

October 2008

English Bridge

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For the record

Elena Jeronimidis



PEOPLE who know me are aware that tact and diplomacy are not my forte, so don't be surprised if I get straight to the point.

A distinguished contributor to this magazine has seen fit to state in another bridge publication that 'no discussion [of the new EBU Strategy Proposals] was allowed in *English Bridge*.' I was surprised to read this, as no such formal policy existed and, moreover, the writer never contacted me, before the EBU EGM on June 4th, either to check whether this was really so, or to express the wish to have her views published. Since that statement appeared in print, I have received one phone call and one e-mail from EBU members complaining about this magazine's lack of coverage of the consultation process prior to June 4th.

So, let's put the record straight. In my first year as editor of *English Bridge*, I received a grand total of seven letters before June 4th concerning P2P and universal membership – hardly a number suggesting that people felt the magazine should get involved in the debate. As these were detailed documents for discussion rather than 'letters to the editor', I forwarded them to the EBU group responsible for the consultation process – who, I understand, replied to them just as they replied to the other 1,000 and more communications that they received. Had I taken the view that *English Bridge* was the appropriate forum for a discussion of the strategy proposals, I would have had to publish all the correspondence addressed to the EBU (and subsequent replies), and filled a good five or six issues with it. I cannot believe that this would have met with the approval of readers denied their regular columns.

I took a different view: that since, for once, the EBU was actually engaging in a dialogue with its members, the appropriate forum for discussion were the clubs and the counties, where contrasting views could be thrashed out and thoroughly debated – as the EBU repeatedly urged members to do. I saw no

point in printing a few letters since I thought, and still think, that doing so would have been irresponsible journalism because a limited sample would not paint a full picture, and might prejudice a democratic debate. I was also glad that no-one at the EBU asked me to include more than a minimum of information on the proposals: the relevant documentation was available on the EBU website (or by post to those who asked) and repeating it in *English Bridge* seemed pointless. The resounding silence from readers suggests that (i) those who cared about the debate pursued it, quite properly, in its appropriate forum, and (ii) the majority of members expects from *English Bridge* an entertaining magazine for bridge players and not a political journal.

So where do we go from here?

The shareholders have voted in favour of universal membership, so now we must all make sure that the new strategy is implemented in the best possible way to the benefit of the greatest possible number of people. As far as I am concerned, this means working towards making *English Bridge* a magazine that will appeal equally to current and future EBU members – that is, those who might otherwise not have chosen to subscribe to the Union. This aim can only be achieved if the magazine focuses on what is positive on the English bridge scene, and rises above any disappointment resulting from the vote on June 4th. So no letters of recrimination to *English Bridge*, please (nothing stops you from addressing them directly to the EBU) but do, as ever, tell me and fellow members of your successes, joys, experiences – or frustrations – in bridge.

One last note: we have changed the masthead (top left) to emphasise the distinction between EBU, editorial office and advertising agency (all in different locations). Eagle-eyed readers will have spotted that our advertising agents are now called 'Loud': please note that only the name has changed, and they are still the same people who, as 'Blue 2', have served *English Bridge* long and well. □

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The Two-minute Interview

Baroness Ruth Henig of Lancaster



BARONESS Ruth Henig of Lancaster was a distinguished academic before taking up a political career that has led to her being made a life peer in 2004. She is currently Chairman of the Security Industry Authority, and still lectures and writes on 20th century international history.

How did you start playing bridge?

I played Solo Whist at university, so when I got married and saw my in-laws play bridge I thought I could easily learn and enjoy the game. I did not take lessons but started straight at a club where I learned by humiliation, doing badly for quite some time!

How often do you play?

About once a week, either at the House of Lords (I am the Secretary of the HOL Bridge Club), or at Young Chelsea. When I am in Lancaster, I play at the Lancaster Bridge Club.

What does bridge mean to you?

It gives me the opportunity to escape into a parallel universe which is challenging and competitive, but also fun.

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

The boorish behaviour of one or two opponents – no names mentioned!

What are your other hobbies?

Fell walking, gardening, watching football (I support Leicester City), wine appreciation and especially Sudoku.

Name up to five people you would invite to your Dream Dinner Party.

I have a low boredom threshold, so I would invite Rory Bremner, Victoria Wood, Lenny Henry, Dawn French and especially my husband, Jack Johnstone.

When to prefer 3NT to four of a major

BUCKETLOADS of match-points rest on the 3NT vs 4♥/4♠ decision. Contrary to public opinion, there is more case for playing 3NT as opposed to the eight-card major-suit game at teams/rubber, as the major-suit needs to play for *two* more tricks for there to be a material difference.

At pairs, though, just one more trick and the major-suit must be trumps (for the extra 20 points). There are many ways that this extra trick can be achieved, the most obvious being a ruff in the short (or equal length) trump hand. This will occur if you have, for example, A-K-4 facing a small doubleton; but it will not occur if you have A-K-4 facing queen-doubleton.

So my guideline would be to play in a 4-4 major-fit game unless you have comfortably the values for game (say 27+ high-card points), and no suit worse than Q-x. In that case, play 3NT.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

♠ Q 2
♥ A J 3 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ K Q 9 6

♠ K J 4
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ A 5 3
♣ J 10 4

W N E S

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

¹ 27+ partnership points, and no suit worse than Q-x.



Andrew Robson

PAIRS TACTICS

The 4♥ game – reached via Stayman – will make eleven tricks. It will lose the black aces (a third diamond going on an extra winner in a black-suit).

3NT also rates to make eleven tricks – unless West hits upon an unlikely diamond opening lead. On the normal spade lead to East's ace, declarer has ample time to knock out the ace of clubs and make the same eleven tricks as 4♥ – scoring a crucial extra 10 points in the process and 85% of the match-points.

Andrew's Tip: Play in a 4-4 major fit unless you have comfortably the values for game (say 27+ high-card points), and no suit worse than Q-x. In that case, play 3NT.

Make North's queen of spades into the queen of diamonds, though, and he should bid Stayman because of his spade weakness and likely ruffing value. Alternatively, make his queen of clubs into the two of clubs, and he should also bid Stayman: with marginal game values, there is such a likelihood that there will be an extra trick in a 4-4 fit that it is worth giving information away in the quest to see if such a fit exists. □

YOUNG CHELSEA

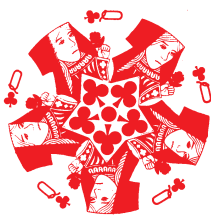
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England Youth fly the flag

THIS summer a team of English juniors travelled to Poland to take part in the European Youth Pairs, held in three categories: Girls (U26s), Schools (U21s) and Juniors (U26s). England had nine pairs competing, thanks to assistance from the Educational Trust for British Bridge and the EBU Youth and Education Trust.

The competition was tough: there were three days of bridge, 60 boards a day in 10-board sessions – not for the faint hearted!

The first day you needed to end in the top 50% of the pairs, not that easy when the competition was mostly made up of top Polish pairs, armed to the teeth with their Polish Club (could be weak, could be strong . . .) and Wilcoszcz 2♦ opening.

This was a fascinating hand from the first session of the pairs:

Dealer South. Love All.

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

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

As can be seen, 7♦ will make easily enough by ruffing two clubs in hand, but was it possible to get there?



Graeme Robertson – James Paul

James Paul and Graeme Robertson showed it was with this simple auction:

North Paul	South Robertson
2♣	1♦
4♦	3NT
4NT	4♥
5♥	5♦
7♦	5♠
	All Pass

James introduced his clubs before supporting diamonds over 3NT (18-19 HCP), and then a cue-bid and Roman Key Card Blackwood followed. James probably should have bid 6♣ over 5♠, asking partner: 'Do you have third-round control in clubs, the queen or a doubleton?' but never one to be shy he leapt to seven, and Graeme brought it home.

Many pairs struggled with this deal and one English pair actually played in an embarrassing 3NT!



Fiona Brown – Susan Stockdale

At the end of the first day England had one of two pairs through to the Girls' semi-final and three of five pairs had qualified for the U21s semi-final, though both U26 pairs had fallen at the first hurdle. But it was not yet over!

The unusual rules of the competition permitted the top five in the B semi-final to end up back in the main A final, and Tom Paske and Ed Jones were determined to claw their way back in. This was a tricky board that they got right. As North at Love All, Tom held the hand on the right and saw the bidding start 3♥ – (4♠). His first call was easy:

♠ J 3
♥ A Q 9
♦ A 10
♣ A Q 10 7 6 3

he supported partner by going to 5♥. The auction continued (5♠) – Pass – (Pass) – ?



Michael Byrne

REPORTS

Tom took the plunge and bid 6♥; if Ed had a void in spades (possible, with the opponents hiking to the five level on minimum values) then the slam might even make. This was the full deal:

Dealer South. Love All.

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

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

5♠ was easy to make, so Tom's sacrifice in 6♥ paid dividends. It worked even better when, after East doubled, West woodenly tried to cash two rounds of spades. Ed ruffed, drew trumps and took the club finesse – one off, but a 75% score.

Of the nine English pairs competing, one reached the Girls A final, one the U26s A final, and two the U21s A final, so we were well represented. Our best results were Fiona Brown – Susan Stockdale (5th in the Girls'), and James Paul – Graeme Robertson (6th in the U21s). Rob Myers and Ben Paske won the U21s Consolation final.

By the time you read this, the England team will be on its way to China for the Under 21s World Championship for which they qualified in 2007. Let's hope all the practice they put in helps them to bring home the goods. Good luck to Adam Hickman – Daniel McIntosh, Ed Jones – Tom Paske, Rob Myers – Ben Paske with me as captain and Alan Shillitoe as coach. □



David Bird

Beat today's experts

Bidding problems on page 1 of the pull-out at the centre of the magazine

1. N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	East
<i>Laanemäe</i>	<i>Karpov</i>
1♥	1♦
2NT	2♠
6♣	3♣

WE start at the invitation IMP pairs held at the Tallinn Festival. What response do you like for West here, 1♥ or 2♣?

Both the West players featured on Bridge Base Online chose 1♥ and I agree with this decision. Even though you hold 7-5 shape, you are hardly worth a potential sequence of 1♦ – 2♣ – 2♦ – 2♥. Also, of course, hearts is the suit where your top cards lie. Both Easts made the rare continuation of a game-forcing 2♠ and now there was a parting of the ways. Laanemäe bid 2NT and was surprised to hear 3♣ from his partner. He expressed his delight at this development by leaping all the way to

6♣. It is very unusual for a slam to be bid in the 'fourth suit'.

At the other table Orlovich (West) preferred a fourth-suit 3♣ at his second turn and heard 3NT from East. Even though this might be on a stopper such as A-x, he advanced with 4♣. East cooperated with a cue-bid of 4♦ and West then bid 6♣. A fine effort at both tables.

■ Awards: 6♣ (10), 5♣/3NT (5), 4NT (4).

2. Love All. Dealer West.

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

West	East
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Moss</i>
1♠	2♣
2♠	3♥
4♣	5♥
5♠	6♣

This was the most spectacular deal from the quarter-finals of the US Trials for the Mind Sport Olympics in Beijing.

Michael Moss chose to respond in his longer suit, clubs, showing his hearts on the second round. Fred Gitelman could hardly bid 3NT with only 10-9-2 in the unbid suit, and did not like to bid his moderate spades for a third time. I like his decision to give preference to clubs.

Moss now leapt to 5♥, putting the finishing touches to the description of his two-suiter. Since the bidding was already forced to 6♣, he hoped that his partner would bid a grand slam when holding the ♥Q and ♣A (or perhaps ♣A-x-x and a doubleton heart). On his actual holding, Gitelman did not feel he could bid a grand with any confidence. He displayed his uncertainty by cue-bidding in spades. East then signed off in 6♣ to complete an excellent

auction.

How would you play 6♣ when South leads the ♦A? Moss ruffed, cashed the ♥A, crossed to the ♣J and led a heart to the jack. South ruffed and returned a trump, killing the slam.

At another table (after bidding 1♠ – 2♥, 2♠ – 3♣, 3♠ – 6♣), declarer started the same way and then played a heart to the king on the second round – not a good line.

To make the slam, you should ruff the diamond lead and play ace and a low heart. Nothing can then prevent you from ruffing a heart in dummy when the 4-1 heart break comes to light.

■ Awards: 6♣ (10), 7♣ (8), 6♥ (7), 7♥ (5), games (4).

3. Love All. Dealer South.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Becker</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Strul</i>
4♥	Pass	5♥	2♦
6♥			Pass

We move now to the final of the US Trials, with *Strul* facing *Nickell*. South opened with a weak 2♦. Rodwell chose to overcall 4♥. What sort of hand does this show, would you say?

The jump to 4♥ shows a strong hand. It is a well-established principle that you do not bid 'weak over weak'. In other words if you have a moderate hand with great shape, you do not leap to the skies over an opponent's pre-empt.

So, Meckstroth could expect a fair hand opposite. One possibility now was a raise to 5♥. It is generally agreed that this asks partner to pass with no diamond control, to bid 6♥

with a second-round control, and to cue-bid (either in diamonds or another suit) with first-round diamond control.

It seems a borderline decision to head for a slam on the East hand and Meckstroth did indeed think for a long time. He eventually emerged with the winning bid of 5♥, converted to 6♥ by his partner. No doubt a key reason for East to advance was that he held four diamonds, making it very likely that partner was short in the suit.

■ Awards: 6♥ (10), games (4).

4. N/S Game. Dealer East.

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

West	East
Lévy	Mouiel
2♦	1♥
3♦	2♠
4♠	4♦
5♥	4NT
	7♦

We move next to the European Championships, contested in the French town of Pau. France face Norway and their E-W pair have a potential grand slam before them.

Mouiel is happy to open at the one-level on his 21-count. When partner rebids his diamonds, Mouiel shows support. What should West do now?

With his splendid diamonds, Lévy was interested in a slam. He cue-bid in spades, where he held a singleton. This was enough to persuade Mouiel to launch RKCB and the grand slam was safely reached.

At the other table, Lindqvist and Brogeland began with the same seven bids. West then responded 5♠ to the RKCB 4NT, pretending that he held the ♦Q because of his extra trump length. Lindqvist placed the contract in 7NT, which went one down on a poor lie of the cards.

What contract do you think the Italian East-West pair reached on this board? This was

their auction:

West	North	East	South
Angelini	Tyla	Sementa	Jankauskas
2♦	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT		2NT	Pass

After a strong 1♣ from his partner, Angelini declined to bid his diamonds more than once. 'Troppo pessimista!' declared the Italian online commentators, who then implored Sementa to rescue his sponsor partner with a limit raise to 4NT. Not today, and they lost 10 IMPs to Lithuania's unambitious 6♦ at the other table.

■ **Awards:** 7♦ (10), 7NT (7), 6NT (6), 6♦ (5), games (2).

5. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Holland	Sementa	Armstrong
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦			

At the other table of the England-Italy match in Pau, the Hackett twins had bid 1♦ – 1♠ – 3NT. Diamonds were 3-2 and it seemed likely that those mighty slam bidders, the Italians, would punish this humble sequence.

Versace had a gadget available, an artificial reverse to 2♥ that covered various strong hand types. 2NT enquired and the 3♦ response showed 'diamonds, too strong for a 3♦ rebid'. Other responses were available to show a normal reverse in hearts or a strong hand with spade support. What a great method!

Sementa rebid his spades and Versace cue-bid 4♣. When John Holland doubled, Sementa passed to allow Versace to define the quality of his club control. A redouble would have shown first-round control. The further

cue-bid indicated second-round control of clubs.

Versace discovered that East held the ace and queen of spades and then placed the contract in diamonds, to protect the ♣K from the opening lead. Such a splendid sequence, particularly when you bear in mind that Versace and Sementa are not a regular partnership.

■ **Awards:** 6♦/6NT(W) (10), 6♠/6NT(E) (7), games (4).

6. E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

West	East
Draper	Rosen
2♥	1♠
2NT	2♠
3♣	3♣

In the last issue I featured an unsuccessful auction by England's Catherine Draper and Anne Rosen. When they performed so strongly in the European Championship (averaging +0.49 IMPs per board, 11th in the Butler Table), I thought I should redress the balance by showing a more typical example of their bidding.

Here they are, facing Norway in Pau. The partnership plays a two-level response as game-forcing, with the one exception of 1♠ – 2♥. What should West say next, after partner's 2♠ rebid? 3♦, forcing to game, would be too much. Draper placed the hand in the game-try bracket and continued with 2NT. When Rosen introduced her clubs, Draper went all the way to game in clubs. Well bid! The play was simplified by a diamond lead, allowing Rosen to ditch her singleton heart.

■ **Awards:** 5♣ (10), 4♣/3♣/2♠ (5), 3♠/3NT (4), 2NT (2).



After several rocky efforts recently, our experts have shone brightly, collecting a perfect score of 60. Sorry that you could not beat them. Let's look for some bidding tips.

Tips to remember

- A jump to game, over an opponent's pre-empt, shows a strong hand. You should not bid 'weak over weak'. Players who do so set their partners an impossible task when they have to decide if a slam is possible.
- When the opponents have bid a suit, a raise of partner's four-of-a-major to five asks him to bid a slam with a control in the opponents' suit. He can indicate a first-round control by cue-bidding instead of raising to six.
- Strong hands with diamonds are not handled well in Acoll, when 2♦ is used as the Multi or a Weak Two. Consider using an artificial rebid (1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥, or 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♠), with a 2NT relay by responder to identify the hand type.



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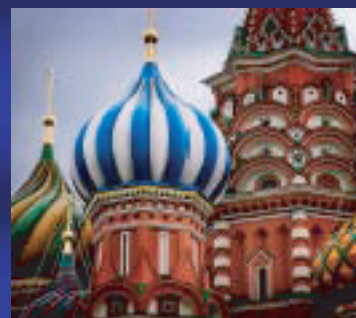
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A tale of revokes (and other mishaps)

'I sometimes wonder why we play all these transfer bids,' said John contemplatively.

'But you love playing all these fancy conventions,' replied Julie perplexedly. 'However, if you want to make our system less complicated, I would be mightily relieved. Having less for you to remember might reduce the frequency of our encounters with the Tournament Director.'

'No it's not that I want to simplify the system, it's just that the idea of transfers is to have the lead coming round to the no-trump opener and it never seems to make any difference. And how dare you suggest that I am prone to forgetting the system? Those days are behind me now. I am more likely to get caught out by these old sticky cards that they have at this club.'

Love All. Dealer South.

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

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

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

After John's 1NT (12-14) opening, Julie contemplated whether a slam might be on, but decided that it was odds against, and so she just raised John to 4♥.

West led the king of clubs, after which John stared at the dummy wondering what the best way to play the hand was. He could see that there was a certain diamond loser, so he just had to avoid losing three spade tricks, easy if the ace or queen were in the East hand. After winning trick one, he

played a heart to the ace, intending to draw trumps when a thought struck him: if diamond were to break 3-3 he could play three rounds of diamonds, draw trumps and throw away one of dummy's spades on the thirteenth diamond.

What John didn't know was that West had his ten of diamonds stuck behind another card, so West discarded a club on the third round of diamonds, leading John to believe that diamonds had broken 4-2. John then cashed his king of hearts (West following before his partner, who had won the previous trick, could protest), and played the jack of clubs intending to ruff it in dummy, at which point West came upon his missing diamond.

West found himself in a bit of a quandary: should he announce that he had revoked, or should he stay quiet and see whether declarer or dummy would notice? He chose to stay quiet (*perfectly legal, provided that he didn't attempt to conceal the offending card if a claim were to be made before he had played it*) and just played his club queen, which was ruffed in dummy.

John now attempted his first spade finesse, after which West exited with the ten of clubs. At this stage John thought that Christmas had come early, as he was convinced he had started with a doubleton club (his seven of clubs was tucked behind one of his spades!), so he threw a spade from hand and ruffed in dummy. He then tabled his cards and claimed, saying: 'Conceding a spade.'

At this point East noticed John's seven of clubs and exclaimed: 'You've revoked. Director, please!'

'What have you done this time, John?' asked the Director.

'Well, I have revoked, but we haven't played any more tricks, so does that mean it is unestablished?' asked John hopefully.

'No, the revoke became established as soon as you made a claim. Now, did you win the revoke trick?'

'Yes, I did. I ruffed in the dummy,' replied John.

'Sorry, my fault,' said the Director. 'I should have said did you win the revoke trick *in your hand*, to which the answer is



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

no. Therefore there is a one trick penalty.'

'Hold on,' said Julie. 'I think West has revoked as well. He failed to follow to the third round of diamonds, when his partner won the trick, and he still has a diamond left in his hand.'

'Yes, Julie is correct. I was hoping that nobody would notice,' said West.

At this point the Director couldn't help but smile. 'You have all given me the opportunity to use a new bit of law that I thought I would never have recourse to. Law 64B7 states there is no rectification if both sides have revoked on the same board. Of course, I should add that it is my duty to restore equity so, if anyone can persuade me that John would have made a different number of tricks had nobody revoked, I shall adjust the score.'

When no-one seemed inclined to argue, the Director scurried away before they could find anything else wrong with the hand.

'Well, I have to confess that your bidding was impeccable, and as you only revoked as many times as the opponents, I have little cause for complaint,' said Julie sarcastically.

'And what is more, if you were playing the hand you would probably have gone down,' observed John.

John could see Julie's hackles rising, so he quickly added: 'No I don't mean I am a better player than you. In fact the reverse is probably true. It's just that a spade lead from East will almost certainly mean that you would go one down, so transfers do work after all.'

