our largest annual competition.

Peter is secretary to the Tournament Committee, and is the administrator of the EBU calendar, which includes all the County One Day Green Point events.

Dawn Mertens – Tournaments Administrator (since 1999)



Dawn helps Peter with pre-tournament administration. She is also responsible for issuing licences to clubs, counties and commercial organisations for their competitions. Dawn also makes all the travel and accommodation arrangements for the England Open, Women's and Junior teams.

Gill Pain – Tournaments Administrator (since 1995)



Gill is the EBU 'roadie', and ensures that our equipment reaches our bridge events, which involves a great deal of forward planning. Gill often attends as a scorer, having graduated from pencil and paper, through various computer systems and now Bridgemates.

Gill organises and runs the Really Easy events for our novice players and is the webmaster for www.reallyeasybridge.com.

Bridge Shop

Sue Humphris – Bridge Shop Manager (since 2002), part-time



Sue is in charge of this well-regarded service. She will take your telephone or e-mail order and ensure that the correct discount is offered and payment received. Sue is always on the lookout for new products and aims to sell quality bridge supplies at very competitive prices.

Andrea Morgan – Bridge Shop Assistant (since 2006), part-time



Andrea assists Sue with all bridge shop sales. She is currently on maternity leave.

Colin Goodenough – Trading Assistant (since 2008), part-time



Colin picks and packs your bridge shop order. He also stock-takes and makes sure that we do not run out of stock for our members.

Administration

Barry Capal – General Manager (since 2006), part-time



Barry is ultimately responsible for the EBU's daily operations and all staff. He ensures that all our activities are delivered effectively. Barry attends all Board meetings to ensure that there is effective communication between operational activity and policy making.

Barry is also our Company Secretary and as such is keeper of the constitution. His attendance at Shareholders meetings fulfils two roles: communication about Aylesbury activities and compliance with the constitution.

Gail Nancarrow – Accounts Manager (since 2005), part-time



Gail deals with all financial matters; from the daily banking and processing of invoices, to running the payroll and producing the management accounts.

The following administrative staff carry out their office management responsibilities and also help with membership enquiries and the management of information about members, counties and clubs. These are the staff that will send out information to existing and prospective members and clubs.

Karen Durrell – Office Manager / Receptionist (since 2001)



Karen manages the office and is responsible for, amongst other things, all office equipment, security, health and safety, and all membership communications. Karen also takes the minutes of Board meetings. She is likely to be your first contact by phone or e-mail.

Clare Dumbarton – Office Assistant (since 2006)



Clare assists Karen with the efficient running of the office. She also deals with the Chairman's correspondence.

Kay Carter – Administration Assistant (since 1985), part-time



Kay's job includes preparing and dispatching Shareholder and Board agendas/papers and distribution of minutes. She is also the co-ordinator of the annual Dimmie Fleming Awards for volunteers who have served above and beyond the call of duty at County level.

EBU HQ is in Aylesbury; the office is open Monday – Friday, 09.00 – 17.00 and closed on Bank Holidays and over the Christmas period.



EBU News

NEW EBU 'IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE' CRUISES

in partnership with Gill's Cruises and Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

EVERYONE who plays bridge, whether in a club or socially at home, wishes they could do better!

The EBU has linked with Gill's Cruises and Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines to bring you three cruises with on-board bridge classes that are designed to help you hone your basic systems.

The topics include everyday situations such as how to respond to your partner's overcall, when to double, pre-emptive bidding including Weak Two openers – and much, much, more.

Sue Maxwell will teach on the Improve your Bridge Cruises. She is a qualified Professional Grade EBU teacher whose classes are renowned for being very relaxed and good fun.

Pride of Portugal
on board Braemar
18 October 2010 - 08 Nts

Dover - Lisbon - Portimao
Leixoes (Oporto) - La Coruna
Dover

Inside from only
£559pp
+ £80 bridge services

£50
PER CABIN
SPENDING
MONEY

Canary Island Easter
on board Black Watch
15 April 2011 - 12 Nts

Southampton - Lisbon
Lanzarote - Tenerife
Gran Canaria - Madeira
Southampton

Inside from only
£999pp
+ £120 bridge services

£75
PER CABIN
SPENDING
MONEY

Norwegian Summer
on board Black Watch
01 July 2011 - 08 Nts

Dover - Stavanger - Eidfjord
Hardangerfjord - Gudvangen
Sognefjord - Geiranger
Storfjord - Bergen - Dover

Inside from only
£889pp
+ £80 bridge services

£60
PER CABIN
SPENDING
MONEY

JUNIOR TEACH-IN WEEKEND

27th – 29th August 2010
Loughborough University

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



Only £125per student

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



Accompanying
adults welcome
(£140 each)

Entries ☎ 01296 317217/8

BOOK BY 30th JUNE 2010 TO SECURE THESE SPECIAL EARLY BOOKING OFFERS!



For further details or to make a booking contact

Gill's Cruise Centre 0845 460 7002

Details can be found at www.gillscruise.com or www.ebu.co.uk



English Bridge and the EBU have been asked to provide bite-sized explanations of various topics: EBU policies, laws, regulations, conventions etc. We can't do it all at once, but we're happy to launch a new column by Jeremy Dhondy, 'In a Nutshell', which starts below.

IN A NUTSHELL: ALERTING DOUBLES MADE EASY

A short reference table provided by Jeremy Dhondy, Laws & Ethics Chairman

OPPONENTS BID . . .	WHAT DO YOU DO IF PARTNER DOUBLES?
Any suit bid naturally at any point in the auction up to 3NT. (This includes 1♣ or 1♦ which is phoney or prepared.)	If double is take-out, DO NOTHING . If anything else, ALERT .
Any suit bid artificially at any point in the auction up to 3NT, e.g. a transfer bid or Stayman.	If double shows the suit, DO NOTHING . If anything else, ALERT .
Any natural no-trump bid at any point in the auction up to and including 3NT.	If penalty, DO NOTHING . If anything else, ALERT .
Any bid above 3NT.	DO NOTHING unless double calls for the lead of a suit other than the one doubled. If so, then ALERT .

ENGLISH BRIDGE

Q. What do I need to do to ensure I get the magazine regularly?

A. If you join an affiliated club you are an EBU member. You need two points to receive each magazine, which is a total of 12 points a year to receive all six magazines.

- For every session you play at an affiliated club or any EBU congress you get 1 point
- For playing in an EBU KO competition you get 2 points
- Any member new or existing on April 1st got 6 points – which includes all our affiliated clubs and their members

Therefore:

- Anyone who was a member on April 1st will get the June, August and October editions automatically
- If you pay to become a DIRECT member you will receive 12 points and thus get all 6 issues of the magazine

For further information please go to www.ebu.co.uk/pay2play/magazine%20points.pdf

Brighton Seniors Congress

*Hilton Metropole
Hotel, Brighton*
9 – 12 August 2010

**NEW
DATES**

Senior event players
must have been born in
or before 1951.

This is a Level 4
tournament



The **Senior Pairs** will start in the evening on Monday 9th and Session II will be on Tuesday 10th afternoon, with the Final and Consolation Final on Tuesday evening.

Session I of the **Senior Swiss Teams** will be on Wednesday 11th afternoon, with Session II on Thursday 12th afternoon. Both sessions will start at 1pm.

Entries and enquiries to Competitions Dept, EBU



☎ 01296 317203/219

6 – 15 August 2010



Brighton Summer Meeting

Hilton Metropole Hotel



**NEW
DATES**

The event incorporates
the **Really Easy Congress** (9-11 August),
the **Next Step Congress** (10-12 August)
and the **Seniors Congress** (9-12 August)

- First weekend: Green-pointed Swiss Pairs championship for the Harold Poster Cup
- Wind down on Sunday evening in an Open Pairs or Open Teams (free entry to Swiss Pairs players)
- Mid-week events include a 'Play with the Experts' Pairs, a Mixed Pivot Teams, and a Mixed Pairs (now all Green-pointed events)
- Open Pairs available every afternoon (subject to demand)
- Second Weekend: Green-pointed Four Stars Swiss Teams championship
- The last Friday afternoon Open Pairs is also available free of charge to all Swiss Teams players (1.00 pm start)

Entries ☎ 01296 317203/219

Really Easy Congresses

**NEW
DATES**

9 – 11 August 2010

NEXT STEP:

NEW

10 – 12 August 2010

**Hilton Metropole
Hotel, Brighton**

For the first time the event
will be split into two
congresses: the **Really Easy
Congress** and the
Next Step Congress.



The **Really Easy Congress** is for novice players and students, who will be playing from **Monday 9th to Wednesday 11th** (usually 18-21 board sessions). Players with a few years' experience are also welcome. Participants will be expected to play Standard English Acoll.

Those wanting a more challenging event can enter the **Next Step Congress** from **Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th** (see page 22).

Entries and enquiries to Competitions Dept, EBU



☎ 01296 317203/219



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ JUNE 2010

- 5-6 Corwen Trophy
Hinckley
12-13 **Pachabo Cup**
Daventry (NEW VENUE)
19 Garden Cities Trophy Final
Solihull
22-3 Jul 50th European Teams
Championships (**Ostend**)
26 One-Day Green-pointed
Event
Northants
26-27 Oxfordshire Congress
Stevenston
27 One-Day Green-pointed
Event
Dorset, Beds

■ JULY 2010

- 1-3 European Transnational Pairs
Ostend
2-4 English Riviera Congress
Torquay
9-11 Summer Seniors Congress
Eastbourne
11 National County League
Finals
West Midlands BC, Solihull
17-18 Notts Green-pointed
weekend
Derby
18 Sussex One Day Green-
pointed Swiss Teams
Ardingley
24-25 Essex / Herts One-Day Green-
pointed Events
Ware
25 One-Day Green-pointed
Event
Manchester
26-27 BGB Summer Sim Pairs
29-1 Aug Scarborough Summer Festival

■ AUGUST 2010

- 6-15 **Brighton Summer Congress**
Hilton Metropole Hotel
9-11 **Really Easy Congress**
Brighton
9-12 **Brighton Seniors Congress**
10-12 **Brighton Next Step Congress**
27-29 Junior Teach In
Loughborough
28-29 Premier League
(reserve weekend)

■ SEPTEMBER 2010

- 4-5 National Women's Teams
Hinckley
9-12 Isle of Man Congress
11-12 Premier League
11-12 Bedford Congress
Sandy
13-14 EBU Autumn Sim Pairs
13-16 Warren Buffett Cup
Cardiff, Wales
17-26 Guernsey Congress &
Seniors Congress
25-26 Premier League
Manchester Bridge Club
25-26 One Day Green-pointed
events
Glos / Herefordshire,
Derbys, Surrey
26 One Day Green-pointed
event
Herts, Cornwall,
Westmorland

EBU News



REWARDS & RECOGNITION

Details plus Q&A are on the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk

MASTER Points are the measurement of an EBU member's lifetime achievement for playing duplicate bridge. We want to ensure that our members are recognised locally, amongst their fellow players, as well as nationally. So we will be providing our clubs, three times a year, with their primary members' MP promotions so that the club can use this information to announce their players' achievements in the club, in the club newsletter and on the club website. We also hope that our counties will recognise the achievements of their members and publicise their MP promotions on the county website and in the county newsletter.

Universal Membership will bring to the EBU up to 25,000 new members. Many of these players will consistently win Master Points in the future. All this means that in the first two or three years after 1st April 2010 we can expect a large number of MP promotions – 25,000 each year or possibly more. The current framework was designed for incremental increases, not for a sudden change of this magnitude and simply cannot sensibly cope.

After many months of consultation with Aylesbury, the Tour-

nament Committee and the Editorial Board, the following was agreed:

- From 1st April, there will be four landmark promotions (Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master). When you are promoted to one of these four levels, you will receive a good quality gift, and free entry into the Ranked Masters pairs.
- All other promotions will enter a four-monthly Master Point draw with three prizes – first prize is two nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for two people at a Barceló Hotel.
- The winner of the most black points in each affiliated club's events will enter the new Annual Prize Draw with a first prize of £400. The annual local and national awards will continue.

The EBU website will be used to publicise all MP promotions with *English Bridge* used more selectively. Individuals will be able to view their promotions in their personal area on the website.

We intend to review the scheme within a year. Send your views to mprr@ebu.co.uk.



The EBU proudly congratulates our England and EBU Teams that have won the Camrose and the Lady Milne. Reports on pages 10 and 16.

CHANGES & WARNINGS

BRIGHTON: The Brighton Summer Congress will take place from 6th to 15th August. See page 34 for new dates and details of the Really Easy Congress as well as the Seniors Congress, and page 36 for the *new* Next Step Congress.

!!! WARNING !!! The first weekend of the Brighton Congress takes place at the same time as the Gay Parade, so you are advised to book your accommodation early.

FEBRUARY 2011 OVERSEAS CONGRESS: This will take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 9th to 14th February 2011. See page 36 for details of the October 2010 Overseas Congress in Crete.

WHITE BOOK

THE new 2010 *White Book* has been published. It is only available electronically from the EBU website (Laws and Ethics Publications page).

The *White Book* is for tournament directors and organisers, and has commentaries on the laws updated to take into account the 2007 Lawbook. It also has victory point scales and a wealth of other information such as how to split a tie or give a weighted ruling.

NICKO & GARDEN CITIES

THE National Inter Club Knock-Out competition is specifically aimed at EBU affiliated clubs, and we want to ensure that the competition is truly representative of clubs and their players. In the past eight years, however, there has been a substantial decline in entries. The Tournament Committee thinks this is because the competition's ethos of attracting *bona fide* club players has become clouded. In order to reverse the trend, we are looking at a proposal to ensure that any player representing a club has played in that club a certain number of times – twelve has been suggested – in the preceding year. We would like to hear from our clubs to find out why they do or do not enter the NICKO – and what, if anything, would revitalise it for them. We will not be making a decision until October at the earliest, when playing patterns will be clear and you will have had time to tell us your views.

The Garden Cities Trophy is for the winners of each county association's inter-club teams of eight competition for affiliated clubs. It would be subject to similar conditions as the NICKO.

E-mail nickogc@ebu.co.uk by the beginning of September and give us your views.



- ♠ Do you want to learn to play bridge?
- ♥ Do you want to improve your game?
- ♦ Do you want to become a bridge teacher, or are you a bridge teacher looking for refresher courses or further qualifications?
- ♣ Do you want to become a Tournament Director at club, county, national and even international level?



The EBU tries to provide what you need.

Visit:

www.reallyeasybridge.com

TEACHER TRAINING COURSES – 2010

Partner Teacher Training Courses – two new courses for prospective teachers

West Midlands Bridge Club Solihull July 16-18
Aylesbury EBU HQ October 23-25

Courses – £195 for the Full Course – includes how to teach bridge, what to teach, short teaching practice, how to recruit, how to retain and how to turn your students into a partner club.

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

NEW

Club Teacher Training Courses NEW courses for affiliated clubs

ADVANCE NOTICE

Under the Universal Membership scheme affiliated clubs are invited to nominate one club member in any two-year period to be trained as a Club Teacher. The course content will include how to teach bridge, what to teach and a short teaching practice.

These courses, which will be FREE OF CHARGE, may only be booked by the registered secretary of the affiliated club. Watch for details of these courses, which will be held regionally, on the EBU website at www.ebu.co.uk.

Any clubs with permanent premises who would be prepared to host one of the new courses is asked to contact John Pain at the EBU: ☎ 01296 317218 or email john@ebu.co.uk.

There are additional concessions available for clubs hosting the courses.



CLUB DIRECTOR & COUNTY DIRECTOR TRAINING COURSES – 2010



ESSENTIALS £34 (£35 FROM AUGUST 1)

Brighton Monday 9 August
Aylesbury EBU HQ Wednesday 20 October

BOOK RULINGS £39 (£40 FROM AUGUST 1)

Brighton Tuesday 10 August
Aylesbury EBU HQ Wednesday 17 November

JUDGMENT RULINGS £39 (£40 FROM AUGUST 1)

Brierfield, Lancs Saturday 19 June
Brighton Wednesday 11 August
Aylesbury EBU HQ Wednesday 8 December

ASSESSMENT £44 (£45 FROM AUGUST 1)

Hounslow Saturday 12 June
Trowbridge, Wilts Sunday 13 June
Bramhall Sunday June 20
Brierfield, Lancs Saturday 17 July
Brighton Thursday 12 August
Aylesbury EBU HQ Wednesday 19 and Saturday 22 January 2011

COUNTY TD PREPARATION COURSE — SATURDAY 15 MAY

This NEW one day course will be held at the EBU Headquarters in Aylesbury. We will use material from previous County courses to give people a flavour of harder book and judgement rulings. It will also cover use of the *White Book* (the TD Guide). There will be a limit of 12 places. Course fee £40.

