

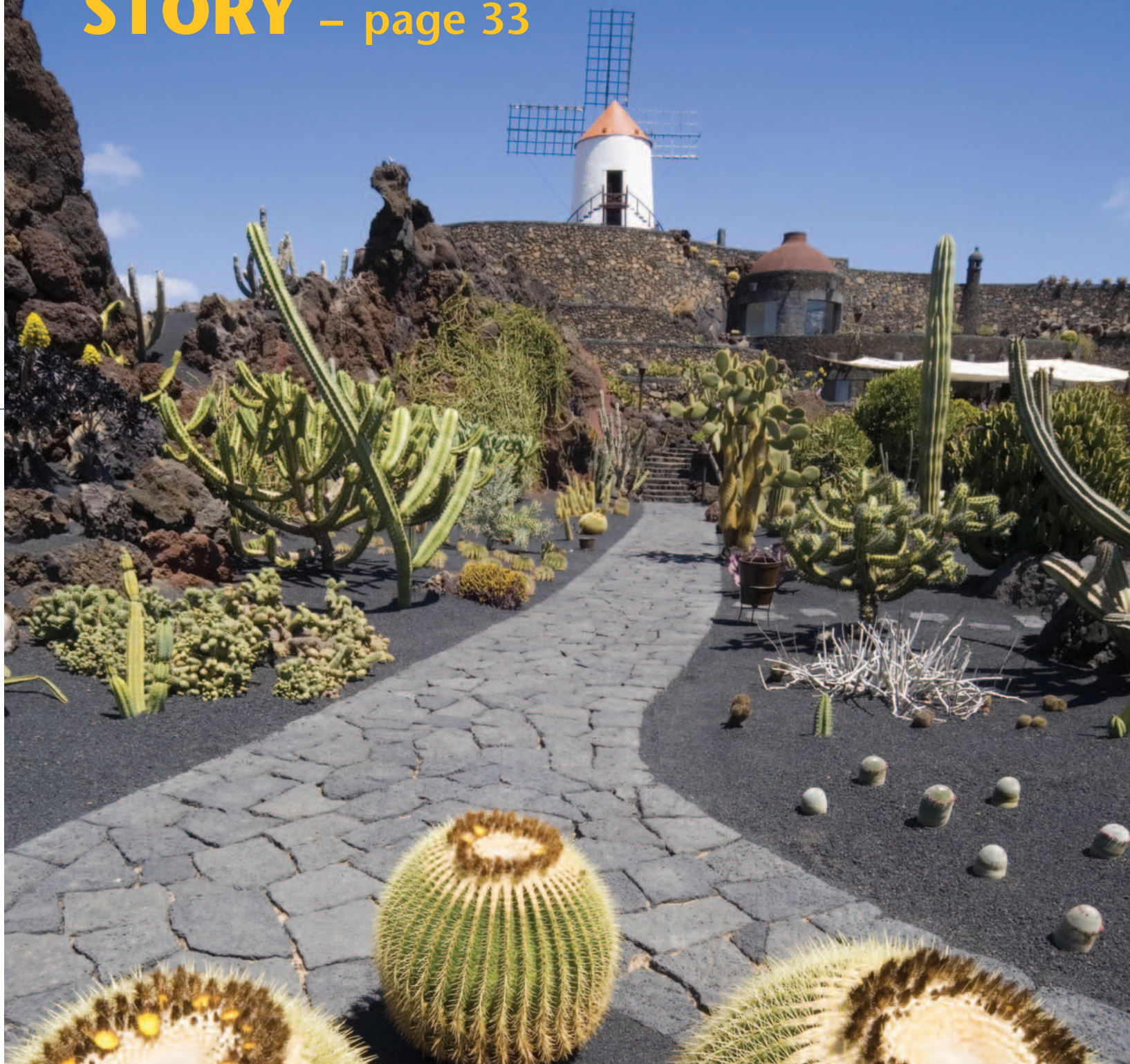
English Bridge

April 2008

The EBU members' magazine



LANZAROTE SUCCESS STORY – page 33



IN THE PULL-OUT: YOU AND THE EBU



Bridge Overseas



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Of dogs and bridge clubs

Elena Jeronimidis



IN the course of editing this issue, I have had an exchange of e-mails with one of our contributors on the subject of Dogs and Bridge Clubs, which has proved quite emblematic. (In case you are wondering, the presence of dogs at bridge events is not all that unusual: some readers may remember how a late, great player used to take his dog to national tournaments with him. It was a perfectly nice dog, but I must admit that I did not share his owner's chagrin when it was banned: its occasional bark – in the pre-bidding boxes era – made even simple auctions rather hard to follow.)

Now, to my correspondence. I related a story of long ago, of a member of a local club who, having volunteered to act as non-playing Tournament Director at a teams match, decided to take her ironing with her and so profitably pass the time in between the anticipated few calls for rulings. Presumably in order to have company, said person also took her doggy and tied it to the banister to prevent it from disturbing the players. The dog seemed to put up with this arrangement with sleepy good grace but, on perceiving a delivery boy about to climb down the stairs to leave a parcel, it suddenly woke up and bit the visitor's leg. The club Committee never could ascertain whether the dog had taken exception to the boy or the unfamiliar environment, or even if it disapproved of teams as a form of bridge, and in their collective wisdom they decided that a quiet word with the owner, rather than an outright ban of the dog, would be the right course of action.

My correspondent, too, had a dog story to tell. At a club he patronises, a little dog who used to sit by its owner at the duplicate pairs sessions suffered from flatulence. The club Committee did not bother to find out whether it was the dog's diet or age that caused the problem, or even if the

dog disapproved of pairs as a form of bridge; they simply declared it *canis non gratus*, and that was that.

All this leads me to invite you to take part in this issue's Debate, which is about whether pairs or teams are the better form of bridge – and which has been surprisingly difficult to set up. Given that the majority of bridge books and articles focuses on teams play, I thought that the difficulty might be to find a reputable debater to argue in favour of pairs. Not so – in fact, quite the reverse. I may, of course, have asked the wrong people, but I am beginning to suspect that it is easier to write about teams play than pairs, and that's why bridge writers are mostly barking up the teams tree, when in practice they get their kicks from pairs. Let me know where you stand on this, and in the meantime enjoy not just our Debate, but also the two articles in this issue specifically on pairs tactics by Andrew Robson and Ed Scerri.

Finally, note that the Dog stories related above also highlight a very topical aspect of the duplicate game, namely the autonomy enjoyed by bridge clubs. In the same way as they are free to deal as they see fit with problems caused by their members (and pets!), clubs can apply or not the Rules propounded by the EBU: they can adopt or reject the use of Announcements, for example, and they can ban or allow the use of specific conventions. Similarly, they can choose to give out Master Points or not, and to use software provided by the EBU or stick to a tried and trusted program. All these choices (and more) will still be theirs to make if the proposed new strategy is adopted next June. If you are concerned about the apocalyptic vision of a 'master-servant' relationship between the EBU and its clubs painted in the pages of another bridge magazine, read Sally Bugden in the pull-out section of this issue. □

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25-27/28	NORTH COTSWOLDS	Ettington Chase	£189/£259 hb

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*The Two-minute Interview***Ed Glinert**

Journalist and author Ed Glinert specialises in writing about London and has published several books on the subject – most notably *The London Compendium*, chosen by two leading newspapers as one of their ‘books of the year’. His latest book, *The Manchester Compendium*, published by Penguin, is out this month.

How did you start playing bridge?

My maths teacher at school when I was 12 threatened the class: learn to play bridge, or find pi to a million decimal places.

How often do you play?

Twice a week, although I often retire at night with Goren and Kelsey to keep myself fresh.

What does playing bridge mean to you?

The chance of being humiliated by my peers at the cost of only a few pounds (unless we’ve won the week before and have a free entrance ticket).

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

I once saw someone open as dealer with a double. When it was explained to her that this was against the rules, her reply – too long to go into here – convinced me that she was right and that the laws should be changed.

What are your hobbies outside bridge?

Translating the Bible from the original Hebrew properly, writing ever more books, eating, and Arsenal Football Club and everything associated with it.

Pairs is about frequency of gain, not amount of gain

IN some ways teams and rubber bridge is much simpler than pairs, for your goal is clearly defined. When declaring, you must make your contract; overtricks and undertricks are largely irrelevant. When defending, defeating the contract is your sole objective (assuming an undoubled contract); do not worry about giving declarer extra overtricks in your quest to defeat the contract.

This is not the case at pairs. If the contract is a normal one, then you have no such trick target. Whether declaring or defending (this issue we are focussing on defence), you must simply maximise the number of tricks you win. The basic line of defensive thinking changes from (teams and/or rubber) ‘What do I need from partner in order to defeat the contract?’ to (pairs) ‘What do I think my partner is most likely to hold?’, then play for it.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

Diagram showing a diamond lead from West to North, with North playing the queen and East playing the king.

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

You as West lead a diamond, to partner’s ten and declarer’s king. Don’t be fooled by declarer’s card. Partner has played his highest card, marking declarer with ace-

**Andrew Robson****PAIRS TACTICS**

king-queen (and nine – with ten-nine, partner would play the nine).

At trick two declarer leads a club. You win the first or second club, and must decide on your best move. Any thoughts?

At teams or rubber you best play is clear. Declarer has nine tricks in three suits (two hearts on view, three diamonds in hand, and four clubs on view). You must therefore switch to a spade, and need to lead the queen (to retain the lead if declarer ducks in dummy). This will result in the beating of the game if partner holds ♠A-J-10-x or better.

Because partner needs such a good spade holding for the switch to be successful, most of the time the spade switch will merely give declarer an extra overtrick(s). And at pairs ‘most of the time’ is the key element, as pairs is all about frequency of gain, not amount of gain.

Andrew’s Tip: Don’t play for a minor miracle in an attempt to beat a common contract.

Let us see what happened at the table.

West, a good teams player, but less experienced at pairs, did switch to the queen of spades after winning the ace of clubs. Declarer covered with dummy’s king, East winning the ace and returning the ten. It was all over – declarer’s jack was promoted, and he notched up eleven tricks.

The traveller made depressing reading for West. All other declarers had made just ten tricks (with no spade switch); West’s spade switch had given declarer the eleventh trick, and a top. □

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England lead Camrose after first weekend

THE first weekend of the 2008 Camrose Trophy was hosted by the Northern Ireland Bridge Union at the Park Avenue Hotel in Belfast. The 2007 experiment of adding a sixth team to the mix, to avoid teams sitting out, was continued, but this time, instead of the extra team being provided by the holders of the trophy, it was decided to give that privilege to the country hosting the second weekend. As the second weekend will be in Dublin, that meant the Republic of Ireland fielded two teams, and although their second team was designated CBAI, for clarity I will refer to their two teams as Ireland-A and Ireland-B.

England's team was Tom Townsend and David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg and Andrew McIntosh, and Martin Jones and Neil Rosen, with David Price as non-playing captain, and they would be hoping to improve on last year's second place. The Republic of Ireland had won the event for the last three years, but they were handicapped when Nick FitzGibbon had to withdraw at the last minute as the result of a family medical emergency.

England began well in their opening match against Wales when they led by 31 IMPs after sixteen boards, thanks in part to Wales managing to block a suit of A-K-J-7-6 opposite Q-10-8 when defending 3NT. However, three failing slams, one of which could have been made, in the first five boards of the second half quickly levelled the scores and England had to settle for a 16-14 VPs victory. Ireland-A beat Ireland-B by the same score, and Northern Ireland defeated Scotland 17-13 VPs.

In the next round England drew with Ireland-A in a match that will mostly be remembered for a psyche by Hugh McGann that cost Ireland-A an 1100 penalty when the bidding escalated out of control. Ireland-B defeated Northern Ireland 18-12 VPs in this round and Wales beat Scotland 22-8 VPs.

In Round 3, Scotland had the better of the first half of their match against England and led by 21 IMPs. There was not much action in the second half and England trailed by 11 IMPs with one board left to play:

E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

♠ K 7 3 2
♥ K 8
♦ Q 8 5
♣ K 10 4 2

♠ Q 8 6 5 4
♥ A 6
♦ K 9 2
♣ A J 8

W N
E S

West	North	East	South
<i>Murdoch</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Piper</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

John Murdoch led the jack of diamonds against 4♠ and Gunnar Hallberg won in hand with the king. With two trump tricks to lose, it appears declarer needs to locate the queen of clubs to get home, but Hallberg found a way to let his opponents do that job for him. At trick two he played a spade to the king and when it held the trick, he cashed the king and ace of hearts. He continued with a diamond to dummy's eight, and Douglas Piper took his ace and exited safely with a third round of diamonds. It was finally time to play a second round of trumps, and although Piper showed out, Murdoch did not have the luxury of a safe exit after he cashed his second trump winner. A club would solve declarer's problem in that suit and a heart would allow declarer to ruff in dummy and discard a club from hand.

West	North	East	South
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Ash</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>McGowan</i>
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

David Gold's overcall helped Tom Townsend find the best lead of a heart and declarer, no doubt mindful of that over-



Tony Gordon

REPORTS

call, won in dummy and led a trump to her queen. However, it was Townsend who produced the ace and he continued with the nine of spades to dummy's king. When Gold showed out, Liz McGowan cashed the ace of hearts and played a third round of spades. Townsend was endplayed, but not fatally, and when he exited with a deceptive ten of diamonds declarer misread the position as she covered with the queen and then finessed the nine on the next round to go one down.

The 10-IMP gain on that board enabled England to salvage a draw against Scotland, while in the other matches Ireland-A defeated Northern Ireland 19-11 VPs and Wales beat Ireland-B 21-9 VPs.

England played well in the penultimate round against Ireland-B and won by 25-1 VPs to move up into second place, 11 VPs behind Wales who dispatched Northern Ireland 25-2 VPs. In the other match Scotland drew with Ireland-A.

In the last round England built up a head of a steam in the first half against Northern Ireland and retained most of their advantage to register a 23-7 VPs victory. That result meant Wales needed at least 13 VPs from their match to hold on to first place, but their hopes were comprehensively dashed as they lost 25-2 VPs to Ireland-A. As Ireland-B beat Scotland 19-11 VPs in the remaining match, the table after the first weekend reads as follows: 1. England (94 VPs); 2. Ireland-A (90); 3. Wales (84); 4. Scotland (62); 5. Ireland-B (61); 6. Northern Ireland (49).

So England will take a narrow lead into the second, and final, weekend which takes place in Dublin on March 7-9. I will report on the outcome in the next issue of *English Bridge* – but turn to page 49 if you can't wait for the result! □

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Best Behaviour @ Bridge

Simon Cochemé investigates
what we can learn from other sports

SALLY Bugden, doyenne of the EBU's BB@B initiative, is keen to find out what bridge could learn from other sports, so she invited other sporting bodies to send bridge teams to a special event where they could be observed in action.

The play had already started by the time I got there. The first room seemed a bit rowdy; as I entered, a player got up and ran round the table with his arms outstretched. Then he dropped on to his knees, slid forward a few feet and lifted the front of his shirt over his head. Jeremy Dhondy, dressed in black and wearing shorts, came over to remonstrate with him.

'It's the football players,' sighed Sally. 'This pair are doing it every time they make a contract. We're trying to persuade them to keep it just for slams. Their other pair are fine,' she went on. 'They've yet to play a hand. They think passing all the time is a good idea – they say it's the Arsenal way.'

We stayed to watch the footballers play the next board. I looked at their opponents. From the white outfits, and the lemon barley water on the tables beside them, I guessed they were tennis players. My suspicions were confirmed when one of them started grunting loudly every time she placed a bidding card on the table. Her partner gave a clenched fist pump and a stifled cry of 'Yes!' as his 3NT bid was passed out. The play was somewhat disjointed because the pair of them insisted on touching hands across the table after every trick, whether won or lost. 'We would have to have screens in all

the clubs to take care of that,' commented Sally.

A cry of 'One hundred and EIGHT-ee' burst out behind me. I turned round: apparently one of the darts team at the table in the corner had made 1NT doubled.

We went into the second room, which was almost funereal in contrast. The table nearest the door had just finished the bidding as we arrived. East took a pencil-sharpener out of the pocket of his sponsor-crested waistcoat, sharpened his pencil and wrote the contract down in his score-card.

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

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

South took a glove off his left hand and put it into the hip pocket of his garish check trousers as the ace of spades was led



Simon Cochemé

BB@B REVISITED

and dummy went down. West switched to the three of diamonds. A second man, whom I had taken to be a kibitzer, leaned over declarer's shoulder and pointed at the dummy.

'What is he doing?' I whispered to Sally. 'That's his caddy,' she answered. 'He's pointing out the best line.'

They finished their consultation. Declarer nodded and called for the ace of diamonds. He then played the king of clubs from dummy and threw the six of diamonds from hand, exchanging one loser for another. West won the trick but was unable to cross to his partner and get a spade ruff. Declarer trumped the diamond return and soon wrapped up ten tricks. East tapped the table in appreciation of South's Scissors Coup.

'That's what snooker players do when their opponent plays well,' said Sally. 'Isn't that great?'

South smiled his acknowledgement to East. 'We golfers try to avoid the rough,' he said. 'It was just a matter of selecting the right club.' □

What do you think bridge can learn from other sports? Write to the Editor and tell us about it!





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The best tip I ever received

WHAT is the best piece of advice you ever received regarding the game of bridge? A pet convention perhaps, a cute way to play the cards, or maybe something to do with the bidding. Free advice from dubious quarters is seldom in short supply, and dos and don'ts seem to figure all too prominently in the great scheme of things. But a real gem that stands you in good stead for your bridge life – now that is something special; and when you recognise it, it will surely make a significant impact on your game. Perhaps you get this gem from a book, a trusted friend or tutor. In any case I want to pass on what I consider was the best piece of advice I ever received.


It was about fifty years ago and it came from those redoubtable twins, Bob and Jim Sharples. In the opinion of many knowledgeable people around at the time, the Sharples brothers were just about the best bidders in the country. From personal experience, I know what a great feeling it was to have them as part of the team playing in the other room. One could be completely confident that they would reach the top spot time after time, and in competitive situations they were just superb.

So what was this memorable gem that impressed me so greatly and has been such an invaluable ally to me over the years ever since? Very simply it was this:

Hands containing all four aces must be upgraded by adding one full point to the point-count total.


When you think that a single ace is slightly undervalued at four points, and then you are lucky enough to be allotted all four, it's not unreasonable to consider a little fine-tuning. After all, an ace takes a fast trick, which is something that cannot always be said of a king or a queen.

Suppose you reach 3NT with these two hands:

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

North leads a diamond from his five-card suit but when you play on clubs they divide as expected (three-two) and so you score your game with four clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and one spade.

Now, with a slightly stronger hand – well, West has one more point – this is the situation:

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

Again, North leads a diamond and the clubs behave, but 3NT must fail. Missing that fourth ace in spades – although there is an extra point in lieu – means that the defence win the race, scoring three diamonds, one club and the ace of spades.

Let's go back to Layout 1. What do you open with the West hand? I've tried it on a number of very experienced players and the answer is: '2NT, we play 20-22 so why not?' The reason 'why not' is because you have all four aces, not to mention the five-card suit.



With our fine-tuning, adding one point to the total, we would open 2♣ and rebid 2NT, showing 23-24 points. This sequence would enable East to keep the bidding alive until game (3NT) is reached. If the opening bid is 2NT no doubt East would pass, and who could blame him?

When Layout 1 occurred at the table the clubs did not divide kindly so declarer had to be careful. This was the full deal:



Freddie North

FINE-TUNING

Contract: 3NT by West. Lead: ♦ 6.		
♠ J 8 3		♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ Q 10 9 4		♥ K 6 5 3
♦ Q 8 7 6 3		♦ 10 5
♣ J		♣ 8 6 4
♠ A 6 4		♠ K Q 10
♥ A 8 2		♥ J 7
♦ A K		♦ J 9 4 2
♣ A K 9 5 3		♣ Q 10 7 2

Declarer cashed the ace of clubs at trick two and then, noting the fall of the jack, played a low club to dummy's eight and South's ten. Back on lead with the king of diamonds, declarer entered dummy with the king of hearts, finessed the nine of clubs to bring in the suit without further loss, winning the race for his nine tricks before the opposition could muster five.

Summary

Remember, with all forms of fine adjustment little things can swing the balance one way or the other. The principle of adding an extra point for the aces is sound enough, but a five-card suit, or good stuffing (tens and nines), could clinch the case. For example, I would be wary about adding extra for: ♠ A 5 4 3 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ A 6 5, because of the poor shape and lack of intermediates. Yes, we could add one point for the four aces but remove it for the disadvantages noted.

However, add some undergrowth, ♠ A 10 9 6 ♥ A 10 2 ♦ A 10 8 ♣ A 9 7, and the extra point is fully deserved. □

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John bids out of turn – twice!

'I REALLY am sorry about opening out of turn on that last hand, Julie. I just got so excited about having twenty-five points, it's the first big hand I have seen in ages,' said John apologetically.

'Well, at least you chose wisely to settle for 3NT when I was silenced and we got an average on the board, so no harm done. Just don't let it happen again,' pleaded Julie.

'As if I could do such a daft thing twice,' replied John foolishly as he sat down to play the final round of the evening.

N/S Game. Dealer South.

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

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

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

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

After John's 1♥ opening Julie found herself in two minds over whether to jump with her two-suiter. After she had placed the Stop card on the table, she had a change of heart and so called the Director.

'Do I have to make a jump bid now that I have used the Stop card?' she asked.

'Not at all, you can make any call that you wish, including pass. If you don't jump, the information gained from seeing the Stop card is unauthorised to John and he must be careful not to act on it,' replied the Tournament Director.

Julie thought it unwise to place further pressures on John so she settled for 2♠ after all, over which John rebid his hearts

– unfortunately he did so before East had called!

'John has bid out of turn *again*,' said Julie in despairing tones to the TD.

'Ah, but this one is different! The last time he opened in third seat when it was your turn to call and, when the bid wasn't accepted, you were silenced for the rest of the auction. This time he has bid at his right-hand opponent's turn to call: firstly West can accept the bid out of rotation (*West vigorously shook his head*), in which case the bidding reverts to East. If East passes, then John just repeats his 3♥ and there is no further penalty; however, if East bids, Julie will be silenced for one round if John then bids hearts, and she will be silenced for the rest of the auction if he does anything else.'

East stared at the favourable vulnerability and decided to venture 3♣ just to make life difficult for John.

John now realised that he had to choose a final contract, but he was worried about the fact that he knew illegally that Julie had thought about not making a jump-shift response. This unauthorised information made him think that, because he knew that 3NT was likely to be the best contract, he really should try something more ambitious, so he bid what he thought was an honourable 6NT instead.

Despite his partner's 3♣ bid, West led his fourth highest diamond, won by John in hand with the seven. John then led a spade, West ducked, and dummy won



Mike Swanson

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

**Bidding out of turn
when it is your partner's turn to bid,
and when it is your RHO's turn,
are two different situations.**

with the king of spades. Without regard to possible communication problems, John returned to hand with the king of diamonds and led another spade, won by West with the ace of spades. West now had to decide what to return: if John held the queen of hearts and the king of clubs, it was of no consequence; however, if John just held one of them, a heart lead was essential in one case and to be avoided in the other. In the event, West just gazed at

his king of hearts and led another diamond, in the hope that John would have to take the losing heart finesse,

and so 6NT rolled home.

'Well done, John! After driving me to despair with your bids out of turn, at least you have managed to bring home a seemingly impossible contract to save the day. I can see that the hand is easy to make double dummy (except on a lead of a low heart, or the ten of diamonds, or the eight of diamonds), but to succeed at the table takes a lot of luck, so much that I do believe that you are unlikely to have any more tonight!' said Julie. 'I would have invited you in for a nightcap afterwards but now I am not sure if you would know when it was your time to go!' □

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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 West.

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



♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ 5
♦ K Q J 7 4
♣ A 7 5

West	North	East	South
Robson	Mason	Allfrey	Bowyer
1♥	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♦	

The deal comes from the final of the Gold

Cup, contested last December. The four-man *Allfrey* team (Robson, Bakhshi, Forrester) defeated *Stevens*, giving Tony Forrester a remarkable ninth win in the event.

Aiming to describe his hand, usually a good idea, Andrew Robson rebid in clubs rather than supporting diamonds immediately. Alexander Allfrey suggested 3NT and Robson then showed his diamond support. Robson's bidding confirmed what North-South had already suggested, that he would hold at most one spade. With his excellent trumps and the huge

club ace, Allfrey now judged well to jump to 6♦.

At the other table the auction followed the same path initially. Duncan Happer rebid 3♣ on the West cards but Ben Green then preferred 3♠ (on his moderate spades). A continuation of 4♦ – 5♣ – 6♦ then produced the same happy result. A grand slam is not with the odds, since a 4-1 break in either minor suit might cause a problem.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ (10); 6♣ (9); 7♦ (6); 7♣ (5); games (4).

2. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ Void
♥ A K Q J 9 8 5
♦ K 9 8 5
♣ A Q



♠ A J 5 4 3
♥ 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ K 9 8 6

West	East
Freeman	Nickell
2♥	1♠
3♥	2NT
5♣	4♥
6♣	5♦
7♥	6♦

We move next to the final of the teams

trial that would determine the second USA team for the next Bermuda Bowl.

Dick Freeman's 2♥ response was forcing to game and he could therefore bid just 3♥ at his next turn. (As I see it, this rebid should be forcing even if the initial response does not force to game.)

