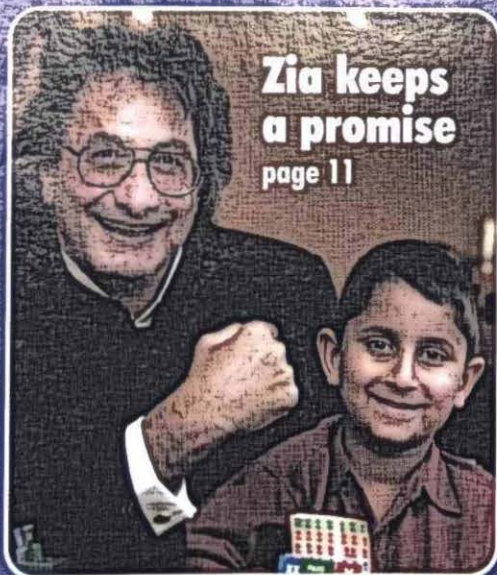


English Bridge



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**Zia keeps
a promise**
page 11



**Veteran helps
England to win
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page 9

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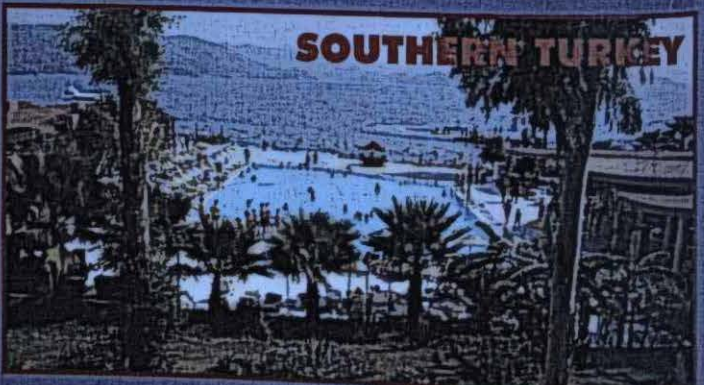
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TWINS TO TOP UP DAD'S FOUR

This is the four-man team that came through the open trials to win a dramatic deciding match by just 3imps to earn the right to represent England in the European Championships this year. Pictured, from left, are Tony Waterlow, John Armstrong, Paul Hackett and Danny Davies.

Because England require a six-player squad two more members are needed and the selection committee has decided that those two should be Jason and Justin Hackett, twin sons of Paul, who played well against their father's team in that final encounter.

Jason and Justin were alongside Tony Forrester, Andrew Robson, David Mossop and David Price, who went right to the line before losing 382-379.



A sporting chance for gymnastics of the mind?

THE quest goes on to have bridge recognised as a sport and maybe at last some notice is being taken of the argument that high calibre mind games – especially bridge! – are entitled to a place alongside rowing, running, gymnastics, skiing and the like.

Our girls have done their stuff in Salt Lake City. Others will be spreading the message in Manchester in the summer.

Bridge may not require quite the same physical effort as boxing, pole vaulting or ice hockey, but who would deny that it can match any of them for skill, stamina, speed of thought and mental strength, not to mention dedication to practice.

The Minister for Sport holds much the same view, as Alaine Hamilton reports in a special article on page 7 that takes a look at the media interest and at the politics surrounding the issue.

Now the Minister has agreed to formally launch the Bridge Championship for Commonwealth Nations that will precede the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Read more about this on page 5.

Not only is the EBU out to show that bridge is entitled to be labelled as a sport, but also that it is a sport for all ages. What other game has a 79-year-old and a 22-year-old playing for England in the same competition?

That competition is, of course, the Camrose, and the story of how England retained their title, with



veteran Tony Friday playing in the deciding match, is told by John Williams and Tony himself on page 9.

Meanwhile, proof that bridge is every bit as much for the young as it is for those of more mature years is evidenced by our cover picture of a bridge-playing group from Torquay Boys Grammar

School who will be the caddies at the 18th European Youth Team Championships, to be staged by the EBU at Torquay's Riviera Centre in July. This is the subject of another story on page 5.

By the way, it took our British women's team more than a day-and-a-half to reach Salt Lake City. What Heather Dhondy has to say about the experience is recorded on page 41.

Well, that has plugged some of the interesting items in this edition of *English Bridge*, but there is much more, as the following list indicates.

BRIAN COOK

INSIDE GUIDE ...

Club celebrates 80 years.....	11	Tournament Diary	39
Zia partners nine-year-old	11	Corn Cairdis report	41
Kambites on trumps	21	Jagger on scoring	43
Readers' letters	22	Online bridge	44,45
Prize Play competition	23	What's been going on?	47
Senior on defence	25	Dhondy on revoke laws ..	48
Bridge rage counselling	27	Prize Bidding answers	48
Beat Today's Experts	28,29	National Pairs reports	49
Scott's scribbings	31	Master Points	50-52
Pick of the doggy quotes	31	Results service	52
Success in Cyprus	32,33	County news	53-60
Bridge for All	34,35	Jackson's Last Board	60
Keable on MiniBridge	35	EBU Wine Club offer	61
Bird on Tollemache	37	Member2Member	62



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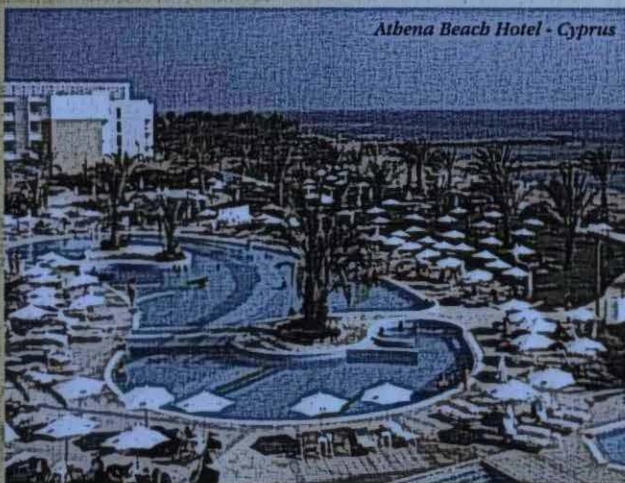


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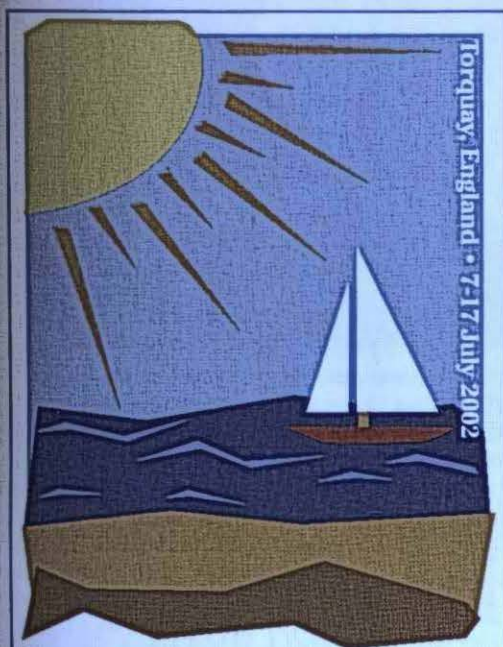
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18th European Youth Team Championships

Head-to-head to decide England women's team



A 112-BOARD match over the weekend of April 6-7 will decide the team to represent England in the European Women's Championship this year. On one side will be Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield, Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith, Liz Godfrey and Kitty Teltscher and on the other Chris Duckworth, Su Burn, Val Curran and Jane Moore.

This is the culmination of trials that saw the Dhondy team miles ahead at the end of the final round robin stage with +150imps. Duckworth was -6, Sandra Penfold -32 and Catherine Draper -112.

In the Penfold team were Sally Brock and Margaret Courtney, who last year lined up with Brunner, Goldenfield, Dhondy and Smith to win the European title for England.

Big dollars

THREE English players, John Armstrong, Brian Callaghan and Brian Senior, teamed up with Argentinian Pablo Lambardi to win the NEC Cup and the \$12,000 first prize in the NEC Bridge Festival in Yokohama City, Japan. An Anglo-Norwegian team that included Englishmen Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett won third prize of \$3,000.

IF the reaction of the young bridge players at Torquay Boys Grammar School is anything to go by the EBU staging of the 18th European Youth Team Championships in July could spark an upsurge of interest in the game among young people in this country.

The event will take place at the superb Riviera Centre on Torquay's seafront, just down the road from the school, and the boys have jumped at the chance to be caddies. They may just be running errands on this occasion, but Michael Smith, who teaches bridge at the school, is certain the championship will inspire them as players and spur them towards becoming future competitors.

Already their achievements at the bridge table have seen Devon win the under 19 inter-counties teams championship, while in 1998 school student Gary Clarke played in an England junior team.

Dates for the championship are July 7-17 and 24 teams are expected to contest the under 25 title, with a further 16 teams battling for the under 20 crown. In all more than 200 of the top young players in Europe will be taking part.

Held every two years, the championship is a qualifier for the world junior event, which Britain won at Nottingham in 1989 and Bali in 1993.

The venue has already impressed Panos Gerontopoulos, chairman of the European Youth Bridge League, who visited the Riviera Centre prior to the EBU's agreement to host the event.

The centre offers excellent facilities for visitors and, of course, Torquay is a good place to spend a holiday, so a perfect opportunity is offered to take a break and support the England players at the same time. Top Vugraph



Michael Smith keeps a watchful eye on his bridge students

commentators will cover all sessions in the spacious auditorium.

'It's going to be a great occasion,' said EBU board member Tom Bradley, who has responsibility for organising the event. 'Youngsters are particularly welcome to be involved. It's a great opportunity for kids in the South West.'

Although the EBU is proud and pleased to take on the organising role the championship is a major undertaking and financial backing is an urgent need. Already a series of simultaneous pairs events around the clubs in the country has been organised by the EBU to raise funds, but more help is sought: in particular sponsors for the opening and closing ceremonies.

* The lads in the cover picture are Gurrik Singh Thomas, Timothy Whiscombe, Kurt Walker, Peter Davis, Miles Woodhouse, Danny Kidd, Matt Collis, Richard James and Andy Snell.

Minister of Sport to launch Commonwealth Nations bridge

THE Minister of Sport, Richard Caborn MP, has accepted an invitation to launch the Bridge Championship for Commonwealth Nations, to be held in Manchester from July 15-20, immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games.

Already 28 nations have agreed to take part in the first bridge event of its kind, a result described as 'fantastic' by Jeff Morris, a member of the organising committee.

The launch is expected to take place in April.

Eric Kokish, from Canada, will be flying in to head the Vugraph team and set up a theatre that will be open to spectators free of charge for the five days of the event.

Richard Greenside, Australia's top tournament director, and Max Bavin, the EBU's chief tournament director, will take charge of the proceedings, with Max also on duty at the 18th European Youth Team Championships in Torquay.

Support is promised from the organisers

of the Commonwealth Games 2002 Spirit of Friendship Festival. The Bridge Championship for Commonwealth Nations will be one of a number of major events in the festival and will be promoted in all the festival publications.

The main sponsors of the championship are Manchester Airport and Maple Financial Services, of Canada. In addition private sponsors have ensured an impressive programme of hospitality for the players, including a dog racing night at Belle Vue, a visit to Manchester United football ground and a banquet at the Yang Sing Restaurant.

All 12 county and club places for the consolation event at £500 per team have been snapped up and there is now a waiting list.

Professor Ross Harper, international lawyer and chairman of Scottish Coal, will be Master of Ceremonies at the final banquet.

Latest news is that the Lord Mayor of Manchester is inviting all the participants to a civic reception at Manchester Town Hall.

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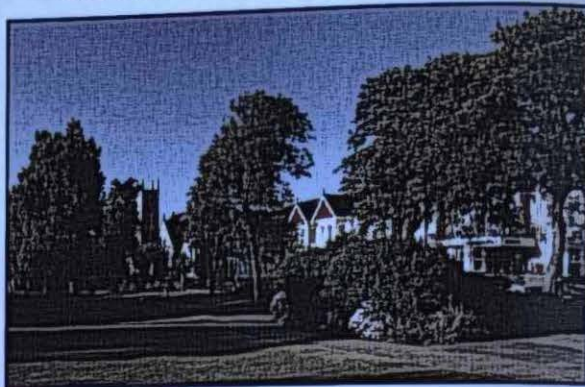
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Salt Lake City: The good, the bad – and the politics

SPORTS journalists are a law unto themselves – loud, vociferous, no-holds-barred masters of disgraceful hype (or worse) when they are not on your side. When they are on your side then clearly they are expert, intelligent, witty and entertaining. And, bless them, on the whole they were on our side at Salt Lake City – many column inches were devoted to bridge by the *Sunday Herald*, the *Independent*, the *Observer*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Wall Street Journal (Europe)*. David Harris, EBU Chairman, did live radio interviews by phone from Salt Lake City for *Radio 5 Live* and *Talk Sport*. There was also a substantial item on *Radio 4's Woman's Hour*, where Nicola Smith, Lynn Truss the sports writer, and Jenny Murray discussed the viability of bridge as an Olympic sport.

It's something new for sports journalists to be concerning themselves with the game of duplicate bridge. After all, duplicate isn't a sport – well, not at present anyway. It all began with a flurry of press activity in late January, following Steve Bunce's curtain-raiser on the Winter Olympics in the *Sunday Herald*. He had picked up (with a little well-placed help from friends at Aylesbury) the story that Great Britain had been invited by the World Bridge Federation, which is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as a 'sports federation', to take part in an exhibition bridge tournament to be staged prior to the Games.

Hey! you might cry, so bridge in the UK is a recognised sport! Alas no, because the British Olympic Association only recognises sports organisations with full sport status, ie those that demonstrably comply with various pieces of UK legislation, notably the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937, which defines sport unequivocally as requiring physical exertion.

A matter of propaganda?

The Act came into force at a time when sport was promoted as an enjoyable and uplifting pastime for the nation, as witnessed by the very high profile Berlin Olympics staged the previous year, which had exalted and exulted in physical excellence. A powerful underlying objective of the legislation was that through sports activities British men (and possibly women) would literally be fighting fit and capable of defending the country in time of war. And in 1937 there were many who believed that another war was inevitable. The revival of the notion of a 'mind sport' in the classical tradition of *mens sana in corpore sano* was decades away.

Yes, yes Minister!

Now, however, there may be a breakthrough. The Sports Minister (the third in the current administration, ie Tony Banks, then Kate Hoey, then Richard Caborn the present

incumbent) has declared himself much in favour of mind sports. He recognises that the game of bridge does not require much athletic ability in the physical sense, but it does entail many of the strong attributes that players of competitive sport have to acquire if they are to succeed – concentration, endurance, coolness under pressure, teamwork and competitive fire.

The Minister took time out from a busy schedule to host a meeting in his London office with David Harris, Terry Collier, EBU general manager, and two of the women's team before they flew off to Salt Lake City. As well as wishing them well in the bridge tournament he stated his clear commitment. 'I believe we should have the same obligation to mental agility as we do to physical agility. Mind sports have to form UK national bodies and get together with the Government to devise an acceptable amendment to the 1937 Act that clearly differentiates mind sports from parlour board games.' It was also due to the Minister's good offices that the women's team was subsequently invited to the Consul General's official welcoming reception in Salt Lake City.

Ice or snow twister

Another twist of the politics is that there is considerable disagreement over which sports should be included as 'winter



Nicola Smith, a member of the Great Britain team in Salt Lake City, was interviewed on the BBC's *Woman's Hour*

By Alaine Hamilton

sports'. The IOC charter says that all Winter Olympic sports must be 'played on ice or snow'. This rule was activated in the 1980s to foil attempts to move sports such as basketball and gymnastics out of the Summer Olympics, which some considered were becoming 'bloated' with non-mainstream sports, and dump them in the Winter Games. The ice or snow rule doesn't faze José Damiani, president of the World Bridge Federation, who says: 'If they decide to accept us, they will change the rules. It won't be the end of the world to change a rule.'

In the meantime, the IOC has a committee looking into whether bridge should be admitted to the Olympics in 2006 in Turin. There are more than a million registered bridge players in Italy, so interest there would be enormous if bridge were to be included.

'You can count on us,' say Buffet and Gates

There's nothing as pleasing as finding supporters in unexpected places, particularly extremely rich and influential ones. Warren Buffet and Bill Gates (yes, the Bill Gates) have stood up and have indeed been counted in the current debate. Buffet is usually described as the world's finest investment adviser, Gates as the world's richest man. 'I don't see why bridge should

be inappropriate at the Winter Olympics,' said Buffet, spoiling the effect slightly by adding, 'I have seen many bridge games played in an icy atmosphere.' Quite so, but a powerful ally in the cause.

The story goes (as related by Will Buckley in the *Observer*) that Buffet once said: 'I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent bridge players.' On hearing this Gates apparently said: 'I may have to volunteer to go in

with him.' It seems that Bill Gates is not the greatest of bridge players, but I don't suppose any one of our bridge clubs would turn him away, now would they?

Salt Lake City reflections

David Harris agrees that the politics are complex. 'But the inclusion of a bridge tournament at the Winter Olympics has at last given us a real foot in the door,' he says. 'We now have a Sports Minister who is clearly supportive and aware of the benefits that mind sports bring to both young and old. It is up to us to continue to press our case for recognition and raise national awareness. Our next high profile opportunity is the bridge championships at the Commonwealth Games festival in Manchester in July and we are determined to make it an outstanding success.'

Let's hope our friends in the press will do their bit, too. It's always interesting to read how non-bridge addicts/players see us. A few familiar stereotypes popped up here and there in the Salt Lake City press coverage, plus references to cucumber sandwiches, cerebral eccentricity and even the infamous Women's Institute calendar. However, it was Buckley in the *Observer* who provided a new slant on ageism, saying that 'bridge keeps old people off the streets.' Love it? Also, that bridge is 'an intelligent game played by bright people. An oasis of sense in a sea of nonsense.' Got it!



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BULGARIA



■ WINTERSUN

Playa La Arena, Tenerife, so popular we have extended our stay there next Winter also another firm favourite the San Felipe in Puerto de la Cruz. We are also taking bookings for RIU Bellevue Park, Tunisia. With the Don Pablo, Torremolinos, some dates already sold out. We have therefore introduced a new Wintersun venue, The Excelsior, Dubrovnik, five star de luxe, overlooking the famous walled city of Dubrovnik.

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COOL ENGLAND COMPLETE THEIR CAMROSE RECOVERY

by John Williams
and Tony Priday

JOHN Williams writes: After two weekends of the series England had hauled themselves back into contention with a crushing victory over N Ireland to lead the table by 26vps from Scotland.

The danger teams were Wales and Republic of Ireland, with 65 and 53vps respectively from one match only, but these two had to play each other on the third weekend, while England sat out and Scotland played their bogey team, N Ireland.

The results could scarcely have suited England better. N Ireland confounded Scotland yet again (51-39) and Wales beat Republic of Ireland 54-36, to leave the table reading: 1 Scotland (played 3) 125vps, 2 Wales (2) 119, 3 England (2) 112, 4 Rep of Ireland (2) 89, 5 N Ireland (3) 86.

Clearly England had to do the business in their last two matches. The team against Wales was David Burn and Brian Callaghan, David Gold and Tom Townsend, Tony Priday and Nick Sandqvist, with Denis Robson making a debut as npc. Gold had enjoyed an impressive debut against N Ireland, at 22 one of the youngest players to represent England in the Camrose (not the youngest, however, that accolade still belonging to Steve Lodge, who was a mere 20 when he played against Scotland in 1979).

However, there was no disputing that at 79 Priday became the oldest player to represent England in the event – a remarkable achievement after a gap of 20 years since his previous appearance.

Tony Priday's diary: this was an exciting deal from the second match of the weekend...

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

On Vugraph Gold and Townsend bid intelligently to 3NT via 1♣-2♣-3♦-3♥-3♣-3NT.

West led ♦A followed by a heart switch. East won and returned the suit so Townsend duly made 10 tricks.

In the open room I made a weak jump overcall of 3♣ over the 1♣ opening, South raised to 4♣ and West sacrificed hopefully

How they finished

1 England	233vps
2 Wales	205
3 Rep of Ireland	179
4 Scotland	158
5 N Ireland	114



Tony Priday, playing for England again at the age of 79

in 5♣. This was passed round to South, who doubled and led ♥K. I won the ace and led a small club. South, thinking that I might hold ♣KQ and fearing discards on the diamonds, rose with ♣A, allowing me to escape for one down and 10 imps to England.

4♣ appears to have four losers, but due to the favourable lie of the diamonds no defence beats even 5♣. Declarer wins the club lead with the king, draws one top trump and leads a heart. East ducks, declarer wins and returns to ♠Q to lead another heart. East wins, but declarer can now discard two diamond losers on ♥K and ♣A and a third on ♣5. East can choose his poison – let this hold, or win to concede a ruff and discard.

John Williams writes: With all three pairs in splendid form England won the encounter by 60vps to 29 (20-10, 25-4 and 15-15). In the other match Rep of Ireland beat N Ireland 62-28 to leave the table with one weekend to go: 1 England 172, 2 Rep of Ireland 151, 3 Wales 148, 4 Scotland 125, 5 N Ireland 114.

With no more matches to play N Ireland sat out the final weekend in Newport, where England played Rep of Ireland and Scotland met Wales. The England team (David Burn and Brian Callaghan, Tony Priday and Nick Sandqvist, Robert Sheehan and Colin Simpson (npc David Price) needed to amass no more than 34vps to ensure finishing ahead of the Republic (and 52 to prevail against a Welsh maximum v Scotland).

England's task was all but done when they won the first match 16-14 and the second 25-4, but Wales had already amassed 44vps by the same stage against Scotland, so 5vps were needed from the last match to guarantee the trophy.

Tony Priday's diary: 3NT contracts are the bread and butter of bridge journalists because they create more meaningful swings than any other, by being made at one table and defeated at the other...

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

Both E/W pairs bid Pass-1♣-2NT-3NT. When Robert Sheehan declared for England, North led ♣2 and South won the ace before switching to a heart, attacking communications.

Sheehan, unwilling to bank on an even break in spades, left that possibility as a last resort and found the excellent play of a small club from dummy. When South won and switched to ♦K, he was able to duck this, win the enforced heart continuation in dummy and knock out ♣K, making nine tricks via three spades four hearts, a diamond and a club.

At the other table Sandqvist led ♥6. Declarer, no doubt grateful to have avoided a minor suit lead, won and played three rounds of spades.

News of the adverse break was compounded by the fact that he had no convenient discard from hand. He settled for a club and, realising correctly that there was now no future in setting up long spades, unblocked ♥K and led a club from dummy. I won the ace and switched to ♦K. Ducking this would do no good, as I was sure to have a safe heart exit after cashing winners, so declarer won the ace and played for his last chance, taking his heart tricks and exiting with a club.

I was set up for an endplay, but partner was alert to the position and rose with ♣K – a crocodile coup, swallowing my queen – before playing a diamond through the jack and leaving my hand high. We had taken one spade, two diamonds and two clubs for one down and 12 imps to England.

John Williams writes: Any team playing consistently enough to achieve even a tiny margin in play and defence is hard to beat and so it proved here. Though Wales finally ran out of steam against Scotland, winning 24-6, 20-10, 13-17 for a total of 57-33, England's 20-10 margin in the final match ensured that the other result was immaterial. Congratulations to all six pairs who represented England in the series.



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Hilton Warwick	Aug 2nd - 4th	£151
♥♣ Hilton Cobham	Aug 23rd - 26th	£225
Hilton Corby	Oct 18th - 20th	£131
Hilton Brighton Metropole	Nov 29th - Dec 1st	£158

Houseparty Weekends

Hilton Warwick	Apr 19th - 21st	£153
♥♣ Hilton Basingstoke	May 3rd - 6th	£195
Hilton Southampton	Jun 7th - 9th	£141
Hilton Swindon	Jun 21st - 23rd	£142
Hilton Norwich	July 12th - 14th	£131
Hilton Newport	Sep 13th - 15th	£132
Hilton Avisford Park, Arundel	Sep 27th - 29th	£176
Hilton Milton Keynes	Oct 11th - 13th	£130
Hilton East Midlands	Nov 8th - 10th	£146

Teaching Weekends

Hilton Norwich	Apr 26th-28th	£133
Hilton Cobham	Jun 14th-16th	£151
Hilton Bromsgrove	July 26th - 28th	£142
Hilton Bracknell	Sep 20th - 22nd	£137
Hilton Portsmouth	Oct 18th - 20th	£144
Hilton Newbury North	Nov 8th - 10th	£140

♥ Event includes a Bank Holiday

♣ 3 night event

♦ 4 night event

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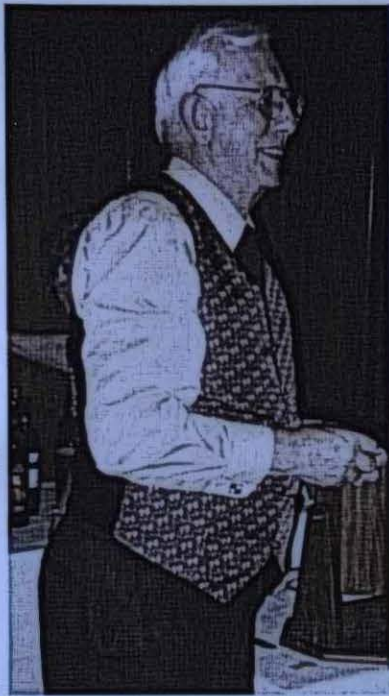
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First sub at Ashford Bridge Club was 10 shillings a year



Eddie Oldham gave the opening speech at the anniversary dinner. He also ran the raffle!

ON October 29 1921 George Blundell called a meeting at his Ashford, Middlesex home to discuss the possibility of forming a club for those interested in the game of Auction Bridge. Eleven people attended, a venue was agreed, a playing night settled and an annual subscription set at 10 shillings (50p) for individuals and 15 shillings (75p) for couples. It was also agreed that stakes, if played for, should not exceed five pence per 100 points.

A few weeks later another meeting was held; Ashford Bridge Club was officially formed and 35 ladies and gentlemen were accepted as members.

Eighty years on the club, its name amended to Ashford and District Bridge Club in 1947, is still going strong and its members, who believe their club is one of the oldest in the land, have just enjoyed a celebration dinner to mark the special anniversary.

The EBU does not have records of the beginnings of individual clubs, so any that can prove themselves senior to Ashford please step forward.

Ashford has a full record of its history and in recent months club officials have been checking through the minutes of the early years. With the writing spidery and the paper

thin it has not been easy, but the information is being typed up and will be printed on parchment and bound in leather to ensure its longevity.

In 1935 it was decided the club should become affiliated to the British Bridge League and in the same year a proposal that it should run duplicate contests and matches was rejected. However, three years later the matter was raised again and it was decided to play duplicate bridge every other Friday during the winter at a shilling a night.

Today the club holds duplicate sessions for members twice a week, plus No Fear sessions twice a month.

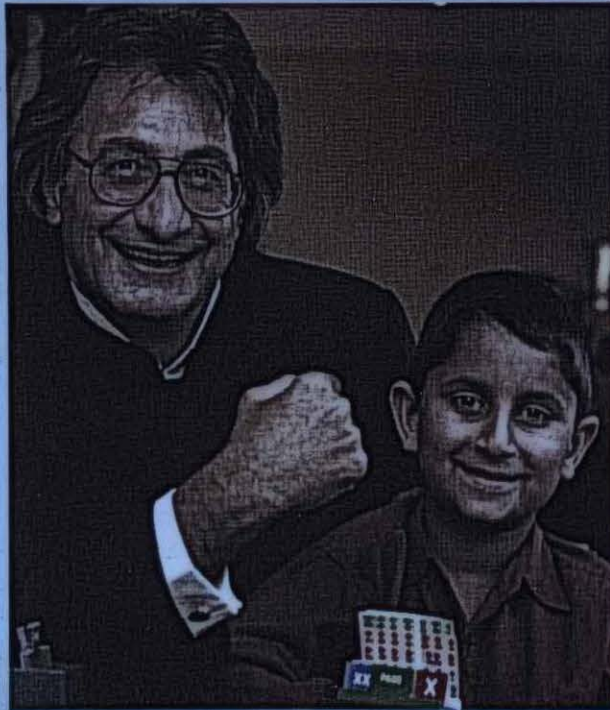
One thing the records show is that the club has a history of long-term membership. Many who attended the anniversary dinner have been members for 40 years or more.

Sadly George Hart, one of the most prominent, died a few weeks before the celebration event. George, with other members, was instrumental in making the club one of the most prominent in the area, helping to found the Thames Valley League, which is still in operation. He was a long-serving member of the Surrey committee and was a life member of the club. The minutes indicate that he joined as a teenager in the 1940s, his parents having already belonged to the club for many years.

Another prominent member was Eileen Grethe, who died a couple of years ago. She was a life member and former president of the club and her name was first noted in the committee minutes in 1935, although she may well have joined earlier.

In the current membership there are three ladies in their 90s and two more just about to reach that milestone.

Zia keeps promise to Shivam

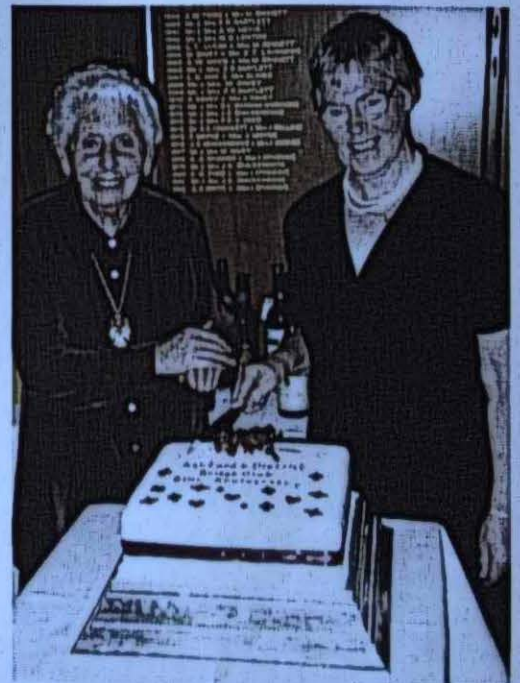


WHEN star bridge player Zia Mahmood met young pretender Shivam Shah, from London, in a bridge event in the American Autumn Nationals in Las Vegas last year he was impressed and promised the nine-year-old he would have a game with him when he was next in England.

The great man was true to his word. The opportunity arose at Andrew Robson's London club a few weeks ago and the wizard wasted no time in pairing up with the whiz kid. Needless to say the two globetrotters got on famously.

'Not the BO that I know'

ALAIN Meath Evans, of London, was enjoying a game of bridge on EBU Online when several players left one after the other. So Alain (Online name Jacqu Alain) typed out 'I must have BO'. Back came a question from one of the players: 'Who is BO? I don't think I've ever played against him!'



Ailsa Lawrence and Margaret Taylor cut the Ashford and District Bridge Club's 80th anniversary cake

IN PRAISE OF BRIDGE PLUS

Bridge Plus asked its readers to tell us what they like about the magazine. Here are some of their replies for your interest and entertainment.

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED my two-year renewal to *Bridge Plus*. I must add my comments to all those who have written in praise and support of the magazine, and say how much I enjoy such an excellent publication. Keep up the good work!

David Drinkwater,
Berkhamsted

YOU ASKED SUBSCRIBERS what they like about *Bridge Plus*. I would list my likes as follows: first, the size – which to me is important. I much prefer your A5-size magazine to the more usual A4. More importantly, of course, is the excellent content and contributions. Articles are just the right length, and there is a good mix of information and instruction combined with plenty of humour. The articles are presented in a way that may be easily understood by both average and more experienced players.

Regular articles that are particularly appreciated are the Editorial (usually thought-provoking), the Letters to the Editor, and Mike Swanson's article on ethics and other aspects of the laws.

All in all, *Bridge Plus* is the best of bridge magazines.

Ken Wheeler, Chesterfield

I ALWAYS ENJOY *Bridge Plus* – not only because the format is user-friendly, but because the articles are genuinely interesting and informative.