'That's alright then, so long as you know your place there is still hope for us,' replied Julie.

'Does she just mean at the card table?' contemplated John hopefully. □

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**MASTER POINTS
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Evaluate your hand when responding to a 1NT opening

SOME years ago I was conducting a seminar with the late Jeremy Flint on Canberra, P&O's famous passenger liner, when we posed this question. Your partner opens 1NT (12-14); what would you respond with this hand?

♠ Q J 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ Q 8 3

The almost unanimous answer was 2NT. Perhaps this is not so surprising when one considers that most learners are reared on tables which indicate that opener's 1NT should be raised (invitationally) to 2NT on 11-12 points. Understandably, in the early stages of teaching it is not practical to dot all the 'i's' and cross all the 't's', and somehow, later on, the subject of adjustment, or fine-tuning, tends to get neglected.

Now if you think we had an easy ride telling everyone that the right response was 'Pass', you would be sadly mistaken! The point count, which unquestionably does a yeoman service in pointing us in the winning direction on balanced hands, soon becomes ingrained on the budding player and is often treated as little short of a religion. However, it is not infallible and there is certainly room for fine-tuning.

4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2 and 5-3-3-2 are all balanced hands but the first one is the least attractive when it comes to generating

tricks. So, if a 4-3-3-3 hand is lacking in intermediate cards – and being aceless doesn't help – there is a strong case for deducting a point (fine-tuning). That is why 'Pass' is recommended on the above hand.

Let's suppose the opener has a maximum, in which case it's possible, if responder passes, that a game will be missed – assuming everything clicks. As against that, a minus score will frequently be the outcome when responder raises. Then there are all those cases where opener passes the invitational raise and it transpires that seven tricks is the maximum partner can muster. One last thought: if defending was going to be more advantageous than declaring, that chance would be less likely to materialise if responder shows his hand by raising to 2NT.

Although one deal proves nothing – it's the overall picture that really matters – here is the original setting of the featured hand held by North:

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

Against South's no-trump contract, West leads the four of clubs; East wins with the ten and there are still three more clubs and the ace of hearts to come. Now try moving East's two black tens to North in exchange for the five of spades and three of clubs, and suddenly it's a whole new scenario. The ace of clubs wins the first trick and the defence are held to four tricks, three clubs and the ace of hearts. Even if it looks as though West started with five clubs, and therefore too dangerous to play on hearts, declarer has another string to his bow: the



Freddie North

FINE-TUNING

spade finesse. Four spades, four diamonds and one club would see him home.

The other side of the coin is when a spot of fine-tuning is required in the opposite direction: upwards.

This is your hand as North at game all, teams; partner opens 1NT (12-14) and West passes. What should you respond?

♠ 3
♥ Q 7 5
♦ A K J 10 7 4
♣ 7 6 5

The full deal is:

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

For two reasons North should respond 3NT. The first is that game could be cold and there seems little point in asking partner his opinion when he is unlikely to know what is needed. The second reason is the opposition: they could easily have a profitable contract of their own.

3NT duly sailed home in Room 1, but in Room 2 the East-West pair were allowed into the auction at a low level. North-South still bid on to 3NT but then East-West decided to 'save' in 4♠. The save turned out rather better than expected when East guessed the position of the queen of hearts, losing just one spade, one diamond and one club. □

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Mind Sports Games

Open Team Trials

AS a result of the English Open team not finishing in the top eight places in the recent European Championships in Pau, the Selection Committee decided that there should be a play-off between the semi-finalists from the last Trials to decide who should represent England in the Beijing Mind Sports Games this month. Because of the tragic death of John Armstrong, the team now led by Paul Hackett was allowed to realign one partnership and add a substitute. The teams were *Hackett* (Paul Hackett, John Holland, Ian Panto, Tony Waterlow); *Sandqvist* (Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Justin Hackett and Jason Hackett); *Townsend* (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Andrew McIntosh, Gunnar Hallberg) and *Liggins* (Glyn Liggins, Peter Crouch, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones).

The play-off would take place mid-week at the Brighton Summer Congress, with a double round-robin amounting to three 40-board matches and the two leading teams playing a final of 100 boards in five 20-board stanzas over two days, a pretty thorough test.

The first two days produced a fairly bunched leader-board with only *Liggins* trailing a little way behind the rest; however, they kept their best performance for the last match, producing a good win against *Hackett* and eliminating them from the final and allowing *Sandqvist* through to meet the leaders, *Townsend*.

The final

The first set saw *Sandqvist* prevailing in a tight, well-played encounter and leading by 19 IMPs. Someone said that the person in charge of the dealing machine must have pressed the 'Goulash' button for the second and third sets, because there were certainly a lot of very interesting hands for the spectators. The Hacketts' red-blooded style was shown to good effect on this deal (*diagram in the next column*).

There was not a lot to the play; with all the suits breaking favourably, declarer soon made ten tricks to pick up 9 IMPs as North-South languished in a part-score in the other room.

N/S Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	Jason H.	Townsend	Justin H.
1♣	Pass	1♠ ¹	Dble
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

¹ 5-12 points, no four-card major

The third and last set of the first day started with *Sandqvist* holding a good, but not overwhelming, lead of 42 IMPs. When the coach of the highly successful GB cycling team in the recent Olympics was asked to explain their wonderful medal haul, he said it was due to 'aggregation of marginal gains'. The *Sandqvist* team had other ideas: going for an 'aggregation of significant gains', they piled on a further 65 IMPs in the set to virtually finish the match. This board shows Sandqvist and Malinowski in action:

N/S Game. Dealer West.

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



Colin Simpson

REPORTS

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Sandqvist	Gold	Malinowski
2♦ ¹	Pass ²	4♥ ³	Pass
4♠	4NT ⁴	Dble	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

¹ Multi; ² No suitable bid; ³ Pass or correct; ⁴ Minors

Nick Sandqvist entered the fray with 4NT, deciding that his side was being talked out of a minor-suit game. All that was required was for Artur Malinowski to back his partner's judgment by making it. The lead was a top spade, ruffed in



Artur Malinowski

dummy and declarer next accurately played a low diamond towards the jack. East went in with the queen and belatedly switched to hearts but to no avail. Declarer was one step ahead and set up a diamond trick for a heart discard eventually making one diamond, two hearts and eight clubs (seven on a cross-ruff) to land his contract.

Although *Townsend* played a fourth set, they lost some more IMPs and conceded with the score at 232 -100 IMPs. It has to be said that the hands suited *Sandqvist's* style but, nevertheless, they played superbly throughout and thoroughly deserved their victory.

After consultation, the selectors added Tom Townsend and David Gold as the third pair, with Phil King as NPC and Simon Cope as coach. It is a team that can do well on the world stage and we wish them luck in Beijing. □



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Practice makes perfect

WELCOME to our new members who started learning bridge at evening class in September. By now you will have started to realise what a wonderful and exciting game bridge is. I hope you will have made new friends and be practising at home together in between lessons – this can be so much fun.

After playing MiniBridge for a few weeks, you will have learnt how to open 1NT and respond to it. It is important to have 12-14 points and a balanced hand when you open with 1NT:

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

Hands 1 and 2 are perfect 1NT openings but *Hands 3-5* are not. *Hand 3* has a five-card major (hearts or spades, here hearts) so is better opened with 1♥. *Hand 4* has two doubletons, so again is better opened in a suit (1♦, as you have five diamonds) and *Hand 5* has 15 points which is too many to open with 1NT (1♠ would be better).

★★★★★

Once partner has opened with 1NT you have to work out which contract you would like to play in. Decide whether your hand

is balanced or unbalanced, and whether your partnership has sufficient points to play in a game or not (generally 25 points is enough to make 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠). With a balanced hand either pass, invite partner to game, or raise to directly to game:

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

With *Hand 6*, simply pass: you are happy with no-trumps, but here there is very little chance of game. With *Hand 7* bid 3NT as you have at least 26 points between you. With *Hand 8* bid 2NT; this requests partner to bid 3NT with 14 points (or a good 13) and to pass otherwise.

★★★★★

If, when partner opens with 1NT, you



June Booty

REALLY EASY BRIDGE

have an unbalanced hand, you should again decide whether your side has sufficient points for game:

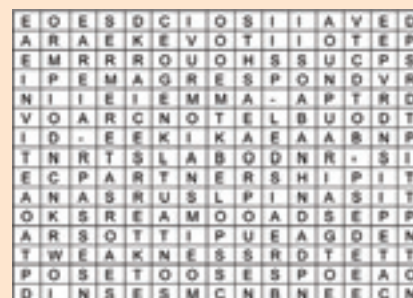
(9) ♠ 9 2 ♥ A Q 9 6 5 2 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ K 2	(10) ♠ K Q 2 ♥ K Q 10 8 4 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ A 5
(11) ♠ J 6 2 ♥ Q J 9 4 3 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 8 6	

With *Hand 9* bid 4♥ as you have enough points between you for game and you know your side has at least eight hearts as partner has promised at least two. With *Hand 10* you also have enough points for game but since here you have only five hearts you should bid 3♥; partner will bid 4♥ if he has three or four hearts, and bid 3NT if he has only two. What should you bid with *Hand 11*? We'll discuss it in the next issue! □

Aunty Gill's WORD SEARCH

Find the terms listed below. Words can appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally, forwards or backwards.

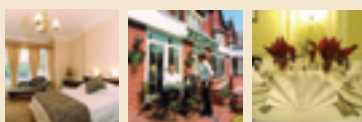
contract	doubleton	game
invite	minibridge	no-trumps
partnership	pass	points
raise	respond	spades
take-out	unbalanced	weakness



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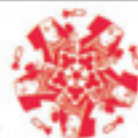
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Plain speaking

WILL someone please tell me who (Marc Smith or Frances Hinden) was arguing in favour of or against disciplined or random pre-empts?

For example, Marc Smith concludes: 'You should be disciplined within the confines of your agreed system.' I'm sorry, I thought he was advocating random pre-empts. However, Frances Hinden argues: '... the disciplined player loosens up in other positions.' And there I was thinking she was advocating disciplined pre-empts.

Accuse me of taking things out of context if you must, but I'm just an old fashioned GOM (grumpy old man). The only thing that made sense was Frances Hinden's reference to

the conservative, classical pre-empt meaning: 'I expect to go 2/3 off in this contract.' This is delightfully disciplined and random at the same time. No lies, no deceptions, it does exactly what it says on the tin.

But should I be surprised at the advocates' comments, because when reading about the bidding methods of experts one is very much aware of their over-egging of the pudding and their quest for the latest fashionable bidding gizmo?

**David Richardson,
Boston Spa**

I hope this month's debate (pages 38-39) attracts more votes than the two (a 50-50 split) I received for August!

Card problems

WHEN the new design cards were introduced at Brighton a few years ago, there were some problems with the confusion caused by the design of the ace of spades.

The problem arose again on Sunday for one of our opponents who mistook declarer's lead of the ace of spades as the ace of clubs and consequently revoked, failing to follow suit. In this case the player had an

eyesight problem which exacerbated the problem.

I hope that this problem can be examined and corrected when the next batch of playing cards are manufactured.

Peter J. Bates, Sussex

Jeremy Dhondy informs me that the new cards are clearer in this respect, and says the solution, if clubs can afford it, is to replace the old ones sooner rather later.

Part-scores

WHY does the bidding test contain so many slam hands every issue? They only form a small part of day-to-day bridge. Can't we have more part-scores and games to test ourselves on?

Dick Clark, by e-mail

David Bird points out that part-score hands of interest usually entail contested auctions, which the Questions sheet does not cope well with. He is, however, happy to comply with readers' wishes and will, in future, look harder for interesting non-slam hands.

Teams v Pairs revisited

I AGREE with Guy Malcolm (August Letters) that team style and scoring is attractive, especially in a 'proper' team event, where one team of four plays another over 24 or 32 boards. A club team evening is different. Most likely each team will play just two boards against 12 other teams. IMPs scoring skews the ranking in favour of a team that gets one enormous score, often not through its own efforts but because one of its pairs was lucky to be playing a pair that gave away a stupid 1700 points.

Green Values

HAVING returned to competitive bridge after a break of almost twenty years, I found that I had accumulated over 150 Green Points – my collection of GPs being gained via events such as Crockfords, Gold Cup, and National Pairs.

Having recently entered a few Sim Pairs events, I was surprised to learn that GPs can now be obtained by playing against players of limited ability.

Why did the EBU change the previous practice of only issuing black points?

Do other members feel that by awarding Green Points in Sim Pairs, promotion through the master-point ranks is made easier and therefore GPs have lost some of their merit?

Mel Downing, by e-mail

Alan Nelson, Chairman of the Tournament Committee, replies: 'Our objective in making this change was to encourage players of all levels of ability by recognising excellent performance in a national event even if it was in the familiar environment of their local club. Our hope is that that this will in turn encourage more players to value the EBU Tournament and Master-point programmes.'

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

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.

Thank you kindly!

I HAVE just spent a pleasant morning reading the August magazine. I felt I had to drop you a mail to say what a good read it was this time.

I love the snippets of news you slotted in everywhere. The one of Bill Gardner was brilliant. I have met Bill all around the circuit over the years and have missed him recently probably due to his mayoral duties. There was the lovely story of him in Luxor where he went and bartered for a job lot of Egyptian cotton t-shirts in every colour imaginable. I don't think the seller knew what hit him. Bill still wears them at the events he attends!

If you can keep the size of issue like this one, I am sure people will be happy to have a thinner type of paper to keep the postage the same.

Jenny Gray, by e-mail

The number of letters and e-mails received in praise of the August issue has been heart-warming! Thank you all who wrote in. I am happy to report that English Bridge will go up to a regular 64 pages in December, after the stock of heavier paper that the printers had set aside for us has been used up. As for the news sprinkled all over the mag, well ... we depend on you for that! □



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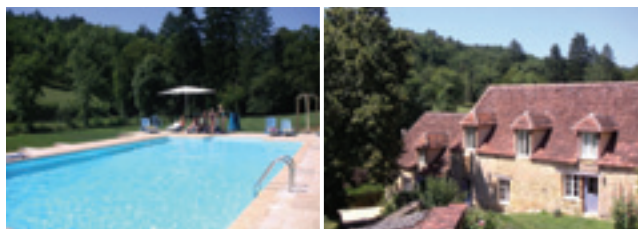
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Never say never

MOST of us are familiar with the old maxim 'Eight Ever, Nine Never'.

This refers to the situation where declarer has a combined holding of either eight or nine cards in a suit which is solid apart from the queen, for example:

- a) A-J-9-6 opposite K-10-8-7
- b) A-J-9-6-5 opposite K-10-8-7

The adage, which like many others is based on statistical odds, advises us to take a finesse in example a) because we hold eight cards in the suit, but to play off the ace and king in example b) when holding nine cards. Thus 'Eight Ever, Nine Never' (finesse).

Having accepted this guide when we have nothing else to go on, let us now look at the situation when one of our opponents has made an overcall and we hold nine cards in our trump suit. Does the overcall change our thinking?

One view is that the overcaller has shown some values, and is therefore more likely to hold the missing queen in our suit. If that is so, we should alter our approach, and take a finesse through the overcaller.


The opposite view is that because the overcaller has at least five cards in his own suit, he only has eight cards left in the other suits, and so only eight cards one of which could be our queen. His partner, however, has more cards in the other suits, and therefore has more chance of holding the missing queen. This is known as the 'Principle of Vacant Spaces'.

If we accept this principle, then we should finesse against the partner of the overcaller for the missing queen.

So which is it? Do we finesse against the overcaller, do we finesse against his partner, or do these considerations offset each other so that we stick with the old maxim and play to drop the queen by playing the ace and king?

The answer is that the Principle of Vacant Spaces sways the odds significantly in favour of the partner of the overcaller holding our queen. So much so, that we should no longer play for the drop, but

should take the finesse instead. Look at this deal:

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

In your contract of 4♠ you have two hearts and a club to lose, and must not lose a trump trick. Without clues from the auction, you would follow the 'Nine Never' rule, playing to drop the queen of spades in two rounds (succeeding 53% of the time).

If West makes an overcall in hearts however, and then leads the A-K-Q of hearts (East following with the 2, 3 and 7), you will ruff, and now you need to play the trumps differently. You know that West has five hearts, and East has three, so West therefore has only eight 'Vacant Spaces' whereas East has ten. You should now play



Ed Scerri

BRIDGE EXTRAS

the king of spades, and then take a finesse through East, as he has become the (55.6%) favourite to hold the queen of spades.

If East had showed out on the third round of hearts, then that would have meant that the ratio of hearts for West-East was 6-2, and the Vacant Spaces would be seven to eleven. This would obviously make it even more likely that East would have our missing queen (61.1%), and indeed if the hearts had been 7-1, giving West only six Vacant Spaces, and East twelve, then the odds on East having the queen would go up to a massive 66.7%.

There is absolutely no need for anyone to remember all these odds, which (speaking from a personal point of view) is just as well. All you need to do is simply to follow the principle that, without any clues, then holding nine cards you should never finesse for the missing lady, but as soon as an opponent makes an overcall, then forget the maxim and after cashing one of the top honours, take a finesse against the overcaller's partner. □

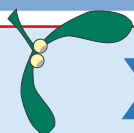
HIW CBA RAISE £1,600 FOR CHARITY

AS reported in the County News section (page 44), last 'bridge year' Hants and Isle of Wight CBA decided to support a charity each year and The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Andover, was chosen for 2008. The photo shows the presentation of a cheque for £1600 to Sarah Redgrave who represented the charity.





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Brighton Seniors Congress

THIS year eighty-six pairs contested the Seniors Pairs which was won by Nissan Rand, a frequent visitor from Israel, and Irving Gordon. You need skill and luck to do well in a pairs event as exemplified by the deal below from the semi-final:

E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
	Rand		Gordon
2♥	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT
		All Pass	



Irving Gordon

West led the ten of hearts (the heart queen would have been a better choice given the bidding) against 3NT and dummy's jack won the trick. Declarer now played a spade to the queen and ducked a spade to

East when West showed out on the second round. A diamond return would have held Irving Gordon to ten tricks, but East chose a club instead which allowed declarer to cash his black suit winners, ending in dummy, and squeeze West in the process. In the three-card ending, West kept the ♥A and ♦K-9 and was thrown in with dummy's ♥7 to lead away from his ♦K and give declarer an eleventh trick.



Mike Hill

EBU Treasurer, Mike Hill, was another declarer who found a route to eleven tricks. At his table West opened 2♥, his partner doubled and he bid 3NT. However, West eschewed a heart lead in favour of the three of diamonds and dummy's queen won the first trick. As West was marked with a large number of red cards, spades were likely to break badly, so at trick two declarer led the two of spades from dummy and when an unsuspecting East played the four he covered with the five, and was delighted to see West follow helplessly with the three.

Senior Teams

Fifty-two teams played eight 8-board matches over the course of two days, and the winners were David Dickson, Mike Hill, Roger Edmonds and David Stimson.

The last deal of the event caught some players napping:



Tony Gordon

REPORTS

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

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

There are other roads to 4♠, and this auction was probably more informative than most. West led a top club; declarer ruffed and played the three of diamonds to the ten, jack and king. When East switched to a trump, declarer won in dummy and played the diamond four, but East followed with the two and when West ruffed the six of diamonds declarer had to lose two more diamond tricks for one down.

That was a poor effort by both South and East. After the first round of diamonds declarer knows he has only two more losers in the suit, the ace and nine, so at trick four he should cross to the ace of hearts and draw the remaining trumps to ensure he only loses three diamond tricks. However, East should also be aware of the diamond position, so instead of playing a trump he should give his partner a diamond ruff and then sit back and wait for his other two diamond tricks. □



Heather Dhondy

ASK a passer-by what images the mention of the seaside resort of Brighton conjures up and they will reply with, perhaps, party political conferences, or the mix of grand historic buildings, fashionable boutiques, and a buzzing nightlife. The burnt out pier, or the beautiful Lanes, perhaps even the London to Brighton cycling race. To a bridge player, Brighton means only one thing: the EBU's flagship event, the Brighton Summer Congress.

The first weekend: the Swiss Pairs



Simon Cope, who won the Swiss Pairs with John Atthey, and was also in the winning team in the Mid-week KO Teams

The Swiss Pairs took place on the first weekend, won by Simon Cope and John Atthey by an impressive margin of 15 VPs. Behind them there were several closely placed pairs including David Bakhshi and David Gold, whose 15-5 VP win over Jane and Andrew Moore was assisted by the following board. It is a perfect example of how the best pairs players can generate a good result from aggressive doubling followed by tight defence.

Brighton Summer Congress

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

West North East South

1♣¹ Pass 1♠ Pass

1NT² Pass Pass 2♦

Pass Pass Dble All Pass

¹ At least two cards
² 11-13 points

David Bakhshi realised that, with their combined point count, 1NT was very likely to make an overtrick, therefore defeating this contract by a trick would not be a good result for him, so despite holding just three diamonds (and his 1♠ bid had not denied diamonds) he gambled on a double.

The defence had to be spot on. A heart lead won by Bakhshi was followed up with a trump switch and continuation. The last trump was drawn, David Gold discarding a spade, and a heart was led to Bakhshi's ace. Provided the defence avoided leading clubs at any point they were assured of two tricks in the suit, so Bakhshi simply exited with a third heart. Declarer now tried the queen of spades, but Gold won, and again exited with the same suit that declarer had led. A club to the jack and ace left Gold with one further crucial exit card, the thirteenth heart, and declarer, stuck in hand, had to concede a club to Bakhshi. One down, and that was worth 158 match-points out of 158.