What should East say next? With interest in a slam he might cue-bid 4♦. Nick Nickell was deterred from this action by his poor trumps and bid just 4♥. Cue-bids of 5♣ and 5♦ followed. Freeman then suggested a grand slam by bidding 6♣.

Nickell had held back a bit so far and was now impressed by his good controls. He made the clever bid of 6♦, treating his ♦Q as the ♦K because South had not

doubled the previous cue-bid of 5♦! Freeman, who had some reason to hope that East's 2NT rebid included the ♣K, then bid the grand slam.

At the other table, Stansby and Martel followed a similar auction up to 5♦. Eric Rodwell (South) then introduced a diversion by doubling 5♦, even though he held a worthless hand and only J-x-x in the diamond suit. Martel redoubled, to show the ♦K and Stansby jumped to 6♥. It seems that Martel (West) had enough to bid 7♥ but he passed. Credit Rodwell for his imaginative move!

■ **Awards:** 7NT/7♥ (10); 6NT/6♥ (5); games (2).

3. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ A K
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A Q 10 5 4
♣ A 10



♠ Q 7 4 3 2
♥ Q
♦ K 8 7 6 2
♣ 8 5

West	East
Helness	Helgemo
2♣	2♠
3♦	4♥
4NT	5♣
7♦	

This deal was played at the Green Valley Ranch in Las Vegas. A pre-barbecue friend-

ly game? No, it was the Cavendish Pairs, where all the competitors are auctioned before the play. Punters laid out more than \$1,100,000 in the hope that the pair they bought would finish in a high position.

Geir Helgemo gave a positive response on a relatively weak spade suit, a style that he says has worked well over the years. Since he is a current Bermuda Bowl champion, we should listen to his words.

Tor Helness rebid 3♦ to show his diamond suit and Helgemo might have set the trump suit by raising to 4♦. No, he found the very much better bid of 4♥. This splinter bid also agreed diamonds

but passed valuable extra information on the heart shortage.

Helness could expect to ditch his club loser on partner's spade suit. He therefore bid RKC♣ to enquire about the trump king. The 5♣ (14-30) response showed one key card and the brilliant Norwegians reached the grand slam. Only three other pairs out of twenty-eight achieved this feat and many stopped in game.

■ **Awards:** 7♦ (10); 6♦ (6); 6NT (4); games (3).

4. E/W Game. Dealer West.

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

West <i>von Malchus</i>	East <i>Lussmann</i>
1♥	2♦
3♥	4NT
5♣	5♦
6♦	7♦

For the next deal, I will dip the ladle

somewhat deeper into the soup urn of world bridge. We will visit a women's tournament played in the Austrian town of Burghausen. Petra von Malchus opens 1♥ and has an easy 3♥ rebid over Claudia Lussmann's 2♦ response. What should East bid next?

I see nothing wrong with East's decision to bid RKCB at this stage. All the side suits are under control and she has the playing strength to visualize a heart slam. West shows three key cards and East's 5♦ continuation then asks about the queen of trumps. It is a matter of partnership agreement how West should respond

when she does hold the trump queen. Here West's 6♦ response carried the meaning: 'Yes, I do have the trump queen, also the ♦K.' In other words she named the explicit king held, rather than giving a count of side-suit kings. You can see how useful this information was to East. The ♣K would have been of limited value; the ♦K was priceless, solidifying East's main suit. It was then easy to bid a grand slam, expecting to run plenty of tricks in the red suits.

■ **Awards:** 7NT/7♦ (10); 7♥ (9); 6NT (6); 6♦ (5); games (3).

5. E/W Game. Dealer East.

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

West <i>Hallberg</i>	North <i>Hanlon</i>	East <i>McIntosh</i>	South <i>McGann</i>
Dble 6♦	Pass	4NT	Pass

Our next event is the first week-end of the 2008 Camrose, with England facing

Ireland, holders for the past three years.

The auction was short, but very sweet. Following the partnership's style, 'Tosh' declined to open on the East cards. Hugh McGann made life difficult with a six-card pre-empt in hearts, on the South cards, and Gunnar Hallberg ventured a take-out double. How should East respond to this?

Some players would bid 5♣, showing their longest suit. The chosen response of 4NT, indicating both minors, is so much better! Hallberg not only chose diamonds as trumps, but went all the way to the six-level despite the fact that he was facing a passed hand. Well bid, indeed. Declarer was

able to ruff two heart losers in dummy and then give up a spade trick.

This was the other auction:

West <i>Carroll</i>	North <i>Gold</i>	East <i>Garvey</i>	South <i>Townsend</i>
4NT	5♥	1♦	3♥
5NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
		7♦	

Judge for yourself whether East-West had a misunderstanding. 7♦ went two down, giving England 17 IMPs.

■ **Awards:** 6♦ (10); 7♦/games (5).

6. Love All. Dealer East.

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

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

We end with another Camrose deal. This time England face the 'Hosts', a second team representing Ireland.

Peter Pigot opened 1♣, the best idea on a strong hand that is 5-5 in the black suits. His 2♠ rebid was game-forcing, perhaps a slight overbid, and Mark Moran showed club preference. When the opener rebid his spades, West decided that his singleton

diamond might be valuable. He therefore cue-bid 4♦, not worried that partner might think this was agreeing spades as trumps. He signed off in 5♣ subsequently, but Pigot had heard enough to raise to six. Well bid!

At the other table, a humble take-out double from South made life difficult. David Gold opened 1♣, doubled by South. Tom Townsend responded 2♥, a fit-jump, and their bidding continued: 2♠ – 4♣ – 4♠ – 5♣. Gold then passed, unwilling to gamble that partner had a diamond control.

■ **Awards:** 6♣ (10); 5♣/4♠ (6); 6♠ (4).



Sorry about that! Our experts have scored a brilliant 60/60. Any readers who managed to beat that total should check their arithmetic. Let's look for some tips.

Tips to remember

- Some of the world's best players (Forrester, Rodwell and Zia) are willing to double control-showing cue-bids when they have nothing in the suit. The idea is to frighten the opponents from bidding a slam that you think will succeed. If your partner subsequently leads that suit against a slam that could have been beaten on a different lead... well, he will forgive you.
- Be more inclined to give a positive response to 2♣ when you hold a major suit and the bid will not consume much space. If you begin with 2♦, and no fit is found, it can be difficult to get your values across.
- When partner doubles 3♠ or 3♥ for take-out, a response of 4NT shows the minor suits. It is not Blackwood. □



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MASTER POINTS
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Women's Trials

THE women's trials got a record entry this year with fifteen pairs applying. This was due, in no small part, to the efforts of Nicole Cook, aided by Christine Duckworth and Sandra Landy, who staged a friendly week-end of bridge for would-be women triallists to assist with finding partners and to play deals provided by past and current international players. A record of these deals, together with a story about each of them, featured in a booklet for participants to take away and hopefully inspire them. Several of the entries came as a result of that weekend.

Sarah Teshome and Cath Jagger, the only applicants with an international record as a pair, were exempted from the trials, and the remaining fourteen played a first weekend where the top ten would qualify. There were several new partnerships: Nicola Smith now playing with Lizzie Godfrey, myself with Nevena Senior, Anne Rosen and Catherine Draper, and Audrey Hartley and Stefanie Rohan, to name a few. These four pairs ended up battling it out for the top places.

Anne Rosen and Catherine Draper had a fair bit to make up on the carry-forward from the first weekend, so a good start was much needed. In the second match, this piece of fine card-reading from Catherine Draper got them on their way:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

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

Diagram: North (N) is top, South (S) is bottom, West (W) is left, East (E) is right.

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

West	North	East	South
Grant	Rosen	Liew	Draper
1♥	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♥	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ could have been short, and the 1NT rebid ostensibly showed a weak no-trump. I must admit that if you open the bidding on a heap such as that, you need to be a top-class declarer player since you are going to end up in some pretty thin contracts! And so it proved, a combined 23 count and off the first five tricks. However, on the expected heart lead, Catherine was in with a chance. The ten of hearts held the trick in dummy and the contract now hinged on bringing in the club suit. She began by cashing the ace, and this produced the five from East and the nine from West. A few questions revealed that the opponents were playing standard count and no Smith Peters. When she played a low club from dummy, East followed with the two, and Catherine, believing the signal of her opponent, and figuring that West may well be short in clubs on the auction, finessed the seven. She was rewarded for her brave play when West discarded, and when the diamonds also broke, she had ten tricks.



Anne Rosen and Catherine Draper

Anne and Catherine had a tremendous weekend and finished up leading the field. Audrey Hartley and Stefanie Rohan were also putting in a fine performance, chasing them all the way and ending up a very close second. That left the old partnership, turned rivals (myself and Nicola Smith), to battle it out for third and fourth spot.

The following deal produced an example of good technique from Nevena Senior in



Heather Dhondy

an awkward 3NT contract which helped to seal the third spot for us:

Game All. Dealer North.

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

Diagram: North (N) is top, South (S) is bottom, West (W) is left, East (E) is right.

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

West	North	East	South
Rosen	Dhondy	Draper	Senior
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
All Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

A natural sequence took us to 3NT and Anne Rosen led the queen of spades. This was ducked and the spade continuation won. Nevena now took a successful club finesse and then paused to consider the play. As the cards lie, there is an entry to hand with a heart and the clubs all come in, but of course Nevena did not know any of this. Even the success of a second club finesse could not be underwritten. Hoping to combine her best chances of re-entering hand, she cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with a spade. East, now on lead, could only help declarer with any card she chose. A heart was selected and Nevena rose with the queen and repeated the club finesse. When all was well, she emerged with ten tricks. □



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The 2♠ response to a 1NT opening

Send your questions to the Editor, or e-mail
David Bakhshi directly at DavidBakhshi@aol.com

MICHAEL Gwilliam writes by e-mail:

When responding to an opening bid of 1NT, it seems easy enough to locate major-suit fits, but often a 4-4 minor-suit fit can be missed. In your view, what are the most useful conventions that aid this process without losing the benefit of Stayman and Transfers?

Dear Michael,

While most partnerships that agree to use transfers play that a 2♦ response shows at least five hearts, and a 2♥ response shows at least five spades, there are several meanings that one might attach to a 2♠ response. The meaning chosen tends to vary depending on whether the partnership prefers to focus on dealing with long minor suits, or the more balanced hand types where 4-4 minor fits may need to be located.

These are the most common treatments in this country at tournament level:

1. **2♠ = Weakness take-out to a minor.** Responder's 2♠ asks opener to bid 3♣. Responder plans to pass with a weak hand with clubs, or bid 3♦ with a weak hand with diamonds.

This method has the advantage of simplicity, and also allows the partnership to retain a natural invitational raise to 2NT. The main disadvantage is the inability to invite game when holding a hand with a long minor, e.g. ♠ x ♥ K x x ♦ A Q J x x x ♣ x x x.

2. **2♠ = Invitational raise to 2NT or balanced hand with slam interest.**

Opener is expected to bid 2NT with a minimum hand, or bid his cheapest four-card (or longer) suit with a maximum.

Over 2NT, responder passes with an invitational hand, and either raises to 3NT or bids his cheapest four-card (or longer) suit with a slam-interested hand. If opener shows a maximum hand, then responder bids 3NT with a hand that was originally invitational to game, or explores for slam with a stronger hand.

Since 2NT is no longer needed as an invitational raise, it is now used to show a weak hand with a long minor. Opener is expected to bid 3♣, which the responder either passes or converts to 3♦.

This method allows for exploration of minor-suit slams with relatively balanced hands, but also fails to enable responder to invite game with a long minor.

3. **2♠ = Transfer to clubs.**

Perhaps the most popular treatment among experts involves the use of 'four-suit transfers'.

A 2♠ response is used to show clubs, after which the partnership can agree that opener either bids 2NT or 3♣ to show a positive or negative



David Bakhshi

YOUR QUESTIONS

hand for clubs. Responder either intends to play in 3♣ or bid beyond 3♣ with stronger hands (again it is a matter for partnership agreement which hands go via a transfer and when responder bids a suit directly at the three level). Using this method, a 2NT response is a transfer to diamonds. As with the 2♠ response, opener either bids 3♣ or 3♦ depending on his diamond holding. There is a slight advantage to bidding 3♣ with a negative diamond holding as responder can now pass when holding a weak hand with at least five cards in both clubs and diamonds.

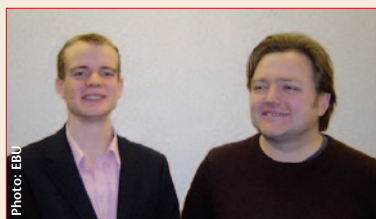
The advantage of playing transfers to each minor is that the responder can sign-off with a weak hand, invite game, or explore for slam when holding a long minor suit. The main disadvantage, however, is the loss of a natural raise to 2NT.

The corollary to this affects the use of Stayman, as invitational hands without a major still have to go via 2♣. This is what is meant by the expression 'non-promissory' Stayman.

Should your partnership wish to adopt four-suit transfers, then, for simplicity, I would recommend that you agree that responder uses a 2♠ or 2NT response with hands that wish to sign-off or invite game, and also with slam-interested hands containing a second suit, while a direct jump to 3♣ or 3♦ is retained for single-suited hands with slam interest.

Hands that are only interested in playing in the best game can go via Stayman and then follow up with a bid of 3♣ or 3♦ over opener's response. □

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Open team trials – the final

IT is said that a week can be a long time in politics. A weekend in Solihull can be a very important time in bridge as the team to represent England in the Open category at the European Championships in Pau, France, would be decided there. By the time they reached this stage, the two teams contesting the final had already played about three hundred boards and would be required to play another one hundred in five stanzas of twenty, mirroring the length of matches to be played in Pau – a tough test of stamina and concentration.

John Armstrong's team of John Holland, Tony Waterlow and Paul Hackett had survived a tough semi-final winning by a narrow margin, whereas Tom Townsend's team of David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg and Andrew McIntosh had had a smoother passage to the final, and various pundits had made them marginal favourites.

The underdog status did not affect the *Armstrong* team who started the stronger picking up a number of small swings in the early exchanges and also this slam swing in the first set:

N/S Game. Dealer East. (Rotated)

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	Holland	Townsend	Armstrong
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	4♣ ³	Dble	4NT ⁴
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦ ⁵
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

- ¹ 12-14
- ² Transfer to hearts
- ³ Auto-splinter, showing a shortage in clubs and interest in a slam
- ⁴ Roman Key-Card Blackwood
- ⁵ Asking for the queen of trumps

South, John Armstrong, missed an opportunity after East's double: he could have passed, allowing his partner, John Holland, to redouble to show a void rather than a possible singleton. However, he recovered when he discovered only one ace in his partner's hand, diagnosing that Holland must have a club void to propose a slam opposite a weak no-trump. He then asked North if he held the queen of trumps (5♦), because he knew partner would reply as though he had that card if he held extra length, i.e. the seventh heart, making it a decent slam. The play was not a problem once the spade finesse was successful.

The first day of sixty boards continued in a similar vein with *Armstrong* winning each set and leading by 42 IMPs overnight – a good advantage but by no means insurmountable. *Townsend* started the second day well, picking up 20 IMPs in the first set and doing better in the early exchanges during the fifth and final twenty boards, even creeping into the lead. However, this was not last because of the strong game played by both the *Armstrong* pairs, as exemplified by Armstrong's brave bidding and Holland's fine card-play on this deal:

Love All. Dealer South. (Rotated)

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



REPORTS

Colin Simpson

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Armstrong	Gold	Holland
Pass	2♥ ²	Dble ³	3♠ ⁴
Dble ⁵	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Dble	All Pass

- ¹ 12-14
- ² Transfer to spades
- ³ Values
- ⁴ At least four cards in the suit
- ⁵ Take-out

North's decision to bid 4♠ might be questionable, because on best defence East-West's 4♥ contract will fail by two tricks; however, given the state of the match, John Armstrong wanted to take out insurance. How right he was! At his first opportunity, John Holland, the declarer in the South seat, led the queen of spades from dummy and then later finessed against the ten, thereby securing his contract and nailing down his team's victory by a margin of 33 IMPs.

The final outcome looks good

Despite administrative hiccups at each stage of the Trials, we have established who will represent England in Pau (the third pair and non-playing captain will be chosen by the Selection Committee). John Armstrong and John Holland played in the last European Teams Championships in 2006; Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow have also represented England, in 2002. On the form shown throughout the Trials, the team has a very good chance in the Europeans, with qualification for the Bermuda Bowl a distinct possibility and a medal a reasonable chance.

We wish them the very best. □

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Revokes and mistaken explanations

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.

MICK Spencer, of Bury St Edmunds, asks: Is there room for discretion in our game? On a club duplicate night I bid to 6♦ as East and received a trump lead:

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

I drew trumps in three rounds and then played three top clubs and on the third threw the ten of spades. I asked dummy to play a fourth club, and then said: 'Oh dear, I still have a club.' My left-hand opponent, who was also the director for the night, said: 'Yes, you have revoked. Play on.'

I made twelve tricks, but was told my revoke cost me two tricks. No-one else had bid 6♦. My opponents had suffered no harm by my play of the spade on the third club and not the fourth. The strict interpretation of the laws gave this pair a top instead of a bottom on this board. Are the laws of our game intended to give such a bizarre outcome?

You arrive in a game which is completely cold but through carelessness you fail to draw the last trump and sustain a ruff. You are one down and everyone else makes the contract. Do your opponents deserve their good board? Whether they do or not, they profit from your carelessness, and all of us who play pairs know that there are evenings when the opponents do nothing but fall on their swords and equally evenings where they seem never to depart from double-dummy lines. In the deal given above you were careless, so I can't see why you shouldn't expect to pay a penalty. The only things to ask are:

A. Was the revoke established? As your

side had played to the next trick, the answer is yes.

- b. Should it be one trick or two? Law 64A2 says that if the player who revoked won the offending trick and took subsequent tricks then there should be a two-trick penalty but here dummy, not you, won the top club on which you revoked so it should have been a one-trick penalty. Why can't directors read the law book when making rulings like this?

JOHN Pickering by e-mail asks about the following deal:

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

West	North	East	South
	2♣	3♣ ¹	Pass
5♣ ²	5♠	All Pass	

¹ Systemically Ghestem showing spades and diamonds but West forgot and did not alert

² North asked about 3♣ and West explained it as natural.

Before leading, East announced that his 3♣ actually showed 5♠ and 5♦. Should he have?

North stated that he was damaged because if it had been explained that East held 5♠ and 5♦ he would not have bid 5♠ but doubled instead.



Jeremy Dhondy

EBU PROBLEMS

If there has been a misunderstanding in the course of the auction, then declarer should correct after bidding has ended because his partner cannot derive any advantage. However, the defenders must *never* do this because they give information to their partner. West thinks 3♣ was natural and he must not be told by East that it is not. If North-South are damaged, they may get an adjusted score later.

Secondly, you need to decide if what you are dealing with is a misbid or a mistaken explanation. If it is a misbid, i.e. East psyched, then any damage to North-South is basically 'rub of the green' but if it is mistaken explanation, i.e. East-West had an agreement that 3♣ shows spades and diamonds, you now ask: was any damage caused?

I think South must have been asleep not to double 3♣ as it seems the natural thing to do at the time, but given that he passed, might North have done something else? If he had been given a correct explanation, he would not have bid 5♠ knowing there were five of them on his left, so yes, I think he is damaged.

As to any adjustment: East only knows something has gone wrong because of the failure of his partner to alert but if there were an alert and his partner bid 5♣ he would have no reason to remove it, so 5♣ doubled seems reasonable to me. It looks as if it goes three down (losing a diamond, a spade and three trumps), which is poor reward as North-South can make 6♥ but it is at least better than 5♠ minus three.

In addition, it is possible that North-South were further damaged because South might have had the opportunity to do something else if correctly informed. □

Thank You!



Two months into our venture, I'd like to give a special thanks to all of our customers for their support and encouragement, which has been overwhelming! Our next job is to produce a mail-order catalogue

which will be sent to all of our customers. If you would also like to receive a copy, please fill in the coupon on the opposite page, or email your details to us at:

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OFFERS

The bidding box offer has proved so popular that I have decided to continue it until the end of April 2008. Also on offer are the Caspari score pads - save yourself £6.00 by purchasing 12 pads. One of the enduring favourites amongst our customers are our premium quality unboxed playing cards. At 330gsm, they really are a superior card and the best quality cards that we sell. We are offering these cards with a 10% discount if you order before June 2008. If you'd like to 'try before you buy', then send us a stamped addressed envelope and we will post you a sample card. Post it to:

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WINNER

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Farrington of Bournemouth who was our quiz winner and won £100.00 in vouchers to spend with us.

Simon Lucas



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Numero Uno

by Mark Horton

Who is the best player in the World? Too difficult a question? Let's make it a little easier by changing it to: 'Who is the best woman player in the World?' One obvious candidate is Germany's Sabine Auken.

Dealer East, North/South Vul

<p>♠ A 4 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ 10 4 3 2 ♣ J 9 6 4</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>N W E S</p> </div>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q 8 6 4 ♦ A K Q 8 6 ♣ 7 3 2</p>
<p>♠ K J 5 3 ♥ A K 7 3 2 ♦ - ♣ Q 10 8 5</p>		

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Auken	Balicki	von Arnim
3♦	3♠	1♦	1♥
Pass	6♣	5♦	5♠
		All Pass	

Two of the best known and strongest pairs in the world were in opposition on this deal from the 2008 White House International team tournament. When East opened 1♦ South went down the modern road by overcalling. With the vulnerability in their favour East/West were quick to set up a defensive barrage. However, their activity was not lost on Sabine, who was able to deduce that her partner must be void in diamonds. Allying that information to her partner's vulnerable overcall and positive support for her suit she went on to the cold slam. In the other room North/South stopped in game, so the German stars picked up a slam swing.

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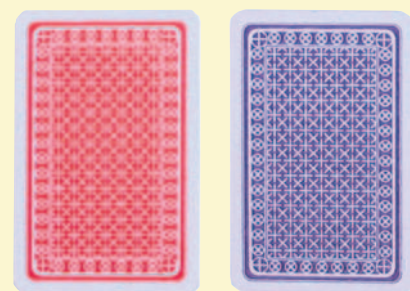
♠ 9 7 3
♠ A K 6 2

You need three tricks from this combination. What is the best line of play?

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■ APRIL 2008

- 4-6 Really Easy Spring Break
Derby
- 8-10 BGB Spring Sim Pairs
Clubs
- 11-13 Lady Milne Trophy
Dundee
- 11-13 Norfolk Congress
King's Lynn
- 18-20 Devon County Congress
Torquay
- 19-20 National Pairs Final
Hinckley
- 19-20 Shropshire Congress
Shrewsbury
- 25-27 Cornwall Congress
Falmouth
- 25-4 May Lambourne Festival &
Seniors Congress
Jersey
- 26-27 Portland Bowl Finals
London

■ MAY 2008

- 2-4 Cheltenham Congress
Cheltenham
- 2-6 Schapiro Spring Foursomes
Stratford
- 10 One Day Events:
**Merseyside, Northants,
Sussex**
- 10-11 Crockfords Final
Hinckley
- 11 One Day Events:
**Bedfordshire, Hampshire,
Kent, Warwickshire**
- 14 & 15 EBU Spring Green Pointed
Simultaneous Pairs
Clubs
- 17 Garden Cities Regional
Finals
**Bradford, Bristol,
Richmond, Peterborough**
- 24-26 Spring Bank Holiday
Congress
Bournemouth
- 30-1 Jun Yorkshire Congress
Harrogate
- 30-1 Jun Seniors Camrose
Oxford
- 31-1 Jun Corwen Trophy
Hinckley

■ JUNE 2008

- 6 & 7 Worldwide Sim Pairs
Clubs
- 14-15 Pachabo Cup
Hinckley
- 21 One-day events:
**Gloucestershire /
Herefordshire**
- 21 Garden Cities National Final
Solihull
- 22 One-day events:
**Bedfordshire, Dorset,
Glos/Herefordshire, Kent,
Lincolnshire**
- 27-29 English Riviera Congress
Torquay
- 28-29 Oxfordshire Congress
Benson



EBU News

NEW RANKS FOR NEW PLAYERS

VERY often, new players' first contact with the EBU is when they register their Master Points. Those early ranks can be very hard to achieve for fledgling players, especially in an established club where the top third of the field are very often the same experienced members each week.

At a time when new ranks have been welcomed at the higher end of the Master Point ladder, the Tournament Committee also decided that it was appropriate to review its strategy at the other end of the scale to help encourage new players to aspire to higher achievements earlier.

Two new ranks have been introduced to provide an earlier entry level to the Master Point scheme and maintain interest in progression. A Local Master ranking, on earning 100 Local Points (LPs), will enable new players to access the scheme earlier. The rung of the ladder between Club Master (200 LPs) and District Master (1000 LPs) was depressingly high for novice players. An additional rank of Area Master will be introduced at 500 LPs.

All teachers know that students love collecting Master Points. The added value of earlier acknowledgment and encouragement by the EBU will help Partner Teachers in particular to provide incentives to their students as they evolve from class room to club room.

The new ranks are effective from January 2008; a full list of members who have attained them is available at www.ebu.co.uk.

FOCUS ON VALUE TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

Courses for new teachers

Manchester 11-13 Apr
West Midlands BC 11-13 July
Aylesbury EBU HQ
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Further details from
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IN THE PULL-OUT:



Sally Bugden answers
questions about the EBU

CLUB FOCUS

THE second issue of the new *Club Focus* was sent out to all our counties and clubs in March and is also available at www.ebu.co.uk. If you have not received a copy, e-mail: clubfocus@ebu.co.uk.