Hilary Blank, Cheadle

I HAVE BEEN subscribing to *Bridge Plus* from the very early days and it has come on greatly since then. Its content is very varied and suitable for both the new starters to the game of bridge and the more experienced players.

I look forward to receiving it every month!

L. Matthews,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne



Elena Jeronimidis
Editor of *Bridge Plus*

I AM PLEASED to extol *Bridge Plus*. I was born in 1920 and played bridge from an early age. I have not played County class bridge for many years, so my bidding is now a bit old-fashioned. Therefore I particularly enjoy Eric Crowhurst's articles on many aspects of Acol bidding, but I also like to read Michelle Brunner who shows how to evaluate your hand and then maximise your chances of success in the play.

As for card-play and defence, expert help comes from Ron Klinger, Danny

Roth, Andrew Kambites and Freddie North, not to mention other famous names like Derek Rimington and Barry Rigal.

No wonder I enjoy *Bridge Plus* – and I congratulate Elena Jeronimidis who does a super job as Editor.

Frank Bayden, Hunstanton

MY WIFE AND I thoroughly enjoy bridge, having taken up the game since I retired four years ago. We look forward to *Bridge Plus* – with all its helpful tips – every month!

Robert Anderson, Fraserburgh

WHAT DO I particularly like in *Bridge Plus*? I always start with the Editorial, then turn to the Acol Bidding Quiz. Most of the time I get to the right contract – even if I go about it another way round! After that, I start delving here and there; on reaching the *Carta Mundi* Caption Competition I pause and wonder at the captions – why didn't I think of that?

I cannot fault the magazine; I keep every copy and re-read them many times.

Also, there is one big bonus – if every business in the UK were run so efficiently, then we would have no complaints. *Bridge Plus* is always on the mat by the first week of each month and anything ordered comes by return of post!

June Hamblin, Fareham

DEAR BRIDGE PLUS, please don't change, and don't get too advanced!

Mrs J. Bevin,
Market Harborough

WHICH OTHER BRIDGE magazine gives its subscribers a free Bridge Diary? What a treat!

Could we also have a booklet with all the cartoons and clever captions from your Caption Competition? Please?

Mary Leared, Zimbabwe

HAVING BECOME A subscriber a few years ago, I have gradually looked forward each month for the postman.

Bridge Plus takes priority over the *Glasgow Herald* that morning – even though I should like to see more Scottish news in your magazine!

Olive Hamilton, Sarkhall

I HAVE BEEN subscribing to *Bridge Plus* almost from its beginning, and have enjoyed every issue. I always start with the Editorial, then the Letters, followed by the Bidding Quiz which is fun because the hands are all probable, not extraordinary and designed to fox the bidder.

The articles are easy to read and cater for many standards of players. I look forward to reading the regular contributors, and new names invariably have something interesting to say.

Bridge Plus has kept me and my partners in touch with the game world-wide. In our little Zimbabwe, which is a sorely troubled country right now, the magazine is a godsend for us bridge enthusiasts – and a big help to a better standard of play.

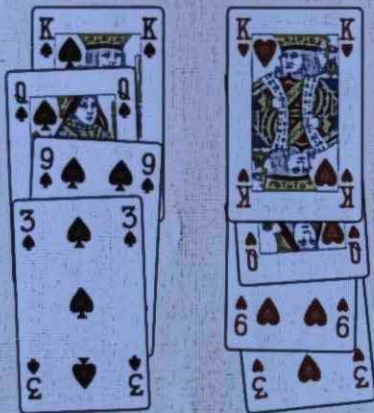
Yvonne Andrews, Zimbabwe

A TASTE OF BRIDGE PLUS by MIKE SWANSON

UNDER-LAPPING

A reader (name and address supplied) writes: "A member of our local club when dummy insists on placing his hand on the table in a way which can only be described as 'under-lapping.' (See heart suit below.)

"As a result, apart from the card at the top of each pile, the remaining cards display only the bottom portion with the 9 displaying as a 6. Can the defenders insist that the dummy is displayed in the normal manner?" (See spade suit, far left.)



Most definitely they can.

Law 41D states: "After the opening lead is faced, dummy spreads his hand in front of him on the table, face up, sorted into suits, the cards in order of rank, in columns pointing lengthwise towards declarer, with trumps to dummy's right."

There is no doubt in my mind that the dummy in question is pointed away from declarer and therefore the dummy is breaching the law.

However, another interesting point is that the law does not state in which order

Mike Swanson writes a regular 'Laws' column for *Bridge Plus*.
A complete and easy-to-consult pocket guide to all the laws is provided by *Duplicate Bridge Rules Simplified*, by John Rumbelow, revised by David Stevenson, and published by Mr Bridge.

of rank (ascending or descending) the cards should be sorted. When directing an international event I was called to the table because the defenders objected to the dummy having the two at the top and the ace at the bottom. Declarer and dummy insisted that this was normal practice in their country (I can't remember which country it was) and indeed the law seems to permit this.

The one sort of arrangement of dummy that really annoys me is when the cards are thrown to the table so that most of them are pointing at 45° — a practice prevalent amongst players who think they are better than they are!

I have to say I put up with it, as I am an easy-going soul but, if I were being pedantic, I could certainly insist on the dummy being tidied up.

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SALLY BROCK REPLIES



Ask Sally

Harold Smith from Middlesex asks: *How should you respond to partner's Weak Three opening bid?*

In general you should either pass or raise partner's suit. If you have a partial fit for his suit (say honour doubleton or better), stoppers in the other suits and an expectation of nine tricks when you get the lead, then 3NT should be your choice.

The only problem is the meaning of a new minor over a major-suit pre-empt. (A new major suit at the three level is simply natural and forcing for one round, asking partner to raise with support, bid no-trumps with an outside stopper, or rebid his own suit.) In my opinion, a sequence such as 3♠ — 4♣ is best played as a cue-bid. It is very rare that you would want to consider playing in clubs when your partner has shown a strong spade suit (and if you do, you can always bid 5♣). If 4♣ is a cue-bid, it agrees partner's suit and invites him to cue-bid in return if his hand is suitable.

Janet Pretlove asks by e-mail about 'balancing'. She has seen the expression in newspaper columns but does not understand what it means.

Very often the opponents' bidding dies at a low level in a part-score contract. If you are in the pass-out seat, whatever your hand, you know that your partnership must have reasonable combined assets, otherwise the opponents would have bid more. 'Balancing' is a term used to denote bidding in such circumstances. The object is not to bid your own game, but either to buy the part-score, or perhaps to push your opponents up a level so you are more likely to be able to defeat their contract. Balancing is most attractive when the opponents have shown that they have a fit, because if they have a fit it is very likely that you have a fit, too.

I will give you one example. Suppose at Love All you hold:

♠ J 10 6 5
♥ 7 6
♦ A Q 5
♣ Q 10 9 4

and the bidding goes: 1♥ on your right, pass from you, 2♥ on your left, pass from partner, pass on your right, and it is your bid.

The chances are that your opponents have only about half the points in the pack between them. They have at least an eight-card heart fit, so it is likely that you have an eight-card fit somewhere as well. What you should do now is double, asking partner to bid his best suit. Perhaps the full deal is:

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

You will see that East-West would make 2♥ (even if South does not lead a spade at trick one, declarer can draw trumps and exit in the minors, forcing North-South to broach the spade suit for him). North-South can make 3♣.

Your 'balancing' double has ensured a plus score for your side. For more easy-to-understand information on this subject, I would recommend *Practise Your Re-opening and Balancing with Tony Forrester in the Bridge Plus 'Practise' Series*, available by post from Mr Bridge at £3.80.

Sally Brock is a current Ladies European Champion and the proud owner of several Gold medals from World and European Ladies Championships. She is also the author of several bridge books, and writes a regular 'Bridge Agony Aunt' column for BRIDGE.

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A TASTE OF BRIDGE PLUS by KITTY TELTSCHER

ROYAL EVENT

The Inaugural Bridge Event for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was held at the Carlton Towers Hotel in Knightsbridge at the end of January.

The charity was formed in 1956 and since then over three million young people have participated in the Award. It is open to all those wishing to achieve their personal best, whatever their background. Organising the event was very exciting. My co-Chair Tove Goddard and I went for supreme glamour, and relied upon the generosity of bridge players to make the enterprise financially worthwhile. Our optimism was well founded: overall, the evening netted over £22,000.

Proceedings began with a champagne reception, attended by Their Royal Highnesses, The Earl and Countess of Wessex, who looked as if they were truly enjoying mingling with the crowd. Sophie played bridge as a child and has promised to return next year to play.

When the Royals left, the bridge started in the Ballroom. There were two sections: duplicate and rubber, the majority opting for duplicate – notable exceptions being Alex James and Dave Rowntree of *Blur* fame. The event was flawlessly run by a team headed by Andrew Robson, who had prepared some devilish hands. No boring INT passed out with Andrew in charge!

Zia Mahmood, Unal Durmus and Rob Sheehan had all been 'sold' (thus earning the charity £1,500), and were playing in the duplicate. Also competing was a pair called 'Mahmood and Robson', awe-inspiring names, but in fact Emma Mahmood and Lorna Robson were a charming and relaxed duo.

The following hand proved hard luck for Ian Panto and Tony Waterlow:

Dealer: East. N/S Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Dbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	End



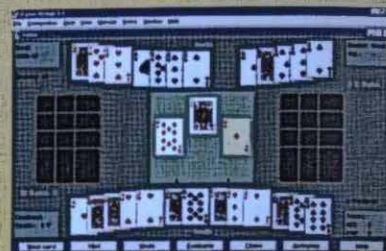
Kitty Teltscher (front right) meets the Earl and Countess of Wessex

Ian Panto, South, passed anticipating a huge penalty, but in fact three off was a bottom, as North-South can score +630. The intrepid 2♥ bidder was Emma Mahmood – that Mahmood-Robson pairing may be a force to be reckoned with after all!

The next evening one of the guests, Eileen Sinclair, was dining with friends at Harry's Bar. Prince Edward was dining there too, and seeing her, went to her table and enquired whether she had won the previous night. With a memory like that, I can't help feeling that Prince Edward is a loss to the bridge world!

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Kitty Teltscher reports regularly on the London bridge scene in *Bridge Plus*



May I Recommend . . .

EARLY BIRD

My first delivery of 2003 Daily Bridge Calendars will arrive at the beginning of June. For those of you not familiar with this product, very simply, it consists of a book-like block of over seven hundred pages, providing a problem a day – with the answer clearly set out on the reverse.



For just £20 you will receive the 2002 edition by return of post and the 2003 edition when it is ready.

SO SIMPLE

This problem has really done the rounds – that's why it's called the Pot Boiler. Still, there will be a new generation of readers who haven't seen it before and some more who will have forgotten – and yes, it can be solved. Published as a tea-towel at only £6.95.

GREAT SUCCESS



The *Bridge Plus* 'Practise' Series launched by Elena

Jeronimidis

has proved to be a huge bridge publishing success, the concept being exactly what the bridge-playing public wanted. There are now forty-one titles in print, all listed on page 18, each explaining the subject-matter clearly and succinctly.

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One of the frustrating things about designer ball-point pens and silver pencils is the difficulty in obtaining refills. I now stock these at £2.95 for four screw-in biro refills and £2.27 for a phial of thirty pencils leads. Please send stamps for these.

LIFE AND SOUL

Bernard Magee is always being asked about this tie and, at £11.75, they are great fun. Ideal to wear at club parties, they also make useful prizes and presents.



WORLD'S BEST

First published in November 1989, *Bridge Plus* is now an established part of the Duplicate Bridge scene. Targeted at the enthusiastic club player, it is renowned for its humour, instruction, reports, quizzes and competitions.

The standard of its contributors is unrivalled, making it the best magazine in the bridge world, and not only in my opinion.

LOW VISION CARDS



Cards for those with low vision are illustrated above. £5.99 per two packs (one red back, one blue back). They are unusual for those of us who are able to see, but a real boon for those less fortunate.

POT BOILER

♠ AQ7

♥ AKQJ

♦ QJ10987

♣ VOID

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 95432

♥ VOID

♦ 65432

♣ 432

♠ KJ1086

♥ 5432

♦ VOID

♣ KQ J10

♠ VOID

♥ 109876

♦ AK

♣ A98765

You are South in 7♥
How do you play after the lead of ♣K?

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CLEARANCE

I still have a small stock of ball-point pens to clear – notably the Queen of Hearts. These are not included in my regular price list, so readers should telephone to check availability. Only £2 each including postage and packing. ☎ 01483 489961.

Mr Bridge

PRACTISE YOUR MULTI 2♦ ...

In this booklet, you are playing a simple version of the Multi 2♦, showing either a Weak Two (6-9 HCP) in a major, or a balanced 22-23 HCP hand, or an eight-to-nine playing-trick hand in clubs or diamonds. How would you and your partner bid the hands below?

Dealer: East. Game All.
(N/S pass throughout.)

♠ A 4		♠ 10 3 2				
♥ Q 9 7 2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ A K 10 8 6 3
N	E					
W	S					
♦ A Q 7 6 3		♦ 2				
♣ 3 2		♣ 8 7 5				

SOLUTION

Dealer opens with a Multi 2♦. West's 2♠ response asks East to pass with a Weak Two in spades, and rebid 3♥ (if minimum) or 4♥ (if maximum) with a Weak Two in hearts.

East's Weak Two is only average, but contains three positive features to recommend a jump to game. These are the good trumps, the singleton diamond, and the three low spades which are quite likely to be facing shortage, given partner's response.



... AND YOUR DEFENCE TO THE MULTI 2♦ with Tom Townsend

Now change positions at the table – and make use of Tom Townsend's companion booklet. How would you and your partner fare on the hand below?

Dealer: South. Love All.
South opens with a Multi 2♦.
North bids 2♠ (pass or correct) if able.

♠ A 10		♠ Q J 4 2				
♥ K 9 7 2	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ Q 6 5
N	E					
W	S					
♦ K Q 9 5		♦ A 10 7				
♣ Q 10 2		♣ K 9 4				

SOLUTION

South opens with a Multi 2♦ and West doubles, promising a balanced hand (hence no fewer than two spades) with 13-15 HCP.

Knowing that the opponents are in a grotty 6-1 'fit' at most, East doubles 2♠ for penalty – and quite right, too. It looks like three off for +500 to East-West, with 3NT not even guaranteed to make on their combined holdings.

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4. Thou shalt not arrive at a table without greeting thine opponents.
5. Thou shalt not leave a table without thanking thine opponents.
6. Thou shalt not gloat over a favourable result.
7. Thou shalt not argue at length over a previous board.
8. Thou shalt not tell opponents how they could have made a contract.
9. Thou shalt not end the evening without thanking thy partner, however badly he or she may have played.
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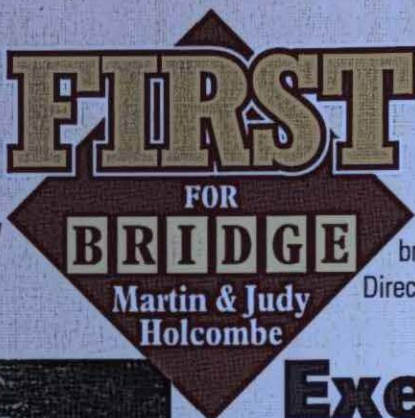


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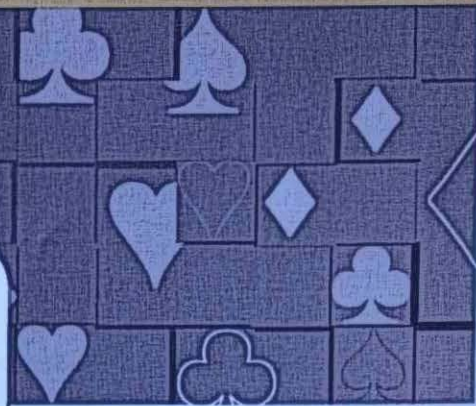
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Ruffing losers in dummy

LEARN TRUMP MANAGEMENT



with
Andrew Kambites



WE have already seen that it can be in the interests of defenders to force declarer to ruff in the hand with long trumps. The converse to this is that it is often in declarer's interest to postpone the drawing of trumps in order to ruff losers in the hand with short trumps, usually dummy. How do you intend to make 4♠ in the hand below if the lead is the ♦K?

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

The paradox of this hand is that everybody would make 4♠ if a small heart replaced the ♥K. You would win the ♦A and concede a heart at trick 2. The defenders, seeing that you are aiming for heart ruffs in dummy, would switch to a trump. You would win this and concede a second heart. The defenders would persist with a second trump, but it would be too late to prevent you ruffing a heart, for your 10th trick.

If you try to be too greedy your game contract could well fail. Seeing the prospect of 11 tricks you might enter dummy with the ♠A for a heart finesse. If the ♥K loses to the ♥A a trump return would reduce dummy to one trump. When now you concede a second heart a further trump by the defenders would prevent any ruff in dummy, holding you to nine tricks.

Obviously such greed would be negligent if you are playing teams of four or rubber bridge, but if you are playing duplicate pairs you would have to think more carefully. The contract of 4♠ is pretty obvious, so you cannot afford to make fewer tricks than everybody else. By entering dummy for a heart finesse you are more likely to make an overtrick than go down, indeed your contract will only be put in jeopardy if North has the ♥A and trumps break 3-1 or 4-0 with the defenders able to arrange their communications to draw three rounds of trumps. In a good standard pairs event, where everybody would be expected to be in 4♠, I would aim for the overtrick!

In the next hand you have powered your way to 4♥ and North finds the only lead to embarrass you: the ♥A followed by a second trump. How do you plan the play now?

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

You can be certain that if you lead a low spade now the defenders will arrange that the hand with the third trump wins the trick, and leads his last trump. However if you exit with the ♠K the defenders will have no option over who wins the trick. If the defender with the ♠A started with only two trumps he will be powerless to prevent you from ruffing a spade in dummy.

In the next hand you are in 4♠ and the defenders start with three rounds of diamonds.

You ruff at trick three and have to plan the play. Over to you.

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

You cannot avoid a club loser, so you must concentrate on avoiding a heart loser. If hearts break 3-3 there will be no problem. How about if they are 4-2?

Start by cashing the ♠A K. Both defenders follow suit. Continue with the ♥A K Q. North does not follow suit to the ♥Q, but neither can he ruff it. You can now ruff the ♥5 with dummy's ♠J.

This line of play doesn't jeopardise your contract if hearts are 3-3, but gives you an extra chance if the hearts are 4-2 and the hand with two hearts has not more than two trumps.

Change the hand slightly and you have an even better chance to demonstrate your technique. In the next hand you are in 3♠, again the defenders starting with three rounds of diamonds.

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

Suppose you ruff the diamond and start with the ♠A K. Now when you concede a heart the defenders can draw a third round of trumps. That is no good.

Perhaps you should draw just one round of trumps before playing the ♥A K and conceding a heart. That fails as well, because the defender with 4 hearts can give his partner a heart ruff, dummy's trumps being too feeble to overruff.

Correct technique is to cash one top trump and immediately duck a heart. When you regain the lead cash a second top trump and the ♥A K, allowing you to ruff the ♥6 in dummy if the same defender has long hearts and long spades.

In the next hand you have reached the excellent contract of 6♠. If clubs are 3-3 you will have no problem, but what if they are 4-2? You start by winning the ♥K lead with your ♥A, cash the ♠A K and ruff a club with the ♠9. South shows out, leaving North with the ♠Q. What next?

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

You might try drawing another round of trumps before ruffing a club, but that fails because South overruffs and cashes a heart trick.

In fact your contract is almost 100% sure with best play. After ruffing the third club you should return to your hand with the ♦A and discard a heart on your fourth club. The defenders are powerless to prevent you from ruffing a heart in dummy. Your loser-on-loser play has transferred the ruff from clubs, a suit which South could overruff to hearts, a suit which South cannot overruff.

The final hand sees you in 6♠, North leading the ♥Q. The question is not: 'Why am I not in 7♠', a contract which is easy if clubs break no worse than 4-2. You must concentrate your efforts on making 6♠ if clubs break 5-1. What is your plan?

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

If you try to cash the ♣AK and a defender ruffs, he can return a trump. This will restrict you to two ruffs in dummy and leave you with another losing club.

Better technique (assuming you are playing teams of four) is to cash the ♠A and immediately duck a club. The defenders cannot now prevent you from ruffing two clubs in dummy, drawing trumps and making the ♠K at the end.

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The English Bridge Union website

For full and up-to-date competition results – and much more

Give the Gold Cup minnows a better deal

UNQUESTIONABLY the premier bridge competition is the Gold Cup. Recently certain teams were seeded to enter in round three. I have no argument there.

However, I was horrified to discover that matches in round one and round two for us ordinary mortals have been reduced from 48 boards to 32.

This must be a retrograde step. Even though many teams enter knowing they have no real chance of winning the competition, there is a special feeling playing a long match. Some years you cause an upset by beating a seed.

I appreciate BGB runs the competition, but surely the EBU has some influence in this forum.

I have yet to speak to anyone who thinks the change has any merit.

Please do not downgrade our premier competition. - Clive Owen, Darlington

A TD's lot - beat this!

I OFFER three incidents, all of which happened in an informal (non-affiliated - aren't you glad) club that I direct, and all in the space of a few months.

On the first occasion we were playing three-board rounds and on the third I was called to a table where North was in a state of high dudgeon. 'Someone has scored on my line!' Indisputably, there was a score against her pair number, so I told her to score against a spare line - I would sort it out when I did the match pointing. When I looked at the slip I noticed that the two scores were in strikingly similar handwriting. Sure enough when I looked at the third board there was no score for that table. They had played the same board twice, in the same strain, but with two very different results, and none of the four had noticed. What to do? I scored both boards and gave suitable points to both pairs. For the board they had not played I awarded them an average, which I then deleted from the sheet.

Another time we were playing two-board rounds and

you write

on the fifth round I was called to a table. Something was clearly wrong, as two players had both played the ♣J to the same trick. My fault, I fear! I had replaced the deck in that board with a new one, without first checking that it was a true deck. There were 52 cards, but the ♣Js were duplicated. And the missing card? The ♠A.

Finally I was running an even number of tables with a bystand when the cry went up from an E/W pair, 'We've already played these cards!' Usually when this happens it turns out that someone has filled in his or her personal score card on the wrong line. The rest of the time, someone has bypassed the bystand. Not today: all the boards were in their proper places and the N/S pair against whom they claimed to have played them agreed that they had. Moreover, the personal score cards tallied. How had this come about? At some point, being stuck behind a slow table, the E/W pair had leapfrogged; the leapfrogged E/W, finding their place taken, had moved back, and been leapfrogged in turn by a yet slower pair. No one had thought this procedure at all odd, but had ascribed it to a peculiarity of the movement; and no one had noticed, in the first instance, because the bystand had been between the leapfrogged table and the one from which the original leapfroggers had come.

I hereby challenge all truthful directors to cap this set. - C N Gilmore, Bedford

How do they get away with murder?

CAN someone explain to me how some of the country's leading players get away with murder!

Playing in a national final I glance at the opponents' convention card: it says Benji Acol. RHO opens 2♣ after three passes.

After the hand is played I'm told I misplayed the hand as the opener had to have 23 points. In the middle of much script on the front page of the card it says 'Acol in 4th!'

In another national final the opponents' card says SA Texas. In third position 4♣ is opened on my left. Double from my partner and then Pass Pass Pass.

A little number at the end of the line says 'Note 3'. On the back page it says 'Not in 3rd or 4th'. I complain (not too much as we achieved the optimum result).

Next year - same pair, same card.

And what about the close black print on yellow card - I'm minus 10+ dioptres in both eyes! - Dave Robinson, Sheffield

Traveller trouble

PLEASE could we have a ruling?

At the end of a duplicate session one of the players (pen in hand) was seen to be going through every traveller to see how she had done. Meanwhile the scorer was patiently waiting to take the scorers away.

The director told the member she was not entitled to be going through every score sheet and an argument ensued.

Please could you tell us whether individual members are entitled to go through all or indeed any of the travellers after a duplicate session? - Jenny Morris, Mobberley, Cheshire

Editor's advice: Take a quick look if it's convenient to the scorer, but remember it can be irritating to have people grabbing at the travellers after they have been gathered in at the end of a session. Let common-sense and club camaraderie prevail.

Grand time in Cyprus



HAVE you ever made a decision on the spur of the moment, spent the following weeks wishing you hadn't, and then had an amazing time? I did and I have.

I chose to book to go to the Cyprus Congress, hoping one of my enthusiastic partners would be able to come, but ending up on my own. I'm new to competitive bridge and play both online and at various clubs in Surrey. So the decision to go was pretty scary, stupid, mad ...

The result has been great. I played in every competition, with four different partners, including two Grand Masters (that's me with them - Eddie Lucioni and David Jones - in the picture) and Peter Jordan, the EBU organiser.

The experience ranged from terrifying, intimidating and exciting to quietly satisfying, knowing I had learned so much, and my results were better than I might have expected.

I also met so many onliners face to face, including Patsi and Mary Poppins, Lazy Gardener and my new special friends, Gerard and Pandora. Thank you to everybody for a great week - Liz Martin (Liberty), Dorking

PRIZE



These excellent Arabian design cards are the prize provided by Piatnik for each of the three winners in our Prize Play competition



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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. Andrew Kambites sets the questions.

You are declarer (West) and your hands and dummy's are displayed. How would you play? Write briefly, indicating your plan and analyse problems that the defenders may pose.

Board 1

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

West	North	East	South
4♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
			Pass

North leads the ♣Q, allowing South to cash two club tricks. South then switches to the ♦J, won by your ♦A. When you cash ♠AK both defenders follow suit. Plan the play.

Board 2

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

West	North	East	South
Dbl	2♥	Pass	1♥
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

North leads the ♥Q. South clearly has the ♦K for his opening bid, but sadly dummy's spades do not provide an entry to take the diamond finesse. Can you make your contract?

Board 3

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	4♦	1NT	2♦
Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass

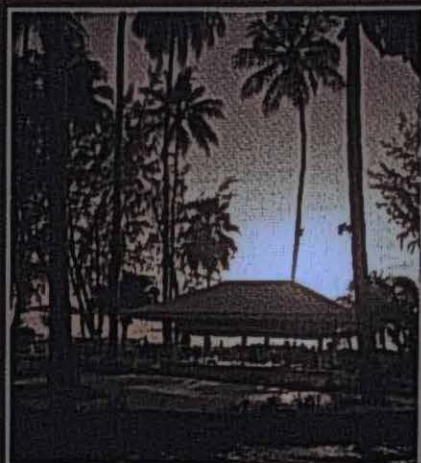
North leads the ♦2 to dummy's ♦J and South's ♦A. You ruff and lead the ♣Q. Both defenders follow suit and South wins with the ♣A. South then switches to the ♠6. Which spade do you play from your hand and why?

Board 4

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

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

North leads ♠10. You try dummy's ♠J, but South covers with the ♣Q. Plan the play.



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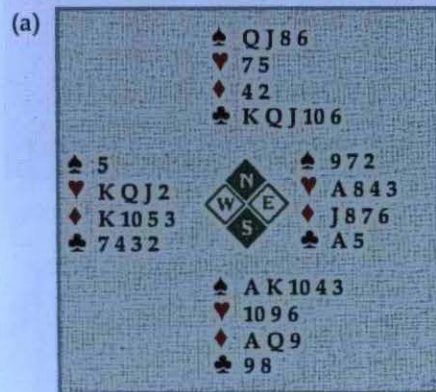
IMPROVE YOUR DEFENCE WITH BRIAN SENIOR

The simple task: take four tricks before declarer can tot up ten!

THERE are far more glamorous techniques in defensive play, but none more valuable than the simple ability to count accurately and to think clearly. Often, the simple exercise of counting what winners the defence has can be all the information required to plan the correct defence.

The target for the defence is to defeat the contract. Extra undertricks are nice and would no doubt improve the score, but the first goal must be to take the best shot at breaking the contract. If the contract is four-of-a-major, the defensive target is to get four tricks before declarer can take 10. It is that simple.

What is the best chance for the defence in each of these examples?



West leads the ♥K against 4♣ and East can see two heart tricks for the defence and one club. Where can the fourth trick be found to defeat the contract?

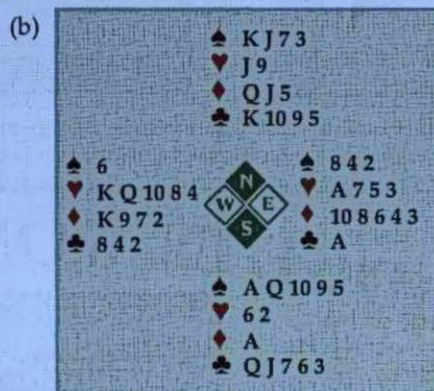
If West has a spade trick there will be no problem. If West holds the ♦A, there will again be no problem, as East will switch to a diamond on winning the ♠A. The difficulty for the defence will come when West holds the ♦K rather than the ace. In that case, a diamond lead will be required from the East side – as can be seen in the above diagram, a diamond lead from West would be into declarer's ace-queen and would not harm him.

East must arrange to win the second round of hearts and push a diamond through while he still has control of the clubs. At trick one East encourages hearts by playing the eight and West will continue. Whether he continues with a low card or an honour, East must win the ace and switch to a diamond to defeat the contract.

It might seem that East could afford to overtake the first heart, as West is marked with the queen for his opening lead. However, while that will usually be safe enough, it will let the contract through when declarer holds ♦AKQ and not the ace of spades, as he will win your

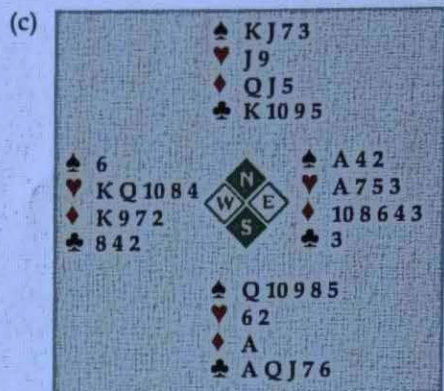
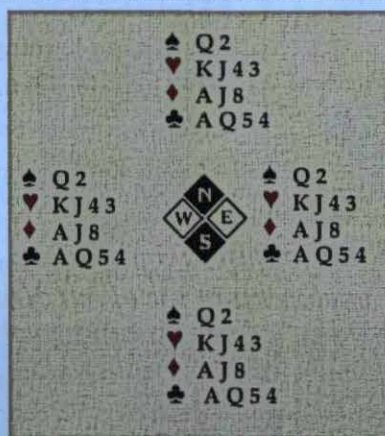


diamond switch and play two more rounds to throw dummy's remaining heart loser.

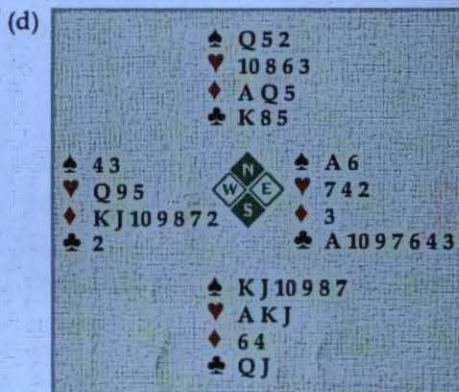


This time there appear to be two hearts and a club to take against 4♣. How can the defence come to a fourth trick? Simple, via a club ruff. The solution is for East to overtake the ♥K at trick one and cash his singleton ♠A. When he next leads a heart to West's queen, it will take a very obtuse partner not to give him his club ruff for down one.

Although it looks different, the next deal is effectively identical to the previous one.



East does not have the ♠A, so must give up the lead to establish his club ruff but, as compensation, he holds the ace of trumps. Overtake the opening lead and switch to the club. On winning the ♠A, return a heart to partner's queen and he will deliver the ruff.



The lead of the ♣2 against 4♣ is an obvious singleton. It is all too easy to win the ace and give partner his ruff. However, while that gives the defence two tricks, and there is the ♠A to come, what will be the fourth winner?