Mid-week: the Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot Teams

The congress begins and ends with one of the two main events on each weekend, the pairs and the teams. However, in between there is an increasingly popular selection of Mid-week events to participate in, one of which was the newly sponsored Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot teams. Adams & Remers are a local firm of solicitors, one member of which is the notable bridge player Geoffrey Wolfarth, who instigated the sponsorship, for which the EBU is most thankful.



Three of the Adams & Remers Mixed Pivot Teams winners: (from the left) Andrew Murphy, Bryony Youngs, Michael Byrne

The winners of this event were Bryony Youngs, Michael Byrne, Ben Green and Andrew Murphy. One feature of playing a pivot teams is that you will find yourself playing with unfamiliar partners, and when the big hands come along you may wish that you had all your usual agreements more fully discussed. The following grand slam board generated many results, from 2♦ (a misinterpreted Michaels' cue-bid) and 5♣ (a misinterpreted Exclusion Key-card bid), both failing, to the grand slam being bid and made. Our winners showed us all how to bid it:

Game All. Dealer East.

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

♠ J 6
 ♥ 7 4 3
 ♦ J 6 4
 ♣ Q J 8 7 6

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

♠ 3
 ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ A 7 5 2
 ♣ 9 5 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
	Youngs		Byrne
		1♦	Pass
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♠ ³
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

¹ Michaels cue-bid (both majors)

² Exclusion Key-card Blackwood

³ Two key cards (excluding ♣A), no ♥Q

Michael Byrne avoided the traps of playing in a Michaels' cue-bid, or in the Exclusion suit, and his 5♠ response was music to Bryony Youngs' ears, locating the only two cards she was interested in.

The second weekend: the Swiss Teams

One and a half days of Swiss served as a qualifier for the main and subsidiary finals, with the remaining teams continuing in the Swiss for a final day. The final was a strong event, won by the Kent team of Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick. The following deal gave the winning team a good result at both tables.



From the left: Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick, Jeremy Willans and Ian Draper

E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ K 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A Q 10 9 6 3
 ♣ A Q 9 6

♠ A Q 10
 ♥ 6 4 3
 ♦ K J 7 5 4
 ♣ 7 4

♠ J 9 8 2
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 8 5

♠ 7 6 5 4
 ♥ A Q 5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K J 10 3 2

West	North	East	South
Stuart T. Garvey		Gerald T. Hill	
3♥	4♦	2♦*	Pass
¹ Multi		All Pass	

At the 'Tredinnicks' table, Stuart's preemptive 3♥ bid left Martin Garvey with a nasty problem. A double would run the risk of partner jumping to four of a major (he didn't know Gerald's suit yet) so instead he chose 4♦. If it wasn't bad enough to miss the cold 3NT, 4♦ turned out to be a tricky contract with a bad trump break and was eventually defeated by one trick.

At the other table, the going was a little easier for Willans and Draper:

West	North	East	South
Howard	Willans	Bowles	Draper
Pass	3♦	2♥	Pass
Dble	All Pass	Pass	3NT

When John Howard chose not to raise his partner's weak two, Jeremy Willans was able to bid a comfortable 3♦, which Ian

Really Easy Congress

THE Really Easy Congress took place on 11-13 August alongside other Brighton events. It is a first step into the competitive world of bridge, made up of a mixture of play sessions and workshops, and on Tuesday morning everyone had an opportunity to try 'protective doubles' with Andrew Kambites.



After three days of 'really good play', George Wysocki and Margaret O'Donnell (in the picture above) came top of the Victor Ludorum chart.

Winners of the Pairs competitions (see front-cover pictures) were: Angela Adams – Leonie Pulford, Tim Hewson – Gloria Park, Leona Steenhuis – June Heard, Sandra Schneider – Stan Bennett, Alison McLean – Ina Oake, Tina Anderson – Roy Vining, Florence and Headley Moses, Emma Jackson – Pat Lewis, and Margaret O'Donnell – George Wysocki.

Draper converted to 3NT. The final double may look ill-judged, but John Howard knew that the opponents were only going to have the bare minimum in terms of high-card points, at best, given his partner's vulnerable opening. He also knew that the diamonds would not provide a source of tricks, and the fact that he had three hearts might also enable the defence to establish them and still have communication to cash them (if his partner held the ace). It was a bit of a gamble, but the reward could have been substantial – on a different day!

Ian Draper won the opening heart lead and finessed the queen of diamonds. When this held, he was assured of his contract. However, he figured that the spade ace had to be onside for the double, so he rubbed salt into the wound by playing for an over-trick, and led a spade to the king. Given the result at the other table, this bold play didn't in fact gain an IMP.

The result was 12 IMPs for the Willans team, who finished 10 VPs ahead of the field. Many congratulations to them. □

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ OCTOBER 2008

- 3-5 West of England Congress
Weston-super-Mare
- 4-5 Great Northern Swiss Pairs
Warrington
- 6 NICKO Closing Date
Matches played privately
- 8-9 BGB Autumn Sim Pairs
Clubs
- 9-14 Mercian/EBU Dubrovnik
Congress
Dubrovnik
- 13 Portland Bowl Closing Date
Matches played privately
- 17-19 Autumn Congress
Bournemouth
- 24-26 Premier League
West Midlands BC
- 25-26 U25 European Trials
TBA
- 25-26 Malvern Congress
Bransford

■ NOVEMBER 2008

- 1-2 Lederer Memorial Trophy
Young Chelsea, London
- 1-2 Lancashire Autumn
Congress
Brierfield
- 7-9 Seniors Congress
Deventry
- 14-16 NEBA Congress
Allensford
- 14-16 Premier League
Final Weekend
Royal National, London
- 15-16 Middlesex Congress
Stevenage
- 20-30 (American Fall Nationals)
Boston
- 24 & 26 European Sim Pairs
Clubs
- 29-30 Tollemache Qualifier
Hinckley

■ DECEMBER 2008

- 6-7 Women's Trials 1st Weekend
TBA
- 12 Lords v Commons
London
- 12-14 Gold Cup Finals
Peebles
- 19-21 Junior Channel Trophy
England
- 27-30 Year-End Congress
London
- 28-30 Year-End Congress
Blackpool

■ JANUARY 2009

- 9-11 Midland Counties Congress
Bransford
- 9-11 Camrose 1st Weekend
Wales
- 9-11 Online Players Congress
Hinckley
- 12-14 BGB Winter Sim Pairs
Clubs
- 17-18 Swiss Teams Congress
Hinckley
- 24-25 National Women's and
Men's Pairs
Hinckley



EBU News

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP

Progress report by Sally Bugden



Project Board for Universal Membership

WE are delighted to introduce you to the following volunteers who are giving freely of their time to help the EBU with this project:

Angus Clark, a Merseyside and Cheshire County Committee member and shareholder. Angus is also a Tournament Director at Wirral Bridge Club and Merseyside Bridge Centre. He is active in county leagues and frequent player in county events.

Margaret Eddleston, from Hertfordshire, has been actively involved with club administration since 1996 as a Treasurer and President. She founded, and is now President of, Hitchin Bridge Club. Margaret will be our Club Member Liaison between the Project Board and the Club Committee.

Megan Taft from Lancashire is Secretary of Brierfield Bridge Club. Megan is actively involved with county and club bridge organisation, and played an important role in the purchase and development of the Brierfield Bridge Club premises.

Jeff Smith from Manchester is active in county bridge administration and is the recently retired Chairman of Manchester CBA. Jeff has used his computer software design and programming

skills to create a scoring program which the EBU has used for its tournaments during the last few years.

The committee had its first meeting on 7th August and discussed the requirements to implement the project. We are all working hard to ensure that the transition to Pay to Play is as simple as possible for all our clubs. The next meeting is in November and a more detailed update will appear in the December *English Bridge*.

Club Committee

I am very happy to be able to report that we have seven members from around the country who have volunteered to help us ensure that we meet the needs of our clubs through consultation at the Club Committee. They will be joining Graham Jepson, Barry Capal, Krys Kazmierczak and myself at the first meeting on 17th September. Press deadlines mean that we will report on that meeting in the December issue of *English Bridge*. As well as *Margaret Eddleston*, see above, our other volunteers are:

Tom Garrett from Berks and Bucks. Tom was a founder member at Chiltern Edge Bridge Club in 1967 and continues to play there regularly. He is an EBU Shareholder representing smaller, social-based clubs.

Suzanne Gill from Norfolk,

helped establish Horning Bridge Club in Norfolk in 2000 and is now its Life President. She is the Tournament Committee Secretary and former Press Officer, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster for Norfolk County. Suzanne has twice represented England at bridge.

Phil Green is from Wiltshire and regularly attends the Shareholders meetings. He is ex-Chairman of Bath Bridge Club and set up Trowbridge County Town Bridge Club. He is also a qualified EBUTA teacher.

Barbara Herold is from Sussex and is the owner of the East Sussex Bridge Club and also a qualified EBUTA teacher. Barbara attributes the continued success of the club, which attracts new members every month, to its strict adherence to the Best Behaviour @ Bridge policy.

Terry Jacobs is representing Sheffield, and is the Secretary of Sheffield Bridge Club.

Lesley Millet is the newly-elected Treasurer of Yorkshire CBA and Chairman of Leeds Bridge Club.

We are still looking for a volunteer from the Midlands. If you are interested in representing the needs of clubs in your area and want to be at the forefront of developing a regional structure for club representation in England, please either e-mail me at sally@ebu.co.uk or write to me at Aylesbury. □

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL 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.

October 2008

WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer East
(Laanemäe)
 ♠ 6
 ♥ A K Q 8 7
 ♦ Void
 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
2. Love All
Dealer West
(Gitelman)
 ♠ A Q 7 6 5 3
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ 10 9 2
 ♣ A J
3. Love All
Dealer South
(Rodwell)
 ♠ A K 10
 ♥ K Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 9 2
 *South opens a weak 2♦
4. N/S Game
Dealer East
(Lévy)
 ♠ 3
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ A K 10 7 5 3 2
 ♣ Q J 6
5. Game All
Dealer West
(Versace)
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ A K Q 10 6 4
 ♣ K 9 2
6. E/W Game
Dealer East
(Draper)
 ♠ Void
 ♥ Q 7 6 3 2
 ♦ A K Q 9
 ♣ 8 7 5 4

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 8-9

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.

October 2008

EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer East
(Karpov)
 ♠ A J 10 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K Q 4 2
 ♣ K Q 10
2. Love All
Dealer West
(Moss)
 ♠ Void
 ♥ A K J 9 7 5
 ♦ Void
 ♣ K Q 7 6 5 3 2
3. Love All
Dealer South
(Meckstroth)
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ 6 5 4 3
 ♣ A K 8 5 3
 *South opens a weak 2♦
4. N/S Game
Dealer East
(Mouiel)
 ♠ A J 7 6
 ♥ A K Q 10 7
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ A 9
5. Game All
Dealer West
(Sementa)
 ♠ A Q J 8 6 4
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ 5 4 3
6. E/W Game
Dealer East
(Rosen)
 ♠ A 9 8 4 3 2
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A Q 9 6 3

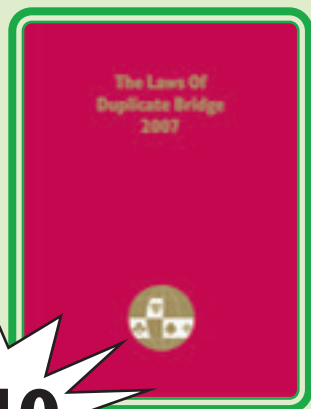
Did you beat the experts? – Pages 8-9

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –

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Offers end 31st October 2008.

The Power of Shape by Ron Klinger, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.99

Showing shortages is another way of

Of course, the more you glean from an informed opposition auction, the more use you should make of it when defending. What would you lead after this auction?

It looks tempting to lead a top club, but South has shown at least eleven cards in two suits and certainly holds at least six diamonds. North has denied holding a four card major and with a 3-3-1-6 hand pattern

♠ J 10 8
♥ Q 9 8
♦ K J
♣ J 10 9 6 3

♠ 5 3
♥ J 10 4
♦ 9 8 7 3 2
♣ A K 5

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

♠ K Q 7 6 4
♥ A
♦ A Q 10 6 5 4
♣ Q

Diagram illustrating a bridge hand layout. The cards are arranged in a diamond shape around a central diamond symbol. The central diamond is labeled with 'N' (North) at the top, 'S' (South) at the bottom, 'W' (West) on the left, and 'E' (East) on the right. The cards are distributed as follows:

- North (♠): J 10 8
- North (♥): Q 9 8
- North (♦): K J
- North (♣): J 10 9 6 3
- West (♠): 5 3
- West (♥): J 10 4
- West (♦): 9 8 7 3 2
- West (♣): A K 5
- East (♠): A 9 2
- East (♥): K 7 6 5 3 2
- East (♦): Void
- East (♣): 8 7 4 2
- South (♠): K Q 7 6 4
- South (♥): A
- South (♦): A Q 10 6 5 4
- South (♣): Q

At the end of the book there are six appendices on really cutting-edge stuff. I liked this book quite a lot, although I felt weak from information-overload at times. However, if you have time on your hands, then this book is just for you.

Dave Huggett

♠ K 9 2
 ♥ Q 8 4 3 2
 ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ A Q

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

♠ A Q J 10 6 5
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ 9 6

♠ 7 3
 ♥ K 9 7 5
 ♦ Q 8 6
 ♣ K J 8 3

A diamond-shaped card with the letters N, E, S, and W inside, representing the four suits.

Simon Cochemé ⇒

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

⇒ *Reviews continued from previous page*

Major Benjy by Guy Fraser-Sampson, Troubador Publishing Ltd, £9.99

THIS is not, as you might expect, an erudite treatise on the power of the weak two but something altogether different and, as far as I am concerned, something much more interesting! Let me explain.

In the early part of the 20th century, E.F. Benson gained a certain notoriety with his deliciously high-camp stories of a couple of aspiring socialites, Mapp and Lucia. For many they became cult reading and in the eighties Channel 4 ran a dramatised series which was so popular that the six books were re-published. However, many of the lesser characters were pretty much one-dimensional and there was also some trouble with continuity between the volumes – a problem which the author of this splendid book has set out to rectify to some extent. So ‘Major Benjy’ is a character and not a convention, and

lives in Tilling, where the action takes place (aficionados of the books will know that Tilling is Rye, where Benson himself became Mayor, as did indeed Lucia).

And now you are wondering what on earth this has to do with bridge and I have to say, ‘Absolutely nothing’, except that the game is played enthusiastically and badly by all the inhabitants of Tilling. Mapp herself ‘pursued a highly complicated bidding system, complicated mostly since it was known only to her and, if truth be told, frequently developed as she went along, or even after the hand altogether.’ Exacting a penalty from a revoke is considered bad form as is not reminding declarer what the contract is! All this is told in a highly amusing way without worrying too much about details such as the contract being played by the right hand or there being thirteen spades

in the pack – in keeping with the spirit in which the game is played in Tilling.

I can’t even begin to pretend that this is a bridge book, but it is about bridgey people and you may even recognise some of your friends among the characters – you might even recognise yourself! To get maximum enjoyment from this book, it would probably be worthwhile getting hold of some of the original volumes first to get acquainted with the characters, or even buying the DVD set of the TV series, which was certainly available a couple of years ago as I know full well.

A bit like Jonathan Ross, football, or marmite, you will either fall in love with these wonderful characters from Tilling or consign them to the dustbin, but for me I just can’t get enough.

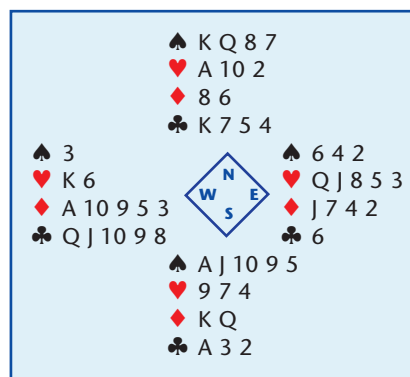
Dave Huggett

Declarer Play – CD ROM by Bernard Magee, Mr Bridge, £70

THERE are quite a lot of interactive CDs on some aspect of bridge on the market these days and I wondered how this one would be any different from the rest. It didn’t take me long to find out because your mentor, guide and partner is Bernard Magee, one of the country’s most respected teachers and – here it comes – the nicest partner in the world ever! Why so? Well, because on a large number of the hands presented for you to play you get a ringing endorsement of your ability after each card played. ‘Well done, fantastic!’ intones Bernard after you have taken a successful finesse. You cast your eyes down modestly and draw trumps. ‘Superb play’, comes from across the table and you wonder just for a moment if Bernard is being serious as you will probably never have heard such praise from your regular, grumpy, partner. In case you think I am being flippant, let me tell you that I am not. This is an excellent way to teach, by positive reinforcement, and even when you go wrong, you just get told calmly: ‘Have you considered your entries?’ or some such.

After an introductory chapter on the basics where you are asked some fairly easy questions, the program is divided into ten other chapters relating to some card-play technique that you would frequently meet in the course of actual

play. It might be ‘Trump Management’, or ‘Using the Lead’, or ‘Entries’, and there are ten deals in each category. The first two deals in each set are the deals where you get the affable chat but for the remaining ones you are left on your own, unless of course you make a pig’s ear of it, in which case you can ask for clarification at the end. The bidding is dictated to you but you do have the ability to change the system being used, although of course you always end up where you are supposed to be. Some of the deals are dead easy and some aren’t, so see how you would cope with the following. Cover up the East-West hands and no cheating!



You are in 4♠ after West has shown a minor two-suiter and the lead is the

queen of clubs. It looks as if you must lose two hearts, one diamond and one club but the bidding should point the way to success. Win the club in dummy, draw trumps and lead a diamond to knock out the ace. West will win and most likely lead another club, but now you win in hand, cash your remaining diamond and play a heart to the ten, hoping to endplay East. East will win the heart and play another but you just win in dummy and exit with a third round which East will have to win to give you a ruff-and-discard. If on the first heart lead West plays the king, you win in dummy and play another, hoping that it will be East who has to win, leading to the same ending.

The CD is easy to install; if I can do it, then anyone can. If you have anything from Windows 98 upwards you will be OK, and clearly you will need a sound card for maximum effect, although the spoken explanations are accompanied by written text.

I thought this product was first class but if I have one complaint, it is that there are not really enough hands, because although 130 sounds a lot it is only a couple of weeks’ duplicates. Maybe later the author will find some clever way to provide more.

Dave Huggett

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

EBU News



A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS ENSURING THE FUTURE OF BRIDGE

PRIMARY school teachers are to be given the opportunity to develop their pupils' maths skills further by introducing MiniBridge. The three-year initiative has been set up by the English Bridge Union through its Youth and Education Charitable Trust after a donation from the Milton Damerel Trust.

The EBU's initiative comes at an exciting time for maths education after a Government review promised to ensure that every UK primary school has a maths specialist in the next ten years. Sir Peter Williams, the review's author, said that 'teaching reforms were needed to ensure that every child left primary school without a fear

of maths, having mastered the basics by the age of 7.' The review also recommended a greater focus on making maths fun by using games – such as MiniBridge – to apply mathematical concepts.

A study commissioned by the EBU at St Paul's School in Manchester showed that bridge and MiniBridge taught skills in numeracy, problem solving, probability, speaking, listening, education, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more.

The EBU project team will be led by General Manager, Barry Capal, and will look at the most effective distribution of the funds. □



REMINDERS

NICKO: The closing date for entries for this season's National Inter-Club Knock-Out is **6th October 2008**.

DUBROVNIK CONGRESS: It takes place on 9-14 October. You can still enter by phoning the EBU Competitions Department ☎ 01296 317203; to book your travel and accommodation, contact Mercian Travel Centre Ltd, freephone 0800 036 8372.

EAST SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB: their Bupa sponsored Swiss Teams will take place on **19th October 2008** – not 12th October as published in last issue's County News.

LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY: London Metropolitan Bridge Association's prestigious invitation event for teams of four will take place on 1-2 November, starting each day at 1pm, at Young Chelsea Bridge Club, London SW5 0EN, ☎ 020-7373 1665. Spectators welcome; admission: Saturday £10 (£6 after 4.00pm); Sunday £8; both days £16.

ENGLISH BRIDGE: Members who share an address and receive two copies of *English Bridge*, but only require one, should e-mail michael@ebu.co.uk to let us know (or ring ☎ 01296 317200 and ask for Michael Clark). Please be sure to quote both EBU numbers so that we can find you easily on the system.

CLUB FOCUS: Watch out for the next issue of *Club Focus* in the first week in November! Please send your contributions to clubfocus@ebu.co.uk.



THE EBU & MERCIAN



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4th – 9th February 2009
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- ♦ Open Pairs
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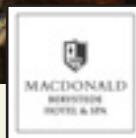
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Opener's rebid: raising partner's 2NT response to 1NT to 3NT

YOU are South and open the bidding with 1♥, partner responds 1♠. What do you rebid? Your hand is:

♠ K J 6
♥ A K 5 2
♦ J 7
♣ J 6 4 3

Of course this is a trick question. You would never open 1♥ with this hand. Holding a balanced 12-14 points, you should always open 1NT. If you opened 1♥ and partner responded 2♦, what would you rebid? Having opened 1NT you won't have to make a further bid unless partner asks you to do so, by asking a question. One question your partner might ask is: 'Are you a maximum or a minimum for your 1NT opening bid?' Partner asks this question by bidding 2NT.