The next deadline for contributions is 10th April.

THE 'Proposals for the Future of the EBU' is now available. Each affiliated club, county and shareholder has been sent a copy. Please read this document along with the pull-out section of this issue of *English Bridge*. You can access our website or make a written request to our offices in Aylesbury for your copy. The future of the EBU and duplicate bridge in England is in your hands. The vote will be taken on 4 June 2008.

BINGOLOTTO

THE EBU will be among the beneficiaries of *BingoLotto*, a new TV game set up by CCPR. The game will raise money for sport and recreation, and will help towards the EBU's commitment in promoting duplicate bridge.



BingoLotto is a weekly game broadcast on digital TV channels Virgin1 and Challenge on Friday night. Tickets are on sale from outlets around the country and allow viewers to take part in the game from the comfort of their own home. *BingoLotto* is hosted by popular entertainers Joe Pasquale and Suzanne Shaw.

AWARENESS DAY

A REMINDER that the EBU will be attending the Games event at the National Railway museum in York on 13th April 2008. We will present bridge to the general public and introduce our junior teams for Beijing. Do drop in between 10.30am and 4pm – all bridge and non-bridge players welcome!

- 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.

April 2008 WEST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Robson)
North bids 1♠, South bids 2♠
♠ Void
♥ A 10 8 6 4
♦ A 6 3
♣ K Q 10 4 3
2. Love All
Dealer East
(Freeman)
♠ Void
♥ A K Q J 9 8 5
♦ K 9 8 5
♣ A Q
3. Game All
Dealer West
(Helness)
♠ A K
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ A Q 10 5 4
♣ A 10
4. E/W Game
Dealer West
(von Malchus)
♠ 9 2
♥ A K Q 9 4 3
♦ K J
♣ A 5 4
5. E/W Game
Dealer East
(Hallberg)
South bids 3♥
♠ A K 7 6
♥ A 8 2
♦ A Q 6 5 3
♣ 2
6. Love All
Dealer East
(Moran)
♠ Q 4
♥ Q J 10 8 7
♦ 4
♣ Q J 7 6 5

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15

Beat today's experts

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

April 2008 EAST HANDS

(IMP scoring on every deal)

1. N/S Game
Dealer West
(Allfrey)
North bids 1♠, South bids 2♠
♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ 5
♦ K Q J 7 4
♣ A 7 5
2. Love All
Dealer East
(Nickell)
♠ A J 5 4 3
♥ 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ K 9 8 6
3. Game All
Dealer West
(Helgemo)
♠ Q 7 4 3 2
♥ Q
♦ K 8 7 6 2
♣ 8 5
4. E/W Game
Dealer West
(Lussmann)
♠ A K J
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A Q 10 8 7 3
♣ J
5. E/W Game
Dealer East
(McIntosh)
South bids 3♥
♠ J 10 4
♥ 5
♦ K J 4 2
♣ A Q 10 8 4
6. Love All
Dealer East
(Pigot)
♠ A K 9 6 5
♥ A
♦ 3 2
♣ A K 9 4 3

Did you beat the experts? – Pages 14-15

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

EBU SHOP OFFERS

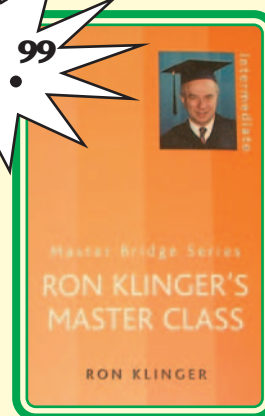
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Offers end 30th April 2008.

– PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL

L OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT – PULL OUT –



YOU AND THE EBU



Since June 2007 we have received over 1000 e-mails and letters prompted by our extensive consultation on the future of the EBU and thus duplicate bridge in England. It became obvious to us that many of the duplicate bridge players in England are not aware of what we do and how we interact with them – the responsibility for that rests firmly on our shoulders. We want to share our private responses to their questions with all our members and we take this opportunity to put the EBU in context and explain its purpose. Apologies to readers of Barry's Blogs who may recognise some of the content here!

Why and when was the EBU formed?

Various counties and groups of counties set up the English Bridge Union in 1936 to look after duplicate and other competition contract bridge in England, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. At the end of 1946, the EBU finally achieved complete control of Duplicate Bridge in England. The governing body was its Council, made up of representatives from the counties, the number of votes proportional to the number of members in each county. A different body, the English Bridge Union Limited, was formed in 1940; the Board of this company was also the Executive Committee of the English Bridge Union. The two were merged into one limited company in 2005.

From the beginning the EBU, together with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Unions, was part of the British Bridge League which was the national bridge organisation for Great Britain. In 2000 the countries split up and each became their own National Bridge Organisation, and the British Bridge League was dissolved.

So how do you manage yourselves?

The EBU has a constitution and bye-laws which provide the framework for its governance. These are lengthy documents that can be accessed on our website.

In 2005 the constitution and bye-laws were amended and the Council members became the Shareholders. These Shareholders represent their respective counties – thirty-nine in total – just as the Council members did. They vote in a Board of Directors and then a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer every year to manage the EBU. The Board reports to the Shareholders three times a year. The Shareholders also vote in members of three sub-committees on a rolling year basis, i.e. each members is voted in for a three-year period but not all members are voted in at the same time. You can read the minutes of the Board and Shareholders meetings on our website.

Do the Shareholders receive any financial benefit?

No. They are called 'shareholders' because their county is allocated a number of 'shares'

appropriate to the number of members it has, which translates into votes – not financial income. Any financial surplus made by the organisation is retained within the business for investment into the development of bridge in England.

What do the three standing committees do?

It is the job of all three standing committees to make recommendations to the Board addressing the policy, strategy and smooth running of the activities for which they have responsibility including the costs involved.

The Tournament Committee is responsible for all national competitions and congresses.

The Laws and Ethics Committee is responsible for regulation which includes England's own playing rules as set down in the *Orange Book* and also the implementation of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge as set down by the World Bridge Federation of which the EBU is a member.

The Selection Committee is responsible for choosing players to represent England in open, women, seniors and youth international competitions.

What about everyday management?

There is a paid team of staff at EBU headquarters in Aylesbury, who work out of an office that the EBU purchased when property prices were relatively low, more than twenty years ago. Many of the staff are bridge players who love working in the bridge environment.

How is the EBU funded?

Through membership subscriptions, Master Point fees, tournament entry fees, training course fees, book and equipment sales, advertising sales for *English Bridge* and some sponsorship. Our income and expenditure accounts can be accessed on our website; go to www.ebu.co.uk and click on **Financial Statements (31/3/07)** in the **Hot Links** panel on the right-hand side.

How much are the Board of Directors and the other committee members paid?

Nothing. We are all volunteers. There are no honoraria for any of the officers of the Board. This ceased at the end of the financial year 2005-2006. Each member of the Board also has the legal responsibilities and liabilities attached to being a company director.

Why don't I have a vote?

You do! But it is at county level. Our model is based on the parliamentary model that operates in the UK. You have a vote to elect the management committee of your county and these nominees become your representatives at national level. The county will appoint Shareholders from among its committee to vote on your behalf. You can make representations to the county to ensure that your Shareholders put forward the consensus view of the county membership at the EBU Shareholders meetings.

Why does duplicate bridge in England need the EBU?

Most games or sports have a governing body. The EBU is such an organisation and is responsible, through its constitution, for the development and the infrastructure of duplicate bridge in England. This means that we look after education, including training teachers and via them students, ensuring that tournament directors are trained and available to run club sessions and competitions, and we are also responsible for ensuring that the framework of regulation for playing the game is followed including the good behaviour of everybody involved.

Will you be changing the playing regulations again in the near future?

The current Board is committed to the simplification of regulation, and will avoid unnecessary changes that may complicate matters for our members as has occurred in the past. We want all our members to enjoy the game.

We recognise the need for modernisation and reform across many of our operations and we are currently investigating separating the conduct aspects from the technical aspects of the Laws and Ethics committee.

Continued on next page

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- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

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What about the new Laws?

This is an area which is out of our control. The World Bridge Federation, of which we are a member, is responsible for the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. These Laws must be adhered to by everybody who plays duplicate bridge, unlike our own regulations published in the *Orange Book*, which clubs can ignore if they so wish.

These Laws will become active in England on 1 August 2008. The EBU will be running courses for its tournament directors. Please contact your county for information on how it proposes to promote the changes in your area. Anyone taking part in club tournament director training will be made aware of the new arrangements.

Why did you need to address the membership arrangements of the EBU?

We took this route because membership of the EBU was falling rapidly and projections showed a 'tipping point' at which running our operations would not be viable and duplicate bridge in England would lose its national body. Doing nothing was not an option if we were to fulfil our role of developing bridge in England. We are constantly asked by our members about developing the game in schools, universities, amongst the middle-aged and older people. We cannot do this without a strong and increasing membership base. The Board believes that the clubs are the core of the membership, so we set out to ascertain precisely what club members required and how we could help club bridge to develop and thrive. We wanted to ensure that our existing members were being provided with the services they require before trying to attract new members.

We have now formulated our proposals for the future after:

- A detailed club research project which took place between January and October 2006;
- Research into best practice of the most successful national bridge organisations in Europe, which took place between February and June 2007;
- An extensive consultation with all our counties between July and September 2007; and
- A wide-ranging club survey to all affiliated clubs in the Union between November 2007 and February 2008.

These proposals are based on universal membership in our affiliated clubs. We wanted to create a system that was simple and as fair as possible, hence members of

our affiliated clubs only pay when they play. If approved, the Pay to Play process will provide a stable basis from which to move on and develop bridge at all levels - from the very young to the elderly. It will also provide each member of each affiliated club with the benefits of membership of the EBU.

So, if Pay to Play is approved, you will have achieved universal membership?

Yes, that is our aim.

What is all this about a contract between clubs and the EBU? Is it going to be a 'master-servant' relationship?

The club-EBU contract will be the same as any contract between a service supplier and its client. The EBU agrees to provide services and the affiliated club will agree to pay for them. Clubs will remain entirely sovereign in every respect: they will be able to determine how their games are regulated - within the Laws of Contract Bridge, of course; they will continue to be able to make all the decisions on how they run themselves as they do at present without any interference from the Union. However, we will stand ready to help clubs much more than we have ever done in the past and to work with people at all levels to develop the game.

Are you making any attempt to address the way you run your operations at Aylesbury?

Yes, we are. This new stability will also allow us to address the long-term restructuring of the EBU. We need to bring our management and operations into the 21st century, which in turn will provide opportunities for streamlining. We have already started work on this in some key areas that will be affected by the Pay to Play process if it is accepted on 4 June. We want to deliver services that meet the needs of all our members in an effective, economical, accessible and transparent way.

How will you be more representative of the majority of members of the EBU?

We are the first to admit that the EBU has not been as representative as it could have been of the majority of its members in the past. This history has caused much distrust about our current plans. Those of us who are responsible for the current running of the organisation are committed to a debate on representation of the membership at national level addressing all that this involves, including how the expenditure of a large annual meeting of members and an Electoral Reform Society governed postal/electronic vote might be funded.

We are committed to setting up a sub-

committee of the Board that represents clubs and deals with all the issues that affect our grass-roots, including regulation and competition.

We also want to create a framework of competitions that will be accessible to many more players and that will run alongside and within clubs to create a vibrant tournament environment for all our members.

How will you be accountable?

We want to demonstrate to our membership how strongly we feel about our responsibilities. So, as well as being accountable to the membership through the Shareholders, we have made a series of commitments to our members which are detailed in our document on the future of the EBU. The progress made on these commitments will be reported on each year at our Shareholders meeting in June and in the August issue of *English Bridge*. This will help our members and Shareholders when they come to make their voting decisions at the AGM.

How can I have my say?

Firstly, please read our document 'Proposals for the Future of the EBU', which is now available on our website, and has been sent to every club, county and Shareholder. If you don't have access to a copy, please contact the EBU at Aylesbury.

Once you have read the document, please make your views known to your county management committee. Some counties will be holding meetings, others will not. However, if you have real difficulty contacting your county representative, just contact us and we will put you in touch.

If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact me by letter via Aylesbury or e-mail me at strategy@ebu.co.uk.

What happens next?

The vote will be taken on whether to accept Pay to Play on 4 June 2008. An announcement of the outcome of that meeting will be made on our website immediately it is known and in the August issue of *English Bridge*.

And finally...

The proposals are the result of an extensive consultation and we would like to take this opportunity to thank every person that has taken part in this process, who has attended meetings, written and called to discuss our proposals with us. Thank you!

Sally Bugden
Vice-Chairman,
EBU

- PULL OUT - PULL OUT - PULL OUT -

EBU News



CHARITABLE TRUST

WE are pleased to announce that the EBU has set up a new charitable trust fund: the *EBU Youth and Education Trust*. The Trust has been created to advance the education of young people in the game of bridge and to help them develop their skills.

If you would like to make a donation to the Youth and Education Trust, and help towards the future of bridge, please visit: www.ebu.co.uk/EBUYouthandEducationTrust.htm for our Gift Aid form. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Additionally, if you would like to submit a request for funding, please contact Barry Capal, the Secretary.

The Trustees for this new Trust are Peter Stocken, Sally Bugden and Mike Hill.

For further information, please e-mail YET@ebu.co.uk.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

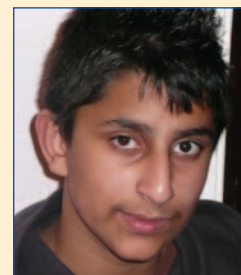
MEMBER REPRIMANDED. A disciplinary hearing was recently held to consider the charge: that during a match played privately, Mr Howard Cohen, an EBU member, made insulting and offensive remarks towards his opponent, causing sufficient distress for the opponents to withdraw from the remainder of the match, this being conduct or behaviour falling below the standards required of EBU members, and therefore misconduct amounting to an Offence under the Disciplinary Rules.

The Disciplinary Committee (DC) found the member guilty of the charge. However, the Committee took into account the defendant's good character, apology and strong mitigating circumstances during the match, such that with a TD present, this matter would likely have been avoided. Consequently, the DC imposed only a reprimand to remain on his record for one month.

MEMBER SUSPENDED. A disciplinary panel met recently to consider the charge: that during an event held at a Club in Bedfordshire, Mr L. Calver, an EBU member, verbally and physically abused another EBU member, this being conduct or behaviour falling below the standards required of EBU members, and therefore misconduct amounting to an Offence under the Disciplinary Rules. The defendant admitted the charge.

The panel considered certain mitigating circumstances and the defendant's previous good character, his admission of culpability, his obvious remorse and apology. The member was suspended from Player Membership of the EBU for a period of six months to run from January 31st 2008 and the panel asked that the defendant retracts any allegation of cheating made against the complainant.

JUNIOR SUCCESSES



JUNIOR bridge player, 15-year-old Shivam Shah from Whetstone, North London, was a finalist in the competition for the title of male Junior Sports Personality of the Year at the British Asian Sports Awards, the first time a bridge player has been nominated for a national sport award.

★★★★★

CONGRATULATIONS to the England team of Susan Stockdale, Fiona Brown, Alex Morris, Mike Bell, Dave Cropper and Steve Raine, who won the Junior (Under 25s) Camrose Trophy in Manchester. They were 6 VPs clear of Scotland in what came down to a very exciting final match.

Scotland didn't go home disappointed, though, as they won the Peggy Bayer (Under 20s) Trophy. Their team of Frazer Morgan, Philip Morrison, Ralph Wiseman and Yvonne Wiseman finished 13 VPs ahead of the England team (James Paul, Graeme Robertson, Liz Roberts, Jennie Marvin, James Thrower and Tom Rainforth), although neither team lost a match all weekend.

★★★★★

EBU awards: congratulations to Tom Paske for the award of Young Player of the Year, to Ben Paske and Ed Jones for the award of Young Pair of the Year, and to the Paskes' teacher, Richard Croot, for the Alex Salisbury award for his outstanding contribution to the development of youth bridge as a school teacher..

CLUB DIRECTOR COURSES – 2008

ESSENTIALS £32

Honiton	Saturday 17th May
Brighton	Monday 11th August
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 15th October
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 11th October

BOOK RULINGS £37

Chobham	Saturday 10th May
Honiton	Saturday 21st June
Brighton	Tuesday 12th August
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 12th November
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 22nd November

JUDGMENT RULINGS £37

Chobham	Saturday 28th June
Honiton	Saturday 26th July
Brighton	Wednesday 13th August
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 10th December
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 17th January 09

ASSESSMENT £42

Nottingham	Saturday 19th April 08
Wormbridge, Hereford	Saturday 28th June
(2 dates available)	Sunday 13th July } max of 8 per day
Chobham	Saturday 26th July
Brighton	Thursday 14th August
Honiton	Saturday 6th September
EBU HQ Aylesbury	Wednesday 14th January 09
Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 7th February 09

Playford, Nr Ipswich

A 2-day course covering Essentials, Book Rulings and Judgement Rulings, Sat Oct 18 and Sat Nov 15. For these courses only, please book with Peter Stansfield ☎ 01394 382394 or email pns@uwclub.net.

Cost: £60 for the 2-days or £30 for just one day.

County Course

Open to qualified club directors with at least one year's experience of directing and some experience of organising events at county level. It is preferred that you have the approval of your CBA.

County Refresher Course

Open to those who have previously been successful on the County Course.

Cost: £180 to cover all course fees and materials, one night DBB, Sunday finger buffet and three servings of tea/coffee.

Park Inn Birmingham West Hotel, Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6RS September 13th and 14th.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Clarification

AN item of news in the February issue stated that only one club other than Manchester had won the NICKO three times, but did not name which. It was in fact Mayfield (albeit once when the event was sponsored by Fidelity and going by a different name).

I won it with three different partners: the late Tony Lunn, my wife Margaret, and Bob Rowlands. Sean O'Neill was also in the team every time.

Peter Lee, Sutton

Systems

REGARDING the correspondence about the teaching of beginners, initiated by Richard Small in the Letters page of the December 2007 *English Bridge*, a point that I think should be factored into the equation is the meteoric rise in popularity of the Internet as a venue. I believe that beginners are well represented in that population.

The Internet respects no national boundaries and the isolation of the methods taught in England are thrown into sharp relief when playing on-line. Nevertheless, I am certain that the authorities are correct in their assessment of the prevalence of a weak 1NT and four-card majors in face-to-face games in England, and it is right that this should be the overriding criterion. That said, as John Pain points out in his reply to Richard Small, the policies adopted as standard for teaching beginners can influence the way the game is played in years to come, and with that power comes a degree of responsibility not to fritter that opportunity by placing excessive emphasis on the status quo.

Tim Ackers, by e-mail

Should we know the score?

MAX Bavin, EBU Chief Tournament Director, has written an interesting article on the use of Bridgemates and displaying running scores (www.bridgemateftp.co.uk/faq/index.asp?CATE=0#9), in which he draws parallels between bridge and football. His argument is that football teams know the score at every stage in every match. Why should not bridge players be privy to the same information?

A football team losing a match in a Knock-Out Cup competition may indeed resort to desperation tactics at the end, such as sending the entire team into the opponents' penalty area for the last five minutes with no real heed to the defence of their own goal. As there is no carry-forward of scores, having lost by ten goals rather than one will have no effect on the remaining teams.

Bridge-playing conditions are similar. Most bridge games are 'one-off' events. Even in a Ladder Pairs competition run over a whole year, pairs generally receive points for the position in which they finished each round. Coming last with 44% is no better than coming

last with 15%. Thus there is often no penalty for irresponsibility. A pair who can see they have 32% may begin frivolously to double every contract bid by the opponents, or to overbid their own cards. Someone from our own circle (who shall remain nameless) happily confesses to doing just this.

I believe that 'messing about' in a tournament is contrary to the spirit of the game. It is also contrary to the Law, and rightly so. I suppose a case could be brought against such a pair on the evidence of their erratic play over the last six boards. However, criticising someone's integrity cannot add to harmony in a bridge community. It is hard to deny that seeing the on-going position in a bridge event probably adds interest for most participants, while unfortunately also encouraging some irresponsible play. If the additional enjoyment gained from the first is deemed by club committees to outweigh the risk of the second, then displaying the running score will soon become accepted as the norm.

**John Cullingworth,
South Darenth, Dartford**

Write to the Editor at 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.

National Rating Scheme

JOHN Cullwick's e-mail in the February *English Bridge* asked how to determine a player's current skill level. There was a comment that 'this issue is addressed by Gold Points, which depreciate by 20% each year'. I think this misses the point.

Approximately 95% of the EBU membership [see reply on the right – Ed.] have no realistic access to a current ranking, as they are never going to gain 5 or more green points in one chunk in their lifetime.

Krys Kazmierczak visited my

local club last night and mentioned a 'National Rating Scheme' proposal covering all players. It sounds like that scheme may seek to address John Cullwick's question. It would be good to see details of that scheme in a future edition of EB, especially as Krys hinted that *everyone* would start at 50% – at least then all EBU members would be able to claim they were as high a rated player as Andrew Robson for one day in their lives!

Dave Nastaszczuk, Horley

Hybrid

WHILE glancing through an old copy of the *Times* for December 21st, 1932 (which happens to be my birth date), I noticed an article by A. Carson Roberts entitled 'Duplicate Play at Bridge'. It starts by describing the American system of duplicate, which appears to be the system we play now. The author goes on to criticise this system from the point of view of the rubber bridge player, and says that some of the best players have refrained from playing in this type of competition. He finally describes a system of 'rubber duplicate' then being used at the Portland Club, London.

It seems, as suggested by a more recent *Times* article by Andrew Robson, that this is the system still used seventy-five years later, in the Devonshire Cup – a competition between London clubs (of the Pall Mall variety).

Stewart Platts, Arnside

In the Devonshire Cup, a teams competition, each table plays rubber bridge as codified by Harold Vanderbilt in 1925, but with duplicated boards.

Gold Points

I WAS interested to read your answer to John Cullwick's question in the latest edition of *English Bridge*. I should be grateful if you could let me know what proportion of the EBU membership actually holds any gold points. My impression has always been that gold points are very narrowly held.

Phyllis Robertson, London

Any performance in a single event which merits an award of 5 Green Points or more automatically receives Gold Points in addition to the Green Points award. Gold Points holders total about 5% of the membership.

Adventures with the Swiss

THE third weekend in January was, according to the British press, 'the most depressing in the year' (a calculation that had come about by combining weather factors, the failure to keep new years resolutions, and other such absurd statistics), but for the players that ventured to Hinckley for the National Swiss Teams it was very enjoyable. The playing conditions were very good, the hotel very comfortable, and everyone seemed to have a good time, even players such as myself who found themselves landed in the lower echelons, struggling to get above average.

It was also a good event to practise in for top teams competitions, and many of the successful teams were composed entirely of our international players getting such practice, battling away in thirteen seven-board matches.

The Under 20s

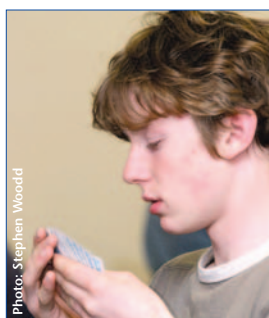
The England Under-20 Squad were out in force, with their top four playing together, and after a bad defeat in Match 2 they got back on the horse and ended in twelfth place in a field of seventy-two, winning all five matches on the Sunday. This was a good board from the final match:

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

Tom Paske (17) and Adam Hickman (19) bid accurately to 5♣. A 4♥ contact looks easier assuming hearts are 4-2 or 3-3, but if they break badly the contract may go off, and on the auction there was every chance that they would break badly:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

The lead was the jack of diamonds, and there are several lines: you could try and finesse against the queen of clubs, or throw one of your spade losers on the third round of hearts, or try and play three rounds of diamonds to throw one of dummy's spades.



Tom Paske

However, faster than you can say double dummy, Tom Paske bashed out the ace and king of trumps, and dropped the queen doubleton. Had the queen not fallen, he intended to pitch his spades on the hearts, combining two chances. Clearly the opening lead was a singleton, and any other line would have failed – since hearts were 6-0! This led to +640 and was worth 4 IMPs when team-mates James Paul and Graeme Robertson saved in 4♠ and lost 500 points.

The Under 20s were playing as part of their preparation* for the World Championships that will take place in October this year in China, and we hope all their hard work will pay off.

The winners

The winning team was *de Botton*, 13 VPs ahead of Jon Cooke, Graham Osborne, Jeffrey Allerton and Frances Hinden, and Tom Townsend, David Gold, Dom Goodwin and Sarah Dunn, equal second on 171 VPs.

*The EBU would like to thank Janet de Botton for her generous support of the Youth Team in this venture.



Michael Byrne

REPORTS

My team played *de Botton* in Match 3 and lost 19-1 VPs. This was a 13-IMP swing that was manufactured from nowhere. What would you open on this hand, as dealer, non vulnerable *vs* vulnerable?

♠ 5 4
♥ A Q 10 8 7 4 3
♦ 8 2
♣ Q 7

It might seem obvious to try 3♥ but Artur Malinowski opened 4♥ and created a swing, since LHO doubled (for take-

out), and Nick Sandqvist raised preemptively to 5♥ leaving the next player in some trouble, since he held:

♠ A K 9 8 2
♥ J
♦ 9 4 3
♣ J 10 9 2

Do you blame my team-mate for bidding 5♠ and going one off? I certainly didn't. Well done Malinowski and

Sandqvist on a great team effort.