COUNTY & COUNTY REFRESHER COURSES — SEPT 11 & 12

Coventry Hilton Hotel, Paradise Way, Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry CV2 2ST. All inclusive price of £160 covers all course fees and materials, one night DBB, Sunday finger buffet and three servings of tea/coffee.

For further information, or to register for a course

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

NEW CONCESSIONS FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS

NEW

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

The 4NT opening bid

IN recent articles I have looked at opening suit bids right up to the five level and also covered opening 3NT with a solid minor suit. But what, if anything, should an opening 4NT mean? It is not really needed as standard Blackwood, as if partner wants to know how many aces I hold, he can open with a strong two of a suit or a game forcing 2♣ and then bid a Blackwood 4NT to find out about aces. But partner can have a problem if he wants to find out if I hold one specific ace. Suppose he holds:

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

I admit you will have to wait a long time till you pick up such a good hand and, if you ever do, to open 6♠ is a sensible choice. But if partner holds the ace of diamonds, you would want to be in 7♠. How can you find out? If you use ordinary Blackwood and partner shows one ace, you won't know if it is the ace of hearts or the ace of diamonds. Only if partner shows two aces can you bid the grand slam with confidence, in which case you should choose 7NT just in case someone can get a ruff.

The answer to this dilemma is to open 4NT, *not* ordinary Blackwood but asking partner to name the ace they hold!

Responding to a 4NT opening bid

If second hand passes partner's 4NT opening, responder shows the specific ace held, if he has one:

- 5♣ No aces
- 5♦ Diamond ace
- 5♥ Heart ace
- 5♠ Spade ace
- 5NT Any two aces
- 6♣ Club ace

After the response to 4NT, opener is in charge and bids the final contract.

Examples

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

responder bids 5NT (two aces), bid 7NT.

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

partner has short spades but long diamonds, 6♦ may be making. Open a game-forcing 2♣.

Hand 3
♠ K Q J
♥ A K
♦ Void
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7

Open 4NT. If responder bids 5♣ (no aces), bid 5♦; if he bids 5♥ (heart ace), bid 6♦; if he bids 6♣ (club ace), bid 6♦; if

It's a great hand but the spades are not solid. To open 4NT is risky; a spade slam could fail if a defender has four spades. If partner has short spades but long diamonds, 6♦ may be making. Open a game-forcing 2♣.

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

opponents may get a ruff. Opening 2♣ should get you to the right suit, but 4NT will tell you what you need to know – your choice!

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

You would love to know if partner has a minor-suit ace but opening 4NT is risky. If partner replies 5♠, you have to bid 6♥



Sandra Landy

STANDARD ENGLISH

knowing that you are off two aces. If partner responds 5NT, you can't identify the two aces. Open 2♣ and take it from there.

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

You could open 4NT on this hand, because if partner shows the ace of hearts or clubs you will bid 6♠. If partner shows the diamond ace, you will sign off in 5♠. But of course, if he bids 5NT, you're on a guess!

What do you do if the opponents bid over 4NT?

Opponents will not always pass an opening 4NT; after all, this will be a freak deal and they too may have a very long suit. I discussed last time using DOPI when opponents interfere over normal Blackwood. DOPI means that a double of the overcall shows no ace, to pass shows one ace, to bid something shows two or more aces. Using DOPI after partner has opened with 4NT may not tell him exactly what he wants to know, but it should give him some useful pointers.

To summarise:

- An opening bid of 4NT shows a hand with a long solid suit in which the partnership will be playing.
- Opener will often have a void in a side suit, making the hand unsuitable for normal Blackwood.
- Responder cannot override opener's choice of suit, even with a void in the chosen suit. □

Around & About

LOTTERY GRANT CROWNS THE BRIDGE ACADEMY'S SUCCESS

A FEW bridge-playing friends met in March 2009 and decided to start an organisation to play bridge in the evenings in the north-west area of greater London. They searched for a convenient venue in the area, large enough to accommodate ten to fifteen tables. A suitable place was found at All Saints' Church in Queensbury and the rent was negotiated with Reverend Matthew Stone, the vicar of the church, who has been very supportive. They formed a committee to start and run the new organisation, now named 'The Bridge Academy', which is also meant to promote social interaction amongst the residents in the area. The committee elected a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer from amongst themselves.

The founders invited people who were known to play bridge in Finchley, Hayes, Northwood and Potters Bar to join them and the response was very encouraging. Furniture and other necessary items were purchased from the EBU Shop, where the staff were very understanding and did not insist on immediate payment. The table money was set at a level similar to other clubs.

The committee members, according to their abilities, took on the various responsibilities of keeping records of members and finances, organising and directing the bridge sessions, scoring and uploading results on the website. Since the opening of the club, two members have become fully qualified EBU directors, and a couple more are heading towards that achievement. Members have also donated items and equipment, and volunteered their personal time to do chores for the club.

The Bridge Academy has participated in, and held events for, the Middlesex County Bridge Association. Participation in Simul-

taneous Pairs, European and World competitions, has also been achieved. The Bridge Academy also holds internal tournaments published on the website, www.thebridgeacademy.org.uk. These tournaments have prizes awarded and are all funded by the club, which is EBU affiliated.

It was soon realised that the club required modern equipment in order to produce immediate scores at the end of play but the necessary funds seemed to be beyond The Bridge Academy's resources. The secretary heard on the grapevine that Awards for All, an appendage of the Lottery Fund, awarded grants to deserving organisations for local projects – one bridge club had been

awarded a grant to buy equipment. Enquiries were made as to the criteria for such an award. The Secretary and the Treasurer of The Bridge Academy, assisted by other members, completed the application form and other documents for submission to Awards for All. Initially their application was rejected. However, the Secretary would not give up, and pressed for clarification of the reasons for the rejection. Eventually the application form was resubmitted; this time The Bridge Academy was successful and was granted £9,950. The club has already pur-

chased some equipment with these funds and will purchase the remainder before the period of the grant expires.

The Bridge Academy has inspired people from all walks of life to learn bridge, and has held teaching classes to enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge. A further development has been the selfless volunteering by a group of members to help the novices to hone their skills.

(Trupti Shah)



Pankaj Shah (Treasurer), Anjan Haria (Trustee), and Shirish Dodhia (Chairman) in front of All Saints Church, venue of The Bridge Academy



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NEW CLUB IN STALYBRIDGE

OAKFIELD Bridge Club is a new EBU affiliated club that meets on Mondays at 1pm for tuition and assisted play, and on Tuesdays at 7.20pm for duplicate pairs. A host system is in operation for all sessions. Cost: £2.50 per session. Everyone welcome.

The club is situated within Stamford Golf Club, Huddersfield Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3PY. Further information from the Secretary ☎ 01457 875122.

(Rod Smith)

Around & About

BRIDGE CLUB REAPS LOCAL WINDFALL



Photo: Margaret Ainsworth

Left to right: Chris Gibbs, Bob Ainsworth and Sita Pigott with one of the club's brand-new bridgemates

LEVERSTOCK Green Bridge Club in Hemel Hempstead has recently benefited from a grant of £2,500 from a Locality Budget scheme. The club discovered from a leaflet picked up in the local library that each county council member had £10,000 available for 'worthwhile projects in their community that promote social, economic or environmental wellbeing'. It was clear to club members that they could fulfil this definition, and they were in need of a substantial sum to acquire Bridgemates and to replace ageing tables.

The process of requesting a grant was quite straightforward so they submitted a claim, and after some months of waiting, discovered that they had been successful and their request for funds had been met in its entirety.

'We are proud to be included among a varied selection of groups and organisations which serve the community, providing recognition of the social role we all know the bridge club plays,' writes Club Chairman, Margaret Ainsworth. 'Now the challenge is to acquire total mastery of the new equipment: any techie bridge players out there?'

VARSIITY BRIDGE

OXFORD and Cambridge universities played their annual Open and Undergraduate Varsity Matches, organised by Michael Kaye and hosted by the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall, London.

The Cambridge Undergraduates (Peter Ford, Yong Sheng Soh, Nick Mock, Ong Qunxiang, Jackie Ang, Samson Yuen, Andrew Clegg, and Sean Eberhard) dominated in their match, eventually winning by 58 IMPs.

The Open Varsity Match was a lot tighter: going into the last eight boards, Cambridge were ahead by just 12 IMPs, but a composed finish meant that in the end they ran out comfortable victors.



Photo: John Haslegrave

The Cambridge University Open Team: left to right, David Faria, Graeme Robertson, David Williams and John Haslegrave

Dave Williams and John Haslegrave, who formed a partnership and put in hours of practice especially for this match, were the star pair, assisted by team-mates David Faria and Graeme Robertson (Captain).

(Graeme Robertson)

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

TOP of the table at the end of the 2009-2010 season were: *Div. 1:* 1. Cambs & Hunts, 2. Herts, 3. Norfolk; *Div. 2:* 1. Herts, 2= Beds and Northants; *Div. 3:* 1. Essex, 2. Beds, 3. Northants. *(Roger Amey)*

DENIS O'DONOVAN (1949 – 2010)

DENIS O'DONOVAN, who died of a heart attack on 23 April, had been a well-known figure in the Kent bridge world for over thirty years. Denis, who was originally from Ireland, won a Silver medal for Ireland in the 1974 European Youth Championship in Copenhagen. Later on, he represented Kent in the Tollemache on many occasions, being part of the winning team four times. Other national successes include Crockfords (three times) and the Pachabo. He played twice for England in international matches, and he particularly enjoyed a match against Ireland in Galway, where he was brought up. He had been selected to represent England in the forthcoming Seniors Camrose.

Away from the bridge table Denis followed a career in education, having been a secondary school headmaster. His other interests included sport, especially football. He was a former referee and was involved in the administration of youth football in the county.

Denis lived near Canterbury and is survived by his wife Maria, two children and two grandchildren. He will be sorely missed.

Patrick Collins and Peter Law

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Hidden depths


*We are indebted to Margaret North for permission to print this article.
Freddie North died on 28th June 2009; his obituary was published
in the August issue of English Bridge.*

CAN you see anything wrong with the question that follows this layout?

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

Against silent opposition, East bid his minors but West became the declarer in 4♥. North leads the ace and king of spades and continues with a third spade. The outstanding trumps break 4-3, so how should declarer plan the play?

The question looks normal enough but there is a very important ingredient missing. Is it pairs or teams? You really need to know. First, let us assume you are playing in a pairs contest. You ruff the third spade and draw four rounds of trumps. But hold on a minute: that involves five discards from dummy, so what should they be? If the diamonds break 3-2 (68%) you can take eleven tricks and so will all the other declarers who play the same way. That clearly appears to be the percentage line. Here is the full deal:

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


We can now see that the pairs players who

followed the popular line are going to be unlucky as the diamonds are behaving badly. One down is the inevitable outcome when five clubs are discarded from dummy.

At teams or rubber bridge, where the emphasis is always on making the contract, a little fine-tuning is required. This may well sacrifice a trick unnecessarily but it provides a life-line whenever the obvious route turns hostile. In this case declarer's discards should be one diamond and four clubs; he will then reap a rich reward when the diamonds break 4-1.

Having ruffed the third spade and drawn trumps, a diamond to dummy and one back to the queen exposes South's singleton, but dummy now holds the king and jack of clubs and declarer has his chance to establish the extra trick he needs. North has already shown the ace and king of spades so the successful line – playing North for the queen of clubs and South for the ace – will not be unduly testing.

My second deal also has hidden depths:

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

West cashes his two top spades and switches to the queen of clubs. Playing pairs, declarer will win the club, draw trumps and take the diamond finesse. East will no doubt win the king of diamonds




Freddie North

FINE-TUNING

and that will be that: contract made.

In a teams match there was a slight diversion at one table. The play was as described up to the point of the diamond finesse but on this occasion East ducked smoothly. Declarer returned to hand with the king of clubs and ran the remainder of his trumps. This was the three card ending:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ A J		♦ K 6
♣ 7		♣ 10
♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 10		♦ —
♣ J 9		♣ —
♠ —		♠ —
♥ 4		♥ —
♦ 5		♦ —
♣ 4		♣ —

When the last heart was played. West realised what was going on and threw his jack of clubs. Dummy parted with the seven of clubs and East, putting the finishing touches to the scam, the six of diamonds.

From declarer's point of view, taking the 'sure' finesse now might gain only 1 IMP, but world championships have been won by just that amount (the Chinese women who lost to England by exactly 1 IMP in the 2008 World Bridge Games remember it well), so would declarer be tempted? Yes, he was but he was not a happy bunny when East produced the diamond king and master club. However, one has to congratulate the defence for setting an ingenious trap. □



Alan Mould

LET us all be clear about one thing: bridge is a game of probabilities. Yes, it is about many other things as well – judgement, partnership harmony, bidding systems, table presence, luck – but first and foremost bridge is about odds. If you strive at all times to make the bid or play that has the highest chance of success, then you will consistently win, and if you do not you won't. That observation is my central argument.

Let me first of all deal with a hand such as Hand A:

Hand A

♠ A Q 7 2
♥ K J 6 3
♦ 6
♣ K 9 4 3

No one is going to suggest you should not bid Stayman on this hand. If partner has a four-card major, the hand is almost guaranteed to play better in that fit than

no-trumps. But what if we take instead a hand such as Hand B?

Hand B

♠ A Q 7 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ J 8 6
♣ K 9 3

Doubtless Frances will argue that just because you are completely balanced, it does not mean partner is and if partner has four spades, then this could easily be a

better contract. And she is right – of course she is right. Partner could easily have:

♠ K J 8 4 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ 5 2 ♣ Q J 10 8

where 4♠ is cold barring a ruff and 3NT has no play at all. But the odds are against that. Partner has to have four spades in the first place and then 4♠ has to be a better contract. Change partner's hand to:

♠ K J 8 4 ♥ A Q 7 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ A 8 2

and now 3NT is simply on diamonds breaking 4-3 (even assuming the opponents lead them) and 4♠ has no play at all.

And let's be clear that it is not just 4-3-3-3 patterns that often play better in no-trumps. Partner might hold:

♠ K J 8 4 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A Q J 8 for example, when the likely attack on diamonds gives me my ninth trick and the contract is never worse than the ♥A being well placed, while 4♠ always needs the ♥A well placed plus a favourable spade break.

So I advocate simply bidding 3NT on balanced hands opposite partner's 1NT opening. There is, however, one important proviso. *The more points you have between you, the more you should simply bid 3NT.* The late Raymond Brock, a far better player than I will ever be, once told me that he never looked for a 4-4 fit on balanced hands if the total point count was at least 27. The reasons are twofold. Firstly the extra high-card points mean that you have more high cards to generate tricks, and secondly all the extra HCP in the world will not protect you against bad breaks. Take for example this pair of hands:

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

In 4♠, if someone has a singleton club you could lose two aces and two ruffs, or the trumps may break 5-0 – all the while with 3NT on ice. So extra HCP can save you from bad breaks by playing in no-trumps. Conversely, if you have bid game on

minimum values, you will often need good breaks and the hands fitting well, and then you may be more inclined to use Stayman.

There is one other very important reason to just bid 3NT on balanced hands – it gives away less information to the opposition. Say you were on lead with:

♠ K Q 8 2 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ K Q 3 2 ♣ 8 4

after 1NT – 3NT. You probably fish out a spade. But would you still lead a spade if the auction had gone 1NT – 2♣ – 2♥, 3NT? No: there are four spades on your left, so you might try a diamond. If you always bid Stayman with four-card majors you make yourself easy to play against.