On the hand shown you might find this a difficult question to answer. With 13 points you are in the middle of the point range for 1NT. The hand has nothing very exciting about it, so many players would pass. Others might see two four-card suits in which tricks could be developed and they would bid game, or perhaps they are more confident about their card playing abilities and like being in game! There isn't really a correct answer; on the day, either pass or 3NT could be right.

Below is a quiz. There are eight possible 1NT opening bids. Partner raises you to 2NT; would you bid 3NT or would you pass? Decide on your answers before reading what I would do.

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

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

(1) This is a really miserable 1NT opening bid, with only 12 points. Also, the heart suit has no honours. The clubs may only provide two tricks. It doesn't get much worse than this. Not only would I pass 2NT, I might pass the hand rather than opening it!

(2) A 13-point hand, but two four-card suits with good honour holdings, where I might develop tricks, plus two tens and three nines, which strengthen the suits. I might not make 3NT, but I would always bid it.

(3) This 13-point hand looks much like (2), but it's not as strong. No tens or nines in the long suits. It wouldn't be wrong to bid 3NT, but I would pass 2NT.

(4) With 14 points and two tens everybody should bid 3NT. On a spade lead, the spade king is always a stopper, where a holding of ♠Q-3 would not be. Opponents often lead your shortest suit to set up tricks. Partner is unlikely to have four spades as he didn't use Stayman over the 1NT opening.

(5) With 15 points, this hand is too good for 1NT. But if you miscounted your points when you made your first bid and opened 1NT, you should certainly bid 3NT now.

(6) Only 12 points, but the four tens improve the hand. Some people count a ten as half a point, so four tens could be worth 2 points on that reckoning! With a strong five-card club suit to generate tricks, I would always rebid 3NT on this hand.

(7) Pass: you have a minimum hand. Note that you are not obliged to pass initially just because you only have 11 points. I would



Sandra Landy

STANDARD ENGLISH

open 1NT with that good five-card diamond suit, despite being a point short. I prefer to open 1NT rather than 1♦ as 1NT is a limit bid: I won't have to bid again unless partner forces me. If I open 1♦, I have to make a rebid unless partner raises diamonds or bids 1NT. 1NT makes life awkward for opponents – they can't overcall at the one level over 1NT – but it's easy to overcall with a major over 1♦.

(8) Pass or bid on – see (3) – but the point is that you should open with 1NT. If you open 1♠ and partner replies with a suit bid at the two level, you are obliged to make a rebid. I would hate to have to rebid 2♠ with that poor suit. Although in principle an opening 1NT bid denies a five-card major, I make an exception with a very poor suit.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A 1NT opening bid is a 'limit' bid, i.e. you do not have to bid again unless partner makes a forcing response.
- A 1NT opening bid can contain any strength five-card minor or a weak five-card major.
- When you open the bidding with one of a suit, you are obliged to make a rebid unless partner passes, raises your suit or bids no trumps, or if partner is a passed hand. Consider what that rebid will be when you decide on your opening bid. If you can't think of a rebid, it probably means you should open 1NT!
- When evaluating your 1NT opening, count half a point for a ten, if it is supporting a higher honour.
- If your card play is not yet very good, you may get a good score by staying in 2NT when the confident players are in 3NT going down! □

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Of clubs and partners

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.

RON Webb by e-mail says: We are a successful 'early learners' club of twelve years standing. Each year brings students from the local Adult Community College into duplicate bridge. In that time we have pairs that have become good club players and a few good players have joined us. However, we discourage the 'county' player as we stress the access to bridge for students.

Generally we follow the laws and EBU regulations but have banned psychic opening bids because at one stage we had an experienced pair come in to the club and start 'taking the mickey' with beginners.

At the moment we have a small number that 'take advantage' of the inexperience of players. They open very light and frequently overcall on poor four-card suits, and in general are using their experience to the disadvantage of the rest of the players.

Usually, such bidding will not be noticed but we do have the Deal-master sheets, therefore 'in the bar discussion' after the game this is coming to light. What do you think the club should do about this situation?

AS a club you can set which regulations you wish so that you can say, perfectly legitimately, that a strong club, a forcing pass or a Multi are not permitted. If these pairs habitually open light and it did not accord with what their convention card said (or, if they didn't have one for a club evening, what the TD viewed their agreements to be) then I would consider it to be an undisclosed agreement and warn them that if it continued they would be subject to penalty. For example, if they opened on

not very shapely 9 counts and the hand opposite failed to force to game on a 14 count, then I would view this to be evidence of an undisclosed agreement.

I suspect that, in truth, if the beginners bid their hand they probably aren't particularly damaged, but it probably is spoiling their game to some extent, and that's not the way to get them to play more regularly and in a tougher game.

Having said all that, I don't think it is the route you want to take. If your game is aimed at learners who are moving on, then this type of behaviour is a good way to put them off. Are these pairs so desperate to win against players who presumably are weaker than them, that any tactics will do?

I think the club chairman should have a quiet word with them and say that the game is intended for learners moving on, that they are welcome to play but that they need to curb their instinct to take advantage by opening very light and acting in a way likely to confuse and upset. If they don't take the hint, or argue that it is their inalienable right to open what they like, then I think you should ask them not to come again.

Julian Pottage of Porthcawl asks via e-mail: What, if any, are the implications of asking 'having none, partner' as a defender in the new laws?

THE right to ask this question of your partner was restored this year in Law 61B and covered in the August article but is asking this question likely to cause any problem? If the answer is: 'Oh dear, I have got one!' and a card of the suit is now produced, then a revoke is avoided but the director must be called as there will be a major penalty card on the table. However if



Jeremy Dhondy

EBU PROBLEMS

the answer is: 'No, I don't,' usually delivered in a world weary voice or a sarcastic tone indicating that the person questioned hasn't revoked in living memory, then could there still be a problem?

The answer is 'Yes' and the problem arises because some unauthorised information may be given as a result of this question. For example, if a player shows out very early in the play and is asked the question, then perhaps he might conclude that his partner is rather surprised. Now, of course, it is a clear breach to ask the question in anything other than a neutral voice. Assuming partner shows out early in the play and you ask: 'No hearts, partner?' but you haven't asked on any of the previous ten hands where partner has shown out, this will indicate to partner that you have some surprise and this is not information that is authorised to him, i.e. he may not base his defence on partner's surprise by concluding that partner does not have quite as many of the suit as might have been suspected. If you now conclude that you will defend assuming that declarer has an undisclosed suit and you only know about it from the 'no hearts' question, then this is an example of basing your defence on unauthorised information.

Law 16B covers what the director may do in such circumstances. In practice, I suspect that it will be quite hard to take advantage in such positions even if one wanted to; however, in order to avoid this perhaps you should always ask, or alternatively never ask. I have resolved, personally, not to ask because I don't think I will remember to do it consistently having been out of the habit for about twenty years and because, on the whole, my partners rarely revoke! ☐



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Maths & Bridge Challenge

THE Tees Valley Education Partnership sponsored the rebirth of a Maths Challenge for schools in the Tees Valley area. Efforts by NEBA County Youth Officer, Ken Pattison (*right, in the picture below*), to spread the word within the local community led to an invitation to provide one of the 'challenges'.

The format adopted gave the students a taste of MiniBridge in fifteen minutes where their skills in problem solving, team-work, logic and numeracy were assessed. Some thirty schools took part in five heats, culminating in a grand final. Two tables were in play; each school team of four was split into two pairs, each pair to compete against a pair of 'experts', playing the same hand, given the same lead and as far as possible the same help and advice. The 'teamwork' and 'approach to the problem' was achieved by dummy being sent around to declarer's side so they could decide together target tricks, risks and play of the cards. They were then marked according to the number of tricks made in either a part-score or game.



This no-trump deal was used in the final:

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

The queen of diamonds was led; if you test the hearts first and play spades in the correct sequence you can make eleven tricks – fewer if you don't get it right! ☐

Beyond the green baize

GORDON JOY

GORDON JOY is a member of Doncaster Contract Bridge Club in South Parade. He plays only once a week on Wednesday afternoons, though he finds the game very enjoyable and a challenge. In fact, Gordon loves his bridge, and jokes that the reason he does not play often is just in case someone expects him to improve!



Away from the green baize, Gordon Joy is an artist. Born in 1948, he studied at Kingston-upon-Hull College of Art, then as a Post-Graduate student at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London.

In 1985, the Royal Academy of Arts' Business Gallery arranged for Gordon to exhibit his paintings of British landscapes in Tokyo. He later went on to produce a major sequence on the down lands of Wiltshire and Berkshire for the Ridgeway

Exhibition in Swindon. Thereafter, architecture became increasingly central to Gordon's art. Since 1984, he has been represented by the Francis Kyle Gallery, London W1R 9LE, participating in many of the gallery's theme exhibitions.

Now Gordon Joy has found a new source of inspiration: bridge! As can be seen from the examples reproduced here, his latest canvases are brightly coloured with images of court cards superimposed over them.



Gordon explains: 'I chose to use the images from playing cards because they are so universally accepted as symbols and not real individuals. I do not replicate them studiously and because of this they appear to develop personalities of their own while remaining only symbols.'



PLAYING on-line bridge a 'strong' pair may wait for ages until opponents who are not 'scared', join their table. There are also occasions when a perfectly nice, steady player sits down as an opponent to such a pair – but is not experienced enough to attract a partner prepared to take on the 'might' of the settled partnership. So, they wait.

The format, except in competition, is usually static. Unless a player leaves or moves to another table, it is possible to play dozens of boards against the same pair. This makes for an uneven game, not unfriendly, but perhaps dispiriting for the less experienced pair and less challenging than it could be for the other pair.

Now, there is an option: welcome to DIDO in *Bridge Club Live*!

DIDO (Drop In Drop Out) is a movement introduced into the Match-pointed Pairs Room, designed to mimic the face-to-face situation, enabling each pair to play four boards and then automatically be seated against new opponents – never playing the same pair twice!

No waiting about for opponents. No waiting in between 'sets'. Play opposite as many players as possible. Play with as many partners as are prepared to play with *you*. Play as few as four boards at a time – come back later and play some more. Play at any time of the day anywhere in the world. Ladders, barometers, DIDO Points and On-line Master Points are available for those fulfilling the DIDO criteria. Drop in and see for yourself! *(Fran Bramzel)*

Around and About

THE TWINNING

CLASS invariably rises to the top – and so it proved when players from Huy Bridge Club in Belgium had their recent annual get together with members of Clare Bridge Club in Suffolk.

A teams event which coincided with Clare's summer party saw internationals from both sides of the Channel in the same four and they soon asserted their superiority. England international David Price and his wife, Jenny, teamed up with Belgium's Jean Jamar and Marie-Françoise Stas, current mixed champions in the LBF, which covers the French speaking part of their country.

The 'twinning' between the two bridge clubs dates back to 2000 when John Wayman, husband of Clare Bridge Club vice-president Adele, was mayor of St Edmundsbury and the couple were on a civic visit to the Belgian fortified town. 'I happened to ask if there was a local bridge club and the next day I met Liselotte Preudhomme from Huy Bridge Club. We hit it off and as a result members of their bridge club came to Clare in 2001,' Adele recalled.



From the left: David Price, Marie-Françoise Stas, Jenny Price and Jean Jamar

Huy has now visited Clare four times, while the Suffolk club has travelled to Belgium on three occasions. Each visit combines a mix of bridge, culture and parties. Jane Moore, chairman of Clare, said: 'The relationship which has developed between players in the two clubs is fantastic and the annual visit is a highlight in our calendar.'

Following a dinner to welcome the ten Belgian guests at Adele and John Wayman's home on the Saturday evening, club member Jenny Morley hosted the popular summer party on Sunday which culminated with the teams event. Social bridge in the evening was followed the next day by a tour of Cambridge. Before Clare's regular Monday night meeting, members and guests enjoyed an informal buffet supper to help cement the *entente cordiale*.

The visitors returned home on Tuesday – following a cracking breakfast for guests and hosts at Jane and Andrew Moore's – and promptly started planning the 2009 visit by Clare. *(Richard Evans)*

ANNUAL COUNTY LEAGUE FINALS DAY

THIS unique event brings together the winners of each of England's five regional 'County teams-of-eight leagues' to battle it out together on a finals day. Each region puts forward their 'Champions' at three different levels, and these teams then compete within their own categories to claim the national title.



In its second year, this event was the brainchild of Graham Jepson, whose friendly style ensured a pleasant atmosphere for all. Praise should also go to the team of directing staff (Barrie Partridge, Janet Hempson and Stan Haywood) and to the catering staff of West Midlands Bridge Club.

All three divisions were keenly contested, and the following teams emerged victorious: 'A' Division – Gloucestershire (left to right in the picture, R. Jackson, R. Chamberlain, R. Butland, P. Shields, J. Rookwood, D. Macintosh, G. Sadie, K. Stanley); 'B' Division – Oxfordshire (D. Lintott, A. Lintott, J. Slater, R. Procter, E. Jones, A. Murphy, J. Williams, C. Wilson); 'C' Division – Hertfordshire (T. Dean, S. Griffiths, J. Snell, J. Ball, B. Eddleston, M. Eddleston, C. Cook, A. Fenn). *(Ed Scerri)*

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

THE English Bridge Union team of Jeremy Baker, Amy Cherry, Stuart McPhee, Ian Mitchell, John Pain, Ian Payn and Colin Porch competed in the new BBC 2 quiz show, *Battle of the Brains*. They did well, although not winning any prize money, on 21 August, and on 22nd August they managed again to beat their opponents but failed to win either any money or the right to compete a third time.


Battle of the Brains is a game show hosted by Paddy O'Connell, and sees two teams of six members plus a team captain play a series of games described as focusing on different parts of the brain.



Hands you have played

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

THE deal below was played by Danny Gesua (sitting South) in the Swiss Teams event at the recent Brighton Congress:

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

The contract was 5♦ on a heart lead, won in dummy with the ace. After the jack of clubs to the king (the right guess!) and a second club to the ace, declarer won the diamond return and trumped a third club, thereby establishing the remaining small clubs.

A spade to the jack in hand was followed by the king and queen of diamonds, and a small diamond was conceded to the nine. Danny trumped the heart return with his last trump, which left him with three small clubs on which to discard the ace, king and queen of spades!

STING IN THE TALE

MIKE Rawlins and Andrew Doye came through the field very strongly in the second half of the 2008 National Pairs to secure second place. This board, which earned them an outright top, helped their cause:

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

Mike, West, opened 1♣, and Andrew made a game-forcing response of 2♥. Mike now jumped to 4♥, indicating a minimum hand, but with good trumps. Andrew could

see at least eleven tricks and continued with a cue-bid of 4♠, to which Mike replied 5♦, showing the ace of diamonds and denying the ace of clubs. Now there were twelve tricks so long as the opponents could not take two tricks on a club lead. Andrew reckoned that West was very likely to hold the king of clubs, and might well hold the queen of that suit as well. Being an optimist, he also thought that a club lead might not be obvious.

Andrew reckoned further, however, that there was another contract which would make whenever 6♥ was making, and he bid 6NT – partly on the grounds that it might be harder to lead an unsupported ace against this slam. On the king of diamonds lead, he made twelve tricks and was rewarded with all 46 of the match-points available.

The added spice to the hand was that those pairs in 6♥ by East faced a singleton club lead to the ace, and a return for a ruff ... with a singleton trump!

'Ah', said Mike afterwards, 'I see why you bid 6NT, and not 6♥. With only twelve hearts in the two hands you were obviously worried there might be a trump loser!'

BREAKTHROUGH HAND

SOMETIMES, doing something away from the norm can have unexpected benefits. Dan Baines and his partner were trying to break Dan's 100% losing record at Table 1 of a national teams event when this deal occurred at the 2008 Swiss Teams in Hinckley:

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

Dan is not too proud of his part in the

auction, but the partnership had found that passive bidding cost them dearly in Brighton last year so he plumped for a frisky approach as West:

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

¹ Showing extra values

Dan was now on lead to a confidently and quickly bid 3NT after his aggressive take-out double had forced his partner to speak. This is how he reasoned:

'The opposition were clearly not worried by our spades, so I decided to go for clubs. I thought it unlikely partner had more than two, and also thought we needed quick tricks before the opposition cashed their red-suit winners. I needed partner to have something like king of clubs doubleton. If he did, one of the opponents could easily have four to the nine of clubs so, on that basis, I decided to hold on to my jack and ten of clubs to prevent the opposition establishing a block in the suit if clubs were Q-x opposite 9-x-x-x either way. I led the five of clubs, my fourth highest.

'Declarer now had a tricky decision. He had nine top tricks, and the only danger was if we could cash five club tricks first. If the clubs are 4-3, he's safe. If East has two clubs, he needs to play small to block the suit if East has K-x or A-x, but he needs to play the queen if East has 10-x or J-x. Declarer probably reasoned that if I had both jack and ten of clubs, I would have led the jack, so my partner ought to have one of the jack and ten. He eventually played the queen of clubs and we cashed the first five tricks to gain 13 IMPs on the board (and win the match by 12 IMPs).

'If you need partner to have a specific high-card holding in a suit, there is no point in wasting your own high cards unnecessarily, and on some occasions (as above) an unusual play of this kind may have the unexpected benefit of fooling declarer.' □

Have you played a good / funny / unusual hand recently? If so, send it along and you may well see it in print in English Bridge!



Andrew Kambites

IN my last article I looked at the Unusual No-trump. Of course, if an opponent opens with a suit bid, there are three possible two-suiters you could hold. Say that your right-hand opponent opens 1♦:

- You could have 5-5 shape in clubs and hearts, the lowest ranking unbid suits. A jump to 2NT would show this combination.
- You could have 5-5 shape in the major suits, the highest ranking unbid suits.
- You could have 5-5 shape in clubs and spades, the extremes.

Obviously you would like two more redundant bids to show these combinations. One immediately springs to mind, a cue-bid in the opponent's suit. The traditional interpretation of an immediate cue-bid of opener's suit to show a game-forcing hand is pretty useless because with a very strong hand you can double and then cue-bid.

The principle that a two-suited overcall should be weak (6-10 HCP) or strong (16+ HCP) rather than intermediate (11-15 HCP) should apply, whichever system

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Two-suited overcalls

you use. Your choice of system depends on whether you are prepared to put a third bid aside for this purpose.

About Ghestem

If you are prepared to sacrifice a jump bid in the lower unbid minor for this purpose (3♣, or maybe 2♦ if they open 1♣) you can show every combination of unbid two-suiters. Ghestem is commonly played. It has many variations, but one point to bear in mind is that it is never satisfactory to use 3♣ to show a two-suiter including clubs, weak or strong, because partner will have to assume you are weak and pass if he prefers clubs to your other suit. This leads partnerships to vary the system depending on the opening bid. Such variations lead to players forgetting the system, either forgetting which two suits 3♣ shows or forgetting it is conventional at all. Unauthorised information (by unexpected alert or failure to alert) or misinformation to opponents is often made worse by the fact that people who play Ghestem wrongly think that it is adequate just to write 'Ghestem' on their convention cards.

One common variation of Ghestem is the following:

Over a 1♦/1♥/1♠ opening bid:

A cue-bid shows the two extreme suits;
2NT shows the two lowest suits;
3♣ shows the two suits not shown by either of the above.

Over a 1♣ opening bid:

2♣ is *natural* and shows clubs;
2♦ shows the majors;
2NT shows the two lowest suits;
3♣ shows the two extreme suits.

Michaels Cue-bids: the opponent opens a minor

The alternative to Ghestem is Michaels Cue-bids and the Unusual No-trump.

If an opponent opens with a minor suit (e.g. 1♦) then a Michaels Cue-bid (2♦)

shows the major suits, either weak or strong. Let us see it in action. Diagram (i) can give rise to Auction 1 or Auction 2:



Auction 1

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

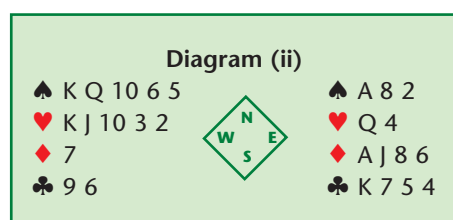
The 2♦ bid shows the major suits. East assumes West has the weak type (6-10 points) and settles for 2♥. West bids on to show the strong type (16+ points) and although his partner has given preference to hearts in bidding 2♥ West suggests an extra spade with 2♠. The ace of hearts is a huge card and the spade jack will very probably fill a hole so East has enough for game.

Auction 2

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♦	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

East assumes that West has the weak type and has no reason to do anything over 3♦. If West had a strong type with 5-5 shape he could then double. This double cannot cancel the message already given of at least 5-5 in the major suits, so it cannot be a penalty double. It would simply show the strong type with equal length in the major suits and would give East the chance to pass if he had good diamonds and a misfit. However, with a sixth spade West chooses to bid 3♠ and again East raises to game.

How should East-West bid the hands in Diagram (ii) after South opens 1♦?



East always assumes that West has the weak type. Even so, he wants to make a game try. You can play that a jump in one of partner's suits is a game try, giving rise to Auction 3. West has a weak Michaels hand, but at green vulnerability it is better than it might be so he raises 3♠ to 4♠.

Auction 3

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

Alternatively, you can play that a jump in one of partner's suits is pre-emptive. This method is theoretically better but more complicated: you would have to bid Diagram (ii) with Auction 4. Here 3♦ is a game try in one of partner's suits. 4♦ accepts the game try and asks which suit.

