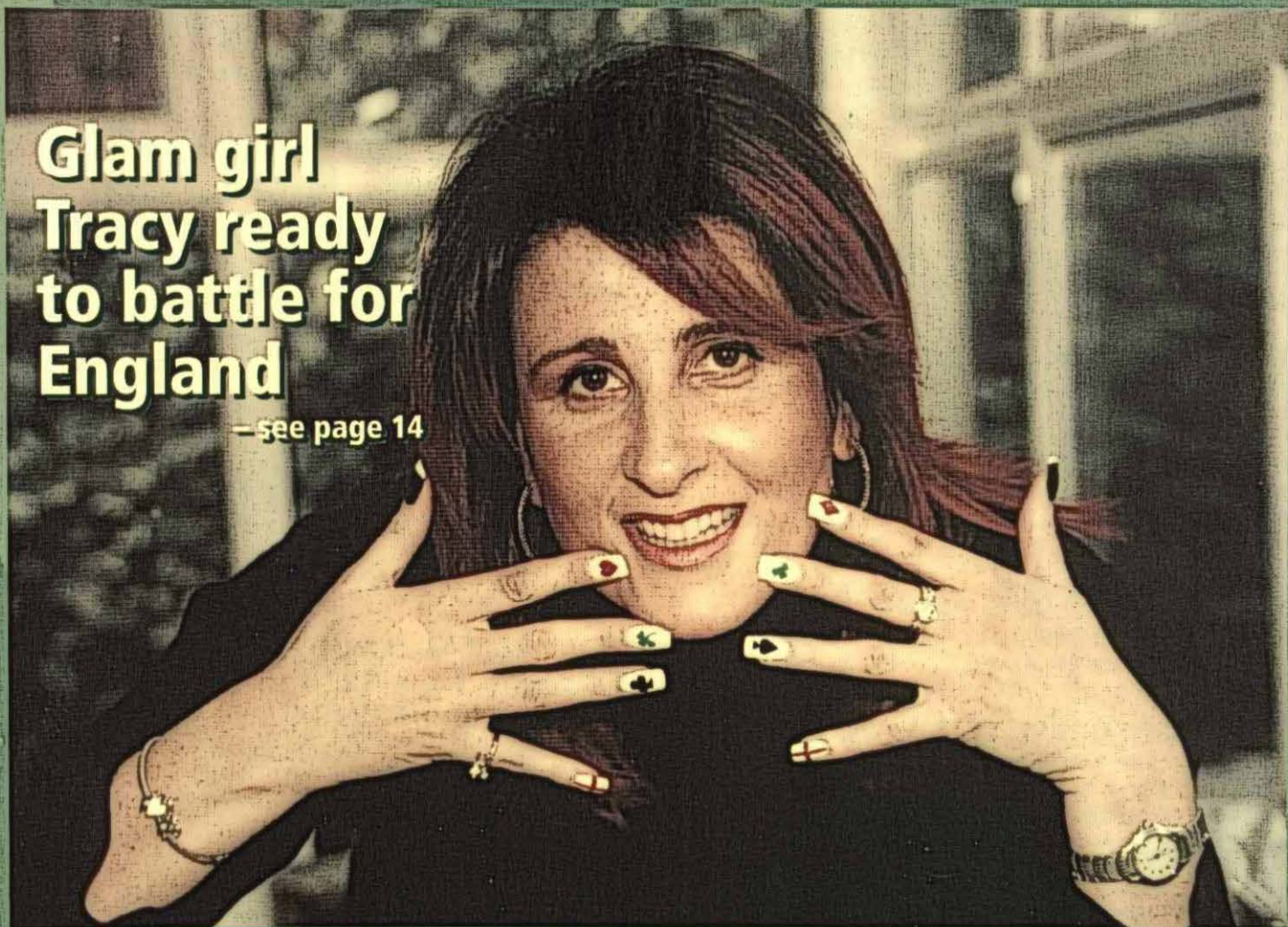


English Bridge



Glam girl Tracy ready to battle for England

—see page 14



Michelle Brunner in America

— page 9



Camrose champs again

— page 5



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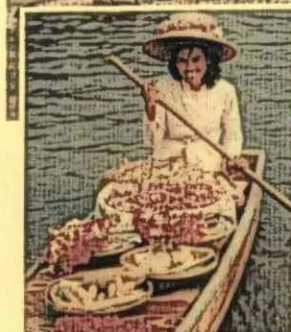
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Blooming partnerships

Partnerships lie at the heart of our Development Plan and the provision of new services to our members, so what has been negotiated over the past couple of months?

Master Bridge Series

From April 1 our Bridge Shop will be stocking the full range of the Master Bridge Series of books, totalling an amazing 78 titles. Thanks to the support of Peter Crawley, who publishes the series in association with Cassell, we have managed to negotiate a very special price that allows us to offer a 20% discount to EBU members.

Mark Smith, the MD of Orion's Customer Publishing (owners of Cassell) says he is delighted to have formed this new working partnership with the EBU and looks forward to offering greater membership offers in the future, including discounts on the wider range of Orion titles.

Bridge Overseas

Recent discussions with Edward Kelly of the holiday operator Bridge Overseas Ltd centred on the social bridge service the company could provide to our members. Terry Collier, the EBU's general manager, suggested there would be interest in midweek bridge breaks, to complement the wide choice of weekend breaks. He also suggested there is growing interest from social players for combining bowls with bridge for non-bowls players and bridge with bowls for non-bridge players.

No more said than done! Edward has arranged a four-day midweek break at the Sinah Warren Character Hotel on Hayling Island, Hampshire, with a programme of bridge and bowls. The hotel is part of the Warner adult only group of hotels, which offers specialist leisure activities and entertainment, in addition to the bridge and bowls programme. The holiday will be from May 17-21 at a cost of £239 per person.

This is the first of a series of similar midweek breaks to be held at Warner's hotels up and down the country. Further details can be obtained directly from Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346246. Just ask for Fiona or Wendy.

We have also negotiated a special early booking discount for EBU members of 10% on bridge fees from Bridge Overseas' extensive



Terry Collier, EBU general manager: beavering away at partnership deals to benefit members

range of overseas holidays (subject to terms and availability). Further details can again be obtained by phoning 0800 0346246.

Bridge at the opera

FOLLOWING on from our very successful Bridge and Ballet event in December at the Ambassador Theatre in Milton Keynes, we are pleased to announce that a year-long programme is being planned at the Ambassador theatres in Stoke-on-Trent, Bromley, Woking and, of course, Milton Keynes.

The first of these events will be held on Wednesday June 23 at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent. An afternoon of social bridge will be held in the Theatre's Britannia Suite, followed by an evening performance of Carmen by the Chisinau National Opera. Thanks to special discounted tickets we are able to offer a combined price for the Bridge and Carmen of £40 to EBU members (additional £5 to non-members). We will also be able to offer limited numbers of tickets for the performance only – prices on request. For further information and booking, please contact the EBU events team on 01296 317203.

As we go to press arrangements are under way to hold Bridge and High Society at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley and Bridge and Annie at Milton Keynes in early September.

continued on page 32



Mike Gourley: lasted longer than all the others (92 hours!) in a bridge marathon. Read his story, and the record claims of others, on page 31

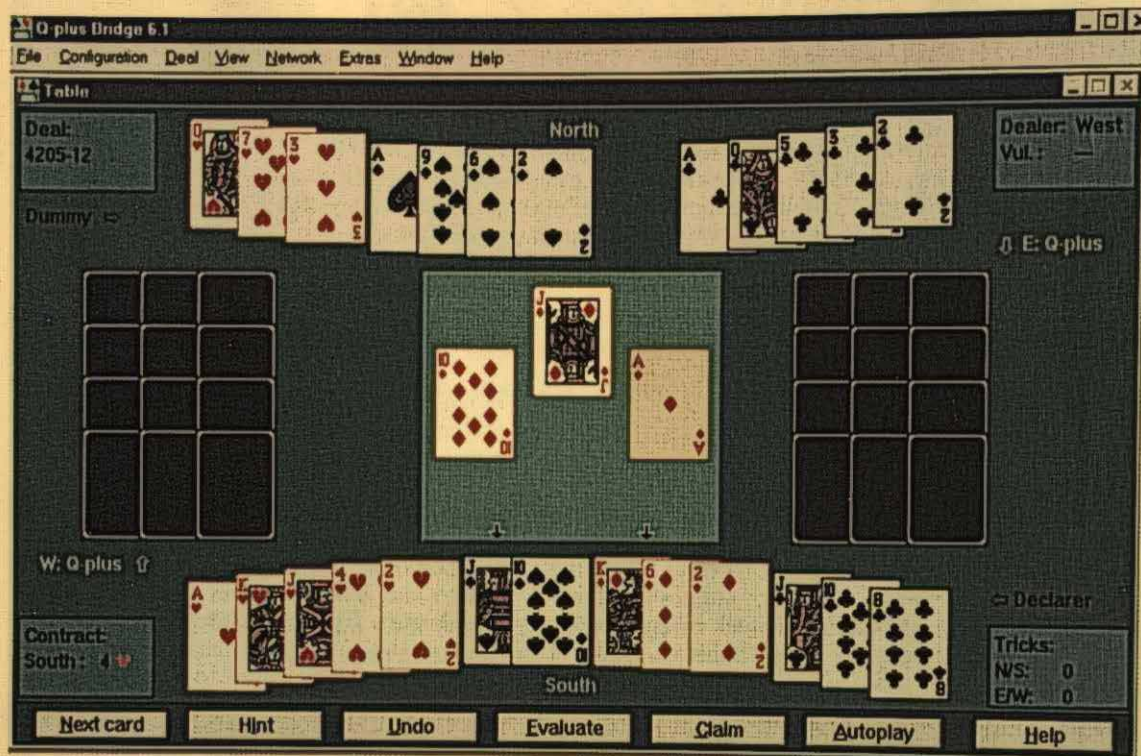
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Camrose champs again

AS we went into the final weekend Republic of Ireland were leading the table, but they had to sit out, so it would be either England 167.5 vps, Scotland 136, or Wales 127 who would take home the trophy.

England, who amazingly had not beaten Scotland in the Camrose this millennium, sent David Gold, Tom Townsend, Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi (making his debut), David Price and Colin Simpson to do the job under non-playing captain Richard Fleet. Scotland fielded the team they will be sending to the European championships, namely Liz McGowan, Ken Baxter, Douglas Piper, John Murdoch, Jim Patrick and John Matheson.

In the first match any pre-meeting superstitions England may have had were put to rest, England winning by 22-8vps. Remarkably this would be Scotland's best result!

In the second match England played almost flawless bridge at both tables, while a luckless Scotland had to sit back and watch their rivals rack up 116imps to their 31. England took the second match 25-2 and the Camrose was to all intents and purposes over.

However, England had come for revenge and were still hungry to make the Scots pay for having beaten them so many times in recent years. Sure enough England continued to play excellent bridge at both tables to take the third match 25-2.

This is my favourite hand, taken from the final match:

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

At our table the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Townsend		Gold	
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The lead was ♠J, taken by dummy's ace. Tom Townsend played a heart to the queen, laid down the ♥A and, on learning the bad news, played ♠J. The Scottish defender ruffed and although he correctly returned a diamond declarer ruffed in dummy and claimed on a marked squeeze against North - 12 tricks and 1430 to England.

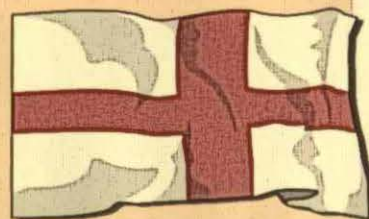
In the other room the contract was the

England hammer Scots to complete the job

ENGLAND have retained the Camrose Trophy and they clinched it in Dundee with a record victory over Scotland. Thus England won all four of their matches in the series and ran up a total of 239.5vps, which bettered their own record for the five nations format.

Wales, who put up sturdy resistance against England in the penultimate round, slipped into second place by beating Northern Ireland 56-34 in their final match. They finished just one point ahead of Republic of Ireland.

David Gold, newly risen out of the junior ranks, has made a big impression as a full international and was in the England team against both Scotland and Wales. Here is what he has to say about the experience:



David Gold reports on the final rounds

same, as were the first three tricks. However, Andy Robson for England showed the correct defence by declining to ruff the first spade. Declarer found there was no longer a way home.

England had beaten Scotland by 72-12vps, a record victory against their arch rivals.

While the England team played very well I think it is fair to say the Scots have some work to do if they wish to achieve a respectable result in the Europeans, but I am sure this weekend was good practice for them and they were excellent hosts and great sports. I look forward to playing there again. I would also like to say that it was good to see the match broadcast over the excellent Bridge Base website.

Earlier England went to Crawley for the fourth weekend of the Camrose Trophy in a strong position. Although actually lying third behind Republic of Ireland and Scotland, these countries had played one match more and Scotland, who were leading the table, were only 25.5vps ahead.

In fact it was Wales, England's opponents in this round, who posed the biggest threat. They were hot on England's tail, just 13.5vps behind.

The England team was Colin Simpson and David Price, Phil King and Andrew McIntosh, David Gold and Tom Townsend, with David Burn the non-playing captain. Lined up for the Welsh were Peter Goodman and Adam Dunn, Tim Rees and Philip Kubalija and Gary and Dafydd Jones, with Paul Denning the non-playing captain.

In the first 30 boards the England players, who had all reached the finals of the open trials, showed the kind of form they were in by annihilating Wales 25-5.

However, anyone who thought the match was over had failed to tell the Welsh. In the second match they fearlessly came back, taking the first 10-board stanza 25-13. In the second stanza England pulled back 7imps, so with 10 boards to play of the second match Wales clung to a slender lead of 5imps.

Then the real excitement started.

At Non Vul v Vul you pick up ♠A 5 4 3 ♥Q J 9 4 ♦- ♣K 10 6 5 3. You are playing against Peter Goodman on your right and Adam Dunn on your left. You are also on Vugraph, so any decision you make is followed avidly by quite a few spectators, the game being somewhat easier for them as they can see all four hands.

Peter deals and opens 1♥, playing five-card majors. Adam raises to 4♥ and Peter, after some thought, bids 6NT!

Realising that this auction is not really possible and looking at your own hand, you elect to double. After three passes you have to find a lead. At the table the player, who shall remain nameless (He's famous enough from this hand already!) led the ♠A and dummy tabled ♠7 6 ♥K 10 7 6 3 ♦10 5 4 ♣A 4 2. A spade continuation did not meet with success when declarer, who turned up with ♠K Q 8 2 ♥A ♦A K J 9 8 3 2 ♣7, won the trick, laid down the ♦A, unblocked the ♥A, crossed to dummy with the ♠A and claimed 12 tricks on the marked diamond finesse for +1680 to Wales!

Peter had intended to open 1♦, but being left-handed was struggling with the bidding boxes and accidentally opened 1♥. On realising his error 6NT seemed a fair shot. After this result I am sure he was happy to continue 'struggling'!

Wales won the last 10 boards by 20imps to take the second match 19-11 and keep the weekend very much alive. England would have to compose themselves to ensure victory over the weekend.

Sure enough a revived English team came out the next morning and played solid bridge at both tables to win the third match 21-9 and take the weekend 57-33.

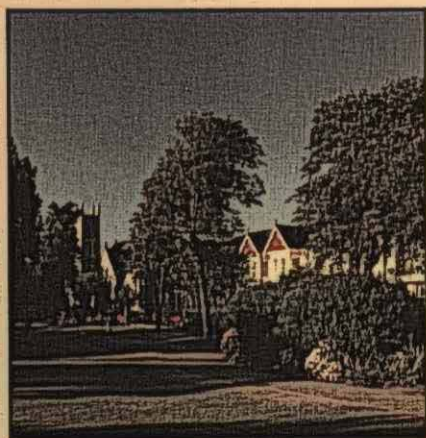
The match was played in great spirit and I was most impressed by the number of spectators at the event.

FINAL TABLE

	Played	Won	VP score
England	4	4	239.5
Wales	4	2	183
Rep of Ireland	4	3	182
Scotland	4	1	148
N Ireland	4	0	135

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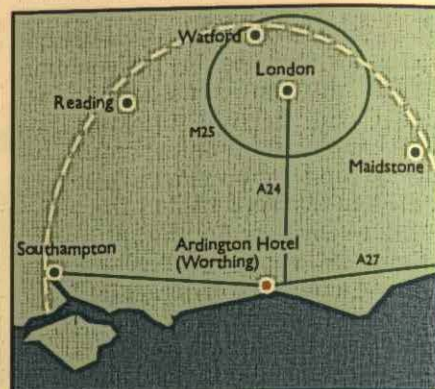
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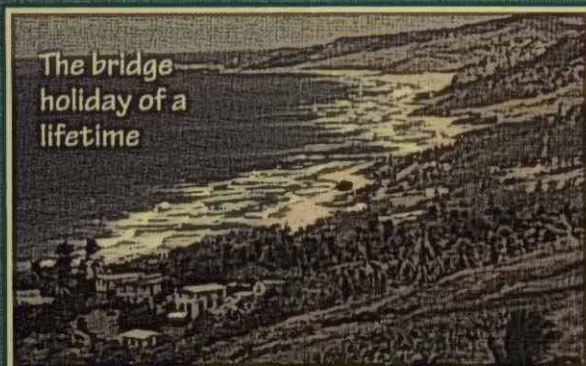
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INTO BATTLE FOR ENGLAND

THE EBU has named its teams for the World and European championships this year, as well as the women's team to represent England in the Lady Milne five nations event in Ballymena next month. The selections came at the end of a series of testing trials for all the players.

The England open team for the World Teams Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey (October 23-November 6) will be John Armstrong and Danny Davies, David Gold and Tom Townsend, Jason and Justin Hackett. Raymond Brock will be non-playing captain and David Burn the coach. First reserve pair are David Bakhshi and Andrew Robson and second reserve pair David Price and Colin Simpson. Reserve non-playing captain is John Williams.

The open team for the European Teams Championship in Malmo, Sweden (June 19-July 3) is identical to that for the world event except that Price and Simpson are first reserves and Bakhshi and Robson second reserves.

For the women's world event the England line-up will be Sally Brock and Kitty Teltscher, Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield, Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith. Alan Mould will be non-playing captain and Christine Duckworth the coach. Reserve pair are Catherine Jagger and Sarah Teshome and John Williams is the reserve non-playing captain.

The women's team for the European championships is also identical to that for

the world event, with the exception that the reserve pair is Tracy Capal and Catherine Draper.

An England seniors team has also been named and this will be John Collings and David Jones, Paul Hackett and Tony Waterlow, Derek Rue and Keith Stanley. Paul Hackett will captain the team, which is the same for both the world and European events and John Hassett and Bill Hirst will be the reserve pair on each occasion.

England's Lady Milne team to take on Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland is Sally Brock and Kitty Teltscher, Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith, Tracy Capal and Catherine Draper.

Green Points for Mind Sports event

KEEP writing to your Members of Parliament on bridge and mind sport issues. That was the message of local MP Keith Bradley when he opened Manchester Bridge Congress.

There was special point to his message because the 2004 Mind Sports Olympiad, which takes place in Manchester from August 24-30, features bridge in a bigger way than ever before.

The EBU is working in partnership with the Mind Sports Olympiad to present the bridge, which will have Green Points at stake and carry a prize fund of £5,000. That should spur a host of leading players to take part.

The hugely popular Mind Sports Olympiad encompasses more than 30 mind sports, from Scrabble to chess.

Wow! Sim bridge players net £41,668 for Children in Need

GOODWILL, plus brilliant bridge clubs, plus technology equals £41,668.73 for BBC's Children in Need

Once again the ECatsBridge team of Anna Gudge and Mark Newton ran a four-day simultaneous pairs for Children in Need and once again the nation's bridge players proved they are great fundraisers for a great cause.

In total, 12,744 players took part at 336 clubs over the four days.

Several clubs reported record attendances. Clubs ran raffles, persuaded halls to forgo hire charges, found sponsors – and the cash total smoothly overtook the previous year's figure of £36,712.98.

Said Anna: 'We would like to thank everyone who helped; all the heat organisers (you are a fantastic bunch of people) and all those who participated.'

'We hope you will all come and do it again in the autumn. The dates are November 15-18 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), with different hands each evening.'

For more information contact Anna on 01787 881920 or by email at anna@ecats.co.uk or go to the website at www.ecatsbridge.com and look in the Sims section – it's all there.

Top level double for juniors

ENGLAND's young players came through to win both the under 25 Junior Camrose and the under 20 Peggy Bayer titles in the five nations series, played this year in Cork.

The under 25 team of Ed Levy, Andrew Woodcock, Michael Byrne, Alex Morris, Leigh Chapman and Dave Cropper, led by non-playing captain Mel Starkings, comfortably topped the table with 155vps. They were followed by Wales 125, Northern Ireland 110, Scotland 108 and Republic of Ireland 102.

In action for England under 20s were Ollie Burgess, Sarah Pinchbeck, Phillip Andrews, Michael Graham, John Atthey and Laura Macdougall. Phil King led the team as non-playing captain and the result was an impressive winning total of 164vps. Behind them came Northern Ireland 136, Scotland 123, Wales 102 and Republic of Ireland 62.

Tollemache goes to London

DESPITE a storming effort by Surrey the Tollemache Cup is still in London hands.

Seven teams contested the final at the Coventry Hilton and it was nip and tuck all the way, with the tension heightened when the key match resulted in Surrey beating London 13-7.

But even that could not stop David Burn's strong team from the capital from going on to victory. They beat the other five teams comfortably to run up a total of 110vps.

Surrey, led by non-playing captain Peter Bentley, also won five out of six, but their 13-7 defeat by Gloucestershire proved decisive and they had to settle for second place on 107vps.

Cambs and Hunts finished third, losing only to the top two teams.

Kent were fourth, Gloucestershire fifth, Manchester and Merseyside/Cheshire equal sixth and Northamptonshire eighth.

The London team comprised David Burn, Ian Payn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, David Price, Colin Simpson, Tom Townsend and David Gold. Surrey fielded Peter Lee, Bob Rowlands, Frances Hinden, Jeffrey Allerton, Graham Osborne, Cameron Small, Alex Hydes, Jon Cooke, Ian Swanson and Ken Ford, with npc Peter Bentley and the Cambs and Hunts line-up was Gareth Birdsall, Roger Gibbons, Chris Jagger, Catherine Jagger, David Kendrick, Jonathan Mestel, Ian Pagan and Julian Wightwick, with npc Chris Larlham.

Eastern Counties League standings

NORFOLK lead Division A of the Eastern Counties League with 107vps. Hertfordshire hold second place on 97. Division B has Hertfordshire (96) leading from Bedfordshire (77) and Division C has Norfolk (87) in front from Essex (83), with Essex a match in hand.

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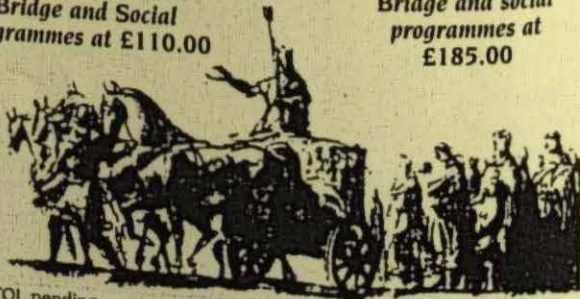
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Have a nice day ...

AFTER a devastatingly disappointing result in Monte Carlo (the England women's team failed to get to the quarter-final by a handful of matchpoints) I was keen to take a break. How? A complete rest from bridge? Don't be silly! With just three days to unpack, do the washing, ironing and stroke the cat I was up in the air again en route for New Orleans!