I look forward to getting my revenge next year perhaps, but in the meantime congratulations go to Nick Sandqvist, Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski and David Burn (*left to right, below*). □





Sandra Landy

Returning partner's suit

- If declarer has a minimum for 1NT, partner will have 9 HCP.
- Partner has already shown 4 HCP with the ace of spades, but that still leaves 3-5 HCP in partner's hand.

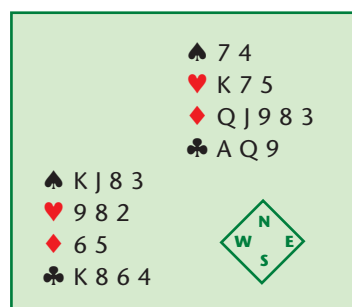
YOU are West on lead to 3NT. The bidding has been simple: South opened 1NT and North bid 3NT.

Your hand is:

♠ K J 8 3
♥ 9 8 2
♦ 6 5
♣ K 8 6 4

Since Stayman has not been used, you decide to lead spades rather than clubs. You choose the three of spades, because our agreement is to lead the fourth

card down from the top, when leading from a long suit headed by an honour and without a sequence. When dummy goes down it looks to be a good choice:



Dummy plays the four of spades and partner wins with the ace, declarer playing the two. That is good news and it's even better when partner returns the nine of spades, declarer plays the ten and you win with your jack. What do you do now? As always, stop and think before you play a card.

Think about the high cards:

- You have 7 points, dummy has 12.
- Declarer has 12-14 points to open 1NT.
- Even if declarer has a maximum of 14, that still leaves 7 High-Card Points (HCP) for your partner.

That means declarer does not have all the points you can't see, and is likely to have some work to do to come to nine tricks.

Plan your defence before playing to trick one

You should always do that simple sum when dummy goes down. Declarer should be thinking before playing to trick one and so should you! Knowing what you can expect partner to hold helps you plan the defence.

Think about the cards already played; so far eight spades have been played and you can see two more in your hand:



The three spades that you can't see are the queen, six and five. If South started with just three spades, that is ♠Q-10-2, you should play your spade king now and drop South's now bare spade queen. That is, you want the cards to be distributed like this, so you can cash four spade tricks:



But if South started with ♠Q-10-5-2, playing your king of spades will create a

spade trick for South and maybe give the contract. To make four spade tricks, you need partner to get the lead and play back his last spade:



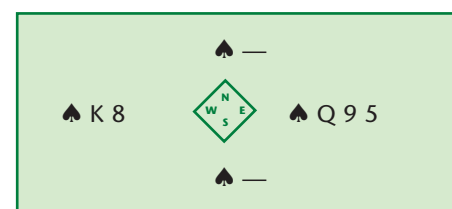
Now both your king and eight of spades will win tricks.

Get a pack of cards and put out the spades in different ways to see how to maximise the tricks you can win. *But you do need to have an agreement with partner to solve the problem of what to play at trick three.*

Our agreement is:

- If partner originally had three spades, partner returns the highest remaining spade. So with ♠A-9-6 partner returns the ♠9.
- If partner originally had four or more spades, he returns his original fourth highest. So with ♠A-9-6-5, partner must return the five of spades. If partner has four spades, declarer must have started with ♠Q-10-2 and when you play your king of spades, declarer's queen will fall under the king and your fourth spade will be a winner.

Occasionally partner will have started with five spades, in which case the position after two rounds of spades is:

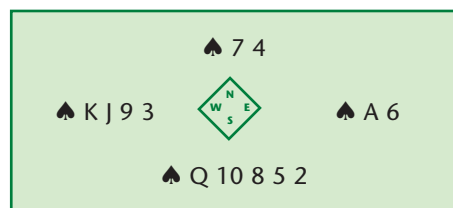


Now, when you cash the king of spades, declarer will show out and you can play your spade eight, overtaken by partner's

queen to cash the fifth spade trick and get 3NT down.

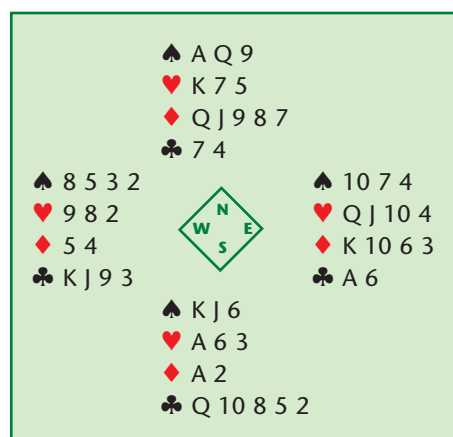
Can this go wrong?

There is one time this agreement can go wrong, when the suit is distributed:



After two rounds of spades you have K-9 and declarer Q-8-5. If you cash the king, you give declarer a second spade trick.

Declarer won't have five spades very often, although some people do open 1NT with five spades. Finding declarer with five cards is more likely when the suit led is a minor. Consider this deal:



Against South's 3NT, you lead the three of clubs. East's ace wins the trick. If South carelessly plays the club two at trick one, East can tell that South started with *five* clubs and continuing clubs will set up winners for South. East should switch to the queen of hearts at trick two. Not returning clubs warns partner that there is a problem in the club suit. It does *not* say: 'I have some nice hearts and I want to play them!'

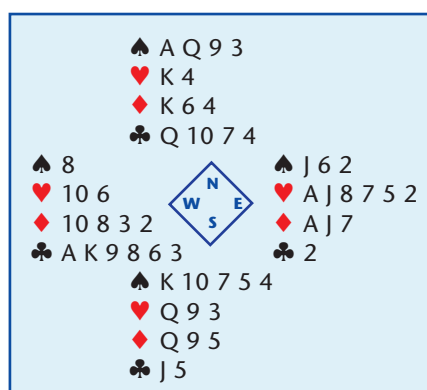
But when this hand was played, one declarer did something really clever. At trick one he played the club *five*. Now East thought West held the two of clubs and must have five clubs. So East returned the six of clubs, and West thought East had four clubs and cashed his club king, giving Ron two club tricks and the contract! West should have looked a bit harder at the small cards. Where is the two of clubs? If declarer has it, then he is trying to mislead the defenders. □

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 February competition and awards prizes in three categories.



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

West leads the ace of clubs and continues with the six of clubs. East follows once, ruffs the second club and exits with a trump. What is the best line for the contract?

You have lost two tricks already and must lose to the red aces. One idea is to play East for a doubleton ace of diamonds. Of course, this is not very likely given the club layout. Another idea is to draw trumps ending in hand and lead a low heart. If West has 10-x or J-x and

foolishly starts a high-low, you can finesse the nine on the way back. There is a better line – to squeeze East in the red suits.

You should win the trump in dummy and ruff a club. Then return to dummy with a trump and ruff a club. Go back to dummy with a trump once more and play a fourth round of trumps. If East keeps three hearts and hence only two diamonds, you discard a heart. You then play a diamond to the queen and duck a diamond. If East prefers to keep three diamonds and two hearts, you discard a diamond. In this case you can set up two heart tricks.

How do you know whether East is keeping three hearts or three diamonds? The bidding and play to date tell you. West, who has had two chances to lead a heart, can hardly have a singleton heart. So East surely cannot have more than six hearts. West has also had the chance to raise hearts but again has failed to do so. So East cannot have fewer than six hearts and must have exactly six.

Congratulations to the winners:

County:	John Turner Colliers Wood, London
Regional:	Jeff Harrison Natland, Kendall
Open:	W. Ellis Paignton

This month's new **PIATNIK** Play Quiz is featured on page 41.

LATEST EBU REGULATION

APPARENTLY, at EBU tournaments some people have not been counting their cards before play, and others have been miscounting. Consequently the 12/14 card situation is arising frequently and is not discovered till the end of play, and hence adjusted scores are needed. The EBU Tournament Committee feel that if this could be eliminated it would mean a smoother running of competitions, and they have bought 100 sets of mini-size digital scales. One is put on each table and players are to weigh their cards in turn instead of counting them. A dedicated EBU employee has discovered that each playing card weighs about 2g and hence you can tell immediately if a hand is a card short or a card too many.

At significant expense, these scales have been adapted so that they show a green light if the hand has 13 cards, an orange light if a hand is a card short and a red light if you have a card too many. Also, the scales give a loud bleep if there is a wrong number of cards; when the bleep is heard, the TD descends. The scales are to be introduced from the start of this month.

— Ian Dalziel



Ed Scerri

When does it pay to bid 'one more' at pairs?

♠ A 9 2
♥ 3 2
♦ K 9 6
♣ Q J 7 4 3

and partner weakly re-bids 2♦. What should we do now?

We have lost all hope of bidding game, and ideally we would like to pass in order to

ensure a plus score. If we do pass, however, the chances of buying the contract are slim, as our left-hand opponent will know that we hold limited values, and would be extremely likely to compete, as it would be relatively safe to do so at the two level.

You may think that this will not matter, as we can always bid 3♦ on the next round, but what will we do when the opponents compete further to 3♥ or 3♠? We will then have a problem of our own making. If 3♦ is succeeding, then we would need to double the opponents in their three-level contract, and then take it two off – otherwise we will score badly. It is also possible that the opponents can make their contract, in which case we now need to bid 4♦ as a sacrifice!

Let us now rewind to the critical point in the auction: 1♦ – (Pass) – 2♣ – (Pass)

– 2♦ – (Pass) – ?

Instead of passing, we should perhaps consider bidding 3♦ at this point.

It is true that we might be 'going too high' in terms of our contract succeeding, but on the plus side, this will make it far more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction. Indeed if 3♦ is failing, then it is extremely likely that your opponents can make at least a three-level contract, so even minus 50 should score well.

This was the full deal:

Love All. Dealer: West.

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

Diagram showing a diamond contract with West as declarer. The diamond suit is shown as a diamond shape with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'W' on the left, and 'E' on the right. The diamond suit is also shown as a diamond shape with 'N' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, 'W' on the left, and 'E' on the right.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

As we can see, a pass will allow South into the auction with a comfortable double, and North will be happy to compete to 3♥ if necessary. A bid of 3♦, however will keep many Souths out of the auction, and will buy the contract.

On these cards, 3♦ by West should make exactly, whereas even precise defence will only beat North's 3♥ contract by one trick.

The principle of making it difficult for opponents to protect certainly works here, as indeed it usually does, and I therefore recommend that you always bid up to the full limit of the hand, unless you are sure your opponents will not compete.

The term 'pre-protection', though perhaps not familiar to average bridge players, is an apt name for this sort of situation. □

FREDA WARNER

We are sad to report the death of Freda Warner, Hertfordshire CBA Secretary. Here is a tribute from Gaynor Tinsdale, her friend and long-time bridge partner.

THE news of Freda's sudden death has been a great shock to all bridge players in Hertfordshire (and Bedfordshire). Freda has been a very active and enthusiastic member and a real enthusiast for the cards, in matches, other duplicate competitions and socially. For the last seven years Freda undertook the role of Hertfordshire County Secretary, a demanding and thankless task and she will be very difficult to replace. She also has contributed so much to local clubs. She was proactive in the development of the Stevenage Bridge club (earlier named the Missed Slam Bridge Club) where she was both Secretary and President. In Bedfordshire, she was Secretary for the Clifton Bridge Club.

As a friend and partner, we spent many a week, weekend and day at congresses where her smile and lovely attitude was a role model for bridge players. I am so pleased that we were able to spend a week at Brighton last summer. Our bridge may not have been of the highest standard but her company and sense of fun resulted in a most enjoyable week.

Freda will be sorely missed.

Lanzarote Congress: a success story

THE Spring EBU Overseas Congress was held in Costa Tegui on Lanzarote. The playing conditions were excellent in the Gran Melia Salinas hotel, a member of 'The Leading Hotels of the World'.

The hotel was built around a central atrium open to the sky, featuring a water garden which contained fishes and frogs, together with plants – some up to thirty feet tall. The frogs croaked loudly each evening. The sceptics amongst us suspected some electronic assistance.

The island has a volcanic origin, and is thought to have arisen out of the sea twenty million years ago. The latest volcanic activity lasted for three months in 1824. Previous to that, the volcanoes were active between 1730 and 1736. Most of the island is barren, covered in lava and ash. The products of the volcanoes have been put to good use in making excellent roads which, by English standards, are virtually traffic free.

The featured hand, which occurred towards the end of the Swiss Teams, had a significant effect on the final placings:

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

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

Should North bid on, pass, or double? A case can be made for all three. My preference is for 5♣ as it appears that

East-West have a big spade-diamond fit and there may be a play for 4♠. A club contract will produce twelve tricks and an inspired South might bid the slam. In 4♠ doubled, West can get out for 800 but some lost 1400.



*Marian Wilcox and Paul Tapster,
Swiss Pairs winners*

The old capital of the island was Tegui, some five miles from the Costa of that name. The village hosted a huge market on the Sunday morning, which was complemented by a band and dancers. The stalls sold some remarkable bargains, such as tablecloths and napkins, for under a fiver, as well as lots of junk. Amazingly for such a small village, a restaurant had on view first



Roy Garthwaite

REPORTS

growth clarets and claimed to have 1,200 different wines in its stock of 40,000 bottles.

The architect César Manrique was influential in the island being declared a World Biosphere Reserve. He advocated strict planning controls with the result that there are few high rise buildings and no advertising hoardings. Amongst his designs was a restaurant which uses heat from the volcanic rock below for cooking.

Those who travelled around were able to visit sites of volcanoes and caves, and a cactus garden with 1420 varieties. Most of the land is infertile but there are enough green pastures to enable vines to be grown. Such vines were small and usually fenced by lava walls to protect them from the west winds. As for livestock, no horses cows or sheep were seen, only a few goats.

This was a most enjoyable congress and a big thank you is due to Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, who have sponsored these overseas congresses for the last five years. □



Swiss Teams winners Bob Dowdeswell, Brigid McElroy, Ruth Edmondson and Pat Dowdeswell

Photo: Marilyn Jones

*Beyond the green baize***BILL COLLINGS**

BILL COLLINGS left his Barnstaple home at 17, working for Lloyds Bank in twenty branches before becoming manager in Newquay. He has played most sports and was a Wimbledon Umpire for ten years, living in a caravan outside the main gate with expenses of 4½/2d per mile and free lunch.

During the war he trained with the RAF aircrew, before going to Madras as a Signals Officer. He joined the invasion staff in Bombay and was heading for Malaya when the Japanese surrendered. Bill became a Staff Officer in Kuala Lumpur.

He went to his first bridge club at 16 and has played ever since. With his wife, Rita, he competed in congresses across southern England and further afield. They enjoyed considerable success and Bill remembers especially winning the pairs in Killarney and coming second in the teams. He played in the Pachabo several times, most recently four years ago.

He was the first Treasurer for Somerset, Chairman of Devon and Cornwall and, later, Treasurer and Chairman for Cornwall. He helped start St Austell Arts and Newquay Bridge Clubs, which he ran for many years. He received a Dimmie Fleming Award in 1995.

Bill has travelled widely, often wintering in South Africa with his daughter. He still drives (locally), is an active member of Probus, and – with his partner, Eileen – enjoys ballet and concerts in Truro. He plays bridge twice a week.

Bill was 99 in January.

Barrie Benfield

From the floor: the February Debate

Thank you for your votes and comments. The Weak No-trump and its champion, Chris Jagger, win the debate with 83% of the votes.

WHEN there are good players and strong arguments on both sides of a debating fence, examples of unlucky hands carry far less weight than discussion of general principles and reasoned argument. On this basis, Chris Jagger wins the debate hands down. I was particularly impressed by the case he made for the weak 1NT at teams, not just at pairs. There is no question that the 12-14 NT is the easiest and most natural system for inexperienced players to learn. It is also a winner most of the time at club and county level.

However, we all enjoy anecdotal evidence and I was interested in the deal from the trials to pick the England team, reported on page 11 of the same issue of *English Bridge*. Tom Townsend's team gained 10 IMPs when his team-mates bid brilliantly to the only making game, but they would never have got to this contract if their opponents, who were playing a strong no-trump, had been able to open 1NT instead of 1♣!

Perhaps the pre-emptive effect of the weak no-trump is more common than Tom is prepared to admit?

Philip Wraight, Staveley

PLAYING in a big field on the continent one must play with the field or do badly. Recently, in Belgium, partner and I scored zero on two deals. On the first, partner, with 16 points, opened 1♣. RHO overcalled 1♥ and I passed. LHO raised to 2♥; they made eight tricks for 110. At all other tables partner's hand opened his balanced 16 count with 1NT. This was passed out and failed by one trick for -100, and zero to us!

On the second deal, partner opened 1NT (12-14); this went Pass, Pass to LHO who doubled. RHO scrambled to 2♥ and failed by one trick. Elsewhere the bidding was 1♣ – Pass – 1NT – All Pass and 1NT makes 120!

Maureen Dennison, Osterly

THERE is no doubt that 1NT is an extremely powerful bid, both constructively and pre-emptively. It is also clear that there are many more 12-14 hands than 15-17 or 16-18 hands. I feel that the frequency of use is an important addition to the arguments advanced by Chris Jagger.

George Summers, Brentford

MY preference is for the weak no-trump, provided it is used on the right type of hand – with honours in at least three suits and as far as possible avoiding making the bid with a weak doubleton.

Tony Wilcock, London

WITHOUT doubt the weak no-trump is an ideal pre-empt at the lowest level: it occurs frequently, it can be bid with a range of hands, and it has no easy counter.

Tom Townsend makes the bad mistake of arguing for the strong no-trump by taking the most extreme example he could find to damn the weak version. To convince anyone, he has to apply his analysis to the normal range of hands likely to occur.

J.V. Jones, Bexhill-on-Sea

I VOTE Weak. Points to note:

1. Plays with room (most common);
2. Increased frequency and accurate strength – a very precise bid;
3. As mentioned last time this was discussed the 'weak' no-trump is stronger than an average hand;
4. Inferences – partner is either strong or unbalanced when 1NT is not bid.

When a strong no-trump is not bid partner could be weak or strong.

A strong no-trump is solid and less likely to incur large penalties but frequency is far less, so less effective as an attacking weapon.

A strong no-trump is for wimps.

John Portwood, by e-mail □

PARTNER WANTED

Looking for a suitable bridge partner for the Brighton Summer Meeting, August 11 – 15. I have been a bridge player for more than twenty years, and consider myself to be intermediate to advanced level. If interested, please call or text me (Asuncion) 0781 0483 789.

Scoring a teams event

THE majority of games played in clubs up and down the country are pairs games scored by match-points. However many clubs play teams competitions as well. Around Aylesbury, many clubs play a teams competition during the first week of each month rather than pairs. Others occasionally play Swiss Teams events during the year and many clubs enter one or more teams in the local teams league.

Unlike pairs, which is usually scored by computer, teams can be scored by the players. In a teams of four event, one pair of our team sits North-South and the opponents sit East-West whilst, at the other table, our other pair sits East-West against the opponents' North-South pair.

Suppose our team plays a four-board match against another team and the results are as in the blue table below:

N/S pair	Contract	N/S score	E/W pair	Contract	E/W score
Board 1	3NT+1 by N	+430	Board 1	3NT= by N	-400
Board 2	3♣= by N	+110	Board 2	3♠= by W	+140
Board 3	4♠ - 2 by S	-100	Board 3	4♠= by S	-420
Board 4	6♣*= by W	-1540	Board 4	6♣*= by W	+1540

How has our team done on these four boards? It is a two-stage process. First you add together the two scores on each board.

Board 1 is +430 at the first table and -400 at the second table. The overtrick makes a slight profit. Net is +30.

Board 2 is a good score for both our pairs. A making part-score at both tables. +110 +140 = +250

Board 3 is not good for us. Going down in a game and letting it make in the other room is costly: -100 -420 = -520

Board 4 is a flat board, in spite of the quirky result at both tables.

IMP scoring

These differences are converted using a scale called International Match Points (or IMPs for short). The IMP scale is shown in the yellow table on the right.

In our four board match the IMPs are +1, +6, -11 and 0, so we lose the match by 4 IMPs.

As you can see the scale is not linear and small swings can quickly mount up. In a match, if you average a plus score between 3 and 4 IMPs on a board you are doing very well. IMP swings of up to 13 IMPs are quite common but the higher ones are rare.

In some events, such as Swiss Teams and local Leagues, there is a further conversion to Victory Points.

VP scoring

In a match just scored by IMPs there is no limit to the size of the win that a team can obtain so a big win of, say, 50 IMPs in an 8-board match will give the team a big



John Pain

are at stake and are shared between the two teams depending on the margin of victory.

The green table below shows the scale for a standard 8-board Swiss Teams match:

IMPs difference	VPs	IMPs difference	VPs
0 - 0	10 - 10	13 - 15	16 - 4
1 - 2	11 - 9	16 - 18	17 - 3
3 - 4	12 - 8	19 - 23	18 - 2
5 - 6	13 - 7	24 - 29	19 - 1
7 - 9	14 - 6	30 +	20 - 0
10 - 12	15 - 5		

So an average of just under 4 IMPs per board is enough to give you a maximum 20-0 win. Unfortunately IMPs in excess of 30 are lost, but in some events the organisers offer a round-by-round bonus prize for the highest IMP win in the round. □

Points difference	IMPs	Points difference	IMPs	Points difference	IMPs
0-10	0	370-420	9	1500-1740	17
20-40	1	430-490	10	1750-1990	18
50-80	2	500-590	11	2000-2240	19
90-120	3	600-740	12	2250-2490	20
130-160	4	750-890	13	2500-2990	21
170-210	5	900-1090	14	3000-3490	22
220-260	6	1100-1290	15	3500-3990	23
270-310	7	1300-1490	16	4000+	24
320-360	8				



Ian Payn

Teams is the best form of 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

ALL across the land, every night of the week at clubs grand and modest, tens of thousands of players sit down to play match-pointed pairs. Twenty-four boards of cut-and-thrust and then the travellers are gathered (for the sake of imagery I'm going back in time about twenty years), the designated scorer puts a lot of 2s, 1s and 0s down the side, transfers these to a recapitulation sheet and hurrah! A winner is announced, and master points awarded, along with a modest prize, perhaps. Nothing wrong with that. Nothing wrong with that at all. It just isn't bridge. Or isn't really.

When you play teams, doing the right thing is all-important. Bidding carefully to the right contract, and once in it, playing safely. This is not true of match-pointed pairs. Take this example.

Playing with a new partner (funny, the old ones don't seem to return my phone calls), I picked up a good hand (West in the diagram below):

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

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

A club was led, and dummy went down. I viewed the future with some alarm. I could make the contact trivially enough by setting up a heart trick (five diamonds, two clubs, a heart and a spade) but this wasn't going to be good enough. Even if

two spade tricks were lost, 4♠ was likely to make. So, I had to play on spades to make ten tricks in no-trumps by taking the double finesse, risking the contract if RHO had K-Q (-x) (-x). What happened at the table was that when I placed the spade jack on the table, we had a little wobble from LHO, so we were all right, and made five diamond tricks, four spades and two clubs. Eleven tricks. This was a complete top, and the opponents were furious, so all was well with the world. Except it was madness. I'd bid poorly – I should have trusted partner for a five-card spade suit and didn't. Then, despite having landed in a cast-iron contract, I was forced to play unsafely to do well. As a result of these two idiotic positions, I'd got all the match-points in my pocket. This is all very well for a pairs game down at the club, but it really won't do in a serious game. *C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas le pont.*

A more accurate test of playing ability on the night is teams of four. The team that plays better will win. That's not to decry luck, or punting, or good judgement as it's known when it comes off – one might find oneself in a team that's a bit down in a match which, on form, could go either way. If a flat set is of no use, then generating a swing may be the only way to win. Personally, I rarely have any idea how a set is going: all those magazine articles that describe experts knowing that they'd got 2 IMPs back because they went one off in 3♦ baffle me. However, most of us could work out that if the first seven boards of a set have gone 1NT–3NT with nine cold tricks on any lead, then we need a plus score on the last board. I suspect that most readers of *English Bridge* are somewhere between these two extremes when it

comes to working out how a set in a match is going, which is fair enough. If you divine correctly what's needed on a particular occasion, then you've done the right thing, haven't you? So you deserve to win. (By the way, it's always better to claim afterwards that any 'tactical' effort was based on a cold calculation of what was needed. It's so much better for the image than saying: 'I was a bit bored and fancied a punt.')

The major knock-out competitions in this country are popular for the reason that to win them you have to have beaten everybody that you played, and to do that you had to be better on the day. As these campaigns reach their later stages, and the matches get longer, better players know that if the lesser opponents got lucky in the first set it won't matter. Sooner or later better play will prevail. The 12 IMPs lost on a dodgy slam will be recovered by better judgement on three part-score deals. This has to happen before the music stops and a chair is taken away, but it normally will.

If you want a convenient game of bridge any day of the week, and are prepared to take your chances and have a bit of fun, then pairs is the game for you, but if you want a true test of skill, enter a few knock-out teams competitions. I speak as someone whose finest performance in the Gold Cup involved an overnight stay in Manchester prior to a sixth-round match. After an early start, my team finally got an IMP on the score-card just prior to the tea and biscuits being wheeled out. But I recognised the quality of the opponents, and wasn't in the slightest bit bitter. I wouldn't say that I didn't whinge a mite on the drive home afterwards, but I'd stopped by Watford. And with teams, there are more people making up the captive audience in the car . . . □

Match-pointed pairs is the best form of 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.