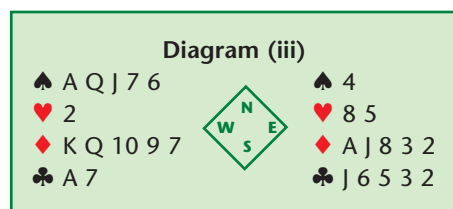
Auction 4

West	North	East	South
2♦	Pass	3♦	1♦
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
			All pass

Of course, if South opens 1♦ then West cannot show spades and clubs. That is a major disadvantage of Michaels compared to Ghestem.

Michaels Cue-bids: the opponent opens a major

Playing Michaels cue-bids, if an opponent opens with a major suit (e.g. 1♥) then a cue-bid (2♥) shows the other major and an unspecified minor, either weak or strong. You can find the minor by bidding a conventional 2NT. In Michaels' auctions where the minor is unknown, bids of 2NT or 4NT usually ask for the minor. Diagram (iii) might give rise to Auction 5 or Auction 6:



Auction 5

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

2♥ shows spades and a minor suit, weak or strong. North's pass suggests to East that West may be strong. 2NT is preparing to sign off in the minor if West is weak. West shows he is strong by jumping to 4♦ and East raises to game.

Auction 6

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

4NT asks for the minor. East knows that if West has the weak Michaels then 5♦ will be a cheap save against 4♥, whereas if West is strong 5♦ will probably make. West must not bid on to a slam just because he has the strong type.

The other disadvantage of Michaels compared to Ghestem comes when the bidding starts as in Auction 6 with North bidding 4♥, and East wants to compete if West's second suit is one minor but not if he has the other. East is forced to be pessimistic and pass, but of course if East/West do have an outstanding fit it will be lost.

Last but not least

Finally, it is reasonable to bid a two-suited overcall with a 6-5 shape (if the six-card suit is a minor) but it is rarely sensible to do so with a 7-5 shape, a difference of two cards between the suits. Partner always seems to pick the wrong one! The practical solution is to bid your seven-card suit and hope you have a chance to follow it up later with your five-card suit.

With a 7-5 shape, it is almost unconceivable that the bidding will be passed out, so you can confidently expect to get another chance. □

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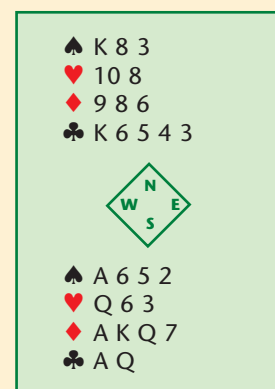
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West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

West leads the four of spades. What is the best line for making the contract?



David Bird

Great Bridge is Percentage Bridge

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

ONE benefit of having been educated as a mathematician is that some decisions come easily to me. How did the human race come into being? Should I choose the Adam and Eve version, or the Theory of Evolution? Hmm, I think Evolution just edges it. Suppose I want to know how long I am likely to live. Should I visit the doctor for a thorough check-up or rely on the Astrology column in the Sun? Tricky, once again, but I think I'll phone the local surgery. After such an introduction, you will not be surprised to hear me argue that you should base your quest to become a bridge champion on playing with the percentages.

This seems so obvious that I should perhaps make some effort to understand what is meant by the 'flair' alternative. Let's start by looking at flair in the bidding. When England faced Germany in the 1965 European Championships, the irrepressible John Collings picked up: ♠ 10 6 ♥ 9 7 ♦ 6 ♣ A K Q 8 6 5 4 2. The auction began 2♣ (strong) – Pass – 2♥. What would you say on Collings' hand in the fourth seat? Playing percentage bridge, you might bid 5♣. Collings, the most famous 'flair' player of his generation, preferred to overcall 4♠! His intention was to retreat to 5♣ if doubled. Unfortunately, when the German on his left bid 5NT, Jonathan Cansino raised all the way to 7♠! This was doubled and went ten down (it would have been twelve down on best defence). Did I choose an example of 'flair bidding' that just happened to assist my argument against it? Some would say so.

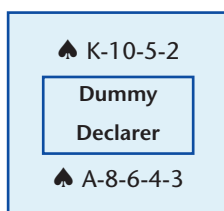
Let's see another example of what might be called 'flair bidding'. Your partner opens 3♥ and the next player doubles for take-out. What do you say on:

♠ 9 7 ♥ A Q 7 2 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ A Q 6 3?

You can raise to 4♥, yes, but a much better bid is 4♣. This shows a heart fit and at the same time tells partner what to lead against 4♠ – a club through the doubler's king. When partner holds fewer than three clubs, a club lead may well beat the contract. Such a bid is so sensible, and offers such excellent prospects of success, that I would call it a 'percentage bid' rather than a 'flair bid'.

It's the same if a so-called 'flair player' regularly bids a suit of three low cards, intending to bid 3NT later and avoid a lead of his weak suit. If this happens to work well, over the years, it becomes by definition the percentage bid in the situation. If instead it works out poorly, he should take pity on his team mates and start bidding suits that he actually holds.

Let's turn to card-play now. You need to pick up the following suit for no losers:

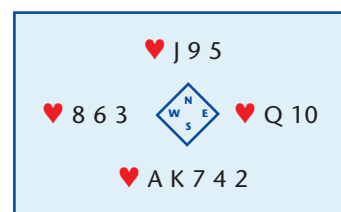


You begin correctly by cashing the ♠A; LHO plays the ♠7 and East follows with the ♠J or ♠Q. What should you do on the second round – finesse dummy's ♠10 or play for a 2-2 break? Any mathematician can tell you that a finesse of the ♠10 is around twice as likely to succeed as playing for the drop. (In the long term such a play wins against a singleton ♠Q or ♠J, two combinations, and loses only to ♠Q-J doubleton, one combination.) There are many thousands of 'flair players'

around the world who refuse to believe this and play for the drop throughout their lives. One time in three, when East does hold Q-J doubleton, these players smile knowingly and say: 'You see what nonsense Restricted Choice is?'

Suppose two lines of play are possible on a particular contract. One line will give you the better percentage chance against perfect defence; the second line offers less chance against perfect defence but will give the defenders an opportunity to go wrong. Let's say that you go for this second line and (yes!) the defenders screw up; not only that, but the 'percentage line' would have failed. Is that a victory for flair bridge over percentage bridge? Not really. If the second line did in fact offer you a greater chance of success against those particular defenders, it became the *de facto* percentage play.

There is just enough space for an example of what might be termed 'flair in defence':



Needing to pick up the suit, declarer cashes the ♥A on the first round. The 'flair player' in the East seat can see what will happen if he plays the ♥10 and therefore follows deceptively with the ♥Q. Declarer promptly finesses the ♥9, losing to East's ♥10. A triumph for flair, at last? Of course not! It is a cold-blooded percentage play – the only way to give declarer a losing alternative. □

Great Bridge is Flair Bridge

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

Can you imagine Shakespeare or Michelangelo or Beethoven being satisfied with not making mistakes? Would Botticelli have given us the Divina Commedia just by not chucking?

— *The Hideous Hog*

IF I asked you to name the first great bridge player to come to your mind, I'd be surprised if you didn't pick Zia Mahmood. Or, depending on your nationality and age group, perhaps Geir Helgemo, Benito Garozzo, Paul Chemla, Jeff Meckstroth, John Collings . . . Now, what have all those players in common? Their knowledge of the technical side of the game – bidding judgement, percentage plays, Scissors Coups and compound squeezes – is no better and no worse than other champions. But what sets them apart from the rest, what make them the people who are surrounded by kibitzers at the table or online, is flair.

Percentage bridge is easy to define, though very difficult indeed to implement. It consists in taking, every time it is your turn, the action that maximises your chances of success assuming that everyone else at the table is acting rationally. In theory, a computer could be programmed to 'know' what action will work out best in the long run given any position that might occur at the bridge table (in practice we are a very long way indeed from creating such a machine). Four such computers pitted against each other would play the best percentage bridge the world has ever seen – but would anyone consider it 'great bridge'? Would anyone even watch it?

Imagine a world championship final contested by two teams of computers. At the end of 160 boards the match would be a 0-0 draw in IMPs, but at least the spectators would not be bored, for with current processor speeds the event would be over in

about ten minutes. Of course, the computers would need to play an infinite number of extra boards to decide the title, but everyone would have gone home to watch *Strictly Come Dancing* instead (a competition in which the outcome is decided entirely by the judges' and the public's flair for selecting people who cannot dance and encouraging them to demonstrate this as often as possible at the expense of people who can).

Flair is less easy to define. The *Oxford English Dictionary* says that it is 'power of "scent"; sagacious perceptiveness; instinctive discernment.' In bridge terms, this means that flair consists in picking the right moment to do the wrong thing. Because bridge – even duplicate bridge – is not a game of pure skill, it is always possible that by doing the wrong (anti-percentage) thing you will obtain a better result on a single occasion than by doing the right (percentage) thing. This does not mean, of course, that you should do the wrong thing on every deal just in case it happens to work out well; the percentages will in that case work inexorably against you. What it does mean is this:

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



David Burn

THE DEBATE

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Helness	Rodwell	Helgemo
3♣ ¹	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
		5♣ ³	All Pass

¹Invitational with clubs; ²The right contract;

³The wrong contract.

North led a diamond, and you or I or some computer would have won with the ace and played a heart, hoping that the opponents would not find a switch to spades (not that computers can hope, but computers would be in 3NT anyway). Meckstroth didn't do that: he called for dummy's ten of diamonds, won by Helgemo with the queen. Obviously the Norwegian maestro could have broken the contract by playing either major, but he returned an innocent diamond. Meckstroth pitched a heart, won in dummy, played a heart, and made his contract.

Was this good bridge? No, not by any stretch. Was it great bridge? Undoubtedly – this deal arose in the 1997 World Championships and on the morning when the details were published in the daily bulletin, the talk among the world's finest was of nothing but the wonderful play Meckstroth had made (if Rodwell had any comments on his partner's bidding, he kept them to himself). I've seen a lot of bridge, but that ten of diamonds – not the two, which would leave a dangerous holding in dummy, but the ten – remains the greatest play I have ever seen.

In short, if you always play the percentages you will be a good bridge player. But to be a great bridge player, you need flair. Victor Mollo opened my address for me; it is only fitting that he should close it. *Those who do the right thing and lose cannot forgive their betters, who do the wrong thing and win.* □



Brian Senior

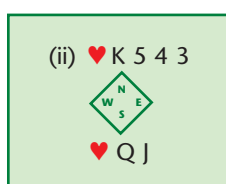
More deception

MOST players are familiar with this situation:



Declarer needs to steal one trick from the suit without losing the lead – perhaps he is wide open in another suit after the opening lead but hopes that the defence will not be aware of the situation. Declarer's best chance to sneak a trick through is to lead the jack from his hand. If West holds the ace he may think declarer is about to take a losing finesse into East's queen so may duck, after which declarer runs for home.

Now imagine that this is the situation in a side-suit in a trump contract:

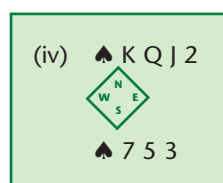
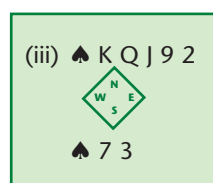


If declarer wants one winner from the suit he can try the same trick, leading the jack

for a phantom finesse. But what if he requires two tricks? Is there any hope of getting two winners without losing to the ace? Well, perhaps not very often, but it can sometimes happen. Leading the queen and jack from hand will achieve nothing – yes, declarer will get his two winners, but he will always lose a trick to the ace.

What declarer needs to do is to lead the first round *from dummy*, playing the queen from hand. Obviously, the hope is that East holds the ace, as otherwise West will just win this trick. If that passes off peacefully, declarer crosses back over to dummy and leads another low card towards the jack. If East ducks again, declarer has his two winners but no losers.

You say that you would always take the ace on the second round if you were in East's shoes? Good, then next time declarer – who holds queen-small doubleton – can play in exactly the same fashion and, if you hold the ace but not the jack, he will get a second trick to which he was not entitled.



Not only the defenders' attitude signals can be disrupted by a tricky declarer, their distributional signals can also be made harder to read in certain circumstances. In examples (iii) and (iv), there is no outside

entry to the spade winners, so that for the defence it is all a matter of how often they should hold up the ace.

In (iii), declarer hopes to find East holding the ace. If he leads the three of spades to dummy's king, East will have seen all the smallest cards in the suit and, whichever hand the next lead is made from, he will know whether his partner holds an odd or an even number in the suit. But suppose that declarer leads the *seven* of spades to the king, then leads the queen straight back off the dummy. With the three, the smallest missing card, unaccounted for, East may be scared to win the second spade. If West has the three of spades, then his first play was the start of a pter to show an even number, presumably two, and declarer may have a third card, making it essential for East to duck a second time. If he does so, declarer has gained an extra trick.

In (iv), declarer hopes to find West holding the ace. Again, if he leads the three of spades, the defensive length signals should work smoothly and West will know to duck twice – so declarer leads the *five* of spades on the first round and the king scores. Now he comes back to his hand in another suit and leads the seven of spades. With the three missing, West may imagine that his partner holds that card and has started a high-low signal on the first round, when actually East has an odd number and is playing the suit upwards. Again, if the defenders get it wrong, they will take the ace at the wrong time and declarer will get one more trick than he is really entitled to.

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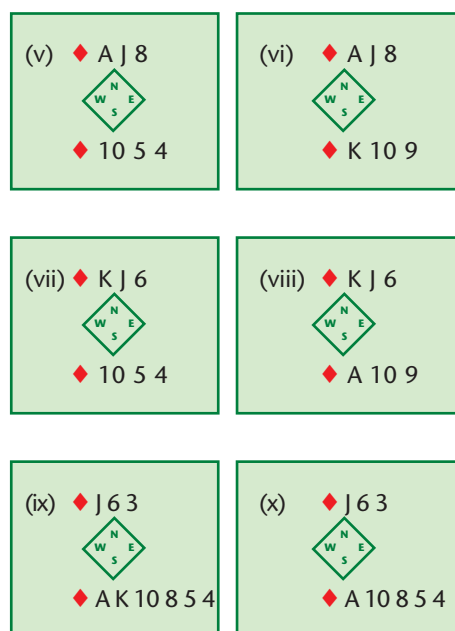
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Let the defenders sweat!

I have to confess that I am too lazy to learn all the percentage plays for all the different suit combinations. I prefer, in reasonably close situations, to play similar holdings in identical fashions and let the defenders have the problem. For sure, unless they

have second sight, they are bound to help me out sometimes. Take these examples:



As always, we assume that we have no important clues to help us to make our decision as to how to play the suit. Look at examples (v) and (vi): if declarer leads the ten from hand in both cases, how is West to know whether or not to cover with the queen? If he does so, he solves the guess in (vi), while if he plays low in (vi) declarer goes up with the ace then finesses on the way back. If he holds the queen in (v), it is essential that he covers the ten. If West holds the queen and East $\diamond K-9-x(-x)$, failure to cover gives declarer a second trick when there was no legitimate way to take one. Sometimes, West holds the nine and can work it out, but nobody can get this right all the time.

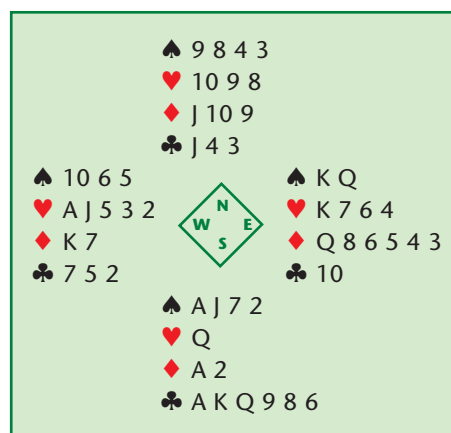
The same logic applies to examples (vii) and (viii). In both cases, declarer leads the ten from hand. In example (vii) he is giving up on the legitimate chance of finding West with queen singleton or doubleton, that is all. If West always covers with the queen, declarer will get only one trick with (vii) but always three with (viii). If West fails to cover, declarer gets two tricks with (vii) and when holding (viii) he goes up with the king and finesses on the way back. Again, I don't care if you are the best defender in the world, you can't get it right all the time.

While the last pair of examples may be a little less sound, if you lead the jack from dummy with both (ix) and (x), and East holds $\diamond Q-9-x$, you will either pick up (ix) for no loser when he guesses to cover, or solve your guess with (x) when he fails to cover. The general principle is sound: *play combinations that may look identical to*

the defence in identical manner, even if they are actually quite different, and you transfer your problems to them.

A Master shows how to do it

Sometimes, declarer is wide open in a suit and his only hope of not losing several tricks there, along with his contract, is to play on the suit himself:



This last one was originally played in a US Open Teams trial by many-time world champion Jeff Meckstroth. Playing with his usual partner, Eric Rodwell, Meckstroth opened a strong club as South and Rodwell responded $1\spadesuit$, negative, doubled by East to show diamonds. Having shown both black suits, Meckstroth settled for 3NT, against which West led the king of diamonds.

Meckstroth was sure that if he won the ace of diamonds and tried to establish his ninth trick by playing a diamond straight back the defence would have no option but to switch to hearts. Of course, Meckstroth knew that this would defeat the contract by at least two tricks.

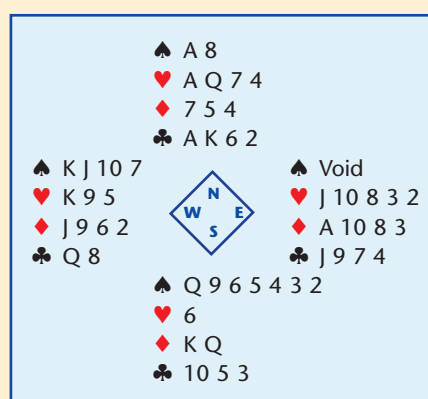
So Meckstroth won the ace of diamonds and played the queen of hearts. West won the ace of hearts and played a diamond. East fell for the deception; he won the diamond and played another diamond, setting up three diamond winners in his hand – and declarer claimed his nine tricks. \square

PRIZE PLAY ANSWER

PIATNIK

Prizes kindly donated by PIATNIK, makers of playing cards since 1824

QUIZ master Julian Pottage gives his view of the best line of play in our June competition and awards prizes in three categories.



You play in $4\spadesuit$ after opening an uncontested auction. West leads the two of diamonds. East wins with the ace and returns the three to your king.

This looks like a simple hand. You could play a spade to the ace and a spade back to the queen. If you have two trump losers, try the heart finesse.

The snag you can see from the diagram. After you play a spade to the ace, you will have three trump losers. Double dummy, you could succeed by playing a spade to the eight. This is not a sensible play at the table. You might give yourself an extra trump loser and later find out that you have a club loser because the heart finesse fails.

You should take the heart finesse before broaching trumps; best is at trick three. When the queen of hearts holds, you know you can afford two trump losers but not three. You ruff a diamond to hand and play a spade, intending to put in the eight from dummy if West plays the seven.

If the heart finesse loses, you play trumps for six tricks, cashing the ace and leading towards the queen.

Congratulations to the winners:

County: Robert Balchin,
London SE
Regional: Brian O'Donnell,
Great Somerford, Wilts
Open: Don Smedley,
Aston on Trent, Derby

This month's new **PIATNIK** Play Quiz is featured on page 37.

One Day Seminars on the New Laws

Courses are being planned as follows:

London, Young Chelsea Bridge Club – October 4th 2008
West Midlands Bridge Club – October 5th 2008
Bolton Bridge Club – October 11th 2008
Huddersfield Bridge Club – October 11th 2008
Leicester County Bridge Club – October 11th 2008
Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club – October 11th 2008
Darlington, St Georges Bridge Centre – October 18th 2008
Cumbria – October 19th 2008 – 1pm start
Bristol Bridge Club – November 1st 2008
Wantage Methodist Church Hall – November 29th 2008

(All run from 10.30 to 4.30 apart from Cumbria)
 Courses cost £10 per person inclusive of tea/coffee
 and conference papers but not lunch. You need
 your own copy of the laws.

To book please contact Peter on 01296 317203

Topics will include:

The revised revoke laws (Laws 61 to 64, 65-66)
 The revised insufficient bid law (Law 27)
 Awarding weighted adjusted scores (Law 12C1c)
 The Regulating Authority and the Tournament
 Organizer (Laws 80)
 The Director (Law 81)
 References to Lead Penalties (Law 26)
 Reference to Law 23
 Changes to Laws 13 – 16
 References to other minor changes in several laws

Club Director and Teacher Training Courses 2008-09

ESSENTIALS £33

Leicester	Saturday 27th September
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 15th October
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 11th October
Hexham	Saturday 22nd November 09
Brighton	Monday 17th August 09

BOOK RULINGS £38

Leicester	Saturday 25th October
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 12th November
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 22nd November
Hexham	Saturday 31st January 09
Brighton	Tuesday 18th August 09

JUDGMENT RULINGS £38

Leicester	Saturday 22nd November
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 10th December
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 17th January 09
Hexham	Saturday 21st February 09
Brighton	Wednesday 19th August 09

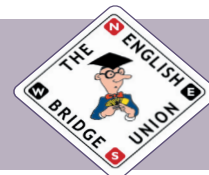
ASSESSMENT £43

Leicester	Saturday 6th December
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 14th January 09
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 7th February 09
Hexham	Saturday 28th March 09
Brighton	Thursday 20th August 09

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

☎ 01296 317203

or email peter@ebu.co.uk



Playford, Nr Ipswich

The Playford courses for October and November are FULL

JACK DAVIES – 101 AND STILL PLAYING REGULAR COMPETITIVE BRIDGE

JACK DAVIES has been very much involved at the working end of the West Midlands Bridge Club, and is one of its two surviving founder members.