And it gets worse. Consider this hand first reported by Nick Sandqvist. You are on lead with:

♠ 9 8 7 5 ♥ J 8 5 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ 10 9 7

after the auction 2NT – 3♣ – 3♥ – 3NT. Clearly there are four hearts on your right and four spades on your left, so those are unattractive and anyway with this rubbish you probably want to try and hit partner's suit. But partner has not doubled 3♣. So the player at the table tried the ♦J. His partner, who held ♦K-Q-10-x-x and the ♠A, was charmed. Speculative, I hear you say – certainly. Lucky – maybe, but I think the opposition made their own bad luck. If the auction had gone 2NT – 3NT the ♦J would really have been a wild lead, a spade or the ♣10 being normal.

So in summary, to bid Stayman on balanced hands *all* of the following must be present:

- partner must have your four-card major, *and*
- it must be right to play in the major, *and*
- the bidding must not tip off the lead (whether or not the fit is found).

To not bid Stayman on balanced hands you simply have to be able to make 3NT.

I'm clear what the odds favour. Can Frances do better than that? □

Use Stayman on flat hands

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



Frances Hinden

THE DEBATE

IF you and your partner both have a 4-3-3-3 distribution with four spades, and you have the values for game between you, would you rather be in 4♠ or 3NT? There's no answer that will be right every time, but bridge is a game of probabilities, and as a general rule 3NT will be the better contract. You only need nine tricks to make game in 3NT, and there are no short suits to generate the extra trick in 4♠ by ruffing. Even if you have 4-3-2 opposite 7-6-5 in (say) diamonds, 4♠ will only be a better contract if the opening leader has five diamonds: with only four they can't take more than four tricks in the suit, and with three or fewer they are probably going to lead something else.

This seems to be a good argument for not using Stayman, so am I on the wrong side of this debate? Not at all. Well, perhaps, but only if partner restricts opening 1NT to hands with a 4-3-3-3 distribution, or perhaps a 4-4-3-2 with an honour in every suit. But partner doesn't. Nowadays many players regularly open 1NT with a five-card major, with a 4-4-4-1 shape, or with a five-card minor and a four-card major. Some pairs go so far as to open 1NT on 5-3-4-1s with a singleton honour. Even the most conservative of us would think that the West hand in the diagram below is a perfectly good weak no-trump opening. Try putting it opposite a boring balanced hand with four spades such as the East hand:

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

East has a 4-3-3-3 shape and has honours in every suit, and yet 4♠ is still a much better contract than 3NT.

At teams scoring, to make game in no-trump you need one fewer trick than playing in a major, so you might argue that you would need a major-suit fit to be worth two more tricks to make it worthwhile. However, at match-pointed pairs it is right to play in the major every time the 4-4 fit is worth just one extra trick, because ten (or eleven) tricks in the major outscore nine (or ten) tricks in 3NT. If you have a 4-3-3-3 distribution, and partner responds 2♠ to Stayman denying four hearts, partner is still at least three times as likely than not to have an outside doubleton. Some of the time you will have enough high cards in the suit so that the shortage will not be worth an extra trick from a ruff, but you only need to be right more than half the time to come out ahead at pairs.

What if you are interested in a slam, rather than just looking for game? Now it is even more important to look for a 4-4 fit. On the deal below 6♠ is virtually cold by taking a heart ruff in opener's hand but the main chance in 6NT is a 3-3 diamond break, making the chances of succeeding under 40%:

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

Unfortunately, it is not always easy both to look for a 4-4 major suit fit, and also to offer 3NT as an alternative. In a regular partnership, you can play some clever methods after a 1NT opening to explore for the best contract. In any partnership, if responder shows an invitation then opener should remember to offer 3NT. Looking at:

♠ K Q 6 3 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K J 9 ♣ Q 10 3
you can open 1NT, bid 2♠ in response to

partner's Stayman enquiry, but then suggest 3NT if partner raises to 3♠. You can also try to use some judgement rather than relying on any prescriptive rule – 'parrot cries are for parrots', as my parents used to tell me. Not all balanced hands are the same.

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

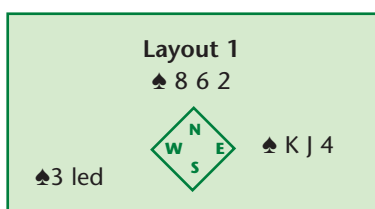
Hand A is an obvious raise of 1NT to 3NT because it's hard to construct a hand opposite where 4♠ is more likely to make. By contrast, Hand B has good trumps, extra high cards and no honour in one of the suits, which makes it a strong candidate for playing in spades.

This isn't an article on system after a 1NT opening, but if you want to take full advantage of using Stayman you do need some way of agreeing opener's major below game level. You might like to ask your partner what the auction 1NT – 2♣ – 2♠ – 3♥ should show. Opener should have denied four hearts, so it can't be looking for a 4-4 fit, while if responder had five hearts and no spade fit he would have started by transferring to, or jumping in, hearts. Similarly, 1NT – 2♣ – 2♥ – 3♠ has no obvious natural meaning, so a nice general agreement to have is that three of the other major by responder agrees opener's major. This both helps with slam bidding and (as a side benefit) lets you explore for the right game after you have, as I recommend, used Stayman on your balanced hand. □

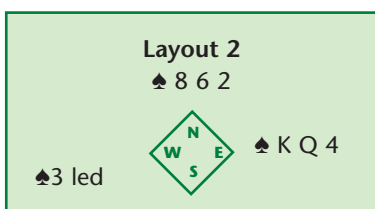


Andrew Kambites

IN each of these layouts West leads the three of spades against 3NT and dummy plays the two.



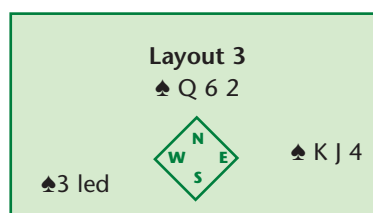
In layout 1 East should play the king, not, the jack. This is not a finesse position. Playing the jack can never gain. If West has the queen, or no honour, or both missing honours (ace and queen) it won't matter. However, playing the jack will cost a trick if declarer has the queen and West's spades are headed by the ace and ten.



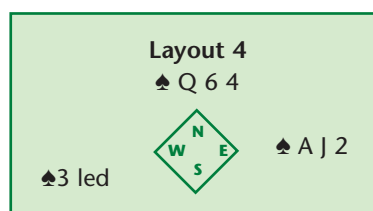
In layout 2 East should play the queen, the lower of two touching 'high' cards.

Note the contrast with the opening leader, who would lead the king rather than the queen (the higher of touching honours) from this holding.

The queen from third hand denies the jack, and neither suggests nor denies the king. You cannot assume that you can play randomly from two apparently equal cards. A watchful partner will gather information from the order of cards played.

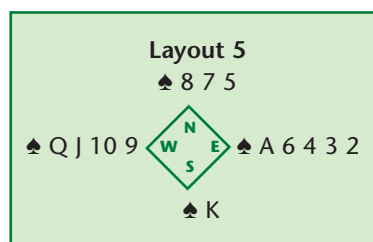


In layout 3, common sense dictates that East should play the jack if West leads the three and dummy plays the two.



Less obviously, in layout 4 East should also play the jack. If partner has the king it is clearly right to play the jack of spades. If declarer has the king, if you play the ace you will give declarer two easy spade tricks.

If you have two honours 'surrounding' dummy's honour with only one 'gap', you should consider playing the lower card.



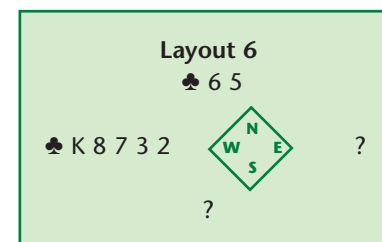
If partner leads an honour card and dummy plays low, it is often correct to overtake with a non-touching higher

Third hand plays high – or does it?

honour. In layout 5 the contract is 4♥ and West leads the queen of spades. East must rise with the ace to prevent South making a trick with his singleton king.

The opening leader can gain a lot of information from what his partner plays at trick one

As opening leader you now know enough about how your partner plays in third seat to start working things out. You are West in layout 6 after South's 1NT opening bid has been passed out. You lead the three of clubs from ♣K-8-7-3-2 and this is what you see:



Try to work out who has as many of the high cards as you can if:

1. East plays the queen;
2. East plays the jack and South wins with the ace;
3. East plays the ten and South wins with the jack.

In case 1, South has the jack because East's queen denies the jack. South also has the ace: if East had it, East would have played it.

In case 2, South has the ten because East's jack denies the ten; East has the queen because if South had it, South would not have needed to waste his ace on the jack.

In case 3, South has the nine because East's ten denies the nine. South has the queen because if East had it, East would have played it rather than the ten. South has the ace, for the same reason.

Should third hand always play high?

So, are there exceptions to the guidelines associated with playing 'third hand high'? Generally speaking it depends on how good you are at working out logically what is going on. Consider the next two examples.

In the first deal below West leads the three of spades against South's 3NT. How should you defend?

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

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

Declarer has:

♠ K 8 7 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ K 5 3 2

Playing the ace doesn't allow you to establish spades without giving declarer two tricks in the suit.

Playing the nine allows declarer to win trick one with the king, but you can cash four spade tricks when you win the ace of hearts.

In the last deal West leads the eight of

hearts. Dummy plays the queen. How should you defend?

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

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

What do you make of the eight of hearts lead? One thing is absolutely certain: West does not have the jack of hearts. He is only leading the suit because you bid it. Perhaps partner has led a singleton in your suit. In that case declarer has ♥A-J-5 and he has three heart stoppers whatever you do. However, if West has led from a doubleton ♥8-5, then declarer has:

♠ A 6 2 ♥ A J ♦ 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 8 3

In that case, provided you withhold your king of hearts, declarer has only two heart stoppers. If you then continue with hearts whenever you gain the lead with a diamond, you can establish your hearts before declarer can make any diamond tricks.

Rather than automatically play 'Third Hand High', you should attempt to analyse partner's lead. □

CAPTION COMPETITION



How was I to know yours was the winning card when I trumped it?

THE winner of our April competition, with the caption above, is Mick Morris of Chelmsford, Essex, who will receive a charming Victoriana bridge mug from our sponsors, Bridge and Golf Gifts Direct (see page 7). Other good captions were: *Fancy forgetting that a jump to 3♠ after a reverse is Six-ace Blackwood* (Peter Hawkes, Radley); *Negative Double* (David Hughes, Redhill); *Yes, I came top in the Ladies Pairs. By the way, where did you come in the Men's Pairs?* (Alan Greenstein, Westcliffe-on-Sea); *What do you expect if you pass my forcing bid?* (George Pilcher, Deal); *I'm waiting – who's this queen of clubs you went to bed with?* (John Shaw, Codnor Park); *I did not make a mistake – I took a wrong view!* (Lydia Stanford, Kingsway); and *You're pathetic! The others are clean shaven and play Benji* (BJ Salmon, West Chiltonington).

The cartoon for our new competition is below. Please send your bridgy captions (multiple entries accepted) to the Editor, *English Bridge*, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR or by e-mail to elena@ebu.co.uk not later than 20th June 2010. **Don't forget to include your full postal address!**



Sponsored by Bridge & Golf Gifts Direct

2009 ALEC SALISBURY AWARD

At the Young Bridge Challenge this year, Board Director Jeff Morris presented, on behalf of the EBU, the Alec Salisbury Award for 2009 to Simon Whitehouse of Grange School, Hartford, Cheshire. This award marks outstanding contributions to bridge made by a schoolteacher.

Simon Whitehouse (*in the picture*) has for many years been responsible for the Grange School Bridge Club, and has encouraged his school players to participate in duplicates at the local Northwich Bridge Club. In 2009 Grange School won the English Schools Cup for the first time and one of the players, Alex Roberts, has gone on to represent England at Under-20 level.





Gunnar Hallberg

Play a slam with me

Seniors World Champion Gunnar Hallberg
shares his expertise

YOU have reached 7♦ as South and West leads the king of spades. Plan the play.

♠	A J 6 3 2
♥	A Q 4
♦	Q J 5
♣	J 6

♠	4
♥	8 7
♦	A K 10 9 7 6
♣	A K Q 5

Being 26 years old and suffering from hubris, I had no problem reaching 7♦, after partner opened 1NT (15-17). The bidding hadn't been very scientific, so I was lucky to find a very useful dummy.

Before playing from dummy, spend some time counting your tricks and form a plan. Many a contract has gone down, and many a pound has been lost at rubber bridge, by not sticking to this habit.

Here you count to twelve tricks – a good start. Where to find a thirteenth trick?

The possibilities are:

1. Heart finesse.
2. Trumps 2-2 (draw trumps, discard heart losers on your clubs, and ruff a heart in dummy).
3. Spades 4-3 (ruff spades good).
4. Something else might develop.

An experienced player knows that if you approach your tasks in the right order, something good and unexpected may come your way. That is what happened to me on this deal.

Looking at the possibilities for developing a thirteenth trick, where to begin? You are in dummy after winning the first trick with the ace of spades. If you want to set up a spade trick, you'd better start now before you run out of entries, so you try that line first. Spade ruff, both follow; a trump to dummy's queen – West plays the eight, East the four. Another spade ruff, this time with the ace of trumps, East throwing a heart. Big or small, ignore it – the point is that spades are 5-2! Another trump to dummy's jack reveals that the eight was West's only diamond. At this point, you should see the significance of that eight of diamonds: East started with ♦4-3-2!

You ruff another spade in hand, go back to dummy with a heart to the ace in order to lead dummy's last spade and ruff it with your last trump, then you re-enter dummy with a club to the jack to reach this ending:

♠	—
♥	Q 4
♦	5
♣	6

♠	—
♥	8
♦	—
♣	A K Q

Not without excitement, you draw the last trump with that beautiful five of diamonds! Discarding the heart eight leaves you with nothing but winners in your own hand.

As East turned out to hold the king of hearts and only three clubs, no other line would therefore have worked.

West, who led a 'safe' king of spades from ♠K-Q-10-9-7 was unfortunate to find that any other suit would have beaten the grand slam! □

PETER THOMPSON 1929 – 2010



PETER THOMPSON died last March, following a long period of being unwell. He was a co-founder of Tewkesbury Bridge Club nearly fifty years ago, and during that time had been Treasurer, Scorer, Secretary, Chairman, Chief Tournament Director and finally President. He had also been an active member of Cheltenham Bridge Club and virtually single-handedly formed the Gloucestershire Teams-of-Four League in 1977; there are now over forty teams playing in five divisions. Peter also started the U3A group in Tewkesbury in 1993, which now plays twice a week.

Peter received the Dimmie Fleming Award in 2007 in recognition of his services to bridge over many years.

BRIDGE FOR CHARITY

MARIE Curie Cancer Care invites you to sign up for the Marie Curie Cancer Care Bridge Tournament 2010 – 2011. Money raised from the tournament will help fund essential home nursing care for terminally ill patients.

The tournament takes place between October 2010 and March 2011 and welcomes entrants from across the UK. It is open to players of any standard and focuses on Chicago and Rubber bridge. See www.mariecurie.org.uk/Bridge or call Philippa Cannon ☎ 01371 876730.

COUNTY NEWS

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Master:

Mr SVH Harding, Herts

Master Point promotions

Avon

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs A Huddleston

2 Star Master

Mr D Savage

Master

Mrs P Morris

County Master

Mr M Brown

Ms C Selway

Club Master

Mr C Bushby

Mr K Griffin

Local Master

Mrs CA Oldroyde

Mr B Shaw

Dr J Shaw

Ms L Snell

Bedfordshire

4 Star Premier

Master

Mrs JE Malpass

2 Star Premier

Master

Mrs MM Jones

Mrs P Roberts

Berks & Bucks

National Master

Ms A Flintoft

1 Star Regional

Master

Mrs PA Brown

5 Star Master

Miss M Julius

3 Star Master

Mr BB Haggis

Mr WA Irvine

Mr JV Roy

2 Star Master

Mrs M Brown

Advanced Master

Mrs ML Collins

Mrs I Hart

Master

Mrs BE Brogden

Mrs P Crepin

Mrs PA Elwell

Dr A George

Mr SD Handa

Mrs J Paxford

Mrs N Pendered

County Master

Mr M Jackson

Mr R Sassoon

Area Master

Mr G Lynch

Club Master

Mr B Sharma

Cambs & Hunts

Life Master

Dr I McDonald

Premier National

Master

Miss P Leslie

4 Star Regional

Master

Mr FJ Langford

Tournament

Master

Mrs C King

2 Star Master

Mr KR Firth

Advanced Master

Mr P Dixon

Master

Mrs C Gunthorpe

District Master

Mrs M Doyle

Ms SJ Paine

Dr C Winfrey

Club Master

Mr A Hunter

Miss MS Mitchley

Local Master

Mrs KK Hampson

Channel Islands

National Master

Mrs G Pitcher

Mr P Pitcher

2 Star Regional

Master

Mrs J Knight

2 Star Master

Mr C Borny

Cornwall

Premier National

Master

Mrs M Warner

5 Star Master

Mrs RE Carter

2 Star Master

Mrs PM Davies

Mrs A Mason

1 Star Master

Mr F Jelbart

Advanced Master

Mrs GB Lovegrove

Mr S Stratton

Master

Mrs CM Owen

County Master

Mrs RM Stewart

District Master

Mr Jim Barton

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Lene Priess – Preben Schmidt for winning the *Avon County Pairs*, with the following equal 2nd: C. Cheek – D. Lewis, T. Brierley – M. Elliott, N. Stephens – M. Short.