Again, having trump control is the key to defeating the contract. East, too, has a potential ruff, in diamonds. The problem is that his partner has only one likely entry – his club ruff. Establish the fourth defensive winner before taking the first three and down goes the contract. East must win the ♣A at trick one and immediately switch to his singleton diamond. Winning the first spade, he gives West a club ruff and, hopefully, is given a diamond ruff in return – down one.

BEAT THIS ONE FOR A BLUNDER

What do readers make of this deal, which David Gold, from Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, tells us was brought back from Israel by his son, who spotted it in a newspaper there?

Says David: 'I know errors are sometimes made in the presentation of bridge hands in newspapers and magazines, but surely there has never been anything to match this one!' Unfortunately we could not decipher the accompanying text to tell how the bidding went or which player secured what contract!

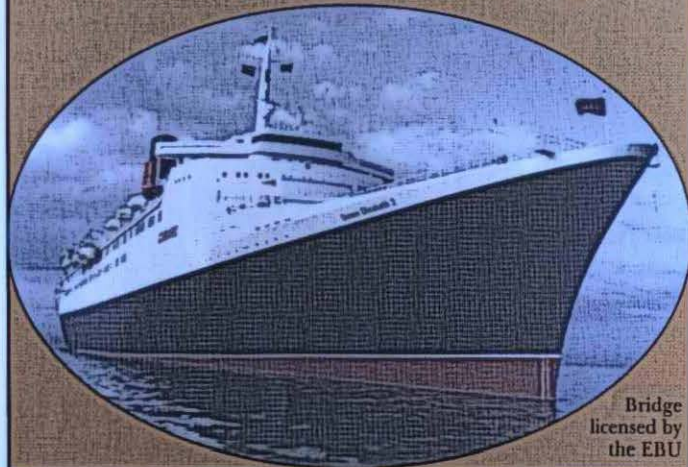
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A point about points

By Mike Burt

IF you intend playing in a no trump contract every honour card is likely to be useful, but if you intend playing in a trump contract some of your high cards could be useless (apart from the fact that they are better in your hand than the opponents').

For example, in a spade contract, what use is a queen or jack opposite a void or singleton?

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

In the above hand you might just as well have:

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

On the other hand good cards in partner's suit are very desirable. So, when you have found a trump fit, upgrade any picture cards or aces in suits partner is known to hold, but downgrade any picture cards in other suits. Outside aces retain their value.

So, if the auction is:

You	Partner
1♠	1♥
?	3♠

You should increase the value of your hand by two points in example a), by three points in example b) and bid 4♠ with both of them.

It does not guarantee success, but it does help you in finding 'thin' games and helps you to stay out of unmakeable games – so important at teams.

Stress counselling for 'bridge rage'?

THE Laws and Ethics Committee has for some time been dismayed by the evident deterioration of behaviour at the bridge table – it is well known that complaints are frequently received that refer to 'table terrorism' (*English Bridge* October 2001) and 'bridge rage'. This was discussed at length at the committee's meeting in March, after which the following statement was issued:

'In recent months there have been numerous requests from affiliated clubs for the implementation of stress counselling procedures at events organised under the auspices of the EBU. After long discussion and legal consultation the committee has resolved that draft procedures should be laid before Council at its meeting on April 10. If approved, it is hoped that implementation will be possible at the commencement of the next competition year. Psychological support procedures are becoming standard practice in sport and the committee recommends that the EBU should make similar provision for its members at all levels of play.'

What it all means

In an accompanying briefing note the committee explains how the new procedures will work in practice. Whenever the Tournament Director is called during an EBU-approved duplicate bridge event, any player at the table in question will have the right to request reference to a designated stress counsellor for support and assistance following the ruling (*clause B* below). A request for counselling does not

remove or affect a player's normal right of appeal or disturb the procedures associated with appealed decisions.

'Restoration of equanimity'

The duty and responsibility of the counsellor, who will be one of a list of names approved by the WBF (*clause A*) is to ensure that the player's equanimity is restored before play is recommenced. Play at the table will be suspended to enable counselling to take place and will only be resumed when and if the counsellor indicates that the counselled player is fit to continue (*clause C*).

Right to give evidence

The player requesting counselling has a right to be heard and give evidence free from prejudice and/or bias and any other player at the table whose playing integrity has been called into question may challenge such evidence and present counter claims and cross claims. Legal representation may be deemed necessary where serious allegations have been made and play has had to be abandoned. In such circumstances the Tournament Director may need to request access to separate stress counselling off-site and the committee is considering how this additional support might be made available (possibly via a special helpline.)

Changes to Rule Book

Changes will need to be made to the Laws, and the Laws and Ethics Committee has drafted some seminal clauses, see below. These are currently being scruti-

nised by the EBU hon. solicitor and a leading law firm expert in the field of recreational trauma.

(Chapter XI Stress Counselling – Law 94)

A) Appointment of stress counsellors

The sponsoring organisation shall appoint a panel of stress counsellors for each playing session from a list approved by the World Bridge Federation Laws Committee.

B) Right to stress counselling

Any player at a table to which the Tournament Director has been called in respect of any alleged infringement of any Law or other irregularity shall have the right of access to a designated stress counsellor, which right shall be exercised by notification to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of the Tournament Director's ruling.

C) Stress counsellors' duties and responsibilities

a) To provide independent counselling in a secure environment away from the source of trauma (ie the opponent who called the Director or, in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the stress counsellor, the said player's partner);

b) To maintain the emotional and rational mental stability and capacity of any player who requests stress counselling, at least to the level exhibited by the said player at the commencement of the relevant event;

c) To suspend play pending counselling and to certify the player's fitness to resume play thereafter, although no warranty shall thereby be implied as to the said player's fitness to play, notwithstanding the trauma caused by the call of the Tournament Director.

★ ★ ★ ★

The draft clauses and the full text of the Laws and Ethics Committee briefing note can be found on the EBU website. Readers who wish to comment on the drafting, or contribute to the debate generally, should write or email Nick Doe, Secretary of the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee, at the Aylesbury offices.

When INT-2♣ (not Stayman!) paid off

PLAYING recently at a local club one of our opponents responded 2♣ to a 1NT opener without an alert from partner. Much to our surprise they were playing weak takeout rather than Stayman. In this instance it served them well, as both 1NT and 3♣ went down. Stayman is one of the most popular conventions, but as this incident indicated it is not without price.

The probability of finding a Stayman fit (and this does not guarantee a result) varies from once in 357 deals to once in 236



By Dave Bessant

deals, depending on how many options are used.

A weak takeout with a five-card club suit and 0-9 hcp crops up once in 128 deals.

I am not advising using 2♣ as a weak takeout – far from it. I

just offer the figures for consideration.

What I would say, based on my studies of percentages and probabilities, is that players using the weak no trump will need 26 hcp to make game in a major more than 50% of the time.

For more details contact me at Woodlands Way, Moreton Road, Brading, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 0BH (tel 01983 401452), email daveb.bradling@btinternet.com

TRUMPS GALORE BUT TROUBLE

OFF we go again! Our first deal comes from a quarter-final of the 2001 US trials. East-West have a 6-5 spade fit, but must assess how many losers there will be in the side suits.

1. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Lazard	Martell	Bramley
Pass	Pass	1♣	3♣
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	

Even in these days of super-aggressive openings, West at both tables decided to pass. This was a good decision. When you are considering a light opening bid, there are several questions to ask yourself. First, is the suit you will be bidding a strong one, worthy of mention? Here West's spades were moderate. Second, are your 11 points or so pulling their weight? Here West had three points wasted in hearts and clubs. Finally, what is your position at the table? In the third seat you may gain by opening light, whatever the nature of your hand. Here West was first to speak and, on all the grounds I have mentioned, did not have a sound opening bid.

Martell opened 1♣ and South entered with a weak jump overcall. East-West then bid to a poor slam. The ♣K was onside, but no elimination was possible and two heart tricks had to be lost. Whose fault was it? Both Wests did bid 4♦, but perhaps 4♣ is enough with such a balanced hand and those three poor minor cards. Also, look at the losers in the East hand - there are quite a few to be covered. Perhaps he should have cue-bid 4♥ instead of rushing into Roman Key-card Blackwood. (West's 5♣ showed two key cards and no queen of trumps, according to the report, but with five-card support some partnerships would pretend they held the queen anyway.)

Beat today's experts

By David Bird



It seems to me that both Americans overbid. Did you manage to 'beat the experts' and stop in game?

Awards: 4♠ - 10, 5♠ - 7, 6♠ - 5.

We move now to the semi-finals of the same American trials. This time it is the mighty Hamman and Soloway who have a big trump fit and must judge the number of losers.

2. East-West Game. Dealer East.

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

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Stansby	Hamman	Martell
	3♣	3♥	1♣
Dbf			Pass
6♥			

Does East have enough to bid 3♥ over the pre-emptive 3♣? 'Yes,' said Bob Hamman. 'Yes,' said Alan Sontag, when the same auction arose at the other table. In that case, perhaps we may conclude that West does not have enough to leap straight to a slam.

Soloway did bid a direct 6♥, going the inevitable one down. Peter Weichsel, West at the other table, was more circumspect. He cue-bid 4♣ to suggest a heart slam. When Sontag signed off in 4♥, Weichsel looked again at the large number of losers he had to be covered (two spades, one

heart and two diamonds). He judged excellently to pass 4♥ and was rewarded with 13imps.

In case I need to say it, the notion of overcalling in the opponents' suit, to show a super-strong take-out double, was deservedly put out to grass decades ago. Even if you don't use the cue-bid for some special purpose such as Michaels, it saves space to double first and then cue-bid to show the strength.

Awards: 4♥ - 10, 5♥ - 9, 3♣ doubled - 2, 6♥ - 1.

We turn now to last year's Camrose match between England and Wales. Brian Callaghan has a great hand but, as often seems to happen nowadays, there is an opening bid in front of him. How will he cope with it?

3. North-South Game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Burn	Denning	Callaghan	Thomas
Pass	2♥	4♣	4♣
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	7♣	

Denning's opening bid of 2♥ was weak and in fact showed five hearts and five cards in an unspecified minor. Callaghan and Burn now had a convention available for the East hand - Leaping Michaels! The 4♣ jump overcall showed a big two-suiter in clubs and spades (4♦ would have shown diamonds and spades). Thomas, who had good diamonds and a heart fit suggested this with 4♦ and Burn then showed his spade support.

What would Callaghan have bid next, holding the same hand in a pairs at the Young Chelsea Club? An immediate 7♣, you can be sure of it! This was a Camrose match, where an uncultured leap might draw a frown from the team captain. Callaghan continued with Roman Key-card Blackwood instead, hearing of no key cards. (His partnership uses 1430 responses, where 5♦ shows nought or three key cards). The 5♥ continuation asked for the trump queen, Burn's 6♣ saying that he held that card, but no side-suit king.

None of this freshly unearthed information said very much about the club situation, unless you think that the lack of the ♦AK and the ♥K bumps up West's chance of holding the ♣Q. Callaghan knew there would be some play for the contract, however, even if Burn held the dreaded three small in clubs. He bid the grand - one that he might have bid two rounds earlier - and it proved an easy make. At the other table the English North did not open and the Welsh pair bid accurately to the spade grand, flattening the board.

Awards: 7♣ - 10, 7♣ - 8, 6♣ - 5, 6♣ - 4.

CARD PLAY by Bob Rowlands

IN both problems you are South, dummy is North, and you are playing in a no trump contract. Assume plenty of entries to either hand. How would you handle the two combinations here? (Use one suit from a pack of cards if it helps).

ANSWERS:

East does not cover ♠K. If you drop ♠K off-side you are a hero, but if as is more likely the finesse was the winning play you are a something else!

b) With only ♠K10 missing the percentage play (just) is to play for the drop, unless there is some clue from the bidding to suggest otherwise. It costs nothing to lead ♠Q initially, intending to play ♠A whatever East plays - occasionally an obdurate East with ♠K10 might cover ♠Q with ♠K.

Combination A

♠ Q 6 5 2
♠ A J 9 7 4 3

Six tricks needed

Combination B

♠ Q 8 6 5 2
♠ A J 9 7 4 3

Six tricks needed

(a) You should plan to finesse, as it is more likely that East has ♠K singleton, ♠Kx or ♠K10 than West to have ♠K singleton. To guard against ♠K10 you should start by leading ♠Q, so that if East covers with ♠K West will fall to follow and you will have a marked finesse against ♠10. Should you instead lead ♠2 initially and finesse ♠A a trick will be lost if East started with ♠K10. Should the bidding not have revealed your long suit you might consider playing ♠A if

LURKS WITH OUTSIDE LOSERS

We go next to last year's Camrose match between England and Northern Ireland. West has just picked up his strongest hand of the weekend, East his weakest. How will the two hands fare when they come together?

4. Game All. Dealer West.

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

West MacKenzie	East Campbell
2♣	2♦
2NT	3♣
3♦	3♥
4♣	4♠
6♣	

At the other table Collings and Jones, for England, had stopped in 3♣. A big swing was therefore available to the Irishmen if they could find their way to the spade game.

MacKenzie opened 2♣, although a few experts would bid just 1♣. (We crashed out of the NICKO when Marc Smith opened 1♣ on an even better hand and I failed to diagnose that my ♦K was enough for a grand slam...).

To open 2♣ and rebid 3♣ would be forcing to game, so MacKenzie preferred a non-forcing 2NT rebid.

Most players would pass on the East cards, but Campbell took the apparently winning view to employ five-card Stayman.

When his partner denied a five-card major, he continued with 3♥.

This was a 'puppet' bid, showing four spades.

The rationale for bidding the four-card major you do not hold is that the strong hand can play the contract if a 4-4 fit comes to light. MacKenzie now announced strong support for spades with a cue-bid of 4♣. Campbell, who needed strong support just to make game, was no doubt delighted to hear this! He signed off in 4♠ and waited to see what opening lead he would get.

No, MacKenzie judged that he had not yet shown his exceptional hand. It's true that his partner might land 12 tricks with as little as QJxx of spades in his hand. Nevertheless, it was surely too much for West to jump straight to a slam. The present imp table does not award any bonus points for macho bidding. A raise to 5♣, asking for good trumps, is enough on the West hand (more than enough in my view). As the cards lay three trump tricks had to be lost and the slam went two down.

Awards: 4♣ - 10, 5♣ - 7, part scores - 6, 5♣/3NT - 2, slams - 0.

Our fifth deal comes from last year's Dutch championship. A grand slam, assessed by their magazine as a 79% prospect, awaits the East-West pair.

5. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West Bertens	East Bakkeren
1NT	1♠
5♣	4♠
5♠	5♦
	6♣

Bertens' 1NT response was forcing and Bakkeren showed his powerful hand and long spades with a leap to 4♠. West's hand was considerably more useful in spades than it might have been. He had two key cards and might also contribute a club ruff or two. Bertens indicated this with a cue-bid of 5♣. Bakkeren showed his diamond control and had an easy advance to the small slam when his partner had no more to say.

The Dutch pair had little chance of reaching the good grand slam because West had not told East of his heart length. Suppose an Acol auction starts 1♠ - 2♥, 3♠. West should bid 4♣ now. Although West might occasionally pick up some huge heart/club two-suiter and wish that 4♣ were natural, it is far more sensible to use this call as a cue-bid when facing a jump rebid such as 3♠. After a continuation of 4♦ - 4♠, East can bid Roman Key-card Blackwood and hope to score seven spades, two minor-suit aces and four heart tricks. Since one club can be ruffed, on the actual hands, East needs to set up just one extra heart trick to dispose of his diamond loser.

Awards: 7♠ - 10, 6♠ - 7, 5NT/5♠ - 3, 6NT - 1.

We will end with an intriguing deal from the final of the 2001 Vanderbilt.

6. Love All. Dealer East.

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

West Lev	East Mohan
2♦	1♥
3NT	3♦
4♠	4♦
6♦	5♦

With only 13 points Sam Lev could hardly bypass 3NT, particularly as he held a solid stopper in both the unbid suits. A two-level response shows a good hand in the US, even when not played as game forcing. Mohan was therefore confident that his side would have the playing values for a diamond game. Partly in case the clubs were inadequately protected, he advanced to 4♦. Lev cue-bid his spade control and Mohan could do no more with two top losers in clubs. Knowing that his top cards were working hard, Lev raised to the small slam in diamonds.

The same contract was reached at both tables. The Russian, Petrunin, received a friendly spade lead at the other table. He took a successful trump finesse, South showing out, and eventually scored an overtrick. Had the trump finesse lost, he would still have had a good chance of discarding his club losers.

Lev received a more threatening club lead. Seeking to combine his chances in the red suits, he won with the club ace, cashed the king of hearts and played a trump to the ace. He would have made the slam if the diamond king was singleton; also if trumps were 2-1 (the king not falling) and he could set up a second discard for his clubs. This was the best line - around 60% - but it did not work at the table.

Note that 3NT is not entirely safe on a club lead. If North leads a club to South's honour and you hold up the ace until the third round, you may go down when South holds five clubs and the ♦K.

Awards: 6♦ - 10, 5♦ - 7, 3NT - 6, 4♥ - 3.

The deals were difficult, as is shown by our experts' modest total of 33 out of 60. Let's see if we can extract some valuable guidelines from the auctions.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

■ When you are considering a light opening bid, look at the quality of your main suit. The stronger it is, the more inclined you should be to open. At worst you will suggest a good opening lead to partner.

■ When the opener shows a good suit with a jump rebid, a new suit by responder at the four-level should be a cue-bid agreeing the opener's suit. (In the sequence 1♠ - 2♥, 3♠ - 4♣, for example, 4♣ is a cue bid.) At the three-level a new suit is basically natural, although it may show only a stopper. (In the sequence 1♦ - 1♥, 3♦ - 3♠, responder's 3♠ does not agree diamonds. He may hold such as ♠AJx and be hoping that partner has a club stopper and can bid 3NT.)

■ When your partner has made a take-out double of an opening bid and the next player raises, you should feel free to compete on length in an unbid suit. Such a bid does not promise much in the way of high cards and your partner should make allowance for this. After a start of 1♣ - Dbl - 2♣, you should normally bid with a five-card major. After 1♣ - Dbl - 3♣ you should bid with any six-card suit and on many weakish hands with a five-card major.

■ When your hand is exceptionally strong within the bounds of a limit bid you have made, show this with a cue-bid. It is rarely right to advance further if partner then signs off.

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And the winner is...

THE task was to put into a speech bubble what any of the characters in the photograph is thinking. Your entries poured in, by email, post and fax, and there was an abundance of paws, leads and ruffs in the suggested quotes. Some members sent in three or four alternatives.

Picking a winner was not easy and in the end the editor went for something short and sweet, so a bottle of wine goes to Ann Hall, of Eastbourne, (her entry illustrated), with commiserations to Steve Lawrence, from Bristol, who almost got the vote, and thanks to everyone who joined in the fun.

They came in all forms, including verse, and there was one particularly striking entry from an anonymous source that might have caused uproar if published!

Although already top dogs in their respective fields, featuring on the front cover of *English Bridge* has made Toby and George real pin-ups and they have even been receiving fan mail from readers. George, who is 10, was sent a card congratulating him on being probably our youngest Grand Master!

The following are, in the opinion of the editor, 10 of the best of the rest of the speech bubble contributions:

● 'I wish you wouldn't paws for so long. Come on, lead your king, Charles.' – Steve Lawrence, Bristol

● 'Standard leads?' 'No, extending'. – Allan Ewer, Brighton

● 'One spayed? Oh no, which one of us.' – Michael Patterson, Leicester

● 'Even with an awful pawful I'm always game for a RRR-ruff!' – Miss M Jones, Oswestry

● 'Who said you can't teach an old dog how to make new tricks?' – Neville Chambers, Portway, Alvechurch

● 'When you invited me over on the promise of winning a packet, this is not what I had in mind.' – Adrian Lambe, Cardiff

● 'It's easy, partner: four quick tricks, get the lead, takeout and ruff!' – Alan Armstrong, Durham

● 'Four paws' 'Double!' – Peter Woolland, Storrington, West Sussex

● 'I've played with dog eared cards before, but never with dog-eared partners!' – Rosemary Davison, Newport, Pembrokeshire



● 'When you talked about the Crufts Convention I thought we were going to Olympia, not round to your friend's house to play bridge.' – John Pople, East Barnet

Other contributors who made the editor chuckle included: Dodo Georgevic, Birmingham; Keith Short, Berkhamsted; Michael Baily, Maidenhead; Sandra Baily, Maidenhead; B E Cass, Longfield, Kent; Roland Payne, Chingford; Patrick Hogan, Gerrards Cross; Jeannette Norton-Mazzier, Brighton; John de Metz, Totteridge; Bob Kaltz, Hove; Arthur Boschi, Gatley, Cheadle; Alexandra Green, Cambridge; Bruce Graham,

Wilstone, Tring; Eric Hartland, Carnhedryn, Pembrokeshire; Ken Hart, Weston-super-Mare; Mrs P Rowell, Chippenham; Adrian Lambe, Cardiff; Alan Chorley, Horsham; Peter Norris, Enfield; Mrs A N Voice, Bognor Regis; C A Simpson, Boston Spa; Mrs E D Hooper, Sidmouth; R Reeves, Bognor Regis; Bernice Woolf, Barkingside, Ilford; Rosemary Davison, Newport, Pembrokeshire; S Nicholls, Rickmansworth; N G Bartram, York; Hilton Stansfield, Rochdale; John Patric Smith, Reading; Paul Wickham, Taunton; Gwyn Fryn, Newport, Pembrokeshire; Lydia Stanford, Hove; Iris Willis, Bromley.

Scribblings from the sticks By Eddie Scott

I HAD just enjoyed a swift half at my local, having been informed by an esteemed regular that his granddaughter's horse was recovering from a damaged hemlock! At least I'm not the only one.

I moved on to the Wednesday evening duplicate session at my new bridge school – an innovation at the Ipswich Sports Club. Hockey, tennis and squash, yes, but bridge?

It's taken time for the membership to come to terms with our static animation, but the chairman and committee are unanimously in favour, just as are quite a high proportion of golf clubs around the country. The rental for a suitable function room, largely unused, is sensibly appreciated.

Early on, playing a five table Mitchell, my partner (North) opened 1♠. This was passed round to our inimitable Mavis, sitting West, who overcalled 1♣!

A friendly nudge informed her that this bid did not increase the auction. Mavis apologised profusely and said she had not heard my partner's opening bid. 'I would

have opened 1♠ with my good 11 points,' she announced. Given the opportunity to make good her call she gave us a you-must-be-joking look and elected to pass.

Like a shot her partner Doris tabled her singleton ♠. She turned to me and said: 'I always lead my partner's suit.'

We got such a fit of the giggles that my partner and I were given 'Bateman' looks, not to mention stern verbals from the entire company. On a 6-5-1-1 spade split, with partner's 16 points opposite my three, we were one off.

Partner suggested, with a straight face, he might have made 1♠: it didn't seem to matter.

Our evening went from bad to worse. My partner, a good club and congress player, and me, with 30 years' experience of outstanding mediocrity, managed 46% against improving students – this without any bidding misunderstandings or poor play that we were aware of. No wonder we all come back for more!

Twice we were in distributional contracts, with 14 and then 13 hcp combined – both one off. We were bemused, but unbowed. At

least we've reached the stage where we acknowledge that a good result often needs a little help along the way.

The other Monday I was dealt ♠AKQ7 ♥2♦AKQ♣AKQ82. It was late and I could not resist opening 4NT. After a 5♣ response I crudely bid 6♣ – I suppose, in the words of G B Shaw, that is why I teach! Partner, holding a singleton club, scrambled to two off. Her 3451 distribution included ♦J10985. Clubs split 4-3, but spades were 6-0 (hearts 5-3).

My appalling bidding resulted in an undeserved middle. The expert would surely land in 6♦ after this sort of sequence:

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This goes two off after a spade lead ruff, a heart switch and a second spade ruff. There ain't no justice, even for the expert.

Apart from losing the chair luggage Cyprus was a great

Congress manager's view on a second popular EBU overseas bridge special

ENGLAND was very cold and very wet that February morning as we left Heathrow bound for Cyprus. We were part of the advance party, arriving one day ahead of our guests. We needed to make sure everything was ready for the second EBU Overseas Congress sponsored by Bridge Holidays Abroad at the Coral Beach Hotel, Paphos.

It was still quite warm when we landed late afternoon at Larnaca and we hoped the good weather would stay for the week ahead. There had been an ongoing 'small hitch' in the week before the congress over the boxes of equipment which had been sent some three weeks earlier.

Although all the paperwork was in order and in their possession Cyprus customs were finding it difficult to identify the contents and were faxing and emailing the EBU office asking such questions as 'What are bidding boxes and hand records? What are they used for? What is a duplating machine?'— and so on. Now most of that is quite difficult to describe to non-bridge-playing people!

However, when we arrived at the hotel on Friday evening the boxes were there, having reached their destination only that morning. We breathed a sigh of relief as we had anticipated a trip to Limassol on Saturday to personally identify and facilitate the release of the equipment.

Saturday was a round of meetings with hotel staff and set-

ting up the very large, well-lit Akamas room for the congress. The members flying from Heathrow arrived soon after five o'clock and were greeted with a welcoming drink, issued with room keys and luggage tags and quickly found their rooms.

The people from Manchester did not arrive until after 9pm, but received the same warm welcome and seemed pleased with the excellent accommodation. Travel and arrival arrangements went well, apart from the luggage of EBU Chairman David Harris and General Manager Terry Collier, which continued on the plane to Larnaca Airport, but was recovered in time to allow the two to change for breakfast!

The Saturday evening bridge, which had been organised for those people already on site (one couple were into their third week on the island!) was well attended, with 23 tables in play, although some of the teatime arrivals looked very tired by the end of the session.

Food at the several dining rooms in the hotel was good and varied. Most people seemed to use the buffet restaurant that had a selection of delicious food. The table d'hôte dining room was altogether more relaxed. Food and service were good, ideal for holiday mode, but perhaps not speedy enough for those needing to play in the evening bridge sessions.



Tournament directors Marilyn and David Jones, happy with a job well done



Ralph Warrington of Bridge Holidays Abroad presents trophy and prizes to Ruby Wissenden and Heather Parker of the Swiss pairs. Chief TD Max Bavlin is on the left

Sunday and Monday saw the Swiss pairs tournament under way, with 112 pairs competing. After 10 matches there was a popular win by the Gloucestershire duo of Ruby Wissenden and Heather Parker.

The composition of the congress was mainly experienced players, including many who had seen active service in the Malta campaign (last year's EBU overseas bridge week). There were, however, a number who were doing their first congress and some of these were members of the EBU online club, meeting each other face to face for the first time and forming some really good friendships.

For the two days of the Swiss pairs tournament the weather had changed from its initial sunshine to torrential rain and thunderstorms and then on Wednesday it dawned

warm and sunny from Troodos Mountains.

The trips organised by Bridge Holidays Abroad and had excellent Tuesday morning Wednesday all mountains; Thursday Limassol and Friday Akamas and Paphos.

The midweek event attended and a number of players took part. There was about to start, covered 47 tables and two halves were joined and proceeded to win.

The Swiss teams event, with 54 teams saw a thrilling finish. The preference of a couple of any one of four teams

Jim refused to let his agony

JIM Bugden was in extreme pain after completing the second session of the Swiss teams at the EBU's Cyprus Congress – nothing to do with the bridge, but everything to do with a large swollen right foot! At 2.30am his wife Sally called the doctor and Jim was instantly whisked into hospital for tests.

At 10am Sally was informed that Jim would probably be allowed to travel home to Sussex the following day, but only if he stayed in hospital for another night and was given anti-thrombotic drugs. Nothing was definite about his condition and Jim, having been made comfortable, insisted that his wife and friends play on without him in the final Swiss teams session. He felt he would be letting down the other team members who, despite not doing brilliantly, were having great fun.

Sally takes up the story: 'Jayne Bolton, one of our teammates, approached Peter Jordan, the congress manager, and asked if there was anyone who might partner me in the final session. My wife Barbara kindly agreed to step in, so we had a chat about systems – she taught me some good ones! – and settled down to play.

'Barbara was wonderful. She was very kind and a good steady player. I was exhausted but she forgave my silly mistakes and I had a very pleasant afternoon's bridge.

'A call to Jim after the session confirmed that he was feeling much better and he insisted that I attend the gala dinner that evening. I had to organise a wheelchair and plane seats with extra space etc, but Ralph Warrington from Bridge Holidays Abroad arranged everything for me.

Chairman's week



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Finally the team led by Phillip Mason, the chairman of the Tournament Committee, beat Tony Friday's team on a split tie.

A farewell dinner concluded the week's activities, with 120 people attending. Ralph Warrington, of Bridge Holidays Abroad, presented the main prizes, which included trophies and two air flights each to the winners of the Swiss pairs. This was followed by the speeches and the evening concluded with dancing to the excellent local musicians who had played throughout the evening.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the players for their kindness and co-operation. I enjoyed the company of existing friends and made many new ones.

My greatest thanks go to Max Bavin, Gill Pain and David and Marilyn Jones. We are all fortunate to have a team of the highest calibre to run our events.

To date we have received about 100 congress return forms and a number of letters. We can see that an area that needs review is the farewell dinner, which we would like to be enjoyed by all the players. Please let me have any further suggestions on how you think this should best be done.

Thank you once again to all who made the Cyprus Congress such a memorable occasion.

Peter Jordan

Next year Madeira

Madeira has been named as the venue for next year's EBU overseas congress, with the dates named as February 1-6.

Don't spoil the fun

'So I was able to relax at dinner with my teammates and the many other friends who attended the congress and afterwards I danced away all of the emotions of the previous 24 hours.'

Sally confided that initially, as a not very experienced bridge player, she was a little apprehensive about going to Cyprus, thinking it might be too hard and harsh.

'I couldn't have been more wrong,' she added. 'Yes, the bridge was challenging, but everyone was so kind and friendly. In addition, when disaster struck all the EBU staff stepped in to help me. I cannot thank any of them enough.'

The story had a completely happy ending, because Jim was diagnosed not with thrombosis, but with gout (painful enough!), so he and Sally say they will definitely be going on next year's trip.

'AND I WILL BE BACK FOR MORE ...'

The island of Cyprus is a wonderful place for well-preserved old ruins – or middle aged ones in the case of Eddie Lucioni and his partner Laurie Sedar. As well as looking forward to some enjoyable bridge, sampling some local cuisine and seeing a few sights, we were anticipating some sunshine.

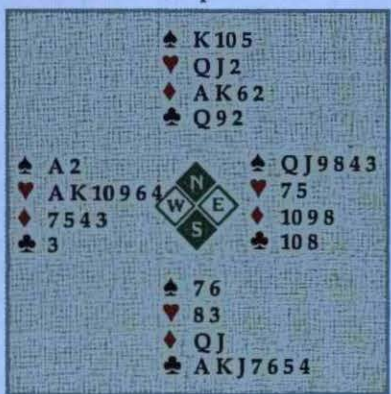
I think we must have taken some English weather with us for the first couple of days and I was reminded how sunny Scarborough is!

However, the rest of the holiday brought brilliant blue skies and we really enjoyed the island in our time off. Troodos mountains provided the only snow I have seen this winter.

The amount of bridge meant that the balance between conversation and concentration was about right and we certainly had a good time, as it seemed to be only five minutes before having to return home.

And now to the bridge:

We did not have much success in the Swiss pairs, but opening 1NT on the South hand below produced most of the match points:



Lucioni's off-centre 1NT was raised to game and an unsuspecting West led the ♥10. I managed to make all 13 tricks on a pseudo squeeze. Well, I didn't have a singleton, perish the thought!