If you are a keen bridge player and enjoy travelling, a trip to a national tournament in the States is a must. They say that everything in America is bigger and better – and that is certainly true as far as the organisation of these events is concerned. (In New Orleans last November they accommodated 12,400 tables over 11 days!). Nationals are held three times a year in well-chosen locations to encourage 'tourists' and I have to hand it to the ACBL – they know how to make a bridge event memorable, for all the right reasons.

I chose to mix just the right amount of bridge with sight-seeing, but for the real enthusiast there are organised pairs and team games every day for the duration from 10am until 2am! It's pay as you play in each session of every event, so if you don't qualify for the next stage of a major event you can opt out without feeling the pinch. There is air conditioning, an abundance of directors and administrators, spacious playing conditions, book stalls, on-site affordable refreshments, freebie snacks during play and substantial hot freebie snacks at night –



phew! No wonder I put on so much weight! Add to that the numerous attractions in the city itself, plus the friendly spirit of the occasion, and you can see why the nationals are so popular.

If you tire of playing, sight-seeing, shopping or sun-bathing you can relax by watching a glittering array of stars in action. Zia Mahmood, Paul Marston, Bob Hamman, Benito Garrozzo, Tony Forrester, plus many world champions past and present;



Michelle Brunner samples bridge and hot freebie snacks at the American national tournament in New Orleans

the list is endless as top names from all around the world perennially meet up at these competitions.

I certainly had a wonderful time and would wholeheartedly recommend you try it at least once in your lifetime.

Of course, it takes some time to get accustomed to the different systems and regulations that are thrust upon you – with no notice! The ACBL convention card is designed to tell you what is alertable and when to tell your opponents your methods, whether or not they ask! If you alert Stayman they assume it must be something else. If you alert above 3NT they get the police in.

If you open 1NT your partner must verbally announce the point range immediately.

But, heaven forbid if you

play the multi 2♦ convention. You need to supply your opponents with a comprehensive defence to which they can both refer if necessary. When my partner John Holland and I came up against a pair who opened a Multi 2♦ against us they proffered us a handful of pages. 'Thanks very much,' we said, 'but we have our own defence'. Slightly taken aback by our confidence the auction continued as follows:

LHO	John	RHO	Me
2♦	Dbl	2♥	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The first double showed either 13-15 balanced or any strong 19+ hand. The second double confirmed the latter. I held:

♠xxx ♥QJx ♦Qxx ♣KJxx

So I decided to pass the double and take the money.

After a small hiccup in the defence we emerged with only +1400!

Acknowledging their 'bottom' graciously our opponents commented that they had never before been taken for a large penalty at the two level. Unable to resist the temptation I said 'Hmm ... perhaps that's because they used your notes!'

Development Officer – Marketing and Promotions

WE are seeking to appoint, as soon as possible, a person with skills in marketing and promotions to work in the EBU development department. The job will be based in Aylesbury, but the successful candidate will be expected to visit bridge clubs and county associations to assist in promoting the game and marketing activities. Further details can be found on the EBU website: www.ebu.co.uk

WHEN 2♦ WAS BETTER THAN A 7♥ SACRIFICE!

AT Durham Bridge Club (a club where at the last round each hand is shuffled separately before being replaced) the following hand arrived:

♠ KJ10xxx
♥ –
♦ –
♣ AKQ10xxx

What do you lead against 2♦?

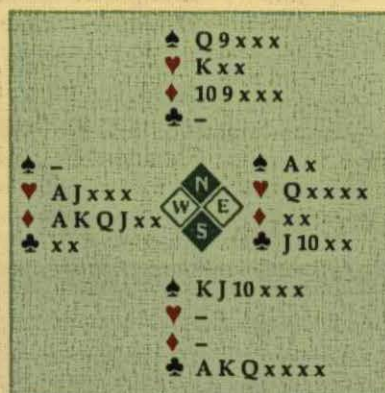
An unlikely situation, yes, but this is how it came about.

You are sitting fourth in hand gloating at this impressive collection (a two-loser hand) and wondering whether 6♠, 7♠ or 7♣ might make when the bidding is opened by dealer with 2♣ – explained as a very strong hand. Partner passes (not unexpectedly!) and a reply of 2♦ is heard from your right – described as a negative.

All the bridge books confirm that the auction will not die at this point and as you play various two-suited defence bids all you need is for opponents to bid a suit naturally and you can begin.

Dealer passes the 2♦ bid! Partner, failing for some reason to work out that you have a 7-6 distribution, also passes and there you are.

Answer: Leading ♠AKQ is likely to bring a trump promotion for partner, the full hand being:



East-West can make 5♥ as North cannot lead a club, but perhaps they realised that making 2♦ scored better than sacrificing in 7♥ over North-South's frigid 6♠ contract.

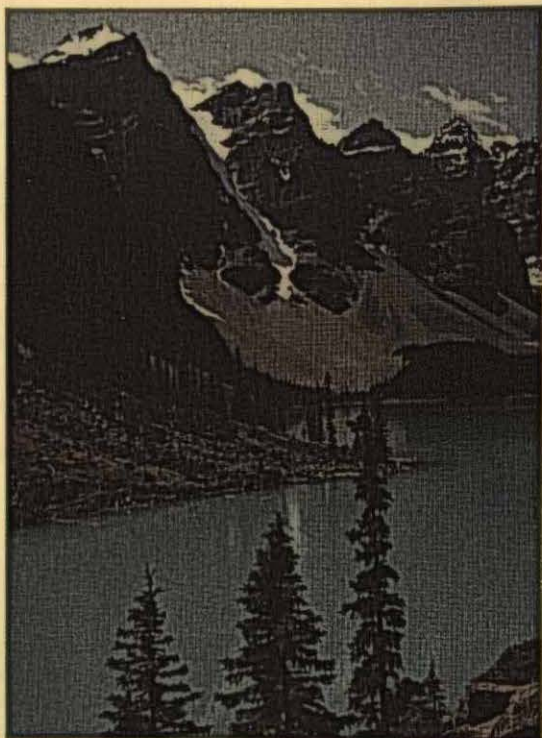
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The inner game of bridge

WHY is there so little emphasis on the psychology of bridge?


A contestant's state of mind plays a huge part in the outcome of most sporting confrontations. The tennis player finds the match-clinching game the hardest to win. The golfer sailing towards victory makes an uncharacteristic mistake on the final hole.

But if state of mind can impinge on a player's physical performance how much more important is it in a mental, or intellectual game?

At the higher levels a few bridge teams do employ sports psychologists and at international level you could argue that this is part of the job of a non-playing captain or team coach. But for the average player very little seems to be available.

I recently rediscovered a book first published in the 1970s called *The Inner Game of Tennis* by W Timothy Gallwey, who makes the point that the player needs to be in the right frame of mind. One of the factors that makes this so important in bridge is that it is a partnership game. The way you react can seriously affect partner's frame of mind as well as your own and thus the outcome.

Here is an example from the 2003 EBU Autumn Simultaneous Pairs:

		♠ 63	
		♥ A73	
		♦ J10842	
		♣ K65	
♠ A84	♥ 964	♦ Q9	♣ 108432
			
♠ KQJ972	♥ 10	♦ A763	♣ 97
		♠ 105	
		♥ KQJ852	
		♦ K5	
		♣ AQJ	

East opens a Benji 2♠ (I know, I know, but this is club bridge!). Partner, who is sitting South, in a bit of a quandary, goes for 3♥ and this is passed out. Ten tricks duly roll in and the recriminations start. You are still arguing, or at the very least thinking about this hand, as you pick up the next one. Neither of you is entirely focused on the job in hand and it goes badly, leading to further discussion.

Mentally you are in the wrong frame of mind. The downward spiral has begun. At the end of the evening, as you pick up the booklet for the event, you overhear your opponents talking about the above hand.

'Had they bid 4♥ I would have bid 4♠, which is only one down.' Partner's bidding has turned what would have been a poor board for you into slightly better than average. And yet your reaction to this has resulted in several poor scores. A similar point is made in Andrew Kambites' excellent article in the February 2003 edition of *English Bridge*, which ought to be required reading for all budding partnerships.

I believe that anything you say about a hand during a session is likely to be detrimental to your success. Even if you say, 'Well played partner!' after they have



By Stan Powell

STAN Powell, from Lechlade, Gloucestershire, has for many years been interested in the psychological aspect of competitive sport and in this article offers some relevant advice to bridge players. Stan took up bridge with his wife 10 years ago and is a member of three clubs in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. He has captained a Gloucester clubs league side through from division six to the top division, yet considers his main achievement in the game is that his wife still wants to partner him!

played a board brilliantly, the comment is likely to have them glowing with pride and still thinking about that hand as they pick up the next.

Be in focus

At any moment the hand you are playing should be the focus of your total concentration.

When we first started to play bridge my wife and I had an agreement that the perpetrator of any adverse comment would buy the other a bar of chocolate. We abandoned this amid concerns about my wallet and my wife's waistline. We now put 20p in a charity box for any comment about the hands made at the table. Of course, we do have an advantage over partners who go their separate ways at the end of an evening; we can discuss a hand later.

Only once has the system of fines failed us. We were playing rubber bridge with some friends when declarer led through partner, who trumped before I had, sadly, to contribute my ace. As I began an exposition on all that was wrong with the world she sat there sweetly totting up the comments.

'And it was obvious that I had ...'
'20p'
'Then I could have...'
'40p'

At about 80p I reached into my pocket and pulled out a fiver.

'I don't care, this time I am going to have my say.'

Hilarity all round and a thoroughly enjoyable social evening. But the point is that from a competitive point of view our team had completely lost the initiative. It is not just what you say, but the way it is said that can matter. I am told that some top partnerships do not even say 'Thank you partner,' when dummy goes down. Much better to say nothing, than to snarl out a thanks, giving partner the impression that you feel they have let you down.

Warm to it

Returning to the individual, not many of us would go straight into an important game of golf without a practice swing, or a tennis match without a knock-up. Yet virtually all club bridge is played straight in, with no practice time. Perhaps clubs should arrange for the first couple of hands of a session to be purely a warm up. Until that happens players need to get themselves in the right frame of mind for the very first board.

I would be interested to hear how the top players prepare so that they are immediately focussed. In the meantime here is another of Gallwey's tennis tips that I have found useful when transferred to the bridge table. Force yourself to suspend judgement on the last hand, your partner's efforts and, just as important, how you are playing, and this will help you concentrate on the job at hand and improve your results.

Undoubtedly the secret of success in any game lies in not trying too hard. In this context nervous energy can be counter productive. When I first started playing club bridge I felt so wound up that I would get tired half way through an evening. Results were noticeably worse for the latter part of a session. This was even more marked at Green Point one day events, where about seven hours of concentration is required.

I have found that not discussing the hands means that you chat about other things. This makes it easier to relax between matches and to concentrate when it matters.

Finally I would like to return to Timothy Gallwey's book and attempt to translate the wisdom therein to our game of bridge. The way to play this game is with yourself and your partner in a state of relaxed concentration.

Hopefully this article may prompt some comments on the psychology of the sport from its toughest competitors. Then we may all really learn a thing or two!

Useful reading:

- *The Inner Game of Tennis*, W. Timothy Gallwey, Pan Books 1974.
- *Building the Perfect Partnership*, Andrew Kambites, *English Bridge* February 2003

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Putting on the squeeze

DO squeezes frighten you to death? There are huge numbers of them, with sophisticated and exotic names. Most of them have virtually no relevance to practical declarer play, but some of the simpler types occur over and over again. They do not require great technical sophistication and this chapter aims to explain, in a practical way, how you can squeeze opponents with very little effort or knowledge.

In the first hand you are in 7NT. North leads ♠J. How should you play?

♠ Q43	♠ AK6
♥ AKQ2	♥ 765
♦ 743	♦ AKQ2
♣ AKQ	♣ 842

With 12 top tricks you need to make either the ♥2 or ♦2. A 3-3 break in either suit will suffice. Even if both suits break 4-2 you can succeed if the same opponent has 4 cards in each red suit. You start by cashing six black suit tricks. Now each player has seven cards, so if the same defender started with four cards in each red suit he must have relinquished his hold on one of them.

How much mental effort is involved? Being lazy I would watch for discards of just one of the suits, maybe the hearts. Having cashed six black suit tricks I would continue with ♥AKQ. By this time I would know if ♥2 was a winner. If not, I would cash the diamonds and hope for the best. If I had to play ♦2 at trick 13 I wouldn't even need to know whether or not it is a winner. I rather enjoy the expressions on the defenders' faces when the ♦2 turns out to be a winner and I innocently express surprise.

Bidding principles

NEXT issue watch for the start of a new series by **Andrew Kambites** on **Bidding Principles**

by
Andrew Kambites



The second hand is a simple downgrading of the first hand. You have one fewer winner, but you require one fewer trick. You are playing in 6NT and the lead is ♠J. Do you think the play is the same?

♠ Q43	♠ AK6
♥ AKQ2	♥ 765
♦ 743	♦ AKQ2
♣ AK3	♣ 842

Suppose you cash your five black suit winners, ignoring South, who has retained his clubs, but otherwise hardly matters. The remaining cards are:

♠ -	♠ -
♥ J1064	♥ 765
♦ J1086	♦ AKQ2
♣ -	♣ 8

There has been no squeeze.

Now look at the same diagram with ♣3 missing from West's hand and ♣8 missing from East's hand. East and West have seven cards each. North has eight cards, clearly impossible. North will have already been squeezed. Indeed the position will be exactly the same as in our first 7NT contract. The squeeze works if you take ♠A at trick one and immediately duck a club.

This is not technically complicated. You just need general principles. You have 11 tricks. You need 12 tricks. You can afford to lose one trick. Any squeeze is more likely to

work if you have already lost that trick. Therefore I give it up as soon as is convenient in order to tighten the noose around the unfortunate defender's neck. Ducking the club is called 'rectifying the count'.



Often running a long suit can produce unexpected results. In the next example West is in 3NT and North leads ♠K. You allow the defenders to win the first two tricks and win ♠A at trick three, discarding ♥6 from dummy. It looks as though you can just take seven more top winners and then sink under a barrage of spades, but look at the effect of running your clubs.

♠ KQJ109	♠ 73
♥ KQ3	♥ AJ6
♦ A93	♦ 74
♣ 83	♣ KQJ1072

North needs to find four discards. Throwing two diamonds and ♥3 causes no pain, but what then? If North discards a second heart your ♥J becomes a winner, so North can only discard a spade. Now it is safe for you to drive out ♠A.

Once again there is nothing advanced about this. When you are short of tricks it often pays to run your long suit, providing you have easy discards from your hand. You can comfortably discard two hearts and a diamond. Here it just falls into your lap, whether or not you understand what you are doing.

For the final hand again you are in 3NT, with North leading ♠K. You correctly allow this to hold and North switches to ♣9. How should you play?

♠ KQ1032	♠ 94
♥ AJ4	♥ 62
♦ AQ9	♦ 102
♣ 97	♣ AKQJ1032

Do you think it is appropriate to run your clubs? What five discards do you intend to make from your hand?

Now I don't know whether or not you can succeed by running the clubs immediately. Experience warns me that with North discarding after you, the endgame will turn out to be very complicated. If I were conscientious I would provide you with a detailed analysis, but I have two reasons for not doing so.

(1) This article is meant to be practical and not too complicated.

(2) I am lazy and such an analysis would be a total waste of effort. You can make the contract trivially by driving out ♥A at trick two. I have no great interest in inflicting a suicide squeeze on my own hand and then seeing whether I can recover from my own incompetence.

So what is the purpose of this hand? Merely to show you that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. You should not imagine that you could mindlessly run a long suit without consequences. You need to understand the two vital differences between these last two hands:

In the first one there was no simple way of making my contract. In the second one, there was a very simple way.

In the first one I could easily find the necessary discards from my hand. In the second one I couldn't.

CUE BIDDING ITALIAN STYLE

Beat today's experts



By David Bird

ALL the deals this time come from the 2003 Bermuda Bowl in Monaco. Will EBU members, practising their bidding by the fireside, be able to outbid potential world champions from Italy, USA and Sweden? Let's see!

The first deal is from a keen encounter between Sweden and Norway. Responder has to judge a powerful hand opposite a 1NT opening.

1. Game all. Dealer East.

♠ 432	♠ AQ9
♥ Q52	♥ A3
♦ A1086	♦ KQJ74
♣ 1098	♣ 642
♠ K105	♠ J876
♥ KJ109864	♥ 7
♦ -	♦ 9532
♣ KQ7	♣ AJ53

West	North	East	South
Morath	Brogeland	Gustawsson	Saelensminde
		1NT (15-17)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The usual meaning of West's 3♥ is to show six hearts and invite game. The Swedes, however, play it as forcing, setting the suit and inviting a cue bid. (In a standard system you can use 1NT - 3♥ to have this meaning.)

Over Morath's cue bid in diamonds Brogeland stepped in for Norway with a lead-directing double. When the opponents make such a move you can turn it to your advantage. Gustawsson would have redoubled if he held the ♦A himself. Instead he passed, to allow partner to clarify the nature of his diamond control. Morath's redouble confirmed that he had first-round control. Since East held ♦KQJ himself, it was reasonable to assume that West had cue-bid a void and North had doubled with the ♦A.

After a spade cue bid from East, West bid Roman Key-card Blackwood (knowing that partner did not have the ♦A) and settled in 6♥. It was not a good slam and

duly went down. Even if the ♥Q had fallen in two rounds, declarer would still have needed to avoid two club losers. East should surely not have cue bid 4♠ with so many points wasted opposite partner's diamond void. At the other table Helgemo and Helness bid 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♦ (splinter) - 4♥.

Awards: 4♥ - 10, 5♥ - 8, 3NT - 7, 6♥ - 5.

WE move swiftly on to another slam deal, this time from the encounter between USA 1 and Australia. The American pair produced an ugly, but instructive, sequence to a very poor spot.

2. East-West game. Dealer East.

♠ AKQJ2	♠ 1085
♥ A93	♥ KQ7
♦ A109	♦ K6
♣ A3	♣ Q10652

West	East
Freeman	Nickell
2♣	Pass
3♣	2NT
7♣	6♣

Nickell's 2NT response showed around 8-11 points and a balanced hand. What should he bid next, would you say, when partner rebids 3♣?

If you play ace-and-king (Italian) cue bidding, the answer is easy. You rebid 4♦, agreeing spades and showing the ace or king of diamonds. If partner continues with 4♥, you can go past game with a 5♥ cue bid. Nickell took the simple view that his partner had a big spade hand on which he had forced to game. So, two kings and two queens should produce the extra two tricks needed to bump 10 to 12. He leapt to 6♣ on the second round and Freeman raised to 7♣. The required miracle in the club suit did not materialise and the grand went one down.

The first time I looked at this deal. I thought 'What an absurd leap to 6♣. His

partner was certain to bid the grand, holding all five key cards and the trump queen.' When I looked again I still thought that 6♣ was a poor bid. However, I asked myself why West thought that a passed partner, with a balanced hand, could fill all five gaps in his own hand. I concluded that West, strange as it seems, should not have raised to the seven level.

At the other table Fruewirth and Del Monte conducted a seven-round, more dignified, auction that eventually crept into 6♣ for a big swing to Australia. Their auction was 2♣ - 2♦, 2NT - 3♣ (five-card Stayman), 3♣ - 4♦, 4♥ - 4♠, 5♣ - 5♥, 5♠ - 6♣. All the non-spade bids from the second round onwards were ace-or-king cue bids.

Awards: 6♣ - 10, 6NT - 6, games - 4, grands - 1.

THE third deal comes from the round robin clash between USA 1 and USA 2. Let's see how superstars Meckstroth and Rodwell cope with it.

3. Love all. Dealer East.

♠ K10872	♠ A65
♥ A7	♥ Q3
♦ AKJ1053	♦ Q742
♣ -	♣ AQ62

West	East
Meckstroth	Rodwell
	1NT
2♣	2NT
3♣	4♦
4♥	5♦
7♦	

Rodwell opened a 14-16 point 1NT and 2♣ was minor suit Texas. The 2NT rebid merely indicated a minimum hand and Meckstroth's 3♣ showed a long diamond suit. Rodwell agreed diamonds with his 4♦ bid and his partner's 4♥ was (of course!) a Roman Key-card Blackwood enquiry.

The four-step 5♦ response showed two aces and the diamond queen. Meckstroth could tell that partner's ace of clubs would provide a discard for his heart loser. He now needed to know whether there would be a loser in spades. The familiar mechanism that he used to investigate this should act as a confidence booster to us all. He punted a grand and waited to see what spade holding would appear in the dummy!

Did dummy have a useful ♠A-x? No. Did dummy have an even more splendid ♠A-Q-x? No. Did dummy at least have

COVER PICTURE



Photo: Lawrence Purcell, Manchester

AN extra dose of glamour is brought to the England women's team with the first-time selection of Manchester's Tracy Capal for the five nations Lady Milne Trophy in Northern Ireland on April 16-18.

Tracy is no shrinking violet and every hair will be in place and every fingernail dramatically decorated (from shamrock to St George's flag) when she goes into battle for her country.

'I'm so proud to be in the team and if I look my best I feel more confident that I will play my best,' says Tracy, who is paired for the series with Kent's Catherine Draper in what is virtually a brand new partnership.

— WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY? ★

♠A-J-x, giving declarer a finesse for the grand slam? No. Did dummy have a useless A-x-x in the spade suit, but the grand made anyway because the ♠Q J fell doubleton? Yes!

In fact, Bobby Wolff sat South, playing for USA 2, and led a deceptive ♠J from Q-J doubleton. Rodwell won with dummy's king, drew trumps and then dropped the spade queen with the ace. It was hardly possible that South would have led from J-9 doubleton (when the ♠10 would have pinned the nine on the second round).

Awards: 6♦ - 10, 6♠ - 7, 6NT/games - 4, grands - 2.

WE move now to the semi-final contest-between the two American teams. The next deal had a Mollo-esque touch to it, as you will see.

4. North-South game. Dealer West.

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

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Wildavsky	Hamman	Doub
1♦	Dbl	1♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The first point to note is that East's 1♥ response should be forcing. The modern style is to ignore the double, so 1♥ has exactly the same meaning that it would have if North had not doubled. The next point is that East's 3♣ does not promise four spades. West has denied four spades with his 3♦ rebid, so there cannot be a 4-4 spade fit. The 3♣ bid shows a spade stopper, but insufficient strength in clubs to bid 3NT. With a club stopper himself, Soloway was able to bid 3NT and the superb 22-point game had been reached.

Wildavsky led a club, won in the dummy, and a diamond to the ace revealed the 3-0 break. Soloway crossed to the ♥A, finessed in diamonds and had nine tricks. It's true that a heart lead would have beaten him, even if he was inspired enough to finesse in diamonds, but this was very unlikely after East had bid hearts.

This was the other auction:

West	North	East	South
Morse	Rodwell	Wolff	Meckstroth
1♦	Dbl	1♥	1♠
3♦	Dbl	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Meckstroth went only one down and it was 5imps to USA 1. 'Strange hand,' said Oscar the Owl. 'USA 1 bid freely to 3NT at both tables!'

Awards: 3NT - 10, 5♦ - 6, part scores - 4.

We will end with two big deals from the final, between Italy and USA 1.

5. Love all. Dealer West.

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

West	East
Fantoni	Nunes
1♠	2♣
2♦	3♣
3♦	3♣
4♣	4♦
4♥	4♣
5♦	6♣

The key point of the auction was that the 2♣ response was forcing to game in the Italians' system. Just look at the huge amount of information that this allowed them to exchange. West had space to rebid his diamonds, East showed primary spade support and three (Italian, of course!) cue bids were exchanged below the game level.