Congratulations to David Jones partnering Rob Lawy of Somerset for winning the *Grand Master Pairs* and congratulations also to Ralph and Andy Smith, joint 3rd in the same event.

In the *Regional Final* of the *National Pairs*, the only Avon pairs to qualify were Sue O'Hara – Nelson Stephens; David Jones partnering Miles Cowling of Dorset and Brian Dyde – Peter Sherry qualified in the two reserve positions. In the *National Final*, David and Miles finished in 3rd place.

In the *Gold Cup*, the only Avon team to reach the last 32 is Steve Turner (Steve Tomlinson, David Jones, Trevor Ward, playing with Somerset team-mates). In the *Crockfords Cup*, David Jones – Trevor Ward, with London team-mates, are in the last 16. In the *Crockfords Plate*, the team of Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson, Steve Turner is in the final. In the *NICKO*, the only Avon survivors into Round 5 are the team of Irene Robinson, Mike Huggins, Robert Covill and Aidan Schofield.

In the *Avon / Wiltshire Swiss Teams*, the highest-placed Avon teams were Jeremy Rickard, Robert Glass, Huw Oliver, Tony Gammon (2nd), and Alan and David Jones, Andrew Urbanski, Trevor Ward, 3rd equal with Mike Short, Steve Turner, Nelson Stephens, Steve Tomlinson.

County Knock-Out: 1. Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson, Steve Turner, who will represent Avon in the *Pachabo. County Mixed Pairs*: 1. Andy and Cathy Smith; 2. Marjorie Williams – Oli Noel.

David Jones and Trevor Ward (with Mike Letts in the qualifying round) have won the *Gloucestershire Knock-Out Teams Championship*.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



THE *Inter-club Teams-of-8* on February 28 was contested by twelve teams and won by a team from Milton Keynes (Lynne Emmett, Ron Davis, Ros and John Bateman) with a score of +58 IMPS. A team from Wardown Club took second place. Milton Keynes will now represent Bedfordshire in the *Garden*

Cities Trophy. Winners of the *Mixed Pairs* on March 11 with 59.4% were Paul Kilduff – Liz Talbot, while the *Seniors' Pairs* on March 25 was won by Bernard and Margaret Eddleston with 62.1%. Well done to all concerned.

Further afield, Alan Oddie and David Harris's team were 2nd in the *Swiss Teams* competition at the *Harrogate Congress* held on February 28.

Diary Dates: June 27, Green-pointed EBU Swiss Teams One-Day event, Vauxhall Recreation Centre in Luton (see BBA website for more details).

Berks and Bucks

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



WELCOME to all our new members! To coincide with your receiving your first copy of *English Bridge* we are holding an introductory competition at all our 32 affiliated clubs. The top pair in each club duplicate in the week commencing June 14 will receive a Certificate, to be presented by a BBCBA Committee representative, with commemorative glasses going to the pair with the highest overall percentage. Do look on our website for our objectives and philosophy.

The *Improver Pairs* was again run as two separate events; the *A flight* was won by Roger Garstang – Arthur Johnson and the *B flight*, for those new to duplicate, by David and Sandra Jones (*photo below*).

Congratulations to Stuart Townsend – Jim Roy from Loddon Vale, winners of

the *Club Pairs Finals*, with Malcolm Burch – Ken Butler of Five Aces second, and to Addis Page – Liz Hayton, winners of the *Mixed Pairs* ahead of last year's winners Sandra Belcher – Steve Gore. The *Seniors Pairs* was won by World Champion Colin Simpson and his wife Juliana, with the defending champions, Carole Mueller – Richard Palmer, close behind. Margaret Bradshaw – Colin Harris took the *Veterans* prize.

There have been a number of good performances in national competitions: Graham Cheetham – Marilyn Murtagh won the *C flight* in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *London Easter Congress*; Simon Cope was 4th in the *Championship Pairs*. Ed Scerri – Richard Palmer were 2nd in the *Grand Masters Pairs* and with Kevin Elstow – Phil Thornton won the *Bedfordshire Swiss Teams*. Sally Brock was in the EBU team, with Simon Cope as NPC, that won the *Lady Milne*. Congratulations to both of them.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

KIERAN Tilley represented England in the *Under-20* team for the Home Internationals (*Peggy Bayer Trophy*); the team finished 2nd. Cambs & Hunts has won the 'A' division of the *Eastern Counties League* (see page 40). Chris Jagger – Ian Pagan won the *National Pairs*.

Norman Hutchinson won the *County Individual*, followed by Mike Clydesdale and Ted Shaw. The *Novice Pairs Tournament* was won by Catherine Poulson – Juliet Gadney; 2nd place went to Pat Pett



Sandra Jones and David Jones are presented with the Berks & Bucks Improver Pairs Trophy by Chrys Poole (centre)

MASTER-POINT PROMOTIONS LIST – THE FUTURE

THE much-appreciated increase in the numbers of EBU members since April 2010 means that in future (see article on page 35 on 'Rewards and Recognition'), because of space constraints, we will be reporting only four Landmark promotions: Master, Regional Master, Life Master and Grand Master. These will appear in the April, August and December issues of *English Bridge*. All other promotions will be published on the EBU website and in the Member's personal areas. In addition, each bridge club will receive a list of all their members' promotions every four months and we hope that the clubs will recognise their members' Master Point achievements by announcing them at a playing session and in their newsletter and on their website. Counties who want to recognise the achievements of their members can request a report from Karen Durrell at Aylesbury.

Master Point promotions

Cumbria

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs MA Harrison

Derbyshire

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr DA Brooks

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs MA Beale

Tournament Master

Mr JD Povah

5 Star Master

Mrs PA Cardy

3 Star Master

Mr R Wood

Advanced Master

Mr JA Wragg

Master

Mrs A McLean

Mr J Watson

County Master

Mr P Knighton

District Master

Mr TJ Hanson

Area Master

Mr R Woodcock

Club Master

Mrs L Boodle

Mr AJH Martin

Mr JDW Sewell

Local Master

Mrs S Simpson

Devon

Premier National Master

Mrs RM Morgan

3 Star Regional Master

Mrs J Algar

Mr DL Clarke

13 Star Premier Master

Mrs BA Carr

6 Star Premier Master

Mr M Smith

5 Star Master

Mr KJ Wood

4 Star Master

Mr GS Cassen

3 Star Master

Mr RR Davis

2 Star Master

Mrs PR Keane

1 Star Master

Mrs MC Riddoch

Advanced Master

Mrs PJ Haynes

Mrs MJ Tarry

Mr G Ward

Master

Mrs JM Ley

County Master

Mrs J Barnes

Mr TD Barnes

Mr P Espig

Area Master

Mr T Allsworth

Mrs K Young

Club Master

Mr J Pietrzycki

Mrs M Preston-Jones

Local Master

Dr CS Nutt

Direct

Local Master

Ms A Davies

Dorset

Premier Life Master

Mr JD Gardner

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs I Button

5 Star Regional Master

Mrs A Wedd

2 Star Regional Master

Mr PA Sayer

11 Star Premier Master

Mr MA McMorran

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs JA Kellock

1 Star Premier Master

Mr A Cowley

Master

Mrs JF Tripp

Essex

Life Master

Mr A Coral

Premier National Master

Mr RP Register

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs S Millins

3 Star

Tournament Master

Mr DF Clark

1 Star

Tournament Master

Mr CW Read

4 Star Master

Mr IC McLauchlan

3 Star Master

Mr T Wise

3 Star Master

Mrs S Mednick

Mr M Stares

2 Star Master

Ms EM Maczka

Col AGP Meagher

Mr RJ Merricks

Mr IM Miller

Mrs B Murphy

Mr SR Timmis

Mrs J Wallace

1 Star Master

Mrs PE Skull

– Charles Blackwell. Peterborough A won the qualifying heat of the *Garden Cities*. Crafts Hill Bridge Club has won *Div. 2* of the *Camb & Hunts League*, while University 3 is set to win *Div. 4*; results of *Divs 1* and *3* are not yet known.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/



WE had a *One Day Green-pointed Event* in Guernsey and local pair Rudi Falla – Dick Langham led the field for most of the day but fell away in the last two matches; the event was won by Jersey pair John and Pat Panter, with Robert Brouard – Howard Walden joint 2nd with Alastair Kent – Mike Bane.

We now know the finalists in the *County Teams*. In Jersey David Hole, David Friswell, Howard Walden and Robert Brouard beat Mike Newman, John Panter, Peter and Gill Pitcher, while in Guernsey four teams came through the round robin to reach the knock-out phase; there Dick Langham's team (Rudi Falla, Lynne Williamson, John Seymour, Sean Galpin) beat Vera Babbe (Sylvia King, Pat Self, Cath Bott), while Robert Plumley (Susie Farnon, Lynda Mildon, Alastair Kent) beat Ralph Laski (Clarice Alder, James Fattorini, Mike Hancock). In the semi-final Plumley had a convincing win over Langham by 47 IMPs.

In the *Guernsey District Open Pairs*, Hugh Bacon – Martin Jones were the winners with Pat Merriman – Ian Monahan runners-up.

In Jersey, the *Winter Cup* is run over a period of seven months and the average best five scores, each with a different partner, determine the winner. The final leading positions were: 1. Brian Youd 59.75%, 2. Marion Miles 59.15%, 3. Carl Harrison 57.74%.

Cornwall

www.cornwallbridge.co.uk



MANY congratulations to Wendy Thornton – Wally Heaton, who have won the *Welsh National Pairs* at Llandrindod Wells. They played 84 boards over two days and won by 0.25%.

Congratulations also to John and Pauline Deal, who were 3rd equal in the *Swiss Teams* at the *Barnstaple Congress*.

We have had another very successful *Falmouth Congress*. An impressive ten tables contested the *Newcomers' Pairs*, a new competition won by Y. and K. Sivathondan from Jock Turnham – Bill Dove. Both *Friday* competitions were won by visitors: Geoff Wolfarth – Gary Hyatt won from Howard Melbourne – Ros Wolfarth in the afternoon, while two Plymouth pairs, Joan Chandler – Ros Morgan, and John Beard – John Lankshear were 1st equal in the evening. Christine King – Steve Tomlinson were the leading qualifiers for the *Championship Pairs*, with Dick Andrews – Gaynor Wiseman 2nd. They were runners-up again in the final with John Beard – John Lankshear winning. Phil Palmer – Jenny

Flood won the *Second Flight* from Brian Colvin – Barrie Benfield, and Andrew Leslie – Betty Golding won the *Third Flight*, from Janet Heath – Margaret Warner. Sunday's *Swiss Teams* were dominated by visitors with Paul Lingham, Ann Slee, Brigid McElroy and Ruth Edmondson winning. A 20-0 last round win catapulted Dave Mattos (Wadebridge) into 2nd position, but his team (Steve Burnett, Mike Fithyan, Owen Leigh) were all visitors.

Jenny Cant, Rob Mabley, Bill Thomson and Geoff Warren have won the *County Knock-Out*, from Dommie and Dave Boxall, Val Clifford and Jenny Vaughan. The Liskeard Lot (Colin Pote, Mike Booth, Janet and Roger Putnam) have won the *Eastern League* and the Shufflers (Wendy Miller, Wendy Thornton, Wally Heaton, Jo Bryant) were winners in the west.

Diary Dates: June 26, Jo Brown Memorial charity event, Mount Charles Social Club, St Austell.

Cumbria

www.ccdba.co.uk

THANKS to all our supporters who played at our *Congress at Windermere* in March and made it another successful weekend. Congratulations to the winners of main competitions: *Ladies' Pairs*: 1. Bev Godfrey – Ros Wigham, 2. Sue Woodcock – Maureen McConkey. *Men's Pairs*: 1. Gary Duddle – Bharat Thakrar, 2. John Sowter – David Wright. *Championship Pairs*: 1. Andrew Woodcock – Catherine Draper, 2. A. Ellis – Sue Winder. *Consolation Pairs*: 1. David Latimer – John Robinson, 2. Paul and Hilda Williams. *Swiss Teams*: 1. Peter and Linda Smith, Peter Mollart, John Halliwell; 2. Catherine Draper, Andrew Woodcock, Keith Ashcroft, Michael Prior; 3. William Thompson, Trevor Duddle, Gary Duddle, Bharat Thakrar. Special thanks to the hard working directors, Roland Bolton and Ken Johnston, and to Congress Secretary Janet Sheppard and her team of helpers. Next year's event will be at the same venue from March 18-20.

Our *Garden Cities Qualifier* representatives this year are Barrow (Babs and Tim Matthews, Glenda Lloyd, Peter Boardman, Colin Woods, Peter Thompson, Dorothy Pritchard, Margaret Thornley). They won a close *Inter-club Teams of Eight* competition with the Grange club second.

Winter Simultaneous Pairs: 1. Ewan Maddrell – Carol James, 2. David Latimer – John Robinson, 3. Barry Ogden – Babs Matthews. Carol and Ewan are the first winners of the new trophy in memory of the late Dave Mullany.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



PAUL Madden's team, which included John Squibb, Richard Edwards, Ron McEwan, Steve Cave and Derek Brooks won the *Eric White Cup*, so will represent Derbyshire in the *Pachabo Cup*. The runners-up were Peter Kelly, Alex Hogg, Don Smedley, John Griffin and Howard Melbourne.

Despite difficulties caused by the bad weather, all the *Winter League* matches have finally been played. East Midlands White won *Div. 1*, well ahead of British Rail A. In a very close contest, Ripley A won *Div. 2* with Chesterfield A in second place. Allestree Red had a good lead over Belper Yellow to win *Div. 3*. Allestree Blue pulled well ahead of Markeaton to win *Div. 4*. Matlock B also had an excellent win over Ringwood to head *Div. 5*.

The *Winter Plate* winners were Mike Clayton, Amanda Sowter, Judy Lomas, David Wright, Mike Heaney and John Sowter. Randy Curzon's team was 2nd and Malcolm Young's team 3rd: all three teams were well ahead of the field.

Diary Dates: June 9, 1st round of the Summer Pairs for the Smedley Salver. **June 23**, Individual Championship for the Gerry Fletcher Cup. **July 17-18**, Nottinghamshire Green Point Event at Spondon (note changed date); **July 21**, Men's Pairs for the Dodson Shield and Ladies' Pairs for the Corry Cup. **July 22**, 1st round of the Two Counties Event.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



ON February 28, 28 pairs competed in the *Devon Pairs* for the *Julia Chadwick Trophy*. The first three pairs qualify to play in the *Corwen Trophy*; congratulations to the winners, Brian Cook – Graham Penny.

Congratulations to Jette and Alan Bailey who won the *Mixed Pairs* at the *EBU Harrogate Spring Congress*, and to Jim Grant – Stefan Lindfors who qualified for the *National Pairs Final*. At the *Cornwall Congress* (March 26-28), John Beard – John Lankshear won the *Championship Pairs*; Ann Slee, Richard Lingham, Ruth Edmondson and Brigid McElroy won the *Green-pointed Swiss Teams*. At the *North Devon Congress* (March 19-21), held at Barnstaple, Catherine and Malcolm Boyak won the *Swiss Pairs* and Sandra Bennett, Maureen Baser, Ivor Moore and Colin Stares won the *Swiss Teams*. Thanks to Amos Bridgman, Carol Ritzen, Richard Carter, Brenda Martin and the Committee for their hard work in making the weekend so enjoyable.