Frances Hinden

THE DEBATE

ALL across the land, every night of the week at clubs grand and modest, tens of thousands of players sit down to play match-pointed pairs. Considerably fewer people will be playing teams, and yet the 'Test Your Play' or 'Test Your Defence' problems in *English Bridge* are always at rubber or teams scoring, never pairs. The same is true of most of the hands you see written up by various bridge columnists in the daily papers. Is that because match-point scoring is less important or perhaps less interesting? Or because it's less commonly played worldwide? No, it's because pairs is a far harder game.

At teams, defence is simple: beat the contract if you can. At pairs, you don't know when choosing your opening lead if you are trying to stop the second overtrick or ensure the vital second undertrick. Similarly, in a teams match it doesn't matter whether you play in four of a major or 3NT if both contacts are making ten tricks – but at match-points those ten points are the difference between a top and a bottom.

Here is a deal from the 2007 National Pairs final, with partner and me North-South:

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

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

¹ Transfer to spades

² Cue-bid

³ Roman Key-card Blackwood

The 2♣ opening was either a strong or a weak hand with diamonds, so East could not make an immediate positive response of 2♠.

North led the seven of diamonds which went to declarer's king. Declarer played the queen of spades and North followed low. At pairs this is a difficult problem because declarer has to decide whether it is right to play for an overtrick by taking the spade finesse – risking a possible diamond ruff – or to ensure the contract by playing ace and another trump. How likely is it that the lead was a singleton, given that South did not double 2♦ or 5♦? Will the rest of the field be in the same contract, or will some people have stopped in game or bid a grand slam? How many will play in a slam by East after a 2♠ response to a 2♣ opening? Will everyone else get a diamond lead and face the same problem? This is all part of the fascination of match-points, while at teams this is a dull hand: you lead a spade to the ace at trick two and ensure the contract, with an overtrick if the king is singleton.

Pairs is also fairer, because every hand counts equally. Last year my team lost the final of a national teams knock-out by less than the swing on one board when the opposition bid a grand slam that depended on a finesse. The other hands in the final set turned out to be virtually irrelevant compared to that one 50% decision to bid a grand slam. At match-points it doesn't matter whether the contract is 7NT redoubled or 1♣. You can't stop concentra-

ting just because the contract is a part-score. That's also what makes match-points more fun: because small score differences are so important, there is always much more bidding on part-score hands, and wild pre-empt, delicate doubled contracts and large penalties are seen more often.

It is often said that teams of four is the purest and most skillful form of the game, while pairs is 'imperfect' and 'random'. Well, if you have good enough team-mates, you can sometimes get away with playing less than your best, as their good results will cover for you. Or you can always blame them for your bad results. At pairs, however, it is all down to your partnership. It's true that over twenty-four boards in a one-session pairs event the best pair will win rather less often than the best team would win a short multiple teams, because it makes a big difference if the cards go your way or not. However, once you start playing a lot of deals that factor disappears. Look at the winners of previous World Open Pairs and you will see the world's top players (such as Fantoni and Nunes, or Meckstroth and Rodwell). They clearly think these events are worth playing in, even without a sponsor at the other table paying their wages.

I enjoy every form of bridge, whether it is a rubber with my parents, a county league match, simultaneous pairs events at the club, a national teams knock-out or even the occasional international event. They are all challenging in different ways. There would be less variety and much less fun if we had to stop playing match-points because it's deemed an inferior form of the game. □

'Match-pointed pairs is a harder game . . . and more fun'



Andrew Kambites

WHY do you play bridge? For some readers their priority is a social night out, which is a very sensible reason. However, I suspect that most of you, even if you have no ambitions to be a world-beater, would like to play well at your own standard and to fulfil your potential. To do this, we need to analyse types of errors and decide what can be done about them.

Have a look at this deal:

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

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

North led the four of diamonds. Declarer breathed a sigh of relief when dummy's king of diamonds won, quickly played a club to his ace of clubs and went one down when North showed out.

Can you see what happened?

Having overcome the first hurdle when dummy's diamond king won, declarer didn't mentally readjust. If he had re-tuned his mind, his thought processes would have been clear. North has overcalled in

Concentration, Concentration, Concentration

hearts and shown length in diamonds. (North-South were not playing two-suited overcalls to 1NT). Clubs are likely to break 2-1, but if anybody has three it will surely be South. Therefore declarer should start with dummy's king of clubs, allowing him to take a marked finesse against South's ♣Q-8-7. Too much elation when the king of diamonds won, followed by too little subsequent concentration!

Experience and errors

All of us make some unavoidable errors. I believe strongly that most things we get right, particularly at card play, come from pattern recognition. When a beginner first sees dummy he can be overwhelmed. It is probably pointless expecting him to count winners and losers, preserve entries and a million and one other things. If he even tried to do this, he would slow the game down to the point of serious disruption, and totally exhaust himself.

Learning bridge is like learning a foreign language: having to think about everything you do it is hard work and you do it badly. With experience you start to do the right things naturally and effortlessly. Even very experienced players still encounter new situations and are likely to get them wrong. *Unavoidable errors should be accepted as part of the learning process. The problem isn't that you get it wrong; the problem is that it preys on your mind and leads to avoidable errors on the next hand.*

Avoidable errors

So if we cannot prevent unavoidable errors, we must clearly focus our attention

on *avoidable errors*, caused by lack of concentration, poor temperament etc. Any loss of concentration during play is off-putting. For example, I lead the two of clubs against 3NT. Dummy wins with the ace of clubs. Partner and declarer play, the cards are turned over quickly and declarer quickly calls for a card to trick two, but I become aware that I didn't notice partner's card. I feel uneasy for the rest of the defence. Even if partner's signal turns out to be inconsequential, I feel disorientated. So how can we avoid this type of error?

How to avoid avoidable errors

You need to analyse when your concentration is liable to waver, e.g.

A. External Factors

Noise or temperature.

Opponents, e.g. you don't like them.

B. Internal Factors (many of these involve emotions)

1. *Fatigue*. Sometimes unavoidable, but you do need to play at a pace and level that is sustainable for the whole session. Players who try to work out every last detail at a snail's pace at the beginning of an evening but are totally exhausted at the end are not helping themselves.
2. *Anxiety*. How will partner or team-mates react to your -1100? Good team spirit and partnership morale will help this. Anxiety brings on fatigue later in the day.
3. *Frustration* with partner's error, team-mates' poor performance, a perceived poor TD ruling, bad luck (opponents making a grand slam on three finesses). Note that the factors are external, but the problem is internal. It is not the event that is the problem, it is your reaction to it.
4. *Elation*, as seen by my opening example.
5. *Complacency*. You have had seven good boards. That is not an excuse to relax and chuck 13

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IMPS on the eighth.

6. *Thinking about a previous hand:* 'Could I have made that 4♠ contract?'
7. In a long match or session, by far the most common times for a concentration lapse are the first board (when you haven't yet settled) and the last board (when you are mentally winding down).

Key Principle: It is the bridge player's reaction to the problem that determines whether concentration will be lost, not the problem itself.

The chances of a consistent performance are maximised by using a consistent pre-performance set of behaviours, called Performance Routines.

There are two types of performance routines:

1. *Pre-session routines.* I like to arrive early and spend at least five minutes sitting quietly, thinking about nothing. There is nothing more damaging than cutting it fine, fuming that every set of traffic lights are red, and then frantically looking for an elusive parking space.
2. *Pre-hand routines,* involving attention cues (see below).

Fact: Total continuous concentration is impossible; for most people twenty minutes is probably the limit.

Bridge players need to have ways of relaxing at convenient points (maybe you are dummy or at the end of a hand) and then ways of switching on concentration at the start of the next hand. These are called *Attention Cues*.

Possible attention cues for bridge players include:

1. *Physical,* e.g. take a deep breath.
2. *Verbal,* e.g. say a word silently (such as 'Concentrate' or 'Focus').
3. *Visual,* e.g. focus intensely on something specific in your environment.

At the bridge table, you should never start a hand until the previous hand (whether a good or bad result) is consigned to the recycling bin of your mind. Ideally, emotions (elation, depression, frustration) should

play no part in bridge. Your attitude to Board 2 should be the same, independent of whether Board 1 was +1700 or -1700.

Useful Rituals

Partnerships should have rituals to signify that a hand is finished. One possibility is that when one player takes out the hand for the next board, it is a sign that all discussion or thought of the previous board is finished.

My partner and I feel that sometimes a brief 'clearing of the air' helps us settle after a particularly unsuccessful result. Suppose one player takes an action that goes horribly wrong. He can say:

1. 'Sorry. That was stupid/my fault,' or:
2. 'My reason for this action was . . . ' or:
3. 'I did have a reason for this. There is not time to explain now but I will explain later.' Very often there is not time to explain at the table and a player needs to be confident that his partner is not being judgmental without knowing the facts.

If you doubt the effectiveness of this psychological approach, bear in mind that many top sports players pay a lot of money to sports psychologists to help maximise their performances. Some of the

seemingly slightly eccentric actions we see from top sportsmen are performance routines to ensure that every time they play a shot, take a free kick, etc. they have exactly the same mindset, free of distractions. For example:

1. Rugby Union star Jonny Wilkinson's routine of hand-clasping before taking a penalty kick.
2. Snooker players who are disturbed by a noise in the crowd, walk away from the table and start their pre-shot ritual over again.
3. Cricketers who reach a century and take a new guard as a cue to regain concentration and start again.

Sometimes we have seen just how seriously this can be taken. In the 2003 World Athletics Championships two athletes were disqualified in the men's 100 metres sprint under new rules which judge false starts by a computer measure of their reaction times on the starting blocks rather than whether they have crossed the starting line. Every time the officials tried to restart the race, the crowd jeered and hissed. The most experienced remaining athlete would not start under those conditions, and repeatedly walked away from the starting blocks, delaying the start by over thirty minutes. □



IN our Daily Match-Points Room, as in most of our club competitions, sixteen boards put you on the leader board. I can just about manage that – sitting at my computer and 'resting' in the middle for about an hour to walk the dogs.

At our Hinckley Congress in January more boards than that were played, so I struggled and envied everyone else's stamina, especially the winners': *Corby Cup*: LindseyC (Lindsey Clark) and Gary_C (Gary Conrad); *Bears Teams*: Lindylou (Linda Quigley), Hi John (John Golding), Mary Poppins (Mike Elliot) and Fibonacci (Rikki Kittel); *Bridge Club Live Pairs*: Andrew.www (Andrew Worth) and Maggie (Maggie Eaton).

Back online, the 2008 season is well under way. Alongside the regular Daily Play in many rooms of the club, the Competitions programme has something for

everyone: Indies, Pairs, Teams, Girls v Boys, MPs, IMPs, Ladders, Knock-outs.



L-R: Mary Poppins, Lindylou, Fibonacci, High John

Our less experienced players are also assured of competitions and help on a regular basis. Each week there is a Pairs Tourney for Improvers and two sessions of Supervised Practice where experienced players 'mentor' some of the less confident.

So there are lots of reasons to visit us at www.bridgeclublive.com. See you soon, I hope!

Fran Bramzel

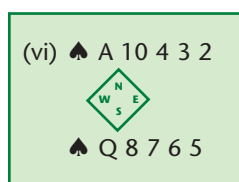
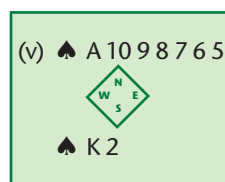
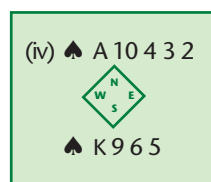
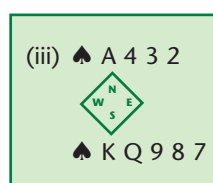
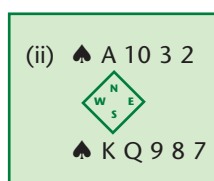
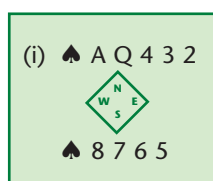


Brian Senior

Safety play

or how to avoid bad luck

SAFETY play could be called the art of avoiding bad luck. Most people think of safety plays as special ways in which to play a particular suit combination to cater to a bad break but, in reality, safety play is about how to approach the whole deal so as best to overcome a lie of the cards which could defeat a lazy or careless declarer. Often, that does mean finding the correct way in which to play a suit combination. Take these examples:



Say that partner's over-exuberant bidding has put us into 7♠ with the first trump combination. The only hope of success is to lead low to the queen, playing for a two-two split with the king onside. But what if the contract is only 6♠ and there are no outside losers? Now to take the spade finesse would be a serious error, at least when playing teams or rubber bridge, where the overtrick is relatively unimportant. Cashing the ace first, then, if the king does not appear, crossing to the South hand to lead low towards the queen on the second round, wins not only every time that finessing on the first round would have done, but also when there is the bare king offside.

Playing a small slam with these trump suits and no outside loser, the only problem holding is when all the missing cards are in the same hand. It would be wrong to start by cashing a top card – guess wrong and you could have two losers, queen-jack-other over the remaining honour in cases (iv) and (v), king-jack over the queen in case (vi).

In (iv), start with a low card from either hand and, if the next hand follows with a small card, put in the nine or ten. If that loses, the remaining cards must fall under the ace and king.

In (v), the instinctive play is to cash the king, but that is not safe. The correct safety play is to start with a low card from the North hand and run it if East plays low. Again, if this loses the remaining

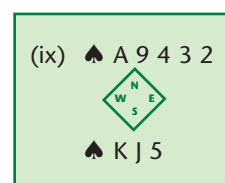
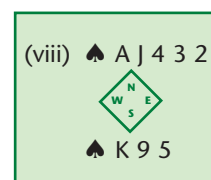
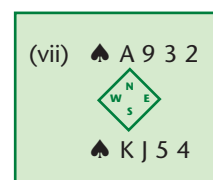
cards must fall under the ace and king.

In (vi), lead low from South and, if the nine appears, put in the ten. If this loses, there is only one missing card, which can be drawn by the ace next time. You could equally well start with a low card away from the ace, but that gives up on the overtrick when West holds the bare king.

Other factors to take into account

Sometimes, knowing the number of winners required from a suit is the key. Holding ♠K-J-3-2 facing ♠A-5-4, the only chance for four tricks is to cash the ace then finesse the jack, requiring a 3-3 break with the queen onside. However, there is a safety play if only three tricks are needed. Cash the king, then the ace, then lead towards the jack on the third round. This gains when the doubleton queen is sitting over the jack.

But more often it is a matter of holding the number of losers to what can be afforded. Every text on safety plays deals with combination (vii):



If you need all four tricks from (vii), best is to lead low to the jack on the first round – that caters to bare queen onside, where cashing the ace first does not. If you can afford one loser, there is a 100% guaranteed safety play (assuming that this is not the trump suit and there is a five-nil split). Cashing the ace loses out when West holds Q-10-x-x, while a first-round finesse of

the jack loses to bare queen offside. The safety play is to start with the king then lead low towards the nine. If the next hand plays small on the second round declarer puts in the nine, while if it plays an honour declarer wins and the jack and nine are equals against the remaining honour. That guards against the 4-1 break and, if the nine loses, the remaining card will fall on the third round as the suit has broken 3-2. Should the second hand show out, declarer goes up with the ace then leads back towards the jack.

Though declarer has a 5-3 instead of a 4-4 fit, exactly the same technique is successful with combination (viii). However, (ix) is a little more awkward. Again, it is correct to cash the top honour from the hand containing the jack, so start with the king, but now a low card away from the jack would fail if East held queen-ten-to-four. Instead, declarer must cross to the North hand to lead the second round low towards the jack. Again, any 4-1 split is negated.

Considering the context

Good declarer play is not, however, about learning how to play different suit combinations in isolation: it is about playing those suit combinations in the context of the whole deal. For example:

South plays 6NT on the lead of the ten of hearts and quickly recognises that the diamond combination is ripe for a safety play. However, it would be a major error to play on diamonds immediately. It will do declarer no good to hold his diamond losers to one if the spade finesse loses, as he will have only eleven tricks. Equally, it will be tragic if the spade king is onside but declarer then loses two diamond tricks.

The solution is very simple: take the spade finesse before playing on diamonds, then you know whether you can afford the

safety play or need to go all out for four diamond tricks. Declarer should therefore win the heart in dummy and lead a spade to the queen. If this wins, he then follows the sure safety play as described above.

On this last deal, South becomes the declarer in 4♠ after West opened 3♣ and led the king of clubs.

This is a very different kind of safety play, which does not revolve around a suit combination so much as counting winners and playing accordingly.

A careless declarer will win the ace of clubs and ruff a club with dummy's nine. When East over-ruffs and returns a trump, he will be left with two more club losers plus a heart, for down one. Unlucky? Hardly.

The safety play is to ruff a club with the king at trick two, cross back to hand with a red ace and ruff another club with the nine. Yes, that gets over-ruffed, but declarer had budgeted for one trump loser and there is only one club loser left and one heart – ten tricks made. □

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Please indicate on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, or in the e-mail subject line, the category for which you are entering. Julian Pottage will judge the entries and the first correct answer drawn in each category will win a prize.

PRIZE PLAY QUIZ

A competition you can all enter

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

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

West	North	East	South
5♥	6♠	4♥	4♠
		All Pass	

West leads the five of hearts.

What is the best line for twelve tricks?

COUNTY NEWS

Congratulations to the newly promoted Premier Grand Master:

Mr B. Niccol (Merseyside & Cheshire)

Congratulations to the newly promoted Grand Masters:

Mr D.A. Newstead (Norfolk)

Mr M.G. Oliver (North East)

Mr D.R. Strawbridge (Cumbria)

Master Point promotions

NEW RANKS: a full list of all current Area and Local Masters is available at the EBU website:
www.ebu.co.uk

Avon

2 Star Premier Master

Mrs D.F. Ogilvie

Premier Master

Mr J. Terry

4 Star Master

Mr E.K. Page

1 Star Master

Mr R.A. Woodford

District Master

Mr D. Clarke

Mrs D. Hoyle

Mrs J. Martin

Mrs J. Portnall

Bedfordshire

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr J. Hurst

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs N.M. Gifford

Mrs V.A. Lawson

4 Star Master

Mrs V. Lobo

Advanced Master

Mrs E.M. Sharrock

County Master

Mr M. Francis

District Master

Mr R.J. Sear

Berks & Bucks

Life Master

Mrs H.M. Tan

Premier National Master

Dr I.P. Hesselwood

Mrs L.E. Randall

8 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr C.C. Harrison

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr P. Gibbons

2 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr D.D. Thomas

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr M.B. Miller

Premier Regional Master

Ms A. Flintoft

3 Star Regional Master

Mrs P.E. Lee

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs V. Morris

1 Star Regional Master

Ms J. Rutherford

Regional Master

Mrs L. Hayton

Mr A. Wallen

15 Star Premier Master

Mr P.A. Wilson

10 Star Premier Master

Mrs D.E. Bidmead

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs P. Hamilton-Brown

2 Star Premier Master

Mr M.G. Baily

Mr T.B. Randall

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr A.D. Woolley

Tournament Master

Mr J.F. Landon

5 Star Master

Mr D.M. Brown

4 Star Master

Mr D. Cook

Mr M.J. Houghton

Mr A. Jenkins

3 Star Master

Mrs S. Lane

Mr S. Mian

Mrs E.D. Smith

Mr A.D. Stewart

2 Star Master

Mr K.A. Jones

1 Star Master

Mrs D.M. Burley

Mrs A. Marchetti

Mrs C.M. Sanders

Advanced Master

Mrs M. Carver

Dr A.P. Cowling

Mrs P. Hanson

Mr K. Hawkins

Mrs E. Parkinson

Master

Mr R.G. Cheatham

Mr A. George

Mrs E. Merlyn

Mrs L. Pratt

Mrs E. Quigley

Mrs A.E. Thomas

Ms T. Wall

Avon

www.avoncba.org.uk

THE County Knock-Out has reached the semi-final stage and the matches over 48 boards are Smith v Jones, and Davies v Gagne. *County Leagues* current leaders: Div. 1, Smith; Div. 2, Channack; Div. 3, Bickerstaff.

In the *Gold Cup*, the team including Mike Elliott and Tim Brierley is through to Round 3. In the *Welsh National Pairs*, David Jones, in partnership with Tony Ratcliff, won the Western Area Final to reach the National Final. *NICKO*: Andrew and Cathy Smith, Steve Turner, Steve Tomlinson and David Jones have reached Round 4.

There was a double for the Smith family in the *County Men's and Ladies' Pairs* with Lesley and Cathy winning the *Ladies' Pairs*, and Ralph and Andrew the *Men's*. The *County Mixed Teams* was won by Sinead Bird, Andrew Urbanski, Alan Jones and Jack Terry.

At the *Welsh Porthcawl Congress*, the *Little Dragon Pairs* was won by David Jones and Peter Goodman, with Andrew Urbanski and Alan Jones in third place.

The *Bristol BC Pairs Championship* saw a tie between the Smith family again, with Ralph and Lesley winning the split from Andrew and Cathy. The *West of England BC Swiss Pairs Championship* was won by Rob Myers and Myles Ellison. The *Bristol BC Christmas Swiss Teams* was won by Brian Dyde, Peter Sherry, Phil Channack, Brian Wibberley. The winners of the *Bristol BC Teams Championship* were Duncan Cairns, David Jones, Richard Dunn, Brian Goalby. The *Bristol BC Premier Pairs* was won by Mike Letts and David Jones.

Brian Senior visited Bristol Bridge Club to give two lectures, which were very well supported, as part of the club's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Bedfordshire

www.bedsbridge.co.uk



THE *1 Star Pairs* event was held on 17th January; twenty-four pairs took part. Congratulations to John Boughey – Paul Bower, who won with 60.66%. Close runners-up were Rosemary Cooke – Jean McKinney with 60.14%.

The *Inter-club Teams-of-Eight* took place on 31st January at Wilstead. Six local teams entered and Wardown were the winning team with a score of 86

IMPs (57 IMPs above second place) and go through to the regional final of the *Garden Cities Trophy*. The successful team were David Harris, Bertie Shiebert, Angela and Richard Chester, Bill Stanley, Barry Parkins, Peter Scott and John Boughey. John seems to have the 'Midas touch' this month, having also won the *1 Star Pairs* and the monthly *Wardown* handicap competitions.

The *County Pairs* semi-final and final will be held at Wilstead starting at 2.00 pm on 6th April.

Looking further ahead, the County will be holding *One-Day Green-Point Teams* events on Sunday 11th May 2008 and Sunday 22nd June 2008 at the Vauxhall Recreation Centre in Luton. Entry details from Brian Keable are available on the BBA website.

Congratulations to Ron Davis for winning the 2007 *Master Points Race*, just ahead of another Bedfordshire player, Jon Williams, who has won this 'Race' several times himself in recent years.

For the first time in many years the county first team has won the *Eastern Counties League* with an overwhelming 122 VPs out of 140. Well done to them. In the *County League*, perennial champions Tudor Rose are once again firmly in control of *Division 1*. In a very tight contest for *Division 2*, the current leaders are Tetrad and McTitans.

Berks and Bucks

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



OUR last report went in just before the sad news of Raymond Brock's death. We were very appreciative that he found the time to serve on the County Committee as Club Liaison Officer. We also pay tribute to our long-serving former Treasurer, Roger Barrett, who died in January after a short illness.

The *County Pairs Championship* was won, by a huge margin of 7%, by David Owen – Steve Johnston. David has now won three times, each with a different partner. The other qualifiers to play in the *Corwen Trophy* are Dory and Nigel Thompson, Alan A. Brown – Mohamed Ramzy and John England – June Booty. Winners of the *County Plate* were Steve Lee – Chrys Poole.

Gisela Martin – Derek Russell won the *Friendly Swiss Pairs* for the *Pat Husband Trophy*, and Sally Bride – Vic Savage were the winners of the *Mixed Pairs*.

In the national arena, congratulations to James Paul who was part of the England Under 20 teams which won the *Channel Trophy* and came second in the *Peggy Bayer*. Also to Richard Palmer, Phil Thornton, Chris Burley and Steve Gore on their success in qualifying for the final play-off in the *Seniors Trials*, 1 IMP (!) ahead of the strong Stanley team. They will be joined by Carole Mueller for the final against Paul Hackett's team.

Congratulations also to Palmer and Burley, who, with Ed Scerri and Dick Davey, were fourth in the *National Swiss Teams*.

Diary Dates: Apr 16, Seniors Pairs. Apr 27, Men's and Ladies' Pairs. May 21, Berks v Bucks matches.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk

CAMBS & Hunts qualified comfortably for the *Tollemache* final, and finished in third place. The team was Jonathan Mestel, Paul Barden, Julian Wightwick, Giles Woodruff, Catherine Curtis, Paul Fegarty, Victor Milman and Rod Oakford.

County Pairs: 1. Rod Oakford – Victor Milman, 2. Sheila Parker – Jonathan Mestel, 3. Vera Donert – Ted Shaw, 4. David Man – Ken Jackson, 5. Joanne Caldwell – Kevin Smith. *County Individual:* 1. Peter Jackson, 2. Ted Shaw, 3. Audrey Stenner, 4. Stephen Goodwin, 5. Shirley Rainbow.

At the *Year End Congress*, Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis finished third in the *Swiss Pairs*. In the *National Women's Pairs*, Catherine Jagger finished fifth, just ahead of Nadia Stelmashenko and Sue Oakford. Catherine and Chris Jagger were third in the *Swiss Pairs* at the *Harrogate Spring Congress*.