Nunes then signed off in 4♣, leaving any further move to his partner. Fantoni judged that he was worth one further move and cue bid his second control in the diamond suit. That was enough to prompt Nunes into bidding the small slam. A fine exchange of values and controls, leading to a sound contract that was easily made when Meckstroth (North) led the ♠A.

At the other table Nickell opened 1♠ and Freeman responded 2NT to show a game raise hand in spades. After further exploratory bids (3♦ - 3♥ - 4♣) Freeman bid 4♣. The Vugraph commentators were confident that Nickell would bid on, as his Italian counterpart had done, but he passed and lost his team 11imps.

Awards: 6♠ - 10, 5♣/4♣ - 6, 3NT - 5.

Our final board is one of those that set the Americans on the road to recovery, eventually closing a big deficit to win on a nail-biting last board.

6. Love all. Dealer East.

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

West	East
Hamman	Soloway
2♦	1NT
2♣	2♥
4♣	3♥
4♣	4♦
5♣	4NT
5♣	5♦
	6♥

Paul Soloway opened with a weak 1NT (Yes, an American opened a weak no trump - it's not a misprint!). When Bob Hamman made a transfer response of 2♦, Soloway did not rate his hand as strong enough for a break. In standard bidding West would now continue with 3♣, game forcing, to show the second half of his two-suiter. Hamman preferred an artificial 2♣, which merely set up a game force. Soloway showed genuine heart support and a series of cue bids followed. 4NT was a general cue bid, not Blackwood, and West's 5♣ showed a second control in clubs.

The resultant heart slam was an excellent contract and was easily made when trumps broke 2-2. If the trumps divide 3-1 you need the clubs to be 3-3 or the diamond finesse to succeed.

At the other table Nunes and Fantoni, for Italy, missed the slam when Rodwell (South) intervened over the weak 1NT with a borderline ASTRO-type bid.

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

Our experts end with three bulls-eyes, but score a total of only 38 points, giving you a solid chance to beat them. I'm sure we can extract some worthwhile tips from the deals.

Tips to Remember

★ The purpose of a splinter bid is to tell your partner 'I am not strong enough for a slam unless you have a suitable holding opposite my shortage'. Make such a bid when you have the values for game, but little extra (about 11-14 points facing a one-bid). If your hand is stronger, choose a different sequence to find out more about partner's hand.

★ When the opener has bid and rebid a minor suit, a second suit bid by the responder should be taken initially as showing a stopper rather than a genuine suit. For example, in the sequence 1♦ - 1♠, 3♦ - 3♥ the responder does not promise four hearts. He may be hoping to hear 3NT, or delayed spade support.

★ More and more players are adopting the Italian cue-bidding style, where you cue bid equally on aces and kings. Why not give it a try? One big advantage is that when your partner bypasses a suit in the cue bidding, you know he has two top losers there. Also, you don't waste space when one of you has to leap several bids to show his only ace, or to sign off with no ace.

★ When a cue bid is doubled, for a lead, you should make use of a redouble - either by the partner of the cue bidder, or (after a pass) by the cue bidder himself. A redouble by the cue bidder will confirm that he has first-round control.

Menorca Once More



HOTEL S'ALGAR, MENORCA - 8th-22nd October 2004

The Hotel S'Algar is so popular with bridge players that we're going back to Menorca for the thirty-third time in October 2004. Bridge is licensed by the EBU and master points awarded at all sessions. Prizes will be presented to the winners of all events. Choice of apartments or hotel rooms. Director **Graham Hedley**.

Price from **£829.00** includes air travel; airport taxes; insurance; transfers from airport to resort; full board; full bridge programme; prizes; and special events as specified.

£75.00 single supplement.



Magical Madeira



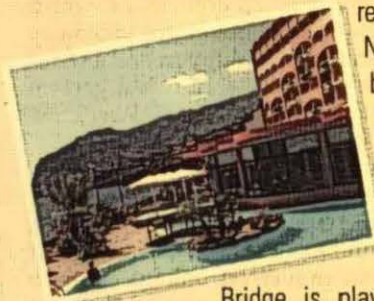
PESTANA BAY HOTEL, nr FUNCHAL - 15th-29th November 2004

Martin and Judy's first holiday at the Pestana Bay was generally reckoned to have been first class. Not surprisingly, they'll be going back again in 2004.

Spectacularly situated on one of the island's beachfront sites, Praia Formosa, this four star hotel offers mainly sea view twin bedrooms with balconies.

Bridge is played in the comfort of an air-conditioned room and is under the friendly direction of **Graham Hedley** ably assisted, as always, by his wife Berry.

Cost **£869.00** includes half board, bridge fees, entertainment, transfers and airport duties. Single supplement £129.00. Price based on Gatwick but with nine other airports available at a supplement.

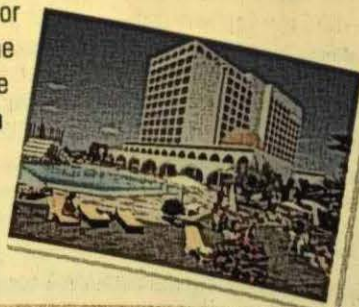


Vilamoura Value

HOTEL ATLANTIS - 27th January - 10th February 2005

Our first four Vilamoura ventures have been sell-out successes and we're already taking bookings for 2005. The hotel, the service, the facilities and the bridge are a huge hit with our guests and **Graham Hedley** is again our bridge director.

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In addition to the established Cardiff New Year event, Martin and Judy have organised breaks in Bristol and Cheltenham in response to requests from their holiday guests for more bridge events in the UK.

CARDIFF NEW YEAR Thu 30th Dec 2004 - Sun 2nd Jan 2005

We are returning to the superb Cardiff Thistle for this event where guests can expect traditional hospitality in

a congenial setting.

Martin and Judy will be on hand throughout the break to

ensure everyone has an enjoyable time.

Director **Graham Hedley**.

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BRISTOL Weekend 18th-20th March 2005

This distinguished Victorian 4-star hotel is situated in the heart of a busy commercial city. Its luxurious 182 en-suite bedrooms are designed and furnished for maximum comfort. The Hotel recently opened the Otium Health and Leisure Club, the largest hotel

leisure complex within the city centre.

Cost per person half board **£149.00*** for two nights plus four sessions of bridge. Director **Andrew Kambites**.



CHELTENHAM 5 nights 30th May - 4th June 2005

This modern hotel is situated in its own grounds on the edge of Cheltenham in the heart of the Cotswolds, just one mile from junction 11 of the M5. All 122 en-suite bedrooms are furnished to high standards and all include satellite TV, trouser press, hairdryer plus tea and coffee

making facilities. There is an Otium Leisure Club and two all-weather tennis courts. Cost per person half board **£339.00*** for five nights. Director **Andrew Kambites**.

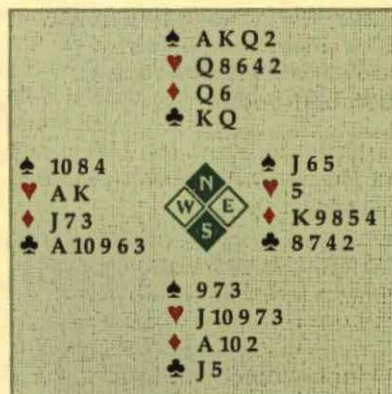


*Limited number of single rooms available without supplement.

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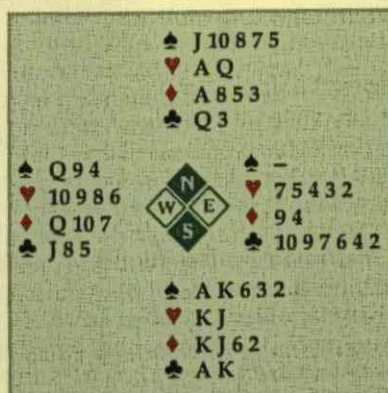
Menorca holidays operated by Celtic Line Travel Ltd, ATOL No: 1772; Algarve holiday operated by Saga Holidays Ltd, ATOL No: 0308; Madeira holiday operated by Atlantic Holidays ATOL No: 2704. Bridge licensed by the EBU

THERE are many deals on which it is necessary for the defence to switch the point of attack in the hope that it will provide them with the winners they require to defeat a contract. There are also many deals on which the distribution is such that even when partner holds the high cards you are looking for it is best to play passively and wait for those tricks to come to you rather than make a switch that may work to declarer's advantage. Countless contracts are allowed to make when a defender fails to count out the distribution and gets too busy.



West led the ace and another club against 4♥, East petering to show an even number of clubs. When declarer played a heart, West won and cashed the second heart. Now he reasoned that the spades were dividing evenly for declarer so he had better switch to a diamond to get any defensive tricks that were available in that suit before they disappeared. Declarer decided that West would not have led away from the king of diamonds at this point so played low from dummy and East's king lost to the ace, destroying the defensive diamond trick.

The evidence of the first few tricks should have told West that declarer had started with five hearts and two clubs. That leaves him with six cards between spades and diamonds and however those cards are distributed between the two suits there can be no useful discards for declarer. The passive exit with a spade leaves declarer powerless to avoid an eventual diamond loser.



Despite the duplication and mirror distribution, 6♣ appeared to be an excellent contract until the 3-0 trump split came to light. Declarer won the heart lead and cashed two top trumps, then the rest of the

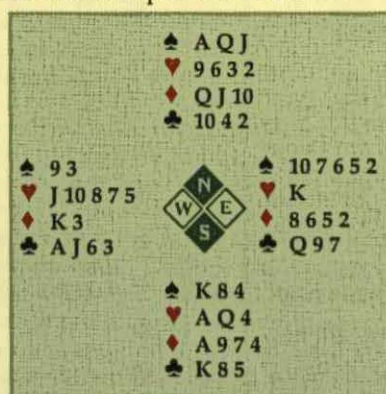
To switch or not to switch?



hearts and clubs before exiting with a spade to the queen.

If West panics and switches to a diamond, he gives the contract. However, this is only a pseudo endplay. Declarer has given the defence an opportunity to make a mistake, but a little basic arithmetic should allow West to see the true situation. Declarer must be the same 5-2-4-2 distribution as dummy; otherwise he would have eliminated the clubs and hearts before exiting with the spade. In that case a ruff and discard will not help declarer and West can be assured of defeating the contract by playing either a club or a heart now and leaving declarer to pick up the diamonds – which he cannot do, of course.

Count signals can resolve some otherwise almost impossible decisions.



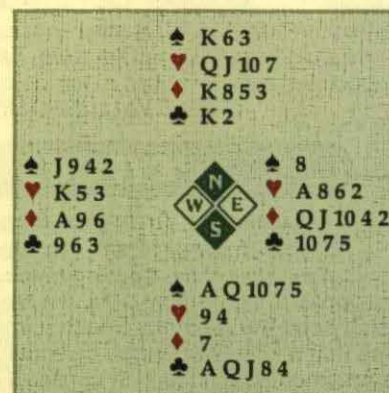
South opens 1NT (15-17) and is raised to game. West leads a low heart to the king and ace and declarer crosses to dummy by leading a spade to the queen, East following with the two. Now declarer runs ♦Q, East playing the six, and West wins the king.

If West believes that declarer has nine tricks ready to run his only hope of defeating the contract is to switch to a low club, playing partner for king to three. On the layout above the club switch would solve all of declarer's problems. How is West to know what to do? If the partnership plays count signals on declarer's lead West can count declarer's winners. East showed an odd number of spades, and that is likely to be five, leaving declarer with three tricks

there. East appears to have begun a high-low signal in diamonds, showing four, and again leaving declarer with three winners. Declarer is known to hold ♥Q to go with the ace he won at the first trick, but that only gives him eight winners. Accordingly, there is no need to make the desperation switch to a club at this stage and West should just clear the heart suit. Leave declarer to do his own work and he may well go down, though it is true that he can succeed via a squeeze and endplay against West if he reads the end position.

Now change the above hand slightly, so that declarer has a fifth diamond. He will play the same way, but this time East will play the two on the first round of diamonds, showing an odd number and suggesting that declarer has five cards. That would give declarer four diamond tricks, three spades and two hearts. Now it would be correct for West to win the diamond and try a low club. If declarer holds the king it is just an overtrick, while the contract is defeated if East holds king to three or four clubs.

When a switch is necessary a defender must make it, however unattractive it might appear to be.



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

West leads ♦A, East following with the two and declarer with the seven. Should West switch to a heart or play passively?

Declarer is marked with at least five-five in the black suits and the opening lead has established the king of diamonds in the dummy. If declarer has ace doubleton heart, the small card will be discarded on the king of diamonds anyway, so leading from the ♥K will not normally cost a trick. However, if declarer has two small hearts, as in the diagram, it is essential that West switches to a heart now to take the two defensive winners there before the discard can be taken. A low heart to the ace and a heart back to the king will defeat the contract when it is possible to do so.

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GET EVEN WITH THE ODDS

MANY declarer problems revolve around the location of a missing queen. Consider the following hand.

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

You open 1NT, partner transfers to hearts and then bids 2NT. You jump to 4♥, the final contract, and receive ♠3 lead to the king and ace. A pity, for without that lead you had the chance of leading twice up to clubs for a spade discard when the ace is onside. As there are two spades and a club to lose, you need to play trumps without loss.

You would not dream of taking a first round finesse of ♥J, risking losing to sin-

By Bill
Townsend



gleton queen, so first you cash ♥A, both opponents following. Now you have the choice of laying down ♥K, playing for a 2-2 break, or returning to hand with ♦A to finesse ♥J.

Most players are familiar with the 'eight ever, nine never' rule, relating to whether to finesse against the queen when holding eight or nine cards in the combined hands, and this rule says play for the drop.

However, one should be aware that this decision is extremely close. It turns out that the odds are now a mere 11-10 in favour of the drop, rather than taking a second round

finesse, so other considerations may apply. For example, if North peters, suggesting three trumps to the queen, you might be tempted to finesse. Be warned, however, that a defender may well peter deceptively with a small doubleton trump. You need to weigh up opponents!

Once observing a top player taking the finesse in this situation, I asked him why he had gone against the odds. He replied that his team was well behind in the match, it was a close decision anyway, and he badly needed to create a swing! In a pairs event, desperate for a top, you should certainly consider finessing, contrary to what is likely to be the majority decision of the field.

In the next problem you have some information to guide you.

Love all. Dealer South. Pairs.

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

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

North leads ♦10 to the queen and king. South continues with ♦A and ♦J, which you ruff, North following. You cash ♥A to which both opponents follow small, so 10 tricks are certain. You play a second heart, North following suit. Should you finesse or play for the drop? You know from the above example that the decision is very close. This is pairs, not teams, so the over-trick is important.

Are there any clues?

Well, there is only one other high card missing, the ♠Q. If you knew that South had that card you could be pretty sure that North has ♥Q, since South passed as dealer and has already turned up with eight points in diamonds. Unfortunately there is no convenient way of finding out about ♠Q, so is it just a guess?

Not quite. South can have ♥Q, ♠Q or neither – but cannot have both! As these three possibilities have approximately the same chance, it is about 2-1 against South holding ♥Q, so to finesse must be correct.

The full deal was:

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

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

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

TIP: Missing Q x x x in a suit, don't mechanically play for the drop. The odds are far too close!

Turning the tables on declarer

A chronicle of wide-awake defending, by David Adelman, bridge teacher and writer

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

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

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

THIS is a hand from day one of the National Swiss teams at Leeds in January. It demonstrates what damage a wide-awake defender can do to foil a declarer intent on finding the most fiendish ways of making his contract. I'm happy to report that the wide awake defender in question was your correspondent, who sat East.

My partner led ♦J to 3NT, won by declarer's ♦Q. Declarer now has eight top tricks and set about the clubs looking for trick nine. After cashing ♠Q and then playing ♠6 towards dummy, declarer found out the bad news in that suit. He won this second club trick in dummy and ran the ♥9. Partner won with ♥10 and played a small diamond to clear dummy's ♦A. Declarer was now getting desperate and I could sense him sizing me up for something downright nasty. He cashed dummy's ♠A and came to hand with ♥A, dropping my ♥Q.

This left the following ending:

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

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

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

Declarer now cashes ♠A and you play your ♠5 to preserve your beautiful holding of ♠Q J 10, don't you? Well, if you do, you have fallen right into declarer's horrible little trap. He would now play a small spade and after cashing your precious ♠Q J 10 you would be conceding the last two tricks to dummy's carefully preserved ♠A10. Declarer has you on lead just at the right moment for him and the wrong one for you.

Was I endplayed? Do you really think I would be writing this article if I had been? Oh, no. I carefully played my ♠Q under his ♠A and when he played ♠9 to my ♠10 I immediately returned the ♠5 to give him back the lead. A shell-shocked declarer now had to concede the last three tricks to partner's ♥K and ♦K 10. 3NT down one.

It's not often that defenders get the chance to beat declarer at his/her own endplay game. Scoring up with team-mates I couldn't wait to regale them with tales of spiders caught in their own web or words to that effect.

'So the endplay worked then?' I asked team-mate declarer at the other table. What endplay?' he uttered, somewhat bemused. 'You don't need an endplay to make 4♥ – it's cold!'

I give up!

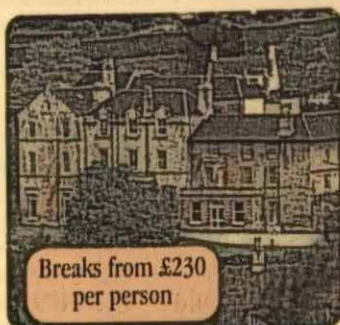
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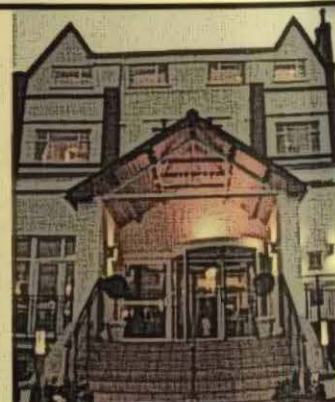
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Asking a question can help you find the best contract

Standard English by Sandra Landy

MY last article showed how the auction could be completed when a limit bid has been made. Simple limit bids include all no trump bids and the second time any suit is bid. But it's not quite as simple as that. Sometimes a question needs to be asked before the decision on the final contract can be made.

Questions after no trump limit bids

♠ KQ953
♥ 32
♦ AJ10
♣ KQ2

Partner opens 1NT. You are in charge as partner has made a limit bid. With your 15 HCP your side should definitely be going to game. But perhaps 4♠ would be better than 3NT, you can't tell. Bid 3♠. This asks partner to bid 3NT with only two spades, but to raise to 4♠ holding three or more.

♠ KQ3
♥ 932
♦ Q1075
♣ KQ2

Partner opens 1NT, putting you in charge. With 12 HCP your side may only have a combined 24 HCP, a bit thin for game. On the other hand, partner may have 14 HCP and that extra couple of points make game a much better prospect. Bid 2NT, asking partner to bid 3NT with a maximum and pass with a minimum.

♠ K10832
♥ 7
♦ K932
♣ K52

Partner opens 1♣, you respond 1♠ and partner rebids 2NT – a strong limit bid showing 17-18 HCP. Now you are certainly going to game with nine HCP, but maybe 4♠ would be safer. Bid 3♦, showing an unbalanced hand with 5+ spades and 4+ diamonds. If partner shows you three-card spade support by bidding 3♠, choose to play in 4♠ rather than 3NT. Partner could have weak hearts, such as ♥Q32 for his 2NT rebid and the defence might cash lots of heart tricks.

♠ KQ832
♥ 2
♦ KQ1075
♣ J2

Again you respond 1♠ to partner's 1♣ opening and he rebids 1NT. You have a good hand and want to go to game, but maybe 3NT is not best. A 2♦ bid would tell partner to pass if he preferred diamonds to spades, so you must rebid 3♦, showing a shapely game forcing hand. Even 5♦ might be a better contract than 3NT.

Questions after a suit limit bid

♠ KQ953
♥ J2
♦ K974
♣ AK

You open 1♠ and partner bids 2♠. You have quite a good hand and might choose just to bid 4♠ directly. But you can ask partner by bidding 3♠, saying go on to 4♠ if you are at the good end of your 6-9 range, pass otherwise.

Some people prefer to ask a more specific question in this auction. A bid of 3♦ says 'Game is possible. Bid 4♠ if you can help me with my diamond losers, either because you have shortage or because you have high cards in diamonds'. This 3♦ bid is called a 'trial bid' because you are trying for game by telling partner where you need help.

♠ K874
♥ QJ432
♦ 9
♣ A95

Partner opens 1♣. You respond 1♥ and partner raises to 2♥. This limit bid puts you in charge. Should you go for game in hearts or play in a safe part score? Partner has shown an unbalanced hand, probably with five clubs and four hearts and about 12-14/15 HCP. With more distribution or points, partner would have made the stronger limit bid of 3♥ or 4♥. You can try for game by bidding 3♥, asking for useful extra values, or by bidding 2♠, specifically asking for help in spades.

My beginners looked a bit dubious about this topic, most preferring to stop in safe part scores that would not test their card play too much. Still, they managed quite well with my practice hands.

Asking and answering questions

♠ A864 ♠ 9
♥ AK107 ♥ Q9832
♦ A5 ♦ 10643
♣ QJ2 ♣ K54

Roy opened 1♥, the correct bid on a balanced hand with both majors, which is too good for 1NT. Sally raised to 2♥, a limit bid showing 6-9 HCP and 4+ hearts. Roy tried for game with 3♥, but Sally passed with only five points.

At the next table, when Peter raised Janet's 1♥ to 2♥, Janet tried for game with 2♠. Now Peter knew that, although his hand had minimum points, his singleton spade was just what partner wanted so he jumped to 4♥ and Janet made 10 tricks.

Russell, too, opened 1♥, but when Sylvia replied 2♥, he went straight to 4♥. With 18 HCP he thought game would be good. He made it, but he was lucky to find Sylvia with such a suitable dummy. She might have had a flatter hand, say ♠953 ♥QJ83 ♦K63 ♣854 and now 4♥ is bound to lose two spades and two clubs.

♠ Q86 ♠ 9
♥ AK7 ♥ Q9832
♦ A52 ♦ KJ103
♣ QJ108 ♣ K54

Over Alex's 1♣, Jill responded 1♥ and Alex rebid 1NT, showing 15-16 HCP. Jill wasn't sure whether to go to game with nine HCP so she tried 2NT. Alex was a maximum, but he was worried that his spade and diamond stoppers were weak, so he made the excellent bid of 3♥. It told Jill he was a maximum, but it also showed three-card heart sup-

port. Jill bid 4♥ with her five-card suit. It proved to be a better contract than 3NT, which lost the first five spade tricks at another table.

♠ K64 ♠ Q98
♥ AKJ10 ♥ Q32
♦ A9 ♦ J10642
♣ QJ108 ♣ K5

Having just heard about the idea of showing three-card support for partner on the second round, Emily found an interesting bid. Having responded 1NT to Dick's 1♥ opening and been raised to 2NT, she tried 3♥ to show her three-card support. Dick only had four hearts, so he signed off in 3NT. But had his ♠4 been the ♥4 he would have played in the safer contract of 4♥.

♠ K64 ♠ AQ973
♥ AKJ10 ♥ Q98
♦ A9 ♦ 10643
♣ QJ32 ♣ 4

To reinforce that point Dick and Emily bid this hand next. The auction started 1♥-1♠-2NT. Now Emily bid 3♥, showing her three-card heart support. Dick only had four hearts, but he also had three-card spade support, so he bid 3♠, which Emily was pleased to raise to 4♠.

Some key points

■ After a limit opening or rebid, the other hand should consider investigating alternative contracts, particularly in a major suit.