Congratulations to Warner and Louise Solomon, who won the *Swiss Teams* playing with Christine and Richard Ray at the *Wilts / Avon Green-pointed Weekend*. The *Devon Congress* (April 9-11) was played for the first time as a three-day green-pointed event. Congratulations to Jette and Alan Bailey who won the *Swiss Pairs* and Alan Cook, Monica Lucy, Pauline Serby and Eleanor Rice who won the *Swiss Teams*. Thanks to Robin Barker, Terence Treeby, Steve Quinn, Don Pearson for directing and to John Lankshear and Terence Treeby for organising the event.

The County AGM will be held on June 20 at the Isca Centre, Exeter, followed by *Swiss Teams* commencing at 11.45am; contact John Lankshear ☎ 01752 842 347. Please support your County.

Master Point promotions

Advanced Master	Tournament Master	7 Star Premier Master	12 Star Premier Master
Mr T Burney	Mr PL Keogh	Mr PA Allan	Mrs L Goldsmith
Mr G Edmonds	Mrs PM Keogh	6 Star Premier Master	Mrs CJ Whyman
Mr R Griffin	2 Star Master	Master	4 Star Premier Master
Master	Mrs EM Archer	Mr HP Quayle	Miss A Disbury
Mrs J Brown	Mr KS McArdle	4 Star Premier Master	Tournament Master
Mr D Greenbaum	1 Star Master	Master	Master
Mr P Mamelok	Mrs S Henderson	Mrs MA Moore	Mrs PA Alcalay
Mr MH Rand	Mrs S J Oliver	3 Star Premier Master	Mrs EA Fox
County Master	Advanced Master	Master	Mrs PE Hughes
Mr M Songhurst	Mr CT Broughton-Pipkin	Mr B Carroll	5 Star Master
District Master	County Master	Mr IAM Grant	Mrs AH Carney
Mrs D Bransbury	Mrs Brit Kitson	Ms R Windler	4 Star Master
Mr G Chasmer	Mrs ACP Traill	1 Star Premier Master	Mr NM Allen
Area Master	District Master	Mrs S J Barnett	Mr RJ Smith
Mr JF Burke	Mr C Douglas	2 Star Tournament Master	3 Star Master
Mrs J E Paul	Area Master	Master	Mrs PA Barker
Mr J Siddle	Mrs R Carter	Mrs MM Goodwin	Mr JR Couldridge
Club Master	Club Master	Mr DM Bunday	Mr JR Heckscher
Mrs P Dufton	Miss B Mills	Mrs BC Hollick	1 Star Master
Local Master	Local Master	2 Star Master	Mr PMA Codd
Mr R Bransbury	Mr D Andrews	Mr M Cramer	Advanced Master
Gloucestershire	Herefordshire	Ms CE Garretty	Dr HK Hogarth
1 Star Premier Master	Premier National Master	Mr J Penrose	Mrs BJ Ide
Mr JW Polhill	Master	Mrs A Tovee	Mr MJ Trewavas
4 Star Master	5 Star Premier Master	Mrs JR Weitz	County Master
Mrs J Simon	Master	1 Star Master	Mr AW Everitt
2 Star Master	Mr PJ Bellamy	Advanced Master	Mr RS Lambert
Mr RW Moore	4 Star Premier Master	Mr S Southworth	Local Master
Mrs F Morris	Master	Mrs SM Fleming	Mr JL Gibbons
1 Star Master	Mr M Moxley	Master	Lancashire
Mrs L Ocana Gil	2 Star Master	Mr TG Hails	3 Star Regional Master
Mrs M Sutton	Mr J Porter	Mr CJ Pullen	Master
Master	1 Star Master	Mrs PG Taylor	20 Star Premier Master
Mrs S Greenwood	Mrs D Heslop	County Master	Mrs A Stephens
District Master	Advanced Master	Mr JM Duthie	4 Star Master
Dr J Zhang	Mrs VS Archard	Mrs J Evans	Mr AJ Moorhouse
Club Master	Dr GR Jones	Ms R Giovannini	2 Star Master
Mary Ann	Master	District Master	Mrs S Wilson
Mrs S Silcock	Mr KD Ray	Mr S Chilton	Advanced Master
Hants & IoW	Mrs R Wilson	Mrs EM Cox	Mr RA Pinson
Premier Regional Master	County Master	MR DAV Edmonds	Master
Dr J Chapman	Mr A Davis	Mrs N Gibbs	Mr D Ault
8 Star Regional Master	District Master	Mr AJ Pinder	Mr J Parry
Mrs PM Furse-Roberts	Mrs C Jones	Mrs BJ Teesdale	Mrs L Wilson
4 Star Regional Master	Mrs EM Walker	Club Master	County Master
Mr K Emery	Area Master	Mr R Girvan	Mrs L Hepworth
39 Star Premier Master	Mr D Crocker	Mr I Greig	District Master
Master	Mr P Edwards	Ms J Meredith	Mrs M Hull
Mr MC Mollart-Rogerson	Mrs VP Rex	Local Master	Mrs I Pinson
19 Star Premier Master	Hertfordshire	Mr J McBryde	Mr A Skalski
Mr EC Paterson	Grand Master	Mr C Phythian	Area Master
Mrs M Stothard	Mr SVH Harding	Isle of Man	Mrs G Beattie
9 Star Premier Master	Life Master	Club Master	Local Master
Mrs B Bennett	Mrs R Rodney	Mrs SE Pile	Ms C Thompson
5 Star Premier Master	5 Star Premier Regional Master	Kent	Leicester
Master	Mr E Setty	8 Star Regional Master	4 Star Regional Master
Mrs JA McMahon	3 Star Regional Master	Mrs N Davis	1 Star Regional Master
3 Star Premier Master	Master	Mrs L Gook	Ms JA Hill
Mrs A Baker	Mr JA Pelley	4 Star Regional Master	11 Star Premier Master
Mr K Carter	14 Star Premier Master	Mr M Schofield	Master
Premier Master	Master	20 Star Premier Master	Mrs PF Simpson
Mr NJ Craik	Mr AR Kaye	Mrs R Banister	5 Star Master
			Mr C Bancroft
			Mr I Walkerdine

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



IN the EBU *London Easter Congress*, Peter Oake and Gad Chadha, together with their team-mates, achieved 2nd place in the *Swiss Teams* event. Martin and Sandy Smith finished in overall 4th place in the *Portland Pairs*, and the Loughton team of Wendy Coldham, Patrick O'Gara, Pat Watson and John Mansfield have reached the last 32 of the *NICKO*.

Prize-winners in the EBU Master Point Ranking List for 2009 were Ann Morgan (level 4), Sharon Glover (level 5) and Fran Alexander (level 6).

The *Switch Cup* was won this year by the team of Martin and Sandy Smith, Val and Paul Mollison who beat the team of Catriona Lovett, Mike Harbour, Albert Kitchin and Bernie Hunt in the final.

Results of other recent Essex competitions are as follows:

Spring Seniors Pairs: 1. Margaret Curtis – David Sherman, 2. Chris Taylor – Albert Kitchin, 3. Chris Chorley – Mike Rand. *Seniors Trophy* (best results from all three Seniors events): 1= Margaret Curtis and David Sherman, 2= Graham Foster and Richard Register. *Gwen Herga Trophies: Ladies*: 1. Margaret Curtis – Jill Tattersfield, 2. Jill Hair – Yvonne Dias, 3. Sue Taylor – Sandy Smith; *Men*: 1. Sandy Riach – Robert Elliott, 2. Chris Chorley – Michael Wren, 3. Ian Moss – Frank Morrison. *Heliar Trophy*: 1. Collier Row (Sandy Riach, Robert Elliott, Ann and Terence Clark), 2. Hutton A (Ray Cornell, David Clark, Simon Moorman and Ray Clarke), 3. Waltham Forest (Winnie Godber, John Stimson, Laurie and Stephanie Burt); Lingwood BC qualified to represent Essex in the *Garden Cities Trophy*.

Diary Dates: July 24-25, Essex/Herts One Day Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams.

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk



THIS year's ever popular *Newent Bowl* was keenly contested with Mike Lewis, Malcolm Green, Derek Thomas, Graham Cope winning the trophy on a split tie from Veronica and Kanwar Rahim, Paul Ford, Guy VanderGucht.

In the *Inter-club Team of Eight* competition, Cheltenham BC won the *Rank Xerox Shield* with the team of Eira Arkley, Barbara Lloyd, Ashok Kwatra, Nicky Mitchell, Norah Allen, Cathy Scott, Veronica and Don Chidgey. Winners of the *County Knock-out* was the team of Tony Hill, Alan Wearmouth, David Jones and Trevor Ward. The *Spring Pairs Final* saw a very close finish with George Barrett – David Atthey winning by one match-point ahead of Derek Rue – Richard Butland. Winners of the *Consolation Final* were Cynthia Moore – Geoffrey Paterson with Patrick Shields – Jim Simons 2nd.

This season's on-going *Swiss Teams* ended with John Rookwood, Derek Rue, Keith Stanley, Richard Butland and Jim

Simons winning *Div. 1*. *Div. 2* was won by Pam Pearce, Lesley Harrison, Roy Collard, Paul Lilley, David Hope, while *Div. 3* was won by David Atthey, George Barrett, Alison Pritchard, David Hauser. Congratulations to all on their success.

Congratulations also to the Gloucestershire team of Anne Swannell, Richard Harris, Patrick Phair, Peter Waggett on coming second in the Oxfordshire *Beck Cup*.

It was with great regret that Gloucestershire players learned of the death of Peter Thompson, who was well known to many through the work he did for Bridge in the County over many years. Obituary on page 46.

Hants and IoW

www.bridgewebs.com/hiwcba/



THIS year HIOWCBA has run several fundraising events in aid of Leukaemia Research; the amount reached is £1624.98, for which sum a cheque will be presented at the AGM in June. Thank you all who have taken part and donated generously.

HIOW members did well at the *Devon Congress* held in April in Torquay. Joint *Swiss Teams* winners were Pauline Serby and Eleanor Rice with Berks and Bucks team-mates (cup winners after a score-back process) and Dave Hinkin, Ken Benjamin, Keith Bennett, Andrew Bennett. Two other teams were also in the top twenty. In the *Pairs* event Miles Cowling – David Jones were =5th with Dave Hinkin – Ken Benjamin, and Madeline Lawson – Adrian Fontes 7th. Congratulations also to Christine and Richard Ray who were part of the winning team at the *Bath Congress* in March and to the following winners of county events: *IBM Sim Pairs*: 1. Barbara and Bill Boswell, 2. Maureen and Peter Fields, 3. John Jones – Mac Nurmo-hamed. *Candover Cup*: 1. Ron and Elaine Ewins, Barbara and Bill Boswell; 2. Lillian Craigen, Sally Wyne, Ann Varrow, Betty Annamanthado.

Diary Dates: June 13, AGM 12 noon, and Finale Ranked Pairs 2pm. The above will be held at Romsey. Entries to Lillian Craigen lillian.craigen@sky.com, ☎ 02380 254276.

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

THE *Inter-Club Teams League*, played over five rounds, was won by Wyese B with 218 VP; the winning team won 13 of their 15 matches. They were followed by Hereford A and B with 195 and 191 VP respectively, while Fownhope A were 4th with 186 VP.

County competition results: *Ace of Spades* (for players with master-point ranking below Advanced Master): 1. A. Durrant – B. Rom (65.5%), 2. K. Ray – J. Winney (62.2%), 3. B. Bayley – M. Green (56.4%). *Championship Pairs*: 1. D. Weller – B. Britton (61.8%), 2. C. and A. Brown (56.7%), 3. B. Palmer – M. Curtis (55.1%). *Teams of Eight*: 1. Hereford 46 VP; 2. Wyese, 42 VP. *Multiple Teams*: 1. B. Underhill, I. Murray-Watson, P. Smith, R. Lewis (66 VP); 2. J. Thaker,

Master Point promotions

4 Star Master

Mr PN Price

3 Star Master

Mrs D Pickup

Mrs M Williams

2 Star Master

Mr AO Norman

1 Star Master

Mr P Dalloway

Ms J Hand

Advanced Master

Mr JF Bee

Master

Mr KI Hubbard

Mr PT Simpson

County Master

Mrs BM Chantler

Mrs IA Grindley

Mrs AJ Nichols

District Master

Ms K Nash

Club Master

Mr A Omar

Lincolnshire

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr SE Knox

4 Star Premier Master

Miss SB York

Tournament Master

Mr D Raddish

5 Star Master

Mr DG Fearn

Mr GW Holmes

Mrs SH Holmes

3 Star Master

Mr PJ Harland

Mr JS Hill

Mr KA Taylor

Mr ADC

Underwood

2 Star Master

Mrs D Law

Master

Mrs M McLeod

County Master

Mrs EM Donaldson

London

Premier Life Master

Mr G Hallberg

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Miss CM Girardin

7 Star Premier Master

Miss VE Dugdale

1 Star Premier Master

Mrs PJ Reiss

5 Star Master

Ms RE Stanley

Master

Mr RK Harris

Mr M Sanvitale

County Master

Mr C Nelson

Ms A C Nichols

Area Master

C Dean

Mr N Dean

Mr RA Kilborn

Mrs A Roos

Karlsson

Club Master

Mr M Evans

Mr M Malysa

Mr ND Payne

Mr L Stone

Local Master

M Marinescu

Manchester

Premier National Master

Mr NG Clarke

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr H Stubbings

Regional Master

Miss S Richmond

1 Star Premier Master

Ms K Reissmann

Mr C Skelton

1 Star Tournament Master

Mrs HHL Murray

4 Star Master

Mr DJ Bakewell

1 Star Master

Mrs SR Eastwick

Advanced Master

Mr MA Jabbar

Master

Mrs MB Bisset

Mr S Green

Mrs A Walker

County Master

Mrs D Azariah

Mrs W Joyce

Miss M Skinner

District Master

Mr KA Ward

Area Master

Mr M Pelham

Merseyside/Cheshire

2 Star Regional Master

Mr R Wallwork

2 Star Premier Master

Mr S Gerrard

Premier Master

Mrs G Jones

Mr RS Ralph

Area Master

Master F Cooke

Mrs JE Downie

Dr BE Robinson

Club Master

Mr I Bates

Mr M Cutbill

Middlesex

3 Star Regional Master

Ms AM Gayfer

M. Ralph, B. Britton, D. Weller (65 VP),
3. S. Mathews, P. Watts, G. Barrett,
J. Griffiths (55 VP).

Diary Dates: Sept 25, HBA and GCBA Green Point Swiss Pairs, 1pm. Sept 26, HBA and GCBA Green Point Swiss Teams, 11am – both at the Larrupier Centre, Ross-on-Wye.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



WE are very sad to report the death of Denis O'Donovan (obituary on page 39) who had been selected to represent England in this year's Seniors

Camrose together with John Short and Patrick Collins – Malcolm Lewis.

At the London Easter Congress, Rhys Horlock (with Alex Mitchell) won the Under 19 Pairs. Jeremy Willans – Jill Skinner were 2nd in the Mixed Pairs. Well done!

Writing in the Times, Andrew Robson recently named Kent's Derek Patterson and Peter Crouch as the best English pair in the past twelve months. A deserved accolade!

Congratulations also to the winners of 2010 Kent competitions: the Premier Kent Pairs Championship, played for the Larky Cup, was won by Gerald Soper – Terry Goldsmith; Tony Price – Steve Burton came 2nd. In the Kent Inter-club Teams competition final: the Premier Division, playing for the Corbett Cup, was won by Chislehurst A. Div. 2, playing for the Corbett Plate, was won by Beckenham. Div. 3, playing for the Mitchell Salver, was won by Farnborough C.

Please note that the 25 July green-pointed event has been cancelled. This one-day green-pointed licence has been successfully transferred to the Kent Congress in October.