There was an interesting hand in the open pairs:



North led a club against 4♥. It looks as if there could be four losers – a spade, a trump and two diamonds. However, after taking the opening lead and finding North shows out on the second round of hearts, cashing the second club and exiting with a trump leaves this position:

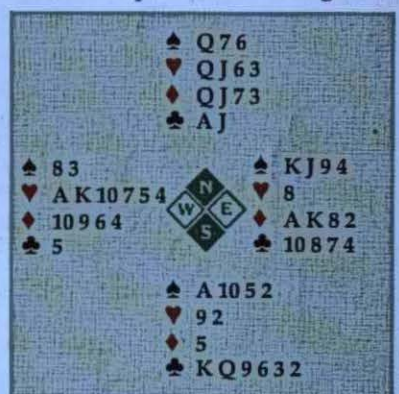


By Eddie Lucioni

South leads a spade. You try the jack, but North has the queen, so you exit with the third round of spades to guarantee 10 tricks, wherever the diamond honour are, as either defender has to open up the suit or give a ruff and discard.

You then congratulate yourself on achieving a complete bottom on the hand when you find North started with ♠Q97 ♥7 ♦KQ92 ♣Q9852 and you could have made 11 tricks, especially after the ♦K lead.

We made a much better effort in the teams, eventually coming fifth. This board proved interesting:



After a weak 2♥ by West Lucioni protected with 3♣, steering partner into a thin 3NT. Playing partner for a doubleton West not unrealistically ducked the opening lead. Now the contract can be made by playing ♠Q to the king and ace, unblocking the two club honours and leading a second spade towards the 10.

Alternatively declarer can cash the club honours, cross to the ♠A and play the remaining clubs, discarding hearts and a diamond. Now a diamond to the queen endplays East to give at least one more trick.

Unfortunately it didn't go quite like this and the contract went one off, so we expected to lose on the board. But we reckoned without teammates Cathy and Andy Smith, who brought home 2♥ at the other table!

Some of the hands were as exotic as the location and I am really looking forward to next year, wherever we play.

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3-6 May (Bank Holiday) £225 hb
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Manor Hotel • Meriden, West Midlands 
9-11 August £155 hb

Berkeley Hotel • Worthing
23-26 August (Bank Holiday) £199 hb


Belstead Brook • Nr Ipswich
30 August - 3nts £215 hb
25-27/28 October £155/£209 hb

Carlton Hotel • Cheltenham
8-10 November £145 hb


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Sunday 19 May 5 nts £295 hb

Cumberland Hotel • Bournemouth 
Sunday 9 June 4 nts £199 hb
Mon 19 August 4 nts £225 hb
Sunday 15 September 4 nts £215 hb

Walton Park • Clevedon, Somerset 
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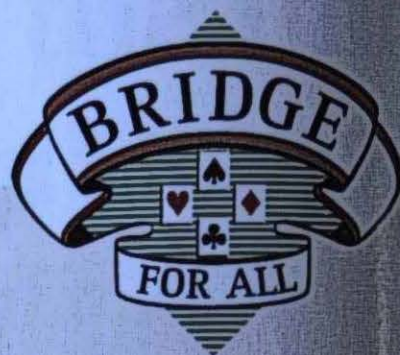
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By John Pain
Project Manager
of Bridge for All



Why your sim pairs placing can change

SIMULTANEOUS pairs events have always been very popular. They give you the chance to play the same hands as lots of other people without the need to travel huge distances to compete. You get a copy of the hands at the end of the evening, which includes an expert commentary on what you should have done, and when the results of all the heats are put together you get an overall ranking list. *Bridge for All* has been running simultaneous pairs events for its students for a couple of years and these, just like the large events run for regular clubs and players, are extremely popular. In the autumn *Bridge for All* ran a MiniBridge simultaneous pairs for students who started learning only six weeks previously. A second one was run in March with more than 1,000 students taking part.

After the October MiniBridge pairs I had an enquiry from a teacher who was surprised to find that the order in which his students had finished was different on the full ranking list compared to the local result and he asked if I could explain it.

The scoring in simultaneous pairs events can produce surprising results. When the heat is scored, just taking the results of one heat into account, you find that one pair is the winner, but when all the results of all the heats are scored together sometimes the results change and a different pair emerges victorious.

Let us look at just one board. If your club heat had five tables, there are five results on a board. You get two matchpoints for each score you beat, so if you beat the other four scores, you get eight match points for a 'top' - an opportunity to gloat. When the results of all the heats are included, it's like having 250 tables playing, so now you have to beat 249 other scores to get your 'top' score which, instead of eight, has now grown to 498 - much more difficult. So what was a very good score locally might now just be a very common result or - even worse - a very bad score compared with all the rest.

Suppose in your heat of five tables you made 3NT for a score of 400 and that everyone else in your club went one down for -50. Well done! - you have a top worth eight matchpoints. But perhaps when all the other results come in absolutely everyone else has made 3NT + 1 for a score of 430. This means that your score is still only worth eight matchpoints, whereas everybody who scored 430 will get 254 matchpoints! Your 'top' has turned into very nearly a 'national bottom'.

On the other hand, a 'bottom' score in your club heat might turn out not to be so bad after all and if you are really lucky a 'top' score might become a 'national top' - something to be really proud of. Just suppose your opponents get into a bidding tangle (unlikely I know, but it is possible!) and you manage to get them five down doubled for 1400. That's a score that is likely to be a 'top' however many times the board is played.

In order to do well in simultaneous pairs events, your 'good' scores have to be really good and your 'poor' scores must not be really awful.

Bidding slams with a trump suit

IN the last article we looked at bidding slams on balanced hands. These are easier to manage as no trumps bidding gives quite precise point counts to various bids. We go for a small slam when we have 33+ points and a grand slam when we have 37+ points. When we have 33 points there are only seven in the opposition hands, so we cannot be missing two aces. With 37 the opposition have only three points, so we cannot be missing any ace.

When bidding suits the partnership values are based on long suits and shortages as much as high card values. After all, holding 13 spades guarantees all 13 tricks if spades are trumps, but you have only 10 points. While we may not need 33 points, we don't want our opponents to cash two aces against our slam. We can avoid this by using an ace-asking convention.

Experienced players may use something complicated called Key Card Blackwood or Gerber, but Standard English strongly recommends that you use the popular Blackwood convention. In this a bid of 4NT asks partner how many aces they hold. The responses are coded:

- 5♣ No aces or four aces
- 5♦ One ace
- 5♥ Two aces
- 5♠ Three aces

You may wonder if you will be able to tell the difference between none and four aces. Don't worry, if you sign off after a 5♣ response and partner has four aces he will bid on to slam. After asking for aces, a bid of 5NT guarantees that our side holds



Standard English
by Sandra Landy

all the aces and asks for kings. The same step responses are used at the six level, but partner maybe able to jump to seven in the agreed suit, knowing that all the aces are held.

You should use Blackwood only when you need to know the answer, since the best way of getting to a slam is just to bid six.

The class practised bidding slams and then played the cards to check they had bid a good contract.

- (1) ♠ K Q J 10 3
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ A
♣ 2

What would you bid if partner opened 1♠? Jean thought for ages before bidding 4NT. When Gill bid 5♦ she knew there was an ace missing and bid 6♣. If Gill had bid 5♥ she could have jumped to 7♠ or even 7NT. The play was easy when partner held ♠A 9 7 6 5 ♥3 2 ♦K Q J 4 ♣K 5

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

When Joe raised Lisa's 1♥ opening to 4♥, Lisa thought the hand looked good. So she tried 4NT and bid 6♥ when Joe showed one ace with 5♦. She made 12 tricks as Joe held ♠Q J 8 ♥K 10 5 4 3 ♦J 2 ♣A J 9. After driving out the ♦A Joe's two spades were thrown on the winning diamonds.

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

Blackwood is no use as it is the right cards that are needed, not aces. Margaret did well bidding 4♥ with ♠Q 6 3 ♥K 10 9 8 3 ♦4 ♣A J 10 5, adding value for the extra trump and her singleton diamond.

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

When partner makes a jump shift response to an opening bid, it should show 16+ points and often leads to a slam. My students got the next hand wrong because opener failed to appreciate the value of their hand. While the hand contained only 12 points, it got better when partner forced with 3♦ and then raised spades. The bidding went 1♠-3♦-3♠-4♠ and then everybody passed.

But this hand is far too good to pass 4♠. Use Blackwood and bid 6♣ if partner shows two aces. Partner had ♠Q J 2 ♥A 7 3 ♦A K J 9 5 3 ♣2. Except on a club lead 6♣ makes all thirteen tricks.

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

Make the other hand dealer and the hand would be bid quite differently. Partner opens 1♦ and rebids 3♦ over your 1♠ response. What would you do? You could bid a forcing 3♠ over 3♦ and carry on with Blackwood over partner's raise to 4♠. Or if you are worried partner might pass 3♠, you could bid Blackwood and go to 6♦ over a 5♥ response.

'MiniBridge - we love it!'

By Brian Keable

IN the autumn of 2000 Christine Duckworth, the EBU education manager, ran a Mini-Bridge training course at Aylesbury. Two people from the Cottesloe School in Wing (Bucks) attended: Irene Caird, responsible for special needs, and Sue Butler, a teaching assistant.

Irene recognised that learning to play MiniBridge could provide the new pupils with a variety of skills that would help them at school. She contacted Christine and asked if she knew anyone who would be prepared to help run MiniBridge classes. Christine persuaded me to become a MiniBridge helper, while the school really wanted someone to run the classes!

I phoned Irene and arranged a meeting with the teachers involved - John Mason, who was in charge, plus Alex and Louise, two form teachers. I agreed to run 12 lessons each for their two year seven forms (11-12-year-old boys and girls). They and a teaching assistant (usually Sue) would help me.

The first class with Alex and Sue was amazing. I introduced myself to 30 kids, told them they were going to learn MiniBridge, a card game, and that they were going to have fun!

Fifteen minutes later they were all playing whist in No Trumps. For many this was their first exposure to cards or a trick-taking game. Alex and Sue helped at two tables and I handled the other five. The noise was fantastic! Modern children don't have fun or play games in silence!

Eventually the session ended. Alex quietened them

down and then asked them to thank me for coming. A big roar of thanks. I asked should I come back next week? 'Yes!'

On the way back to the staff room I asked Sue if it had been a success and what about the noise? 'Don't worry,' she said, 'They got on with it, didn't they? You would have known all about it if they hadn't liked it!'

I returned the next day to take another class. John introduced me to Irene Caird for the first time. 'Mr Keable, could you teach MiniBridge in six or seven lessons rather than 12?' 'Er, yes,' I replied, wondering

what was wrong with the original plan. 'Good, then you could teach all seven year seven classes by May or June? Are you up for that?' 'Yes,' I replied, wondering what the heck was going on. The first lesson had apparently gone down a storm and Mrs Caird was prepared to bet the farm on the project being a success!

Was she right? I guess so. In the year 2000-2001 I taught seven classes, 200 children, to play MiniBridge. Everyone (well nearly everyone) enjoyed it and this year I have embarked on teaching another year seven. Is it fun? You bet!



Children of Cottesloe School in Wing, Buckinghamshire, who won MiniBridge prizes

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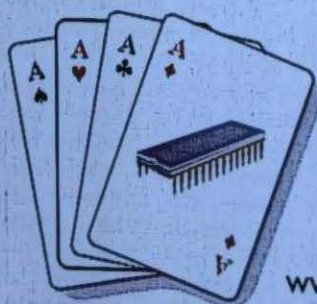
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DOWN THE WRONG PATH

THE Hampshire and Isle of Wight Tollemache team, which had surprised everyone by dispatching the megastars of London and Middlesex in the qualifying round, performed equally well in the final to win for the second time in four years.

This is one of several deals where the defenders might have offered our declarer a losing option:

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

West	North Lee	East	South Bird
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT		

I allowed my ♠10 to seduce me into the (game-forcing) overbid of 2NT and arrived in a poor game. West made the normal, but unlucky lead of ♠5 and I won with the ten. After a club to the king and ace and a spade return, I could win in dummy, cash the ♣Q, unblock the ♥A and clear the clubs. That was nine tricks. Suppose instead that East allows dummy's ♣K to win the trick, giving no clue that he holds the ace. I would surely return to the ♠A and lead a club to the queen. That would be one down, whether or not I took both top hearts before playing the second club.

On the next deal, too, East might have offered our declarer a losing option:

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

West	North Aucherlonie	East	South Huggett
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	3♥
		Pass	6♣

The spade slam was a fine contract – likely to make if spades were 2-2, if hearts were 3-3, or if the diamond finesse was

David Bird picks some hands his side got away with on the way to winning the Tollemache

right. Annoyingly, Roger Jackson kept out of it against Steve Lee and me (2♣ – 2♦, 2♠ – 4♠) and I was expecting to lose imps when all three chances failed.

The ♣5 was led against Dave Huggett's spade slam. The three was played from dummy and East had to guess whether the lead was a singleton or from KJ5. In the latter case he can win with a middle spot-card, which would leave declarer with no chance on the lie of the cards. East eventually won with the ace and returned a club, hoping that his partner held a singleton. Huggett could then take the extra chance of ruffing down the ♣K. When this proved successful, no diamond finesse was necessary.

Suppose East returns a diamond at trick two (admittedly an inconsistent defence after rising with ♣A). Declarer would then have to decide immediately whether to finesse or to rise with the ♦A and play for the combined chances offered by hearts and clubs. It would be a close decision.

At another table Hampshire's Berry Hedley led a trump against the slam, giving declarer no chance.

Hampshire started their final match against the second-placed Warwickshire team knowing that anything but a 0-20 loss would be good enough to win the event. This was the first deal we played at our table:

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

West	North Aucherlonie	East	South Huggett
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	4♥

How strongly would you bid that massive South hand? I rebid 3♥ and passed Steve Lee's 4♦, trusting him to advance with one key card. I was very relieved to find the unhelpful dummy... until the ♦K dropped singleton!

Dave Huggett carried the bidding further – I am well known for my caution – and arrived in the diamond game. He won the club lead with the bare ace and attempted to steal an entry to dummy (for a trump finesse) by leading the ♥7 to the nine. East won with the ace and returned a club, ruffed by South. What now?

If hearts are 3-3 declarer can reach dummy with a heart ruff to finesse in trumps. He may succeed also when West has a doubleton heart, since he can ruff or overruff the third round and again take a trump finesse. East had shown up with a fair number of points already, however, and Huggett took the winning view of cashing the trump ace, netting a splendid +600.

Did you spot how this deal fits into my theme of giving declarer a losing option? Suppose East is inspired enough to let the ♥9 win! Declarer will surely take a trump finesse and go one down.

At another table Steve Preston led the ♣K against 5♦, won with the ace. When declarer played the ♥K Heather Maidment won immediately and tried to cash the ♣Q, ruffed by declarer. Preston rose with the ♠A on the next trick and exited with a heart, won by dummy's nine. After several tense seconds, and a suspicious glance or two, declarer took the diamond finesse. One down.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight winning team comprised: Steve Aucherlonie and Dave Huggett, Jeremy Baker and Andy Hughes, David Bird and Steve Lee, Berry and Graham Hedley, Heather Maidment and Steve Preston (npc Guy Lawrenson).

Two points too many to open!

RUBY Dean, from Coventry, told us this one:

In a game at her local club, where they encourage beginners, South was the dealer and the bidding went Pass, Pass, Pass. Then, after much thought, East said: 'I really cannot open with eight points'.

South chipped in: 'Well, I have only eight points'. Then North piped up: 'And I have only eight'.

West laid down his cards. 'We arranged to open 1NT with 12-14 points, so I couldn't open could I? I have two points too many.'

'You guessed it,' says Ruby, 'West was one of our beginners.'

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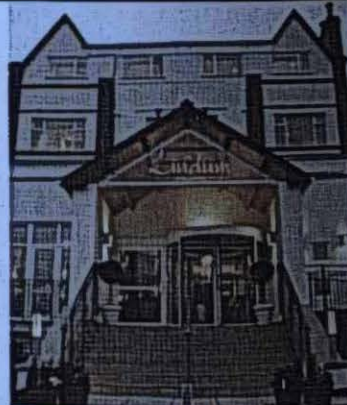
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Spring into a new season

Jersey in the spring

THE Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge, a joint venture between the EBU and the Channel Islands, is a congress that becomes ever more popular. It provides a wonderful holiday in the springtime, with a full programme of bridge played over 10 days from April 26 to May 5.

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The bridge is played in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which is why many players return year after year.

Entry form and further information from Gillian Hall, the Jersey Congress secretary, at Les Pieces, Rue des Huriaux, St Martin, Jersey, JE3 6AF (01534 861852). For travel and hotel arrangements contact Seymour Hotels and Holidays (01534 759366).



TOURNAMENT DIARY

CALENDAR

• APRIL •

- 6-7 Women's Trials stage II (final), London
- 10-11 BGB Spring sim pairs, Clubs
- 13-14 National Pairs and Newcomers National Finals Coventry
- 26-May 5 Jersey Congress, Jersey
- 27-28 Portland Bowl Finals, London

• MAY •

- 1-2 EBU Spring sim pairs, Clubs
- 3-7 Spring Foursomes, Stratford
- 11 One-day events, Bedfordshire, Manchester,
- 11-12 Crockfords Final, West Bromwich
- 12 One Day events, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Lancashire, London, Somerset, Warwickshire
- 18 Garden Cities regional finals, Various
- 25-26 Corwen Trophy, West Bromwich
- 31-Jun 2 Lady Milne Trophy, Aberdeen

• JUNE •

- 1-3 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, Bournemouth
- 7-8 Worldwide sim pairs, Clubs
- 8-9 Pachabo Cup, West Bromwich
- 15-29 European Teams Championships, Salsomaggiore (Italy)
- 16 One day events, Berks and Bucks, Devon, Herefordshire, North-East, Suffolk, Sussex
- 22 Garden Cities National Final, Coventry
- 28-30 Summer Congress, Shrewsbury

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Closing date for entries for the English open mixed teams-of-four championship is April 29, so there is still time to get in your entry.

Spring Foursomes

THE main event, the Provost Cup, has become one of the toughest matches in domestic bridge. It is run on double-elimination lines over nine sessions, each of 32 boards. Play starts at 7.45pm on Friday evening, with semi-finals and final only on the Tuesday. Not for the faint hearted!

A secondary event, the Punchbowl, is open to teams eliminated before Sunday evening. It has a round robin qualifier followed by a mini knockout.

The Hamilton Cup is a more relaxed event for teams seeking a game on Bank Holiday Monday (11.30am start). Entry to the main event costs £236 per team. Teams may enter Monday's Swiss teams only for £68.

Shrewsbury Summer Congress

AFTER two years, and still in its infancy, the Shrewsbury Summer Congress has proved

to be a resounding success. It takes place in the delightful 17th century Albrighton Hall, which is set in 14 acres of grounds on the outskirts of Shrewsbury. The congress, from June 28-30, comprises open pairs on Friday afternoon, followed in the evening and throughout Saturday by Swiss pairs, with Swiss teams on Sunday. Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Corrections to Diary

SEVERAL dates of events have been changed from those published in the EBU Diary. The correct dates are as follows: Corwen Trophy May 25, 26; Spring Bank Holiday Congress (Bournemouth) June 1-3; Northern Summer Congress (Scarborough) July 11-14; Guernsey Congress September 22-30.

Correction to Yearbook

THE following events at the Summer Seniors and Veterans Congress listed in the Member's Yearbook 2001-2002 (page 58) will in fact not take place: July 5 open pairs 2pm; July 5 open pairs 7.45pm.

ONE DAY EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 11
Manchester (teams)
Birchwood Park, Risley - Megan Taft (01282 692 026)

Bedfordshire (teams)
Stevenage Leisure Centre, Stevenage - Brian Keable (01525 377906)

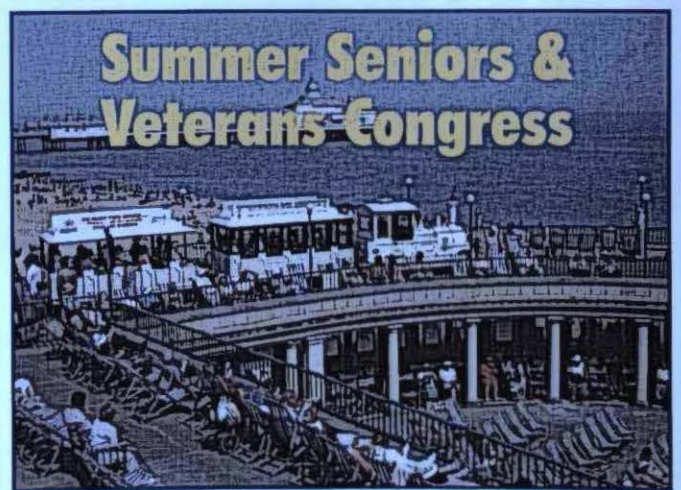
SUNDAY, MAY 12
Hampshire and IOW (teams)
Riverpark Leisure Centre, Winchester - Kathy Vaile (01590 679 673)

Lancashire (pairs)
Birchwood Park, Risley - Megan Taft (01282 692 026)

London (teams), Queen Anne's Court, Greenwich - Roger Morton (020 8643 4930)

Somerset (teams)
Webbington Hotel, Axbridge - Ann Bawdon (01275 853509)

Warwickshire (teams)
Hilton Hotel, Warwick - Alan Pagett (0121 777 3658)



Summer Seniors & Veterans Congress

A Green Point Event

Winter Gardens Eastbourne

5-7th July

Already the Seniors and Veterans congress is beginning to fill. Last year was only the second year for this congress, which has proved to be an instant hit with our seniors. Late starts, leisurely dinner breaks, and not-too-late finishes make this a super English summer holiday in the grand tradition. The magnificent formal gardens are at their best at this time of the year and the bridge programme has been planned so that all the players can enjoy this magnificent town and all it has to offer. Accommodation brochures can be obtained on request from the office of tourism in Eastbourne or from the EBU. Players have to be at least 51, with a pair's ages totalling 110, to enter the Seniors. Both need to be 65 to enter the Veterans

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	19-21st	Haslemere			£140	01428 664600
MAY	4-7th	Nr Harlow	B/H	3 nights	£195	01279 420246
JUNE	2-7th	Worthing		5 nights	£325	01903 230451
	7-9th	Nr Rye	JRL		£155	01797 230651
	28-1st	Bournemouth		3 nights	£165	01202 302442
	24-1st	Bournemouth	FULL WEEK		£335	01202 302442
JULY	19-21st	Worthing			£155	01903 230451
AUGUST	11-16th	Worthing		5 nights	£340	01903 230451
	23-26th	Cambridge	BSH B/H	3 nights	£216	01223 366611
	23-26th	Latimer	B/H	3 nights	£190	01494 764422
SEPTEMBER	20-22nd	Worthing			£155	01903 230451
OCTOBER	11-13th	Haywards Heath			£140	01444 451565
	25-27th	Nr Petersfield			£150	01730 821521
	28-4th	Bournemouth	FULL WEEK		£299	01202 302442
NOVEMBER	1-4th	Bournemouth		3 nights	£160	01202 302442
	8-10th	Cambridge			£176	01223 366611
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HEATHER DHONDY'S SALT LAKE CITY REPORT

37-hour journey just too much for us

THINGS did not get off to a good start for Nicola Smith, Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield and me when we set off for the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City to represent Great Britain in a special international competition organised by the World Bridge Federation in conjunction with the IOC.

Our primary aim was to help demonstrate the game as a competitive, serious sport, but one played in a good spirit. Our secondary aim, of course, was to try to win the event!

A series of unlucky events resulted in our taking 37 hours to reach Salt Lake City. We missed two connecting flights due to bad weather and arrived just hours before we had to sit down at the table.

However, the bridge started brightly and we won our two matches that evening. It was the following day unfortunately that the effects of the exhausting journey caught up with us and we lost all four matches, leaving us with a mountain to climb on the last day just to qualify for the semi-finals.

On the last day of the round robin we played Austria on vu-graph. This was a match in which both sides needed a big win in order to qualify. After eight of the 12 boards the Austrians led 20-14. This was board nine:

Dealer East	♠ KQ		
E/W vul	♥ K95		
	♦ 765		
	♣ 98764		
♠ A96		♠ J75432	
♥ 1063		♥ J2	
♦ KJ83		♦ 1094	
♣ A32		♣ J5	
		♠ 108	
		♥ A Q 874	
		♦ A Q 2	
		♣ K Q 10	

The bidding was straightforward: 1♥-2♥-4♥ all pass. West led ♥3, which ran round to the jack and queen, preserving entries to the clubs. Maria Erhardt (East) is a world-class player and I knew that her ♥J could easily have been from J10; hence I was not prepared to risk the heart finesse for another entry to dummy. It seemed to me that I had to play clubs now in order to sort out the blockage problem that I had in the suit. I played the ♠K and my problems were over when West started thinking. I didn't mind whether she won the trick or not, as long as the ♣A was with her and they couldn't switch to diamonds from my right. She ducked eventually and I drew another round of trumps from my hand and played the queen of clubs, after which I couldn't be prevented from making an overtrick.

At the other table the hand was played the other way up (South opened 1♣ strong and North responded 1♥ showing a



positive with fewer than three controls). The good lead of a diamond gained us 10imps. However, a missed grand on the last board saw our team lose narrowly and both teams were out of the event.

The final was contested by France and the USA. There were many wild and difficult boards, which we were able to watch on vu-graph, including a set where North-South had four consecutive slams to bid and play as well as two others (including a grand) in the set of 12 boards.

After 11 boards of the final the USA had built up a 37-21 lead and seemed to have momentum very much with them. The twelfth deal swung 23imps - but it swung them in favour of France and from that point the French dominated the match.

North-	♠ A J 9 8 7 4 3
South vul.	♥ 8 5
Dealer West	♦ -
	♣ Q 8 6 3
♠ K	♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 10 7	♥ A J
♦ Q 9 8 3 2	♦ A K 10 7 6 5 4
♣ K 9 7 5	♣ 2
	♠ 6 5
	♥ Q 9 6 4 3 2
	♦ J
	♣ A J 10 4

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kearse	d'Ovidio	Osberg	Bessis
Pass	3♠	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North's super-heavy 3♠ was overcalled by East with 3NT, where she made 11 tricks. In the other room there was rather more bidding:

West	North	East	South
Willard	Meltzer	Cronier	Sanborn
Pass	4♣	5♣	5♣
6♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was a guessing game and whether the French had guessed right in the bidding would depend on whether the Americans guessed right in the defence. South, Kerri Sanborn, chose to lead a spade to North's ace. Rose Meltzer returned not a club, but a heart. Benedicte Cronier's club loser disappeared on dummy's heart winner a moment later and 12imps had gone to France instead of 11 to the USA. Of course, if East's hearts and clubs had been interchanged Meltzer's defence would have been successful - but do you think there is a case for South leading ♣A to trick one?

If a Corn Cairdis invite comes your way, grab it

By Mike Dignen

THE Corn Cairdis (Cup of Friendship) is an annual friendly match between England and the Republic of Ireland, held this year in Norwich. Each country fields three teams, made up of officials, county players and club players.

As a reward for organising the event the home county was entitled to nominate the county and club teams and as a consequence there are now a dozen people in Norfolk claiming, with no justification whatsoever, to be internationals.

The match was completely devoid of stress or acrimony. Whether that was because everyone was on very best behaviour or a result of the ambience that the Irish bring with them I couldn't say. For the record England won by a total of 194vps to 156, but I got the impression that we were keeping score more to justify continuing the series than to prove anything on the day.

You hold ♠K762 ♥10 ♦1074 ♣Q6542. Your partner opens 1♣ and raises your 1♠ response to 3♠ - your move. EBU chairman David Harris, for the officials, bid 4♠ spades, but I am sorry to report that I did not.

Needless to say partner has the perfect hand and the defensive cards lie well. I thought I might have got away with it because the Irish were playing a strong no trump and I hoped that the opening bid might end the auction, as indeed it did at one of the other tables. However, in our match my opposite number trundled out Stayman and when her partner showed spades, raised smartly to game.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
?		3♠	Pass

An informal dinner was held on the Saturday evening with the Irish president, Seamus Dowling, on particularly fine form. All in all a most enjoyable weekend and anyone given the opportunity to play in this event in the future should certainly take it up.

What the Butler scored

DID you know that in certain forms of Butler scoring your best strategy to win is to get bad scores! Have you ever given serious thought to what makes for a good scoring system? Which scoring systems give most reward for skilful play?

There are two aspects of scoring systems that are relevant: the scoring system itself and the format, by which we generally mean whether it is pairs or teams. Independent of the scoring method, teams is a purer format, as the result on the board depends only on the results of you and your teammates. By contrast, pairs events have the fundamental flaw that your score depends on the outcomes of encounters between two pairs who have nothing to do with your own pair.

In terms of the scoring system itself the weighting of each board is the key idea. On the one hand it is good that each board has an equal weighting. Consider an imps eight-board match – perhaps you score 0, 0, 0, +1, +1, +2, +5 on the first seven boards, by virtue of out-playing the opponents. Then on the last board there is a 50% slam. If you get it right you win 13 imps and win the match by 22 imps. If you get it wrong, you have lost by 4 imps. Clearly the problem here is that one board is carrying far more weight than the others.

Using point-a-board scoring instead, where two points are given out per board, two for a win, one for a draw (essentially as in pairs scoring), then the match would be won 13-3 or 11-5 depending on the outcome of the last board – surely a better reflection of the match.

The reason that an unequal weighting is a fundamental weakness is that it effectively reduces the length of the match. (Note here that you can never devise a system to rule out people having lucky boards, but by having equally weighted boards people need that many more lucky boards to win matches.)

On the other hand, many would consider that the point-a-board is too equal – surely losing an overtrick on one board and then gaining 2200 on the next should not result in a score of 2:2! This aspect perhaps goes back to the

Chris Jagger, puts the case for rimp scoring

origins of the game – many feel the aim of bridge ought to be making contracts and avoiding large penalties (as in Rubber bridge), not worrying about overtricks.

In this light let us consider the following methods:

Imps, teams. The teams element gives it the purity, while the scoring gives some boards far too much importance.

Point-a-board, teams. Generally a more reliable form of scoring, since it has the purity of teams, while also having equally weighted boards. It does suffer from having boards too equally weighted.

Matchpoint, pairs. The pairs format is a weakness (albeit vastly enjoyed by many, me included), while the matchpoint element is essentially like point-a-board and shares its strengths.

Imps, pairs (ie Butler pairs). This combines the weakness of the pairs format with the weakness of the imp scoring method. (See further on for more on the Butler method.)

Combined scoring methods. In order to avoid the unequal weighting of the imps system, while not making each board too equal, other scoring systems have been devised. For example, the Pachabo uses a (somewhat complex) mixture of point-a-board and the aggregate quotient (I won't go into details, but it is an attempt to take into account the size of the scores). While it is not perfect, those who argue that they don't know what they are aiming for with this method are to some extent missing the point – since the skill of any game is to maximise your score given the method of scoring. (The reason this argument would not apply to imps is that the unequal weighting of boards is reducing the skill element.)

Another scoring method I've come across is like a reduced imps scale. Essentially it gives out one point for a 20-50 difference, two for 60-190, and three for 200 or more (it actually gives a victory point score out of six for each board,

but that is the same thing). Again this tries to make the boards more equal, while recognising that the size of the difference should have some effect. In fact this system is badly designed, in that you should be more inclined to bid non-vulnerable games than vulnerable ones, and while there is nothing inherently wrong with this it does go against most people's instincts!

However, if you modify this to one point for 20-100, two points for 110-290, and three points for 300 or more, you get the excellent 'rimp' scoring system. This method combines pairs and imps quite effectively. For example, you should bid a non-vulnerable game if it will make 50% of the time, and a vulnerable one if it is 40% or better. Broadly speaking it gives out one point for a difference of overtricks or one undertrick, two for a partscore swing (including non-vulnerable game only bid at one table) and three for a full game swing or vulnerable game. This is perhaps the best scoring method I know. In the eight-board match we had above, the scores are 0, 0, 0, +1, +1, +1, +2, -3, a win by two rimps, and a fair reflection of the scores obtained (even if the slam swing was actually due to superior skill).

I think moving over to more point-a-board competitions (as in America) would be a definite improvement to the game and using a good combined scoring system like rimps would be even better. At the same time I think the scoring system adds interest to the game and I hope we can preserve a variety of scoring systems.