In the very early days when the premises at '909' were acquired and used under licence, he took full responsibility for all repairs to the building and can still tell some wonderful stories of what was discovered at the time.

When the premises were bought by the club members, Jack was one of the early directors, and became known as the man with the notebook in which he noted all of the items needing attention – something he continued to do until the nineties. A particular feature at the club is the bar; Jack personally worked all of the timber for the bar and supervised the fitting. Visitors are still very impressed with the quality of the workmanship and of the specially imported timber used – Yugoslavian Beech – which is still as good as the day it was installed.

Jack partnered his wife, Peggy, two or three times a week for almost forty years at West Midlands Club until shortly before her death in her 98th year.

Jack still enjoys the company and greatest respect of all of the members of the Club whenever he plays, and still manages to be regularly in the frame at the sessions he attends – to which he drives himself!

Norman Lawrenson



COUNTY NEWS

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

**Mr C.M. Burley and
Mr M.J. Tan,
both of Berks & Bucks**

Master Point promotions

Avon

Tournament Master

Mr C Jones
3 Star Master
Ms E Roddan
Advanced Master
Mr L Barth
Mr CJ Jones
District Master
Mr PM Lynch
Area Master
Dr I Holyer
Mrs EA Hutchinson
Club Master
Ms T Cottee
Local Master
Mr A Millichamp

Bedfordshire

15 Star Premier Master

Mrs A Stark

12 Star Premier Master

Mr RE Brown

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Westley

2 Star Premier Master

Mr S Gibbs

1 Star Premier Master

Mr PF Habershon

Tournament Master

Mr B Gillett

3 Star Master

Mr P Malpass

2 Star Master

Mr DJ Spratt

1 Star Master

Mr C Challinor

Master

Mrs B Clevely

Area Master

Mr PL Shah

Club Master

Mr K Jani

Berks & Bucks

Grand Master

Mr CM Burley

Premier National Master

Mr P Cherrett

National Master

Mrs C Poole

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr N Wolfendale

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs SM Dickens

Premier Regional Master

Dr E Brennan

3 Star Regional Master

Mr SP Cope

1 Star Regional Master

Mr J Howard

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs V Morris

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs A Glynn

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs LA Higham

1 Star Regional Master

Mr N Jones

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs P Gordon

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs M Van Beest

4 Star Premier Master

Mr NF Carter

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr JL Miller

1 Star Master

Mr PR Wells

Tournament Master

Mrs PE Woolley

5 Star Master

Mrs B Sinclair-Brown

4 Star Master

Mrs E Lloyd

3 Star Master

Mrs GC Ray

2 Star Master

Mrs S Fox

1 Star Master

Mrs JC Lark

3 Star Master

Mr A Lamont

2 Star Master

Mr M Lister

1 Star Master

Mr GW McLeman

2 Star Master

Mrs T Havard

1 Star Master

Mrs JF Irvine

Advanced Master

Dr J Kennedy

3 Star Master

Mrs M Kennedy

2 Star Master

Mr V C Crump

1 Star Master

Mr M Ramzy

1 Star Master

Mr CC Steele

1 Star Master

Mrs G Trinder

1 Star Master

Mrs P S Bentley

1 Star Master

Mr A Bevan

1 Star Master

Mr JW Calder

1 Star Master

Mr R G Cheetham

1 Star Master

Prof MGB Drew

1 Star Master

Mrs TJ Hamilton

1 Star Master

Mrs BB Mayfield

1 Star Master

Mrs M Murtagh

1 Star Master

Mrs M Savage

1 Star Master

Mrs B Sawyer

1 Star Master

Mr M Stroud

1 Star Master

Mr JA Tryon

1 Star Master

Mrs DG Blaker

1 Star Master

Mrs CL Bushnell

1 Star Master

Mr CA Clark

1 Star Master

Mr R Ellis

1 Star Master

Mr LR Gill

1 Star Master

Mr N Higham

1 Star Master

Mrs HL Hinman

1 Star Master

Mr RN Holt

1 Star Master

Mr R Walther

1 Star Master

Mr T Williams

1 Star Master

Mr I Clark

1 Star Master

Mrs H Craig

1 Star Master

Mr R Kozlowski

1 Star Master

Mr M Mullard

1 Star Master

Mr R Razzak

1 Star Master

Mr J Robotham

1 Star Master

Mrs C Aitken

1 Star Master

Mrs M Bishop

1 Star Master

Mrs J Chisnall

1 Star Master

Ms P Fordyce

1 Star Master

Mrs A Glynn

1 Star Master

Mrs LA Higham

1 Star Master

Mr N Jones

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk

IN the *Gold Cup*, the team including Steve Tomlinson – Steve Turner with Somerset team-mates will be playing for a place in the quarter-finals.

At the *Brighton Congress*, the *Swiss Pairs* saw good performances by several Avon pairs, the best of which were Steve Turner – Steve Tomlinson (15th), Robert Covill – Aidan Schofield (37th), Jeremy Rickard – Robert Glass, and Mike Elliott – Tim Brierley (49th) in the field of almost 500 pairs. Jeremy and Robert in fact led the field after nine of the fourteen matches. In the *Swiss Teams*, the best placed Avon team in the field of 195 teams were Marc Lee, Tony and Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski (13th).

At the *East Wales Congress* in Cwmbran, Cathy and Andrew Smith finished third, and Gareth Evans – Janine Griffiths-Baker fourth in the *Swiss Pairs*. Bristol BC's *Premier Pairs* was won in June by Andrew Urbanski – Mike Elliott, and in July by Tony Letts – Brian Goalby.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



THE new County season started in September with a new calendar of events including a few changes. A new *Seniors' Teams* event has been introduced and the *Men's/Ladies' Pairs* event has been moved from the afternoon to the evening.

Full details of all events are now on the BBA website but dates for the earlier forthcoming events are as follows: during October, the *Swiss Pairs* on Sunday Oct 12 starts at 2.00pm at Wilstead and the *Men's/Ladies' Pairs* takes place on Thursday Oct 23 starting at 7.30 pm. The inter-club *Teams of Four* will be held at Wilstead on Thursday Nov 20, again starting at 7.30 pm. Please take note.

Recent successes: the team of Derek Marsh, David Stimpson, Roger Edmonds and George Summers were runners-up in the *Swiss Teams* at the *Summer Seniors' Congress*. Alan Oddie and Jon Williams won the recent *North Wales Swiss Pairs* event; they also came fourth in the *Swiss Pairs* at the Scarborough *Northern Congress*. In the 2008 *Crockford's Plate*, Jon's team of himself, David Harris, Alan Oddie, Malcolm Harris, Bill Hodgkiss and Malcolm Pryor won the final.

Berks and Bucks

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



CONGRATULATIONS to James Paul on coming 6th in the *European Junior Pairs*. Also, well done the B&B team that came 2nd in the *A final of the Counties League of Eight* – Dick Davey, Richard Palmer, Chris Burley, Ed Scerri, Steve Johnston, David Owen, Kevin Elstow and Phil Thornton.

There were a number of good performances by BBCBA players at Brighton, the outstanding highlight being Simon Cope's victory in the *Swiss Pairs* with John Atthey – I heard on the grapevine that they had only ever played sixteen boards together beforehand! Simon also

reached the *B Final* in the *Swiss Teams* and was in the winning teams in the *Sunday Open* and *Mid-week Knock-out* teams. Well done also Carole Mueller – Chris Mooney, second in the *Mixed Pairs*.

Chris Burley, Steve Gore, Richard Palmer and Phil Thornton had an outstanding win in the *Eastbourne Seniors Congress Swiss Teams* with an amazing score of 125/140, winning all seven matches, five by 20-0!

Diary Dates: Oct 12, *Swiss Pairs* (Denys Jenkins Trophy). Oct 26, *County Teams Qualifier*. Nov 23, *Friendly Pairs*. Nov 30, *Flitch (married pairs)*. **All at the new, earlier start time of 1.30pm.**

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

CHRIS and Catherine Jagger, Jonathan Mestel and Julian Wightwick have won the *Hubert Phillips* final and are also in the *NICKO* final. Catherine and Jonathan finished 12th in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Brighton Congress*, while Catherine Curtis – Paul Fegarty were 26th. In the *Teams*, Chris Jagger finished fourth in the *A Final*, while Catherine Curtis and Paul Fegarty were second in the *B Final*, ahead of Catherine Jagger in fifth place.

Ely have retained their crown in the *First Division of the County League*.

Diary Dates: Oct 26, *Cambs & Hunts Swiss Teams*, New England Complex, Lincoln Road, Peterborough.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/



This has been a quiet period in Jersey. *District Individual:* 1. Carl Harrison, 2. Martin Rogers, 3. John Honey.

Guernsey pairs took the first five places in the *Inter-insular Simultaneous Pairs*: 1. Lynda Mildon – Colin Tostevin, 2. Margaret Allen – Robert Plumley, 3. Dick Langham – Martin Jones.

In Guernsey, the *Higher Restricted Pairs* event was won by Alastair Kent – Mike Allen, ahead of Barbara Hunter – David Trestain. The *Lower* level resulted in a win for Robin Endean – Marie Auchincloss ahead of Geoff Clarke – Cliff Drillot. The *Individual* title went to Andy Hall, with Pat Self second.

The *Manor Club* award, the *Frank Money Trophy*, to the best player over the year resulted in a tie between Brenda Walker and Brenda Lihou.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freesserve.co.uk



MANY congratulations to Pat Meade – Colin Pote, who were second of 108 pairs in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Bournemouth Spring Congress*. They won six of their seven matches and were just ahead of Lawrence Haynes, playing with Trevor Thrower (Northants), who finished fourth.

Robert Mabley, Bill Thomson, Jenny Cant and Barrie Benfield won five of their first six matches in the *Devon Green-Pointed One-day* at Exmouth and drew with Sallie Green's team from Exeter. They then lost in the final round to

finish a close second to the Exeter team.

Congratulations to Bill Thomson and Rob Mabley, who were sixth nationally in the *Tuesday July Simultaneous Pairs*, with an excellent 68.59%.

St Austell, Cornwall's longest-established bridge club, is starting a bridge school, following EBU guidelines, in October. Please phone Jenny Cant ☎ 01726 852182, or Dougie Bence, an alumnus of the ACOL bridge club, ☎ 01726 816886. It is also hoped that the Rugby Club will be up and running again in the near future, with a new name and venue and possibly on a changed night.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, *Mixed Pairs*, Ladock. Oct 12, *St Austell Open Pairs*, Arts Centre. Oct 19, *Swiss Teams*, Queens Hotel, Penzance. Nov 2, *Mixed Pivot Teams*, Ladock. Nov 23, *Bodmin Swiss Pairs*, Lanhydrock GC. Nov 30, *Newcomers Pairs*, Conservative Club, Truro.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



IN a high-scoring, close contest, Pym Berry won the *Gerry Fletcher Cup* for the *DCBA Individual Championship* just ahead of Clive Warbrick. The winners of the *Dodson Shield* for *Men's Pairs* were Roy Wood – Ray Jolland, with Peter Kelly – Graham Marshall in second place. In a split tie for the *Cory Cup* for *Ladies Pairs*, Pat Hobson – Margaret Watson took the title ahead of Amanda Grimsey – Judy Lomas.

Don Smedley, John Griffin, Paul Madden and John Squibb won the *GP Team Event* at Spondon in July. In second place were Annice and Howard Morton, and Randy and Doreen Curzon.

Ron McEwan was a member of the winning team in the *Premier Final* of the *GP Multiple Teams Event* at Scarborough; only 1 IMP behind was a full Derbys team of Malcolm Young, Alan Kenny, Jeff Calladine and Richard Horsley.

Diary Dates: Oct 8, first round of the *Eric White Cup* and *Winter Plate*. Oct 26, *Atkins Cup*. Nov 23, *Invitation Pairs*.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Alex Maddock, Rob Lawy, Jim Grant and Stephan Linfors, who won the *Green-pointed Swiss Teams* at Cwmbran, East Wales. Congratulations also to Margaret and Robin Mardlin, Bill Oke and Cathy Lee on winning the *Swiss Teams Charity Event* at Newton Abbot. Torquay Bridge Club celebrated their 50th anniversary with champagne and a special cake made by club member Pauline Bennet.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mary Hugo, married for 54 years to David. David and Mary have been staunch supporters of Kingsbridge Regal Bridge Club and Devon bridge. She will be sadly missed and our deepest sympathies go to David and her family.

Diary Dates: Oct 25-26, *Plymouth Congress*. Nov 1-2, *One-day Swiss Pairs* and *One-day Swiss Teams*, Isca Centre, Exeter. Nov 14-16, *Torquay BC Congress*.

Master Point promotions

Mrs JE Maul
Dr PR Maul
Mrs R Winstanley
Area Master
Mr CE Dale
Mr S Deloaze
Mr JE Dougherty
Mrs EM Hughes
Mr AJ Reading
Mrs ME Reading
Mr P Riley
Mr NJ Roy
Mrs KA Vickery
Club Master
Dr M Baxendine
Mrs GA Collins
Mrs S Dougherty
Mr NA Lawrence
Mrs S Smith
Local Master
Mrs N Quimson
Cambs & Hunts
2 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr KF Riley
2 Star Regional
Master
Mrs A Aplin
8 Star Premier
Master
Mrs ZJ Lacy
Advanced Master
Mr J Pearce
Mr D Richer
Master
Mr SB Goodwin
Mrs KM Jennings
Mr RB Salmon
County Master
Mrs CG Dunney
Mr C Waites
Area Master
Mr J Cairns
Mr H Lockwood
Club Master
Mr G Buncombe
Mr R Key
Mr D Waldman
Local Master
Mrs J Taylor
Channel Islands
1 Star Premier
Master
Mr JC Drillot
Premier Master
Mr P Keeling
Advanced Master
Mrs MA Breuilly
Area Master
Mr M Bane
Club Master
Mrs BM Chiang
Local Master
Ms MM Boyd
Cornwall
Life Master
Mr GC Warren
National Master
Mr RJ Mabley
9 Star Premier
Master
Mrs S Howley
6 Star Premier
Master
Mr S Crouch
5 Star Premier
Master
Mr B Relton
Mrs EM Relton
4 Star Premier
Master
Mr B Cuff
Tournament
Master
Mr H Payne
4 Star Master
Mrs P Day
3 Star Master
Mr CD King

1 Star Master
Mrs VM Hardisty
Mrs LP Radford
Mrs V Wodehouse
Advanced Master
Mr DW Chidell
Master
Mrs L Chidell
Mrs S O'Neill
County Master
Ms MN White
District Master
Lady H Long
Mrs RM Stewart
Cumbria
National Master
Mr J Farmer
4 Star Regional
Master
Mrs M Swan
Master
Mrs J Ridley
Derbyshire
National Master
Mrs AM Morton
4 Star Regional
Master
Mrs M Mound
3 Star Regional
Master
Mr A Smith
Regional Master
Mr R Horsley
2 Star Premier
Master
Mrs K Stanyon
Mr K Stanyon
1 Star Master
Mrs J C Stoker
Advanced Master
Mrs D Knowles
Club Master
Mr M Gavigan
Mrs I White
Local Master
Mrs J Allsop
Mr A Marsland
Devon
Premier National
Master
Mrs BE Davies
Mr DJ Harriman
Mrs CA Robinson
6 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr RPS Andrews
3 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs A Hopton
Mr JR Sach
3 Star Regional
Master
Mrs BJ House
1 Star Regional
Master
Mr S Quinn
Regional Master
Miss E Highton
10 Star Premier
Master
Mr EEC Livermore
4 Star Premier
Master
Mr S Dooley
Tournament
Master
Miss EML Nicholson
Mrs J Wyatt
5 Star Master
Mrs BP Corsbie
4 Star Master
Mr JS Honess
3 Star Master
Mr J Boxall
Mrs DL Twinberrow
1 Star Master
Mr JJ Dalrymple
Mrs J Lucas
Advanced Master
Mrs J Bell

Mrs R Caddy
Mr CP Derryhouse
Mr T Legood
Mr R F Luckham
Miss EM Runnalls
County Master
Mr S Barretto
Dr JPB Sandall
Mr B Williamson
District Master
Mr DH Atkins
Mrs GA Walker
Area Master
Mr KRC Evans
Mr A Light
Club Master
Mr PM Guppy
Ms C Hamon
Mr PAG Keith
Local Master
Mr M Anderson
Mr JM Dixon
Dr R Evans
Direct
District Master
Mr J Mitchell
Club Master
Mr DM Cox
Local Master
Mr M Ellison
Dorset
Premier Life
Master
Mr BJ Browne
4 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr R Vessey
6 Star Premier
Master
Mrs A Trayler
3 Star Premier
Master
Mr P White
4 Star Master
Mrs GP Barron
Advanced Master
Mrs BR Barker-Bennett
Master
Mr A Cowley
County Master
Mrs J Hill
Mrs F Keene
Mrs SM Sharman
District Master
Mr CR Barker-Bennett
Mrs BR Fricker
Mrs D Murphy
Area Master
Mrs P Child
Essex
National Master
Mr ER Cockle
6 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs AF Fenton
5 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs LV Seymour
4 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs LM Barker
1 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr A Mundy
1 Star Regional
Master
Mr D Tennet
19 Star Premier
Master
Mr P Williamson
9 Star Premier
Master
Mrs CEM Irvine
6 Star Premier
Master
Mr AH Goss

Tournament
Master
Mr P Nettleingham
Mrs A Spittal
4 Star Master
Mr M Krimholtz
Mr KJ Williams
3 Star Master
Mrs S Fenton
Mrs J Loveridge
Mrs CL McCue
2 Star Master
Mrs JA Dumont
Mr PJ Dumont
Mr DJ Patten
Mr F Ross
1 Star Master
Mr F Harrop
Mr JA Hutchinson
Mrs EM Williams
Advanced Master
Mr T Matthews
Mrs JE Pamplin
Mr A Rogers
County Master
Miss CM Aldridge
District Master
Mrs P Clarke
Mrs P Kitchin
Mr C Rastin
Area Master
Mr BA Newman
Mr R Perera
Club Master
Mr E Landers
Mrs D Linney
Mr E Robertson
Mrs EA Smith
Mr T Todman
L Woolard
Local Master
Mrs M Robertson
Gloucestershire
Life Master
Mr KA Rahim
1 Star Regional
Master
Mr MA Rogers
1 Star Premier
Master
Mr JM Rogers
1 Star Tournament
Master
Mr CJ Froggatt
Tournament
Master
Mr J Brown
5 Star Master
Mr CJ Smith
1 Star Master
Mrs R Gates
Mrs AM Wilkinson
County Master
Mr J Blumsom
Mr APD Coombes
District Master
Mr DE Havens
Mr RAW Wall
Club Master
Dr J Seddon
Hants and I.O.W.
Premier National
Master
Mrs C Fearon
Mr I Fearon
1 Star Regional
Master
Mr MA Kempster
13 Star Premier
Master
Mrs T Blackmore
3 Star Master
Mr GT Dove
2 Star Master
Mrs AP Martin
Dr C Purkiss
1 Star Master
Mr KS McArdle
Mr PL Ogilvy-Stuart
Dr G Pocock

Dorset

www.dorsetbridge.org.uk



IT is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Ingrid Hole, who finally lost her battle against cancer in August. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her both at and away from the bridge table.

National Results: Special congratulations to Miles Cowling and Chris Kinloch on winning the 2008 *National Pairs Final*. *English Riviera Congress: Swiss Teams*, 5th John Gardner, Margot Wilson, Janet Smith, Harold Wayne; 6th Stewart Upton, Glenda Shave, Brian Browse, Paddy Bowen. *Swiss Pairs*: 5th John Gardner – Margot Wilson, 19th Miles Cowling – Eddie Lucioni, 22nd Brian Browse – Paddy Bowen, 28th Stewart Upton – Glenda Shave, 36th Chris Stevens – Ann Sharples. *Summer Senior Congress: B Final*: 3rd Lynne and Ron Heath. *Simultaneous Pairs: Mon 28th July*, 2nd Martin Brook – Helen Ackroyd; *Tues 29th July*, 28th Shirley and John Durrant. *Bournemouth One-day Green-pointed Swiss Teams*: 1. Miles Cowling, Chris Kinloch, Richard Harris, Bob McRobert; 2. Brian Browse, John Askew, Alistair Cowley, Paddy Bowen; 3. Ron and Lynne Heath, Mike Ryan, Tony Lawrence; 5. Margot Wilson, John Gardner, Harold Wayne, Janet Smith; 6. Fenton Rutter, Lesley Angus, Amalia Richardson, Roger Andrews.

County Results: *Simeon Cup*: 1. Miles Cowling – Daphne Philipps, 2. Martyn Hill-Jones – Martin Brook, 3. Eugene Sheehan – David Gill. *Weymouth Cup*: 1. Martin Brook, Helen Ackroyd, Richard and Christine Ray; 2. Mike Pownall, Martyn Hill-Jones, Mark Hooper, Sarah Fazakerley; 3. Hannah Kearns, Eileen Rundle, Nicky Willis, Mary Osmond (cup winners playing for Weymouth BC).

Diary Dates: Oct 12, Swiss Teams for the Hardwick Cup, 2pm, Digby Hall, Sherborne. Nov 16, Men's and Ladies' Pairs, 2pm, Allendale Community Centre. Dec 14, Mixed Pairs for the Chope Salver, 2pm, Allendale Community Centre.