Diary Dates: June 20, Phillimore Cup (match-pointed Swiss Teams), Tunbridge Wells, 11am. June 22, Brook Shield (area leagues team play-off), Tunbridge Wells, 11am.

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS go to Southport A on winning Div. 1 of the Fylde & District Bridge League. Divs 2, 3 and 4 were won by Lancaster B, Preston B and Preston C respectively.

Congratulations also go to Nick and Sue Woodcock, who finished 2nd in the Pairs at the Buxton Easter Congress. They also finished 2nd in the Swiss Teams playing with John Halliwell and Peter Mollart.

LCBA Teams of Eight: 1. Bolton BC. Hector Barker Pivot Teams: 1. Catherine Draper, Andrew Woodcock, Ollie Burgess and Dave Debbage.

Diary Dates: June 12, Northern Bridge League – Round 1. June 27, Cumbria v Lancashire, Barrow Bridge Club. July 3, Northern Bridge League – Round 2. July 17-18, President's Cup, Carlisle Bridge Club. July 25, Manchester One Day Green Point Event, Altrincham.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk



LEICESTERSHIRE'S matches in the Midland League were completed in February. With all other matches now complete, the final standings are: 1st team (Dawes League), 8th place; 2nd team (Porter Cup), 3rd place; 3rd team (Markham Trophy), 2nd place, and Leicestershire is 5th in the overall merit table.

Congratulations to Lesley McKemey – Lindsay Sherriff, who won the Leicester Mercury Trophy for first and second year bridge students; Kate Smith – Gill Beagley were runners-up.

After six rounds, Ian Bruce – Mick Mahoney lead the Stanley Trophy (Butler Pairs Championship), with Brian and Sheila Stockdale in 2nd place.

The Annual Charity Swiss Teams organised by Barkby Bridge Club on March 28 was won again by last year's winners Mick Mahoney, Ian Bruce, Win Stocker and Katie Bruce, with Bharat Thakrar, Linda Stone, Anne Wright, Jenny Grant in 2nd place.

The Joseph's Bowl (teams of four knock-out) will be between Langley and Odams. The final of the corresponding plate competition, the Butterworth Trophy will be between Bee and Nuttall.

Diary Dates: June 16, LCBA AGM & Presentations, Rothley Centre. June 20, Midland League v Notts (away). July 17, Green Point Pairs, Spondon. July 18, Green Point Teams, Spondon. July 26, BGB Simultaneous Pairs, County Bridge Club and Grantham.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



THE AGM is on Sunday June 27 at Dunholme. The AGM agenda, minutes for last year's AGM, copy of the new constitution as approved by the EBU, and hopefully the balance sheet have been sent to club reps and computer operators for circulation to club members.

Four teams entered the Garden Cities Heat on March 7. The winners were Alan

Andrew's Lincoln team.

Championship results in the next issue.

Diary Dates: June 13, Charles Heward Trophy; restrictions: captain any rank, other three below Advanced Master up to 7,500 master points. June 27, AGM; free bridge afterwards.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Susanna Gross, Chris Duckworth and Nicole Cook who were members of the winning EBU Lady Milne team. Also to Ross Harper who won the Swiss Pairs at the Harrogate Spring Congress and the Shrewsbury Congress; to Tim Chanter – Helen Wildsmith who won the Swiss Teams in Shrewsbury; and to Gordon Rainsford – Dom Goodwin who came 3rd in the Premier Life Masters Pairs and 2nd in the London Easter Festival Swiss Pairs. Also at Easter, David Gold won the Mixed Pairs with Fiona Hutchison in 3rd place, Alice Kaye came 2nd in the Championship Pairs, Graham Orsmond and Jackie Fairclough were 2nd in the Swiss Teams.

Results: London Championship Pairs:

1. John Pemberton – Steve Popham, 2. Gavin Essex – Dudley Leigh, 3. Heather Bakhshi – Laura Macdougall. Green-pointed Swiss Pairs: 1. Ian Budden – Ted Booth, 2. Lindsay Geddes – Graham Sadie, 3. Andrew Bannock – David Arundel. Green-pointed Swiss Teams: 1. Ian Pagan, Martin Pope, Andre Gubbay, Geoff Lederman; 2= Graham Pollack, Paul Chapman, Tim Chanter, Helen Wildsmith and Mike Davis, Anthony Moon, Tricia Gilham, Helen Beattie. Fox Shammon Senior Pairs: 1. David Sellman – Steve Eginton, 2. Malcolm Morris – Susi Behrmann, 3. Bryan and Sheila Peers. Café Bridge Drive: 1. Rex Goad – Mike Daniels (in the photo below), 2. Camilla Hull – Richard Turner, 3. Wendy Hombersley – Kate Woodruff.

Diary Dates: June 20, London Trophy Pairs Championship, RAC Club, 2.00 pm; contact Cecil Leighton ☎ 020 8500 0700. July 15, Annual General Meeting Young Chelsea BC, 7.00pm.



Photo: Chris Duckworth

Rex Goad (left) and Mike Daniels with Norma Spence, representative of Age Concern Wandsworth, who presented the prizes to the winners of the first-ever London Café Bridge Drive

Master Point promotions

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs S Avoth
Mrs S Karp

2 Star Premier Master

Mr T Feldman

4 Star Master

Mr RP Ghosh

3 Star Master

Mrs EA Stevens

2 Star Master

Mrs R Grigorian

Master

Mr GR Diamond

Miss A Sellar

County Master

Mr D Goldberg

Mrs NK Patel

District Master

Dr M Connick

Mr LH Gray

Mrs SL Winton

Area Master

Mrs S Chapman

Mr S Hunte

Mrs G Musgrave

Mr H Said

Local Master

Mrs M Rawji

Mrs D Shah

Norfolk

14 Star Premier Master

Mrs B Howlett

Mr P Howlett

2 Star Premier Master

Mr P Lofting

1 Star Premier Master

Mr B Drobny

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr DW Packard

5 Star Master

Mr JF Hovell

Mrs J Pennington

4 Star Master

Mr F Chinkin

2 Star Master

Mr BH Learner

1 Star Master

Mr AJ Ferenczy

Mrs J Hubbard

Master

Mr A Geschke

Mrs C Savidge

Mrs R Semmence

County Master

Mr D Smith

District Master

Mr P Davies

Mrs S Hinks

Mr RH Middleton

Miss S Pulley

Area Master

Mr G Masding

North East

11 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr A Erskine

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs B Taylor

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs M Davies

Mr NG Davies

Premier Regional Master

Mr D Maloney

14 Star Regional Master

Mrs SF Bateman

13 Star Regional Master

Mr J Bateman

11 Star Regional Master

Mr WR Aynsley

Mr B Shepherd

7 Star Regional Master

Mrs L Pyke

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs AP Boardman

23 Star Premier Master

Mr DP Roddy

17 Star Premier Master

Mr KJ Spragg

9 Star Premier Master

Mr G Coupland

7 Star Premier Master

Mr P Longley

Mrs SV Robson

5 Star Premier Master

Mr E Bell

4 Star Premier Master

Ms SM Findlay

6 Star

Tournament Master

Mr J Hodgson

1 Star

Tournament Master

Rev R Smith

Tournament Master

Mrs D Barker

Mrs JA Creswick

5 Star Master

Mr PG Marshall

4 Star Master

Mr D Morse

2 Star Master

Mr LG Henderson

Mr A Scott

1 Star Master

Mrs M Booth

Mrs M Dowdeswell

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS to County President, Eve Lighthill, in partnership with Vice-President, Sid Travers, who won the

Manchester Green Pointed Pairs in March.

An outstanding success for Bill and Joyce White, who won the Baker Tilley Easter Festival Championship Pairs at Buxton. Well done also to Rod Franks – David Pennington who came 3rd and to Gillian McMullan – John Fitzgerald, who were 4th in the Swiss Pairs. In the Swiss Teams, John Holland, Michelle Brunner, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield were the winners, with Pat Burrows, Paul Worswick, Dhun Daji and Gill Griffiths finishing 4th.

In the National U-25 Pairs an excellent result for Rob Myers who was 1st equal playing with Daniel McIntosh, and well done also to Jack Hassan – Luke Webb, who came 3rd in the National U-19 Pairs, and Laura Bonney – Alex Birchall who were 8th.

The Cantor Cup for Novices held on March 28 was won by Ann Thompson – Andrea O'Rafferty; 17 pairs played and all enjoyed the event. The Manchester CBA Newcomers League was won by Joan Hinchliffe's team (Alan Hinchliffe, Denise Phythian, Anne Groome, Andrea Bell, Geoff Ashcroft).

Terry McCaughey – Eddie Thornton-Chan and Paul Beckwith – Paul Worswick finished 3rd and 6th respectively in the Northern Pairs at Bradford and thus qualified for the National Pairs final.

Best of luck to Paul Hackett and John Holland, and Jason and Justin Hackett in the forthcoming European Championships in Ostend. They are playing respectively in the Seniors and Open teams.

Diary Dates: July 3, Northern Bridge League, Manchester Bridge Club for A & B Division and Juniors. July 25, Green-pointed Teams, Altrincham BC, 11am.

Middlesex

www.middlesexbridge.co.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS to Nevena Senior for winning the Lady Milne Trophy as part of the English Bridge Union Team. Catherine Seale and NPC Jeremy Dhondy were part of the England team which finished 2nd. Well done to Glyn Liggins, Victor Silverstone and NPC Heather Dhondy for winning the Camrose Trophy.

Best of luck to the Middlesex players contesting the upcoming European Championships. In the Open Teams, Nick Sandqvist, Andrew McIntosh and NPC Jeremy Dhondy will represent England, and Gary and Dafydd Jones will represent Wales. In the Women's Teams, Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior will play for England.

Ian Pagan won the National Pairs. Pagan also won the London Swiss Teams with Andre Gubbay. Brian Senior finished 2nd in the Portland Pairs. Tony Waterlow won the Premier Grand Master Pairs. At the London Easter Festival, Catherine

Seale won the Mixed Pairs. Heather Dhondy, Brian and Nevena Senior won the Swiss Teams.

In County Events, Denise Miller – Danny Roth won the Mixed Pairs Final, with Anne Rosen – Jeremy Dhondy 2nd. An extensive competitions calendar may be found on the county website. Do report points of interest to hsbakhshi@aol.com.

Norfolk

www.bridgewebs.com/norfolk/



THE Eastern Counties League ended with Cambridge University A team inflicting a 18-2 defeat on the Norfolk A team. The B and C teams fared much better, winning their matches 14-6 and 16-4 respectively.

A large entry for the Norfolk Congress included some well-known national players. Paul Hackett – Roger O'Shea won the Norfolk Cup and the Swiss Teams event winners were Mike Walsh, Graham Horscroft, Mike Fletcher and Andrew Thompson. New Tournament Manager Mary Kingdon maintained the high standard set by Sheila Warner for past congresses.

The North Walsham Swiss Teams Trophy was won by Nigel Block, Lena Taylor, Maureen Kimbley and Bogdan Drobny. The SMART Trophy was won by Paul Whitley, David Thompson, Bridget and Robert Shreeve.

Diary Dates: the County Open Pairs events are under way, with an event on most Fridays at the Norwich Girls High School. On Friday June 18 there is a Gender Pairs event and the Shaw Trophy will be held on Friday July 2, both events at the High School. A full list of county Summer Events can be seen on the new county website (address above).

North East

www.neba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Clive Owen, Malcolm Oliver, Bill March, Val Gibson and John Atthey on reaching the final of the Hubert Phillips Bowl, the national mixed pivot teams knock-out competition. Good luck in the final!

The North East League was won by Clive Owen, Chris Owen, Julian and Val Gibson, Bill March and John Atthey who will represent NEBA in the Pachabo Cup. The Inter-club League Division A was won by Hurworth A. Other divisional winners were Rytton, Whitley Bay A, Bishop Auckland, Durham B and Stockton B.

The Kempson Vases final was won by the team of Pat Tuff, Marion Curran, Andrew Cornish and Robert Stead. The NEBA Winter Simultaneous Pairs was won by Geoff Parker – Gary Coupland. The re-arranged Deane Salver was won by Clare and Robin Zigmund. The winners of the Newcastle Pairs Congress were Brian Lumsden – Norman McTaggart.

Diary Dates: June 13, Summer Swiss Teams, Hexham. June 27, Summer Pairs Final.

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE will be holding a Green-pointed Swiss Pairs One Day event at Bugbrooke Village Hall on Saturday 26 June. An entry form is available on the website www.northantsbridge.info or contact Peter Fountain ☎ 01733 320845 or e-mail p-fountain@sky.com.

The Broke Cup Final was won by Jim Deacon, Chris Wormleighton, Rob Miller, Trevor Thrower, Dan Baines, who will represent the County in the Pachabo. The Betts Bowl Final was won for the second year by Bill Chadwick, Mike Gore Browne, Mike Auger and Chandra Ramamoorthy. The Eden Cup was won by Janet Porter – Mike Keogh, with Jim Deacon – Trevor Thrower in 2nd place; the county will be represented by these pairs in the Corwen. Richard Gibson and Eifion Jones finished 3rd and won the Murchie Lerner for the leading non-expert pair

Kettering A have won Div. 1 of the Inter-club League, ahead of Stamford A. Orton won a close Div. 2, with only a difference of 16 VPs between top and bottom places. Spalding won the north-east section of Div. 3 with Northampton B winning the south-west section. Spalding won the playoff.

In the Eastern Counties League the A team finished in 6th place, the B team finished 2nd and the C team 3rd.

Results: Eden Cup: 1. Janet Porter – Mike Keogh 61.75%, 2. Jim Deacon – Trevor Thrower 61.63%, 3. Richard Gibson – Eifion Jones 58.41%. Broke Cup: 1. Jim Deacon, Chris Wormleighton, Robert Miller, Trevor Thrower, Daniel Baines; 2. Graham and Berry Hedley, Marcus Witt, Chris Heames. Betts Bowl: 1. Bill Chadwick, Mike Gore Browne, Mike Auger, Chandra Ramamoorthy; 2. Brendan Alston, Rex Berresford, Paul Double, Bob Wakerley.

Diary Dates: June 26, Northamptonshire Green Pointed Swiss Pairs.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

IN the Dawes Trophy, with two matches to go, Nottinghamshire's 1st Team was lying well with 82 points and five wins out of six. Unfortunately the last two county match results were disappointing. In the match vs Worcestershire the 1st and 2nd Teams lost 2-18 and 7-13, while the 3rd Team won 14-6. In the match vs Oxfordshire all three Notts teams lost, 6-14, 0-20 and 4-16 respectively.

The Individual Championship was won by Willie Crook. In the Spring Series: 1= David Burgess and Gordon Fullerton. In the Journal Cup: 1. Mike and Daphne Coggles, 2. David Burgess – Gordon Fullerton, 3. Nancy Berry – Dinah Mairs.