I shall end by discussing a peculiar form of scoring sometimes used to assess the strengths of pairs at events like the Tollemache, where four pairs represent a team: the Butler over four pairs (that is, take the average of the scores received and imp against this). It is particularly interesting when you have two expert

pairs, B and C, sitting North-South, and two novice pairs P and Q, East-West. We shall assume the pairs are always vulnerable.

Board one is a routine game, which P absentmindedly puts on the floor. While the team has lost a game swing, the average score is 440 to E/W, so Q rubs his hands with glee, gaining 5 imps, B and C lose 5 imps, and P loses 11 imps.

On board two, unable to get over his excitement, Q consigns a game to the wastepaper basket. A similar result to board one, but this time with P and Q reversing their scores.

At this point B and C are already downhearted with the results of P and Q, but the overall Butler scores stand at B and C -10, P and Q -6! This is a startling feature of this method of scoring – the best way to win the Butler is also the best way to lose the event!

On board three B pulls off an outrageous coup. Opponents should not have fallen for it, but they did, and uncharacteristically neither P nor Q went off in this cold game. B gains 11 imps, C loses 5, and P and Q gain 5.

On board four there are no prizes for guessing that C has brought off a brilliancy, defeating a cold game. A review of the overall scores reveals that B and C have now slipped further behind, on -4 imps, with P and Q on +4 imps. Is there no way for B and C to gain?

Many would be surprised at these results, though a few minutes' thought should convince you that it is not really unexpected. In fact it is quite clear that there is no way in this format that you can hope to use the Butlers to compare two pairs sitting opposite ways; they only compare those pairs sitting the same way. For example, if you draw a match after B and C have similarly enormous cards, while P has a slightly negative card and Q is heavily minus, then you would expect B and C to be around the zero mark on the Butlers, with P having a big plus and Q a big minus.

However, don't let complacency slip in next time you have a miserable Butler – the most common reason for a bad Butler is a bad card!

SIMPAIRS-SIMPAIRS-SIMPAIRS

The EBU Spring Simultaneous Pairs events are being held on Wednesday 1st May and Thursday 2nd May this year.

You will be able to play in both events as there will be different hands on each day.

Entry forms for both events are will be enclosed with the March Club Newsletter. Please complete and return them to Marian Edwards as soon as possible if your club wishes to hold heats of one or both events. Alternatively, you can enter directly by email to Marian, (MarianREdwards@btopenworld.com) but please give all the details requested on the form.

Non-EBU members are welcome to participate in this competition.

Scoring will still be overall but you will be able to enter your results by computer directly to the Ecats website if you wish. Those clubs who don't have computer facilities can send their results to Marian in the usual way and she will enter them for you. Thirty two hands will be available for play for each day, dealt at random by computer.

Please note that each heat must have at least THREE tables in play and each player must play at least EIGHTEEN boards. The entry fee (including VAT) will be £2.50 per player, payable when sending in the club results.

Detailed instructions will be sent to participating clubs in April together with sufficient copies of the hand commentaries to give each player at the end of play.

The commentator for both events is Brian Callaghan.

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The dates are as follows:

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THESE ONLINE

IN the early hours of January 26 history was made as the millionth board was played in the EBU Online Bridge Club! It was board nine of the Weekend Butler-scored pairs competition. The scoring for this competition is similar to that for teams play and is well suited for online bridge.

I should be clear in defining that this was the millionth time that a board had been produced onscreen for a table of four players. That means that there have been 4,000,000 occasions that a player has played a hand of cards. This sobering thought leads me to contemplate that if it takes seven or eight minutes to play a board, then about 30 million minutes have been spent playing bridge in the online club, which is half a million hours or about 20,000 days or about 57 years of non-stop play!

As it happened both pairs, caught playing at 1.20am, when the club is still a hive of activity, are regular online partnerships.

East and West were Eva De Mercur, of London and Roger 'Pirate' Waddington of Manchester. North and South were Azad Mahomed of Harrow, London and Phyll



By Barrie Partridge

'Pandora' Norris of Loughborough.

Each of these four players wins a year's free membership for him or herself and for a friend introduced to the club.

Here is the board:

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

North played in 3NT at 26 of the 27 tables. With North dealer and not vul against vul, I'm sure that the bidding of 1NT raised to 3NT would have been repeated at most of the other tables. The most successful lead for East was ♠9 (three tables) and the least successful lead was a club (five tables). One East found the ♦10 lead and Eva, like the remaining 16 Easts, led a heart.

Azad ducked the first heart and took the second in dummy with the king. He played three



Phyll Norris

Come and join us

If you have not yet tried playing bridge on the Internet why not join us soon? Simply go to our website, www.ebuonline.co.uk, to find all the information about the EBU Online Bridge Club, including how to register and get started playing: lots of help, tips, features and photos, plus details of the competitions and scoring, plus all the results archives. If there is anything that you can't find, or if you need any help, please email me at Barrie@ebuonline.co.uk.

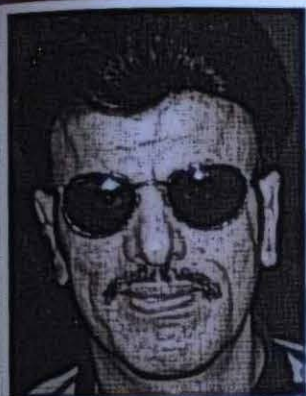
Online Master Points are now awarded for online play and are directly credited to your EBU Master Point account. Full details of the scheme may be found on our web site.

The standard of play in the Online BC very much reflects the full range of players that you would find at your local bridge club!

Our main events are ongoing match pointed and Butler scored pairs, where you can drop in and out at any time. We also have many special events such as Swiss pairs and multiple teams, which take place at fixed times. These events are announced in the emailed newsletter to members.

PLAYERS ARE FOUR IN A MILLION

virtual bridge
real people



Azad Mahomed

top clubs, but Pirate threw ♠3 (Roman – encouraging) on the third round. Azad cashed a top diamond and ducked another to Eva's 10.

Eva cashed the boss ♣J and sent a spade through for Pirate to collect his two tricks there for one off and a 5imp swing to EW. Only 12 out of the 26 pairs made 3NT for a NS swing of 6imps (the datum score for comparison being +150 to NS)

So, who are the four players who were staying up late?

'I play online bridge when my husband is asleep,' Eva told me. Having a family, she is able to play at her local clubs only once or twice a week. Now she can play at times to suit herself. Eva lives in Central London and has been playing bridge for six years at the Young Chelsea, Wimbledon, London Medical and Highgate bridge clubs. She joined the EBU Online BC in the summer of 2000 and is a founder member.

Roger also enjoys playing late at night. He appreciates the flexibility of being able to play whenever he wishes, especially when he works evening shifts. Roger has been online for the last year or so, but has been a denizen of Bessie's O' The Barn, Whitefield, Manchester and Bury for the last 15 years. A few months ago Roger, with another partner from the online club, David 'Luigi' Green of Leicester, won a one-day Green Point Swiss pairs at Loughborough.

Eva and Roger are a regular partnership that has played at

other regular online partners, while Phyll and Azad are found together most of the time they play in the club.

Azad lives with his family in Harrow and has played at Edgware and the 77 bridge clubs for the past nine years. He told me: 'I've been playing online bridge since March last year. It's the best thing that could happen to bridge lovers as it is like bringing the club home! Play whenever you like, as many boards as you like and with players all over the world. A great way to improve.'

Phyll started to play bridge when stationed in Dortmund about 1970. 'I bought a little book by Foxy from the NAAFI to get me through the social/rubber bridge scene and the weekly duplicate in the officers' mess. After a break during nurse training I took it up again when I returned to BAOR in the late '70s. I settled in Loughborough in 1985 when my husband retired from the Army and play at the Town Club and the University.

'I took up online bridge when MacDiamond (with her inimitable enthusiasm for everything) chivvied me to try it. I joined with the founder members, but then didn't play for several months due to paying for phone time per minute, until I eventually committed myself to a free time anytime package – why did I wait so long? I have played with some terrific characters, laughed at the ingenious aliases, met many wonderful people and made some great new friends.'

All four players attended the EBU Online one day Congress at West Midlands BC in January. It was the first time

Phyll and Azad had met each other after many hours online together.

Returning to the deal, someone suggested that if East leads a spade and West ducks it and North takes and leads a spade back and West cashes his four spades, then North may be able to engineer a compound double squeeze for the rest of the tricks.

Unfortunately it's not quite there, but that would have made it a really remarkable deal!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The second EBU Online one-day event was held at the West Midlands Bridge Club at Solihull on January 13. Jim Corbett and Lou Payne provided magnificent trophies for the winners of each of the two sessions of pairs. The Corby Cup was won by a whisker by Ian Mitchell and Sue 'Smaxi' Maxwell (both Aylesbury), who were just ahead of Victor Ridding and Roger 'Pirate' Waddington (both Manchester). The Lou P Shield was won by Linda 'Lindy' Quigley (Harrow) and Graham Dolan (Cambridgeshire), who scored 72%.

More to the point, it was a great social occasion. In the Online Newsletter Jim commented: 'It was nice to put faces to names again at Solihull, which is always an enjoyable pastime, and there were many new faces with some real surprises. But what was really a bonus, I found,



Roger Waddington



Eva de Mercur

was the cheerful, friendly atmosphere around all the card tables. Why, they even let me revoke once without calling the director. Why don't we always play like this?'

The Sunday Soirée at Solihull for the Corby Cup and Lou P Shield has now entered the prestigious stage to be fought for annually and used as an opportunity to renew friendships once again. Maybe it will one day outrank the Gold Cup for its popularity and sense of achievement among the peers of Internet bridge.

Our thanks to the WMBC for their hospitality and excellent catering. Photos of the occasion are now on the web site in the EBU community section.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BACK online the winner of the annual leader board competition for 2001 was Deiter Laidig of Germany with a net +8026imps over the year! Second was Peter Millar of Sark with +6031imps and then Frances Oestricher of London with +5567imps. The best average of 1.53imps per board was achieved by Velizar Petroff of Bulgaria with +4340imps after 2842 boards.

Eric Nolf (Life Monster) of Fife, Scotland, Peter Millar and Sue Page (Harrison Gray) of Worcestershire won the October, November and December competitions respectively, while the new year saw Frances Oestricher take the first month!

TALIBAN TALE FROM SURREY...

AN online conversation picked up by Jan Chignall of Surrey:

'I didn't know what was happening and had to get my husband to help me out when my computer crashed. I didn't know what to do!'

'What's your email address pard, so we can arrange another game sometime?'

'I don't know my email address – I have to ask my husband!'

'Why, is he in the Taliban or something?'

'No, he's in the kitchen!'

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LAYING DOWN THE LAW

by Jeremy Dhondy

Ten things you need to know about revoking

REVOKING is one of the more embarrassing things to happen to you at the table. The law is complex and you should always call the director because the penalties are not as obvious or automatic as they may seem. But here are some guidelines to help:

1. Has the revoke been established? If you fail to follow suit you are on the way to revoking, but it is not established until either you or your partner plays to the next trick. It can also become established if there is a claim or concession. Once it is established then penalties will have to be paid.

2. Suppose you notice that you have failed to follow suit before the revoke is established; then you must correct your revoke by playing a legal card (Law 62A). Any other cards played to this trick by other players may also be withdrawn, but your offending card will be a penalty card to be played at the first available opportunity.

3. If you draw attention to your partner's attempt to revoke by doing such things as saying 'No hearts partner?' or looking shocked and refusing to turn your card over, then not only are you guilty, in the second case, of breaching the proprieties, but you will also have established the revoke anyway. You may never ask partner if he has cards in a suit when you are defending.

4. Suppose the revoke occurs at trick 12, then it must be corrected if it is noticed before the hand is complete and returned to the board.

5. A zero trick penalty: One reason for calling the director is that the penalty for revoking can be nil, one or two tricks, depending on the circumstances. Suppose the opponents are in 7NT. You revoke during the play, but declarer makes 13 tricks anyway. There is no trick penalty.

6. A one trick penalty (but it could be two): Suppose the offending player does not win the revoke trick, then if the offender's partner wins that trick or the offending side wins any subsequent trick, one trick is transferred to the non-offenders after play ceases; also, if an additional trick was subsequently won by the offending player with a card that he could legally have played to the revoke trick, one such trick is transferred to the non-offending side.

7. A two trick penalty: The offending player wins the trick on which the revoke occurred, then after play ceases the trick on which the revoke occurred, plus one of any subsequent tricks won by the offending side, is transferred to the non-offending side.

8. Two is not enough: You are playing in 3NT. You have a suit of AKQxxx opposite xx and they break 3-2, but you have no entry to the long suit. Now if your opponent revokes on the third round the effect can be to deprive you of several tricks. The director has the right to restore equity; that is to decide that two tricks is an insufficient penalty. He can do this by assigning the correct number of tricks or an artificial score if the position is so complex that a score cannot easily be determined.

9. As if one revoke isn't bad enough, suppose you do it again in the same suit a trick or two later. In that situation there is no further penalty.

10. Is it ever too late? Yes. If the non-offending side has picked up the next hand and made a call then it is too late. It is also too late if the revoke is first noticed when the round is over.

PRIZE BIDDING

Solution to the February competition:
which hand should West have for these sequences?

HAND 1. Game all.

West	East	(a) ♠ Q54	(b) ♠ Q54	(c) ♠ 87
	1♣	♥ AQ73	♥ AQ732	♥ AQ732
1♥	1♠	♦ K98	♦ 876	♦ 872
2♦		♣ 982	♣ K9	♣ KQ5

2♦ is the fourth suit. It doesn't show diamonds: it simply says that West has enough values to commit the partnership to 2NT, but without any obvious bid just for the sake of it when he has a natural bid available.

With (a) West should bid 2NT, showing the diamond guard and 10-12 hcp.

(b) is correct. West is too strong for 2♥.

The hearts are not good enough for 3♥ (or, for that matter, for 2♥) and he lacks the fourth spade for a raise to 2♠.

With (c) West should assume that a partner who chooses to bid two suits rather than open or rebid in no trumps, has five cards in the first suit; hence he should jump to 3♣. KQ5 is excellent support for a five-card suit.

HAND 2. Love all.

West	East	(a) ♠ A1093	(b) ♠ A1093	(c) ♠ J1093
1♦	1♥	♥ J	♥ J	♥ 64
1♠	2♣	♦ AJ876	♦ AJ876	♦ AK8654
2NT		♣ K87	♣ KQ7	♣ A

The fourth suit asks partner to describe his hand further. If partner has enough values to justify game he should avoid making a minimum response.

(a) is correct. West assumes that East has the values for 2NT without a club guard. In that case he wants to play in 2NT.

With (b) West should jump to 3NT.

With (c) West should bid 2♦. This

hand shows that the fourth suit is not an unequivocal demand to bid no trumps if you have a good guard in that suit. West should describe his hand and by far the most descriptive bid is 2♦, which stresses the quality of the diamonds and suggests a sixth card in the suit. A singleton ace is not a good guard for no trumps because you can never withhold it to disrupt opponents' communications.

HAND 3. Game all.

West	East	(a) ♠ A653	(b) ♠ A653	(c) ♠ A653
1♦	1♥	♥ KJ	♥ J8	♥ KJ
1♠	2♣	♦ A9876	♦ AK876	♦ AK876
2♦		♣ 76	♣ 76	♣ 76

With (a) West does not have a sixth diamond, fifth spade, third heart or club stopper that would give him an obvious bid. He must improvise and the best available bid is 2♥. He might have only a doubleton heart, but it is a very strong doubleton.

(b) is correct. 2♦ is the least misleading bid.

With (c) West wants to play in game, but has no obvious bid available. If the fourth suit is a minor it is best to play a raise of the fourth suit (3♣) to show this dilemma.

HAND 4. Game all.

West	East	(a) ♠ 876	(b) ♠ 876	(c) ♠ 876
	1♦	♥ KQ1072	♥ KQ10972	♥ KQ10972
1♥	2♣	♦ A3	♦ A3	♦ A3
2♠	2NT	♣ A87	♣ J2	♣ A2
3♥				

With (a) West should raise 2NT to 3NT. It is a waste of time repeating the hearts because if East has three diamonds, four clubs and at least two spades he cannot have more than two hearts.

With (b) West would jump to 3♥ (non forcing) on the second round, showing intermediate values (10-12 points) and

six good hearts.

(c) is correct. West wants to bid hearts on the second round, but is too strong for a non-forcing 3♥. He uses the fourth suit to create a game-forcing auction. If partner bids the fourth suit and then bids on after your minimum response the auction is game forcing.

And the winners are ...

- Open: Jeremy Bygott, Oxford
- Regional: Bill White, Poynton, Cheshire
- County: Robin Squire, Hornchurch, Essex

Intriguing deals in National Women's Pairs

Elizabeth Phillips adds a third place to four firsts and two seconds, but McWhirter and Armstrong win

EIGHTY-FOUR partnerships contested the National Women's Pairs, one of the last to be played at the Hilton, Coventry. For Beryl Kerr and Rachael Bingham, who finished fourth, this was a big board.

By Maureen Dennison

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

North opened 1♥ and Bingham decided her hand was near enough balanced and overcalled 1NT, which Kerr raised to 3NT. South led a spade to the ace and the return was taken with the king. Declarer now set about clubs. The king was allowed to hold, but South took the second - East throwing a low heart - and continued with ♠10 to the queen. It was obvious that North held ♦A, but who held the ten? North ducked the ♦K, but when the ♦10 fell on the jack continuation, Bingham was able to overtake with the queen, which was allowed to hold. On the ♣J North pitched a heart and East a spade. A heart was led to the 10 and, with a full count of the hand, declarer threw North on lead with a diamond. She was endplayed to lead through ♥AQ. With the long diamond, Bingham came to 10 tricks.

The third-placed pair was Elizabeth Phillips and Pam Southon. What a wonderful record Phillips has in this event. She has won four times - three with Evelyn Prichard and one with Southon. She has also been second twice. The following hand accounted for most of the difference to the second placed pair.

All Vul Dealer South	Southon		
	♠ 9 8		
	♥ K Q J 9 3 2		
	♦ -		
	♣ Q J 9 8 4		
	♠ 5 3		♠ A 7 6 4
	♥ 10 6		♥ A
	♦ K 8 7 5 3		♦ A 9 6 4
	♣ K 6 3 2		♣ A 10 7 5
		Phillips	
		♠ K Q J 10 2	
		♥ 8 7 5 4	
		♦ Q J 10 2	
		♣ -	

Phillips passed first in hand and Southon opened a weak 2♥. East doubled and Phillips raised to 4♥. East tanked over this and eventually passed. Declarer made 11 tricks and was quite pleased, until she found most other Easts had doubled!

Second were Christine Duckworth and Jane Moore. This is the other hand that kept Duckworth ahead of Phillips.

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

After three passes Moore opened 1♥ and rebid 3♥ over North's 2♣ response. When this came back to Duckworth she



The winners: Nanette McWhirter & Margaret Armstrong

decided her hand was just as much use in no trumps as 4♥ and duly bid 3NT, the final contract. When dummy went down Duckworth could see hearts might make nine, 10 or 11 tricks, so felt she had probably made the right decision.

East led a spade to the ace and the return was taken on table with the king. The club finesse came next, losing to the king. East continued with spades to the queen. Declarer tried the heart finesse, but that, too, lost. West did not want to lead into ♦AJ or help set up hearts so she exited with a club. The two top diamonds were cashed next, followed by the rest of the clubs. East was squeezed in the reds and Duckworth emerged with 10 tricks for an 80% score.

The winners, who led from the second session, were Margaret Armstrong and Nanette McWhirter. Nanette gave me this hand:

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

McWhirter opened a strong 2♠ fourth in hand and Armstrong bid 2NT, negative. South introduced her clubs, which were raised to four and she then cue bid her ♦A. When Armstrong showed she had enough to cue bid her heart ace, McWhirter bid the good 6♣ slam.

The ♥K was led, won on table and declarer threw a spade. She next played her three ace-kings, discarding diamonds from table on the spades. Now one diamond ruff set up a winner. She played the ♣Q to draw the jack, returned to hand with a heart ruff and discarded another on the last diamond, losing just one heart in the end game.

JAGGER AND PAGAN TAKE MEN'S TITLE

Chris Jagger (Cambs and Hunts) and Ian Pagan (Middlesex) proudly display the salver they received as winners of the National Men's Pairs, also played at the Hilton, Coventry. The two came through with an impressive 62.05%, holding off the challenge of Jeremy Dhondy (Middlesex) and Keith Bennett (Oxfordshire), who were second, and Brian Senior and David Jensen (Bedfordshire), who were third.



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Mr J Wray
Club Master
Mr C J Comer
Mrs F C Curtis
Mrs B Foulkes
Mrs B Harvey
Mrs R Mace
Mr G A McDermott
Mr R Tripp

Herefordshire

5* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs D Whittaker
Tournament Master
Lady E A P Cox
Master
Dr RNA Pimner
Mrs ML Pritchard
Mr J E Robertson
County Master
Mrs J Morgan
Mr R Morgan
Club Master
Mrs N Ansell
Mrs M Clayburn
Mrs J Hunter
Mr AJ Morris
Mrs H Starkey

Hertfordshire

Life Master
Mrs JM Ball
Dr NP Hodsdon
6* Star Premier Regional Master
Mr M Hudson
2* Star Regional Master
Mr AK Fenn
1* Star Regional Master
Mrs S Dow
1* Star Tournament Master
Mr WE Kenney
Mrs JM Richard
5* Star Master
Mrs P Henry
4* Star Master
Mrs M Cray
3* Star Master

Mr JA Catton
2* Star Master
Mrs AE Corlett
Mrs R I Emanuel
Mr P J Goodsell
Mr MHT Melville
Mrs VA Stevens
1* Star Master
Mrs C D Bleeze
Mrs H Robinson
Mr DJ Tooley
Advanced Master
Mr CR Cross
Mrs GM Horn
Mr GR Horn
Mrs M McCreadie
Mrs JC Thraves
Master
Dr P Carr
Mrs R Windler
County Master
Dr I Gannon
Mrs J Katzen
Mrs R Kettel
Mrs JA Smith
District Master
Mr C J Carreira
Mrs J Gleeson
Mrs G Hardy
Mrs V Proops
Mrs B Rolfe
Mrs P G Taylor
Club Master
Mr M J Carter
Mrs J Guest
Mr K Marriott

Kent

Premier Life Master
Mr B Gardner
Life Master
Mr PJ Crofts
3* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs J V Wotherspoon
2* Star Premier Regional Master
Mr B Featherman
1* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs E Wilmot
3* Star Regional Master
Mrs CM Schofield
1* Star Regional Master
Mr J C Condon
Mr B W Evans
4* Star Tournament Master
Mrs R Banister
2* Star Tournament Master
Mr MJ Braithwaite
Tournament Master
Mrs J Price
5* Star Master
Mrs J F Slater
Mrs II Willis
4* Star Master
Dr M Alcalay
Mr J M Henderson
3* Star Master
Mr RL Browning
Mrs FE Butler
2* Star Master
Mr P Paternoster
1* Star Master
Mrs M Adams
Mrs P Alcalay
Mrs GM Evans
Mrs MJ Lilley
Mrs R A Lucas
Mrs JEP Parker
Mrs EA Tweed
Mrs MAV White
Advanced Master
Mrs A L Anning
Mr A F Gibb
Mr RE Hover
Mrs J Kendall
Mrs J M Morris
Mr JA Muchajer
Mrs M Murdoch
Master
Mrs S A Akehurst
Mrs PM Bradley
Dr MG Brook
Mr JG Cox
Mrs JE Field
Mr K J Field
Mrs G Harland-Fisher
Mrs S Holden
Mrs S Lichfield
Mrs RJ Macfarlane
Mrs MI Poole
Mrs MK Rutherford
County Master
Mrs L Butler
Mrs N Excell
Mr CJ Goodwill
Mr PJ Powell
Mr E Rochester
Mrs P J Warner
Mr C Watkinson
Mrs V Wheatley
District Master
Mrs K Beavis
Mr C G Champion
Mr M K Coor
Mr J W Mills
Mr K L Monk
Mr B Woollett
Club Master
Mrs J E Engel

Leicestershire

5* Star Regional Master
Mrs P A Norris
Tournament Master
Mr D Craig
5* Star Master
Mr R P Freeman
4* Star Master
Mr J G Ball
Mrs EP Smith
3* Star Master
Mr A Pardoe
Advanced Master
Mr R Ferguson
Mrs M Inven
Ms L MacFarlane
Master
Mr GB Beauchamp
Mr RA Moncrieff
District Master
Mrs C J Brewster
Mrs M V Gibson

Lincolnshire

5* Star Master
Mr P Childs
4* Star Master
Mrs SJ Archer
Mr RD Stuart
1* Star Master
Mr DWG Archer
Mr R K J Whaley
Advanced Master
Mrs AR Grant
Miss M Shannon
Mrs M Williams
Master
Mr JE Ronan
County Master
Mr N J Hunter
Mr A Millington
District Master
Mr N Patchett
Mr ADC Underwood

London

Premier Life Master
Mr R Morton
Premier National Master
Mrs C M Curtis
Mr N Sandqvist
4* Star Regional Master
Mr A Gordon
Regional Master
Mr D Goodwin
3* Star Master
Mr G Pollack
1* Star Master
Mr KJ Bentley
Mr CA Elliott
Advanced Master
Mr RJ Cross
Mrs J de Botton
Mrs E De Mercur
Mrs CMM Wood
Master
Mrs D S Birshan
Mr D Quinton
Dr I J Tree
County Master
Mrs A McMillan
Mr M Vaccarino
District Master
Mr P B Andrews
Mrs J Emmett
Mrs C Gidden
Mrs Z Rankin

Master Points Trophy

Master Point Promotions from 4th January 2002 to 5th March 2002

Mrs S Whitehead
Mrs K Yamashita
Club Master
Mrs S S Gillis
Mrs J B Griffiths
Mrs K Linport
Mrs M Mates
Mrs W H Souster

Manchester

Life Master
Mrs M Castagliola
National Master
Mrs M Bass
4th Star Regional Master
Mrs JB Jones
1st Star Regional Master
Mrs WD White
Tournament Master
Mrs GK Barker
3rd Star Master
Mrs B Dark
1st Star Master
Mrs FH Berry
Mrs J Davis
Mrs S H Mattinson
Advanced Master
Mrs DJ Bakewell
Mrs J Butterworth
Mrs M Stanton
Mrs D B Tanswell
Master
Mrs N J K Thomas
County Master
Mrs B Dewrey
Mrs G Harlem
Mrs P Ivory
Mrs AA Tramer
District Master
Mrs K Higgins
Mrs N Marks

Merseyside/Cheshire

1st Star Regional Master
Mrs R Garfield
4th Star Master
Mrs E Callingham
3rd Star Master
Mrs K Thomas
1st Star Master
Mrs C Andrews
Advanced Master
Mrs M A Galt
Mrs S Stott
Master
Mrs F J Denye
County Master
Mrs J Hopewell-Taylor
District Master
Mrs J E Courtney
Club Master
Mrs D G Mead
Mrs M A Mead
Mrs P Way

Middlesex

Grand Master
Mrs IP Tobias
Premier National Master
Mrs BR Cohen
Mrs J Mizel
Mrs S Simon
National Master
Mrs SB Barley
Mrs O Koonarp
Mrs A McIntosh
3rd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs SY Sachak
2nd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs MJ Rosenblatt
1st Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs AJ Davoud
Premier Regional Master
Mrs NA Clayton
13th Star Regional Master
Mrs V Reader
8th Star Regional Master
Mrs R Morris
1st Star Regional Master
Mrs P Levy
Mrs J Vos
Tournament Master
Mrs W K Barlow
Mrs DN Shaw
Mrs D Stein
Mrs PH Vernon
5th Star Master
Mrs E Wolfson
4th Star Master
Mrs J Cohen
Mrs SM Sakstein
Mrs V Washell
3rd Star Master
Mrs BM Harwood
2nd Star Master
Mrs AGD Brito
Mrs M Wakabayashi
1st Star Master
Mrs J Feldman
Mrs F Moushi
Mrs A White
Advanced Master
Mrs J D Griffiths
Mrs Z Poplawski
Mrs P Royston
Mrs LK Kurl
Mrs M Lisioti
Mrs M JB Fazel
County Master
Mrs G De Jager
Mrs A H Mazoned
Mrs A L Ross
Mrs B Sherman

Mrs DE Jones
Mrs UIE Mallick
Mrs P M Read
Mrs V Shah
Club Master
Mrs G E Fish
Mrs M Fish
Mrs J H Marks

Norfolk

Premier National Master
Mrs SP Dannell
18th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs MAE Harnden
17th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs MAE Harnden
2nd Star Regional Master
Mrs MA Thompson
3rd Star Tournament Master
Mrs B Thomson
4th Star Master
Mrs C Green
Mrs IS Green
3rd Star Master
Mrs MJ Dennis
Mrs CD Owen
1st Star Master
Mrs S Ashford
Mrs PJ Carter
Mrs H Tindal
Advanced Master
Mrs P Cuthbert
Master
Mrs J Ireland
District Master
Mrs M Bell
Mrs E Harrison
Mrs J Hubbard
Mrs N Plouviez
Mrs BA Warren
Mrs P Whittle
Club Master
Mrs MJ Mitton

North East

Premier National Master
Mrs J Marshall
Mrs D Wardill
6th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs M Hewitson
4th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs JH Doran
3rd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs R McMahon
6th Star Regional Master
Mrs N Bell
5th Star Regional Master
Mrs SE Davies
Mrs KJ Yates
3rd Star Regional Master
Mrs H Volkman
1st Star Regional Master
Mrs K E Bodenham
Regional Master
Mrs D G Hassan
6th Star Tournament Master
Mrs E Brown
4th Star Tournament Master
Mrs G Brown
1st Star Tournament Master
Mrs RMC Impett
Tournament Master
Mrs J Hodgson
5th Star Master
Mrs P Burnip
Mrs GS Coupland
Mrs D Jolly
Mrs L Oliver
Mrs A Welsh
3rd Star Master
Mrs JR Anderson
Mrs J Astill
Mrs PW Johnstone
Mrs A Lester
Mrs FE Robinson
2nd Star Master
Mrs ED Cotton
Mrs PM Mitchell
Mrs D Morrison
Mrs JB Portwood
Mrs JA Taylor
Mrs SC Wilson
1st Star Master
Mrs J Blackett
Mrs I Darnley
Mrs P Procter
Mrs E G Smith
Mrs R Thompson
Mrs E Worby
Advanced Master
Mrs E Goodway
Mrs M Kennerley
Mrs AA Mawston
Mrs RL Reay
Master
Mrs A Cunningham
Mrs M Durnell
Mrs H Furniss
Mrs A Race
County Master
Mrs C Bainbridge
Mrs B Basey
Mrs E Bell
Mrs C M Bruce
Mrs M Clark
Mrs NG Davies
Mrs D Dowell
Mrs J Hall
Mrs A Humble
Mrs J Laine
Mrs L J Lorie
Mrs AM Pryor

Mrs JE Heslop
Mrs BA Marriner
Dr EM Marshall
Mrs N Robson
Mrs A Wake
Club Master
Mrs A R Archibald
Miss B M Cheetham
Mrs J Curry
Mrs S M Hall
Mrs J Loudon
Mrs J Loudon
Mrs R Mallery
Miss L Milner
Mrs MF Owen
Mrs D A Ridley
Mrs JR Sadler
Mrs B Saul
Mrs G R Saul
Mrs A Wraith

Northamptonshire

3rd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs C Tuton
1st Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs S E Deacon
3rd Star Master
Mrs DT Tibbury
2nd Star Master
Mrs B A Brady
1st Star Master
Mrs JL Miller
Advanced Master
Mrs C Ballard
Mrs G Boulby
Mrs RL Clements
Mrs GW Lott
Master
Mrs N R Baldwin
County Master
Mrs I Chacksfield
Mrs V M Watta
District Master
Mrs M J Hodgson