■ If you haven't raised partner's major at the first opportunity, any subsequent bid in that major shows three-card support.

■ If partner raises your major, you can try for game by re-raising to the three level. But this bid won't tell partner where you need help. A trial bid, identifying the suit with losers, may be more helpful.

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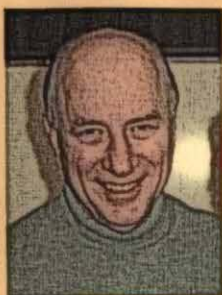
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On the road with
Ron Klinger (Part 2)



Foot down for Burnham!

RON Klinger, the renowned Australian bridge teacher and player, continues the story of his master class tour round the bridge clubs of England. He recalls some of the friends he met and talks over a few of the hands that his eager students found most interesting. The tale of his 15-day 22-lecture tour last autumn is the subject of a book to be published in July by Cassell at £7.99. In an agreement with the publisher, the EBU will have advance copies of the book and will be selling it through the EBU Bridge Shop from April at 20% discount.

LATE on a Tuesday afternoon, after the class at Marches Bridge-for-All Club at Bartestree, I put the foot to the floor to reach Burnham by 8.30pm for a dinner date with Laurie Champniss, Elena and Giorgio Jeronimidis and Julian Pottage. Well, not to the floor for very long, because most of the trip was in driving rain.

We reached the turn-off in good time, but a call from Laurie (thank heavens for mobile phones) told us that the road to his place had been closed. Ignoring the barricade on the road we had almost made it to Laurie's when we were turned back by a workman who was dealing with the burst water main.

We turned round, circled a very large block and finally made it to Laurie's from the other end of the street around 9.15pm. A superb dinner at a nearby pub, plus the company, made up for the dismal drive and we spent the night at Laurie's.

The class next morning at South Bucks Bridge Club started with Hand Evaluation and Constructive Bidding. After a break for lunch, the session concluded with Competitive Bidding. A very good friend of ours, Pat Husband, joined us at South Bucks. Pat had been instrumental in organising the tour on my previous visits to England.

Here is a problem from the morning:

Dealer West. Game all

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

What action would you take as East with ♠9 8 5 ♥9 8 7 4 3 ♦8 7 6 4 3 ♣-

The complete deal looked like this:

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

The recommended auction:

West	North	East	South
2♣ (i)	Pass	2♦ (ii)	Pass
2♥ (iii)	Pass	4♣ (iv)	Pass
4♦ (v)	Pass	4♠ (vi)	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(i) With 23 HCP West is worth a 2♣ opening. Equally, West has roughly a three-loser hand, again worth a 2♣ opening.

(ii) Negative or waiting reply

(iii) Forcing to game, 5+ hearts

(iv) Splinter raise of hearts. Since 2♥ was forcing to game, the 4♣ splinter does not promise high card values, just 4+ trumps and a shortage in clubs

(v) Artificial inquiry (this 'scroll' approach was explained at the start of the session)

(vi) Void in clubs and none or three key cards - obviously none. With a club singleton East's rebid would have been 4♥.

When West learns of the club void, West can jump to 7♥ without further ado.

Leaving South Bucks at 3.30pm we managed to reach Bletchingley in two hours, despite setting off on the M4 in the wrong direction for a little way. At Bletchingley we met Jean and Michael Virley, our hosts for the evening. There was enough time to set up the bridge room and have a meal before the evening session on Competitive Doubles and High-level Bidding. We stayed overnight at Jean's and she was kind enough also to invite Alison and Norman Nicolson to stay. Alison is one of the three EBU representatives who attended the sessions on the tour, the others being Terry Collier, EBU general manager, and John Pain, development manager.

On the Thursday afternoon we were the guests of Ron and Vi Webb, who organised the session at the Brevion Bridge Club, Danbury. Pat Husband and Terry Collier also joined us at the Webbs, where we had a delightful dinner. The bridge session that evening was on Constructive and Competitive Bidding.

On the Friday afternoon we were at the Meridian Bridge Club (East Grinstead) where Bill Acraman explained the significance of the club's name. The topics were Modern Duplicate Methods, Declarer Play in Trumps and Playing to Win.

We went on to a Friday evening class at the Leisureland Bridge Club, Richmond, organised by June Knott. The topics here were Improve Your Bridge Memory and the Law of Total Tricks. The evening had a special significance for us, as we were able to meet up with my cousins Angela and Jennifer, whom I had not seen for more than 30 years. After the session we returned to Peter Crawley's at Hertingfordbury (near Hertford) for a welcome day of rest. More next time.

Bob Rowlands CARD PLAY QUIZ

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 below? Use one suit from a pack of cards if it helps.

Combination A	Combination B
♦ K 9 5 2	♦ K 9 5 2
♠ A J 6 4	♠ A J 6 4
Four tricks needed	Three tricks needed

and DOUBLES QUIZ

Dealer North. Love all.

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Dbl	?

What do you bid with:

- (a) ♠7 3 ♥K 10 9 6 ♦A J 8 6 2 ♣K 4
(b) ♠10 6 3 ♥Q J 6 ♦K 9 6 5 ♠A 10 4
(c) ♠K 10 6 ♥8 3 ♦J 10 8 6 4 ♠10 9 2
(d) ♠Q 6 ♥4 2 ♦10 9 3 2 ♠A K J 8 4

plus Denis Young's SNEAKY QUESTION

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

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

YOUR wretched partner has thrown you into the oggin all right. He opened 1♦ and when you contributed a shy INT he raised you to three. Afterwards he will justify his vile bidding by saying: 'You obviously make seven or nine. May as well go for the nine.' Huh! After a black suit opening lead?

But they start with a heart, which you win with the queen. Both opponents duck the first diamond and, after your left hand opponent shows out on the second round, his partner ducks again. What next?

All the answers on page 36

Yorkshire's Roy Garthwaite, Heather Hobson and Ted and Janet Latham, winners of the Swiss teams (see story 'Lucky team ties' below), pictured with Sally Bugden, representing Baker Tilly



Philip Mason and Stanley Collins, took first place in the men's pairs



Kit and Alma Platt from Surrey, two much-loved veterans of the bridge congress circuit, dashed off after Estoril to play at Cwmbran



Excellent playing Hotel Palacio



Estoril – another excellent

ESTORIL, on the Atlantic coast of Portugal, in early February – surely one can't expect good weather? I heard a number of similar comments in the preceding months, but I tried to give an assurance to each and everyone that this resort has its own microclimate, as it faces south across the ocean and is protected by the hills to the north.

Luckily, and to my relief, all those doubts were unfounded and more than 200 players enjoyed not only pleasant temperatures and plenty of sunshine, but an excellent congress played in the opulent surroundings of the Hotel Palacio.

This was the fourth venture abroad for the EBU, having been to Malta, Cyprus and Madeira in previous

years. No major travel problems this time apart from a few disgruntled Yorkshire players (me included) who arrived at Lisbon airport via Amsterdam only to find that the authorities there had decided to look after our luggage, completely free of charge, for an extra night!

This year's congress was sponsored by Baker Tilly, a UK and international firm of chartered accountants and business advisers. They were represented at the bridge table by two members of the national management team, Raymond Blin and James Bugden. James's wife Sally presented the impressive glass trophies, provided by the sponsors, to the winners of all events at the farewell dinner. Raymond also announced that Baker Tilly would sponsor the overseas congress for a further

two years – a generous gesture by the EBU.

The bridge programme allows plenty of time to explore. Many visited Lisbon, Portugal, spent time in the magical village, one of the most romantic places in the world, on a magnificent 15th century royal full day tour of the Arrábida.

A stroll along the seafront, a boating resort of Cascais and cafés en route, proved very pleasant. The ideal way of recounting his table to anyone who was present

Yorkshire four give credit to team ties!

TED and Janet Latham, Heather Hobson and Roy Garthwaite had to call on all their Yorkshire grit and look just a little to their lucky team ties in battling to a thrilling victory over Janet de Botton, Gunnar Hallberg, Justin Hackett and Nick Sandqvist in what turned out to be a two horse race for the Swiss teams championship.

The event was contested over two days and 10 eight-board rounds and was close all the way, including the match in which the leaders met. This ended 10-10 and from this encounter Roy highlights an effort by Ted that brought in 10 sorely needed imps for his side.

'East passed and Ted opened 3NT, which systemically showed a solid seven card minor with not more than a king outside.

'Nick made the textbook lead of ♦A and switched to ♠Q. After collecting the ♠A Justin, having been told that declarer could not hold an outside ace, not unreasonably played the ♥K and received an unpleasant surprise. At the other table the contract was 3♣ going one down.'

At the end of the first day's play the Yorkshire side led by 12vps and this was increased in the first match of the final session, when a 17-3 success was countered by only a 14-6 result from the de Botton team.

However, helped by two 20-0 wins de Botton had narrowed the gap to 8vps with one round to go.

Roy recalled: 'If they achieved another 20 we needed to score at least 13.

'When the last board was placed on the table, although naturally we were not aware of it, de Botton had scored yet another 20 and was coming up fast on the outside.'

This deal proved conclusive:

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

Said Roy: 'Sitting West, Heather opened 1♥, North overcalled 1♠ and I bid 2♣. Partner raised this to three and my 3NT closed the auction.

'South led a spade, won by declarer. A club to the ace was followed by a heart to the queen. The ♥9 was allowed to run and when this fetched the ace 10 tricks were assured. The game was not bid at the other table.

'So, after an exciting afternoon, we passed the winning post 5vps ahead of de Botton, who were 29 ahead of the third-placed team – and it all finished in good time for a bath and a drink before the gala dinner and prize giving.'

Dealer East	♠ K 8 4 2
E-W	♥ Q 9 6
game	♦ K 7 4
	♣ 7 4 2
♠ Q 10 9 5	♠ A J
♥ J 10 3	♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ A Q J 6 3	♦ 10 8 2
♣ 6	♣ 8 5 3
	♠ 7 6 3
	♥ A 7
	♦ 9 5
	♣ A K Q J 10 9

RES

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Harrison.



conditions at Estoril's

Shelagh Flett and Janet Mason came out on top in the ladies' pairs



Gunnar Hallberg's wife Paley (right) joins in the celebration with Janet de Botton and Justin Hackett after the presentation to pivot teams winners Janet, Justin, Gunnar and Nick Sandqvist

Oxfordshire's Norman Gascoyne and Jean Squires, winners of the open pairs, collect their awards from Sally Bugden



ent overseas congress by Philip Mason

ture and greatly appreciated

at these congresses always
plore the surrounding areas.
rtugal's capital city; several
village of Sintra, reputed to be
places in Portugal with its
royal palace; some went on a
la mountains.

ent from Estoril to the neigh-
nd back, with its many small
y popular and appeared to be
g highs and lows at the bridge
prepared to listen.

The EBU staff, under the direction of John Pain, did a superb job and having such an event without the charm and quiet efficiency of Peter Jordan as congress manager would be almost unthinkable.

The logistics of organising this kind of congress are quite considerable. Suffice to say that about 1,200 duplicated boards are transported to the venue for the first half of the congress. When they have been used they are then reduplicated to use in the remaining events. It's not exactly a holiday for the TDs!

One couple playing at the congress deserve a special mention. Kit and Alma Platt from Weybridge in Surrey have been a familiar sight on the congress circuit for many years. In conversation in Estoril I discovered that

they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in December. Without divulging ages, I can tell you that Kit, when he married, was nearer 30 than 20!

At the farewell dinner on the Wednesday evening Alma was present, but Kit, unfortunately, wasn't. He was not too well and a doctor was called. However, it was nothing serious and a message was relayed to Alma that Kit was well enough to fly home the next day. 'Good', said Alma, 'because we are due to play in the East Wales Congress in Cwmbran at the weekend'! (and, yes, they did play at Cwmbran). A truly wonderful and remarkable couple.

Having attended all four overseas congresses I now look forward to next year's event, wherever that may be.

RESULTS

ss pairs: 1 Bill Gardner
ge Pilcher, 2 Sheila
nd Susan Pell, 3 Jacqui
nd Susan Rankin.

irs: 1 Jean Squires and
ascoyne, 2 Janet Mason
Gray, 3 Nick Sandqvist
Hackett.

ams: 1 Justin Hackett,
otton, Gunnar Hallberg
Sandqvist, 2 Roy
e, Heather Hobson and
anet Latham, 3 Wendy
Alper, Loretta and
ns.

s: 1 Peter Sherry and
d, 2 Bob and Pat
3 Laurie Sedar and
on.

rs 1 Janet Mason and
lett, 2 Sue Lane and
ox, 3 Avis Robertson and

rs 1 Stanley Collins and
on, 2 Mike Theelke and
er, 3 Roy Garthwaite and

rs: 1 Albert Kitchin and
Curtis, 2 Mike and Jean
Chris Stevens and Hilary

ams 1 Roy Garthwaite,
Hobson, Janet and Ted
Janet de Botton, Gunnar
Justin Hackett and Nick
3 Lynne Hayes, Valerie
Constable and Lesley

Eddie ('they tease me') Lucioni calls for more X and XX cards

EDDIE Lucioni, a popular character at bridge events around the country and further afield, is a Grand Master and bridge professional always ready to describe and discuss some of the interesting deals he comes across on his travels. He has attended most of the EBU overseas congresses and was in Estoril to play a few hands and see a few sights.

'Being an off-season tourist is the perfect way to see a country, as you don't meet many other tourists,' he commented. 'My highlight was a visit to the monastery at Belem, with its magnificent carvings.'

'The restaurants and cafes were excellent, so a brisk walk around the hillier parts of Lisbon was needed to counter the effects of sampling the local cuisine and beverages.'

At the bridge table Eddie and partner Laurie Sedar had their best result in the Swiss pairs, finishing third. Eddie said he wished he had concentrated better on this hand:

Dealer North. N-S game			
West		East	
♠	10 9 7	♠	8 4
♥	Q 10 9 5 4 2	♥	A J
♦	J	♦	A K Q 10 8 3 2
♣	8 7 4	♣	K Q

After North opened 1♠ partner doubled and I end up playing in 4♥, wishing I had passed Laurie's 4♦ bid. The defence started with two top spades, followed by ♣A and another club. I failed to spot the winning line of crossing to the ♦J, finessing the heart and cashing ♥A to drop the doubleton king. The two losers could then be thrown on top diamonds, as the N-S hands were:

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

'This was very annoying, as even 4♦ would have been a good score. Of course, the defence should have played a third spade to beat the contract anyway, but I'm sure some opponents do this just to tease me!'

Eddie and Laurie did less well in the Swiss teams, finishing a few vps above average. Eddie said after

the following bidding sequence that he had a complaint to make against the manufacturers of bidding boxes. They do not contain enough double and redouble cards!

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1NT (i)	Dbl
Pass (ii)	Pass	Rdbl (iii)	Pass
2♣ (iv)	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Rdbl (v)	Pass	2♦	Dbl
Rdbl (vi)	Pass	2♥	Dbl
Rdbl (vii)	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass

- (i) 12-14
- (ii) Forcing partner to redouble or bid a five-card suit
- (iii) No five-card suit
- (iv) Natural, or flat, or 4 4 4 1 (singleton club)
- (v) Flat ... help!
- (vi) See (v)!
- (vii) See (v) and (vi)!

'No doubt there are ways to get in a few more bids at a low level,' added Eddie, who scored -800 on the deal.



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Wild hands and five suit bridge

Richard Holland from Daventry writes about this hand:

North
 ♠ -
 ♥ A Q x x x
 ♦ K J 10 x x x x
 ♣ -
 South
 ♠ A Q J x x
 ♥ K x
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K J x x x

ON this wild distribution the opposition bidding at his table stopped in 4♦, whereas most tables managed to get to 5♦. As the hearts broke 3-3, 6♥ would make as the cards lie. What is a reasonable sequence and what is the best contract?

Well, to start I would not mind missing 6♥ as a 3-3 heart break is only about 36% and even if the hearts were kind something nasty may happen in diamonds. Assuming the opposition are silent then a possible sequence might be:

1♦-1♠, 2♦(i)-3♣(ii), 3♥-3NT, 5♦

(i) I suppose 2♦ could be passed out but in my experience that never happens and to reverse on this sort of hand is going to give a false picture about high cards. Try persuading South to stop short of a slam if you reverse here.

(ii) Natural and game forcing

An alternative is for North to guess to open 5♦. If the opponents have a lot of black cards this is going to give them a big problem.

★ ★ ★

Peter Burnip from Darlington had this hand played at his club recently:

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

NORTH-South were playing Precision and the auction went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦(1)	2♣	2♥
Pass	3♦	4♣	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(i) 11-15 with two or more diamonds

East-West duly got a good score, but reported what they saw as a psyche by North and asked for it to be recorded as the very light 1♦ opening had been used against them several times over the last year. What should happen?

If East-West have been on the receiving end of this several times then they are well within their rights to ask for the psyche to be recorded. If the club committee becomes aware that this is constituting an understanding then I think the committee chairman should have a quiet word with the North-South pair to say that while there is nothing wrong with the occasional psyche, if it happens in the same sequence with the same pair then the pattern may lead to problems.

Psyches are usually recorded using a traffic light principle. This one would be green because South has taken the appropriate action throughout the auction. If South had not taken enough action so that one might suspect he knew what was going on from previous experience then it is open to the director to record it as amber (do it again and you are in trouble) or red (a score adjustment is required).

PS: Why did West pass at his second turn to bid? Is four card support for his partner's overcall and a nine count not enough to raise?

★ ★ ★

M D from Banstead, Surrey asks:

MY partner and I play traditional leads, signals and discards. We have no desire to start learning the rules of 10 and 12 or have to play all our cards upside down, but we have found that after the first card we are not totally sure what the message of any subsequent cards is. Can you help?

When you continue a suit you should try to give partner some more information so if, for example, you lead fourth highest and you have five, then your next card should be the bottom one to let him know what is happening. Similarly if you have led the seven from 9 7 5 because you play MUD, then your next card should be the nine so he knows you have three rather than two or four.

A common position that is undisputed is what card you play next if you have led from four small cards. So if you lead the seven from 9 7 4 2 and when you get in you decide to continue the suit, which card should you play next? Traditionally you continue with your original fourth highest. Occasionally this may look like a doubleton so some players have taken to playing their third highest next which means that declarer will have to be very cunning to hide the smallest card twice to confuse you. In addition there are hands where suit preference becomes desperately important

and if you normally play second then third you will have the extreme cards to use as suit preference signals. Probably the difference is so small that all that really matters here is that you agree.

One thing that distinguishes experts from run-of-the-mill players is their attention to the spot cards, so in defence there are lots of suit preference signals. Suppose partner leads a top card and you have 9 7 3. You play the three to mean 'I don't like the suit' or perhaps 'I have an odd number'. Which card do you play next? You might play the seven just because you are playing them up the line or you might play the nine because that is current remaining count. Whichever you do the other card can now have a suit preference message.

In all this, of course, you are going to have to give yourself a headache watching spot cards much more carefully!

★ ★ ★

Eddie Oldham of Ashford, Kent says:

I AM writing the history of Ashford Bridge Club and have come across a reference in 1938 to 'the five suit bridge rule'. Have you any information as to this rule?

It was a game devised in the mid 1930s, which involved a 65 card pack. There were five suits of 13 cards (the fifth suit being green) and each player was dealt 16 cards, leaving the one remaining card known as 'the widow' in the middle. Whoever became declarer could exchange this card for one of dummy's cards. It featured in *Life Magazine* of March 1938, but it did not really catch on as a game. A quick look at www3.telus.net/Simulacrum/market.htm showed I could buy a twin pack of Waddington's special advance five suit cards in mint condition for the princely sum of \$300, but that seemed a bit much, even at current exchange rates, especially when regular correspondent KB of Ealing tells me that the 'lovely ladies twin pack' is selling on EBay for £1.99.

Rather more interesting was a Swedish invention of the 1950s called Rex Bridge, where there were the customary number of cards, but in the bidding the Rex suit came between spades and no trumps. The Rex denomination was exactly as no trumps except for the fact that the ace was low and the king now the highest card. I imagine it led to some interesting problems of changing hand evaluation.

For a wealth of information on all sorts of topics relating to bridge try <http://www.bridgeguys.com>

Email your questions to Jeremy on ebuproblems@btopenworld.com or write via the editor (address details on page 3). Please include your name and address.

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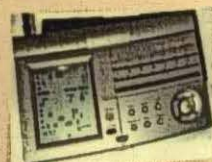
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No hope for the friendly duplicate club to be taken seriously?

TWO letters in the last issue of *English Bridge* depict very well a basic issue for duplicate bridge. Wendy English doesn't understand the 'expert's' bidding. Michael Grounds wants to carry pocketfuls of notes at Green Point events to cover the variety of level four conventions he hopes to encounter. Two worlds, or just one journey to the green pastures of the promised land?

Peter Stocken echoed my own observations some while ago when he said that the EBU was run by tournament players, for tournament players, ie experts. A belief in the one true goal of all bridge players to be duplicate tournament experts seems to be reflected in the editor's reply to Ms English. '... Don't worry ... the more you read ... the more you will learn'. When chairman of my county I attended the EBU annual conference and heard a very senior officer of the EBU refer to a lesser player as a 'rabbit' (laughter all round).

It is not surprising that the EBU can be accused of institutional elitism, since virtually nobody outside of the tournament playing elite has any real voice in the organisation. And from that standpoint, another world of duplicate bridge, the 'friendly' duplicate club, can never command serious attention. (Well, they'll grow up to be proper bridge players one day, won't they?)

I see these clubs as an essential element of a growing membership of our game, but they will only develop within the umbrella of the EBU if they are seen by the EBU as having the same importance as the 'serious' clubs, and its national competitions. As it exists at present, elitist and dominated by the county associations, I cannot see the EBU getting this right, and those of us teaching the game still won't have any reason to tell our students about the EBU. - *Mike Fisher, Woodbridge, Suffolk*

Editor's note: The EBU is currently striving to provide a much wider range of services to members. The top end of the game surely warrants attention, but today the well-being of the 'ordinary' club and the 'ordinary' member has equally high priority on the organising body's agenda and hopefully that is reflected in the content of English Bridge, which endeavours to cover the whole spectrum of the game. As for the EBU being run by tournament players for tournament players the editor is not one of that group and the general manager of the EBU does not play bridge at all. New blood on county committees at Council and even on the Board of the EBU is always appreciated.

What do other members think?

Not rare, but
interesting

IN a recent duplicate session at our club I was sitting South and arrived at the somewhat optimistic contract of 6♥, with West putting in a diamond bid on the way. This was the full deal:

♠ AKQJ75
♥ Q96
♦ 9
♣ A82

♠ 10843
♥ K4
♦ KJ10875
♣ 4

♠ 9
♥ J2
♦ 432
♣ KJ109765

♠ 62
♥ A108753
♦ AQ6
♣ Q3

West led ♣4 and it is noteworthy that he is a good player and quite capable of underleading the ♣K!

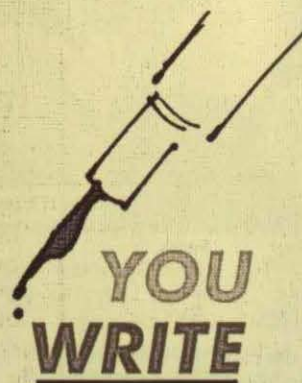
Needless to say I got it wrong and went two off by getting the hearts wrong as well.

When I scored the session on the following morning it was evident that those pairs that bid the slam were one or two off, while those who stopped in 4♥ invariably made game plus two!

I know this is not rare, but interesting nevertheless. Why didn't I play ♠A, followed by ♥A and a low heart? – *Eric Kilvington, Sidmouth*

Aggro over a straight eight!