Diary Dates: The NCBA/EBU green-point events at Spondon are on July 17 (Swiss Pairs) and July 18 (Swiss Teams). Entries and enquiries to Keith Rodgers, 44 Lower Beauvale, Newthorpe, Notts NG16 3PU, ☎ 0115 9447 010 (work) or 0177 3530 764 (evening); e-mail: keith@hme-limited.com. On Wednesdays, both the Black Cup (commenced May 26) and Farr Cup (commenced June 2)

Master Point promotions

Mrs FM Smith	Advanced Master	Staffs & Shropshire	2 Star Regional Master
Mr AR Watson	Dr R Haynes		Mr AR Patrick
Advanced Master	Master	1 Star Premier Regional Master	17 Star Premier Master
Mr H Clarke	Mrs DP Crawford	Mrs MA Edwards	Mr L Hough
Miss M Danskin	Mr SP Crawford		16 Star Premier Master
Mr C Hiller	County Master	1 Star Master	Mr J Neal
Master	Mr J Beeley	Mrs CM Joseph	15 Star Premier Master
Prof AC Darnell	Ms SC Dawson	Mr C Woodbridge	Mrs SE Harvey
Mr D Gunn	Mr FW Ellis	Advanced Master	14 Star Premier Master
Ms GA Keating	Mrs J Moore	Ms J Rose	Mrs JM Knott
Mrs F Simpkin	Mr P Moore	County Master	10 Star Premier Master
Mr T Stone	Mr MA Shepherd	Mr GG Woodbridge	Mr R Bragman
Mrs J Thompson	Mr DJ Woodhouse	District Master	Mrs S White
Mr J Ward	District Master	Mrs MM Alexander	9 Star Premier Master
Mrs AM Young	Mr D King	Mr P Tallon	Mr LR Springate
County Master	Club Master	Area Master	8 Star Premier Master
Dr AJ Cornish	Mr SA Berry	Mrs JM Hargreaves	Mrs LE Scrivener
Mrs WS Downs	Local Master	Suffolk	7 Star Premier Master
Mr A Humble	Kyle Lam	10 Star Premier Master	Mr T Wallace
Mrs J Musson	Mrs A Norbury	Mrs M Scurlock	4 Star Premier Master
Miss BA Stott	Oxfordshire	6 Star Premier Master	Mrs AK Hughes
District Master	1 Star Premier Regional Master	Mrs EM Tora	3 Star Premier Master
Mr I Gill	Mrs LE Swadling	Mr A Wayman	Mr HR Dockrell
Mr AL Jones	8 Star Premier Master	1 Star Tournament Master	2 Star Premier Master
Mr PM Jones	Mrs W Claye	Mr JV Gagen	Mrs SM Brent
Mr S Reay	1 Star Premier Master	Mr J Clement	1 Star Premier Master
Mrs I Simpson	Mrs S Bliss	2 Star Master	Mr J Hodges
Area Master	Mrs G Weatherley	1 Star Master	3 Star Tournament Master
Mr R Billinghurst	4 Star Master	Mrs P Deman	Mr N Collings
Prof P Christensen	Mrs B Walker	Mrs B Dodgson	2 Star Tournament Master
Mr FN Stephenson	3 Star Master	Advanced Master	Mr RJ Coles
Club Master	Mrs MLR Johnson	Mr JD Davis	Mrs BE Money
Mrs H Jackson	2 Star Master	Mr DA Huxtable	1 Star Tournament Master
Mrs A Lister	Mrs EM Crump	Master	Mr DD Hyams
Mr M Lister	1 Star Master	Mr RS Emerson	Tournament Master
Mr D Sedgwick	Mrs E Nutten	Mr R Ferris	Mrs IP Jordan
Local Master	County Master	Mr BR Tora	Mrs S Lynes
Mrs B Spragg	District Master	Mrs JM Wood	5 Star Master
Northants	Dr J Anderson	Mr R Barton	Mrs J Page
7 Star Premier Regional Master	Mrs J Boszormenyi	Mr P Whetton	4 Star Master
Mr IG Colman	Mr C Dawe	District Master	Mrs JVA Fielder
1 Star Tournament Master	Mrs EA McGivan	Mrs V Potter	3 Star Master
Mr DT Tisbury	Miss DM Simon	Mr I Ward	Mr P Bohan
Advanced Master	Club Master	Surrey	Mrs W Sirs
Mr JH Maxwell	Miss DM Brazier	Premier Life Master	Mrs NE Wilcox
Master	Mr SG Dijkstra	Mrs C Blackburn	EA Wingham
Mr RM Blackmore	Miss AM Kaye	Life Master	2 Star Master
Mrs VM Reed	Local Master	Mr BJ Themis	Mrs CJL Eccersley
County Master	Mr F Illingworth	11 Star Premier Regional Master	Mr JR Stark
Mr J Lewis	Somerset	Mrs FM James	1 Star Master
District Master	4 Star Premier Regional Master	5 Star Premier Regional Master	Mrs PG Davies
Mrs S Murison	Mrs HM Dodge	7 Star Regional Master	Dr JH Davies
Local Master	6 Star Regional Master	Premier Regional Master	Mrs CM Holt
Mrs C Beaty	Mr FE Colman	Mr S Foster	Mrs JS Joseph
Notts	12 Star Premier Master	7 Star Regional Master	Mr AM Sierankowska
5 Star Premier Master	Mrs M Stodgell	3 Star Regional Master	
Mrs ER Overton	2 Star Master	Master	
4 Star Premier Master	Mrs JB King		
Mr S Zygadlo	Master		
3 Star Premier Master	Mrs DE Beswick		
Mrs AR Brookes	Mrs B Brown		
4 Star Master	Area Master		
Mrs D Mairs	Mrs PH Bright		
2 Star Master			
Mr PL Beardsley			
Mr M Craven			

competitions continue in alternate weeks.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



THERE is still time to enter *Oxfordshire's Green-pointed Congress* on 26-27 June, featuring Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams on Saturday and Sunday respectively. (See advert on page 10 of the April issue for full details or e-mail AlanG@nurdglaw.demon.co.uk).

For the second consecutive year, the Hertfordshire team of Derek and Celia Oram, Vernon Gaskell, Anne Flockhart, won the *Beck Cup*, Oxfordshire's prestigious Invitation Teams of Four event (photo on next page).

Congratulations to OBA President Evan Harris, playing for the Commons, on being awarded the *Anthony Berry Memorial Trophy* for the best-played hand in the recent 2010 Lords v Commons match, although this time the Lords inflicted their revenge for a sound beating last year!

Oxfordshire pairs performed extremely well in the *National Pairs Regional Final* at Solihull claiming five out of the eight available places to the national final. Well clear of the field were Hugh Thomson – Trevor Dawe, with Ron Quainton – Peter Russell as runners-up. Alastair Gidman – Lorna Swadling finished 4th, with Jean Squires – Roger Haycock 7th, and David and Jeremy Bygott 8th.

Congratulations to Peter Owen-Smith – Lorraine Jones on winning the *National Masters* category at the *Ranked Masters Pairs*.

Joe Clacey – Emily Middleton won the *Under 25s* at the *Easter Festival* (London) with Alice Kaye and partner finishing 2nd in the *Championship Pairs*. All OBA members are invited to attend the forthcoming AGM (7.30pm Monday 14 June at Oxford BC). Bridge and refreshments available free of charge.

Diary Dates: **June 13**, Mixed Pairs, Oxford BC. **June 14**, AGM, Oxford BC. **June 20**, Dawes League vs Lincolnshire (away but played at Leicester). **June 26-27**, Oxfordshire Congress, Steventon Village Hall.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Colin Simcox – Frank Colman on their win in the *County Swiss Pairs*; Joe Melmoth – Joan Pooley were 2nd, Jette and Alan Bailey 3rd.

Marianne Lewin – Ray Walder won the *County Mixed Pairs* so congratulations to them; Sheila Coda – Steve Tomlinson were 2nd, Dave Latchem – Diana King 3rd.

The *Michael Coda Cup* is a sim pairs event run by our county every year in aid of a nominated charity. This year's nominated charity is the EBU Youth and Education Trust. The competition was won by Colin Flood – Chris Jones, Malcolm Scard – Sue Gudgeon were 2nd and Helen Sealy – Gillian Toogood 3rd.

The Open section of the *Inter-club Pairs* competition was won by Michael Powell – Brian Greenwood, Judy and Robin Belcher were 2nd, Dave Latchem – Bob Warrender 3rd. The section for those with a rank below National Master was won by Pat and David Hancock, Donne Hoong – Mike Toft 2nd, Anne Harris – Gordon Little 3rd. The section for those below the rank of 2 Star Master was won by Michael Wigmore – May Archibald; Chris Hogan – John Brown were 2nd and Gillian Toogood – Mike Readman 3rd.

The Taunton team of Colin Flood, Tom Gibbard, Chris Jones, David Porter and Sally Stuttard have reached the fifth round of the *NICKO* competition. Dave Latchem's team had an excellent win to reach the fourth round of the *Gold Cup*. Roger Sweet's team has also reached the fourth round.

Gina Howard – Bill Rowe won the *Avon & Wiltshire Green-pointed Swiss Pairs* event.

Our AGM and Swiss Teams will be held at Oake Village Hall on **June 27**.

Staffs and Shrops

www.staffsandshrops.org.uk



JUDY Mitchell, as always, excellently organized the *County Congress*. There was a triple tie for first place between Sue and Nick Woodcock, Dodo Georgeovic – Liam Johnstone and Ross Harper – Paul Hackett. One point behind were Mike Amos and Peter Foster. In the teams it was a different story with Tim Chanter, Helen Wildsmith, Sue and Chris Taylor emerging as comfortable winners. 2nd were Jackie Davies, Chris Smart and Sue and Richard Milner. Alan Reid, Suzanne Griffin, Shirley and James Dutton climbed into the 3rd spot.

Keith Shuttleworth – Roger Bowles won the *Bearn*, with Edward Levy – Paul Hackett 2nd and Roger Keane – David Beavon 3rd. As Roger and Keith are unavailable for the *Corwen*, Peter and Helen Lees will be joining the second and third pair to represent us.

The final of the *Staffs Cup* was between Geoff Davies, Peter Jones, Geoff Feltbower, John Day and John Sheppee against Dan Crofts, Edward Levy, Michael Goldsmith and Justin and Paul Hackett. The match was on a knife-edge for all of the 48 boards with Dan Crofts' team just emerging victorious.

Paul Hackett won the *Kings Lynn Pairs* and qualified for the *Crockfords Final*, as did Jason and Justin.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Jane Moore who (with her partner Gillian Fawcett) represented England in the *Lady Milne* competition against the home countries (see page 16). County Captain David Price was another Suffolk player on international duty recently, in the *Camrose*.

Congratulations also to Elizabeth Tora for being the top-ranked Suffolk player

Master Point promotions

Mrs TK Tibos	1 Star Master
Advanced Master	Mrs B Piper
Mrs M Cox	Advanced Master
Mr P Cretch	Mr EH Barter
Mrs S Cretch	Mr NL Roussel
Mrs D Francis	Ms Angela Viola
Mr G Provenza	Master
Master	Mrs SH Allen
Mrs CM Haines	County Master
Mr M B Haines	Mr W Bourne
Mrs RM Moore	Mrs AF Jackson
Mrs EA Morison	Mrs A Katz
County Master	Mrs DD Keay
Mrs CL Edwards	Mrs VB Phillips
Mr A Moreton-Smith	Mrs C Wickham
Mr DM Rotherham	District Master
Mr I Schofield	Mr HMR Deane
District Master	Mr J M Millar
Ms AM Burrows	Mr Anthony Sanders
Mr ME Emery	Miss LA Way
Mrs H Oldman	Area Master
Mr RS Sissen	Mr RD King
Area Master	Local Master
Mrs D Gardner	Mrs SP Price
Mr DR Jilla	Warwickshire
Mrs L Poulson	2 Star Premier
Mrs JA Searle	Regional Master
Mr PF Searle	Mr PA Randall
Club Master	7 Star Premier
Mr K Harrison	Master
Local Master	Mr RG Coggle
Mrs VJ Coke-Smyth	Mrs EM Cowan
Dr J Grimshaw	5 Star Premier
Mr GE Osborne	Master
Mr C Smith	Mr D Gough
Lord W Swain	2 Star Master
Sussex	Mrs GM Herbert
Premier Life	Advanced Master
Master	Mrs P Boad
Mrs EA Lancaster	Mr PM Jones
Premier National	Mr A Kent
Master	Master
Mr GR Kellett	Mrs PM Cullwick
Mrs FE Thornton	Mr C S Hall
4 Star Regional	Mr C Shovell
Master	County Master
Mr A Vaughan	Mr S Edmonds
Regional Master	Mr J R West
Mr AJ Ryder	District Master
10 Star Premier	Mr RJ Bromley
Master	Mrs GE Day
Mrs A Hone	Mrs S Wilding
8 Star Premier	Area Master
Master	Dr AP Fraise
Mrs F Andrews	Mr JW Gleeson
6 Star Premier	Local Master
Master	Mr P Anderton
Mr KR Oliver	Ms A Hampson
2 Star Premier	Mrs S Hunter
Master	Mr MJ Samworth
Ms J Alderman	Westmorland
Premier Master	Area Master
Mr P Lindsten	Mr D Bissett
5 Star Master	Wiltshire
Mrs J Hole	7 Star Premier
Mrs JM Taylor	Regional Master
2 Star Master	Mrs EJ Bartley
Mrs FT Fuller	
Mr GP Hyde	

in the EBU Star Masters category for the year, and to Ralph Parish – Paul Whetton who battled through the *Regional Semi-final* in Peterborough to be part of the 25-table *National Pairs Final*.

The *Thornaway Cup* (Club Teams of Four) was won by Ipswich (Peter Sutcliffe, Peter Gemmell, Debby Sutcliffe, Maria Allnutt), with 48 IMPs. Clare (Mike O'Reilly) was 2nd with 43 IMPs, and another Ipswich team (Barabara Barker) was 3rd with 41 IMPs. The Sutcliffe team (this time joined by Chris Chambers – Jim Gobert) was also successful in the *Teams Knock-out*, beating Moore (Jane and Andrew Moore, Jenny and David Price) by 17 IMPs in the final. The *Pivot Cup* was won by Claude Stokes, Din Gudka, David Morran, Julian Lang, with 133 IMPs; Flin was 2nd with 93 IMPs and Malinowska 3rd with 57 IMPs. Joan Mayhew and Richard Evans tied for first place in the *Singles* competition, each with 60.07%.

In the last *Eastern Counties League* match of the 2009/2010 season, Suffolk A beat Essex by 12-8 VPs, but the B and C teams each lost by 5-15 VPs.

Diary Dates: the schedule of events for 2010-2011 is in the final stages of preparation. Details will appear shortly on the website, and SCBA members can expect to receive their own copy of the Events Brochure.

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk

FIRSTLY a correction from April's *English Bridge*. I gave the incorrect location for the venue of this year's Swiss Pairs and AGM. It is to be held on Sunday June 20 at East Horsley Village Hall, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley, Leatherhead KT24 6QT starting at 2pm. Our new members are especially welcome to join us.

Congratulations to Liz Phillips – Bob McRobert who came 5th overall in the *Portland Pairs*. Richard and Sue Millard came 7th in the *Easter Swiss Pairs* in London, and followed that up by coming 2nd in the *Swiss Teams* at the Shrewsbury Congress with Chris Smart and an out-of-county player. Wendy Lancaster – Sandra Simpson came 2nd in the *Regional Masters* category at the *Ranked Masters*.

The popular *Surrey Schools Bridge*



Photo: Krys Kazmierczak

Oxfordshire CBA Chairman John Briggs (right) presenting the Beck Cup to (left to right): Derek and Celia Oram, Vernon Gaskell and Anne Flockhart from Hertfordshire.

Competition was once again held at Cranmore School in West Horsley on Friday March 5. This was the 11th such event and, although entries were lower than in previous years, 36 boys and girls from Claremont Fan Court, Cranmore, Hinchley Wood and St Paul's Boys and Girls Schools participated in this fun event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves judging from the increasing decibels as the competition progressed.

Entries for the AGM *Swiss Pairs* to Frances Treble via the website if possible please, or ☎ 01252 679883.

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to our chairman, Jackie Clinton, who won the *Individual* competition with a score of 67.7%; Doug Jay was 2nd.

In the *Madeira Pre-Congress Pairs*, Geoffrey and Joan Kellett were joint 2nd – well done!

The *Sussex Mixed Pairs Final* was contested fiercely and the eventual result was a win to Malcolm and Karen Pryor, 2. Peter Clinch – Chris Jepson. The annual *Teams of Eight* competition was this year won by Eastbourne BC with 175 IMPs; 2nd Horsham on 169 IMPs.

Congratulations to Neil Watts – Nigel Urban who won the *Sussex Pairs Final*; 2. Giles Faulkner – Andy Ryder. Well done to Michael Keeping – Matthew Read who finished 3rd at Leatherhead to qualify for the *National Pairs Final*; Dave Nastaszczuk – Philip Roxburgh also qualified. *Kremer Dersch Trophy*: 1. Worthing, 2. Horsham. *Charity Sim Pairs*: 1. Joan Hootman – David Galpin, 2. Eddie Lucioni – Jean Smallwood.

A great result for Peter and Marit Langston, who won the *Portland Mixed Pairs* this year. In the *London Easter Festival*, Jeremy Willans – Jill Skinner were 2nd in the *Mixed Pairs* and Dave Nastaszczuk – Philip Roxburgh won the *B Flight Pairs*.