Please e-mail information of interest to martin.john.brook@googlemail.com.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



MANY congratulations to our Vice President, Teddy Schram, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 3 August. Teddy joined the ECBA in 1950, and with her late husband, Maurice, was responsible for the growth of bridge in the Southend area. She received the Dimmie Fleming award in 1985 for services to bridge, and was still playing well into her nineties.

National results: in the *Jersey Congress*, Peter Franklin – Alan Mayo and teammates won the *Swiss Teams*. The *London Trophy* was won for the second time in three years by Cecil Leighton, Alf Wilkins, Myrna Woolf, Monty Krimholtz. In the *Bedfordshire One Day Swiss Teams*, Sandy Riach, Robert Elliott, Michael Watson, Jacek Lapszys were third. Chris and Sue Taylor, and Martin and Sandy Smith came second in the *Mid Wales Congress*. In the

Eastbourne Seniors, Cecil Leighton and partner were second in the *Championship Pairs A Final*, and Bob Hair – Allan Greenstein won the *B Final*. Highest placed Essex players in the *Essex/Herts One Day* were Alan Mayo – Michael Grounds, whose team came joint second in the *Swiss Teams*, and Laurie and Stephanie Burt, fifth in the *Swiss Pairs*.

Winners of recent Essex events: *Summer Seniors*: 1. Richard Register – Graham Foster; 2. Allan Greenstein – Yvonne Dias; 3. Chris McChlery – Michael Wren. *Mixed Teams of Four*: 1. Rob Elliott, Maureen Huntingford, Sandy Riach and Ann Savory; 2. Allan Greenstein, Yvonne Dias, Alan Cohen, Jill Hair; 3. Peter Williamson, Wendy Logan, Bernie Hunt, Sheena Millins.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Essex Seniors Cup. Oct 26, Fletcher Trophy and Essex Cup for Clubs. Nov 23, Tony Kelvin Swiss Teams. Nov 30, Play with an Expert.

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk

GCBA members have achieved some significant results recently. Our *County Knock-out* champions, John Atthey, Richard Butland, Richard Chamberlain, Paul Denning, and Andrew Kambites, performed extremely well to win the *Pachabo*. The County also won the national competition for winners of regional leagues, as reported on page 32. John Atthey was one half of the winning combination in the *Brighton Swiss Pairs*. Tony Hill was part of the team which finished fifth in the premier *Teams* competition at Brighton. Derek Rue's team (Tony Hill, Keith Stanley and Alan Wearmouth) lost a close final of the *Crockfords Plate* by 4 IMPs.

The *County Mixed Pairs* champions are Wendy and Joe Angeseing, with the *Fitch* winners being Judy and Allan Sanis.

Hants and IoW

www.bridge.hampshire.org.uk



LAST season HIWCBA decided to support a charity each year and The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Andover, was chosen. Read more on page 21!

A last result from last year: the *Joyce Pick Charity Trophy* was won by Dave Willis, Lesley Lewis, Andrew Bennett and Keith Bennett.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Simmons Trophy (married pairs)/ Simmons Plate (other mixed pairs). Oct 11, Petersfield Swiss teams (at Petersfield, entries to Maureen Rubra). Oct 26, Wessex Swiss pairs. Nov 2, Simple Systems Pairs (+ IOW heat). Nov 16, Jubilee Cup Teams of Eight. Nov 30, Bloxham Trophy Open Swiss teams. Dec 1-5, Charity Duplicated Pairs (in clubs). All the above are at Romsey and start at 2pm unless otherwise listed. Entries to Lillian Craigen ☎ 02380 254276 or events2@hantsbridge.org.

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.co.uk

WELL done to Neville Shorrick, Jennifer Baker and Pam Crisp from Ledbury playing with John Williams from Bromsgrove for winning the *Swiss Teams* event at the

Master Point promotions

Advanced Master

Mr CD Bird
Mrs R Moreland
Mrs JO Pike

Master

Mr C Doyle
Mrs E Harding
Mrs JJB Lawrence
Mr BT Yeoman

County Master

Mr MA Baker

District Master

Mrs J Cherrett
Mrs L Coombes
Mr AM Dunworth

Mr PS Hards

Mrs B Johnson

Mrs MA Rose

Area Master

Mrs E Baldwin
Mrs JA Morrow
Mrs D Riordan

Mr PC Runchman

Mrs PJ Sommerville

Dr GA Williams

Club Master

Mrs N Bourne

Mr C Garrod

Mrs M Holmes

Local Master

Mrs S Marke

Dr R Reid

Herefordshire

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs P Jenkins

3 Star Premier

Master

Mr I Murray-Watson

2 Star Premier

Master

Mr M Moxley

Advanced Master

Mrs PA Slater

Master

Mr GG Crisp

County Master

Miss J Dowdle

District Master

Mrs J Davies-Jones

Mrs J Mabe

Mrs P Webber

Area Master

Mr D Johnson

Mrs J Johnson

Mrs C Jones

Mr A Kingston

Mr RHB Malim

Mr B Smith

Mrs EM Walker

Club Master

Mrs A Dawes

Mrs C Dixon

Mrs JM Pugh

Mrs E Riddle

Mrs LCE Shepherd

Local Master

Mr PR Dewhurst

Mrs SM Dewhurst

Mr GM Green

Mrs CJ Winney

Hertfordshire

Life Master

Mr P Clark

Dr JP Dymoke

Mrs PM Jacobs

National Master

Mrs JC Farnon

Mrs S Gold

Mr MJ Whittaker

4 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs AM Blanchard

Mr W Russell

9 Star Regional

Master

Mr TG Banks

19 Star Premier

Master

Mr JE Chalk

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs P Starck

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr PJ Goodsell

2 Star Premier

Master

Mrs JL Stebbings

5 Star Master

Mrs JM Mills

Mr ML Smith

4 Star Master

Mr JA Coffell

Mrs EJ Walters

Mr TS Walters

3 Star Master

Mr AS Perrin

Mr MAK Smith

1 Star Master

Mrs J Choat

Mrs D Nelson

Advanced Master

Mrs I Pickering

Master

Mr PH Lunoe

County Master

Mrs J Hanlon

Mr M Pearce

District Master

Mr R Martin

Mr B Veal

Area Master

Mr E Roberts

Mr JL Smith

Club Master

Miss R Kaban

Mr R Proctor

Local Master

MR DAV Edmonds

Mr JM Fletcher

Mr J Harris

Isle Of Man

2 Star Premier

Master

Mr JF Kissack

Kent

Life Master

Mr JP Griffiths

Premier National

Master

Mr DC Anning

National Master

Mr LB Kerr

Mr D Mortlock

3 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr KD Harrap

8 Star Regional

Master

Mr M Judge

6 Star Regional

Master

Mr JH Llewellyn-Jones

1 Star Regional

Master

Mr JWS Wortley

7 Star Premier

Master

Mr RH Bird

4 Star Premier

Master

Mr JA Anstead

Mr AE Boyer

3 Star Tournament

Master

Mrs MJ Holt

1 Star Tournament

Master

Mrs M Hodgkinson

5 Star Master

Mr AJ Adams

4 Star Master

Mr BJ Ping

3 Star Master

Mrs PM Bradley

Mrs A Disbury

1 Star Master

Mr LW Ross

Mr P Tinsley

Advanced Master

Mrs M Berry

Mr B Fordham

Mr JM Johnston

Mrs A Padley

Mr DJ Summerfield

Master

Mr JW Parker

County Master

Mr MH Jensen

Mr E Short

Mr CB Vertue

District Master

Mr I Avery

Mr CHJ Baron

Mr T Brett

Mrs S Brown

Mr HAD Cairns

Mrs PB Eliot

Mrs M Gamble

Mr R Payne

Area Master

Mr MS Harrow

Mrs B Lavelle

Mr R Pinfield

Mr N Shilling

Club Master

Mr J Hunter

Mr FL Lacki

Mr DB Riley

Mrs J Riley

Mr BK Smale

Mrs JM Titcombe

Mr LH Titcombe

Mr AE Wells

Local Master

Mr I Thomas

Mrs JC Vening

Lancashire

Premier Life

Master

Mr N Woodcock

Life Master

Mrs H Montgomery

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr MM Richman

Mrs S Richman

11 Star Premier

Master

Mr MA Fyne

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs M Fyne

8 Star Premier

Master

Mrs D Gilbert

3 Star Premier

Master

Mrs B Ahmad

2 Star Master

Mrs AM Walker

1 Star Master

Mr R Booth

Advanced Master

Mr A Crabtree

Mrs IA Park

Mr JK Pollard

Dr M Smith

Master

Mrs MK Dewan

Mr L Mank

Mrs A Pollard

County Master

Mr P Dunstan

Mr M Tomlinson

District Master

Mrs L Hepworth

Area Master

Mrs J Birkett

Mrs D Blake

Mrs JL Burns

Mr D Spencer

Club Master

Mr G Kershaw

Mrs C Thompson

Leicestershire

4 Star Regional

Master

Mrs PA Beasley

1 Star Master

Mrs C James

Mr RL Shah

Mr R Sherwood

County Master

Mrs M Frings

Mr MK Green

Mr RA Howard

Club Master

Mr J Brett

Local Master

Dr CJ Graves

Lincolnshire

Premier National

Master

Mr GR Elwick

Mrs PD Hughes

Mr PD Hughes

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr SE Knox

5 Star Premier

Master

Mrs PA Herring

2 Star Master

Mrs ME Ellis

Mr PJ Harland

Mr JS Hill

County Master

Mrs ZE McIntyre

London

Life Master

Mr DA Gold

Master Point promotions

5 Star Master

Dr HG Blank

4 Star Master

Mr VB Hesford

Mr A Simpson

2 Star Master

Mr P Starling

1 Star Master

Ms A Murphy

County Master

Ms S Triggs

Mr G Winn

District Master

Miss HJ Schofield

Club Master

Mr LK Hazlehurst

Merseyside/Cheshire

National Master

Mr G Eakin

4 Star Premier Master

Mrs S Stott

1 Star Premier Master

Mr S Gerrard

District Master

Mrs K Gordon

Mrs M McBride

Area Master

Mr R Halford

Club Master

Mr A Bailey

Mr S O'Brien

Local Master

Dr BE Robinson

Middlesex

Premier National Master

Mr AL Gradus

Dr UM Hegde

National Master

Mrs A Blaine

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr H Silverman

Premier Regional Master

Mrs G Stock

7 Star Regional Master

Mr NJ Morris

2 Star Regional Master

Mr JW Marr

1 Star Regional Master

Dr I Budden

Regional Master

Mrs M Robertson

16 Star Premier Master

Mr R Wax

15 Star Premier Master

Dr E Wax

10 Star Premier Master

Mr DH Karp

7 Star Premier Master

Ms M Page

3 Star Premier Master

Mr S Foster

2 Star Premier Master

Mrs T Gent

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr AJ Oates

Mr B Simmonds

1 Star Master

Mr C Boyne

Ms BA Catchick

Advanced Master

Mrs SF Sobell

Mrs P Thomas

Master

Mr S Leigh

Mr PN Stevens

Mrs M Thackeray

County Master

Mr CMO Deloford

Mrs H Jensen

District Master

Mr G Y Burgoyne

Mrs S Burgoyne

Ms L Glassberg

Mr P Martin

Mr P Yogeswaran

Area Master

Mr A Bhandari

Mrs KN Harries

Mr A Shackman

Mr F Wahid

Club Master

Mrs M Fortes

Mrs JJ Lenz

Mrs K Lester

Mrs G Payne

Mrs EJ Terret

Local Master

Mr DL Perridge

Mrs N Shah

Mr P Shah

Norfolk

Premier National Master

Mr G Ip

National Master

Mrs JA Thompson

7 Star Premier Master

Mr PC Cotes

Premier Master

Mr G Ip

3 Star Tournament Master

Mr RB Shreeve

2 Star Tournament Master

Mr R Thornley

4 Star Master

Mrs A Ellis

Mrs J Pennington

3 Star Master

Mr F Chinkin

1 Star Master

Mrs B Ellerker

Mr RD Hunt

Mrs MW Motch

Advanced Master

Miss M Ali

Mr JP Bradley

Mr RB Colman

County Master

Ms F Bradford

Mr AJ Collins

Mr A Geschke

Mrs A Hallett

Prof A Young

Mrs D Young

District Master

Mr RC Harber

Mrs DM Hill

Mrs T Quantrell

Area Master

Mr M Drobny

Northants

National Master

Mr MN Gore

Browne

2 Star Regional Master

Mr K Farquhar

11 Star Premier Master

Mr B Alston

8 Star Premier Master

Mr RJ Curtis

1 Star Master

Mr I Chacksfield

Local Master

Mr LD Craner

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



THERE were two amendments made to the constitution at the AGM in June. The financial year ends now on 31st March and restrictions for club reps are no longer necessary – any club affiliated to the county can now have a rep.

Congratulations to Lincoln Eastgate Bridge Club, celebrating its diamond anniversary on October 2nd with a buffet followed by bridge with special prizes.

Waitrose have given a cup and prizes to be presented at the next AGM, for a pair with the highest percentage score at a duplicate club providing there is a minimum of eight tables and the pair live in Lincolnshire. Entries and details: Adrian Underwood ☎ 01673 860270.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Swiss Teams (pre-entry essential). Oct 19, Lincoln IMP – open to all players below Tournament Master, including non-members (N.B. Premier Master is higher ranked). Nov 9, Restricted Pairs – open to all players below 2* Master (points earned not necessarily registered). Nov 9, National Pairs (players must be EBU/county members). Dec 7, Ghost Pairs – open to all. All events at Dunholme Village Hall for a 1.30pm start.

Clubs will be running the *Bainton Heats* (green-pointed pairs) up to the end of December. Players must be EBU/county members to play in the semi-final and final in January.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



MANY congratulations to Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski who won the recent *Open Trials* and have been selected to represent England at the *Mind Sports Games* in Beijing along with losing finalists Tom Townsend and David Gold, and NPC Phil King.

Well done for the following good results: at the *Summer Seniors Congress*, Tony Priday won the *Pairs A final*, Cecil Leighton was second, and Philip Watson – Chris Wright were second in the *Swiss Pairs*. In the *Sussex One-day Swiss Teams*, Doug Dunn was second. At the *Scarborough Congress*, Richard Johnson – Jonathan Jacobs were second in the *Swiss Pairs*. At *Brighton*, David Ewart was third in the first weekend *Pairs*; Mike Hill won the *Seniors Teams*; Nick Irens – Espen Erichsen were second, and Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, David Bakhshi third in the *A final* of the *Teams*; Peter Czerniewski won the *Swiss Teams*.

Results: *London League Div 1*: 1. Young Chelsea 1 (Brian Callaghan), 2. New Direction Finance (Ian Swanson). *Div 2*: 1. Young Chelsea 2 (Simon Cearns), 2. Young Chelsea 4 (Chris Goodchild). *Div 3*: 1. Monday Club B (James Smith), 2. Monday Club A (Susie Behrmann). *Newcomers*: 1. August Blue (Mark Davies), 2. Concentric (Mike Taylor)

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Champions Cup, 1.00pm, YCBC; contact Sati McKenzie at s.mckenzie@gre.ac.uk. Nov 1-2, Lederer

Memorial Trophy, 1.00 pm start each day at YCBC; contact Stefanie Rohan at stefanie@metrobridge.co.uk or ☎ 020 8800 9005. Nov 23, Daily Telegraph Cup for invited County teams, 1.00pm, YCBC; contact Chris Duckworth at chris.duckworth@lineone.net. Nov 30, Under-19 Pairs, 12 noon, YCBC; contact Dave Muller ☎ 020 8204 3975 or at dmuller@dircon.co.uk.

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



BEST wishes to Jason and Justin Hackett, Michael Byrne and his Under-21 team, and the England

Under-28 team all playing in the *World Mind Sports Games* in Beijing in October.

Well done in the *Brighton Swiss Pairs* to Michael Byrne and Michael Bell who were 11th, and Michelle Brunner and John Holland 19th= out of 474. In the *Swiss Teams*, Michael Byrne and Mike Bell came 6th in the *B Final*, playing with Simon Cope and Duncan Happer, while Michelle Brunner, John Holland, Bill Hirst and John Hassett were third equal in the *Brighton Bowl*. Michael Byrne had an excellent congress, also winning the *Mid-week KO Teams* with Michael Bell, and then the *Mixed Pivot Teams* with Bryony Youngs, Ben Green, and Andrew Murphy.

Manchester BC celebrated its 30th Anniversary in August with a weekend of bridge. In a multiple teams event held over two days, club and local teams were joined by two teams of Welsh players and the England Under-28 and Under-20 teams. Winners: Roy Moore of Solihull with Paul, Justin and Barbara Hackett.

Diary Dates: Oct 26, Manchester Intermediate Pairs, Altrincham BC. Dec 7, Ben Franks Pairs (Corwen Qualifier), Manchester BC. Dec 21, Santa Claus Pairs, Manchester Bridge Club.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk



WE were all stunned to hear of the sudden death of County stalwart John Armstrong. He was one of the true gentlemen of the game, and his expertise and friendly demeanour at the table was an example to every player who met him. (There is a full obituary on the County website.)

After leading for most of the weekend, the County team in this year's *President's Cup* unfortunately faltered at the final hurdle and ended second behind hosts Lancashire. Well done to all of the team: Dave and Jean Keen, Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol (who were superb, finishing with +186 on cross-imping), Pete Broster and Stu Matthews, Chris Pope and Simon Edwards, Peter Garner-Gray and Andy Prothero.

Dave and Jean Keen, with team-mates Neil Thomas – Pete Foster of Manchester, won the *Manchester One-day Green-pointed Swiss Teams*. This was an excellent performance in a strong field – congratulations to all four of them.

Diary Dates: Oct 19, Chester Bowl (charity pairs), Deva BC. Oct 8, BGB

Sim Pairs, MBC. Nov 10, Children in Need Sim Pairs, MBC. Dec 6, Waterworth Cup (County Pairs), MBC. Dec 14, Merseyside Cup, MBC. Jan 17-18, Chester Congress, DEVA BC. Feb 1, County trials, MBC. Also note: Lady Connell heats: Oct 7, LBC; Oct 10, Deva BC. Oct 25, Northern Counties League match 4.

Middlesex

www.middlesexbridge.co.uk



BEST of luck to Middlesex members competing in the *World Mind Sports Games* in Beijing. Heather Dhondy, Anne Rosen, Nevena Senior and Nicola Smith will represent England on the *Women's* team with Martin

Jones as NPC. Victor Silverstone will play for the *Seniors*.

At the *Brighton Congress Swiss Pairs*, Andrew McIntosh finished third and Alexander Allfrey was fifth. In the *Teams* events, Allfrey was third in the *A final*. Jeremy Dhondy, Keith Bennett and Ian Pagan finished fourth. The *B final* was won by Anthony Golding and Francis Morton. Tony Waterlow and Ian Panto won the *Brighton Bowl*.

Congratulations to Ian Pagan for winning the *Hubert Phillips Mixed Pivot Teams*. Victor Silverstone won the *Essex/Herts Swiss Pairs*; Barbara Cohen – David Wing were second; Silverstone and Wassem Naqvi won the *Swiss Teams*. Jeff Alper, Peter Hasenson, Ivor Miller, Jerry Harouni won the *Middlesex Plate*. Best of luck to Neil Rosen, Martin Jones and Andrew McIntosh as they defend the *Lederer Memorial Trophy* on Nov 1-2.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Beginner Pairs, Pinner Bridge Club, 2pm. Oct 19, Newcomers' Pairs at Navnat Bridge Club; Oct 22, Dorset Cup, Eastman's, 7.45pm. Oct 29, Ace of Clubs Championship Pairs (part I), 8pm. Nov 5, Ace of Clubs Championship Pairs (part II), 8pm. Nov 15-16, Middlesex Congress, Stevenage, 1pm; Nov 16, U19 Pairs Qualifier, Pinner Bridge Club, 2pm. There are a multitude of qualifying heats scheduled for the National Pairs, the Middlesex Mixed Pairs, and the Middlesex Championship Pairs. An extensive competitions calendar may be found on the website. Do report points of interest to hsbakhshi@aol.com.

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk



THE Norfolk summer bridge programme has been very well supported compared with previous years. The plethora of trophy events in the calendar has drawn a good-sized field on nearly every occasion. There has also been a good turn-out for the county open evenings.

Trophy winners: *Gender Pairs, Men*: John Harrison – Neville Hill; *Ladies*: Jan Anderson – Mary Smith. *Harrison Trophy/EDP Cup*: tie between Jane Duncanson – Robbie Robertson and John Harrison – Neville Hill. *Mills Knight Trophy*: John Harrison – Nawal Fenwick. *Broke Cup*: Brian and Valerie Barrett. *Kings Lynn Pairs*: Maurice Lewis – June Scotting.