WE may all consider that our partners are never easily pleased, but at a recent congress I came up against a player grumpier than most. She opened the bidding 1♥ and was raised to game. Dummy went down with eight hearts, only for declarer to complain: 'Oh, partner, can't you put them straight?' – *Stuart Nutter, Birmingham*



Gold stars to L and E team

NEVER mind the points! Ten gold stars to the EBU laws and ethics team for the frequent help with decisions and explanations when queries and even appeals have arisen.

As part of the EBU's development plan/services I consider it would be helpful if a new Orange Book could be distributed to all affiliated clubs, to include the changes made since the last publication and couched in more easily understood terms.

Several players I know are not familiar with the book and are unaware of its contents, or cannot remember changes that have been made.

Thinking particularly of players at club

level, a regular item in *English Bridge* detailing some of the more common misunderstandings and changes would be useful.

A further suggestion: Why not the Orange Book and the laws as one publication? This would be more convenient for players and directors. — *Angela P Bittan, Bexhill*

Editor's note: The Orange Book is distributed freely to all affiliated clubs and the Orange Book plus updates is available on the EBU website. Also hard copies, including update slip, are sent out free on request. I understand brains are being exercised considerably over the wording of the next edition!

My once in a
million years!

ACCORDING to a recent article in *English Bridge* Sarah Landy reckons a 7-6 distribution occurs about once in a million years. Well I shouldn't be seeing another one in a hurry because recently, playing in a teams event at Halifax Bridge Club, I picked up the following hand:

♠-♥AKQJ10xx ♦AQJ10xx ♣-

East opened the bidding 1♠, which was passed round to me as North. My bid had to be 6♥. The missing ♦K was actually with my partner, but I knew no way of find out about that.

I would have laid money on every North in the 15 competing teams making the same bid. I couldn't believe the number of experienced players who failed to do so.
— *Jean Hey, Halifax*

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: The Editor, English Bridge,
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defenders may pose.

Board 1

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	4♣	3♥
Pass	Pass		Pass

North leads ♥A and switches to ♦J, won by
dummy's ♦A. You lead a spade and South
shows out, but to your surprise North plays
the ♠K under your ♠A. Plan the play.

Board 2

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

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

North leads ♦9 to South's ♦A. South returns
the ♦Q, but North ruffs out your ♦K and
exits with a trump. Can you make your
spade game?

Board 3

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

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

North leads ♥Q. Plan the play. You will find
that North has all three missing spades.

Board 4

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

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North leads ♣5 to South's ♣A. South
returns ♣Q and North ruffs your ♣K and
exits with a trump. North started with two
trumps.

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.

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Entries to: Andrew Kambites (Prize Play), 1 Stratford Court, Stratford Road,
Stroud, Glos GL5 4AO. Entries to arrive by midday April 20. Please indicate on
the top left corner of the envelope which category you are entering. Andrew
Kambites will judge the entries and the first one in each category that, in his
judgement, describes the best strategy, will win a Piatnik prize.

Bridge Club Live

Onliners' face-to- face fun weekend

MORE than 100 online bridge
players gathered from all over
the country and beyond for a
weekend congress of face-to-
face bridge at the Hanover
International Hotel at
Hinckley, Leicestershire.

This event had previously
been held annually as a one
day congress at the West
Midlands Bridge Club in
Solihull, with two single-ses-
sion pairs events. This year the
congress was augmented by a
Friday evening Earlybird
pairs, and a multiple teams on
Sunday.

'The atmosphere was friend-
ly and relaxed and it was great
to put faces to those strange
online aliases,' commented Po
Shing Lee, operations director
of Bridge Club Live.

Play was at a leisurely rate of
about seven boards an hour
and players were more keen to
chat than play bridge! Indeed,
poor Mike Amos (chief tourna-
ment director) had a hard time
shepherding players back to
their seats after the tea breaks!

Corby Cup (pairs) 1 Ian Hill
(Cambs and Hunts) and
Penny McCann (Devon), 2
Victor Ridding (Manchester)
and Daniel Miller (Wiltshire);
teams 1 Gary Duddle and
David Green (Leicestershire),
Linda Quigley (London) and
Graham Dolan (Cambs and
Hunts); Lou P Shield (pairs) 1
Barrie Gilbert (London) and
Steve Foster (Bedfordshire) 2
Gary Duddle and David
Green (Leicestershire); Early-
bird pairs 1 Anne Jones
(Cardiff) and Chris Potter
(Warwickshire).

There were also a number of
special competitions, includ-
ing for best dressed and for
best limerick.

Members have been busy
planning ahead. Dates for the
diary are October 1-16 Panama
Canal cruise hosted by Mark
Wittinger; November 5-7
Reunion in Lisbon; January
14-16 2005 Reunion at Hilton
Bracknell. Further details
available via our home page
www.BridgeClubLive.com

AROUND THE NATIONALS

Dhondy family double

HUSBAND and wife Jeremy
and Heather Dhondy, two of
the country's leading players,
carried the Middlesex flag high
in scoring an outstanding dou-
ble in the National men's and
women's pairs at Coventry.

Jeremy partnered Oxford-
shire's Keith Bennett to win
the men's title, fighting off the
efforts of 66 rival partnerships,
and Heather teamed with
Nora Smith (London) to take
top spot in the women's con-
test, ahead of 72 other pairs.

It was a fairly close call for
Jeremy and Keith, but Heather
and Nora finished nearly four
percentage points clear of the
field.

Ben Green (Warwickshire)
and Glyn Preece (Worcester-
shire) were second in the
men's pairs, with David
Kendrick and Victor Milman
(Cambs and Hunts) third.

Chris Duckworth and
Agnes Wesseling (both
London) were second in the
women's pairs, with Nicola

Smith (Middlesex) and Kitty
Teltscher third.

Top spot in the National
Swiss teams, played at Leeds,
went to Peter Kaufmann, Dick
Shek (both Middlesex), Peter
Czerniewski and Marc Smith
(both London), whose score of
185 put them 10vps ahead of
second-placed Alan Oddie,
Jon Williams (both Bedford-
shire), Matthew Hoskins and
Andrew Southwell (both
Sussex). Third place went to
Giles Foster (Yorkshire), John
Armstrong (Derbyshire), Willy
Crook (Nottinghamshire) and
Tony McNiff (Yorkshire).

The National women's
teams, played at Bromsgrove,
saw the Somerset quartet of
Caroline Macpherson, Jackie
Waters, Sheila Coda and Gina
Howard carry off the
Whitelaw Cup. In the final
they beat Hedy Brown, Pat
Dowdeswell (both Berks and
Bucks), Valery Austwick
(Avon) and Lynne Hayes
(Oxfordshire) 75-36.

I played without sleep for 92 hours

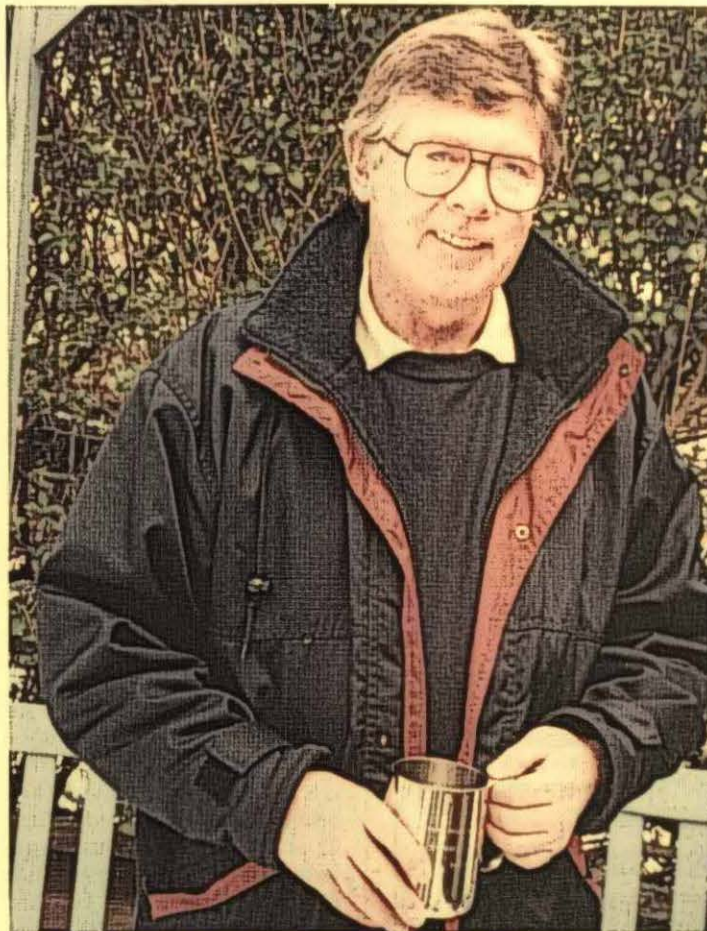
MY world record was set in October 1964, playing rubber bridge during rag week in a car showroom in the centre of Newcastle. I was a second-year undergraduate at Newcastle University and the event was organised by the university bridge club.

Play began at 5pm on a Thursday evening, with 20 contenders in action at five tables. Three players outlasted the others – Eric Bell, Colin Bowen and me. Eric lasted until Saturday afternoon (about 46 hours) and Colin until Sunday morning (about 62 hours).

By 7pm that Sunday I reached 74 hours and had broken the existing record by an hour. At this point we considered stopping, but as I felt fine we carried on and continued until 1pm the following day. I had played constantly without sleep for 92 hours and was awake in total for 101 hours. For food I had the odd take-away, eaten at the table, plus snacks.

It all seems so crazy now, but I suffered no ill effects and afterwards I slept solidly for 15 hours.

The event was properly organised. There were four in play at all times and the play and procedure was supervised throughout by members of the club. The club later presented me with a pewter tankard, suitably inscribed, which I still



Mike Gourley with the tankard that carries the inscription: World Bridge Marathon Record, Michael Gourley, 92 hours, October 1964

have, but have never used for fear of being carried away by those men in white coats.

I did not realise that in John Williams's Bristol account all four players did the record. In Newcastle it was just me, so I suppose the two records are

not the same.

As to other attempts I remember the *Guinness Book of Records* stating that four students in Edinburgh had done 114 hours in 1965 or 1966, but I don't know any details. – Mike Gourley, Wakefield

Our 1963 effort extended the world record by two hours

AT 1pm on Friday March 22 1963 four students from the North Polytechnic, London, studying for degrees in rubber technology, chemistry and physics, claimed a new world record of 92 hours of non-stop bridge. They reckoned to have extended the previous record by two hours.

Taking part were Roderick Anderson, 19, Ronald Frost, 20, Richard Connor, 20, and Ian Kerr, 19. They played in a shop window belonging to British Relay Wireless Ltd, whose manager carried on normal business throughout the week.

At the finish the record breakers were in excellent spirits and looked remarkably fresh. This, they said, was due to the excellent food that the girls of the domestic science department of the college had supplied and to regular washing and shaving. Apparently in other attempts on the record the participants had emerged bedraggled, with cobwebs and beards.

The money collected by the enthusiastic young bridge players went to the Northern Group of Hospitals. – Peter Hasenson, Brent Street, London NW4 1PB

We played for 140 hours in 1965

I WAS very interested to read your account of the achievement of the St John's Wood Bridge Club in setting up an official world record for the longest game of cards. Way back in 1965 I was one of a group of five sixth formers from St Bede's Grammar School in Bradford that played a charity match in the window of a disused shop in the middle of Bradford, in full view of all the Christmas shoppers.

We managed the planned 140 hours without any real problem and as we were only five players we each played for 20

hours and then took five hours break in turn, so there were always four of us playing. By the end we had settled into something like a routine and could probably have gone on for weeks. But then we were only 18 and 19 years old ...

In the street outside volunteers from the sixth form union collected more than £500 for Dr Barnardo's (In 1965 that amount would have bought a house in Bradford). We also had the support of the town council and various other organisations, with a local restaurant giving us all

a square meal every day.

I have all this in a report from the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* of December 1965, complete with a photo of the Lord Mayor presenting us with a plaque to mark the record. I wonder what happened to that?

I play my bridge these days at the very friendly Wakefield club, but four hours at a time is enough now. I very much enjoy reading the excellent magazine. Keep up the good work. – Stephen Hanslip, EBU member 116800

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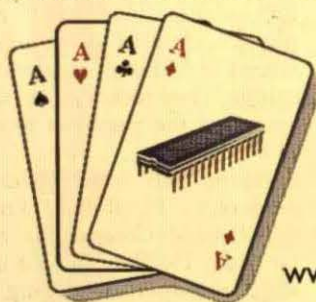
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Blooming partnerships

cont from page 3

Chess & Bridge

WHILE we do not want to stop our members following the well-trodden path to the door of Chess & Bridge's showrooms at The London Bridge Centre, 369 Euston Road, our latest membership offer may save some people a journey. We have just negotiated with Chess & Bridge a 20% discount for EBU members on the following books: *Play Bridge with Reese*, the *Game of Bridge*, *Better Signalling Now*, *Conventions Today*, *Bridge, Zia and Me*, *Playing These Hands with Me* and *Reese on Play*. All of them will be available from our Bridge Shop from April 1. We are delighted to have established this partnership and, as Malcolm Pain from Chess & Bridge puts it: 'This is hopefully just the start of things to come.'

Visit Brideshead

IN association with Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association we are pleased to announce that we are holding a very special bridge day out on Tuesday June 22 at the world famous Castle Howard. While the house has been the home of the Howard family for more than 300 years it is probably best known for its role in the filming of *Brideshead Revisited*.

Our day will start in the morning with a private guided tour of the house, with coffee en route. Later there will be ample opportunity to take lunch in the visitors' restaurant, a snack from the café, or even a picnic on the lawn – the choice is yours. There will also be the opportunity to join one of the guided tours of the gardens (hopefully the snow of early March will have gone by then!). This will be followed by an afternoon of friendly duplicate bridge, played in the splendid surroundings of the Grecian Hall. The day will be rounded off with a cream tea and prize giving.

A special price of £40 (inclusive of VAT) has been negotiated, to include entrance fees, guided tours, guidebooks, a full afternoon programme of bridge and a cream tea. Further

information and booking can be obtained from the EBU's events team on 01296 317203.

Master classes – Klinger, Robson, Hacketts

WE are looking for partners, either clubs or counties, to work with us in staging three series of master classes following the very successful classes with Ron Klinger last October, where he held 20 classes with a total audience of 1,200 players.

We are hosting the following teachers: Andrew Robson is available to hold classes in Yorkshire and possibly across the Pennines from September 14-18; Ron Klinger is available for classes during the period October 1-20 (dates still to be confirmed). It is unlikely that time will permit Ron to go too far north, but don't let this stop you from recording your interest.

The family Hackett – yes, three for the price of one! Tricks of the Trade will be their theme and classes will be held in the spring of 2005.

If you are interested in staging any of the above, please record your interest with Maggie McCorkell on 01296 317225 or maggie@ebu.co.uk It is important that participating clubs can accommodate at least 30 people in a single playing room.

Golf and bridge

OUR partnership with the English Golf Union and its team at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire is progressing well, with all the signs of an excellent golf and bridge event in store on May 4 and 5. Further information and booking form from our events team on 01296 317203.

The EBU web site
address, for
competition results
and much more
information, is:

www.ebu.co.uk

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 8 GW Arnott-Davidson Trophy junior inter-regional teams of eight championship, **Sheffield BC and Royal National Hotel, London**
- 9-11 Easter Festival, **Hilton Hotel, Blackpool**
- 9-12 Easter Festival, **Royal National Hotel, London**
- 10 Under 19 pairs championship, **Royal National Hotel, London**
- 9-10 Under 25 pairs championship, **Royal National Hotel, London**
- 14 and 15 BGB simultaneous pairs, **clubs**
- 16-18 Lady Milne Trophy, **Ballymena, N Ireland**
- 17-18 National Pairs final, **Hilton Hotel, Coventry**
- April 23-May 3 Jersey (Lambourne) Festival of Bridge, **Portelet Hotel, Jersey**
- April 30-May 4 Schapiro Spring Foursomes, **Moat House International Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon**

MAY

- 4-5 Golf and bridge (EBU-EGU joint event) **Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire**
- 12-13 EBU Spring sim pairs, **clubs**
- 15 One day Green Point joint events, **Bedfordshire, Merseyside and Cheshire, Sussex**
- 16 One day Green Point joint events, **Hampshire, Lancashire, London, Warwickshire**
- 22 Garden Cities Trophy regional finals, **various venues**
- 29-30 Spring Bank Holiday Congress, **Bournemouth**

JUNE

- 4-6 Yorkshire Congress, **Harrogate**
- 4-5 World Wide sim pairs, **clubs**
- 5-6 Corwen Trophy, **West Bromwich**
- 12-13 Pachabo Cup, **West Bromwich**
- 19 One day Green Point joint events, **Staffs and Shrops, Northamptonshire**
- 20 One day Green Point joint events, **Berks and Bucks, Herefordshire**
- 25-27 Shrewsbury Summer Congress, **Shrewsbury**

Henry Huggill: 1915-2004

DENIS Robson, chairman of the EBU, was among those who attended the funeral of Henry Huggill, whose record of dedication to bridge in Manchester and the North West was unparalleled. Henry was a member of the committee that restarted competitive bridge in Manchester in 1946 and went on to serve for 57 years, nearly 40 of them as Manchester area chairman. He retired last year as president.

A Dimmie Fleming Award winner for his services to bridge, Henry also played a good game. He took a team to the finals of the very first Lederer Trophy contest and he played for many years in the top division of the Manchester League.

It's all happening at Brighton this year



By John Pain
EBU development manager

THE Brighton Summer Meeting at the Hilton Metropole this year will be a busy time for the EBU development department. In addition to all the organised bridge there are events and courses for players of all abilities.

Club Director Training. A full set of the four club TD training courses will be held from August 16-19. Monday - Essentials (£28), Tuesday - Book Rulings (£33), Wednesday - Judgment Rulings (£33), Thursday - Assessment (£39). Book all four courses for just £120. Each day runs from 10.30am till 4.30pm.

Teacher Training Courses. You may be thinking that it is time to put something back into the game you love and what better way than to start offering bridge lessons. It's also an opportunity to add to your income. The two-day course at Brighton on August 16-17 (Monday-Tuesday) starts with how to teach bridge, what to teach beginners and an opportunity to use the EBU's own teaching scheme. On day two all course members have the opportunity to present a short lesson with feedback. Both days run from 10am till 4pm and the cost is £82 per person, which includes the £12 EBUTA subscription. Existing EBUTA members pay £70.

Conquering Common Conventions. I'm pleased to say that Sandra Landy and Chris Duckworth will again be the course tutors for this summer's two-day workshop, which is the sixth in the series. The topic this time is a deeper

look at conventions you think you know, exploring how to make the most of them by integrating them into your bidding system and coping when opponents interfere. The dates are August 19-20 (Thursday-Friday). Both days run from 10am till 4pm. £65 per person (£5 reduction for EBUTA members).

Third Really Easy Congress. Building on the success of the first two years, the Really Easy Congress is an ideal opportunity for newer players to experience the atmosphere and fun of Brighton in friendly and relaxed surroundings. This year the congress runs from August 16-18 (Monday-Wednesday). There are four sessions of bridge, playing about 20 boards per session. The first is on Monday evening, followed by two sessions on Tuesday and one on Wednesday, finishing about 4.30pm. The cost is £38.50 per person.

A plug now for professional teacher Robert Baker, who is running a series of Sunday courses in the coming months. On April 25 at the Thistle Hotel, Bristol and May 2 at the Thistle Hotel, Exeter the topic is The 1NT Battlefield: better bidding after a 1NT opening bid. On May 16 at the Thistle Hotel, Bristol the topic is Slam Bidding: making the most of the big hands. The cost for each course is £35 a head, which includes tea and coffee breaks, plus a three-course carvery lunch. Full details from Robert on 01275 856318 or email robertbaker@cheerful.com

EBU NEWS AND EVENTS



Camrose trials only

THERE is no European teams championship or other major championship in 2005 and the EBU selection committee has decided not to hold trials for the purpose of sending an official team to the European Open Championship.

Accordingly open trials in 2004-05 will be held solely for the purpose of selecting teams to represent England in the Camrose Trophy.

From 2004-05 the format of the Camrose Trophy has been changed. Instead of each country playing each other country in a one weekend head-to-head match, the number of weekends will be reduced from five to two.

All five countries will attend both weekends

and on each weekend will complete a 64-board match against two of the other four. The new format includes play on Friday evening.

The selection committee has determined the format of the next open trials and details can be found on the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk

MASTER POINT TROPHY National leader board

Life Masters, Premier Life Masters, Grand Masters

Miss F Hinden	15238 Surrey
Mr PD Hackett	13136 Staffs & Shrops
Mr JC Allerton	12815 Surrey
Mr JT Hackett	10187 Staffs & Shrops
Mr DW Eneas	9721 Surrey
Mr CF Owen	9642 North Eastern

National Masters, Premier National Masters

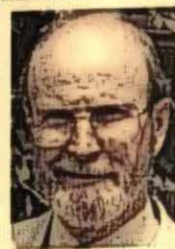
Mr M Prior	13385 Kent
Mrs SA Evans	12601 Hertfordshire
Mr N Sandqvist	11266 London
Mrs J Davies	10791 Hertfordshire
Mr MG Byrne	9693 Manchester
Mrs MVA Stimson	7990 Surrey

Regional Masters, Premier Regional Masters

Ms J de Botton	9167 London
Mr G Hallberg	9146 London
Mr FE Willson	7660 Surrey
Mr N Gray	7512 North Eastern
Mr G Ip	6972 Norfolk
Mrs H Montgomery	6795 Lancashire

See county leaders, page 36

You do not have the right to remain silent



Terry Dwyer, who runs a small club near Loughborough, has this offering for players tempted to pass when it is the last thing they should do!

EXPERTS pass on – there is nothing here for you. It is for learners, improvers and some, perhaps, of that vast army of seasoned players who might sometimes admit to making mistakes.

'I couldn't bid, partner, I didn't have enough points.' How many times have you offered this excuse when partner goes down in a bad contract? And are you sure you were right to say this?

The thing about having a 'too-weak' hand is that you shouldn't volunteer a bid that might mislead partner into thinking you have some strength. But many, many times a bid from you is obligatory even without strength. For example, I am sure you know to give a 2♦ negative response to an opening 2♣ from partner, even with zero points – and to keep bidding till game is reached. He can see game in his own hand and simply wants your help in arriving at the best place to play it. Indeed, it may occasionally take a mere queen and jack in your hand to turn his game-going hand into a slam. But let's take some more mundane situations first.

Bidding after a double

Example 1: 1♠ - Dbl - Pass - ?

Only a raw beginner would not realise that a pass here shows a hand with lots of trumps, expecting 1♠ to go down. Otherwise you must bid something even on the poorest values (sometimes even a three-card suit).

Example 2: 1♠ - Dbl - 2♣ - ?

Here we all know that the intervening 2♣ bid lets us off the hook and we can safely pass on a weak hand. Bidding here is voluntary and shows a bit of strength.

Example 3: 1♠ - Dbl - Rdbl - ?

You know that in the first example the weaker you are the more important it is for you to bid and here it is even more important, because responder's call is not a new contract, but a magnification of the opening bid. Yet I have seen many a player believe that this situation is the same as Example 2. It isn't, it's like Example 1 only more so. What if you pass and so does opener? He is now playing in a safe 1♠ redoubled (equals game!) and probably plus redoubled overtricks (Ever worked out what they cost?). You have put partner on the spot. He needs your longest suit; you must bid so that he doesn't guess wrongly. If your only suit is spades you bid 1NT.