Diary Dates: Apr 27, Jubilee Swiss Pairs.

Channel Islands

www.cwgsy.net/community/cicba/



THE *Jersey District Ladies' Pairs* was won by Marion Miles and Roz Bavin, with Ann Burnett – Sue Griffiths runners-up. The *District Men's Pairs* was won by Les Allam and Chris Hill, with Brian Youd – Byron Nelson in second place.

Also in Jersey, the *Winter Cup* is run over a period of seven months and the average of the best five scores, each with a different partner, determines the winner. Final positions: 1. Carl Harrison, 2. Peter

2007 MASTER-POINTS LEADER BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS to Ron Davis, who has won the 2007 Master Point Race with a total of 46,108 MPs! Ron finished just ahead of his Bedfordshire colleague Jon Williams (43,792 MPs) who had won the trophy for the last several years. Third was Michael Byrne of Manchester (40,026). As might be expected, top places went to players ranked Life Master and above; other national rank category winners were K.A. Rahim (Gloucestershire), top of the National Masters list with 25,619 MPs, and Mrs J.M. Skinner (Kent), top of the Regional and Premier Masters ranks with 21,920 MPs.

In the Gold Point rankings, David Bakhshi of London ended the year in first place, with 87.66 GPs, ahead of Michael Byrne (80.88 GPs) and last year's leader Tim Rees of Berks and Bucks (78.41 GPs).

Full ranking lists can be downloaded from www.ebu.co.uk.

Master Point promotions

County Master

Mrs E. Bye-Jorgensen
Mrs T. Coleman
Mrs M.E. Giorgi
Mr R. Heap
Mrs J. Paxford
Mr R.G. Sneddon
Mr A. Wisman
Mr E.B. Wood

District Master

Mr B. Buckley
Mrs V. Dickinson
Mrs J.R. Milbourne
Mr R.B. Williams

Club Master

Mr M.J. Bader
Miss M. Eaton
Dr M.K. Osborn
Mr M.E. Prentice
Mr A.J. Reading
Mrs M.E. Reading

Cambs & Hunts

9 Star Regional Master

Mr D. Oxbrow

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs A. Aplin

5 Star Premier Master

Brig D.A. Man

4 Star Premier Master

Ms G. Wilkins

3 Star Premier Master

Mr F.A. Allen

1 Star Premier Master

Mrs A. Newman

Mr R.R. Newman

5 Star Master

Mrs J. Patten

3 Star Master

Mr D.N. Samuel

2 Star Master

Mr K. Winterbottom

Advanced Master

Mrs M. Warburton

Master

Mr P. Dixon

County Master

Mr P. Bond

Mrs M.E. Cooper

Mrs J. Hewer

Mr R.B. Salmon

District Master

Mr A.J. MacFarlane

Mrs M.J. MacFarlane

Channel Islands

Regional Master

Mr D.J. Stone

1 Star Premier Master

Mr C. Hill

Mrs M.E. Horton

Premier Master

Mr J.H. Robert

1 Star Master

Mr L. Allam

Advanced Master

Mrs D.O. Dessoude

County Master

Mrs M.J. Friswell

District Master

Mrs C.A. Kinnersly

Cornwall

24 Star Premier Master

Mrs B.J. Martin

22 Star Premier Master

Mr W.F. Berks

16 Star Premier Master

Mr R. Bliss

8 Star Premier Master

Mr D.L. Stone

6 Star Premier Master

Mr D. Griffiths

5 Star Premier Master

Mr S. Crouch

3 Star Premier Master

Mr R.M. Turner

Tournament Master

Mr G. Buck

5 Star Master

Mr C.D. Nichols

Mrs E.M. Relton

2 Star Master

Mrs A.A. mpleford

Mr J. Harnett

County Master

Mr E.E. Tozer

District Master

Mrs R. Hale

Miss H. Peers

Mr R.L. Smith

Mr D.J. Wiltshire

Cumbria

Grand Master

Mr D.R. Strawbridge

National Master

Mr C. Woods

15 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr G.W. Bell

13 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs K.M. Bell

7 Star Regional Master

Dr P.J. Boardman

5 Star Regional Master

Mrs G. Lloyd

1 Star Regional Master

Mr J. Harris

District Master

Mrs K. Davison

Derbyshire

Premier National Master

Mr M.C. Young

9 Star Premier Master

Mr D. Charteris-Whiting

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs M. Kenworthy

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs P. Smith

Tournament Master

Mrs J.A. Lippitt

Mrs D.E. Smith

2 Star Master

Mr J.D. Reavy

Mr G.D. Sutton

Advanced Master

Mrs P. Olday

County Master

Mrs M. Feather

Devon

Life Master

Mr J. Edwards

2 Star Regional Master

Mr I.D. Moore

Pitcher, 3. Marion Miles.

In the *BGW Winter Sim Pairs*, Brian Youd and Sue Rankin finished fourth out of 1905 pairs in the Monday session.

Guernsey now know their finalists in the *County Teams Championship*. In the quarter-finals, Dick Langham (Rudi Falla, Lynne Williamson, John Seymour and Sean Galpin) beat Pat Merriman (David Trestain, Brenda Lihou, Brenda Walker and Mike Allen) by 34 IMPs, and Robert Plumley's team (Susie Farnon, Colin Tostevin, Lynda Mildon and Margaret Allen) beat Ian Monachan's team (Mike Bane, Alistair Kent, Martin Jones and Hugh Bacon) by 25 IMPs. In the semi-final Langham beat Plumley by 27 IMPs and now await the Jersey finalists.

Guernsey *District Mixed Pairs* top placings: 1. John Seymour – Sue Shaw, 2. Vera Babbe – Robert Plumley, 3. Pat Merriman – Ian Monachan.

The *District Open Pairs* was won by Lynda Mildon – Colin Tostevin, with Margaret Allen – Robert Plumley second and Vera Babbe – Sylvia King third.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freeseerve.co.uk



THERE have been a number of county competitions in the last two months. Peter Coad – Bill Thomson won the *Falmouth Salver*, with Viv Mably – Celia Bishop second. Viv and Celia were easy third-time winners of the *Tredova Cup*, for players ranked below One-Star Master, with Jenny Vaughan – Neil Harris second. Geoff Warren – Rob Mabley won the *Star Masters* very easily, with Mike Booth – Ruth Harvey second.

Val Pitman – Pauline Deal won the *Ladies' Pairs*, from Patricia Davies – Sylvia Copestick. Joe Bryant – Wally Heaton retained the *Men's Pairs* fairly comfortably, with David Stone – John Deal second. Ken and Janice Keast, Margaret Warner and Janet Heath won the *County Teams of Four*, with Pat Meade, Ruth Harvey, Colin Pote and Mike Booth second.

The *Penventon Swiss Pairs* ended in a tie between Colin King – Joyce Doyle, who won all six matches, and Jenny Cant – Barrie Benfield. The *Club Teams of Eight* was won by Helston with Penzance second.

A number of these winners and runners-up were doing so for the first time and this is encouraging for the future.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, John Perks Cup Final, Ladock. Apr 25-27, Cornwall Congress, Falmouth Beach Hotel.

Cumbria

www.ccdba.co.uk

OUR annual *Inter Club Teams of Eight* was won by Eden Bridge Club, closely followed by Barrow.

The *County Simultaneous* was won by Ian Reeves – Colin Smith with 72.2%. Second were Dorothy Pritchard – Graham Walker with 66.10%, and third were Kath and Geoff Bell with 65.81%.

Our annual friendly with the South of Scotland saw a narrow margin at half

time become a losing 60 point deficit.

Diary Dates: our Championship Pairs is now on Apr 13 and the Swiss Pairs is on May 18, both in Keswick. Apr 26, final of the Murray League. Apr 27, Eden Bridge Club annual open Swiss teams.

Derbyshire

www.dcba.org.uk



THE *County Pairs Championship* was won by John Sowter – Brian Elliott; Peter Kelly – Alex Hogg were the runners-up.

The *Hazel Whinfrey Plate* winners were Howard and Annice Morton, with Ken and Faith Stanyon in second place.

The *Vic Morris Cup* was eventually won by David and Mary Marshall, Richard Edwards and Pym Berry who beat, in a close match, Peter and Sheila Kelly, Alex Hogg and Graham Marshall.

Diary Dates: Apr 9, BGB Simultaneous Pairs. Apr 16, County Trials. Apr 27, Midland Mixed Pairs for the EMBA Plate and the Midlands Fitch. May 8, DCBA AGM. May 28, DCBA Mixed Pairs Championship for the Bill Pratt Trophy.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk



MANY congratulations to Brigid McElroy and Ruth Edmondson who with Pat and Bob Dowdeswell from Reading won the *Swiss Teams* in the *EBU Overseas Congress* at Lanzarote. This is the second year in a row that Brigid and Ruth have won this event – winning with the same team in Cyprus last year. Let's hope they make it a hat trick next year!

Another successful *John Woolcott* weekend was held in January with thirty-two pairs and nineteen teams taking part. Results: *Pairs*: 1. John Beard – Mike Hamon; 2. Margaret and Robin Mardlin; 3. Titch Glenday – Dick Andrews. *Teams*: 1. Titch Glenday, Dick Andrews, Ann Humphries, Robin Giles; 2. Bill Oke, Cathy Lee, Julian Foster, Alan Foan; =3. Don Pearson, Norman Massey, Mike Smith, Andrew Leslie, and John Beard, Mike Hamon, Roger Evens, Terry Hirst.

Plymstock Bridge Club won the qualifying round for the *Garden Cities Trophy* and will go forward to play in Bristol in the *Regional Finals* in May. The winning team was: Maureen Baser, Ian Hopkins, Ruth Edmondson, Brigid McElroy, Sandra Bennett, Duncan Hamlyn, John Vaughn, Christine Maund.

Twenty-two pairs and fourteen teams took part in the *Petit Congress* at Torquay BC. Results: *Pairs*: 1. Jenny Flood – Phil Palmer; 2. Tom Cook – Norman Massey, =3. Nethie and Geoff White, and Bill Ellis – John Harriman. *Teams*: 1. Nethie and Geoff White, John Beard, Mike Hamon; 2. Joy and John Murray Brown, Terry Hammett, Audrey Grzesiak; 3. Jenny Flood, Phil Palmer, Vivien Peters, Ken Rowe.

Diary Dates: Apr 18-20, Devon County Congress (including Green-pointed Swiss Teams).

Dorset

www.dorsetbridge.org.uk



NATIONAL results: *Year End Congress: Mixed Pairs*: 1. Harold Wayne – Janet Smith; *Ladies Pairs*: 1. Ann Sharples – Helen Ackroyd; *National Women's Pairs*: 12. Helen Ackroyd – Ann Sharples.

County Results: *Frost Rose Bowl*: 1. Miles Cowling, Chris Kinloch, Martin Brook, Daphne Philipps; 2. Roy Riley, Doris Hutchinson, Tessa Stevens, David Berwitz; 3. Helen Ackroyd, Mike Organ, Ann Sharples, Clive Russell. *National Pairs Qualifier*: 1. Ann Sharples – Daphne Philipps; 2. David Gill – Eugene Sheehan; 3. Miles Cowling – Chris Kinloch. *Knight Cup Final*: 1. Miles Cowling – Daphne Philipps; 2. Ron and Lynne Heath; 3. Ann Sharples – Helen Ackroyd. *Knight Cup Consolation Pairs*: 1. John Howitt (V) – Marion Howitt; 2. Richard Vessey (V) – Claire Hillyard; =3. Mooneen Potter – Paul Sayer, Tony Lawrence – Mike Ryan.

Remember this year's *Dorset Green-pointed Event* held at Bournemouth University; see below for details.

Diary Dates: May 4, Swiss teams for Udall Trophy, Wimborne Allendale BC; June 1, Swiss teams for Allendale Trophy, Wimborne Allendale BC; June 22nd, Bournemouth One-Day Green-pointed Swiss Teams.

Please e-mail information of interest for inclusion in this column to martin.john.brook@googlemail.com.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



MANY congratulations to both Audrey Hartley and Nicole Cook, each playing with non-Essex partners, for their excellent results in the *Women's Trials*. After the second and final weekend, Audrey and her partner, having won the first session, finished second overall, losing to the winners by a very narrow margin; Nicole and her partner finished in sixth place.

In the *Lanzarote EBU Overseas Congress* there were some very good results for Essex players: Martin and Sandy Smith won the *Pre-Congress Pairs*, and Margaret Curtis and Albert Kitchin were 6th equal in the *Swiss Pairs*, 6th in the *Mixed Pairs* and 3rd in the *Swiss Teams*.

Results of recent Essex competitions: *Helliar Trophy*: 1. Loughton A (Michael Watson, Peter Scotting, Laurence Raven, Alan Stanley), 2. Thorpe Bay B (Bob Hair, Jill Hair, Sid Prince, Paddy Murray), 3. Woodham Ferrers A (Sue Taylor, Chris Taylor, Steve Cade-Bowyer, David Cooper). Woodham Ferrers BC qualified to represent Essex in the *Garden Cities Trophy*. *Essex Swiss Pairs*: 1= Sandy Riach – Robert Elliott, Ray Clarke – Bernie Hunt, 3. Alan Green – Frank Morrison.

National Pairs Heat: 1. Bernie Harrison – Dave Duffy, 2. Val Mollison – Elaine Green, 3. Ray Clarke – Simon Moorman.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Essex Pairs. May 10, AGM and club representatives meeting to discuss the EBU proposals.

Master Point promotions

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs J.M. Northmore

5 Star Master

Mrs G.M. Sommer

3 Star Master

Mr M. Crelley

2 Star Master

Mrs J. Hutton

Mr L. Spencer

1 Star Master

Mr J. Maynard

Mr A.W. Sommer

Advanced Master

Mr W. MacIntyre

Mr J.A.D. Rattlidge

Master

Mrs A.E. Gold

Mrs B. Miller

Mrs H.I. Shaw

County Master

Mr P. Caddy

Dr M. Dalton

Mrs D. Gray

Mr I. Gray

Mr P. Stumbles

Mr R. Watkins

District Master

Mrs M. Emmings

Club Master

Mrs W.S. Cordrey

Direct

3 Star Master

Mrs B.S. Gamage

District Master

Mr T. Owen

Dorset

27 Star Regional Master

Mr J.A. Howitt

18 Star Regional Master

Mrs M.E. Howitt

2 Star Regional Master

Mr M.J. Groom

22 Star Premier Master

Mrs V.E. Bedingham

11 Star Premier Master

Mr J.S. Marshall

3 Star Master

Mr M.P. Caruana

2 Star Master

Dr R.A. Fleury

Advanced Master

Mr J.E. Crewe

Mrs N.I. Willis

Master

Mrs J. Greenwood

Club Master

Mr R.D. Williamson

Essex

Premier Life Master

Mr R. Cornell

Mr A. Green

Premier Regional Master

Mr L. Thacker

14 Star Premier Master

Mr B.A. Berkley

Mr E.T. Field

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs S. Millins

Tournament Master

Mr P.J. Drewe

Mr K.A. Moore

5 Star Master

Mrs L. Ricks

4 Star Master

Mr J.A. Cosgrove

Mr M.J. Harbour

Miss H. McVeigh

3 Star Master

Mrs J.A. Berkley

Mr B.K. Coe

Mr G. Finbow

Mrs A.G. Hunter

2 Star Master

Mrs C. Paget

Mr B. Westwick

1 Star Master

Mr M. Braithwaite

Mrs J.A. Moorman

Mr G.E. Porter

Mr S.R. Timmis

Mr G.R. Webber

Advanced Master

Mr T.A. Coggan

Mr L. Platt

Mrs M.E. Wale

Master

Mr L. Burton

Mr B. Challingsworth

Mr R.F. Cott

Mr M. Maine

Mr C. Peden

Mrs B. Scogings

Mrs E. Turp

County Master

Mrs G. Bresler

Mrs S. Glover

Mrs B.M. Goddard

Mr P. Mamelok

Mr J.D. Ward

District Master

Mr D. Bearman

Ms H. Jones

Mrs M. Pimm

Mr A. Ranson

Ms D.A. Smiles

Mr J. Sullivan

Club Master

Miss A. Friend

Mr D. McCarthy

Gloucestershire

National Master

Mr M. Wignall

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs J. Otway

5 Star Regional Master

Mr P. Ford

2 Star Regional Master

Mr D. Hannon

Regional Master

Mr C. Smith

12 Star Premier Master

Mr D.R. Atthey

5 Star Premier Master

Mr D.M. Simpson

Tournament Master

Mr A. Lander

2 Star Master

Mr J.F. King

Advanced Master

Mr P.W. Parkes

Master

Mr D.N. Glover

Mrs M. Sutton

County Master

Mr A.F. Richards

District Master

Mrs R. Kaye

Mr M. McWilliam

Hants and I.O.W.

Premier National Master

Mr S. Hurst

National Master

Mr A. Jenkins

16 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr W.R. Boswell

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs N. Yew

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs G.M. Harris

5 Star Regional Master

Mr T.F. Page

6 Star Premier Master

Mrs E.M. Stewart

4 Star Tournament Master

Mrs L.R. Craigen

3 Star Tournament Master

Mr R.J. Merrell

2 Star Tournament Master

Mr P. Field

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr L. Davies

5 Star Master

Mrs M.A. Lay

Mrs E.M. Summerfield

4 Star Master

Mr D.E. Bessant

Mr D. Chambers

Mrs M. Gale

Mr L.C. Hall

Mr R.J. Munday

3 Star Master

Mr K. Carter

2 Star Master

Mrs M. Grasso

Mr E. Naughton

Dr G.J. Pack

Mr J. Pugh

Mrs J. Roffey

Mrs W.M. Thomas

1 Star Master

Mrs M.F. Blewett

Mr P. Dance

Mr G. Evans

Mr B. Johnston

Mr R.F. Wilson

Advanced Master

Mr M. Hardy

Mr M. Witham

Master

Mr M. Dodd

Mrs P. Dodd

Mr M. Hunt

Mrs J.M. Pryce

County Master

Mr S. Cameron

Mr A. Collier

Mr F.H. Collins

Mr N.J. Craik

Mrs W. Hutchings

Mrs J.M. Lovegrove

Dr H. Millward-Sadler

District Master

Mrs J. Hole

Club Master

Mrs A. Khan

Mr H. Tuffill

Herefordshire

National Master

Mr P. Watts

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs D. Whittaker

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs G.E. Ogden

5 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs J.A. Shadforth

6 Star Regional Master

Mrs J.B. Holder

3 Star Regional Master

Wg.Cdr N. Shorrick

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs C.E. Malim

2 Star Premier Master

Mr M. Green

5 Star Master

Mrs P. Phillips

4 Star Master

Mrs J. Baker

Mrs D.J. Sallis

2 Star Master

Mrs E.J. Dinnen

Mr D.J. Gray

Mrs J.R. Miles

Mr A.J. Morris

Mrs S. Shore

1 Star Master

Mr R.B. Shutler

Advanced Master

Mr J. Crowe

Mrs J. Eaton

Master

Mrs J. Kingston

County Master

Mrs K. Overens

District Master

Mrs A.H. Matthews

Club Master

Mrs R. Stott

Mrs D.J. Woods-Humphrey

Herts

Premier Life Master

Mrs S. Griffiths

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs J.M. Collier

Premier Regional Master

Mr S. Budd

1 Star Regional Master

Mr G. Cowan

11 Star Premier Master

Mrs N.S. Moss

6 Star Premier Master

Mr J. Pond

Premier Master

Mr J. Leake

4 Star Master

Mrs R. Tuch

3 Star Master

Mrs V.A. Cole

Mr P.J. Jeffery

Mrs L. Peers

Mr C.F. Sandford

2 Star Master

Ms M. Pike

Ms J.S. Turner

Ms R. Windler

1 Star Master

Mrs J.R. Brett

Mrs M.J. Sweet

Advanced Master

Master Point promotions

Club Master

Mrs J. Easton
Mrs M.A. Kean

Kent

Life Master

Mr G. Pollack

9 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs V.A. Reeves

5 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs E. Butler

4 Star Regional

Master

Dr P.J. Burville

Mrs M. Goacher

3 Star Regional

Master

Mrs Y.R. Bowman

2 Star Regional

Master

Mrs S.C. Jury

Regional Master

Mrs J. Lawrence

Mr D.P. Stretton

11 Star Premier

Master

Mrs L. Goldsmith

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J.A. Salvage

9 Star Premier

Master

Mr A.K. Salvage

Mrs C.J. Whyman

6 Star Premier

Master

Mrs L.A. Trowell

5 Star Premier

Master

Mr D.R. Ellerby

Premier Master

Mr B.J. Pinto

5 Star Tournament

Master

Mr C.A. Manley

3 Star Tournament

Master

Mr D.E. Hilbourne

Mrs D. Hilbourne

1 Star Tournament

Master

Mrs J.A. Gayton

Mrs A.E. Kelly

Tournament

Master

Mrs F.A. Arnold

Mrs J. Cooper

Mr J.M. Henderson

5 Star Master

Mrs J.M. Butler

Mrs E.A. Fox

Mrs D. Pickles

Mrs M.J. Studzinski

4 Star Master

Mrs A.H. Carney

Mrs H.H. Ford

Mr P.L. Williams

3 Star Master

Mr N.M. Allen

Mrs G.M. Evans

Dr H.S.A. Fido

Mr G. Southgate

2 Star Master

Mrs A. Balderson

Mr B.P. Brown

Mr C.D. Bryson

Mrs J. Kerr

Mrs B.A. Miller

Mr S. Waterworth

1 Star Master

Mr J.D. Burrell

Mrs E.M. Hart

Mrs A.L. Holmes

Mr E. Rochester

Mr H. Salmon

Mrs P.J. Warner

Advanced Master

Mrs H. Havre

Mr D.J. Jay

Mrs P.C. Morton

Mrs L.M. Williams

Master

Mr M.M. Proto

Mrs S.M. Sells

County Master

Mrs J. Benson

District Master

Miss S.M. Briggs

Mrs C.E. Gibbons

Mr M.C. Heigham

Mr P. Lehos

Mr J.M. Skinner

Club Master

Mrs C.A. Hughes

Mrs P.A. Lacki

Mrs J.C. Newcomb

Mrs C. Watson

Lancashire

11 Star Regional

Master

Mr G.D. Oliver

4 Star Regional

Master

Mr M. Rothwell

25 Star Premier

Master

Mrs B. McCann

14 Star Premier

Master

Mrs H. Sutton

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs D.E. Slater

1 Star Tournament

Master

Mr F. Thompson

3 Star Master

Mr E. Monaghan

Dr D. Nicholls

2 Star Master

Mrs J. King

Mrs M. Rigg

1 Star Master

Mrs S. Wilson

County Master

Mrs J. Driver

Mr A. Hedley

Mrs M. Newman

Mrs C. Wallbank

District Master

Mr J.K. Whitaker

Mrs L. Wilson

Club Master

Mr L. Cutler

Mr P. Grant

Leicester

4 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs M.E. France

Regional Master

Ms J.A. Hill

2 Star Master

Mrs J.M. Hyslop

1 Star Master

Mrs P.R. Shah

Mr R.P. Shah

Lincolnshire

6 Star Regional

Master

Mr D. Stoddart

14 Star Premier

Master

Mr H. Coates

5 Star Premier

Master

Mrs E.N. Herbert

3 Star Master

Mr R.S.G. Handford

2 Star Master

Mr G. Grainger

of seven years, Freda Warner, passed away whilst on holiday in Cyprus in January (see obituary on page 32).

In national events, congratulations to Rick Irwin, fourth in the *Swiss Pairs* and Sheila Evans – Bill Blackman, second in the *Open Pairs* at the *Lanzarote Congress*. Also congratulations to Derek Oram and Alan Kay, fourth, and Dave Dickson, fifth, in the *Men's Pairs*. At the *London Year End Congress*, Celia and Derek Oram were fourth in the *Swiss Pairs*, Alan Kay – Dave Walker were third and Martin and Bobbie Rodney with Tim Dean and Sonia Griffiths were sixth in the 'A' *flight Swiss Teams*. Meanwhile, Malcolm Rosenblatt, Sally Chandler, Colin Holehouse, Simon Mostyn won the 'B' *flight Swiss Teams*.

Local Events: *Cadet Pairs*: 1. Jill Mumford – Sarah Chapman, 2. Kevin Clarke – Paul Kemp, 3. Steve Southworth – Fiona Patterson. *Rose Bowl*: 1. Andrew Doye, Rob Cookson, Tara and Stan Harding; 2. Anne Flockhart, Vernon Gaskell, Celia and Derek Oram, 3. Bobbie and Martin Rodney, Sonia Griffiths and Tim Dean. The *Humble Cup Final* will be between Evans (Sheila Evans, Bill Blackman, Bob Turnham, John Leake) and Andijar-Romain (Arnie Andijar-Romain, Rob Teesdale, John Phalp, Ron Howey).

Diary Dates: Apr 1, Seniors Pairs, Bridge Centre. Apr 6, Desmond Flockhart Trophy, Bridge Centre. Apr 11, Cadet Teams, Bridge Centre. Apr 13, Championship Pairs Final. Apr 18, Marjorie Lukyn Charity Cup Final. May 18, AGM followed by Mixed Pivot Teams. Please contact Mike Minting at mike@mintingm.freeserve.co.uk to book these events.

Kent



www.kcba.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Captain Gerald Tredinnick with the Kent team of Stuart Tredinnick, Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Derek Patterson, Patrick Collins, Peter Law and Denis O'Donovan on winning the *Tollemache Cup*. They are National County Champions from an original entry of thirty-seven counties.