Open Pairs events were won by Mike

Master Point promotions

North East

National Master

Mr R Davies

11 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr D Benison

9 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs K Armstrong

5 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr G Cox

1 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr H Wells

13 Star Regional

Master

Mr J Atkinson

11 Star Regional

Master

Mrs G Brown

9 Star Regional

Master

Mr B Shepherd

5 Star Regional

Master

Mrs J Springett

4 Star Regional

Master

Mr FE Robinson

3 Star Regional

Master

Mrs J Astill

Mrs V Ireland

1 Star Regional

Master

Mrs E Goodway

16 Star Premier

Master

Mrs A Welsh

14 Star Premier

Master

Mr A Eglon

12 Star Premier

Master

Mrs JL Gordon

Mr S Khadaroo

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs M Chipperfield

8 Star Premier

Master

Mr R Cuerden

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs S V Robson

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr A Greenhill

2 Star Premier

Master

Ms SM Findlay

Mr D Thunder

Tournament

Master

Mrs J Lowson

Mrs J Meth-Cohn

Dr O Meth-Cohn

5 Star Master

Mrs P Niven

3 Star Master

Mrs V Allan

Mrs M Dodds

Dr PA Dodds

Mr D Morse

2 Star Master

Mr O Brown

Mrs E Matthewson

Mr AM Robson

Mrs J Robson

1 Star Master

Mr B Lumsden

Advanced Master

Mr TH Burn

Mr J Kitching

Mr A Love

Mr MG Rowlands

Master

Mrs AD Bryant

Mr B Graham

Mrs F Lander

County Master

Mrs M Bowes

Mr M Goldstein

Mr MK Guillaun

Mrs AI Stephenson

Mr W Stephenson

District Master

Miss J Grist

Ms GA Keating

Mrs B Mueller

Mrs DJ Ogg

Mrs LP Richardson

Mr J Ward

Area Master

Mr FJ Aitken

Mrs MG Gilbert

Mr M Hargreaves

Miss JE Marshall

Mr G Matthews

Mrs B Thompson

Mr D Tomlinson

Dr WM Walker

Club Master

Mrs P Peckett

Local Master

Mrs J Burnett

Mrs F Heather

Mr EB Roberts

Notts

11 Star Premier

Master

Mr BS Rasmussen

1 Star Tournament

Master

Mr MJ Gauntley

5 Star Master

Mrs MH Ball

3 Star Master

Mrs D Mairs

2 Star Master

Mr CN Harrop

1 Star Master

Mr GD Pole

Advanced Master

Mr JF Stevenson

County Master

Mrs D King

District Master

Mrs RM Hooper

Area Master

Mrs CEJ Goundry

Mrs J Moore

Mr P Moore

Mr R Stock

Club Master

Mr PD Hunt

Mrs P Payne

Mr PN Pratt

Mrs M Waterhouse

Local Master

Mr J G Allen

Mrs R Gunn

Mrs I Summers

Oxford

Life Master

Dr JS Bygott

Mr N Gascoyne

Mr C Jones

National Master

Mr M Clark

Mr CA Gidman

8 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr K Jalie

Whiting – Roger Amey, Nigel Block – Mervyn Scutter (twice!), John and Julie Aspinall, Andrew Brown – Malcolm Connolly, Iris Green – Robbie Roberson, and Mike and Barbara Harnden.

Diary Dates: Oct 5, Allwood Wharton inter-club teams of eight, Roundwood. Oct 19, AGM and Houston Trophy Swiss Teams, Roundwood. Nov 9, Barbara Dick Cleland / Buxton Trophy for restricted teams, Bawburgh. Nov 23, Orb Pacquot Swiss Teams, Roundwood.

Correction to August edition: Philip Sutton was Phyllis Spratt's partner when they won the *Lowestoft Harry Hunt Cup*. My apologies, Philip.

North East

www.neba.co.uk



ALNWICK Bridge Club hosted the *Northern Swiss Pairs* at the end of June: 1. Alan Lester – Peter Prince; 2. Ian Rankin – Mike Stanbury.

In July, the *NEBA Summer Pairs* was won by John Kingcome – Jim Hodgson, with Ian Rankin – Mike Stanbury again second.

The first event of the new season was the well-attended *MacMillan Charity Event* at St George's: 1. Christine and Andrew Simmons; 2. NEBA's Chairman Pauline Durie with husband Nigel. The *Cramlington Congress* resulted in a win for Frank and Janet Springett, with Brian Lumsden – Norman McTaggart runners-up. Thanks to all our Tournament Secretaries who have worked so hard to provide us with a year of good, interesting, and well organised competitions.

Further afield, John Atthey, playing with Simon Cope, won the *Brighton Swiss Pairs* as well as the *Peebles Congress Teams*, playing with Chris Owen, Liz Reese and Liz Muir; NEBA teams were also third, fourth and fifth. At the *Scarborough Congress*, Clive Owen (with John Holland, Ron McEwan and Giles Foster) won the *Teams*. Well done all our winners.

Diary Dates: Oct 11, Newcomers' Teams of Four. Oct 12, Inter-club 2. Nov 1, Gazette Cup. Nov 9, Inter-club 3. Nov 14-16, NEBA Congress. Nov 26-28, NEBA Autumn Sim Pairs. Details of all events at www.neba.co.uk.

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/

WE are sad to report the death of John Larkin, a regular competitor in county and EBU events.

The *Lakeland*, the inter-club teams of eight event, will take place at Kettering BC on Nov 23. The winners will represent the county in the *Garden Cities Trophy*. The *Kettering Trophy* for teams of four will be held on the same day, same venue.

In the first match of the season in the *Eastern Counties League* against Norfolk, the A team won 13-7, the B team won 20-0 and the C team won 20-0. In the second match against Hertfordshire, the A team lost 4-16, the B team won 11-9 and the C team lost 4-16. The B team played in the *National County League B*

Final finishing third out of five teams.

Mary Knights – Trevor Thrower won the *Northants Green-pointed Swiss Pairs*. James and Shirley Dutton's team came second in the *Warwickshire Green-pointed Swiss Teams*. Jim Bainbridge – John Larkin won the *Gloucestershire Green-pointed Swiss Pairs*. At the *Brighton Congress*, Jim Deacon, Robert Miller and Mark Hodgson were in the team that came second in the *Mid-week Knock-out Teams*. Jim Deacon, Robert Miller and Dan Baines were also in the team that reached the *A Flight Teams final*. In the *Brighton Seniors*, Graham and Berry Hedley were second in the *Pairs B Final*.

Kettering BC's Annual Charity Salver: 1. Jim and Susan Deacon, 2. Colin Tuton – Brenda Smith.

Diary Dates: Oct 11, Winter League N/E 2, Kettering. Oct 15, Winter League S/W 2, Northampton. Nov 15, Winter League N/E 3, Kettering. Nov 19, Winter League S/W 3, Northampton. Nov 23, Lakeland, Kettering. Nov 23, Kettering Trophy, Kettering. Kettering BC's Swiss Pairs (Porch Trophy) will take place on Dec 7 at Kettering BC.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

IN the county match vs Staffordshire, the 1st and 2nd teams lost 7-13 and 5-15 respectively, but the 3rd team won 20-0.

In the *Nottinghamshire/EBU Green-pointed Weekend*, the *Swiss Pairs* was won by Chris Cooper – Dave Cropper, with David and Joan Burgess (the highest placed Notts pair) third, while the *Swiss Teams* was won by Don Smedley, John Griffin, Paul Madden and John Squibb. The *Retford Swiss Teams* was won by Keith Cornish, R. Gembicki, D. Fletcher, Mrs S. Davies, with the Notts team of John and Irene Auld, Lloyd Eagling and Keith Rodgers second.

Diary Dates: On Sundays, the Anniversary Teams will be on Oct 26 and the County Swiss Teams Championship on Dec 7. Enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 9232186. On Wednesdays, the President's Cup this year will consist of ten sessions through October, November and December, interrupted by the BGB Sim Pairs on Oct 8.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



ALL novice players, please note that your very own county competition, the *Oxford Times Cup*, for those who have taken up the game within the last three years, will be held on Sunday 23 November at Oxford BC. Details from Brenda Harris ☎ 01865 511136.

An excellent result for Oxfordshire's B team (Dinah and Andrew Lintott, Ed Jones, Andrew Murphy, John Slater, Rob Procter, John Williams and Chris Wilson) was achieved by winning the *National County League Finals* in Solihull, beating B teams from Manchester, Northants, Dorset and Surrey.

Local successes at the *Oxfordshire Congress*: Peter Russell – Ron Quainton won the *Championship Pairs* and Max Booker – John Briggs captured the *Sandra Landy Trophy*, a pairs event for players holding fewer than 10,000 MPs.

Erica and Christopher Sheppard, won the Oxfordshire's *Mixed Pairs*. The *Seniors Pairs* event, continuing on the second Monday of every month, was won by Krishan Jalie – Geoff Nicholas in July, and Marian Day – Cyndy Lee in August.

Oxfordshire successes at Brighton feature Simon Cope and partner winning the prestigious *Harold Poster Cup*, Ed Jones, Simon Cope and team-mates winning both *Sunday Open* and *Mid-week Knock-Out* teams events, and Bryony Youngs and team-mates winning the *Mixed Pivot Teams*. Also performing well were Lorna Swadling and Alastair Gidman, achieving second place in the *Tuesday Open Pairs*.

Diary Dates: Oct 12, Dawes league v Lincolnshire (away). Nov 9, OBA Men & Ladies Pairs, Oxford BC. Nov 16, Dawes League v Leicestershire, Oxford BC. Nov 23, Oxford Times Cup, Oxford BC. Nov 27, OBA Management Committee meeting, Oxford BC. Dec 7, OBA Swiss Pairs, Oxford BC.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



MANY congratulations to Glenda Shave – Stewart Upton on winning the *Swiss Pairs* at Cwmbran.

At our Annual General Meeting held in July, Bob Warrender was awarded an honorary life membership of the County in recognition of, and thanks for, his twenty-two years of service to bridge in Somerset.

Congratulations to Colin Simcox, Mike Toft, Donne Hoong and Rachael Brown on winning the *Swiss Teams* at the AGM.

Diary Dates: Nov 1, Mixed Teams, Taunton. Dec 7, Men's and Ladies' Pairs, West Camel.

Staffs and Shrops

www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs/

THE *Aberystwyth Congress* in July was a happy hunting ground for our players. Keith Shuttleworth – Brian Nicholls won the *Championship Pairs*, with Roger Bowles and John Waller fourth. Geoff Roberts – Ewart Evans were runners-up in the *Consolation Final*, while Pam Booth-Jones – Tony Leech won the *Open Pairs*. In the *Mixed Pairs*, Michelle Davies – Graham Foster were second.

David Owen's *Brighton* team was deliciously happy when they whitewashed the Norwegian Olympic and European Championship team. Paul Hackett was in the winning *Swiss* team.

Paul and Justin finished third in the *Biarritz Teams* and then went on to *Peebles*, where Paul and Jim McMahon were third in the *Pairs*.

It was a disappointing *European Championship* for Jason, Justin and Paul



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



Master Point promotions

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr PW Jordan

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs SA Smith

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr C Sheppard

8 Star Regional Master

Mr R Quainton

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs CA Wadsworth

7 Star Premier Master

Mr RF Haycock

4 Star Premier Master

Dr PP Jackson

Mrs AH Jackson

1 Star Premier Master

Dr J Murray

Premier Master

Mr B Hargrave

Tournament Master

Mr JH Fox

3 Star Master

Mr J Cecil

2 Star Master

Mrs P Ansell

1 Star Master

Mrs EM Crump

Advanced Master

Dr P Bacon

Master

Mr M Lucas

Master

Mr M Neal

Master

Mrs A Potter

County Master

Ms C Benzie

Master

Mr O Cotton-Barratt

District Master

Mr J Forder

Master

Mrs K Hughes

Master

Miss L Pulford

Master

Mr PP Stephens

District Master

Dr K Collingham

Master

Mr P Crewe

Master

Mrs P Hughes

Master

Ms M Jordan

Master

Mrs P Lewis

Master

Ms E Middleton

Master

Mrs A Warner

Area Master

Mr PA Cooper

Mr JLG May

Ms K Park

Mr GM Sheasby

Club Master

Mrs J Boszormenyi

Miss SJ Cochrane

Mr NR Higginbottom

Mrs MI Lewis

Mrs P Mathews

Local Master

Mrs SC Abell

Mrs M Bowden

Mr M Bowden

Mrs UJ Bowler

Mrs A Brown

Dr JS Deech

Mrs G Evans

Mrs A Robinson

Mr RJ Van Noorden

Dr M Wakeford

Somerset

1 Star Regional Master

Mr P McEwen

10 Star Premier Master

Mr D Burgess

8 Star Premier Master

Mr JR Cockram

1 Star Premier Master

Mrs SA Cummings

Advanced Master

Mr C Morton

County Master

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7 Star Premier Regional Master

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Mr F Marshallsay

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr N Grant

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr C Stableford

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Mr AE Fincham

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Regional Master

Mrs G Easto

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Mr MM Steinberg

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WMBC. Check your diary for the Weston Trophy Swiss Pairs at 1.45pm, Sunday 16 November at West Midlands BC. Note the Joyce Hare Mixed Pairs on Wed Nov 19, at Moseley. Support Sim Pairs events on 10 or 12, and the European Sim Pairs on Nov 26, all at Moseley. Club secretaries should have their teams of eight ready for the Garden Cities inter-club qualifier at WMBC at 2pm, Sunday 22 Nov.

Entries for Warwicks events: Darren Evetts, 52 Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Warwicks CV31 2JJ ☎ 01926 429 039.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



THE County programme is now well advanced, with the league and knock-out competitions both attracting strong entries.

Chris Dixon was a member of the England Seniors Team that finished equal sixth in the *European Championships* in Pau, missing out on a place in next year's World Seniors Championship by the narrowest possible margin. The same team will represent England in the Seniors event in the *World Mind Games* in Beijing in October.

On the national scene, Phil Green, James Dunlop, and Diana and Ron King performed well in the *Riviera Congress*, finishing third. At Brighton, Phil Green, Roger Karn, Norman Botton and Richard Samter were in contention for a place in one of the 'All Star' finals before eventually finishing a creditable 35th in the *Brighton Bowl*. Also at Brighton, Emma Jackson – Pat Lewis discovered that bridge is, as advertised, a 'really easy' game when they finished first of on the Tuesday evening with 69.44%.

Our victorious *Western League C* team represented the West in the *Inter-Area* final, finishing second of the five areas competing. Well done to David and Margaret Thackaberry, Marion Cowley, Prabir Nandi, Roger Williams, Nick Pegg, Roger Bendall and Maurice Baker. Sixty Wiltshire members have declared their availability for this season's *Western League*. We can field teams of eight in the A division if other counties can find enough people to play against us.

Diary Dates: Oct 12, Corsham Pairs. Nov 23, Garden Cities Q. Dec 7, Championship Pairs Q.

Worcestershire

www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk



THE county website has moved and is now at www.worcestershirebridge.co.uk. The county newsletter is available direct to your e-mail inbox by sending a blank e-mail to wcbw-newsletter-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk.

National successes: Pam Crisp – John

Williams were part of the team that won the recent *Mid Wales Congress* at Llandrindod Wells. In the *Riviera Congress* Chris Enticknap – Barry Sayers finished 10th in the *Swiss Pairs* and were the top non-expert pair. In the recent *Shakespeare Teams*, Pershore Bridge Club came second. Barclay Stewart – Fred Rochelle from Malvern Bridge Club came first nationally in the *May Sim Pairs*, which is all the more remarkable as Barclay had a heart attack a month and a half before.

Diary Dates: Oct 6, Closed Teams qualifier (eight teams will qualify for a knock-out competition which runs through the rest of the season; later matches are held privately). Oct 11, Irene Allen Non-Expert Swiss Pairs, Stourbridge Institute (for players below the rank of Regional Master); enquiries to Alan Reid, ☎ 07976 426868, or e-mail alan@amber42.fsnet.co.uk. Oct 20, Men's and Ladies Pairs, Holt Fleet. Nov 3, Mixed Pivot Teams. Nov 30, Healey Cup (Worcs inter-club teams-of-four competition); clubs are asked to enter one or two teams to represent them in this event to Susan Sharp, ☎ 01299 271099 or e-mail susan@eaglelane.co.uk.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freemove.co.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS to Fiona Brown and Hugh McGann, winners of the *Swiss Pairs* event at the *Northern Summer Congress*. Giles Foster was a member of the winning team in the A *Final of the Teams* event.

In the *Northern Summer Seniors Congress*, Janet and Ted Latham won the *Championship Pairs*, while first place in the *Swiss Teams* went to Pauline Cooper, Roger Taylor, Alan Martindale and Richard Hilton.

Having qualified by winning their division in last year's *Northern Bridge League*, Yorkshire finished in fourth place in the C *Division* final of the *National Inter-county League*.

The following pairs and teams were successful in county events during the last two months: *John Gerrard Sim Pairs*: Richard Winter – Giles Foster; *Malton Cup*: Richard Winter, Stuart Davies, Giles Foster, Phil Godfrey; *Yorkshire Flitch*: Mike & Annette Jackson; *YBCA Newcomers Pivot Teams*: Gill Copeland, Sandra Andrews, Delys Wallace, Sue Sheldrick; *Yorkshire Individual*: Dorothy Stephenson; *Waddington Cup Final*: Don Bourne – Bernard Parkes, Rod Hose – David Robinson; *Harrogate Swiss Teams*: Clive Owen, John Atthey, Mark Bratley, Liz Reese.

Diary Dates: Oct 12, Leeds Swiss Teams. Oct 26, Yorkshire League (first round). Nov 2, Nelson Rose Bowl (Women's Teams), Harrogate. Nov 23, Yorkshire League (second round). Nov 30, Ryedale Pairs, New Earswick. □

A day in the life of . . .

Colin Simpson

In the last decade, Colin Simpson has amassed a record number of wins at national and international events. He has represented England in three European Championships and a Bermuda Bowl, and reached the semi-finals at the 2000 Olympiad.

USUALLY my day starts at around 7.30am. I like pottering around in the morning – one of the luxuries of being retired.

Life was not so relaxed in my working days. I joined the London Metropolitan Police in 1971, after spending a few years at various Scottish universities where I did not learn much apart from playing bridge. In 1973, I moved to Special Branch, where I worked for almost thirty years as a detective in counter-terrorism, an activity that often involved personal danger. In 1982 I was assigned to protect the Israeli ambassador in London, a duty that led to my becoming the only policeman ever to shoot a terrorist on English soil. On that occasion, I was shot at, but lucky not to be hit. The ambassador was not so lucky, and was seriously wounded.

When I was working, free time was short and I played almost exclusively rubber bridge for high stakes. A rare foray into duplicate was competing in the World Pairs with Martin Hoffman in 1982. We reached the final, but it was only after I retired in 2000 that I started entering trials and forming regular partnerships – first with Gunnar Hallberg and now with David Price. I am proud that my international record with both of them is at least 0.5 IMP positive on every board.

Even though I now have more time for playing bridge, I don't overdo it. I always have lunch with my wife, Juliana, and play rubber bridge twice a week in the afternoon at TGR's near Marble Arch. Another couple of afternoons a week are spent playing golf, and that's about all the exercise I get these days. The times when I played rugby (at university and later for the police) are long gone!

Unless I am taking part in a tournament, I never play bridge in the evening,

though I might have an occasional game at the local duplicate club with my wife. Usually we do what most people do: watch television if we stay in, go out for meals (I do enjoy good food), or go to the cinema. One film we saw not long ago is the latest Indiana Jones and I must say I was a bit disappointed: Harrison Ford would cut a fine figure of a man as a bridge player, but as an action hero he looks rather past it.

One great interest I share with my wife is travelling. We have been as far away as China, Peru and the Galapagos Islands, and have recently come back from a wonderful trip to Egypt which included a short cruise on the Nile as well as a balloon trip over the Valley of the Kings. Readjusting to everyday life has not proved easy!

Still, I look forward to my next commitment: representing England in the Seniors at the Mind Sports Games in Beijing

(*article next month*). There will be some team practice sessions for this, and I will also be honing our bidding system with David Price over the internet. Not that our system is very complicated: four-card majors, strong no-trump and weak twos. Complex bidding systems, in my view, rely on memory rather than judgment, and can therefore decrease the effectiveness of other aspects of one's game. It all saps your brain power, just like spending half an hour trying to think of a way to eke out an overtrick in a routine contract.

My philosophy – no doubt the result of having always been a rubber and teams player – is to play simple hands quickly, and conserve my energy for the really difficult deals. My partners may not always approve of the outcome, but at least they'll still be awake at the end of the session . . .

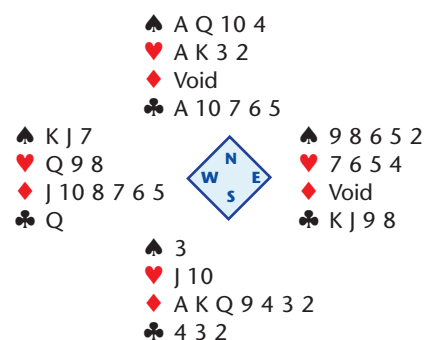


Photo: Giorgio Jeronimidis

Colin Simpson's Top Tip

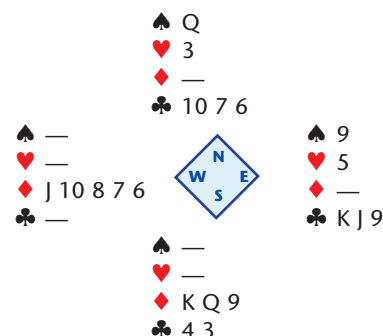
Even if a contract seems impossible to make, don't ever give up!

This is a lesson I learnt the hard way, playing high-stakes bridge. On the deal below, I was able to put it to good use:



I was South, playing in 5♦ – a contract that had seemed eminently reasonable when dummy came down. I won West's lead of the club queen, cashed dummy's ace of spades, ruffed a spade and led the ace of diamonds to get the (very!) bad news.

Nevertheless, I carried on. A heart to dummy was followed by a spade ruff, then another heart to dummy and a heart ruff gave this position:



I led a club. West had to ruff and return a diamond, so I won and repeated the process for a very gratifying result – especially since the deal occurred in a £50 Chicago game.

As I said in my tip . . . never give up!

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