Nottinghamshire

National Master
Mrs M Logan
Regional Master
Mrs EL Bagley
3rd Star Master
Mrs H Thomas
Mrs M Thomas
2nd Star Master
Mrs DR Ball
Mrs CA Munn
Master
Mrs MA Conley
County Master
Mrs I A Hawtin
Mrs P G Hawtin
District Master
Mrs S Gooduld
Club Master
Mrs S C Dawson

Oxfordshire

1st Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs AD Bryden
6th Star Regional Master
Mrs A Parker
5th Star Regional Master
Mrs D Southcombe
2nd Star Regional Master
Mrs J H Freeman
1st Star Tournament Master
Mrs J Simpson
4th Star Master
Mrs W Claye
Miss P Hopkinson
3rd Star Master
Mrs CP Sheppard
Mrs E Sheppard
2nd Star Master
Mrs A Smith
Mrs H A Summerfield
Advanced Master
Mrs C Greensted
Mrs M Sheehy
Master
Mrs A Burwood-Smith
Mrs L Burwood-Smith
Mrs K Kazmierczak
Mrs K Sadler
County Master
Mrs AJA Hood
District Master
Mrs P Grant
Mrs C E Meek
Mrs G A Wade
Club Master
Mrs D Rankin

Somerset

2nd Star Tournament Master
Mrs RJ Walder
1st Star Tournament Master
Mrs JPT Rendall
5th Star Master
Mrs E Percival
2nd Star Master
Mrs ER Cashion
Mrs R L Sweet
1st Star Master
Mrs PF Brookes
Mrs G Bruce
Mrs VE Morse
Master
Mrs MH Clare

Mrs B Tustian
County Master
Mrs D Gillott
Mrs S Gudgeon
Mrs D Hart
Club Master
Mrs E Chalmers
Mrs C P Knight

Staffs and Shropshire

Grand Master
Mrs BH Nicholls
National Master
Mrs CJ Foster
Premier Regional Master
Mrs D Heseltine
5th Star Master
Mrs TR Mattison
4th Star Master
Mrs B Talathi
3rd Star Master
Mrs B Baker
Mrs D Bird
2nd Star Master
Mrs R C Miller
Mrs D Simmonds
1st Star Master
Mrs N Anslow
Mrs D Bird
Miss MJ Rowlands
Mrs GH Thomas
Mrs J Towndley
Advanced Master
Mrs D Clarke
Master
Mrs D Alderson
Mrs G Tamber
County Master
Mrs FC Haley
Mrs GW Swift
District Master
Mrs K Airey
Mrs A Hall
Mrs IR Simpson
Club Master
Mrs H R Hopkins
Mrs L J Hopkins

Suffolk

5th Star Master
Mrs MA Bone
4th Star Master
Mrs ME Garbutt
Mrs J Marshall
3rd Star Master
Mrs D M Thomas
1st Star Master
Mrs RA Littell
Advanced Master
Mrs P Blatchley
Mrs R Hanley
County Master
Mrs JYL Marsh
District Master
Mrs P M Barnes
Mrs M E McLaren

Surrey

Grand Master
Mrs J C Allerton
Life Master
Mrs RW Penton
National Master
Mrs AF Stimson
Mrs MVA Stimson
Mrs JR Williamson
4th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs F E Willson
3rd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs M Andree
2nd Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs E Church
1st Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs E L Tanner
5th Star Regional Master
Mrs JP Warren
4th Star Regional Master
Mrs H Keith
2nd Star Regional Master
Mrs A Knott
1st Star Regional Master
Mrs PJ Blackmore
Mrs RI Fraser
Mrs MJ Wright
Regional Master
Mrs A M Melbourne
3rd Star Tournament Master
Mrs J Norrey
1st Star Tournament Master
Mrs E Carter
Mrs CM De Haan
Mrs MM Govier
Mrs BJ Wheeler
Tournament Master
Mrs S Cabello
Mrs M M Nicholls
5th Star Master
Mrs HC Barnes
Mrs RB Canning
Mrs I French
Mrs MF Gayner
Mrs CM George
Mrs D Laker
Mrs C J Macdonald
Mrs RB Reynolds
Mrs DA Richards
Mrs J Vandenberg
Mrs CF Woolf
Mrs AJ Woolway
4th Star Master

Mrs VA Beim
Mrs EW Brook
Mrs S Cohen
Mrs J Higgins
Mrs PM Laurence
Mrs JH McKimmie
Mrs G Rangarajan
Mrs CD Ryder
Mrs V J Smith
Mrs R L Thompson
3rd Star Master
Mrs AR Baig
Mrs P L Clare
Mrs RJ Coles
Mrs MCM Farquhar
Mrs S Hayter
Mrs A Smith
2nd Star Master
Mrs C T Allard
Mrs R J Austin
Mrs H M Cath
Mrs GH Gallagher
Mrs J M Hall
Mrs J Hambly
Mrs J Harrison
Mrs WA Heasman
Mrs JP Jordan
Mrs D Rangarajan
1st Star Master
Mrs V C Barber
Mrs M D Keville
Mrs BA Lockwood
Mrs S Mai
Mrs S McKenna
Mrs SR Pritchard
Mrs A Quilley
Mrs SM Simm
Mrs W Sins
Mrs GB Swynerton
Mrs D Versteegh
Mrs D Withers Green
Advanced Master
Mrs R Bridgen
Mrs MG Cashin
Mrs CSE Chevalier
Mrs NK Colley
Mrs MCD Hall
Mrs W McKinney
Mrs JC Moore
Mrs V M Mulligan
Mrs L Murphy
Master
Mrs PM Barnes
Mrs CR Carew
Mrs L M Christmas
Mrs M Impey
Mrs P E Langley
Mrs PL Moss
Mrs A Ray
Mrs D H Ruch
Mrs FY Thomson
Mrs A Thorpe
Mrs BJ Whitrow
County Master
Mrs A H Catto
Mrs NP Cowley
Mrs AM Crichard
Mrs A Jenkins
Mrs J Kelly
Mrs P Lewis
Mrs R Melbourne
District Master
Mrs K P Barker
Mrs K W Bradbourn
Mrs M P Bradbourn
Mrs J Bradbury
Mrs S M McDaniel
Mrs B A Pendry
Mrs P D Thompson
Mrs H Witt
Mrs J Wits
Club Master
Mrs P Davenport
Mrs CH Gibbons
Mrs E A Oldham

Sussex

Life Master
Mrs A Bolton
Premier National Master
Mrs RE Churchill
National Master
Mrs SA Blunt
Mrs JF Bramall
8th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs S Rolles
Mrs P J Wright
5th Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs P A Carter
10th Star Regional Master
Mrs R Underwood
8th Star Regional Master
Mrs J Hinden
Mrs J Hinden
7th Star Regional Master
Mrs AJ Woodford
6th Star Regional Master
Mrs AYW Moore
Mrs PB Moore
Mrs GN Phillips
5th Star Regional Master
Mrs M Collins
Mrs PB Massey
Mrs J Rumsey
4th Star Regional Master
Mrs LM Finch
2nd Star Tournament Master
Mrs F Ghaleb
Mrs N Gordon
2nd Star Tournament Master
Mrs C A Manley
5th Star Master
Mrs M Bather
Mrs S M Gray
Mrs E A Hennings
Mrs R J Pyart
Mrs FE Thornton
Mrs DA Winton
4th Star Master
Mrs EB Gunter

Mrs A D Taylor
3rd Star Master
Mrs RCV Bazen
Mrs A Bitan
Mrs S Kennedy
2nd Star Master
Mrs AM Bennell
Mrs D R Collick
Mrs W Griffiths
Mrs CA Helm
Mrs MA Stacey
Mrs D M Strauss
Mrs R Wolfarth
1st Star Master
Mrs N T Bloomer
Mrs JD Bosconi
Mrs AV Duddy
Mrs P Roberts
Mrs E Scott
Advanced Master
Mrs JP Clark
Mrs P C Dellar
Mrs I Dickie
Mrs W Robertson
Master
Mrs D Applegate
Mrs D T Burman
Mrs P F Gannon
Mrs CS Gray
Mrs M Haigh
Mrs RR Jackson
Mrs B Low-Beer
Mrs BC Stephens
Mrs S J Webb
County Master
Mrs J Deegenhardt
Mrs I E Gannon
Mrs M Hancock
Mrs V Hoffman
Mrs SM Lee
Mrs BC Sandell
District Master
Mrs BA Baker
Mrs H A Ford
Mrs J E Leith-Smith
Mrs CM Skimmer
Mrs E E Taylor
Mrs A Wilson
Club Master
Mrs J D Knight

Warwickshire

Premier National Master
Mrs M Crangle
Mrs T Crangle
4th Star Tournament Master
Mrs CO Morris
1st Star Tournament Master
Mrs J Illingworth
Tournament Master
Mrs D P Brett
Mrs JW Brightwell
2nd Star Master
Mrs A Conner
Mrs S Lewis
1st Star Master
Mrs JD Feanhead
Mrs BA Scholes
Advanced Master
Mrs J Morgan
Master
Mrs MC Fisher
Mrs I Fradley
Mrs M E Parle
Mrs R Parle
County Master
Mrs R E Blackwell
Mrs S Lloyd
Mrs LA Raynor
Mrs P Waddington
District Master
Mrs P Ekstein
Mrs CH Hollingdale
Mrs MA Hollingdale
Mrs FH Price
Club Master
Mrs M A Hunt
Mrs R Stacey

Westmorland

Advanced Master
Mrs A Farmer
Mrs C Farmer

Wiltshire

5th Star Master
Mrs P Wilkinson
Mrs B Wilson
2nd Star Master
Mrs MW Buck
Mrs C C Goldsmith
Mrs AF Harvey
1st Star Master
Mrs A Bellerby
District Master
Mrs N W Beswick
Club Master
Mrs E E Barwell

Worcestershire

Life Master
Mrs R Coubridge
4th Star Regional Master
Mrs J W Meiklejohn
Mrs B J Palmer
2nd Star Tournament Master
Mrs A E Hampton
Mrs M Perks
4th Star Master
Mrs N Oldmall
Mrs E W Smallwood
Mrs B Stewart
Mrs G Young
3rd Star Master
Mrs G Harrison
Mrs J Haywood
2nd Star Master
Mrs D Holman
1st Star Master

Master Points Trophy

Mr R Keates
Mr IS Lewis
Advanced Master
Mrs E Boyes
Mr B K Brice
Mr D H Horton
Master
Mr I Thompson
County Master
Mr E A Elijah
Mr C R Gamage
Mr D Tuohy
District Master
Mrs E E Maybury
Mrs D Ross-Richards
Mr D G Teague
Club Master
Mrs Andrews
Mrs M D Winter

Yorkshire

Grand Master
Mr R Pike
Premier Life Master
Mrs A Blewitt
National Master
Mrs E Wickens
10* Star Premier Regional Master
Mr IR Winterburn
7* Star Premier Regional Master
Mr H Castle
4* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs D A Rickaby
Premier Regional Master
Mr P Godfrey
1* Star Regional Master
Mr C R Harrison
Mrs J Leach
1* Star Tournament Master
Mrs E Fryer
Mr E Long
Mrs JM Whiteley
5* Star Master
Miss N J Cockerill-Smith
Mr GJ Newman
Mrs M Simpson
4* Star Master
Mr G Avery
Mrs MS Morrisroe
Mrs T Pearce
3* Star Master
Mrs VA Avery
Mrs P Bray
Mr J C Ramsey
2* Star Master
Mr MAG Bass
Dr A Cooke
Mr R R Cowland
Mr R Hudson
Mrs A Lawless
Miss M Roberts
Mr F Smith
1* Star Master
Mr M Armitage
Mrs B Brumfield
Mr JFN Howard
Mr GT Jackson
Mrs B Morrey
Advanced Master
Mr GA Ball
Mr J Barnett
Mrs G Foster
Mr JB Melville
Mr D A Miller
Mr D Morris
Mrs J Pearson
Mrs J Rodgers
Mr AS Thomasson
Mrs N Thomasson
Mr DS Wilson
Master
Mr S Hall
Ms SZ Knottentbelt
Ms S Logan
Mr PM Neep
County Master
Mrs L Armitage
Miss J B Bancroft
Mr JP Bradley
Mr MJ Collier
Mr B Gibbons
Ms J Hoyland
Mr I McKenna
Mrs H Naylor
Mr T B Tate
Mr K M Whitaker
District Master
Mrs MA Allen
Mrs B D Binns
Mr J D Burns
Mrs J Graham
Mr T Homburg
Mr M Lowings
Mr M J Peel
Mr C Tomsett
Club Master
Mr A P Allen
Mr A Atkinson
Mrs A Chapman
Mrs L Cooper
Mrs M Cress
Mr P Forster
Mrs J Garside
Mrs S Hawley
Mrs M E Jackson
Mr A Lea
Mr J A Vigor
Mr F A Watson
Mr Mr P Wells
Mrs P Whiteman
Mrs M L Wordsworth
Mr D Worrall
Mrs A Yorath
Mr M M Yorath

Camrose: 1 England 233vps, 2 Wales 205, 3 Republic of Ireland 179, 4 Scotland 158, 5 Northern Ireland 114. Third weekend: Northern Ireland 51, Scotland 39; Wales 54, Republic of Ireland 36. Fourth weekend: England 60, Wales 29; Republic of Ireland 62, Northern Ireland 28. Final weekend: England 61, Republic of Ireland 28; Wales 57, Scotland 33.

England Open Trials (final to decide the England Open team for the European championships): Paul Hackett (Staffordshire and Shropshire), John Armstrong (Merseyside and Cheshire), Danny Davies (London) and Tony Waterlow (Middlesex) 382imps, beat Tony Forrester (Staffordshire and Shropshire), Andrew Robson (Middlesex), Jason Hackett (Staffordshire and Shropshire), Justin Hackett (Staffordshire and Shropshire), David Mossop (Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and David Price (London) 379.

England Women's Trials: final result of round robin stage 1 Michelle Brunner (Manchester), Rhona Goldenfield (Manchester), Heather Dhondy (Middlesex), Nicola Smith (Middlesex), Liz Godfrey (Middlesex), Kitty Teltcher (Surrey) +150imps, 2 Chris Duckworth (London), Su Burn (London), Val Curran (North-East), Jane Moore (Suffolk) -6, 3 Sandra Penfold (Yorkshire), Sally Brock (Berkshire and Buckinghamshire), Margaret Courtney (Nottinghamshire), Nevena Senior (Nottinghamshire), Anne Rosen (Middlesex), Gillian Salt (London) -32, 4 Catherine Draper (Kent), Suzanna Gross (London), Sue Oakford (Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire), Nadia Stelashenko (Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire) -112.

Salt Lake City Exhibition of Bridge: women's event 1 France, 2 USA, 3 Netherlands, 4 Germany. Great Britain (Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield) finished seventh of the 10 contestants, beating Canada, Japan, South Africa and Netherlands, but losing to USA, China, Germany, France and Austria. Men's event 1 Canada, 2 Poland, 3 Italy, 4 Norway (Great Britain was not a participant).

Junior Camrose (under 25): 1 England (Gareth Birdsall, Ollie Burgess, Michael Byrne, Alex Morris, David Gold, Alex Hydes, npc Jason Hackett) 171vps, 2 Wales 136, 3 Scotland 130, 4 Republic of Ireland 106, 5 Northern Ireland 29.

Peggy Bayer Trophy (under 20): 1 England (John Atthey, Ben Green, Roger Brown, Greg Moss, Duncan Happer, Susan Stockdale, npc Phil King) 172vps, 2 Northern Ireland 114, equal 2 Republic of Ireland 114, 4 Scotland 100, 5 Wales 93.

National Women's Pairs: 1 Margaret Armstrong and Nanette Mcwhirter (Warwickshire) 58.8%, 2 Chris Duckworth (London) and Jane Moore (Suffolk) 56.9, 3 Pam Southon and Elizabeth Phillips (Surrey) 56.27.

National Men's Pairs: 1 Chris Jagger (Cambridgeshire and

Huntingdonshire) and Ian Pagan (Middlesex) 62.05%, 2 Jeremy Dhondy (Middlesex) and Keith Bennett (Oxfordshire) 60.81, 3 Brian Senior and David Jensen (Bedfordshire) 59.08.

National Swiss teams: 1 Philip Glanville, George Cuthbertson, Mike Amos and Peter Heatherington (Warwickshire) 192vps, 2 Sandra Penfold (Yorkshire), N Bird (London) and Brian and Nevena Senior (Nottinghamshire) 176, 3 Andrew Thompson (Middlesex), Mike Fletcher (London) and Steve Burton and Tony Clark (Kent) 175.

Ranked Masters Weekend: Grand Masters pairs 1 Michelle Brunner and John Holland (Manchester) 140imps, 2 Heather Dhondy and Ian Pagan (Middlesex) 114, 3 Peter Lee and Bob Rowlands (Surrey) 105; **Premier Life Masters pairs 1** Ralph and Andy Smith (Avon) 106, 2 Geoff Nicholas and Paul Belton (Oxfordshire) 73, 3 Steve Abley (Bedfordshire) and Francis Eddleston (Hertfordshire) 56; **Life Masters pairs 1** Paddy Murphy (Wales) and Steve Foster (Bedfordshire) 57.31%, 2 Stuart Nelson (Essex) and Nick Doe (Berkshire and Buckinghamshire) 56.59, 3 Graham Weir (Worcestershire) and Keith Shuttleworth (Staffordshire and Shropshire) 56.53; **National Masters pairs 1** Larry Coe (Leicestershire) and Bo Deval (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) 57.6, 2 A P Stone and R D Clark (Surrey) 57.24, Jim and Susan Deacon (Northamptonshire) 56.36; **Regional Masters pairs 1** Rob Helle and Darren Evetts (Warwickshire) 59.09, 2 Susan and David Moss (Middlesex) 55.59, 3 David and Jeremy Bygott (Oxfordshire) 54.81; **Master pairs 1** Dymna Kenny (Warwickshire) and John Sherringham (Wiltshire) 58.19, 2 Ben Cowling (Berkshire and Buckinghamshire) and Dave Cropper (Avon) 56.72, 3 Shirley Morrisroe (Yorkshire) and Stan Jaywood (Derbyshire) 56.48.

Cyprus Congress: Swiss pairs 1 Ruby Wissenden and Heather Parker 142vps, 2 Woitek Olanski and Damian Wronski 138, 3 Tony and Vivian Priday 136; **open pairs 1** Woitek Olanski and Damian Wronski 67.9%, 2 Bill and Joyce White 61.96, 3 Suzanne Gill and Barbara Hacker 61.88; **pivot teams red section** Enid Johnson, Pam Rogers, Margot Wilson and John Gardner 69vps, **white section** Colin and Gayle Webb, Kathy Vaile and Jenny Gray 56, **blue section** Joy Swift, Beryl House, Jennifer Flodd and Mary Selly 59; **ladies' pairs 1** Janet Latham and Heather Hobson 60.95%, 2 Avis Robertson and Pam Hirst 58.4, 3 Sandy Blunt and Brenda Garrini 57.52; **men's pairs 1** Bill Gardner and George Pilcher 59.19%, 2 Roy Garthwaite and Ted Latham 57.13, 3 Dieter Laidig and Mike Elliott 55.69; **mixed pairs 1** Ron and Lynn Heath 65.5%, 2 Phyll Norris and Gerard Britto 62.99, 3 Philip and Janet Mason 62.2; **Swiss teams 1** Roger Gowland, Shelagh Flett, Philip Mason and Janet Mason 136vps (winners on split tie), equal 1 Peter Kaufmann, David Sellman and Vivian and Tony Priday 136, 3 David Jones, Mike Elliott, Brian Dyde and Peter Sherry 135.

Tollemache final: 1 Isle of Wight

(Steve Preston, Heather Maidment, David Bird, Steve Lee, Jeremy Baker, Andy Hughes, Graham Hedley, Beryl Hedley, Dave Huggett, Steve Auchterlonie, npc Guy Lawrenson) 96vps, 2 Surrey (Peter Lee, Bob Rowlands, Ken Ford, Ian Swanson, Jeffery Allerton, Frances Hinden, Malcolm Pryor, David Muller, Jon Cooke, Martin Garvey, npc Peter Bentley) 75, 3 Gloucestershire (Ben Handley-Pritchard, John Atthey, Richard Butland, Graham Cornell, Joe Angseesing, Roger Jackson, Patrick Shields, Paul Denning, Andrew Kambites, Richard Chamberlain, npc Keith Stanley) 74, 4 Warwickshire (Michael Allen, Roger Bryant, Margaret Armstrong, Michael Amos, Phil Glanville, James Leese, Steve Wood, Michael Butler, Michael Northwood, Roger Bowles, Phillip Whitehouse, npc John Pyner) 73, 5 Lancashire (Ron Morrish, Andrew Woodcock, Mike Nicholson, Stephen Haley, Nick Woodcock, Sue Woodcock, John Morrell, Marianne Farr, Don Hilton, Robert Pickering, npc Denis Robson) 71, 6 Merseyside and Cheshire (Dave Keen, Jean Keen, Alan Stephenson, Stuart Matthews, Ted Reveley, John Armstrong, Bob Pitts, Peter Broster, Peter Garner-Gray, Andrew Prothro, npc John Drake) 67, 7 Kent (Jeremy Willans, Phil Bailey, Ian Draper, Catherine Draper, Terry Goldsmith, Gerald Soper, Gerald Tredinnick, Stuart Tredinnick, Peter Law, Denis O'Donovan, npc Pat Collins, Neil Benn) 57, 8 Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire (Catherine Jagger, Chris Jagger, David Kendrick, Jonathon Mestel, Rod Oakford, Fiske Warren, Julian Wightwick, Giles Woodruff, npc Chris Larham) 47.

Corn Cairdis: England 194vps, Republic of Ireland 166. **England counties** (Roger Amey, David Newstead, John and Julie Aspinall, Paul Breton and Mike Digney) won 66-65; **England clubs** (Roger Cortis, Adrienne La Chapel, Iris Green, Robbie Roberson and Sheila and Tony Warner) won 57-49; **England officials** (Tom Bradley, Gerard Faulkner, David Harris and Malcolm Oliver) won 71-52.

Harrogate Spring Congress: open pairs 1 Arnout Kalverda (Yorkshire) and Rom Smit (Netherlands) 62.01%, 2 Richard Jephcott and John Sansom (Worcestershire) 61.82, 3 Anthony Dwiers and Maureen Tebb (Yorkshire) 60.63; **mixed pairs 1** John Foster and Irene Rhodes (Yorkshire) 59.41%, 2 Ralph and Lesley Smith (Somerset) 59.02, 3 Janet and Ted Latham (Yorkshire) 58.85; **Swiss pairs 1** Cedric Cockcroft (Yorkshire) and Alex Hogg (Derbyshire) 75.56%, 2 Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol (Merseyside and Cheshire) 72.78, 3 Alan Oddie and Ron Davis (Bedfordshire) 71.67; **Swiss teams 1** Andrew Thompson (Middlesex), Mike Fletcher (London) and Tony Clark and Steve Burton (Kent) 82.14%, 2 Ted and Janet Latham, Roy Garthwaite and Heather Hobson (Yorkshire) 72.86, 3 Derek Markham, Alan Jarvis, Sheila Galloway and Brian Yarker (Yorkshire) 71.43.

COUNTY NEWS

Avon

The Avon county pairs championship was won by Mike Elliott and Jeremy Rickard (Mike's second win in the event) by a margin of 3% from Colin Cheek and Mike Short, with Brian Dyde and Peter Sherry third. These three pairs are invited to represent the county in the Corwen Trophy in West Bromwich at the end of May.

The Everett Cup (Bristol Bridge Club teams) was won by Richard Dunn, Duncan Cairns, Letts and Steve Tomlinson.

The county leagues have reached the mid point and in league one the team led by David Jones (Goalby, Letts and Dunn) has a useful lead. In league two it is very tight. The lead is held by Peter Tilley (Chant, Harris and Kendall), with Paul Gagne (Harris, Dando, Malam and Close) and Delia Stephens (Hurst, Brady, Samuels, Gluxon and Williams) only a whisker behind and Mike Davies (Rees, Letts, Rankin, Butler and Ogilvie) a close fourth.

In the county knockout the semi-final stage has been reached, in which David Jones (Goalby, Dunn and Letts) will play Colin Cheek (Short, Hamper, Melliush, Dyde and Sherry) – a repeat of last years final – and Robert Glass (Rickard, Elliott, Turner, Covill and Khair) will meet Andrew Smith (Cathy, Ralph and Lesley Smith).

These matches are over 48 boards.

The West of England Bridge Club pairs championship was won by Marc Lee and Angela Pullen, with Gill Davies and Mike O'Brien second and Chris Frew and Phil Seymour third.

In the Gold Cup the following Avon teams are in round two: Phil Green, Robert Glass and Tim Brierley.

In the Crockfords Cup the teams captained by Tony Ratcliff and David Jones are through to round four (the last 32).

In the NICKO the team led by Robert Glass is through to round four.

In the EBU Cyprus Congress the team of Mike Elliott, David Jones, Brian Dyde and Peter Sherry finished third in the teams, just 1 vp behind the joint winners, having led for much of the 10-round event.

Bedfordshire

www.bedfordshire-bridge-assoc.co.uk

A WARM welcome to Ron Davis, who takes over the responsibilities of county captain from Monica Lucy, following her two successful years in the post.

County players have continued to distinguish themselves nationally. Brian Keable and Ron Davis won the men's pairs at the Year End Congress in London. Other leading performances came from Monica Lucy and Steve Foster, third in the mixed pairs, followed by Alan Shillitoe and Audrey Hartley, fifth in the same event.

David Jensen and Brian Senior finished third in the National Men's Pairs, with Alan Oddie and Ron Davis three places behind. Steve Foster and David Woulds won the pairs event at Letchworth Congress.

Support for county events has been variable. Another good turnout was recorded for the inter-club teams-of-eight, with 16 tables in play

and only three teams securing a plus score! Result: 1 Milton Keynes A (Ron Davis and Lynne Emmett, Amy Cherry and Colin Porch, Philip Caves and David Kent, Anne and David Gilling), 2 Leighton Buzzard A (Bob Brown and Bob Gillett, Jon Guess and Eric Cohen, David Brown and Neil Brearley, Judi and Peter Malpass), 3 Milton Keynes B (Linda Tigwell and Bill Marsden, David Alsford and Ian Wilson, Alan and Sheila Caves, Roger Kerkin and David Pritchard). The winners will represent Bedfordshire in the Garden Cities event.

However, only nine teams contested the county Swiss event, thereby presenting movement problems. Result: 1 Ron Davis, Lynne Emmett, Jon Williams and Alan Oddie, 2 Dave Willett, Greg Ward, David Woulds and Steve Foster, 3 Linda Tigwell, Bill Marsden, Ian Wilson and Barry Dudley.

The county pairs semi-final saw 26 pairs contesting the 14 available final places and the top pair by a considerable margin was Dick Bond and Roly Wale. Second place went to David Pritchard and Roger Kerkin, with Alan Oddie and Ron Davis third.

Diary dates: April 7 county pairs final, Woburn 2pm; April 20 Amptill men's/ladies' pairs 7.30pm; April 25 Cadet pairs final, Bedford BC 7.30pm; May 2 AGM and heat of EBU simultaneous pairs, Cranfield 7pm; May 11 EBU/BBA Green Point Swiss teams, Stevenage Leisure Centre 1pm;

At the time of writing the March EBU/BBA event was selling out fast so get your entry in for May very quickly to Brian Keable on 01525-377906 or email BrianKeable@compuserve.com

The dates of the Bedford Congress have changed. It will not take place in July and is now planned for August 31 (pairs) and September 1 (Swiss teams).

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk/

SEVEN clubs took part in the David Boston simultaneous pairs annual charity event and raised £462 for Camsight, a local charity providing help for the visually impaired. Camsight was proposed as the beneficiary this year by the Thursday Club. County secretary David Carmichael presented the cheque to Camsight's Chief Executive Simon Rogers at a recent meeting of the Thursday Club.

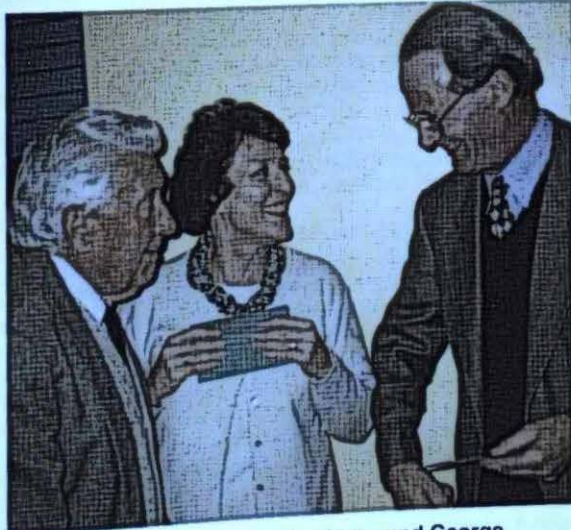
Gareth Birdsall was in the England under 25 team that won the Junior Camrose by a clear margin and which came second in the Channel Trophy. Also capped by Scotland in the former was Harold Bergson. Roger Brown was in the England under 20 side that won every match in the Peggy Bayer.

Ann Curtin and John Turner won the county pairs championship for the second time after a 10-year gap. Runners-up were Graham Dolan and Ben Tarlow, with Joanne Caldwell and Kevin Smith third.

Congratulations, too, to David Richer for winning the county individual final, Victor Milman was runner-up, with Philip Wraight, the county's hard-working tournament organiser, taking third place.

Chris Larlham (David Kendrick, Fiske Warren, Giles Woodruff) won the county's Newmarket open Swiss teams on a split tie from Peter Burrows (Myra Burrows, Ben Handley-Pritchard, Richard Probst). Third came Margaret Chaplin (Roger Chaplin, Len

BfA club takes Barbara to its heart



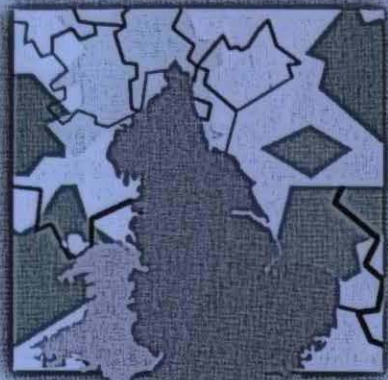
Bridge for All is thriving in Herefordshire. The Marches Bridge Club, which meets at Bartestree Village Hall, has up to 14 tables at its twice-a-week sessions. Not only do the players have a lot of fun, they also very much appreciate the effort put in by Barbara Forryan, who founded the club and has worked unstintingly to keep

presentation there were special gifts for Barbara – a Valentine token in the form of a large decorated brass heart and a bouquet of flowers. Dick Hayes is pictured handing over the Valentine token and the bouquet was presented by Jean Tuckers.

Our other photograph shows John Griffiths (right),

Rowberry and George Deacon, winners of the club's mixed pairs event. John was at the club to present the prizes. The ladies' pairs winners were Anne Sheldon and Shelagh Watts and the men's pairs winners were Peter Muller and Peter Timms.

Next big events in the club are the No Fear/Foundation teams on April 19 and the Congress on May 11



COUNTY NEWS

Scofield, Peter Somerfield). The ascender prize was won by Sheila Parker (Maxine Etkin, Rod Oakford, Sue Oakford).

The county knock-out final will be between last year's winners, Alastair Brodie (Gareth Birdsall, Don McFarlane, Sonia Zakrzewski) and challengers Jonathan Mestel (Rod Oakford, Sheila Parker, Steve Siklos). There was a shock earlier in the competition when Bryan Last (David Allen, Kiki Allen, Peter Last) comfortably beat a strong team captained by Chris Jagger.

Camb and Hunts, (represented this year by Roger Gibbons, Catherine Jagger, Chris Jagger, David Kendrick, Chris Larlham (npc), Jonathan Mestel, Rod Oakford, Fiske Warren, John Young) qualified for the Tollemache final for the fifth time in seven years, fracturing only one partnership in the process. Unfortunately, a rearranged team (with Julian Wightwick and Giles Woodruff added and Roger Gibbons and John Young absent) came last in the final.