Rescuing

Example 4: 1NT - Dbl - ?

Assuming the double to be for penalties, partner could be in trouble, especially if playing the weak no trump. Maybe you have to pass, but not if you hold a five-card suit, however weak. Take him out into two of your suit; don't try 'I couldn't

bid, partner, I didn't have enough points.' The weaker you are, the more crucial it is to bid, provided you have a five-card suit or longer. Yes, this could go down, but usually not as many as 1NT would. It's called damage limitation. In fact, with a five-plus suit and a weak hand you should take him out even if he isn't doubled.

Showing preference

Perhaps you are bored by this article so far? Try this:

Example 5: 1♥ - Pass - 1NT - Pass
2♠ - Pass - ?

Whenever partner offers two suits (and you are minimal) you are supposed to show preference, and if in fact you prefer hearts, you have to go 3♥! (Or preferably 3NT, if you can see it). No use saying 'I couldn't bid at the three level, partner, I didn't have enough points.' You have left partner in the wrong contract (Well, you haven't got four spades, have you?) The crux is that your partner has enough points for both of you (normally 16+), else he has bid badly. By making a high reverse bid, he is promising safety at the three level. So go there!

What do you make of this one? (This is an actual hand that I suffered from once, my partner passing throughout):

Example 6: 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - Pass
3♠ - 4♣ - 4♣ - Pass
Pass - 5♣ - Pass - Pass
Dbl - Pass - Pass - ?

♠	x x x x
♥	A x x x x
♦	x x x
♣	x

Both sides vulnerable, by the way. You had better see your hand at this point:

Well? You are not strong, are you? Are you not entitled to pass? At the five level? Partner has been bidding like a madman and asking for trouble and now he has got it, eh?

Let us stop treating partner like an enemy and give him a bit of help. What has he shown you? It's five clubs and at least five diamonds, isn't it? Well, he needs preference, so give it. It costs nothing to go 5♦, which may not even be doubled. In fact, when you think about it, your third pass was wrong, wasn't it?

♠	x
♥	x x
♦	A K Q x x
♣	A x x x x

Your partner's hand:
Analysis – 4♣ should make for -620; if you pass, 5♣ doubled goes four down for -1100; if you bid, 5♦ doubled goes two down for -500; 5♦ if not doubled goes two down for -200.

Makes you think, doesn't it? Well, I hope so.

Strange bids

Now let us put you in a different category: You and your partner, probably at his instigation, are trying to play some

bidding techniques that go a bit beyond the beginners' stage. And we will suppose that partner has a sound grasp of these techniques and you don't, either because they are a bit new to you or you can't quite remember them, or for any other reason you like.

But the main point is this: partner is coming up with a bid you don't understand, or can't remember how to treat. OK?

I bet your first instinct in these cases is to say mentally 'I don't know what this is about; I've bid my hand correctly and I'm pretty weak. I had better pass.' Believe me, a pass is the last thing you should do. Try these examples:

Example 7: 1♠ - Pass - 4♦ - Pass
?

Example 8: 1♠ - Pass - 2♠ - Pass
3♣ - Pass - ?

Example 9: 1♥ - 2♥ - Pass - ?

Example 10: Pass - 1♦ - Pass - 2♣
2NT - Pass - ?

In every case a pass from you would be fatal. I'm not going to explain what your partner means in these examples; the main point is that you are in doubt about his meaning.

But surely the one obvious thing about all these bids is that partner cannot possibly want to play in the contract concerned. So don't leave him there. Go to a safe bid. Even a guess is probably better than nothing.

Summary

It may be helpful to recognise four common situations where we should think deeply before passing:

- 1) **Preference.** Partner has bid two suits. Am I leaving him in the wrong one?
- 2) **Rescue.** Partner is in a dangerous contract. Would my long suit be better?
- 3) **Convention.** That bid doesn't make sense as it is. Is he asking me something?
- 4) **Forcing bids.** Of course we never pass those, do we?

To keep out of trouble we must beware of tunnel vision: seeing only our own hand. Look across the table with imagination and logic and try to visualise partner's hand as well as your own. Looking again at that perennial excuse, we can derive two valuable principles from it, to guide us in future:

- 1) 'I didn't have the points' should become 'Have WE got the points?'
- 2) 'I couldn't bid, partner...' should be replaced by 'There is perhaps something I should do.'

Clutch this precept firmly to your bosom:

'Pass' ALWAYS means 'There is nothing I can do to improve the situation'.

Now the only excuse left is 'Sorry, partner, I should have bid'.

Bob Rowlands CARD PLAY QUIZ answers

Combination A	Combination B
♦ K 9 5 2	♦ K 9 5 2
♦ A J 6 4	♦ A J 6 4
Four tricks needed	Three tricks needed

A. You should plan to finesse ♦J, but should you cash ♦K first? If West has ♦Q singleton you cannot make four tricks however you play, but if East has ♦Q singleton you can win all the tricks provided you do not start with ♦K. Your correct play is to lead ♦2 initially and finesse ♦J, hoping for a 3-2 split and East holding ♦Q.

B. Only ♦Q 10 x x with either defender could be a problem. You can guard against all dangers by starting with ♦A and continuing with ♦4 towards dummy's remaining ♦K 9 5, simply covering West's card. If West fails to follow on the second lead, play ♦K and lead towards your remaining ♦J 6 for your third trick in the suit.

and DOUBLES QUIZ answers

Dealer North. Love all.

West	North	East	South
1♠		Dbl	?

What do you bid with:

(a) ♠7 3 ♥K 10 9 6 ♦A J 8 6 2 ♣K 4

Redouble – showing 10-plus points and probably an interest in penalising the opponents. The redouble undertakes to double an opposing contract or to bid on.

(b) ♠10 6 3 ♥Q J 6 ♦K 9 6 5 ♣A 10 4

Redouble – Too strong for 1NT so redouble and then bid 2♠ at your next turn, which will describe your hand nicely.

(c) ♠K 10 6 ♥8 3 ♦J 10 8 6 4 ♣10 9 2

Bid 2♠ – To make it difficult for your left hand opponent to respond to the double.

(d) ♠Q 6 ♥4 2 ♦10 9 3 2 ♣A K J 8 4

Bid 2♠ – Some prefer this to be forcing; others say it shows 7-10 points. If you redouble opponents will surely bid hearts and you will be in difficulty.

Denis Young's SNEAKY answer

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

SET to make 3NT you receive a heart lead, which you win in dummy with the queen. Both opponents duck the first diamond and, after your left hand opponent shows out on the second round, his partner ducks again. If you did not anticipate at trick one what might happen you have missed your way. You should have put the ♥10 on dummy's queen. After you discover the nasty diamond break you lead a club to the ace and, when you have lost a diamond, you want them to take ♥A, on which go the jack and king. And then, you hope, they lead another heart, chortling awhile. You wanted them to think that your hearts were 2-2, so that they can put their snouts in the trough straight away. When you win the trick with the sneaky nine and make your contract, the look of horror on their faces is like a sunny day by the seaside.

PRIZE BIDDING

SOLUTION TO THE FEBRUARY COMPETITION

IN the original form of Stayman a sequence like 1NT – 2♠ – 2♥ – 2NT/3NT promised four spades because responder would not have used Stayman without a four-card major. This is called promissory Stayman because it guarantees a four-card major.

Nowadays life is not so simple. A plain raise of 1NT to 2NT is not possible for those who use 2♠ as a transfer to diamonds (called four-suited transfers). For them the only way of raising to 2NT is via Stayman, whether or not they hold a four-card major. The implication is that 1NT – 2♠ – 2♦ – 2NT does not guarantee a four-card major, but 1NT – 2♠ – 2♦ – 3NT does show a four-card major. This is called non-promissory Stayman.

Which hand should West have for these sequences?

HAND 1. Game all.

West	East	(a) ♠ A Q 10 7 5	(b) ♠ J 8 5 4 3	(c) ♠ A Q 8 7 6
	1NT	♥ 8	♥ A J 7 5	♥ K 8 7 2
2♣	2♦	♦ 9 8 3	♦ 9	♦ 9 8
2♠		♣ 8 7 4 3	♣ 8 4 3	♣ A 6

WITH (a) you would simply have transferred into 2♠ and passed.

(b) is correct. This sequence shows five spades and four hearts. If the response to 2♣ had been 2♥ you would have passed.

With (c) you would have transferred with 2♥ and continued with 3♥ (game forcing) over partner's forced 2♠.

No difference if playing non-promissory Stayman.

HAND 2. Love all.

West	East	(a) ♠ A Q J 7 6	(b) ♠ K Q 7 6	(c) ♠ K Q 10 9 7 6
	1NT	♥ 8 6 2	♥ 9 6	♥ 8 6 5 2
2♣	2♥	♦ K 8 3	♦ A Q 10 2	♦ Q J 10
2♠		♣ 6 2	♣ 8 6 3	♣ —

(a) is correct. If East had shown four spades you would have made a game try with 3♠.

With (b) your rebid is 2NT. This guarantees four spades.

With (c) you would have done best to bash 4♠ immediately, preferably with a

transfer. Why investigate a 4-4 fit with four tiny hearts when you have an excellent six-card spade suit?

Playing non-promissory Stayman (b) is correct. This should be forcing at least for one round and perhaps to game. That depends on partnership agreement.

HAND 3. Love all.

West	East	(a) ♠ A J 7 6	(b) ♠ A K Q 4	(c) ♠ A K 8
	1NT	♥ A 2	♥ A J 8 2	♥ K Q 8 2
2♣	2♥	♦ 9	♦ J 7 5 3	♦ K Q 3 2
4♣		♣ K Q J 7 5 4	♣ A	♣ K 7

AS a general principle, a new suit at the four level in an uncontested auction after an opening bid at the one level, should be a cue bid. Therefore with (a) your second bid should be 3♣. Nowadays this is played as unconditionally game forcing, showing a four-card major and at least four clubs.

(b) is correct.

With (c) you want to reassure partner that hearts are trumps and then use Blackwood. An immediate 4NT would be quantitative, so start with 3♠, a cue bid agreeing hearts. 3♠ cannot be natural because with five spades you would have started with a transfer.

No difference if playing non-promissory Stayman.

HAND 4. Game all.

West	East	(a) ♠ J 7 6 2	(b) ♠ K 7 5	(c) ♠ 9 7 4 3
	1NT	♥ 6 5	♥ 7	♥ K J 4
2♣	2♥	♦ A K Q 10 5 4	♦ A Q J 7 6	♦ A Q 6
3NT		♣ 4	♣ K 5 3 2	♣ A Q 7

(a) is correct.

With (b) you should jump to 3NT without using Stayman, or start with a game-forcing 3♦. The purpose of Stayman is not to check if you have enough hearts to provide a stopper. Note that if East has three hearts that could be three heart stoppers, while if East has four small hearts there may be no heart

stopper.

With (c) you should jump to 3NT without using Stayman. You have plenty of points for game, but the most likely thing to defeat you is finding a grotty 4-4 spade fit and running into a bad trump break.

No difference if playing non-promissory Stayman.

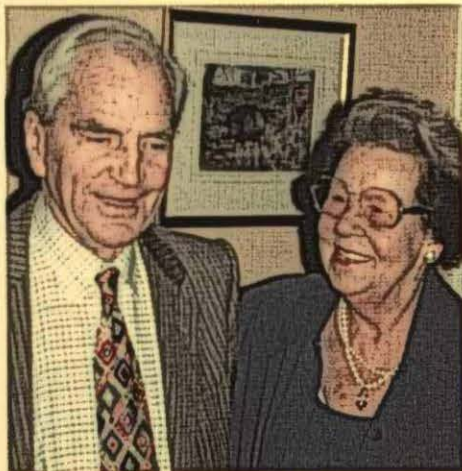
AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

OPEN: Nigel Osmer, Ringmer, East Sussex
REGIONAL: Roger Hoole, Bamford, Derbyshire
COUNTY: Heather Hopkins, Walsall

Island's man of bridge

TO mark the 25th anniversary of the Isle of Man's Island Bridge Club, founder John Crowe, his wife Kathryn and their family, invited a large party of club members and their friends to a celebration dinner at the Imperial Hotel.

It was a great time to reminisce for the man who moved to Douglas from Peel half-a-century ago and who, through the years, has worked unceasingly to promote the game of bridge.



John and Kathryn Crowe

Belmont, the Crowe's family home, has also been a home to bridge. In the early days it was the venue for competitions where many renowned players enjoyed the friendly hospitality and helped to establish the game on the island.

After John Crowe retired from Barclays Bank in 1976 he decided to become a bridge teacher, but it took some time for the local college of further education to accept that bridge was a worthwhile subject.

Then John decided to buy a property where bridge beginners could play without upsetting established players and this led to the founding of the Island Bridge Club.

Gifts were presented by the club members to John and Kathryn and on behalf of the club Michael Sheehan praised the efforts of the founder for the loyalty he engendered among members and for ensuring that there was always a welcome space and kindly guidance for the newer and less confident players.

After the dinner each guest was given a souvenir booklet, prepared by John Crowe and his daughters Janice and Ruth. The attractive publication highlighted in fascinating detail the history of the club.



In memory of Arnold Deane

Avril Deane (centre), who donated the Arnold Deane Memorial Bowl to the North Eastern Bridge Association in memory of her father, presents the trophy to Pat De Leeuw (left) and Marion Curran, first winners of what is planned to become an annual competition. See North Eastern report on page 42.

County news deadline

COUNTY News contributions for the June edition of *English Bridge* should reach the editor (email and other address details page 3) by April 26.

Photographs are very much appreciated, but if emailed must be sent large format/high resolution. Otherwise prints sent in the post are best.

Master Points Trophy county leaders

Avon			Derbyshire			Key to county Levels			North Eastern			Surrey		
4Mr C Jones	2566		4Mr G Watson		2591	4 = Star and Tournament Masters			4Mr E Brown	7737		4Mr TJ Hamlyn		6298
4Mr HB Lambert	1867		4Mrs MA Beale		2548	5 = County and Advanced Masters			4Mr D Benison	7570		4Mr A Jenkins		5555
5Mrs S Stevens	1455		5Mr NJ Argus		952	6 = Unranked, Club and District Masters			5Dr PJ Prince	3508		5Mrs DJ Richmond		2726
5Mr D Cropper	1390		5Mr W Howden		700				5Mr AM Pryor	3076		5Mrs KL Pryor		2258
6Mr A Thomas	1791		6Mr DG Werry		501				6Mr P Jones	1229		6Mr PJ Phipps		2572
6Mrs KS Monaghan	850		6Mr RWO Beney		63				6Mrs DM Morrison	1211		6Mr A Dollard		2439
Bedfordshire			Devon			Herefordshire			Lincolnshire			Northamptonshire		
4Mrs G Dunn	1973		4Mr DM Meek		3117	4Mrs JB Holder		6431	4Mr P Childs		3602	4Mr K Wise		3139
4Mrs W Audsley	1440		4Mrs P McCann		2733	4Mrs J Homes		4443	4Mr L Saunders		2219	4Mrs MJ Binley		2834
5Mr DL Connolly	1184		5Mr J Boxall		3026	5Mr I Murray-Watson		1369	5Mr JS Hill		2244	5Mr IM Clarke		2747
5Mrs WE Beddoes	487		5Mr S Lindfors		2942	5Mr AJ Morris		948	5Mrs D Law		2234	5Mr I Chacksfield		1314
6Mrs MM Jones	632		6Mr HJ Crossman		1011	6Mr E Bourne		1472	6Miss SB York		1113	6Mr RA King		1402
6Mr CL Robbins	475		6Mrs BJ Lloyd		895	6Mrs D Bourne		1324	6Mrs EC Steele		966	6Mrs SA McIntosh		432
Berks and Bucks			Direct			Hertfordshire			London			Nottinghamshire		
4Mr D Linsley	5067		4Mr MD Shepherd		525	4Mr AR Kaye		3724	4Mr GL Lederman		4867	4Mr D Smith		1443
4Mr CJ Harris	4177		4Mrs WAL Shepherd		525	4Mrs H Kaye		3715	4Mrs S Cooper		3689	4Mrs AP Fullerton		1048
5Dr RS Plant	2156		5Mr GSG Hargreave		1056	5Mr R Burnett		2110	5Mr A Malinowski		4915	5Mr P Savage		2476
5Dr H Plant	2106		5Mrs SM Collins		320	5Mrs VA Barton		1641	5Mr SS Gillis		3202	5Mr J Smithies		1644
6Mr N Piper	2500		6Mr D Laidig		1480	6Mr RL Turnham		2642	6Mrs LK Clery		2276	6Mrs Y Dowson		1677
6Mr M Wilkinson	2306		6Mrs M Hiron		1224	6Mrs L Peers		2391	6Mr D Gosling		2134	6Mrs M Savage		1523
Cambs and Hunts			Dorset			Isle of Man			Manchester			Oxfordshire		
4Mr PJ Somerfield	3901		4Mr B Hirst		3104	4Mrs MB Beere		681	4Mr SH Mattinson		3664	4Mrs A Smith		2667
4Maj CL De Vries	3525		4Mr PA Sayer		2778	4Mrs A Anderson		301	4Mrs K Koch		2464	4Mr F Clark		1746
5Mr KR Firth	2299		5Mrs MR Day		2132	5Mrs J Templeton		929	5Mrs L Morrish		1020	5Mrs K Chamberlain		1384
5Mrs G Wilkins	2086		5Mr G Rowland		1598	5Mr K Templeton		929	5Mrs D Lyons		992	5Mrs S Stode		1270
6Mrs M Foreman	2100		6Mrs J Evans		1013	6Mrs JA Jowett		277	6Mr D Nikolayenko		1020	6Mr J Cecil		1287
6Mr RR Newman	1694		6Mr AJ Bayfield		741	6Mr J Jowett		275	6Mr RL Thomas		777	6Prof N Stephens		1075
Channel Islands			Essex			Kent			Merseyside/Cheshire			Somerset		
4Mr P Pitcher	1267		4Mr J Riddleston		4155	4Mrs L Radford		7275	4Dr C Whaley		1797	4Mr CJ Simcox		3477
4Mrs G Picher	1156		4Dr JC Williams		3729	4Mrs VA Reeves		5567	4Dr GG Dearing		971	4Mr FE Colman		2715
5Mrs RM Beaty	997		5Mr SF Margutti		2901	5Mr MR Benson		3754	5Miss B Serres		2198	5Mr KH Caddy		1428
5Mrs PA Dubras	933		5Mr RT Robinson		2486	5Mr KA Ashcroft		3578	5Dr MR Pharoah		1299	5Miss J Moody		1225
6Mr C Blackstone	1129		6Miss LE Perryman		3035	6Mr J Morgan		2486	6Mr S Edwards		700	6Mr NA Carp		2284
6Mrs SC Grenyer	1054		6Mr SJ Curran		1383	6Mr S Walsh		1743	6Mr RA Walster		661	6Mr CP Knight		895
Cornwall			Gloucestershire			Lancashire			Middlesex			Staffs and Shrops		
4Mrs P Deal	3670		4Mr KA Rahim		3777	4Mr MA Fyne		2575	4Mr J Sofier		3980	4Mr N Jones		2016
4Mr JV Deal	2497		4Mr DG Cook		3186	4Mrs M Fyne		2569	4Mr MJ Davis		3400	4Mr K Healey		1700
5Mr IR Macfarlane	1486		5Mr JM Webb		1516	5Mrs B Aspinall		1885	5Mr J Shoemith		2536	5Mr K Wasmuth		1171
5Mr K Harris	734		5Mrs J Wheeler		1030	5Mr AW Wilkinson		1613	5Dr I Budden		2164	5Mrs MJ Attwood		1120
6Mrs P Doyle	2783		6Mr MJ Lewis		1850	6Mr CB Wood		1668	6Mrs P Cohen		899	6Mr CG Tayer		2863
6Mr RP Grimshaw	924		6Mrs EJM Russ		660	6Mrs S Gilbert		1157	6Mrs H Sanderson		786	6Mrs L Cockin		841
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6Mrs C James	341		6Mr JS Berry		1500	6Mrs CJ Moloney		250	6Mrs JM Abbott		844	6Mrs S Scott		938

COUNTY NEWS

Grand Master promotions

C R Crosswell Kent
B W Dyde Avon
J G Griffin Derbyshire
M Harris Hertfordshire
G W Jones Middlesex
D W P Kendrick Cambs and Hunts
P Scars Berks and Bucks

Master Point Promotions

Avon
Grand Master B W Dyde
Premier National Master GS Evans
Premier Regional Master Mrs SEM Cooper
2* Star Regional Master Mrs PA Bird
5* Star Master HE North
Mrs J Withey
4* Star Master C Jones
MT Lock
3* Star Master T Pinchbeck
2* Star Master M Davies
1* Star Master Mrs E Butler
Advanced Master Mrs MR Cowley
B Dury
Master J McGivan
County Master I Cowley
District Master Mrs KS Monaghan
A Thomas
Club Master Ms J Griffiths
Baker
Mrs H Parks
Bedfordshire
3* Star Regional Master IR Wilson
Master DL Connolly
County Master Mrs PA Hind
District Master EG Mason
Berks and Bucks
Grand Master Mrs P Scars
Life Master RB Palmer
Premier National Master Mrs AB Browne
National Master M Barker
3* Star Premier Regional Master AR Gardiner
2* Star Regional Master Mrs H Duff
1* Star Regional Master Mrs J Simpson
Regional Master Dr RS Plant
6* Star Tournament Master CJ Harris
Tournament Master D Charteris-Whiting
5* Star Master Mrs DE Bidmead
Mrs J Hughes
Mrs PE Lee
4* Star Master Mrs S Beath
WR Beath
F Jones
R Smurthwaite
3* Star Master Mrs L Holman
Mrs B Regan
K Robbins
2* Star Master Mrs R Herman
Mrs V Hooton
Mrs H Weatherby
1* Star Master LJ Champness
D Cook
Mrs RHC Foxwell
Dr B Mair
Mrs JS Tauber
Mrs PF Wallis
Advanced Master Mrs GC Beal
M Burch
Mrs YM Cocking
Ms S Hegi
Mrs S McNaughton
Mrs M Meadows
RC Oliver
Master M Auger
RT Day
NH Rundell
Mrs JE Terry
MB Tuson
Mrs TR Tuson
County Master Mrs E Crossley
Mrs F Cugnioni
KR Grantham
Mrs PT Langford
Mrs BB Mayfield
RE Potter
Mrs CM Roy
Mrs G Sayers
M Wright
District Master Mrs T Gathercole
AJ Heyes
Mrs GE Perrin
RA Perrin
Mrs B Sawyer
M Wilkinson
Club Master Mrs GR Bowness
D Brown
Mrs A Melville-Jackson
SN Porter
Mrs E Turner
Mrs EM Wiley
Cambs and Hunts
Grand Master DWP Kendrick
6* Star Premier Regional Master IS Aldridge

Avon

www.abca.freeseve.co.uk

MANY congratulations to Cathy and Andrew Smith on winning the county pairs title. The final was contested by 14 pairs and played over 52 boards at Bristol BC. It is Cathy's first and Andrew's third win in the event. They were two percentage points clear of the field and followed home by Delia Stephens and Sarah Hurst, Eva Turner and Tony Letts, Margaret Harris and Richard Kendall, Colin Cheek and Mike Short and Damian Nicholls and Lewis Morton. The first three pairs are eligible to represent Avon in the Corwen Trophy.

Congratulations to Brian Dyde and Peter Sherry, winners of the Swiss pairs championship at the EBU's overseas congress in Estoril.

Congratulations also to Huw Oliver and Andrew Urbanski, who were the national winners of the BGB simultaneous pairs, playing at the West of England Club and returning a score of 74.7%. Mike O'Brien and Margaret Harris were third with 71.8%, also playing at the West of England Club, which had 18 tables in play.