Spring Congress results: *Swiss Pairs*: 1. Peter Brown – Joy Mayall, 2. Eddie Lucioni – Jean Smallwood. *Welcome Pairs*: 1. Kathy Whiting – Norman Hardy, 2. Barry Sowton – Hilary Broadhurst. *Basic Bridge*: 1. Ian Sanderson – Mary Brzezicki, 2. Ann Binder – Frances

Wallace. *Mixed Pairs*: 1. Karen and Malcolm Pryor, 2. Andrea and David Galpin. *Swiss Teams*: 1. Karen and Malcolm Pryor, Dave Muller, Andrew Southwell; 2. Jeanne Boydell, Roger Poulter, David Howard Houston, Pyers Pennant.

Basic Bridge at Hastings: 1. Kathie Gendens – Sheila Stedman, 2. Katie and Stephen Kennedy.

Diary Dates: June 13, Novice Swiss Teams, West Sussex Club. June 27, Swiss Pairs, Ardingly. July 18, Venture Pairs Henfield. July 18, Swiss Teams, Ardingly.

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Darren Evetts – Ant Edwards on winning our *National Pairs Heat* held on February 16. Runners-up were Sue and Geoff Morris (Moseley).

The *County Mixed Pairs Final* held on March 31 was won by John Hind – Janet Whittaker (Sutton) who received the *Joyce Hare Trophy*; runners-up were Gerald Nodding – Sheila Sharkey (also of Sutton). This competition has remained extremely popular with eight clubs holding heats this year, and many new faces at the final were a welcome sight.

Winners of the *Warwickshire Pairs League* at the end of *Session 1* were Roger Bryant – Rob Helle (*Prem. A*), John Pyner – Bob Foster (*Prem. B*), Barry Holloway – John Wright (*Div. 1*) and Pat Gadd – Beryl Latham (*Div. 2*).

All three of our *Inter-county Teams* had convincing wins against Lincolnshire, but only the first team succeeded against Derbyshire, and are now well placed at the top of the *Dawes League*.

Diary Dates: June 11-13, West Midlands BC Congress. June 20, Cock O'County Swiss Pairs, Coventry BC (new premises), 1.45 pm, with a parallel single session for Introductory Pairs. The County AGM will be held between sessions at approx 5 pm.

Westmorland

www.bridgewebs.com/westmorland



WE would like to congratulate the following members for their success in major county events over the last year: *Swiss Pairs 2009*: Alan Anderson – Bill Thompson. *Pivot Teams 2009*: Philip and Sally Wright, Bill Thompson and Sam Norman. *Eva Wilde County Teams 2009*: Peter Brown, Jeff Harrison, Peter Mollart, Arthur Russell and Bill Wallis. *County Pairs Final 2010*: Babs and Tim Matthews. *County Individual 2010*: Alan Farmer. *County Nights Grand Prix Trophy 2009*: Peter Brown – Arthur Russell.

The *Westmorland County Event* was held at the Royal Windermere Yacht Club in Jan 2010. It was attended by just under 50 members. The bridge quiz and the hot buffet supper proved very popular and the chairman, Peter Jeffreys, commended members of the county for their achievements throughout the year.

Following success in the *Northern*

Master Point promotions

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr C Clements

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs TKH Attwater

Tournament Master

Mrs E Wilson

5 Star Master

Mr T Ashbourne

4 Star Master

Mrs SM Gwyer

3 Star Master

Mrs E Just

Master

Mrs L Bennett

Area Master

Mr M Cripp

Mrs MS Turner

Local Master

Mr T Allen

Worcester

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr RC Rutter

Mrs JM Rutter

10 Star Premier

Master

Mr DD Clarke

3 Star Master

Mr DA McClelland

1 Star Master

Mr M Bunegar

Master

Ms H Collier

District Master

Mr SD Batten

Mr D Waide

Mrs Y Waide

Club Master

Mr RM Greenwood

Mrs RS Pantan

Yorkshire

National Master

Mrs PA Coggrave

Mr CS Coggrave

Mrs JP Powell

Mrs M Tebb

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr M Marston

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs SM Goodyear

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr M Armitage

Mrs T Pearce

Premier Regional Master

Mr AP Kalverda

7 Star Regional Master

Mr A Jones

3 Star Regional Master

Ms JM Jackson

19 Star Premier Master

Mr M Porter

7 Star Premier Master

Mr G Nixon

5 Star Premier Master

Dr A Cooke

Premier Master

Mr G Bak

4 Star

Tournament Master

Mr DP Brown

2 Star

Tournament Master

Mrs J Coombes

1 Star

Tournament Master

Mrs J Anderton

5 Star Master

Mrs FA Jeal

4 Star Master

Mrs J Cochrane

3 Star Master

Mr R Andrews

Mr S Kelly

Mrs R Ritchie

2 Star Master

Mrs J Gleeson

Mrs J M Pember

Advanced Master

Mrs N Green

Mr AE Jagger

Mr PJ

Londesborough

Master

Mrs B Fawcett

County Master

Mrs SL Hoyle

Ms J Murray

Mr A Watson

Mrs J Wood

District Master

Mr J Bunch

Mrs JM Castle

Mr TD Fenton

Mr DF Hoult

Mrs CM Powne

Mr PCB Skuse

Ms D Thorp

Area Master

Mrs MK Cooper

Mr J Footman

Mr J Guest

Mr M Stephens

Club Master

Mrs GM Arnold

Mr GR Newsome

Miss K Thorpe

Local Master

Mr SW Hirst

Mr RJ Sykes

League the county are now entering a B and C team for 2010.

Diary Dates: Westmorland's first green-pointed event, the Open Swiss Pairs, will take place on **Sept 26** at Stonecross Manor Hotel, Kendal. Contact John Ellwood competitions@wcdba.co.uk.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



THE highlight of recent weeks was the annual *Wiltshire & Avon Green-pointed Weekend* at Bath University. Entries were high with 60 teams and 110 pairs attending for the two events. The leading Wiltshire team, in 7th place, was Keith Williamson, Pat Davies, Keith and Johnny Sharp. Wiltshire pairs fared better with Richard Samter – Norman Botton 2nd, and Valerie Austwick – James Dunlop 5th.

The *Premier League* started the final session with the top two teams tied. In the end Latchem ran out victors with 153 VPs ahead of Blandy on 148 VPs.

The new *Allcomers League* was completed with two teams, Portnall and Gwyer, sharing top spot. There is a query in front of the county's Tournament Committee which will decide the final outcome. Baum were 3rd.

In the *KO Cup*, Bennett will play Hodgson in the final.

The WCBA committee is welcoming new members with the news that further events are planned for next season specifically aimed at non-expert players supplementing the regular, tried and tested, Championship events.

Worcestershire

www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Boyes, who recently received the *Ron Allen Award*. This award is given to those who help with bridge within the Worcestershire clubs. Alan has been Chairman at Pershore Bridge Club for the past ten years and thoroughly deserves this for the time and energy he has put back into the game.

Spring has seen a number of the Worcestershire competitions finish, with the following winners: *Club Championship Pairs*: Ian and Georgina Lineker (Stourbridge). *Closed Teams*: Sue Page, Ian Thompson, John Turner, Mike Willoughby, Simon Harrison, Pete Edwards. The *Grand Prix Teams* saw two teams tied for first place: Three Retirees & A Worker and Black Pears. *Ron Allen Trophy*: Worcester A (Jimmy Ledger, David Thomas, John Sansom, Pam

Pearce, Nick Forward, Steve Allerston, Ross Garratt, Mel Downing). *Chairman's Cup*: Diana MacMasters – Pauline Perry. *Veteran Pairs*: Jessie Newton – John Turner. *Phillips*: Dick & Jane Rutter. *Championship Pairs*: Richard Jephcott – John Sansom. Congratulations to all of the above.

Nationally, Dick Rutter – Dennis Loynes won the *Men's Pairs* and Sue Evans – Marian Wilcox the *Ladies' Pairs* at the *Madeira Congress*. Mike Theelke – Graeme Weir won the open pairs at the *Harrogate Congress*.

Finally, many congratulations to Liz Boyes who, on March 7, succeeded in becoming a Professional English Bridge Union Accredited Teacher. Liz is the 71st EBU Professional status teacher in the country and the only such teacher in Worcestershire.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freesevice.co.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS to the York A team, champions of the *Yorkshire League* for 2009-10. In a dramatic final match, nearest challengers Bradford and Sheffield fought out a 10-10 draw, leaving York ahead by just 3 VPs. Ilkley A in *Div. 3* and Harrogate C in *Div. 7* were the only teams to win all their matches.

In national events, Les Brown – Karen Bradley won the EBU's *Northern Pairs*. At the *Harrogate Spring Congress*, Richard Pike – David Robinson were on the winning team in the *Swiss Teams*. Ian and Julie Grant were 2nd in the *Swiss*

Pairs. At the EBU's *Buxton Easter Festival*, Pauline Cooper – Richard Hilton won the *Swiss Pairs*; Rod Hose – John Edwards were 2nd. At the EBU's *London Easter Festival*, juniors Tom Copeland – Tom Rainforth were 2nd in the Open Pairs. A team from Lawnswood School, Leeds (Joseph Cresswell, Simon Furse, Rhys Munden, Matthew Poulter) won the *Schools Plate* at the national *Young Bridge Challenge* event.

The following have been successful in county events and club congresses: *Yorkshire Golf Clubs Competition*: Catterick (S. Mckellar, A. Abrahams, S. Hird, A. Sayer). *YCBA Mixed Pivot Teams*: Sue Logan, Tony McNiff, Bill Townsend, David Fletcher. *Peter Littlewood Seniors' Pairs*: Chris Quigley – Barbara Boaler. *YCBA Seniors' Knock-out Teams*: Graham Jepson, David Musson, Sandy Davies, Tom Gisborne. *West Yorkshire Open Swiss Teams*: Stuart Davies, George Bak, David Robinson, Tony McNiff.

Scarborough Congress: Championship Pairs (joint): Jim Proctor – Roger Taylor and Joyce North – Bernard Swallow; *Swiss Teams*: Annette and Mike Jackson, Janet and Philip Mason.

Diary Dates: **June 13**, Castle Swiss Pairs, Huddersfield. **June 16**, Affiliated Clubs Teams, Tickton. **June 17**, John Gerrard Sim Pairs. **June 18**, YCBA Annual General Meeting, Doncaster. **June 20**, Malton Swiss Teams, New Earswick. **June 27**, Flitch, Harrogate. **June 27**, Yorkshire Schools Cup, Leeds. **July 4**, Waddington Cup Final, York. **July 11**, Newcomers Pivot Teams, Doncaster. □



Nick Forward, Worcestershire CBA Chairman (on the left), presents Alan Boyes with the Ron Allen Award

Photo: Doug Stainton

JUNE 21 is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of English Bridge.
Please e-mail: elena@ebu.co.uk

A chat with the Editor



Elena Jeronimidis

EDITORIAL

I HOPE everyone who reads this page has read the preceding fifty-four, and that (a) regular readers are now reassured that their favourites are still all here and (b) new members have liked what they have read. May I echo the Chairman's greeting on page 3, and join Sally in welcoming you all to *English Bridge*.

Magazine format

Philip Watson e-mailed me with comments about the April issue. He not only appended his full postal address (as I requested in my last Chat) but also had the forethought of adding his telephone number so I could ring him up and discuss his comments in detail. One of the ideas we debated was having a pull-out in the centre of the magazine devoted to the Club Duplicate Players (CDP) who are now new members of the EBU. In the end, I decided against it as I reckon most of the magazine is for the CDP and I have worked hard, in conjunction with the Club Committee and the Editorial Board, to change it over the last three years. I hope that, having reached the end of this issue, new members will agree with me. If you don't, please write to me and let me know what you think is missing.

Both Philip and Jeremy Dhondy, who sits on the magazine's Editorial Board, came up with the idea of presenting information on bidding and other bridge matters in bite-sized chunks, which prompted me to start a new column, 'In a Nutshell' (see page 33). Please feel free to suggest topics.

The Debate

Another thoughtful e-mail came from Godric Dearing who writes in praise of my campaign for better 'E-manners', as he calls them (he was not the only one, so thank you all who sent messages of support). Mr Dearing also suggested a super topic for the Debate: Jump to show Strength vs Keep the Bidding Low. I wish more people would suggest topics for debate, because organising them is not easy and so

the wider the choice, the greater the chances of the column thriving. My main difficulty is finding top players prepared to argue what they think is the 'unsound' side, which as it happens is often what the CDP (see above) do. A recent example is a debate I had hoped to set up on whether Double for Take-out or a Conventional Defence works better against pre-empts. Not one person was prepared to argue the latter, so the idea died an inglorious death.

Why not look for debaters among other groups of bridge players, I hear you say? Well, I believe that bidding is not a science and success at the table is the only true measure of the validity of bridge methods, so my choice of debaters is limited. If you feel like debating this particular point of view, though, please let's hear from you.

April Fool

I'm happy to report that our now traditional April Fool (did *you* spot it in our last issue?) seems to have gone down well. Ian Dalziel, in particular, made my day with this e-mail: 'I fell for it, hook line and sinker! In fact I was so impressed by the "new handicap system" on page 19 that I thought I would mention it in my own club newsletter. It was only after I finished reading the mag and realised that I hadn't seen an "April fool", that it dawned on me. Full marks to whoever composed it.' I can now reveal that the author was Simon Cochemé and thank him warmly.

Of course, it's not just *English Bridge* that indulges the tradition of publishing April Fools. The best bridge one I have seen this year appeared on the Leeds Bridge Club website (whence it disappeared pretty rapidly – was it being taken seriously, I wonder?): 'Naked Bridge, starting this evening,' the website announced. 'Half price for people in underwear, and free for naked!'

Barry Capal (look him up on page 32) suggested – in a rare display of humour – that the EBU should award Blue Points for this particular type of event.

Success

The future looks good! It's great to see our under-25s do well in national open events. In particular, well done to David Faria, Ed Jones, Alice Kaye, Sarah O'Connor, James Paul and Graeme Robertson, who came in the top ten in a tough field at the Baker Tilly Easter Festival of Bridge in London, either in the pairs or the teams. Their performance bodes well for future English success in international competitions.

As for this year, both the Camrose and the Lady Milne are, so to speak, in the bag: congratulations to the England and EBU teams whose victories are reported on pages 10 and 16. Let's hope we can soon report similar success in the Seniors Camrose.

English hopes of qualifying for the next world teams events at the Ostend European Championships at the end of this month rest with the following players: David Gold – Tom Townsend, Jason and Justin Hackett, Nick Sandqvist – Andrew McIntosh (Open Teams); Heather Dhondy – Nevena Senior, Nicola Smith – Sally Brock, Fiona Brown – Susan Stockdale (Women's Teams); and John Holland – Gunnar Hallberg, Colin Simpson – David Price, Paul Hackett – Ross Harper (current World Seniors Teams Champions, sponsored this year by Pharon Financial Services). Good luck to them and to their respective non-playing captains and coaches: Jeremy Dhondy, Simon Cope (Open), Richard Bowdery, David Burn (Ladies) and Peter Baxter (Seniors).

Last but not least

In case you are a new (or maybe even old) member who thought that all the EBU does is organising congresses for tournament players, think again! In this issue you will find several adverts informing you of bridge-playing and learning opportunities for improvers, both inland as well as on board ship. There is no need to confine your enjoyment of bridge to your local club. The world is indeed your oyster once you have your bridge passport from the EBU. □

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St Maarten - Azores - Dover

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on board Boudicca
12 MAY 2011 22 NIGHTS
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Malta - Korcula - Venice - Kopor
Split - Kotor - Corfu - Sardinia
Motril - Liverpool

INSIDE FROM **£1929** PP OUTSIDE FROM **£2249** PP



Summer Fjords

on board Balmoral
10 JUN 2011 14 NIGHTS
Southampton - Alesund - Tromso
Honningsvag (North Cape) - Alta
Narvik - Olden - Bergen - Southampton

INSIDE FROM **£1389** PP OUTSIDE FROM **£1649** PP



Around the British Isles

on board Balmoral
08 AUG 2011 10 NIGHTS
Southampton - Guernsey - Holyhead
Dublin - Greenock - Tobermory
Scrabster - Harwich - Southampton

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Newcastle

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