The *George Griffiths Cup* (Kent Senior Pairs) was played in February: 1. David Beal – John Murrell; 2. Mike de Winter – Mary Kendall.

The Chislehurst Golf Club team of Brian Grimwood, Janne Green, Simon Smollet and John Chapman won the first round of the *Golfprint Trophy* and will be going through to the final.

April 6th will see the Kent committee playing against the Surrey committee. The match has been played twice in previous years and the score is one all!

Tunbridge Wells Club is thinking of holding a *Junior Teach-in Day* sometime during the 2008 school summer holidays. If you know of someone aged between 10 and 18 years who would be interested, please contact the Tunbridge Wells Club, ☎ 01892 530739, or go to www.twbridgeclub.co.uk and send an e-mail.

Diary Dates: Apr 13, Larsky Cup Final, TW. Apr 13, Junior Pairs, TW. May 11, Green Point One Day Event, Canterbury. June 8, Mitchell Salver, TW. June 8, Brook Shield, TW. June 22, Butler Swiss

Pairs Green Point One Day Event, TW. July 13, Phillimore Cup, TW.

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS go to Catherine Draper and Andrew Woodcock on winning the *Mixed Pairs* at the *Blackpool Year End Congress* and also the *Swiss Teams* with Dave Debbage and Edward Levy (Manchester).

Southport will represent Lancashire in the *Garden Cities Regional Final* after winning the *Lancashire CBA's Teams of Eight* at Bury. The Southport team was Catherine Draper, Andrew Woodcock, Nick and Sue Woodcock, George and Maureen McConkey, Vinay Bhushan and Bill Carr.

Lancashire Butler Pairs: 1. Ollie Burgess – Catherine Draper. *Lancashire Evening Post Pairs*: 1. Andrew Woodcock – Catherine Draper. *Lancashire CBA's Championship Pairs*: 1. Mike Nicholson – Steve Haley. *Lancashire CBA's Teams of Eight*: 1. Southport A.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Sowerby Cup, Lancaster BC. Apr 13, LCBA Ladies' Pairs and Men's Pairs, Bolton BC. Apr 27, Doyle Trophy (Swiss Teams), Southport BC. May 4, LCBA Swiss Pairs (Madeline Berney), Brierfield BC. May 10-11, Green Point Weekend, Risley. May 18, Blackburn Swiss Pairs, Blackburn BC. May 19, Annual General Meeting, Bolton BC. May 26, Bolton Swiss Teams, Bolton BC.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk



NATIONAL Pairs: just two pairs qualified from the Leics qualifier: heat winners Alan Langley – Dick Pathan, and Marjorie Gilbertson – Pat Watson. Local interest in the Midlands regional final will be increased as other local players qualified through out of county heats.

In the *Midland Counties League* the first team slumped, being heavily defeated first 18-2 by Derbyshire and then 20-0 by Warwickshire. Consequently they can no longer retain the championship they have held for the last three years. The second team recorded 13 – 7 and 5 – 15. The third team scored only 3 – 17 and 1 – 19, so losing their leadership in the *Markham Trophy*, and now lie fourth with one match to play.

In the semi-finals of the *Josephs Bowl* the holders, Ben Gibson (Osborne, Heames, Brewster), play Pat Watson (Gilbertson, Bruce, Moncrief) whilst the 2007 runners-up Simon Stokes (Haider, Glover, Neville) play former champions Odams (Bowyer, Green, Happer, Harvey, Mason).

The top scores in the most recent rounds of the *Butler Pairs Championship* were: *Heat 3*, Wojtek Charemza – Derek Deadman + 61 and Tim Glover – Peter Neville + 56; *Heat 4*, Ian Bruce – Mick Mahoney + 61.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Midlands League v Staffs & Shropshire, away. Apr 9, Stanley Trophy Heat 6. Apr 9, Amateur (Restricted) Pairs, County Bridge Club (CBC). Apr 13, Gimson Trophy Final. Apr 27,

Midland Flitch and Mixed Pairs. Apr 30, Joyce Mixed Pivot Teams, CBC. May 7, Hyman Crammer Pairs, CBC. May 8, League Meeting, LGS. May 13, Jones Trophy Handicap Pairs, Glenfield. May 17, Garden Cities Regional Final. May 21, Stanley Trophy Heat 7. June 4, LCBA AGM and Presentations.

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



A REMINDER TO ALL members that the AGM will be held on Sunday 22nd June at Dunholme.

The *Lincoln Gold* semi-finals are between the teams of Stuart Knox and Alan Brown, and Ron Wall and Maurice Ladlow.

Jan 6, *Bainton semi-final*: N/S winners: Mo Parsons – Maurice Ladlow; E/W Stuart Knox – David Caldwell.

Jan 27, *Bainton Final* (Green-pointed): 1. Alan and Drene Brown, 2. Vic and Mike Llewellyn.

Feb 10, *Random Seeded Teams* (again a low turn-out): 1. Peter and Brigid Hughes, Roy Hughes and Keith Stewart, 2. Bill and Shirley Holmes, John Gaunt and Debbie Burton.

Dairy Dates: Apr 20, Veterans' Cup (minimum age 60, with minimum combined age 125). May 10-11, Annual Championships; entry forms have been sent to all members.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to LMBTA Treasurer Stefanie Rohan and partner Audrey Hartley for ending a very close second in the recent *Women's Trials*, and to the team including Peter Czerniewski, Gunnar Hallberg and Ross Harper who are leading the *Seniors Trials* after the first stage.

Year End Congress: the *Men's Pairs* was won by Andy Bowles, with David Ewart and Gunnar Hallberg second. Other London runners-up were: Richard Hillman (*Swiss Pairs*), Dave Strawbridge and Cara Howard (*Mixed Pairs*), and Simon Gillis (*A Flight Swiss Teams*).

Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski have started the year strongly with wins at both the *National Swiss Teams* and the *SBU Winter Fours*. Graham Orsmond and Jackie Fairclough won the *Mixed Pairs* at the *Baker Tilley Lanzarote Congress*, Nick Boss and Richard Johnson won the *National Men's Pairs*, and Helen Erichsen was second in the *National Women's Pairs*.

Clubs are reminded that there will be a meeting on the evening of Tuesday 13th May at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club to discuss the EBU's final proposals with regard to 'Pay to Play'. More details will be sent out in due course, but club representatives are asked to keep that date free to attend.

County results: *Ian Gardiner Trophy – Qualifying event*: 1. Nick Boss, Richard Johnson, Greg Sokolowski, Jacek Sikora. *London Championship Pairs: Final*: 1. Ned Paul – Brian McGuire; *Consolation*: 1. Rob Cliffe – Gitte Hecht Johansen.

Master Point promotions

Advanced Master

Mr D. Manton
Mrs R.A. Shaw
Mr R. Shelley
Mrs L.L. Tolbutt

County Master

Mr H.R. Watson

District Master

Mr R. Parkinson
Mr R. Tupper

London

Premier National Master

Ms L. Clery
Mr S. Popham
Mr R. Stephenson

National Master

Miss S. Dunn

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr C. Hepworth

2 Star Premier Master

Mr P. Mitchell

Premier Master

Mr D. Bennett

Ms C. Howard

5 Star Master

Mr M.D. Tomlin

3 Star Master

Mr M. Galgut

1 Star Master

Mr M. Zeffertt

Advanced Master

Mrs R.A. Dorey

Master

Mr G. Jackson

Mr D. Margo

County Master

Mrs D. Caplan

Mr N. Irens

Mr B. McCarron

Mrs H. Stewart

District Master

Mr T. Chanter

Mrs M. Gentilli

Mr A.E. Levi

Mr D.F. Newman

Mrs C.A. Nicholson

Mr N. Surface

Ms H.M. Wildsmith

Club Master

Mrs P. Bloom

Mr S. Catherall

Mr K. Lewis

Mr L. Lubaszewski

Mr S.S. Potel

Mr S. Prager

Ms P. Saunders

Manchester

Life Master

Mr K.B. Hassell

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr G. Burns

Premier Regional Master

Mr M. Bell

4 Star Premier Master

Dr H.A. Potts

1 Star Premier Master

Mr D.G.J. Matthews

3 Star Master

Mrs D.L. Dicken

2 Star Master

Mr C. Baker

Mr R. Stevenson

1 Star Master

Mrs C. Bloch

Mrs M.V. Pearson

Advanced Master

Mrs P.A. Booth

Mrs I. Davies

Master

Mrs J. Lewis
Mr N.G. Matthews
Ms L.C. Shuttleworth
Mr G.A. Wilson

County Master

Mrs P.J. Bluhm

Miss S. Richmond

Mrs A. Thornton

District Master

Mr R. Cooper

Miss M. Skinner

Mr G. Winn

Club Master

Mr G. Berzins

Dr R. Reisler

Merseyside/Cheshire

Premier Grand Master

Mr B. Niccol

11 Star Premier Master

Mr J.A.B. Clark

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs S.C. Clark

2 Star Premier Master

Mr K. Perry

Premier Master

Mr J. Ewington

2 Star Master

Mr D. Howe

1 Star Master

Mrs F. Bradley

Mr C. Hutchinson

Advanced Master

Mr J.B. Harrison

Mrs P. McMinn

Master

Mrs A. Harwood

County Master

Ms E. Hatfield

District Master

Mr F. Dixon

Club Master

Mr S.A. King

Mr N. Layhe

Middlesex

Premier National Master

Mrs J. Feldman

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs G.V. Walker

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr I.M. Isaacs

Premier Regional Master

Ms S. Grant

5 Star Regional Master

Mr E. Gergel

3 Star Regional Master

Mr M. Davis

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs V. Clarke

Regional Master

Mr B. Murray

7 Star Premier Master

Mrs S. Karp

4 Star Premier Master

Mr M.S. Simon

1 Star Premier Master

Mr D. Mail

Tournament Master

Mr M.L. Tasker

Diary Dates: Apr 13, Fox Shammon Trophy for Seniors Pairs (contact Steve Eginton ☎ 01628 780862 or e-mail steve@eginton.co.uk). Apr 17, Garden Cities Heat (contact Chris Duckworth ☎ 020 7385 3534 or e-mail chris.duckworth@lineone.net). May 11, Newcomers' Day – informal bridge for new players. (contact Chris Duckworth as above). June 1, London Trophy Final – spectator event (Cecil Leighton ☎ 020 8500 0700).

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/



THE highlight of our news is the Junior Home Internationals held in Manchester over the weekend of February 16-17. Manchester juniors Alex Morris and Mike Bell played in the *Junior Camrose* and won; Jennie Marvin and Elizabeth Roberts played in the *Peggy Bayer* (Under 20s) with Michael Byrne as non-playing captain and finished second to Scotland. Jenny and Elizabeth were also part of the winning *Under-25 Women's Team* in the *Channel Trophy*, and Adam Hickman was part of the winning *Under-20s Team* in the same event.

Gazette Cup: Jim and Jenny Morris, Bill and Joyce White, Dhun Daji, Howard Stubbings, Kevin Higgins and Rod Franks won the *Gazette Trophy* competition at Altrincham BC on 17th February and will represent Manchester CBA at the *Garden Cities Regional Final*.

Cantor Cup (fifteen tables took part in this event for inexperienced players held at Altrincham BC): 1. David and Jennifer Wickenden, 2. Gloria and John Quayle, 3. Andrea O'Rafferty – Sue Wells, 4. Wendy Burton – Angela Parkinson.

Blackpool Year End: well done to the winners of the *Swiss Pairs*, Kath and Alan Nelson, and runner-up Gary Hyett. Also well done to *Swiss Teams* winners Dave Debbage, Ed Levy, Andrew Woodcock and Catherine Draper, and runners-up Tracy Capal, Kath Nelson, Alan Nelson and Jeff Morris.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Higson Cup and Plate Finals, Manchester BC. AGM – date in May to be advised.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk



THE winners of this season's *County Trials* were Margaret Lloyd and David Howe. Second were Paul Roberts and David Flack. Thanks from the selectors to everyone who participated.

The *Chester Congress* was as usual a very successful event. The *Pairs* title went to David Armstrong – Stephen O'Brien. Runners-up were Kevin Jones – Barry Jones. The *Teams* title was secured by the foursome of Bill and Joyce White, and Jim and Jenny Morris. In second place were Bill and Liz Wattleworth with Dan Cross and Jill Entwistle.

NOTE: the County has a new Green-pointed Pairs event. This will take place at Merseyside Bridge Centre on May 10th. It will be held over two sessions and advance entry is advisable. Contact Jill Oddie ☎ 0151 653 0603 or ring the club.

Diary Dates: Apr 13, Charity Teams, MBC; Apr 20, Preece Rosebowl (County Ladies Pairs), Blundellsands BC. May 5, Mayday Pairs, MBC; May 9, Lady Connell/Cheshire Salver finals, LBC. May 10, Green-pointed Pairs, MBC. May 14, EBU Simultaneous, MBC. May 22, Andrew Rosebowl (Mixed Pairs), LBC. June 5, Liverpool Open Pairs, LBC. June 12, Jim Davies Swiss Teams, Heswall BC. June 21-22, match v Dublin. June 24, Bill Hughes Simultaneous, clubs. June 26, Liverpool Open Teams, LBC. July 7, Northern Counties League match 1.

Middlesex

www.middlesexbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to Anne Rosen and Catherine Draper for winning the *Ladies' Trials*. They will represent England in the *Lady Milne*. Heather Dhondy and Nevena Senior came third.

Well done to Richard Johnson for winning the *National Men's Pairs*; Brian Senior and Jack Mizel were second. In the *Ladies' Pairs*, Nevena Senior came second, Anne Rosen third.

Middlesex players finished high on the Gold Point ranking, which measures performance in top English events. Eight out of the top fifteen places are held by Middlesex members. In fourth position, Jeremy Dhondy was the highest ranked county member. In twelfth, Heather Dhondy was the highest-ranked woman overall. Neil Rosen was the top Middlesex player in the EBU Master Point 2007 Ranking, racking up an impressive 38,982 MPs to finish fourth.

Our Middlesex team finished fifth in the *Tollemache* final.

At the *Baker Tilly Lanzarote Congress*, Peter Kaufmann won the *Men's Pairs* and finished second in the *Swiss Pairs*.

In the *Online Players' Congress*, Linda Quigley, John Golding and Riki Kittel won the *Bears Swiss Teams*. Quigley and Golding also finished second in the *BCL Trophy Pairs* and the *Speedball Teams*.

Basil Letts and Edward Hughes won the Middlesex heat of the *Under 19s Pairs Championship*. Anthony Martinelli and Alastair Gartenberg came second.

Diary Dates: An extensive calendar may be found on the website.

Do report points of interest to hsbakhshi@aol.com.

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk



WITH nine top players away on duty in the *Tolle Final*, the match against Suffolk was tough. All three matches ended 13-7, with success for the Norfolk B team and losses for the A and C teams.

The *Beccles Club* started the year on a high note: P. Spratt, P. Sutton, P. Rowlett and T. Geshke won their own *Beccles Swiss Teams* event and the *Beccles Club* also won the *Committee Cup*, the County inter-club teams of eight competition. The team was P. and B. Howlett, B. and R. Shreeve, P. Whittle and D. Thompson, and P. Rowlett and T. Geshke. Must be something in the Beccles water.

Diary Dates: the 40th Norfolk Congress will be held at King's Lynn, Apr 11-13. If you have not yet entered, do so now! It's a great congress, don't miss it. Apr 27, Hudson Cup, championship pairs, Roundwood. May 16, Dereham Trophy, Pairs, Norwich High School for Girls. May 22, Harry Hunt Cup, Pairs, Oulton Broad. June 6, Shaw Trophy, Pairs, NHSG.

North East

www.neba.co.uk



THE last event of 2007 was the first *St George's Congress*, a splendid one-day Swiss teams competition, won by Malcolm Oliver, Mike Ferguson,

Val Gibson and Brian Smith. The following week, St George's Bridge Centre hosted the *King Cup* (Ladies' Pairs Championship), won by Marlene Davidson and Kathleen Armstrong, with Ros Wigham – June Lowson runners-up. The action then moved North to Stanington for the *Gazette Cup and Shield*; Joe and Stella Bateman won the *Cup* for the second time in four years, and Ian Rankin, back from a long illness, and Mike Stanbury were the *Shield* winners. Stanington was again the scene for the *Chronicle Cup* a fortnight later, when Ted Murdoch and John Eglington won, with Graham Cox – Allyn Erskine second.

The *Student Sim Pairs* were held in early February in two sections. Joyce Myers – Anne Joyes won the *Open Section*, and Judith Lennon – Ingrid Panther the *Beginners*.

Results from a well-attended *Newcastle Congress* were: *Premier Pairs*: Ian Rankin – Mike Stanbury; *Consolation Pairs*: Norman and Rosemary Gray; *Open Pairs*: Dorothy and Mike Craig.

Clive Owen, with Bill March, and Val and Julian Gibson, have won the prestigious *Silver Plate*, winning the final by 23 IMPs over 48 boards. Congratulations to all our winners, and apologies to Babs Matthews, NEBA Congress *Speed-bridge* winner, who was erroneously listed as 'Bob' in the last edition. *Mea culpa*.

At the beginning of the year, Whitley Bay Bridge Club celebrated the news that they had been awarded £10,000 by the lottery 'Awards for All' scheme to improve their premises. Well done indeed!

Diary Dates: Apr 20, Kempson Vase Final. Apr 27, Club Teams Championship. May 4, Kempson Cup & Plate Final. May 11, Championship pairs. June 1, Hurworth Congress.

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info/

THE *Eden Cup* will be in a different format this year. There will be no heats in clubs. The event will be held on Sunday 6 April at 1pm at Kettering BC. The afternoon session will be a qualifier with a carry forward to the final in the evening. Those not qualifying for the *Eden Cup* final will compete for the Murchie Lerner in the evening session. If you wish to play please contact Jim Bainbridge ☎ 01788 570468 or e-mail jimbainbridge1@virgin.net.

Northants will be holding a *Green-pointed Swiss Pairs One-day Event* at Bug-

Master Point promotions

4 Star Master

Mrs M.S. Gershinson
Mrs I. Mason

3 Star Master

Mr R.J.C. Shephard
Mr L. Bartlett

2 Star Master

Mr L. Bartlett
1 Star Master

1 Star Master

Mr A. Corner
Mrs E. Corner
Mr I. Dent
Mrs C.L. Mathys
Mr N. Winer

Advanced Master

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Mr C.D. Lever

Master

Mrs S.L. Owen
Mr C. Shah
Mr T. Wheatley
Mr K. Ziewacz

County Master

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Mrs E.A. Freestone
Mr G.J. Lipton
Mr P.N. Stevens

District Master

Mrs R. Freeman
Mr K.C. Patel
Mrs N.K. Patel
Mr A. Sheth

Club Master

Mrs K. Gadani
Mr K. Kothary
Dr H. Leigh
Dr N. Mehta
Mr B. O'Sullivan
Mr C. Parekh
Mr H. Patel
Mrs S. Patel
Mr M.A. Rasheed
Mrs B. Shah
Mr D. Shah
Mrs S. Shah

Norfolk

Grand Master

Mr D.A. Newstead

Life Master

Mr S.P. Dannell

29 Star Premier

Master

Mr M.J. Connolly

13 Star Premier

Master

Mr A. Houd

5 Star Premier

Master

Ms J. Anderson

2 Star Premier

Master

Mr M. Butler

Premier Master

Mr W. Zhang

4 Star Tournament

Master

Miss B.M. Shreeve

2 Star Tournament

Master

Mr R.B. Shreeve

Tournament

Master

Mrs M.A. Smith

4 Star Master

Mr D.C. Ellis

Dr S. Farquharson

3 Star Master

Mrs J.M. Allison

Dr A.P. Dawson

Dr C.M. Dawson

2 Star Master

Mr J.E. Barley

Miss J.A. Jay

1 Star Master

Mrs A.B. Boote

Mrs P. Cuthbert

Advanced Master

Mr J. Adams

Mrs S.C. Beecham

Master

Miss M. Ali

County Master

Mrs L.J. Bailey
Mr R.C. Cooper

Mrs J.B. Davies
Mrs C. Harvey

Mr J. Harvey
Mrs D. Rabbidge

Mrs M. Tansey

District Master

Mrs J. Pank

Northants

National Master

Mr M.J. Auger

2 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mr E. Jones

5 Star Regional

Master

Mr R. Wakerley

3 Star Regional

Master

Mrs S. Parkhouse

6 Star Premier

Master

Mr A.P. Robinson

4 Star Master

Mr A. Harbour

Mrs S. Harbour

3 Star Master

Mr A.J. Ross

2 Star Master

Mr G. Lawlor

Mrs P.L. Ollive

1 Star Master

Mr B.T. Jackson

County Master

Mr R.M. Blackmore

District Master

Mr R. Griffiths

Club Master

Mr C. Odell

North East

Grand Master

Mr M.G. Oliver

9 Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs M.E. Berrisford

12 Star Regional

Master

Mr D. Benison

7 Star Regional

Master

Mr P. Rodgerson

4 Star Regional

Master

Mrs M. Page

Mr J.T. Scott

10 Star Premier

Master

Mrs J. Lormor

Dr P.J. Prince

9 Star Premier

Master

Mrs D. Henshaw

5 Star Master

Mrs R.J. Boddy

2 Star Master

Mr W.M. Bell

Mr S. Donnellan

Mrs A. Hopper

Mr A.C. Martin

1 Star Master

Mr E. Fitch

Advanced Master

Mr J. Hall

Master

Mrs R. Rooney

Mrs V. Tulley

District Master

Mr R. Scott

Mr D. Spencer

Mrs M. Spencer

Mrs M. Taylor

Club Master

Miss J. Grist

brooke village hall on May 10. Contact Peter Fountain ☎ 01733 320845 or e-mail Pfountainbridge@aol.com.

The North-eastern half of the Winter League was won by Trevor Thrower, Marcus Witt, Bill Chadwick, Mike Gore Browne, only 1 VP ahead of Graham Hedley's team. Maggie Jones, Brian Davies, James and Shirley Dutton won the South-western half.

Interclub League: Div. 1, Stamford A; Div. 2, Kettering C; Div. 3 is still ongoing.

The Broke Cup Semi-finals are between Tilley and Jones, and Miller and Gibson. Michael Keogh's team has reached the final of the Betts Bowl.

In the Eastern Counties League, the A team won their sixth match of the season over Essex 14-6. The Northants B team won 18-2 but the C team lost 7-13. In the last match of the season, the A team defeated Cambs & Hunts 13-7, the B team won 16-4 and the C team won 17-3. Congratulations to the B team who have retained the B team title, finishing the season on exactly 100 VPs. The C team, with 92 VPs, have finished in second place for the second year running and the A team have finished in fourth place on 73 VPs.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

WE report with sadness the death of two members of the NCBA committee. Eric Nunn died on 11th February. He had been a member of the committee for over twenty-five years, holding the posts of Secretary, Captain and finally, for the last 12 years, President. Throughout most of this time, he was also the NCBA EBU delegate, representing the County enthusiastically and reporting back conscientiously. He was a Grand Master and an active and successful player. His name appears on most of the County's trophies. He represented the County in the Midlands League on countless occasions, and was frequently a member of the NCBA Tollemache team.

Jenny Waddingham died on 18th February. She had been a member of the committee for over fifteen years. She made an enormous contribution to the smooth running of our events.

In the county match v Gloucestershire, the first and second teams lost 0-20 and 2-18 respectively, but the third team won 15-5.

The NCBA Individual Championship was won by Gordon Fullerton. Mixed Pairs Championship: 1. John and Irene Auld, 2. David and Joan Burgess. Under 19s Heat: 1. Ted Pynegar – Ankush

Khandelwal, 2. Aaron Iger – Simon Spencer. The Team of Four Heat was won by William Crook, Tony McNiff, Rob Sharpe and Tony Sowter.

Diary Dates: Apr 13, Journal Cup (enquiries and entries: Graham Brindley ☎ 0115 9232186). Apr 27, Final of the Inter-Club Pairs – ask your club when its heat is! May 11, AGM. May 25, Retford Swiss Teams. On Wednesdays the Black Cup commences on May 28 and the Farr Cup on June 4.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



EVERYONE is invited to enter the Oxfordshire Congress on 28-29 June at Steventon (advert on page 22).

Free bridge and refreshments are on the menu for the OBA AGM, Thursday 12 June, 7.30pm at Oxford BC.

Geoff Nicholas, Debbie Roberts, Paula Hopkinson and Vic Savage came second at the WBU Swiss Teams from a strong field of fifty-eight teams.

The huge success of the Oxfordshire's Pro-Am tournament held on county night will prove difficult to replicate – 19 tables, 7 Pros surplus to requirements, prizes galore, all for the modest charge of £3 including refreshments! Stephen Brown's expert and friendly direction ensured a memorable evening for all. The winners were Rob Procter – Kevin Plumb, with Andrew Lintott – Paul Merrick, Sandy Constable – Kathryn Collingham in second and third places respectively.

Sandra Nicholson and Krys Kazmierczak, together with Yorkshire team-mates, achieved third place in the Swiss Teams at the Blackpool Year End Congress.

John Clifford, Clive Keep, Nigel Wilkes and Gillian Lonsdale won the Harwell Cup and, together with John Briggs, Andy King, Marcus Laphorn, Richard Dixon, and Roger van Noorden, John Deech, Helen Schapiro, Evan Harris, qualified for the Beck Cup Final, Oxfordshire's prestigious invitation teams event.