Further congratulations to Brian Dyde on his promotion to Grandmaster (Avon's seventh).

Avon played East Wales at home in the Western League, the A team (Brian Dyde, Peter Sherry, Eva Turner and Tony Letts) winning 18-2 and the B team (Janine Griffiths-Baker, Marc Lee, Tony Gammon and Huw Oliver) winning 17-3.

Avon played Hereford away and again recorded two victories. The A team (Bernard Mitchell, Angela Pullen, Marc Lee and David Jones) won 15-5 and the B team (Nick Barham-Hall, Andrew Urbanski, Janine Griffiths-Baker and Robert Covill) won 17-3.

Avon is currently well placed in both divisions of the Western League, having won three matches and lost one in each division. Last season the county won the A division undefeated and finished second in the B division. Pairs interested in representing Avon in this league are asked to contact Robert Glass.

The Avon heat of the Garden Cities teams of eight championship was held at the West of England Club and won convincingly by the host club's team of Robert Covill, Aidan Schofield, Jeremy Rickard, Robert Glass, Mike Elliott, Tim Brierley, Brian Goalby and David Jones, who will represent the county in the South West regional final in May.

Sarah Pinchbeck, who represented England in the Channel Trophy in Utrecht, was also a member of the successful England under 20 team in the Junior Camrose held in Cork. Dave Cropper was a member of the successful England under 25 team in Cork and Alan Jones played for the Welsh team that finished second.

The Avon junior pairs was won by

Ben and Tom Paske, of Hereford, with Torquay's Josh Smith and Gurik Thomas second and Xunyan Li (Bristol University) and David Barrett (Frome) third. The junior pairs at the Torquay Congress was won by Olivia Varney playing with a local partner.

In the NICKO two Avon teams are through to the fourth round - West of England A (Jeremy Rickard, Robert Glass, Huw Oliver and Tony Gammon) and Bristol D (Mike O'Brien, Bill Crymble, Bill Maddox and Sheila Hodges).

At the London Year End Congress Robert Glass (playing with Martin Pope) finished in a fine fourth place in the men's pairs.

At the Blackpool Year End Congress Andrew and Cathy Smith were eighth in the Swiss pairs.

The Everett Cup final (Bristol Bridge Club teams) comprised eight teams from an original entry of 18 and was won for the second year running by Duncan Cairns, David Jones, Eva Turner and Tony Letts, with Riki Kittel, Mike Elliott, Diana Hutton and Faith Stinchcombe second. Equal third were Delia Stephens, Steve Jones, Sarah Hurst and Bob Williams, with Janine Griffiths-Baker, Robert Covill, Tony Gammon and Robert Glass.

The Preddy Cup (West of England BC handicap teams) drew eight entries and was won by Janine Griffiths-Baker, Robert Glass, Andrew Urbanski and David Jones.

In the National pairs the qualifiers for the South West regional final are Pat Chant and Peter Tilley, Cathy and Andrew Smith, Gwynn Davis and Tony Ratcliff, Margaret Harris and Richard Kendall, David Jones and Miles Cowling, Tony Letts and Eva Turner, Ian and Margaret Mundy, Lewis Morton and Damian Nicholls, Laurie Barth and Steve Cort and Robert Covill and Aidan Schofield.

At the East Wales Congress the highest placed Avon team was Huw Oliver, Tony Gammon, Jeremy Rickard and Robert Glass, who finished eighth out of 87 entries.

Diary dates: April 4 county mixed pairs final, Bristol BC; April 18 ACBA inter-club teams (new event).

Bedfordshire

www.Bedfordshire-Bridge-Assoc.co.uk

FIVE clubs provided seven teams for Bedfordshire's inter-club teams of eight and the event was won by the Wardown team of Angela and Eric Richards, Roly Wale and Dick Bond, Nick Welch and John Huxley. Second was Bedford A (Brian and Maureen Stairs, Monica Lucy and Maggie Willis, Dominic Connolly and David Wouds, Greg Ward and David Willett) and third Milton Keynes A (Ron Davis and Lynne Emmett, Janet Marsh and Peter Coles, Phil Gee and Alan Oddie, Anne and David Gilling).

Wardown Bridge Club therefore represents Bedfordshire in the regional final of the Garden Cities Trophy, accompanied by all our good wishes.

In the county Swiss pairs Ron Davis and Roger Edmonds rose through the field to win the closely contested competition by 11vps. Second place went to Brian and Rita Keable, with Alan Oddie and Jon Williams third.

Congratulations to Jon Williams and Alan Oddie, members of the team that finished second in the national Swiss teams congress.

Diary dates: April 4 county pairs final, Brickhill 2pm; April 22 one star pairs final, Woburn Sands 7.30pm; April 23 simple system teams, Milton Keynes 7.45pm; May 13 county AGM and EBU simultaneous pairs, Woburn Sands 7pm; June 3 restricted pairs, Woburn Sands 7.30pm.

Don't forget the BBA/EBU Swiss teams on May 15, Stevenage 1pm. Details from the website.

Berks and Bucks

www.berks-and-bucks-cba.co.uk
LEN Handley and Chris Burley won the Rex Avery Trophy for the county pairs championship. The top five pairs qualify for the Corwen Trophy. The others were 2 Peter and Dee Lindon, 3 Mike Ribbins and Nigel Guthrie, 4 Richard Palmer and Dick Davey, 5 David Owen and Bill Godenzie.

County pairs plate 1 Lyn Holman and Anthony Collins, 2 Jennie Corfield and Bruce Franklin, 3 Greg Howell and Bob Beauchamp.

Joseph Mela and James Evans were members of the South Western team that qualified for the final of the G W Arnott-Davidson Trophy, to be held in London at Easter. This is a new competition, which started last year for teams of eight comprised of players of school age.

Diary dates: April 20 club teams final for the Committee Cup, plus the plate competition; May 9 club pairs final for the Waller Bowl; May 18 invitation teams event, Berkshire v Buckinghamshire; May 30 friendly pairs for the Lederer Salver; June 6 Swiss teams and AGM; June 20 Green Point Swiss teams, Bracknell.

Cambs and Hunts

www.cambsbridge.org.uk
DAVID Kendrick and Victor Milman finished third in the National men's pairs, while in the National women's pairs Catherine Jagger was fourth, just ahead of Sue Oakford and Nadia Stelmashenko. Nadia and Sue also reached the quarter-finals of the National women's teams, as did Catherine Curtis, while Catherine Jagger reached the semi-finals.

Our Tollemache team (Gareth Birdsall and Julian Wightwick, Roger Gibbons and David Kendrick, Catherine Jagger and Jonathan Mestel and Chris Jagger and Ian Pagan, with Chris Larilham non-playing captain), came third in the final behind Surrey and London.

(continued on next page)

Master Point promotions

Cambs and Hunts cont	2* Star Premier Regional Master
2* Star Premier Regional Master	Mrs G Lankshar
Mrs MC Burrows	6* Star Regional Master
1* Star Premier Regional Master	D Porter
Mrs C Bull	5* Star Regional Master
1* Star Tournament Master	GRH Hoare
VK Vachher	5* Star Master
3* Star Master	Mrs JM Crabtree
Maj CL De Vries	Miss EML Nicholson
Advanced Master	4* Star Master
KR Firth	TF Cook
Mrs G Wilkins	3* Star Master
Master	Mrs A Mackay
DA Williams	2* Star Master
County Master	JD Banyard
Mrs M Foreman	JS Honess
Mrs A Newman	DM Meek
District Master	1* Star Master
C J Hewer	Mrs ED Hooper
C Howlett	S Lane
Mrs I Stow	R Lingham
N Trentham	PJ Lucas
	MJ Trapnell
	Advanced Master
	J Boxall
Channel Islands	Dr AR Jukes
Premier Life	Mrs P Tomaszek
Mrs SG Rankin	Mrs J Trapnell
3* Star Master	Master
P Pitcher	Dr J O'Keefe
Master	L Spencer
L Allam	County Master
County Master	HJ Crossman
Mrs SEM Conoos	RH Masters
Mrs S Smith	District Master
Club Master	CJ Baker
Mrs W Bowen	Mrs M Rowe
	Dr WB Rowe
	Mrs N Tarling
	Club Master
	Mrs M Murray
Cornwall	
4* Star Master	Dorset
Mrs A Barrett	7* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs K Willis	AL Watson
3* Star Master	25* Star Regional Master
Mrs R Congdon	JA Howitt
JV Deal	5* Star Regional Master
Mrs P Deal	Master
Advanced Master	BM Cutting
J Harnett	1* Star Regional Master
Master	H Kevill-Davies
Mrs PM Davies	Tournament Master
Mrs PS Doyle	JS Marshall
County Master	5* Star Master
Mrs R Bradshaw	B Hirst
RP Grimshaw	3* Star Master
Club Master	PF Dartnall
J James	2* Star Master
Mrs B Webb	Mrs A Traylor
	DR Woodbridge
	1* Star Master
	Mrs J Green
	Mrs VG Seldon
	Advanced Master
	G Rowland
	Master
	Mrs MR Day
	County Master
	AJ Bayfield
	Mrs J Greenwood
	P Murdoch
	Club Master
	Mrs JL Beckley
Derbyshire	Essex
Grand Master	Life Master
JG Griffin	PD Mollison
4* Star Regional Master	Mrs V Mollison
JR Curzon	Premier National Master
1* Star Regional Master	Mrs E Green
G Watson	National Master
Regional Master	J Sutcliffe
A Pilling	14* Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs B Wilson	J Phillips
Tournament Master	5* Star Regional Master
Mrs M Hallam	Mrs JM Russell
5* Star Master	2* Star Regional Master
Mrs E Hole	Master
3* Star Master	A Riach
JA Wootton	8* Star Tournament Master
2* Star Master	AW Fifield
Mrs M Plant	3* Star Tournament Master
Master	Mrs A Featham
NJ Argust	
Devon	
Life Master	
G Fogg	
3* Star Premier Regional Master	
JA Lankshar	

The county pairs was won by Gareth Birdsall and Don McFarlane, with Chris Jagger and Ian Pagan second.

The county individual was won by Sheila Barker, with David Carmichael second.

Diary date: June 6 Jubilee Swiss pairs.

Channel Islands

www.gtonline.net/community/cicba GUERNSEY was ahead of Jersey in deciding its line-up to contest the county teams final. At the time of writing Robert Plumley, Susie Farnon, Colin Tostevin and Lynda Mildon had secured the honour of meeting Jersey's best, where there were still four teams in contention.

After reducing an original Guernsey entry of nine to a knockout round of four the Plumley team first despatched Dick Langham, Rudi Falla, Lyn Williamson and John Seymour and then went on to beat Ian Monahan, Pat Merriman, Brenda Walker and Brenda Lihou - that was after the Monahan team had defeated Vera, Ann and Don Babbe and Grace Jones.

The Guernsey open pairs championship brought further success for Robert Plumley and Susie Farnon. They won the event, with Ian Monahan and Pat Merriman second and Margaret Allen and Gill Morgan third.

Jersey players achieved considerable success in the British winter simultaneous pairs, which was played over three consecutive days. On the Tuesday Jan Dorey and Rosemary Beattie scored 69% and were third out of some 2,600 pairs nationally, while on the Wednesday Sue Rankin and Brian Youd scored 70.5% and were third out of 2,500 pairs nationally: good performances all round.

The Jersey Winter Cup, held over seven sessions, with each competitor playing with a different partner at each session, resulted in Sue Rankin retaining her title, with Peter Pitcher second and Marion Miles third.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freeserve.co.uk WE are now nearing the back end of another season and it is time to thank all the members who have supported the county events. This year we have had more tables in play than ever before and the new venue at Ladock has proved to be very well received by the members. Please remember as you read this that the AGM is due and will be followed by the Norman Woodhouse individual tournament. Please come along and support your chairman and his committee, who have worked hard throughout the season to bring you your bridge.

Results of events: Hilda Higman Trophy men's pairs 1 Geoff Warren and Laurence Hayes, 2 David Boxall and Alan Myles, 3 Rod Bell and Owen Prior; Ryley King ladies' pairs 1 Pat Meade and Val Manicom, 2 Mrs Deal and V Pitman, 3 Jan Keast and Mrs L Palfreyman; county teams of four 1 Mike Booth, Colin Pote, Pat Meade and Val Manicom, 2 Margaret Warner, Janet Heath, Mary Robson and R Jones, 3 Jan and K Keast, Joe

Bryant and L Haynes; Penventon Swiss pairs 1 June Fitness and Harold Payne, 2 Jan and Ken Keast, 3 Harry Jackson and Irene Rowlandson, equal 3 Harry Livesey and John Harnet; county teams of eight 1 Helston, 2 Cambourne, 3 Truro.

Cumbria

www.cumbriabridge.co.uk CUMBRIA's inter-club teams of eight competition was won by Eden Bridge Club, represented by Mike Ash and Jeff Brown, Ian Reeves and Ken Johnston, Adam Aitken and Ian Smith and Ken Anderson and Tony Bartlett. They go on to represent Cumbria in the Garden Cities Trophy. Congratulations to them. Runners-up were Workington Bridge Club, with the hosts, Barrow, third.

Winter simultaneous pairs: 1 Mike Dunstan and Tony Parker (Workington), 2 Tony Aldred and Estelle Savage (Barrow), 3 David Latimer and John Robinson (Keswick), 4 Joan Mossop and Geoff Thomson (Eden).

Pivot teams: 1 Mary Cooney, Marjorie Bamford, Jack Conway and Jack Etchells (Barrow), 2 Alan and Carol James, Anne Breakey and John MacLachlan (Workington), 3 Philip and Sally Wraight (Grange), Geoff and Kathleen Bell (Brampton).

Derbyshire

www.derbyshirecontractbridge.co.uk PAUL Madden and John Squib were worthy winners of this year's new look Derbyshire pairs final. That Paul and John have worked at their game and have the ability to succeed at the highest level was already evident from recent performances in congresses and in county qualifying heats of national championships. It was a second success for John, who won the event in 1984 with Howard Melbourne.

Forty-eight pairs contested the two-day final, with the top half of the field from the first day going forward to play a further 46 boards on the second day, and the remainder battling out a consolation final.

Ron McEwan and Richard Edwards headed the field at the end of the first day, followed by Randy and Doreen Curzon, Dave and Mary Marshall, Don Smedley and John Griffin and Wendy Watson and Linda Scott.

At mid point on the second day Stan Haywood and Jackie Starsmore led the way, with Mike Clayton and Miranda Vinecombe second and the ultimate winners in third place.

Paul and John kept up the pressure and eased through to victory, holding off by one match point the late challenge of the holders, Ian Hall and Jim Tomlinson. Ron McEwan and Richard Edwards rallied to finish equal third with Mike Clayton and Miranda Vinecombe, ahead of Don Smedley and John Griffin (fifth) and Stan Hayward and Jackie Starsmore (sixth).

The top three pairs had the added prize of being eligible to go forward to the national contest for the Corwen Trophy. A split tie decision gave Ron McEwan and Richard

Edwards the third Corwen place.

Derek Hopkinson and John Squires won the consolation final, with June Lippitt and Dorothy Smith second, Tony Wakeling and Dave French third, John Reavey and David Ford fourth and Steve Lemmings and Margaret Pacey fifth.

The success of the new format, which previously comprised qualifying heats at clubs with subsequent semi-final and final played on separate weekends, indicates that we may well have the same-style event next year.

Devon

www.dccba.com GEOFF and Nethie White started 2004 in the same winning form that gave them such a successful 2003. Playing with Robin and Margaret Mardlin they beat some top teams to win the John Woolcott Swiss teams at Exeter Bridge Club. The same team also set off at a cracking pace in the NICKO, in which they did so well last year. Geoff and Nethie, playing with Ken Rowe and Vivien Peters, then won the teams at the Petit Congress at Torquay.

Congratulations to Exeter A (Kevin and Ann Slee, Alan and Jette Bailey, Warner and Louise Solomon, Peter Bowles and Roger Sape) for a clearcut victory in the Devon heat of the Garden Cities Trophy teams of eight. At half time they were only one imp in front of Torquay A, but they stormed ahead in the second half. Exeter D were second.

Amazingly although the Torquay BC Congress is not until November, such is the growing reputation of the event that 50 rooms have already been booked at the new venue hotel, the Imperial. If you want to be there, November 19-21, you need to act soon (contact Jean Crabtree 01803 296447).

Results: John Woolcott Swiss teams 1 Robin and Margaret Mardlin, Geoff and Nethie White, 2 Peter Bowles, Roger Sape, John Harriman, Bill Ellis, 3 Jo Brock, Terry Hammett, Paul Easterbrook, John Beard, 2 Bobby and Paul Ainsworth, 3 Ann and Kevin Slee; DCCBA Petit Congress, pairs 1 Lesley and Ralph Smith, 2 Brenda Guy and Joy Pellow, 3 Nethie and Geoff White, teams 1 G and N White, K Rowe, V Peters, 2 P Palmer, T McDermott, Mrs J Flood, Mrs A Humphries, 3 P and B Ainsworth, D Andrews, T Glenday.

Diary dates: April 4 Exeter Golf and Country Club Charity Swiss teams; April 16-18 Torquay Congress (including Green Point teams); June 27 AGM and county teams, ISCA, Exeter; July 18 county Green Point Swiss teams, Exeter.

Dorset

www.dorsetbridge.plus.com CONGRATULATIONS to Patrick Cheu and Ann Sharples on winning Dorset's leading pairs event, the Knight Cup. The last remaining Dorset-based NICKO team of Miles Cowling, Daphne Philipps, Phil Norman and Christine Bradley lost to Jeremy Baker's Southampton team in the third round.

In the Gold Cup Dr Harold

Master Point promotions

Essex cont	5* Star Master
1* Star	G Quinton
Tournament	3* Star Master
Master	DM Heywood
Mrs ME Kind	Mrs B Stephenson
Tournament	2* Star Master
Master	G Clarke
AI Bremman	Miss JM Mossdell
5* Star Master	Mrs R Spencer
KW Bird	1* Star Master
4* Star Master	PN Cashman
R Clarke	Mrs GM Harris
PI Godward	GA McDermott
Mrs K Israel	Ms J Shortman
Miss S New	P Warren
J Riddleston	Advanced
MS Stribling	Master
3* Star Master	VJ Ellis
CMU Hess	DW Flux
M Noori	Ms OM Jenkins
2* Star Master	Mrs M Smith
Mrs A Craig	Master
W Davey	D Dawson
GKM Robinson	Ms DT Elwes
M Sehill	GC McLaughlin
M C Wallace	Mrs M Still
R Warner	County Master
Dr JC Williams	Mrs JJB Lawrence
1* Star Master	DB Saunders
Mrs BH Benton	CT Stoner
Ms B Cagle	District Master
B Capal	Mrs J Appleton
D Carter	JD Appleton
TJ Connott	Mrs G Greenslade
RT Robinson	J Knight
Mrs RA Stevens	Capt T Robinson
Advanced	Mrs MM Round
Miss HM Bostock	Mrs EL Taylor
W Cannavan	RB Wassell
A Jay	Club Master
PS Lee	Mrs AE Kimberley
Ms EM Maczka	N March
SF Margutti	Dr H Millward-
M A Riddleston	Sadler
DS Tennet	Mrs AM Prowen
Master	RJ Turner
Mrs PA Francis	Herefordshire
RC Hilson	2* Star Regional
Mrs LV Moran	Master
Miss LE Perryman	S Booth
J Porter	Tournament
K Wallace	Master
GR Webber	Mrs JB Holder
County Master	2* Star Master
AR Jones	P Watts
B Mann	Advanced
DJ Wiseman	Master
District Master	A Truluck
Mrs J Durrant	Master
Mrs S Lowe	JM Charles
Mrs JG Marsh	County Master
CDJ Sainy	E Bourne
Club Master	Mrs JE Crisp
Mrs AS Eggesden	GJ Ling
DL Greenbaum	District Master
Mrs EM Johnston	Mrs J Eaton
L Johnston	Mrs J Porter
Z Kiemer	GA Sargeant
IT Peterson	DW Skittery
Gloucestershire	Club Master
6* Star Premier	Mrs G Cheary
Regional Master	Mrs J Crothall
Mrs GA Ireland	P Curtis
4* Star Master	J Evans
A Lander	RT Jackman
BW Overton	Mrs P Masek
Mrs V Rahim	Mrs K Overens
2* Star Master	AH Stonadge
DG Cook	Mrs S White
HW Mason	Hertfordshire
RJ Nicholls	Grand Master
1* Star Master	M Harris
D Haslam	Premier Life
Mrs J Wheeler	Master
Master	RG Irwin
Mrs VA	National Master
McClements	DJ Hoey
District Master	5* Star Premier
Mrs AM Hall	Regional Master
Club Master	RE Seaman
Mrs M Beverley	4* Star Premier
Hants and IoW	Regional Master
Life Master	HR Harlow
Mrs R Concanon	2* Star Premier
8* Star Regional	Regional Master
Master	R Button
Mrs CJ Carter	1* Star Premier
1* Star	Regional Master
Tournament	Mrs R Rodney
Master	Mrs GM Tinsdale
Mrs RG Kirby	Premier Regional
GD Walker	Master
Tournament	DJ Peers
Master	1* Star Regional
L Davies	Master
Mrs PM Davies	Mrs AE Corlett
Miss PA Lee	Tournament
NS Vernon	Master
	AR Kaye
	Mrs H Kaye

(continued on next page)

Wayne, Ann Sharples, Chris Stevens and Hilary Brain progressed to the third round beating Joyce Baldock's Hook-based team. In the Crockford's Cup third round Dave Berwitz, Roy Riley, Deborah Berwitz and Mark Hooper suffered defeat by Tim Smith's Petersfield team.

In the Western League Dorset A were beaten by Devon, while Dorset B went on to record their third victory.

Finally, well done to Helen Ackroyd, Martin Brook, Daphne Philipps and Miles Cowling, who won the Frost Rose Bowl for the third successive year. They finished equal with R Burkitt, A Clarke, P Smith and D Gladwinfield, but clinched victory on a tie break.

Other results: Knight Cup 1 P Cheu and A Sharples, 2 K Walker and T Dunsby, 3 F Rutter and J Kellock; Consolation pairs 1 H Ackroyd and M Brook, 2 R Corrick and G Barthorpe, 3 A and M Filer.

Diary dates: April 4, 11 and 25 Swiss teams, Wessex Bridge Centre; April 18 Dorset Gee Trophy; May 2 and 9 Swiss teams, Wessex Bridge Centre; May 23 Swiss teams for the Udall Trophy; May 29-31 EBU Spring Congress. Contacts for details of events: Ray Whitby (01202) 426619, WBC Terry Udall (01202) 760934, Wimborne Ian Smith (01202) 241984, Dorchester (01305) 786509, Sherborne Brenda Morgan (01935) 850704

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk

SOME good results were achieved by Essex players in the EBU Congress in Estoril. Margaret Curtis and Albert Kitchin won the mixed pairs, while Val and Paul Mollison were seventh in the Swiss pairs and Janet Russell and George Towler and their team-mates were fifth in the Swiss teams. Well done to all of them.

Several Essex players took part in the EBU Year End congresses in London and Blackpool. Good results were obtained at the London venue by Tessa Beer and Joan Curley, who came third in the ladies' pairs, Gad Chada, who was 10th in the Swiss pairs, and the team of Tessa Beer, Elaine Green and Paul and Val Mollison, who secured 9th place in the Swiss teams.