John Young has recently married Linda and is planning to emigrate and live in the United States. Congratulations and good luck! John recently captained the England Camrose team to a convincing win over Northern Ireland.

Chris Jagger and Ian Pagan won the National Men's Pairs.

Gareth and Sonia Zakrzewski were runners-up in the mixed pairs at the Year End Congress.

Channel Islands

BOTH Jersey and Guernsey, as independent islands in their own right, have been invited by the EBU to take part in the spirit of friendship bridge festival in Manchester, to be held in July immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games.

The two islands each send sporting teams to the Commonwealth Games itself and will therefore be delighted to take part in this prestigious event.

The Guernsey team will consist of Margaret Allen, Jill Morgan, Mike Allen, Andy Hall, Dick Langham and Rudi Falla, while the Jersey team will comprise David Hole (captain), Douglas Romain, David Friswell, Sue Rankin, Carl Harrison, Marion Miles and reserve Cathy Hepburn. We wish them every success in a tournament which we are sure will foster the game of bridge throughout the community.

In Guernsey the Sigma Trophy, contested by 32 pairs, was won convincingly by Jersey's Marion Miles and Cathy Hepburn, with Pat Merriman and Guernsey's Ian Monaghan runners-up. This is the third time in recent years that Marion and Cathy have won this tournament, which always attracts a strong field.

Guernsey's district mixed pairs was won by Dick Langham and Brenda Walker, closely pursued by Mike and Margaret Allen and Ian Monaghan and Pat Merriman. Guernsey Island

Bridge Club's own open pairs championship saw Brenda Walker winning again, this time with Brenda Lihou. Filling the minor placings were Mike Allen and Colin Tostevin and Sean Gilpin and Lynne Williamson.

Guernsey district open pairs saw Pat Merriman and Ian Monaghan take first place, with Margaret Allen and Robert Plumley second and Lynda Mildon and Colin Tostevin third.

In Jersey the winter 'cup' was concluded. This is an event in which every contestant has to play with a different partner each month right through the winter, with the five best scores counting. By its nature it gives a good indication of all round ability and it is no surprise that Carl Harrison and Sue Rankin came out on top, their experience and skill showing through. It was pleasing to see the next three places taken by Gwyneth Fauval, Sue Griffiths and Norman le Cocq; all three showing steady play throughout the year.

Also in Jersey the district league teams event was completed. Two teams had an equal number of victories, but on count back of points the winners were Kay Johns, Sue Rankin, Maureen Nelson and Gill Hall, with the runners-up Marion Miles, Cathy Hepburn, Meredith Case, Howard Basden-Smith and David Hole. Third place went to Marion and Malcolm Coles, Mary Houghton and Peter Evans.

The ever improving and consistent Sarah Sutton and Sue Le Sueur achieved a highly satisfactory equal first with the experienced Maureen Nelson and Gill Hall in Jersey district ladies' pairs. Third place went to Audrey Moore and Anne Burnett.

The Jersey district men's pairs brought a clear win for David Hole and David Friswell, a duo that regularly leads the way. Ken Wise and Peter Pitcher were second, with Harold Walden and Mike Newman third.

The final item of news is a sad one – the death of one of Jersey's longest serving and hardest working members of the bridge fraternity. Percy Hembest has over the years been instrumental in keeping bridge alive in the Channel Islands, not only playing to a high standard, but working extremely hard as tournament director, scorer and the holder of many positions in the district and county associations, including an extended term as the long-suffering secretary. He was always ready to play with aspiring youngsters and give the benefit of his extensive bridge knowledge to help promote the game.

Men of Percy's character do not come along very often and he will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his two daughters, family and many friends.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freeseerve.co.uk

THE county association sponsored a very successful weekend seminar with Brian Senior, which was attended by 68 members over the two days. Topics dealt with included elimination plays, defence, discards and signals, total trick count and fit jumps. Parts of the brain were reached which hadn't been used for years! If only half we learned is employed in the future we should all see the benefits in our club and county results! Those attending hoped that the county would arrange more such events in the future.

As a result of the courses held by Jim Barker and Rod Bell congratulations go to the following members who were successful in gaining their club director's certificates: R Alway, R Bliss, B Colvin, R Harrison, P Hyde-Linaker, Mrs A James, Mrs J Martin, A Mundy, P Polden, Mrs M Quigley, B Relton, D Voller and D Wilman.

County results: Star Masters 1 Mr and Mrs M Kelsey, 2 Mrs V Pitman and H Payne, 3 Mrs P Meade and Mrs R Harvey; Falmouth Salver 1 D Griffiths and N Grenfell, 2 Mr and Mrs K Keast,

3 W Ber and G Buck; teams of four 1 M Booth, C Pote, Mrs P Meade and Mrs R Harvey, 2 W Heaton, J Bryant and Mr and Mrs K Keast, 3 R Mabley, B Benfield, Mrs J Congdon and Mrs S Green; Tredova Cup 1 Mrs B Truswell and D Burnett, 2 A Mundy and Mrs C Fielding-Brown, 3 J Hodson-Walker and A Fitness; Ryley King ladies' pairs 1 Mrs L Ashworth and Mrs M Barr-Hall, 2 Mrs R Harvey and Mrs P Meade, 3 Mrs M Warner and Mrs M Robson, equal 3 Mrs W Brown and Mrs M Falconar; Hilda Higman men's pairs 1 W Heaton and J Bryant, 2 B Benfield and H Jackson, 3 S F Collings and B Edwards.

Penventon Swiss pairs: 1 Mrs J Congdon and B Benfield, 2 Mrs J Fitness and H Payne, 3 B Cuff and D Mattos, equal 3 Mrs W Brown and Mrs M Falconar.

The Cornwall Teams of Four Knock-out Competition has reached the semi-final stage. J Barker (Mrs F Barker, Mrs S John and R Bliss) will play K Keast (Mrs K Keast, Mr and Mrs ATM Jones), and Mrs M Warner (Mrs J Heath, W Heaton and J Bryant) will play Mrs L Ashworth (Mrs J Justice, D Voller and Mrs M Barr-Hall).

Diary dates: April 26-28 Cornwall Friendly Congress, Headlands Hotel, Newquay – visitors always welcome (Contact John King for an entry form on 01208 815212); May 5 County AGM and individual competition, Farmers Club, Truro 2pm (Please come along and support your county committee).

Cumbria

INTER-club teams of eight: 1 Barrow, 2 Keswick, 3 Carlisle (Eden). This result means Barrow qualify to represent Cumbria in the Garden Cities inter-counties event. Congratulations to them.

The Golden Jubilee simultaneous pairs was held at four centres and helped our 50th birthday celebrations to go with a swing. All competitors received a commemorative pen and there were numerous prizes and a festive buffet, with drinks at the three main venues.

Section winners were: Workington N/S 1 Tony Parker and John Cottam, 2 John MacLachlan and Dorothy Heron, E/W 1 Alison Thompson and Alan Rutherford, 2 Ron Stephenson and Hilary Addison; Barrow (Howell) 1 David Strawbridge and Babs Matthews, 2 Linda Murray and Jean Pike, 3 Jack Etchells and Bill Hubbard; Grange 1 Mary Cooney and Alma Parkinson, equal 1 Geoff Maskall and Alison Woodburne, 3 Dick Currie and Betty Limb, 4 Dick and Sue Courchee; Carlisle (red) N/S 1 Mike Ash and Jeff Brown 2 Ken Anderson and Rosemary Jackson, E/W 1 Sylvia Rogerson and Brenda Bullamore, 2 Dennis Harrison and Donald Hartley; Carlisle (yellow) N/S 1 Mike Dunston and Janet Sheppard, 2 Geoff and Anne Stott, E/W 1 Geoff and Kathleen Bell, 2 Ralph Mellor and Marjorie Swan; overall top pairs 1 Mike Ash and Geoff Brown, 2 Babs Matthews and David Strawbridge, 3 Geoff and Kathleen Bell.

County pairs championship (Corwen qualifier): 1 Ken Johnston and Ian Reeves, 2 Mike Ash and Trevor Duddle, 3 David Strawbridge and Babs Matthews.

Congratulations to Nicole Rhodes and Chloe Wright of Flookburgh Primary School, who came third nationally in the Schools Simultaneous Pairs for MiniBridge with a splendid 64.39%.

Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE county pairs: 1 Don Smedley and John Griffin, 2 David and Mary Marshall, 3 Jim Tomlinson and John Walton, 4 Howard Morton and Martin Brailsford, 5 Paul Dargan and John Cooper.

In the final county match of the season, at home to Worcestershire, the first team lost 7-13,

the second team lost 5-15 and the third team lost 9-11. The first team finished a creditable second in the Dawes league, but the second and third teams finished in the lower half of their leagues.

Sadly we have to report the death of Betty Harvey, aged 71. Betty was president of the Derbyshire BCA in 1997, but her main contribution to bridge in the county was as secretary of Derby Bridge Club, a position she occupied for 40 years. Always cheery and friendly, she will be sadly missed.

Devon

www.dccba.com

TONY Terrett, one of the best-known players in the Westcountry, has died aged 72. He had just returned from Madeira, where he had taken his wife Meg to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Tony, a talented player with a strong table presence, was taught to play bridge as a child by his mother and while still a young man achieved success in the National Pairs.

He won a scholarship to Cambridge and later entered into a career in the tobacco industry, mostly in Africa. He retired in his early fifties when his first wife, Jill, was diagnosed with cancer. It was then that he moved to Devon and quickly established himself as a leading player, winning most of the county competitions. He was also an influential figure on county committees and at many local clubs.

Although he was a formidable opponent his partners regarded him with affection. 'He was kind, generous and full of fun,' said one. Tony will be much missed on the bridge scene in Devon.

John Woolcott Weekend: pairs 1 W and L Solomon, 2 J Swift and J Flood, 3 M Baser and I Hopkins; Swiss teams 1 W and L Solomon, P Bowles and R Slape, 2 T Avery, E Boucher and Mr and Mrs J Appleby, 3 R Edmondson, B McElroy and Mr and Mrs K Slea.

The teams of eight competition attracted nine entries, which was pleasing for the county, although it is hoped there will be even more next year. The outcome was nail-bitingly close, with just one vp separating the three leading teams. It was the Exeter team of W and L Solomon, K and A Slea, A and J Bailey, P Bowles and R Slape that snatched the victory and will go on to represent Devon in the inter-counties contest for the Garden Cities Trophy. Placed second were Plymstock's R Edmondson, B McElroy, J Thomas, K Gadd, P Meade, R Harvey, T McGrenary and T Hirst, with Exeter's R and M Mardlin, G and B Fogg, P Palmer, A Humphries, J Edwards and R Stevens in third spot.

Southern Petit Congress at Torquay BC: South West pairs 1 G and N White, 2 R Andrews and T Glenday, 3 W and I Hamilton; Ali Khan 1 J Harriman and J Vajda, 2 M Lancaster and E Griffith; Graphic Cup 1 M Hamon, S Lindfors, J Grant and R Jones, 2 K and A Slea, P Bowles and R Slape, 3 R and M Mardlin and G and B Fogg.

In round two of the *Western Morning News* competition Slea beat D Clarke, Solomon beat Terrett, Thomas beat Waterman, Barton beat Rogers, Harriman beat Edmondson (the holders), Palmer beat Glaskin, Hamon beat Lamb and White beat G Clark.

One more league match has been played. Against Dorset the Devon A team of W and L Solomon, T Cannon and T McDermott won 13-7. The B team of A Beard, D Gilbert, R Levy and J Penny lost 1-19. Congratulations to the A team on being the first to inflict defeat on a Dorset A South West League team in 17 matches.

Diary dates: April 13-14 Torquay Congress, Kistor Hotel (pairs Saturday, Green Point Swiss teams Sunday); June 16 One-day Green Point Swiss teams, Riverside Leisure Centre, Exe

for both events. Call Peter Bowles on 01803 390621 if any problems.

Dorset

THE Dorset Swiss teams championship for the Frost Rose Bowl, held at Bashley, was won by Miles Cowling, Daphne Philips, Martin Brook and Helen Ackroyd (WBC), with Patrick Cheu, Anne Sharples, Mike Organ and Jo Walch (WBC) second and Roland Oddy, Martin Hill-Jones, Deborah Berwitz and Mark Hooper (WBC) third.

The Dorset pairs championship for the Knight Cup, held at Poole, brought victory for Miles Cowling and Daphne Philips (WBC). Second place went to Patrick Cheu and Doris Hutchinson (WBC) and third to Gene Hill and Jan Green (WYM). Also at Poole was the consolation pairs and this was won by Helen Ackroyd and Martin Brook (WBC), with Deborah Berwitz and Mark Hooper (WBC) second and Reg Marshall and Gordon Barthorpe (WBC) third.

In the final of the Dorset knockout teams event Miles Cowling, Daphne Philips, Keith Bartlett, Barrie Cantello and Bob Mott beat Roland Oddy, Angela Walters, Ray Corrick and Dick Grew and now go on to represent the county in the Pachabo.

Diary dates: April 7,14,28 and May 5,26 Open Swiss teams at Wessex Bridge Centre (EBU licensed congress events); April 21 County AGM and Dorset Swiss teams championship for the Gee Trophy, Wimborne; May 19 Dorset Swiss teams for the Udall Trophy, WBC. For Dorset events contact Jim Barlow 01202 429268 or Terry Udall (WBC) 01202 760934.

Essex

Essexbridge.co.uk

IN the Year End Congress in London a modicum of success was achieved in the mixed pairs by Alan Shillitoe and Audrey Hartley (5th) and Sandy and Martin Smith (7th). In the Swiss teams, against stiff opposition, Bob Hair, Paul Spencer, Marc Chawner and Phil King did well to finish third, with Peter Oake, Ray Cornell, David Clark and Alan Green not far behind in ninth.

In the Ladies National Pairs Beryl Kerr and Rachel Bingham (London) did well to finish fourth against a strong field.

Congratulations to Tony Philpott for attaining the level of Grand Master.

The Helliar Trophy, one of our major teams competitions, is open to clubs, who are invited to enter one or more teams of four. This competition is also used to select Garden Cities representation. Result: 1 Hutton (George Phipps, Rob Allen, John Sutcliffe and Margaret Curtis), 2 Mountnessing (Aleric Cundy, Nigel Cundy and Jill and Roger Tattersfield), 3 Chelmsford (Audrey Hartley, Alison Spencer, David Cooper and Steve Cade-Bowyer). Mountnessing had the two highest-placed teams and will represent Essex in the Garden Cities Trophy later in the year.

South Woodham Ferrers Congress: Swiss pairs 1 Nevena Senior and Sandra Penfold, 2 pairs 1 David Piper and Albert Kitchin, 3 Steve Cade-Bowyer and David Cooper, leading non-Cade-Bowyer and Henry Harris; Swiss experts David Horslen and Mike Bugg, Mike teams 1 Ivor McLauchlan, Rosina Bugg, Mike Warner and Di Warner, 2 Alison Spencer, Paul Warner, David Baker and Marc Chawner, Spencer, David Clark, Alan Green, Ian Green and equal 2 David Clark, Alan Green, Len Alan Shillitoe, ascenders' prize Tom Fox, Len Williams, Roger Bright and Alan Lynam. The Rob Barker Trophy for the best performance over the two days went to Nevena Senior and Sandra Penfold.

The Essex non-expert pairs championship, which incorporates the heat for the National Newcomers competition, was well attended. Result: 1 Dennis Cook and Del Smith, 2 Poppy

Dartnell and Mary Bird, 3 Michael Braithwaite and Ian Miller. Eleven pairs qualified for the regional final.

Essex now holds only one heat of the National Pairs competition. Result: 1 Joan Curley and Tessa Beer, 2 Val and Paul Mollison, 3 Martin Smith and David Embleton. Eight pairs qualified for the regional final.

Essex Swiss pairs: 1 David Sherman and Margaret Curtis, 2 Albert and Carol Brown, Sid Cardy and Rob Elliott.

Diary dates: April 7 George Curtis Swiss teams, Newland Springs Community Centre, Chelmsford 2.15pm; April 14 Collier Row BC Swiss teams; April 14 Essex novice pairs, Hedley Walter High School, Brentwood 3pm; April 21 Essex pairs championship, Stock Village Hall 2.15pm; May 12 Essex CBA Annual General Meeting, Hedley Walter High School, 4pm. After the meeting there will be a cheese and wine buffet followed by a friendly game of teams of four. Mostly teams are made up on the day.

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk

RECENT results: Individual 1 Joe Angseesing, equal 2 Val Constable and Nigel Hayman; Swiss pairs 1 Paul Denning and Tony Hill, 2 Graham Sadie and Patrick Shields.

Congratulations to Derek Rue and Alan Sanis, who won the pairs competition at the Year End Congress in Blackpool and to Ben Handley-Pritchard, who came second in the pairs competition at the Year End Congress in London; also to Ruby Wissenden and Heather Parker for winning the pairs competition at the Cyprus Congress.

The Gloucestershire Tollemache team of Joe Angseesing and Roger Jackson, Paul Denning and Patrick Shields, John Atthey and Ben Handley-Pritchard, Richard Chamberlain and Andrew Kambites, Richard Butland and Graham Cornell, with Keith Stanley as NPC, came third in the Tollemache final to win the bronze medal. They were the only team to beat the winners (Hants and IOW) and were only one VP behind the silver medallists (Surrey). Well done, particularly to the junior pair, of which John Atthey is thought to be the youngest ever competitor in the Tollemache final.

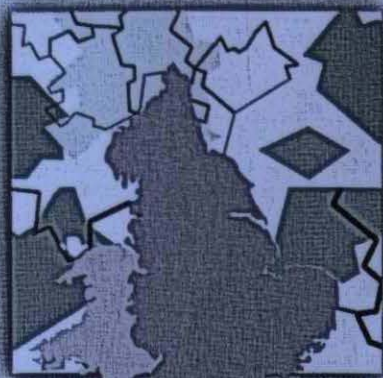
Diary dates (Please put these dates in your diaries now): May 3-5 Cheltenham Congress; September 28 Gloucestershire one-day Green Point event.

Hants and Isle of Wight

www.hantsbridge.org

CONGRATULATIONS to our team for winning the inter-counties Tollemache Cup. The final round was a gruelling two days and after starting well the team played impressively and lost only one match throughout. The team was Jeremy Baker and Andy Hughes, Steve Preston and Heather Maidment, Berry and Graham Hedley, Steve Auchterlonie and Dave Huggett, David Bird and Steve Lee. Also Brian Anderson and John Shergold played in the qualifying first round, with Guy Lawrenson non-playing captain throughout.

County competitions: Yuletide mini Swiss teams 1 J Baker, D Huggett, A Bennett and J Shortman, 2 K Bennett, Mrs H Kinloch, S Tearle and Mrs T Adams, 3 M Fithyan, S Burnett, B Taylor and Mrs H Maidment; pivot teams 1 Mrs R Pinches, Mrs E Rice, Mrs P Serby and J Wray, 2 K Palmer, D Haque, B Stapleton and Mrs C Carter, 3 Mrs M Rudd, D Byron, M Nurmohamed and J Jones; Mid-winter mini Swiss teams 1 D Spencer, Mrs R Spencer, I Fearson and Mrs C Fearson, 2 K Palmer, Mrs C Palmer, B Stapleton and Mrs C Carter, 3 D Thackaberry, Mrs M Thackaberry, C Webb and Mrs G Webb; Lincoln mixed pairs 1 B Johnson



COUNTY NEWS

and Mrs G Dalton, 2 R Ray and Mrs C Ray, 3D Spencer and Mrs R Spencer; Candlestick open pairs 1 M Fithyan and S Burnett, 2 D Hale and Mrs C Ray, 3 J Baker and J Guiton.

Diary dates: April 6 Petersfield Swiss teams (Entries to Jill Wright 02392 785248); April 14 men's/ladies' teams; April 21 Pottage final 1pm/Farley Trophy pairs 1.30pm; April 28 Philip Graham Swiss teams; May 12 EBU Swiss teams, Winchester (entries and information 0118 9814951); May 12 U3A seniors mini Swiss teams, Romsey (entries to Mike Thresher 01256 476896); May 19 Hillhead mini Swiss teams.

Unless otherwise stated the above events will be at Romsey, starting at 2pm. Entries to Kathy Vaile: kathyvaile@lineone.net Tel 01590 679673.

Herefordshire

herefordshirebridge.com

THE Herefordshire committee and affiliated bridge clubs have for some time been involved in redrawing the association's constitution. Man in charge of the operation is county treasurer Mike Ralph, who noticed that because of changes over the years quite a few appointments and activities were not covered by the constitution drawn up when the association was formed more than a decade ago. Having raised the issue at committee he volunteered to re-draft the document and consult with the EBU on finer points. The final draft is now ready for approval thanks to Mike's hard work.

Says county secretary Ted Dutton: 'The constitution is something one tends to take for granted until a point arises which makes it necessary to look up the rules of procedure. It's surprising the number of activities and appointments not covered when you look into it. I suspect many other counties would find a similar situation. There could be an argument for the EBU to circulate a draft constitution for counties to compare with their own and see that they are up to date.'

'Certainly we owe a great deal to Mike for working through our constitution draft by draft to try to make sure everything is covered.'

John Thacker, Herefordshire's bridge development officer and county captain, has announced his intention to stand down in the near future as he is changing his employers and cannot guarantee being available for duty. John has been much involved in running training seminars and trying to improve the performance of the county team. His resignation provides an opportunity for the county to re-examine its policies for training and team building.

To increase the use of the county's laptop computer for scoring at matches etc, the committee is considering offering computer training for volunteers to run the programmes.

Sun Valley Bowl (teams of four): 1 Marjorie Archer, Greta Dallimore and Sue and Derek Munday, 2 Gisela Ogden, Ben Britton, Pat Jenkins and Phil Gough, 3 Janet Holder, June Homes, Kate Neale and Maggie Price.

Hertfordshire

come.to/hertsbridge

THE next meeting of the forum for club organisers and tournament directors will be held on May 31 at the Bridge Centre, Gosling Sports Stadium, Welwyn Garden City (7.30pm). The HBA has arranged the forum for the benefit of those responsible for organising and directing club tournaments, giving them the opportunity to share experiences and seek advice on matters of common interest. Previous meetings have included practical simulations at the table and presentation of problems encountered by members. There are ongoing considerations of such matters as suitable ethical behaviour in club meetings, arrow switching, bias in pairs competitions, movements for teams and aids to smooth running of club competitions. The meeting is open to all and there is no charge. Those interested in attending are asked to notify Gerald Everitt on 01438 832398 or by email at G.D.Everitt@herts.ac.uk

Championship pairs semi-final: 1 Tara and Stan Harding, 2 Celia and Derek Oram, 3 Sonia Griffiths and Tim Dean, 4 June Ball and Paul Jones. The first 24 pairs qualify for the final and they will have been notified. All pre-entry forms for the final, to be held on April 21, must be sent to Mike Minting no later than April 6.

Humble Cup: quarter-finals Button beat Peers 95-71, Ball beat Pye 90-36,

Harding beat Spruce 53-43 and Basse beat Anidjar-Romain 88-33; semi-finals Basse beat Ball 90-71, Button beat Harding 76-55. The final will be arranged privately between the Basse and Button teams.

Herts simultaneous pairs: 1 Anne Flockhart and Roger Gibbons, 2 Celia and Derek Oram, 3 Harry Sille and Bill Gordon.

Herts seniors pairs: 1 Julie Snell and John Horsley, 2 Jane and Ian Osborn, 3 Bill Gordon and John Hunter.

Diary dates: April 7 Desmond Flockhart Trophy for club teams of eight, Bridge Centre, Welwyn Garden City 1pm (the winners of this competition will represent the county in The Garden Cities regional finals - contact your club secretary for entry details); April 12 Cadet teams, Bridge Centre, Welwyn Garden City 7.30pm (this is a teams event for players ranked below County Master); April 21 Championship pairs final, Bridge Centre, Welwyn Garden City 1pm (Pre-entry by appropriate form to Mike Minting); May 19 the not-to-be-missed AGM followed by county mixed teams, Greenwood Park 3pm (this includes a cheese and wine buffet and is a really good event. Please do support it).

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk

A BELATED well done to Alan and Val Gill for coming third for the second year running in the Gold Cup Congress championship pairs in Peebles. The Year End Swiss teams in London was won by Catherine and Ian Draper, playing with Anne and Neil Rosen, they finished 13 vps ahead of the team in second place.

Steve Burton and Tony Clark came third out of 104 teams in the National Swiss Teams Congress in Leeds, playing with Andrew Thompson (Middlesex) and Mike Fletcher (London). The same team was in even better form at Harrogate, beating 89 other teams to come first in the Swiss teams competition with 82.14%, nearly 10% clear of the rest of the field.

Rachel Bingham came fourth in the National Women's Pairs playing with Beryl Kerr. Bill Gardner won the men's pairs in Cyprus playing with George Pilcher.

Kent was well represented at the Croydon Congress, with Phil Bailey and Mark Howarth winning the championship pairs and coming second in the Swiss teams with Barbara Howarth and Mark Stickings. Barbara featured again in the consolation pairs playing with Anne Catchpole, where they were joint third with Tim Lloyd-Williams and Malcolm McBain. Sue Starkey and Sue Walsh won the open pairs.

Results: Hunter Homines 1 Paul Crosswell and Gavin Mackay, 2 Michael Prior and Vic Brozdowski; Fleming Femina 1 Christine Kempton and Barbara Howarth, 2 Eve Thrush and Marjorie Ashley; Birkle Bowl 1 Don and Ann Mitchell, Brian and Pat Crack, 2 Eve Thrush, Marjorie Ashley, Doris Leonard and Audrey Clarke.

Diary dates: May 4 Tunbridge Wells Swiss teams; June 9 George Griffiths (seniors pairs) Tunbridge Wells; June 23 Pilgrim BC Swiss pairs; June 30 Hythe Festival Swiss pairs.

Please email event results or anything you think should be included in this column to LizBlande@aol.com Thank you.

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk

PAUL EVANS, the Lancashire CBA chairman, has suffered a heart attack, but appears well on the way to recovery as he has been placed in both the LCBA championship pairs and LCBA Butler pairs.

The Lancashire team performed creditably in its first Tollemache Trophy final by finishing fifth, only four victory points behind the runners-up, Surrey, but well behind the winners, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Congratulations go to the team and non-playing captain, Denis Robson.

LCBA championship pairs: 1 Marjorie Knowles and Christine Jones, 2 Colin Mitchell and Bill Alston, 3 Andrew Woodcock and Hector Barker, 4 Paul Evans and Alan Whittam.

Lancashire Evening Post pairs: 1 Geoff Conan and Chris Wentworth, 2 Nick and Sue Woodcock, 3 Keith Boulton and Nigel Pearce.

LCBA teams of eight: 1 Poulton (Halliwell), 2 Southport, 3 Blackburn.

Doyle Cup, Southport: 1 Tracy Capal, Ollie Burgess, Edward Levy and Michael Byrne, 2 David Adelman, Steve Capal, Alan Purdy and Adrian Kenworthy, 3 Jeff Smith, Jackie Pye, Mark Halliwell and Mike Ardron.

LCBA Butler pairs: 1 Barbara Forsyth and John Sharrock, 2 Alan and Barbara Sims, 3 Alan Whittam and Paul Evans.

Diary dates: April 5-7 WBU Spring Congress, Llandudno; April 14 Gazette and Herald Trophy (teams), Gazette Bridge Club, Blackpool; April 21 Madeline Berney Swiss pairs, Southport Bridge Club; April 28 Bury Spring Teams, Bury Athenaeum; May 5 Witham Trophy Swiss teams, Lancaster Bridge Club; May 11-12 Green Point events, Risley; May 19 Blackburn Swiss pairs, Blackburn Bridge Club; June 3 Bolton Swiss teams, Bolton Bridge Club.

Leicestershire

bridge4.demon.co.uk

IT is pleasing to be able to report further successes for the Loughborough Endowed Schools' junior internationals. First two of the three pairs forming the winning England under 20 team in the Channel Trophy held in Ostend were alumnae Susan Stockdale (now at Oxford University) and Duncan Happer (now Loughborough University) and present pupils Jonathan de Souza and Paul Wilson, who are the current national under 19 pairs champions. For good measure staff member Mel Starkings captained the team. Subsequently Duncan and Susan were members of the England under 20 team that won the Peggy Bayer Trophy. In

addition old boys Ieuan and Kelvin Ward represented Wales in the Junior Camrose (under 26) event.

The Buckby Cup (men's pairs) was won for the seventh time (the first was in 1974) by the father and son combination of Arthur and Paul Bowyer. Larry Coe and Adrian Fisher were second and Phil Bennett and Dennis Yates third. The non-expert prize went to ninth-placed Steve Foster and John Lawson.

The Olga Cup (ladies' pairs) result: 1 Val Challands and Pat Simpson, 2 Irene Krantz and Angela Sollofe, 3 Christine Jones and Anne Moncrief. The non-expert prize was won by Eileen Cooper and Joan Johnson.

Butterworth Trophy: 1 Jean Wightman, David Fletcher, Robert Northage and David F Pollard, 2 Mike Deakin, Mike O'Donnell, Paul Statham and Chris Saunders, 3 Dave Coble, Phil Holdsworth, Mike Stevens and Ken Moore.

Stanley Trophy heat five: N/S Robert Northage and David Pollard +23, David Green and Gary Duddle +19; E/W Hugh Cairns and Geoff Shaw +37, Jim Mason and Dick Pathan +31. With just two rounds to play Cairns and Shaw (123) are the only pair with a realistic chance of catching leaders Alan Langley and Dick Pathan (166).

Loughborough Twin Towns Congress: 1 Hugh Cairns, Geoff Shaw, Jim Taylor and Harry Gordon, 2 Ian Woodward, Judy Hulland, Robert Missenden and Bob Sneddon.

National Pairs qualifiers for the regional heat: Alan Langley and Dick Pathan, John Beattie and Dick Bell, Peter and Helen Greenfield, Tim Glover and Peter Neville, Peter White and Bharat, Duncan Happer and Tony Kitson. In addition the following have qualified in the National Newcomers Pairs: Chris and Charlotte Quarmby, Duncan and Edward Jones and Bingyuan Yang and Songtao Ye.

Midland Counties League: Against Warwickshire the first team won 16-4, the second team lost 1-19 and the third team won 20-0; against Staffordshire & Shropshire the first team won 17-3, the second team won 15-5 and the third team lost 6-14. There was a major disappointment when the hitherto undefeated third team lost, allowing Gloucestershire to overtake them and became the inaugural winners of the Markham Trophy by just one point.

Diary Dates: April 7 Hyman Crammer Memorial Trophy, Leicester Bridge Centre (CEN); April 14 Joyce Cup, CEN; April 17 Amateur pairs, Barkby BC; April 24 George Taylor Memorial simultaneous pairs at all major clubs; April 28 Gimson Trophy finals, CEN; May 1 Jones handicap pairs, CEN; May 2 league meeting at Loughborough Grammar School (LGS); May 8 Midland Schools League, LGS; May 19 Gillian Jones charity Swiss teams, LGS; May 2 Stanley Trophy heat seven, CEN; May 29 LCBA Annual General Meeting, trophy and prize presentations, CEN.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to the almost exclusively London team of David Burn and Brian Callaghan, Tony Friday and Nick Sandqvist, David Gold and Tom Townsend, who beat Wales in their Camrose match to help England in the effort to win the series. Brian also starred in the England team that won the NEC Cup in Japan in early February and he heads the list of London players who did well in the Year End Congress. He won the Swiss pairs playing with David Burn and the mixed pairs playing with Chris Duckworth. Other good results there were from Richard Probst, second in the Swiss pairs, Anne Catchpole and Catherine Curtis, second in the ladies' pairs, Phil King, third in the A flight Swiss teams, Dom Goodwin, Richard Johnson, Karen Goodier and Jonathan Jacobs, second in the B flight Swiss teams, Nick

Parish, Martin Taylor and James Mates, third in the B flight Swiss teams, and Geoff Lederman and Glyn Liggins, third in the open pairs; not forgetting Jack Stocken, who played in the Blackpool Year End Congress and won the mixed pairs with his mother.