Congratulations to Peter Smith, Chris Wilson, George Murdie and Dai David (Studely Wood Golf Club) on winning Golfprint's local heat.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Dawes league v Nottinghamshire, Oxford BC. Apr 24 Andrew Robson Seminar (sold out), Oxford BC. May 4, Beck Cup Final, Oxford BC. May 11, County Pairs Final, Oxford BC. May 18 Dawes league v Gloucestershire (away). May 29, OBA/EBU meeting with clubs, Oxford BC.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk



IN the Gold Cup, two teams with Somerset involvement have reached the 3rd round. They are the all-Somerset team of Caroline Macpherson, Bill Rowe, Gina and David Howard, and the team which includes Colin Juneman and Roger Sweet. In the Crockford's, the team of Sheila Coda, Colin Flood, Michael Whittaker and Roger Sweet have reached the 4th round where they will meet the seeded team captained by Paul Denning.

In the Western League, Somerset continue to have a topsy-turvy year. Against Dorset the A and B teams lost but the C team won. After big defeats to Dorset in the A and B matches, there was a 'bounce-back' with wins in the match against Cornwall – but the C team did the reverse winning 14-6 against Dorset and losing 7-13 to Cornwall.

The winners of the County Swiss Pairs were Peter Gurman – Ray Walder, with John and Shirley Durant second and Colin Simcox – Frank Colman third.

The Inter Club Teams of Four had an amazing result in the Open Section with the teams of Yeovil, Langport and Taunton all tying in first place with 136 VPs. Is this a first in any County/EBU competition? The Yeovil team of Rachael Brown, Colin Simcox and team-mates Ray Walder and Mike Toft win the trophy on split-tie regulations. The winners in the Restricted Section were also from Yeovil: Steve Fletcher, Simon Oldham with Cyndi Harris and Rachael Pantling.

The winners of the Mixed Pairs were Di Hutton – Tony Russ, second Sheila Coda – Steve Tomlinson, with Anne McBride – Ken Pye coming third.

Diary Dates: Apr 12, the new Inter Club Pairs event at Street. May 18, the County Percentage Final at West Camel.

Staffs and Shrops

www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/Staffs/

DAN Crofts, Celia Day, Brian Tonks and Andrew Thompson won the Littleford Henley Cup at the Midlands County Congress. Linda Curtis, Jane Sturton, Dave Clarke and Norman Jones were runners-up in the Swiss Teams. Dave and Norman also added the Wolverhampton Yuletide Pairs Trophy to their winning ways.

Jason and Justin Hackett were second in the Manchester Congress Teams and Jason also won the teams at Cwmbran. A difference of only 4 IMPs cost Paul

PRESTBURY BC'S CHARITY CONTRIBUTION

PRESTBURY Bridge Club have raised more than £40,000 for the East Cheshire Hospice.

Hospice representative Lesley Cann (in the picture, receiving a cheque from chairman Peter Greaves, with members of the committee), accepted a cheque for £2,628. Peter Greaves said that the amount, raised mainly from members' subscriptions, brought the total donated to the Hospice over the last sixteen years to £42,400.



Master Point promotions

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Mrs S. Reay
Mr A. Watson

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5 Star Master
Mrs S.A. Axford
Mr P.E. Dale
Mr H. Thomas
Mrs M. Thomas

4 Star Master

Mr R.H. Lister
2 Star Master
Mr K.M. Spencer

1 Star Master

Dr G. Ripley
Advanced Master
Mrs S.A. Ashtari
Mrs D.M. Whitehouse

Master

Mr T.R. Heald
Mr D. Landon
Mr B. Radford
Mrs S.C. Shah
Mr F. Turton

County Master

Mrs J. Glass
Mrs M.M. Kirk
Mr B. Plumb

District Master

Mr M. Edwards
Mrs B. Emerson
Mr A. Etches
Dr T.F. Gettins
Mr D.R. Short

Club Master

Mr D. King

Oxford

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Dr R.H. Lawton-Smith

3 Star Regional Master

Mr K. Robbins

2 Star Premier Master

Mr S.P. Harrison

3 Star Master

Mrs H. Kilpatrick

2 Star Master

Mr A. King

2 Star Master

Mr J. Cecil

Master

Mr N.S. Henry

1 Star Master

Dr J.C. Mitchell

1 Star Master

Mr J.P. Spencer

Advanced Master

Mrs B.M. Watson

Master

Dr K. Di Gleria

Master

Dr I. Pearson

Master

Mr R. Sills

Master

Mr J.P. Briggs

Master

Mr C. Martin

Master

Mrs E. Nutton

Master

Ms T. Scott

County Master

Mr M.A. Lynch

Master

Mr P. Merrick

Master

Mr J. Morgan

Master

Mrs P.S. Morgan

Master

Mr M. Neal

Master

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District Master

Mrs S. Alden

Master

Ms C. Benzie

Master

Mr D.R. Heath-Brown

Master

Mr P. Holland

Club Master

Mr B. Atkins

Master

Mr P.A. Barnes

Master

Mr S. Davis

Master

Dr R.P.H. Gasser

Master

Mr I. Raynes

Master

Ms T. Reimer

Master

Mr S. Robinson

Somerset

Life Master

Mr J.D. Durrant

National Master

Mr T. Russ

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Mr F.E. Coltman

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs A. Harris

3 Star Premier Master

Mr A.R. Bamber

Tournament Master

Mr R. Bourke

2 Star Master

Mrs J. Davies

Master

Mr M.D. Grogan

Master

Ms S. Gudgeon

1 Star Master

Mr G. Hogan

Advanced Master

Mrs V. Adams

County Master

Mr S. Firth

Master

Mrs D. Greatorex

Master

Mr B. Morrison

Master

Mr S.A. Oldham

Master

Mr J. Tidball

District Master

Mrs O. Belding

Master

Mrs H.J. Bevan

Master

Mrs M.J. Dommett

Master

Mrs C.A. Hannam

Staffs & Shropshire

Life Master

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Premier Regional Master

Mr E. Levy

3 Star Regional Master

Mrs J.M. Matthews

5 Star Premier Master

Mr D.G. Balsom

5 Star Master

Mrs P.M.J. Ayton

2 Star Master

Mr E.I. Storm

1 Star Master

Mr C. Wilkinson

Advanced Master

Mr C. Woodbridge

Suffolk

National Master

Mr D.M. Gudka

8 Star Premier Master

Mr M. Bone

Master

Mrs G.L. Page

7 Star Premier Master

Mr J.R. Newton

2 Star Premier Master

Mrs E. Butler

4 Star Master

Miss E.M. Knowlson

2 Star Master

Ms F.K.P. Waters

Master

Capt R.I. Waters

Master

Mr N. Farr

County Master

Mr R.S. Emerson

District Master

Mrs M.B. Driver

Master

Mrs J. Holbrook

Master

Mr J.C. Milbourne

Master

Mrs J. Price

Club Master

Mr N. Napier

Master

Mrs E. Ward

Surrey

Life Master

Mr M.E. Goddard

Premier National Master

Mrs M.P. Roomes

Master

Mr M. Gurney

3 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr N.W. Browne

1 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr P. Roxburgh

Master

Dr G. Walker

5 Star Regional Master

Mr S. White

Master

Mr D.F. Hickman

4 Star Regional Master

Mr K.A. White

2 Star Regional Master

Mrs S. Birnage

Regional Master

Dr E.A. David

12 Star Premier Master

Mr M.R. Oddy

9 Star Premier Master

Mrs S. Butler

8 Star Premier Master

Ms G. Hanna

6 Star Premier Master

Mr R.M. Rule

Master

Mrs L.E. Scrivener

Master

Mr R.A. Simpson

Master

Mr S. Whiteside

5 Star Premier Master

Mrs C.S. Chevalier

Master

Mr J.A. Gould

Premier Master

Ms A. Haring-Pedrochi

2 Star Tournament Master

Mrs P.E. Penny

1 Star Tournament Master

Mrs M. Cooper

Master

Mrs B.E. Money

Master

Mr E.G. Saunders

Tournament Master

Mr M. Mullett

Master

Mr I.J. Rae

5 Star Master

Mr A.N. White

Master

Dr V.C. Barber

4 Star Master

Mrs M.C.M. Farquhar

Master

Mrs J. Moxham

Master

Mr H.M. Cath

Master

Mrs G. Gilliam

Master

Mrs B.L. Gumm

Master

Miss M. Jones

Master

Ms M.H. Tamblyn

3 Star Master

Mrs A.J. Cruickshank

Master

Mr H. Figov

Master

Mrs M.R.M. Nicholson

Master

Mr B.J. Whitrow

2 Star Master

Mr G.C. Coomber

Master

Mrs P. Wheeler

1 Star Master

Mrs H.N. Davis

Master

Mrs E.M. Goddard

Master

Mr C. Jordan

Master

Mrs J. Monaghan

Master

Mr W.W. Taylor

Advanced Master

Mrs K.L. Chauhan

Master

Mr P.D.H. Cobham

Master

Mr E.J. Elliott

Master

Mr M. Morris

Suffolk

Master

Mr G. Scrase

Master

Mr P. Smith

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Mrs B. Hinnigan
Mr P. Hunt

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Mrs J. McDermott
Mr R.K. Slatter
Advanced Master
Mr M. Hancock
Mrs E.M. Jefferies
Mrs J. Lowe
Mr A. Piper
Mrs B. Piper

Master

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Mr P.A. Hutley
Dr D.R. Moore
Mrs J. Soan

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Mrs D.B. Dalzell
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Mrs P.K. Tredinnick
Mr R.J. Turvey
Mrs P.T. Warren
Mr A.C. Wickens
District Master
Mr W. Bourne
Mr M. Causley
Mrs S.M. Cox
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Mrs E. Hornsey
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Mr B.J. Walker
Mr E. Wallbutton

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Mrs S. McKenzie
Mrs P. Tarbuck

Warwickshire

Premier National Master

Mr C. Lang
National Master
Mrs M.D. Parker

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mr P.J. Burton
Premier Regional Master

Mr J.P. Wernick
3 Star Regional Master

Regional Master

Mr P. Randall
Mrs D.M. Thorne

6 Star Premier Master

Mr R.G. Coggle
Mrs P.A. Cooley

3 Star Premier Master

Mr D. Gough

Premier Master

Mr C. Harris
Mr A.S. Hickman

Tournament Master

Mrs H. Foster

5 Star Master

Mr J.H. Holland
Mrs P. King

3 Star Master

Mr A. Rose
Mrs S.V. Watton

2 Star Master

Mr B.J. Cave
Mrs E.M. Cave
Mrs S. Vinn

1 Star Master

Mr P.L. Olive
Mr T. Pilling
Mrs A.J. Varley
Advanced Master
Mr R.J. Charlesworth
Mrs M. Hollingdale
Mr N.A. Sutton

Master

Mrs P.M. Barrow
Mrs T. Czernuska
Mr F.J. Deakin
Mr R. Evans
Mr D.J. Heighway
Mrs S.W. Hudson
Mrs L. Jan
Mrs P.E. McHarg
Mr F. Vernon
Mr R.A. Wilsdon
Mrs A.P. Wright

County Master

Mr N. Eyre
Dr M.J. Kingman
Mrs S. Mills
Mrs S.A. New
Mr M.L.H. Pick
Mr J. Sparkes
Mr J.A. Thornby
Mrs C. Wiggins
District Master
Mrs A.M. Cartwright
Mrs Collicie
Mr J.R. West
Club Master
Mr A.F. Adams
Mrs J. Hicks

Westmorland

4 Star Master

Mr K.J. Walker

2 Star Master

Mr A.F. Wallis

Advanced Master

Mr M.H. Ollerton

Master

Prof P.J. Harrison

County Master

Mr P. Jeffreys

Club Master

Mrs A. Howe
Mrs G. Talbot

Wiltshire

5 Star Regional Master

Mr P.A. Bennett

3 Star Regional Master

Mr A.F. Harvey

2 Star Regional Master

Lt.Col D.G. Thackaberry
Mrs M. Thackaberry

3 Star Master

Mrs M. Giles
Mr R. Giles

1 Star Master

Mrs S. Dickinson
Mr R.D. Moore

Advanced Master

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Master

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Mrs J. Etheridge
Mrs C. Moore
Dr W. Simpson

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2 Star Regional Master

Mr A.G. Boyes

1 Star Regional Master

Mr R.C. Rutter
Mrs J.M. Rutter

16 Star Premier Master

Mrs P.R. Moore

13 Star Premier Master

Mrs A.L. Smallwood

5 Star Premier Master

Mr C. Enticknap

3 Star Premier Master

Mr C.R. Moore

1 Star Premier Master

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Mr B. Sayers

Premier Master

Dr M. Heard

Tournament Master

Mr N. Constable
Mr A.D. Gilmour
Mrs C.A. Gilmour

4 Star Master

Mr A.B. Cullen
Mr C.R. Gamage

3 Star Master

Mrs J.C. Orme

2 Star Master

Miss E. Potter

1 Star Master

Mrs P.M. Bussell
Mr D.A. Cope

Advanced Master

Mr P. Greaves

Master

Mrs V.A. Bettis

County Master

Ms H. Collier
Mr R.C. Davies
Mr J.G. Holton
Mrs S. Parsons
Mr W. Parsons

District Master

Mrs M. Packwood
Mr R.A. Price

Yorkshire

Premier Life Master

Mrs B. Boaler
Mr M. Cantor

Life Master

Mrs J. Stevenson

Premier National Master

Mrs A. McKenzie

National Master

Mrs G. Copeland
Mr A. Jarvis

7 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs M. Ingham

6 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs E. Hirst

4 Star Premier Regional Master

Mrs P.M. Jackson

6 Star Regional Master

Mr P.C. Morris
Mrs D. Western

4 Star Regional Master

Mrs P. Townend

3 Star Regional Master

Mr G. Heane

2 Star Regional Master

Mr S. Mapstone

1 Star Regional Master

Mr C. Close
Mrs D. Close
Mrs G. Mapstone

Regional Master

Mr M. Rodgers

29 Star Premier Master

Mr T.R. Betts

16 Star Premier Master

Mr M. Porter

12 Star Premier Master

Mrs J. Beaumont

8 Star Premier Master

Mrs M. Johnson

5 Star Premier Master

Mr D. Redfearn
Mr J. Rouse

3 Star Premier Master

Mr A. Fell

2 Star Premier Master

Miss L. Bridson

Premier Master

Mr M. Olive

3 Star Tournament Master

Mr D.P. Brown

1 Star Tournament Master

Mr J.M. Kitteridge

Tournament Master

Mr M. Loveridge

5 Star Master

Mr J.A. Digby

2 Star Master

Mrs R. Ritchie
Miss M. Watson

1 Star Master

Mr K. Atkinson
Mr R. Hill
Mrs E.J. Holland
Dr J.H. Little

Advanced Master

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Mr K. Pope
Mrs M. Walker

Master

Mrs G.E. Angell
Mr A. Gembicki
Mr R. Gembicki
Mrs G. Greatham
Mr S. Hanslip
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Mrs M. Proctor
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County Master

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Mrs E. Cooper
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Mrs S. Needham
Mrs R.M. Ringrose
Mrs F.T. Snee
Mrs W.R. Tydeman

District Master

Mrs A.M. Bright
Mr J.D. Bright
Mrs C. Count
Mrs L. Franklin
Mrs E. Hodson
Mrs D. Kilbey
Mr C.R. Mullins
Mrs S.A. Segal

Club Master

Mr D.M. Coats
Mrs D.D. Hudson
Mr D.M. Mogilnicki

competitors in the *World Winter Simultaneous Pairs*.

Warwicks scored 12-8, 0-20 and 5-15 against Oxon, and 20-0, 15-5 and 19-1 against Leics, in the *Dawes, Porter and Markham* competitions. In the *Midland Counties Congress* at Bewdley, the *Mixed Teams Championship* was won by Dodo Georgevic, Robin Ogg, Carolyn Fisher and Jane Hall; and Dodo and Robin, with Peter Oldbury and Brent Wormald, were second in the *Championship A Teams*. Well done Susan Goldman – Julian Wernick on winning the *Warwicks Pairs*, and Bryan Milner – John Nightingale, top of the *Introductory Pairs*.

At Sutton, Jeremy Fenwick and Nick Woosnam retained the *Whitehouse Cup*, Nick won the *Duval Cup*, and John Pratty won the *Chantrill Cup*. West Midland's *Doyle Plate* was won by Janet and Tony Cundy, with runners-up Anne Crow – Steve Byrne.

Diary Dates: Apr 9, BGB Spring Sim Pairs, Moseley. Apr 13, WMBC's Greswolde Bowl Swiss Teams. Apr 14-19, County Sim Pairs, clubs. May 4, Arden Charity Swiss Teams. May 8, County Ladies' and Men's Pairs, Moseley. May 11, Warwicks Green Point Swiss Teams, WMBC. May 14, EBU Sim Pairs, Moseley. Entries to County events to Mr D. Evetts, 53 Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Warwicks CV31 2JJ, ☎ 01926 429 039.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk



THE winners of the *Championship Pairs* final held in February in Devizes were Roy France and Sam Sloan. Congratulations also go to Roy France and Kathy Hodgson for winning the *Mixed Pairs* final at Devizes in January.

Round 7 of 9 in the *Premier League* is now completed and it looks like a close run finish between the Davies team and the Samter team, both on the same score. Wiltshire are currently in the overall top position in the *Western League* with three games to play.

There is teaching at the Salisbury Bridge Club. Please contact Phil Philbrick ☎ 01722 322823 for more details.

Diary Dates: May 11, AGM and Chairman's Cup, Nursteed Centre, Devizes.

Worcestershire

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WE are proud of Marian Wilcox and Paul Tapster who won the Swiss Pairs at the *EBU Overseas Congress* in Lanzarote.

The play-off for the *Worcestershire County Mixed Teams Cup* was Jimmy Ledger, Maureen Hannah, David Thomas and Susan Sharpe against Sue Page, Simon Harrison, John Turner and Brian Stanley – and the former won.

The County tried, as an experiment, to hold two-session *Swiss Pairs* and *Swiss Teams* events. It was felt that the numbers were insufficient in both proceedings to sustain them. For instance, the final Triple in the *Swiss Teams* was peopled by three teams with giant scores who attended this section by virtue of

the fact that they had played everybody else except each other. Nevertheless, the top three pairs were: 1. Brian Stanley – Simon Harrison; 2. John Cattanch – Suzanne Griffin; 3. Joyce Skelton – Stewart Fishburne. The *Teams* was won by Mike Theelke, Sue Lane, Ken Carpenter and Paul Hammond, followed by Bill Everley, Tim Keates, Dick and Jane Rutter.

An extraordinary occurrence arose at our County night at Holt Fleet. The same board produced two contracts: one was 1♣ by East and the other was 7NT, also by East! (Incidentally, the 1♣ was one off, which fared better than the 7NT that nose-dived to four down.)

Diary Dates: Apr 13, Garden Cities Qualifier, Astley & Dunley Village Hall, nr. Stourport. Apr 14, Veteran Pairs – each must be 65 (bring your Valium!), Holt. May 19, AGM, Holt.

Yorkshire

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PRIDE of place goes to Fiona Brown and Steve Raine, members of the successful England team of six in the *Junior Camrose* home international competition.

Congratulations also to Jim Proctor and David Lewis, winners of the *Yorkshire Pairs Trophy*, which is the county's most prestigious pairs event. The leading five pairs will represent the county in the *Corwen Trophy* later in the year. The other qualifying pairs are Frank Littlewood – Stuart Fletcher, Sandy Davies – Tom Gisborne, David Robinson – Peter Waterman, and Mark Bratley – Paul Brereton.

John Hayton and Philip Clark achieved an outstanding result by finishing second in a very strong field in the *Swiss Pairs* at the EBU's *Spring Congress* at Harrogate.

In junior bridge, the *Yorkshire Schools Pairs* was won by Tom Copeland and Simon Weinberger of Lawnswood School, Leeds. Winners of the *MiniBridge Pairs* were Sam Smith and Daniel Asher of St Robert's Primary School, Harrogate.

The Sheffield team of Glyn Foley, Peter Camm, Janet Whiteley and Janet Thomson were victorious in the *Yorkshire Trophy* teams event for players ranked below regional master.

Sue Logan and Tony McNiff of Bradford were winners of the county-wide *Margery Cartwright Simultaneous Pairs*. 279 pairs from sixteen clubs took part in the event.

Diary Dates: Apr 6, Yorkshire League (seventh series). Apr 11-13, Scarborough Congress. Apr 20, West Yorkshire Swiss Teams (Bradford). Apr 27, Castle Swiss Pairs (Huddersfield). May 6-7, Bridlington Congress. May 11, Yorkshire Mixed Pairs (Bradford). May 18, Yorkshire Masters Pairs (Grade 1 at Harrogate and Grades 2 & 3 at Doncaster).

April 23 is the closing date for the submission of county reports for the next issue of *English Bridge*. Please e-mail: elena@ebu.co.uk

STOP PRESS: in the 2008 Camrose Trophy Ireland retained the title. Don't miss our report on the second and final weekend in the June issue. A report on the first weekend is on page 7 in this issue.

A day in the life of . . .

Paul Hackett

Paul Hackett is Britain's most successful professional player, with a long list of wins and titles (both home and abroad) to his name. He was Zia Mahmood's first 'serious' partner, and toured North Africa with the great Giorgio Belladonna in exhibition matches.

I AM a late riser: 10.30am is the earliest, since I never go to bed much before 2am. I play bridge most evenings and weekends, and am rarely home before 11.30pm – a lot later if I am playing away from Didsbury – and when I am back I like to relax for a couple of hours at least. I read, watch films, or talk bridge with my son Jason who lives at home with me and my wife, Olivia. Whatever I do, I will have a glass or two of red wine, and go to bed a happy man.

When I get up in the morning, I first have breakfast, usually fruit and coffee, to which I am addicted. Then I spend at least an hour on the internet. I only play bridge professionally, unless it's for charity or in invitation events, and I pride myself in giving my clients good service. Unless they want to be involved, I organise everything: hotels, flights, events, so that all they have to do is turn up. The internet is ideal for finding the best deals and the best bridge events – in England, or abroad.

Having done my homework, I spend time on a great interest of mine, genealogy. I have 4,000 names on my family tree, tracing my ancestry back in an unbroken line to 1140. I am still working on the earlier years: the first Hacketts (or de Hacket, as they called themselves then) were likely to be Normans who came to England in 960. They had settled in Ireland by 1180, and seem to have changed their name to its current spelling, Hackett, by 1212. I am the first Hackett to have been born in England and not in Ireland.

I like to have lunch at home, and then I go for a long walk. This is the only form of exercise I take, but I take it regularly and seriously – even though I always have a coffee while I am out, and often meet up

with Jeff Morris, owner of the Manchester Bridge Club, for a chat. The rest of the afternoon is spent relaxing, so that I am in good shape for the evening's bridge.

I have over forty clients, so do not lack opportunities to play. Neither I nor my sons, Jason and Justin, are worried about our clients' bridge standard so long as they are pleasant people with whom to play and travel. Travelling, besides genealogy, is my great passion, and I normally play in at least

two foreign tournaments a month in all corners of the world. My favourite place is Trinidad, not only because it is a truly multi-racial society, but also because its Carnival gives me the opportunity to pursue another hobby of mine, dancing – although the most energetic Latin American rhythms are becoming a bit of a challenge as I grow older! Bora Bora and

Mnemba (an exclusive island off the coast of Zanzibar, where I was given a holiday in lieu of payment for coaching bridge players in Tanzania) are also places where I would love to return.

Since bridge has given me such a great life, I try to give something back to the game. I am on the EBU Selection and Tournament Committees, and am also a delegate for my county, Staffs & Shropshire. The Buffett Cup, the Commonwealth Nations Cup and Jim McMahon's Scottish Invitational are among the current events in which I am heavily involved.

Free evenings are spent going out for meals with Olivia, Jason, Justin and his wife Barbara (also a bridge international). As a family, we are very close and enjoy each other's company, so our evenings out tend to finish late. Just as well my job enables me to get up late in the morning! □



Paul Hackett's Top Tip

Always consider raising partner's response even if you have only three cards in his suit.

MANY will shake their heads and disagree violently with this tip, but it appears to produce winning bridge.

When and why do I recommend you give partner three-card support?


1. You should *never* have fewer than four cards if you jump the bidding; e.g. if you open 1♦ and partner responds 1♥, a rebid of 3♥ should *guarantee* at least four hearts.
2. You should not be 4-3-3-3. This is pure no-trump shape.
3. If your holding is x-x-x and you have values in your second suit or in your doubleton, you may decide another rebid is better.

Thus the two most common occasions when you would support on three cards are when you have three to an honour in partner's suit and a small doubleton, or when you are 3-5-4-1 and your four-card suit is a minor.

For example:

E/W Game. Dealer South.

System: 1NT = 15-17 HCP

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
			?

The choices are 1NT or 2♠. My recommendation is 2♠.

Here is my reasoning: partner has bypassed 1♥, so his hearts are likely to be shorter than his spades; in no-trumps we are most likely to get a heart lead, but in a suit contract we can ruff on the third round. Thus I rebid 2♠.

Looking at the two hands, you can see 1NT is likely to go off unless you find the queen of spades, while 2♠ may well make nine tricks.

What if the opponents intervene? Well, then you should play support doubles – but that's another tip!

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