Well done, too, to Nigel Bird and Mike Fletcher for achieving second and third place respectively in the National Swiss Teams Congress, Chris Duckworth for coming second in the National women's pairs, Tony and Vivian Priday for coming first equal in the Swiss teams and third in the Swiss pairs in the Cyprus Congress and Mike Fletcher for winning the Swiss teams at the Harrogate Congress.

County results: Palmer Bayer Trophy 1 Gerald James and Tom Gunn, 2 Peter Donovan and Caroline Gunn, 3 Jason Crampton and Sam Oestreicher, 4 Lotti Masterson and Geoff Hammersley; Junior inter-county teams under 25 1 London A (Ryan Stephenson, Charles Leong, Harriet Dingler, Liz Clery), 2 Ireland (Sunil Bavalias, Ronan McMaugh, Stephen O'Boyle, Brian Ramberg, Orla Walsh), 3 London B (David Cheng, Kai Seng Eng, Hang Chen, Marianne Fonhome); Junior inter-county teams under 19 1 Avon (Catherine Evans, Jonny Sharp, Sarah Pinchbeck, Alan Jones), 2 London A (Mathew Rogers, Mark Aldham, David Rogers, Tim Grundy), 3 London B (Alice Kay, Nicola Macdougall, James Backer, J J Wilks); London Championship pairs main final 1 Susanna Gross and Unal Durmus, 2 David Martin and Simon Cocheme, 3 Leila Ziyal and Esmond Bevan, 4 Nigel Freake and Anne Catchpole; London Championship pairs consolation event 1 Stephen Popham and Christopher Whitehouse, 2 Danny Roth and Nobuko Matsumura, 3 Ross Harper and Victor Silverstone.

Diary dates: April 4 Garden Cities heat, YCBC 7pm (Chris Duckworth 020 7385 3534); April 21 Seniors pairs for the Fox Shammon Trophy, Queen's Club 1pm (Steve Eginton 01628 780862); May 12 Green Point Swiss teams, University of Greenwich 1pm (Roger Morton 020 8643 4930); May 19 Bridge for All day, YCBC 2pm (Gerald James 020 8691 3835); June 2 London Trophy final (spectator event), Queens Club (Cecil Leighton 020 8500 0700); June 20 Annual General Meeting, YCBC 7pm.

Manchester

www.mcba.co.uk

MANCHESTER CBA's annual congress was once again a huge success. Held in the luxurious Renaissance Hotel in the city centre, the main pairs event, held over two sessions on the

Saturday, was won by MCBA Chairman Eve Lighthill, playing with regular partner Sid Travers. Runners up were Bernard Goldenfield and John Holland.

The teams on Sunday was a delight to play in, with the multiple teams format and barometer scoring final. The favourites, John Holland, Bill Hirst, John Hassett and Michelle Brunner ended up convincing winners, 12vps clear of runners-up Adrian Kenworthy, Mike Goldsmith, Howard Melbourne and Andy Hirst (Bill Hirst's son!).

The consolation final was won by Dave Debbage, Margaret Pitts, Dave Audley and Bob Pitts.

The Annual General Meeting of the association will take place at Manchester Bridge Club on 18th at 7.30pm. All members are welcome. The main items on the agenda concern changes to the league and Roy Higson Cup competitions.

Subscriptions for 2002-3 are due on April 1 and the rates are: club affiliation fee £24 (EBU £17, MCBA £7), existing members renewing £18.50 (EBU £14, MCBA £4.50), associate members (who join the EBU through another county) £4.50, under 25s) £4 (EBU £4, MCBA nil), under-17s £1 (EBU £1, MCBA nil). Payments should be made to the Membership Secretary, Bernard Kaye, at 3 Haslam Court, 68 Singleton Road, Salford M7 4LG.

Winners of the inter-club team of eight (Gazette Cup) were Cheadle Hulme BC (Jeff Smith, Royce Alexander, Pauline Lang, Malcolm Robinson, Joyce and Peter Hishmurch, Derek Gray and Mary Costagliola). Eight teams took part and the winners will represent Manchester in the Garden Cities event.

Paul, Jason and Justin Hackett are to represent England in the Europeans this summer after Paul Hackett's team narrowly defeated Jason and Justin in the final weekend of trials. As Paul's team comprised only four players they were able to add one pair from the losing team - hence Jason and Justin are to play

Well done to Michelle Brunner and John Holland on winning the Grand Master airs. Well done also to Michelle and Rhona on their excellent performance in the first part of the ladies' trials and well done to Mike Byrne and Alex Morris on winning their first Junior Camrose when they played for England at West Bromwich

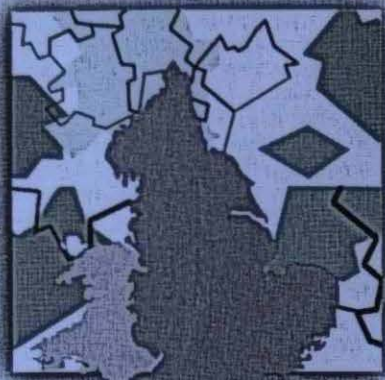
Alex at age 16, is probably the youngest player to win the Junior Camrose.

Manchester CBA is to enter a team in the consolation event at the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship. There will be a trial at Manchester Bridge Club on June 16 to decide

Yorkshire success in Cyprus



Happy moment for Yorkshire players as they collect their rewards for winning the Swiss teams event at the EBU's Cyprus Congress. From left they are Phillip and Janet Mason, Roger Gowland (captain) and Shelagh Flett. To the rear is Ralph Warrington, who made the presentations on behalf of Bridge Holidays Aboard, the congress sponsors



COUNTY NEWS

who will represent the county. Team entries will be taken by Pat Buxton 01625-528779 and the trial is open to members whose county of first allegiance is Manchester. Entry fee for the trial is £20 per player and the winners will have the £500 entry fee to the Commonwealth event paid by the county.

Diary Dates: April 7 Roy Higson Memorial Cup/Plate finals, Manchester Bridge Club 1pm; May 11-12 Green Point Swiss Weekend at the Birchwood Park Conference Centre, Risley, in conjunction with Lancs CBA and the EBU (Saturday teams, Sunday pairs). Entries for both events are being taken by Megan Taft 01282-692026.

Merseyside and Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk

AFTER an excellent start, which saw them leading the field for a while, our Tollemache team faded in the latter stages of the eight-team final to finish a slightly disappointing sixth. The team was the same one that qualified for the final: Ted Reveley, John Armstrong, Al Stephenson, Stu Matthews, Dave Keen, Jean Keen, Peter Garner-Gray, Andy Prothero, Bob Pitts and Pete Broster with John Drake as npc.

The County Trials had its best turnout for years, which was very heartening for the selectors. The two-session event was won John Drake and Richard Davies, with Peter Garner-Gray and Andrew Prothero second.

Merseyside and Deeside Cup: 1 A Dorricott, I Blackwell, B Griffies and R Arnold, 2 O Brown, J O'Neill, J King and J Green, 3 L Murthwaite, M Fellows, P Crossley and J Griffiths

Chester Congress: championship pairs 1 A Lucas and M Cornes, 2 K Shuttleworth and G Roberts; consolation pairs 1 R Mitchell and C Murless, 2 B and J White; open pairs 1 N/S G Horton and S Gerrard, 1 E/W H Andrews and H Bolton; Swiss teams (decided on a split tie) 1 N Worthington, M Buckley, D Bird and D Payton, 2 J and J Morris and B and J White, 3 K Shuttleworth, G Roberts, E Jones and M Davies.

Jean Keen Trophy: 1 Doris Coltman, Julia Dearing, Pat Ferguson and Sheila Gray, 2 Jean Keen, Lucy Jones, Jill Oddie and Frances Hall.

Diary dates: April 28 Preece Rosebowl, Blundellsands BC; May 5 Charity teams event, Merseyside BC; May 17 Lady Connell and Cheshire salver finals, Liverpool BC; May 30 Andrew Rosebowl, Liverpool BC; June 6 Liverpool BC open pairs; June 9 Eric Howarth Trophy, Deva BC; June 13 Liverpool BC open teams; June 20 Jim Davies Swiss teams, Heswall Hall.

Middlesex

www.mcba.lemon.co.uk

MIDDLESEX players have had a successful couple of months. Tony Waterlow was in the

England team that trounced Northern Ireland and won the marathonic England Open Trials, while Heather Dhondy, Nicola Smith and Lizzie Godfrey were in the team that dominated stage 1A of the women's trials.

At the Year End Congress in London the Swiss teams was won yet again by Neil and Anne Rosen, while Peter Kaufmann and Waseem Naqvi won the open pairs and Jeremy Cope was third in the Swiss pairs.

In the National Men's Pairs Ian Pagan and Jeremy Dhondy, erstwhile partners and rivals at the top of the Gold Point leader board, finished first and second respectively.

At the EBU Congress in Cyprus Peter Kaufmann and David Sellman tied for first place in the Swiss teams, while Gerard Brito came second in the mixed pairs.

Turning to local events, the county committee has now permitted previous winners, provided they are not of too high a standard, to enter the Masters Pairs. Gerard Brito took advantage of these conditions to become the first player to win the event for a second time, on this occasion in partnership with Elaine Gold.

The Middlesex ladies' pairs was won by Vanessa Clarke and Janet Cohen, while Steve Root and Jerry Harouni teamed up to win the men's pairs. For Steve this was his fourth win in five years in this event - he could finish only second in 2000!

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk

SEVEN people from Norfolk took part in the Cyprus Congress at Pathos with varying success. Suzanne Gill and Barbara Hacker had the best result, coming third in the open pairs. The Norfolk holidaymakers were delighted to meet up with Norfolk expats Myra and Brian Overy and Terry Gallagher, who now live in Paphos. Myra and Brian achieved equal ninth in the Swiss pairs.

The Corn Cairdis, a friendly match between England and Ireland, was held in Norwich and played in the true spirit of its trophy's name-sake, The Cup of Friendship.

Several players were selected from Norfolk on the basis of their long service to bridge in the county. England were winners on the day, which means they now lead 7-3 in the series.

Smart Trophy: 1 P Darby, A Holland, A La Chapelle, M Ward, 2 D and C Ingham, D Thompson, P Whittle, 3 T and I Beven, C and M Street.

Committee Cup inter-club teams of eight: 1 Kings Lynn BC (G Allen, P Clarke, P Clemens, J Fludgate, M Kingdon, R Le Masurier, P Lofting, J Thickens), 2 Noverre BC (C Aslin, J Brister, M Connolly, I Emerson, G Gilvey, J Murfitt, M Smith, M Ward), 3 Wymondham BC (P and M Smith, O Hendrie, D Ratchford, I Smith, G Parnham, T Legg, B Smith).

Diary date: April 19-21 Norfolk Congress, Dukes Head Hotel, Kings Lynn. Entry forms from Sheila Warner 01553 675816. Saturday's championship pairs event is green pointed.

North Eastern

THE result of the Cleveland teams event was as follows: 1 A Lester, Mrs S Wilson, R Flute and Mrs L Voss, 2 I Rankin, D Hassan, M Stanbury and Mrs P De Leeuw.

Darlington Pairs Congress final: 1 Mr and Mrs R Stevenson, 2 K Pattison and S Payne; secondary final 1 Mr and Mrs T Wilkinson, 2 Mr and Mrs B Somerville.

Chronicle Cups (the association's premier pairs event): 1 C Owen and J Gibson (for the second successive year), 2 I Rankin and D Hassan, 3 J Moor and J Miller; secondary final 1 R Stead and C Robinson, 2 B Algar and J Hall.

King Cup (ladies' pairs): 1 Mrs W Booth and Mrs J Todd, 2 Mrs R Malcolm and Mrs P Durie.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to the following successful players: NCBA individual 1 Stan Kujawinski, 2 Richard Bonnello; NCBA mixed pairs 1 Janine Ford and Sandy Fulton, 2 Gordon and Angela Fullerton.

In county matches against Gloucestershire Dawes lost 18-2, Porter lost 18-2 and Markham lost 16-4.

Diary dates: April 7 Journal Cup, Nottingham BC 1pm (Contact Angela Fullerton 0115 9212035); April 27 Charity Swiss teams, Keyworth BC 2pm (Contact Stephen Spouthorn, 0115 9374157); April 28 NCBA AGM, Nottingham BC 6.30pm. The meeting will be followed by wine and cheese, plus bridge if time permits; May 19 NCBA Swiss teams, Nottingham BC 2pm (Contact David Burgess 0115 9372947); June 2 Retford Swiss teams 2pm (Contact Daphne Coggles 01777 703610).

Oxfordshire

www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~richlons

SEVERAL initiatives are currently being considered by the OBA management committee to encourage wider participation in county competitions. It is hoped that a format can be found to incorporate less experienced club players together with *Bridge for All* students who have completed their courses.

Congratulations to Stuart McPhee and Richard Lonsdale on reaching third place in the men's pairs at the London Year End congress.

The National Swiss Teams Congress drew 104 quartets to the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, where Oxfordshire's Geoff Nicholas and Debbie Roberts were part of a team that finished eighth.

The heat of Oxfordshire's inter-county invitation teams of four event (the Beck Cup) was held at Oxford BC. The qualifiers were: 1 Robert Procter, Jim Strachan, Nick Perceval-Price and Mike Goldsmith, 2 Paula Hopkinson, Vic Savage, Chris Mooney and John Wheeler, 3 Peter Jordan, Jean Ingham-Johnson, Steve Elliot and Andrea Smith.

Competing in a field of 69 pairs at the National Men's Pairs in Coventry, Oxfordshire's Keith Bennett, partnering Jeremy Dhondy, achieved second place.

The Oxford University Swiss teams competition held at Oxford BC was won by V Savage, J Wheeler, P Hopkinson and B Holder.

Diary dates: April 7 OBA county pairs final at Oxford BC; April 21 OBA Bridge for All tournament at Wallingford BC; April 19-25 OBA simultaneous pairs heats; May 12 OBA Beck Cup final at Oxford BC; May 19 OBA mixed pairs championship at Oxford BC; May 27 OBA Tuesday championship playoff at Oxford BC; June 10 OBA AGM and OBA management committee meeting.

Somerset

www.firestation.org.uk.htm

SWISS pairs for the de Villiers Hart Cup: 1 G Heal and D Howard, 2 Mrs G Howard and Mrs J Belcher, 3 T Gibbard and D Porter, ascenders Mrs E Roach and Mrs Stutterd, Mr and Mrs D Brown, non experts Mrs M Lewin and J Perry.

Inter-club teams of four: 1 Winscombe BC (Mrs P Ashford, Mrs S Walton, Mrs S Mape and B Greenwood), 2 Yeovil BC, 3 Langport BC.

The county simultaneous pairs for the Coda Cup attracted more than 130 players and raised £400 for the local St Margaret's Hospice. Results: 1 C Carter and K Harlow, 2 G Heal and D Howard, 3 Mrs W Barker and Mrs M Lund (cup winners on handicap), 4 Mrs V Morse and C Pryor, 5 T French and G Pring, 6 Mrs A Clapham and R Gales, 7 Mrs A McCann and Mrs S Stutterd; non expert prizes to Mr and Mrs A Morgan and Mr and Mrs R Smith.



Wiltshire

THE Butler pairs was won by Bob Bannister and Andrew Law, with Gill Messer and Kathy Hodgson second and Jenny Gray and Joy Rowe third. All six players are members of Swindon BC.

The five pairs to qualify for the regional heat of the National Pairs were Caroline Wilcox and Bernard Lloyd, Gill Messer and Kathy Hodgson, Martin Buck and Adam Harvey, Alan White and Tim Brierley and Gwenda Merriott and Nick Pegg.

The county mixed pairs winners were Diana King and Phil Green, with Gwenda Merriott and Nick Pegg second and Sue and Jock Linsell third.

Worcestershire

www.wcba.freeseerve.co.uk

QUALIFIERS for the National Pairs from the Worcestershire heats are Justin Corfield and Glyn Preece, Paul Hammond and Jimmy Ledger, John Yuill and Stewart Fishburne, Roger Saines and Peter Chapman, John Sansom and Richard Jephcott and Dennis Loynes and Sue Evans.

Worcestershire qualifiers for the National Newcomers Pairs are Helen Cameron and Stuart Robinson (Worcester and Malvern), Cliff and Judith Little (Worcester), Tony Gervis and Sheila Johnson (Abberley and Powick), Eugene Elijah and Patrick Callaway (Fairfield and Bromsgrove), Nigel Wilkins and Owen Smith (Ludlow), Paul Sansom and Ann Gittins (Stourbridge and Halesowen), Sue Wilson and Martine Bishop (Worcester), Maureen Hannah and Pat Dickings (Worcester) and Roger Gammage and Hilary Morgan.

Diary dates: April 7 Garden Cities qualifier (Ron Allen Cup), Star Hotel, Worcester 2pm; April 29 Rolling Swiss teams, Holt Fleet 7.15pm; May 20 Annual General Meeting

7pm; May 27 (note change from calendar) Multi teams, Holt Fleet 7.15pm; June 9 (note change) Beginners Cup, Droitwich Working Men's Club 3.15-7pm.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freeseerve.co.uk

AT the EBU Spring Congress at Harrogate local man Cedric Cockroft, playing with Alex Hogg, from Derby, won the Swiss pairs from a strong field. Runners up in the Swiss teams were Janet and Ted Latham, with Roy Garthwaite and Heather Hobson. Brian Yarker, Sheila Galloway, Derek Markham and Alan Jarvis were third and Carole Kelly, Geoff Kenyon, Judith Biles and Shelagh Flett fourth. John Foster and Irene Rhodes won the mixed pairs.

There was an exciting finish to the Swiss teams championship at the EBU Congress in Cyprus. Yorkshire teams led by Roger Gowland and Roy Garthwaite played each other at the top table in the final match and a narrow win for

Roger Gowland, Shelagh Flett and Philip and Janet Mason was sufficient to give them the trophy, on a split tie with Tony Friday's London team. Other good results for Yorkshire players at this popular congress were achieved by Janet Latham and Heather Hobson, who won the ladies' pairs, and Roy Garthwaite and Ted Latham, who finished runners up in the men's pairs. In the mixed pairs Janet and Philip Mason took third place, while in the pivot teams Ted and Janet Latham, Roy Garthwaite and Heather Hobson occupied third place.

Yorkshire players figured prominently in the National Swiss Teams Congress at Leeds, with Sandra Penfold's team, which included former Yorkshire player Brian Senior, coming second. In fourth place was Bill Townsend's team (Nick Woolven, Robin Jepson, Martin Edge, plus Clive Owen of the NE). Sandy Davies and Tom Gisborne were in a team that finished a creditable sixth.

The County Pairs was a great success, with five pairs going forward to the Corwen Trophy. A very close finish saw June Manning and Nigel Ramsey head the field, with Alan Brosgrill and Robin Jepson second, Stuart Davies and Bill Townsend third, Carole Kelly and Geoff Kenyon fourth and Barbara Boaler and Julia Staniforth fifth. Annette Bratley and Charles Harrison won the consolation final, while the winners of the open pairs were Wendy and Geoff Harrison.

The popular New Year No Fear Pairs at Brighouse was won by Joan and John Payne from the host club, with Neville Smith and Margaret Walker runners-up and Mike Collier and Jacqui Farrar third.

The following week the Doncaster Swiss Teams saw Tom Gisborne, Sandy Davies, David Waxman and Richard Pike (Sheffield) just pip Tony Murray, Russ Parkinson, Adrian Goulding and Geoff Newman (Wakefield) for first place, with the Doncaster team of Chris Quigley, Richard Draycott, David Ward and David Beresford finishing third.

More recently the Yorkshire Cup, played at New Earswick, resulted in a split tie for first place between the team of Vicky Hirst, Cynthia Robson, Jeffrey Scott and Keith Seiles and that of Dorothy Benn, Carol Wood and Joyce and Ian Campbell-Jones, the former being adjudged the winners. In third place were Trevor Hargreaves, Derek Rudkin, Mary Cook and Doug Smith, with Brian Graham, Roger Litton, Catherine Thompson and Margaret Allen fourth.

A good score of 70.46% resulted in Tony Kent and Malcolm Robinson winning the Margery Cartwright Simultaneous Pairs. This was almost 2% more than the pair in second place, David Dunsby and Derek Rudkin. Other prizewinners were Ian and Mary Rodger, John O'Sullivan and Hugh Davidson and Chris Quigley and Richard Draycott. The Hand Setter's Prize went to Wendy Horsley of York.

Diary Dates: April 7 Doncaster Swiss Pairs; April 12-14 Scarborough Congress; April 18 County Individual Final; April 21 Castle Swiss Pairs, Doncaster; April 27-28 York Congress. York; May 5-6 Bridlington Congress, Driffild; May 12 County Mixed Pairs Final; May 19 Yorkshire Masters Pairs (Grades 1 and 2 Bradford Bridge Club, Grade 3 York Bridge Club); May 26 West Yorkshire Swiss Teams, Bradford; June 7-9 Yorkshire Congress, Harrogate.

DEADLINES FOR COUNTY NEWS

THE following are the dates in 2002 by which county news contributions should reach the editor of *English Bridge*:

- April 26 (for June edition)
- June 26 (for August edition)
- August 26 (for October edition)
- October 26 (for December edition)

See page 3 for the editor's contact details: emails preferred for text; photos by post. Nice pictures of your events always welcome.

THE LAST BOARD *By Laurie Jackson*

THIS was the final board played at table 13 in the local pairs event:

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

South
 ♠ A J 8 2
 ♥ A Q J
 ♦ A K Q J
 ♣ 6 4

The bidding was too horrible to relate and so instead of finishing in just 3NT, the N/S pair somehow managed to arrive in 4NT! South was declarer and West led ♣Q, with declarer requiring 10 tricks.

When dummy went down South could see that she had only eight top tricks, but if the heart finesse was right she could make all three hearts. She was in dummy immediately with the ♠A so could take the heart finesse and if successful could re-enter dummy by leading her remaining small club to the ♠K to repeat the finesse.

Thus with two clubs, four diamonds, three hearts and the ♠A she could make her 10 tricks.

So saying, having won the ♣Q opening lead with ♠A she took the heart finesse. Unfortunately this lost to West's king. The ♠J was led back, knocking out the ♠K, which now set up the defence's remaining clubs. Since declarer was now bound to lose the lead when she eventually played on the spade suit she went one down. 'You were unlucky,' said North. 'Had East held the ♥K you would have made it.'

The travelling score slip revealed that apart from the usual odd contracts and equally odd

results, most pairs had bid and made 3NT, except that South at table one had made an overtrick in 3NT for a complete top on the board.

'How did they manage to make 10 tricks when the heart finesse was wrong?' queried South.

'They must have had a heart lead, giving South a free finesse,' said a sympathetic East.

But West pointed out that even if she had led fourth highest from Kxxx in hearts that would only give South two heart tricks, because the finesse would still fail when South eventually took the finesse herself.

They all agreed, prompting North/South to go across to table one to ask how South had made 10 tricks with the heart finesse failing. Apparently the opening lead at table one had also been ♣Q.

'I didn't take the heart finesse, because that is only a 50% chance. I led the ♠10 and ran it, losing to West's king. I won the ♠J continuation and then ran the ♠9, which held the trick, and followed up with the ♠3. Whether or not East chooses to cover the ♠9 with his queen this play wins three tricks when either East has both honours or if East/West have one each, which is a 76% chance.

The North/South pair 13 drifted away slightly embarrassed, realising that this situation was similar to the previous week's final board.

Great wines emerging in Spain

By Derek Smedley,
International
Master of Wine

AS the source of such brands as Hironnelle, Don Cortez and Corrida, Spain has found it very hard to shake off its cheap and not so cheerful image. Certainly there has always been Rioja but, in a way, it was looked on as different - not quite Spain.

All this is in the past and today Spain is zinging; so much is happening and great wines are emerging. One big advantage that Spain has over many other countries is the wealth of wonderful old vines.

When the vine gets to an age of 30 years plus, concentration of flavour and therefore quality increases dramatically.

As a country it is better known for its red wines, but there are some lovely, different and exciting whites. The Albarino grape from Galicia has fresh, fragrant peachy flavours, while Chacoli from San Sebastian is refreshingly crisp, with tingly lime freshness.

There are now some very serious reds, which have achieved cult status. The Tinto Fino (Tempranillo) grape in the Ribera del Duero region to the north of Segovia makes wines with flavours of violets and chocolates; wines that will develop well in the bottle over the years.

Near to Barcelona is the region of Priorat and here a combination of Garnacha and



Carinena make for intense reds, with a mix of redcurrant and mint chocolate, wonderfully deep and complex. Do try our mixed case special in the box below.

I make no apologies that in our main offer we have two whites and four reds. Not only does this mirror the Spanish position, but we are not yet free from the winter chill.

The region of Rueda, to the north of Segovia, is an area influenced by the mighty Duero River. Bitterly cold in the winter and searingly hot in the summer, it is a great white wine area, with the Verdejo being the main grape.

Conscious of the potential quality of the area several wineries planted Sauvignon Blanc, with amazing results. *Con Class Sauvignon Blanc 2001 (1)* is lovely, full of tropical fruit flavours and very fresh on

mid-palate. It goes so well with fish and poultry dishes.

Close to Barcelona is the region of Penedes, best known for sparkling wine (Cava). Here Miguel Torres makes fascinating reds and whites from local as well as French grape varieties. *Vina Esmeralda 2001 (2)* is bursting with fragrance, perfume from Gewurztraminer and spice from Muscat. Chilled it makes the perfect aperitif.

It would be very wrong to have a Spanish mix without a Rioja. *Navajas Crianza 1998 (3)* is full of interest, not too heavy but still mouth-filling. The chalky slopes of Rioja are ideal for both Tempranillo and Garnacha.

Close to Rioja is the Province of Navarra, where Guelbenzu grow French vines alongside the local varieties. *Guelbenzu Azul 1999 (4)* is based on Tempranillo, but has both Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot blended in, a soft rich wine with a mix of forest leaf, cassis and plum - no better partner for beef dishes and stews.

We journey across northern Spain for our fifth offering, Calatayud has been producing

wine through history, but was little known in this country until the work of a Scottish wine maker, Pamela Geddes, changed all that. Working in a local co-operative, she makes eminently drinkable wines, full of character. *Poema Garnacha Syrah 2000 (5)* demonstrates the excitement of blending. The blackberry flavours of Garnacha are enhanced by the black pepper of the Syrah; try it with pork and lamb for real enjoyment.

Still moving east we come to the Costers del Segre, based around Lerida. Garnacha and Ull de Lebre (Tempranillo) are the main grape varieties. *Castel del Remei Gotim Bru 1999 (6)* is packed with berry fruit and fresh cherry flavours - all too easy to drink.

Do try a mixed case, it will be an eye-opener and will certainly not disappoint.



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Rotllan I Terra Reserva 1998 Priorat (3 bots)

A complex mix of redcurrant and mint chocolate that lingers on the palate.

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**The Three Counties Hotel, Hereford
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The Three Counties is situated just a stroll along the river from the historic cathedral city of Hereford. Standing in over three acres of gardens it is an idyllic haven for a bridge break. All the rooms are en-suite with satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, hair dryers, telephone and 24-hour room service.

The Three Counties is the perfect centre to see the beauty of the Wye Valley and visit the Cathedral in Hereford where the 13th century map of the world, the Mappa Mundi is kept.



**The Woodcroft Tower Hotel, Bournemouth
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**The Holiday Inn, Telford/Ironbridge
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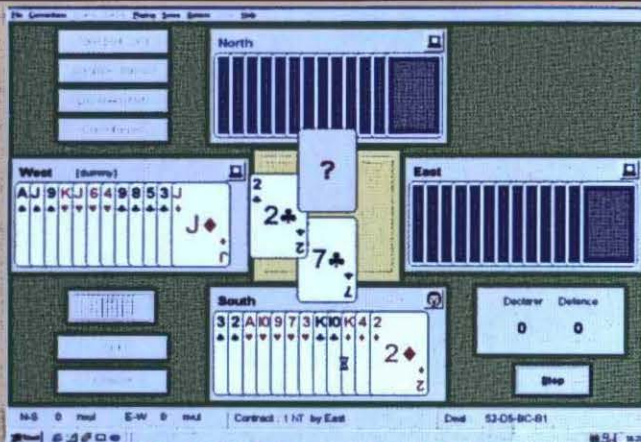


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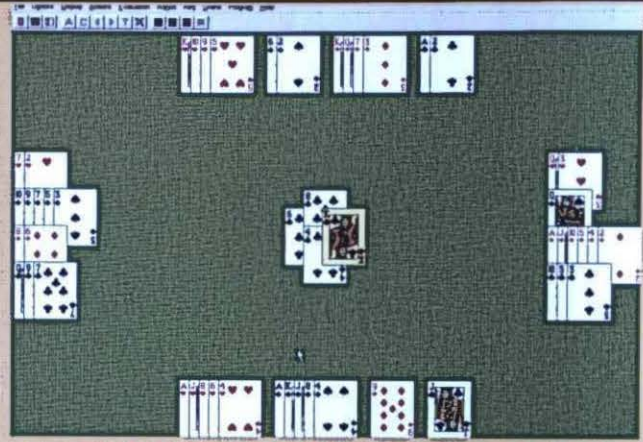
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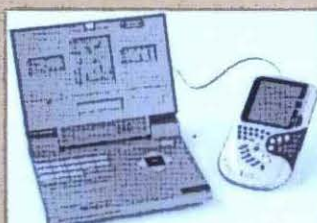
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Beat *today's* experts

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

April 2002

West hands

(imp scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ K J 9 3 2
Dealer West ♥ J 8 2
 ♦ A 9 6
(Stansby) ♣ Q 2
★ South bids 3♦ (weak) if possible ★

2. E-W Game ♠ A 9 7 4
Dealer East ♥ K Q J 9
 ♦ A Q 8
(Soloway) ♣ A K
★ South opens 1♣, North bids 3♣ ★

3. N-S Game ♠ Q 10 7 6 2
Dealer West ♥ 10 7 6
 ♦ Q 8 5
(Burn) ♣ Q J
★ North opens 2♥ (weak) ★

4. Game All ♠ K 7 6 2
Dealer West ♥ A
 ♦ A K 2
(MacKenzie) ♣ A K Q 9 4

5. Love All ♠ K J 2
Dealer East ♥ J 8 5 4 2
 ♦ J 10 7 5
(Bertens) ♣ A

6. Love All ♠ A 9 5
Dealer East ♥ K
 ♦ J 10 9 8 4 2
(Lev) ♣ A J 4

Did you beat the experts? – Page 28

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 2002

East hands

(imp scoring on every deal)

1. Game All ♠ A Q 10 8 7 6
Dealer West ♥ A 9 5 3
 ♦ J
(Martel) ♣ A J
★ South bids 3♦ (weak) if possible ★

2. E-W Game ♠ 10 6 2
Dealer East ♥ 10 8 7 5 4 3
 ♦ K 6
(Hamman) ♣ 5 3
★ South opens 1♣, North bids 3♣ ★

3. N-S Game ♠ A K 9 8 5 3
Dealer West ♥ A
 ♦ –
(Callaghan) ♣ A K 10 8 7 6
★ North opens 2♥ (weak) ★

4. Game All ♠ J 8 5 4
Dealer West ♥ 5 4
 ♦ 10 9 7 3
(Campbell) ♣ 7 3 2

5. Love All ♠ A Q 9 8 7 5 3
Dealer East ♥ A K
 ♦ A 3
(Bakkeren) ♣ 10 9

6. Love All ♠ K 2
Dealer East ♥ A J 6 4 3
 ♦ A Q 6 5
(Mohan) ♣ 7 3

Did you beat the experts? – Page 28