Results of recent Essex competitions: Swiss pairs 1 Dave Duffy and Bernie Harrison, 2 Alan Green and David Clark, equal 2 Peter Oake and Ray Cornell; Essex heat of the National pairs 1 Dave Duffy and Bernie Harrison, 2 Joan Curley and Tessa Beer, 3 Sandy Riach and Robert Elliott; Helliard Trophy 1 Thorpe Bay B (Allan Greenstein, Yvonne Dias, Alan Cohen and George Wilcox), 2 Waltham Forest A (Winnie Godber, John Stimson, C Elliott and M Baker), 3 Mountnensing C (Dennis Valtisariis, Graham Beckett, Po Shing Lee and Ray Clarke; Non expert pairs 1 Laura Perryman and Steve Curran, 2 Chris Aldridge and Laurie Platt, 3 Linda Moran and Ian MacEwan.

Diary dates: April 4 Essex pairs championship; April 18 George Curtis Swiss teams; May 8 Essex AGM.

Gloucestershire

www.gcba.org.uk

UNFORTUNATELY the 'flu bug took its toll of the Gloucestershire team shortly after its arrival for the final of the Tollemache, resulting in some rearrangement of partnerships. The team therefore did well to finish fifth in the eight-team final, beating second-placed Surrey and Northants. The team comprised Derek Rue, Keith Stanley, Adrian Thomas, Paul Denning, Richard Butland, Graham Cornell, Patrick Shields, Graham Sadie, Richard Chamberlain and Andrew Kambites, with Judy Sanis as non-playing captain.

In the Midland Counties League Gloucestershire A have won the Dawes Trophy with one match to go by beating Oxfordshire 13-7, their closest result of the season. Congratulations to all who played their part in this achievement during the season. However, the Oxford B and C teams took their revenge by winning both the Porter and Markham matches 20-0, thereby putting Gloucestershire out of contention for both trophies.

A Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire quartet had an enjoyable time and good success in the EBU Congress at Estoril. Ian and Val Constable, Lynne Hayes and Lesley Harrison finished third out of 52 in the Swiss teams, while Ian and Leslie finished fourth out of 108 in the Swiss pairs.

On the local Gloucestershire scene recent successes have been: county pairs 1 Paul Denning and Patrick Shields, 2 Tony Hill and Graham Sadie; No fear pairs 1 Mary Bridgewater and Hussein Fatemian, 2 Ann Christie and Jean Dobell; Individual 1 Graham Sadie, 2 Leslie Harris; Leonard Cup 1 Alliette Sladen and Hussein Fatemian, 2 Mary Newport and Megan Davis; Swiss pairs 1 Paul Denning and Tony Hill, 2 David Atthey and Andrew Kambites.

Diary dates: April 30-May 2 Cheltenham Congress; May 16 AGM and mixed pairs.

Hants and IoW

www.hantsbridge.org

THE Year End Congress in London brought two good results for Hants and Isle of Wight players. Chris Bradley and Roger Bamber came second in the Swiss pairs and Andrew Bennett, Jill Shortman, Sue Hands and Nicky Crawford were second in the B flight Swiss teams.

County events resulted as follows: Lincoln mixed pairs 1 Heather Maidment and Mike Fithyan, 2 Phil Norman and Chris Bradley, 3 Madeline Lawson and Mac Nurmohamed; Southampton-Sutherland pivot teams 1 Tracey Adams, Steve Tearle, and Chris and Helen Kinloch, 2 Fred Esch, Macushla Steward, Marion Rudd and Ray Crawford, 3 Dave Bessant, David Saunders, Gordon McDermott and Val Cafferkey; Candlestick Swiss pairs 1 Daniel Miller and Colin Jones, 2 John Jones and Mac Nurmohamed, equal 2 Stuart Strachan and Eleanor Rice; Valentine Swiss teams 1 Kathy Vaile,

John Carter, John Moore and John Austin, 2 Mike and Marilyn Mollet-Rogerson and Ian and Clare Fearson, 3 Guy Lawrenson, Phil Norman, Miles Cowling and Daphne Phillips.

Diary dates: April 18 Philip Graham Swiss teams; May 2 Ladies'/men's teams; May 16 EBU Green Point event, Winchester 1pm (Entries to Marion Rudd 01264 333847); May 23 Hill Head mini Swiss teams; June 13 AGM noon/Finale ranked pairs 2pm. All of these events are held in Romsey and start at 2pm unless otherwise stated. Entries to Kathy Vaile 01590 679673 or kathyvaile@lineone.net

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.com

THERE was again an excellent turnout for the annual Swiss teams competition run by the Fownhope Club (26 teams). This friendly, but competitive event attracts a number of players who prefer the format of two sessions before and after an excellent hot lunch, rather than the afternoon/evening programme with tea, as used in county events. The county intends to experiment with this format in some of its events next year to find if this can counteract the tendency to lower entries for county competitions. On this occasion D and S Munday, K Nelson and H Brace shared first place with J and C Baldwin and A and J Shave. Third spot went to G Dallimore, M Archer, J Holder and J Homes.

County competition results: men's pairs for the County Gentlemen's Association Trophy 1 D Weller and P Watts, 2 B Britton and D Brown, 3 J Griffiths and P Gough; ladies' pairs for the Lambe Comer Salver 1 J Holder and J Homes, 2 S Allin and S Mathews, 3 S Munday and H Brace; Standard English section of the ladies' pairs 1 G Dowden and S Green, 2 S Weller and J Porter, equal 2 E Warrington and P Holbrook; multiple teams of four for the Sun Valley Bowl 1 S and D Munday, R Davies and J Griffiths, 2 J Holder, J Homes, M Price and K Neale, 3 B Britton, M Ralph, P Watts and D Weller; Standard English section of the multiple teams of four 1 D Heslop, J King, B Budd and B Sandow, 2 A Morris, R Brown, S Green and N Wilkins, 3 E Richards, P Webber, J Walters and A Slater.

Diary dates: April 16 No fear teams, Larrupers Centre, Ross-on-Wye; April 25 county championship pairs, Tarrington Village Hall; May 14, HBA AGM, Ledbury Community Centre.

Hertfordshire

Freespace.virgin.net/herts.bridge CONGRATULATIONS to Anne Flockhart who, playing with Margaret Curtis of Essex, was the top-placed Hertfordshire player in the National women's pairs (10th), and to Derek Oram, playing with Tony Waterlow of Middlesex, who was ninth in the National men's pairs.

Malcolm Harris has become a Grand Master.

In the Hertfordshire championship pairs leading qualifiers were Anne Flockhart and Vernon Gaskell,

Master Point promotions

Hertfordshire

5* Star Master

H Fisher

Mrs C

Macnaughton

Mrs BR Segall

4* Star Master

WG Ellis

3* Star Master

Mrs B Ellis

J Pond

2* Star Master

Mrs EA Crook

Mrs R Harris

Miss J Hay

RG Roscoe

1* Star Master

Mrs VA Barton

R Burnett

Mrs D Gimpel

RT Harden

Advanced

Master

DA Fensome

Mrs MD Hurt

RN Quinby

Mrs JL Stebbings

Master

CPP Byron

Mrs JA North

Mrs DE O'Gorman

KW Payne

Mrs CD Redrup

PA Shonfield

County Master

CJ Carreira

BC Hassell

Mrs P Hassell

PJJ Mackell

Mrs D Nelson

Mrs L Peers

RL Turnham

Mrs SD Woods

District Master

Mrs V Hatter

Mrs JI Latham

MV Rodney

Club Master

Mrs LV Belch

Mrs PM Benson

AM Glenn

Ms G Parry

Mrs J White

Isle of Man

2* Star Master

Mrs A Anderson

Master

Mrs J Templeton

K Templeton

Club Master

J Jowett

Kent

Grand Master

CR Crosswell

Life Master

JM Lewis

Premier

National Master

SL Sypliwczak

Mrs E Wilmot

National Master

JC Condon

AC Gill

Mrs VM Gill

8* Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs M Clare

7* Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs DM Leonard

3* Star Premier

Regional Master

Sir J Hibbert

4* Star Regional

Master

Mrs A Cox

Mrs CM Schofield

2* Star Regional

Master

Mrs JM Skinner

Regional Master

Mrs C Cundy

9* Star

Tournament

RH Stockbridge

4* Star

Tournament

Mrs VA Reeves

2* Star

Tournament

BE Saker

1* Star

Tournament

Mrs L Radford

5* Star Master

JM Henderson

Mrs E Kelly

4* Star Master

Mrs K Allen

JC Davy

Mrs Y Penny

3* Star Master

RH Bird

Mrs JS Fishleigh

PJ Fishleigh

FG Lane

Mrs M Phillips

DJ Powell

2* Star Master

G Jenkinson

1* Star Master

AJ Adams

Mrs HM Allberry

KA Ashcroft

KJ Field

Mrs HH Ford

Mrs EA Fox

I Nahumy

Mrs C Richardson

C Watkinson

KH Wheeler

Advanced

Master

NM Allen

Mrs DG

Arrowsmith

MR Benson

Mrs A Burke

GD Burton

Mrs MA Cooke

Mrs VA Elwell

R Kingsley

Mrs J Ponting

Master

M Bertini

O Jamall

MD Penney

Mrs EO Whiting

County Master

CG Champion

M Dubock

Mrs C Fowler

DH Gibb

R Howgill

JW Kelly

Mrs B Kingsley

Mrs H Nettleton

K Reynolds

G Woods

Mrs A Yeomans

District Master

Mrs G Howe

Mrs S Morgan

DH Newham

BT Smith

S Walsh

DM Whitley

Club Master

Dr H Hogarth

RW Wright

Lancashire

Premier

National Master

BC Grice

A Murphy

Mrs PA Murphy

National Master

Mrs H

Montgomery

2* Star Premier

Regional Master

JM Morrell

4* Star Regional

Master

BC Irlam

3* Star Regional

Master

E Heaton

Mrs I Walker

2* Star Regional

Master

M Hartley

2* Star

Tournament

Master

AW McNaught

Mrs FM Robinson

Tournament

Master

Mrs M Fyne

MA Fyne

B Maurer

Mrs MJ Maurer

3* Star Master

Mrs D Gilbert

2* Star Master

JS Hunter

1* Star Master

SN Clarke

Mrs E Harwood

Mrs P Heap

D McCormick

Advanced

Master

Mrs B Aspinall

followed by Derek and Celia Oram, with Alan Kay and Dave Walker third.

The final of the Humble Cup will be played privately between Celia and Derek Oram, John Cuthbert and Sally Bennett and the team of Dave Dickson, Malcolm Harris, Alan Kay, Dave Walker, Anne Flockhart and Mike Hancock. In the quarter-finals of this event Oram beat Cane, Kitajewski beat Davoud, Dickson beat Ball and Gordon beat Snell (holders). In the semi-finals Oram beat Kitajewski and Dickson beat Gordon.

Please email details of all your bridge achievements locally and nationally to david.eddleston@ntlworld.com

Diary dates: April 2 Cadet teams final, Bridge Centre 7.30pm; April 4 Desmond Flockhart Trophy, Bridge Centre 1pm. Contact tournament secretary Mike Minting on 01442 833247 to pre enter.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk

ONCE again I find myself offering congratulations to Leigh Chapman, who has played for England for the second year running in the Junior Camrose. England were the clear winners. Congratulations also to Catherine Draper, who has been selected to represent England in the Lady Milne Trophy, playing with Tracy Capal from Manchester.

The team of Jeremy Willans, Phil Bailey, Catherine and Ian Draper, Gerald and Stuart Tredinnick, Peter Crouch and Michael Prior finished fourth in the Tollemache final.

Catherine Draper won the National women's teams playing with Tracy Capal (Manchester) and Gilly Clench and Ann Hirst from Wales. In the National Swiss teams Croz Crosswell, Gav Mackay, Degsy Williams (Lancashire) and Marty Jones (Warwickshire) came fourth.

In the BGB Winter simultaneous pairs Martin Federman and John Burdett were 27th out of 1,748 pairs in the Monday session and on Tuesday Brian Barrett and Doris Leonard came second and V Reeves and H MacFarlane were fourth out of 2,456 pairs.

Steve and Moira Maslin were fourth in their section of the pivot teams at the EBU Congress in Estoril, playing with Rita Finch and Ian Merriman.

Peter Crouch won the championship pairs at the Croydon Congress playing with Neil Rosen (London) and Gary Wiles, Michael Prior, Neil Benn and Ian Draper were clear winners of the Swiss teams at the same event.

Kent competitions: Fleming Femina 1 Carol Homden and Mary Tuff, 2 Jean Bell and Alison Burt, 3 Irene Thomas and Elaine Wilmot; Hunter Homines 1 Geoff Smith and Daran Steele, 2 Neil Benn and Steve Burton, 3 Duncan Cox and Alan Wilson; George Griffiths Cup (seniors pairs) 1 Jack Hibbert and Marie Horlock, 2 Stan and Nicky Adamson, 3 Chris Lamb and Ian De'ath, equal 3 Mary Tuff and Carol Homden.

Grace Sellars Salver (Medway Towns BC teams of four competition)

1 Peggy Morgan, Marjorie Bleasdale, John Merrett and Tony Reeve, 2 Martin Federman, John Burdett and Gordon and Betty Lawrence, 3 Peter Taylor, Ken Murrey and Hazel and Phil Boyce.

Diary dates: April 3 Swiss pairs, Beckenham BC 2pm; May 1 Swiss teams, Tunbridge Wells BC 4pm; July 23-25 Tunbridge Wells BC Congress TW and CC.

Please email details of results and forthcoming local events, or anything you would like included in this column, to LizBlande@aol.com

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk

LANCASTER Bridge Club will be Lancashire's representative in the Garden Cities Trophy regional final after winning the LCBA teams of eight championship at Bury.

LCBA championship pairs 1 Peter Brown and Malcolm Hartley, 2 Lynda Yates and Ken Renno, 3 Andrew Petrie and Ollie Burgess, 4 Ross Shine and John Brearley.

Lancashire Evening Post pairs 1 Mark Halliwell and Mike Ardron, 2 Brian Ripley and Barrie Newall, 3 Sue and Nick Woodcock.

LCBA teams of eight 1 Lancaster (Petrie), 2 Poulton (Halliwell), 3 Southport (Woodcock).

Doyle Cup 1 Andrew Petrie, Giles Foster, Jackie Pye and Ollie Burgess, 2 Alan Whittam, Paul Evans, Brian Ripley and Barrie Newall, 3 Vinay Bhushan, Andrew Woodcock, Nick and Sue Woodcock, equal 3 Helen Montgomery, Bob Loveridge, Marjorie Knowles and Betty McNamara.

Butler pairs 1 Keith Boulton and Nigel Pearce, 2 Jeff Smith and Jackie Pye, 3 Paul Evans and Sue Hyman.

Diary dates: April 2-4 WBU Spring Congress, Llandudno; April 9-11 EBU Easter Festival, Blackpool Hilton; April 18 Madeleine Berney Swiss pairs, Southport Bridge Club; April 25 Bury Swiss teams, Bury Athenaeum; May 3 Mayday Swiss pairs, Merseyside Bridge Centre; May 9 Gazette and Herald Trophy, Blackburn Bridge Centre; May 15-16 Green Point weekend, Risley; May 23 Blackburn Swiss pairs, Blackburn Bridge Centre; May 31 Bolton Swiss teams, Bolton Bridge Club.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS first to the eight Leicestershire pairs going forward to the regional final of the National pairs. Alan Langley and Dick Pathan, Bill Hood and Pat Watson, Ben Green and Glyn Preece (a Warwickshire partner) and Val Challands and Mary Beresford qualified at Loughborough; Dennis Davis and John Myles, John Thompson and Alan Lord, Geoff and Barbara Swann and Paul and Sue Bowyer at Leicester.

In the final two rounds of county matches the first team recorded 20-0 and 16-4 victories over Nottinghamshire and Staffs and Shrops to finish second in the Dawes League. With 15-5 and 20-0 victories the second team captured the Porter Cup, but scorelines of 2-18 and 19-1 left the third team in third place in

the Markham Trophy.

The Nottinghamshire team of John and Irene Auld, Bill Whalley and Clive Kaye, retained the Joyce Cup invitation teams for a third year. Warwickshire's John Robbins, David Kenward, Mike Summers-Smith and Colin Dean were second and Leicestershire's Tony Marshall, Brian Chamberlain, Charu and Sobhag Shah third.

Diary dates: April 14 Stanley Trophy heat six, Loughborough Grammar School (LGS); April 15 BGB sim pairs, Leicester Bridge Centre (CEN); April 21 Amateur (non-expert) pairs (Barkby BC); April 25 Gill Jones charity Swiss teams (LGS); April 28 Hyman Crammer pairs (CEN); April 29 League meeting (LGS); May 12 Jones (handicap) pairs (CEN); May 13 EBU sim pairs (CEN); May 19 Stanley Trophy heat seven (CEN); May 23 Midland Counties League A v Worcestershire; May 26 LCBA AGM (CEN); June 5 WW sim pairs (CEN).

Lincolnshire

www.odn.co.uk/lincsbridge

RANDOM seeded teams 1 Alan and Drene Brown, Bob and Margaret Handford, 2 Glyn Elwick and John Aherne, Sheila Skelton and Margot Blakeney, 3 Paul Wokes and Stuart Knox, Bill and Shirley Holmes.

Vincent Cup (men's pairs) 1 Mike Grant and Lawrence Taffinder, 2 John Vickers and Bill Parsons, 3 Maurice Lynn and Paul Davison.

Sidney Vincent Cup (ladies' pairs) 1 Brenda Goodacre and Bridgid Hughes, 2 Elaine Proctor and Chris Davison, 3 Helen Gillatt and Barbara Maplethorpe.

Diary dates: April 4 Garden Cities Trophy heat, Dunholme Village Hall 1.30 pm; April 24-25 county championships, Hemswell Court (Entry forms to treasurer by April 17).

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to London players who have had recent success at international level. Gunnar Hallberg, Nick Sandqvist, Danny Davies, Espen Erichsen, Artur Malinowski, David Gold, Tom Townsend, Phil King, David Price and Colin Simpson have all had victories playing for England in the Camrose series. Leigh Chapman was in England's winning team in the Junior Camrose (under 25) in Cork. Philip Andrews, Michael Graham, Laura McDougall and Phil King (non-playing captain) were part of the successful under 20 team in the Peggy Bayer Trophy.

Master Point promotions

Lancashire cont	Tournament Master
Advanced Master	AW Bandy
Mrs D Cockhill	3* Star Master
Mr Haworth	Dr CR Brewin
Mr Russell	2* Star Master
Mr Ryder Jones	Ms LC Major
Master	1* Star Master
Mrs J Thurst	D Quinton
County Master	RCF Russell
Mrs J Birkett	MD Tomlin
Mrs S Gilbert	Advanced Master
Mrs C Pilkington	N Boss
Mrs S Wilson	Mrs CS Gregson
District Master	A Malinowski
Mrs MK Dewan	Master
Dr K Holden	Miss CM Girardin
Club Master	Dr J Graham
Miss J Darwen	RA Wood
Leicestershire	County Master
Life Master	Ms LK Clery
DF Pollard	Mrs H Rizk
National Master	District Master
Bharat	R Allen
TE Hyde	P Breakell
2* Star Regional	RH Carr
Master	PAG Davies
GA Penney	G Martin
1* Star	RA Robertson
Tournament	Ms DJ Sandford
Master	ME Sanvitale
J Steele	Miss SM Strong
5* Star Master	Club Master
Mrs VE Scott	AE Aston
4* Star Master	S Kristensen
DN Petrie	Mrs Y Nakamasu
3* Star Master	MA Newman
Mrs GM Leitch	DA Swallow
2* Star Master	Manchester
TA Walker	Premier
1* Star Master	National Master
Mrs PM Kitchen	HA Kay
Advanced	National Master
Master	AG Bickley
Mrs GM Clelland	Mrs AE Farquhar
AC Ecob	2* Star Premier
Master	Regional Master
Mrs JP Cotson	Mrs J White
RJ Killip	1* Star Premier
RP Shah	Regional Master
County Master	D Audley
R Sherwood	WD White
Club Master	Premier
RA Howard	Regional Master
Lincolnshire	A Morris
1* Star	3* Star Master
Tournament	Dr AL Brown
Master	HG Koch
II Coates	Mrs K Koch
4* Star Master	SH Mattinson
Mrs P Day	A Simpson
2* Star Master	2* Star Master
AB Barlow	PE Burton
1* Star Master	Mrs OD Smith
Mrs GFME Leigh	1* Star Master
Mrs E Longden	GJ Venter
Advanced	Advanced
Master	Master
R Gulliver	Mrs D Lyons
Mrs D Law	Master
Master	Dr J Brown
Mrs N Farrow	AD Roberts
G Grainger	Mrs JM Roberts
Miss M Milnes	County Master
ADC Underwood	JL Berry
County Master	Miss EH Roberts
GE Cairns	District Master
District Master	D Nikolayenko
Miss SB York	Miss CA
Club Master	Whitehead
R Parkinson	Club Master
London	Mrs SM
Premier Life	Hazlehurst
Master	C Skelton
MR Hill	Merseyside/
Life Master	Cheshire
N Sandqvist	4* Star Master
National Master	Dr GG Dearing
E Bevan	3* Star Master
D Goodwin	Dr C Whaley
G Hallberg	District Master
4* Star Premier	DG Mead
Regional Master	Mrs MA Mead
J Wickens	Middlesex
1* Star Premier	Grand Master
Regional Master	GW Jones
EG Paul	Premier
1* Star Regional	National Master
Master	A McIntosh
KR Barnett	PJ Town
G Pollack	National Master
Regional Master	J Hoffman
R Cumming-Bruce	M Pope
AM Dalton	15* Star Premier
2* Star	Regional Master
Tournament	V Reader
Master	
C Moore	

(continued on next page)

in Estoril. Nick Sandqvist was also third in the open pairs. Linda Quigley was first in the teams at the EBU Online Congress and Barrie Gilbert was first in the Lou P Shield (pairs).

Results: London pairs 1 Susanna Gross and Unal Durmus, 2 Peter Hardymont and Andrew Thompson; 3 Nick Boss and Richard Johnson; Palmer Bayer Trophy 1 Jason Crampton and Sam Oestreich, 2 Ned Paul and Jeff Cargio, 3 Charles Leong and Adrian Rogers.

We are sad to report that London has lost two of its long-standing and regular bridge players: Dave Maer and Nina Harrison.

Diary dates: April 18 Fox Shammon Trophy for senior pairs, Queen's Club 1pm (Open to non-London EBU members - contact Steve Eginton on 01628 780862); May 9 Bridge for All day, Young Chelsea Bridge Club 2pm (Contact Gerald James or Young Chelsea Bridge Club on 020 7373 1665).

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk

MORE international selections for Manchester players. Well done to Rhona Goldenfield and Michelle Brunner on their selection for the European Championships in Malmo and World Teams Olympiad in Turkey, and to Tracy Capal, who will be making her debut for England in the Lady Milne. Best of luck to the juniors, Michael Byrne, Alex Morris and Edward Levy, who have been selected for the Carousel Cup in Holland. Well done to Michele Alexander on her selection for the Scottish ladies' team competing in the Europeans.

Manchester players finished second in both major events in the Blackpool Year End Congress: John Holland and Michelle Brunner in the Swiss pairs and Jeff and Alex Morris in the Swiss teams. Other good performances were from Bob Cooke and Howard Kay, who finished third equal with Tracy Capal's team.

Manchester held another successful congress. Winners were John Holland and Patrick Jourdain (pairs), Nick and Sue Woodcock (mixed pairs), John Liebeschutz and John Rudolf (men's pairs), Thomas Leighton and Denise Servante (intermediate), Rhona Goldenfield and Michelle Brunner (ladies' pairs), Michelle Brunner, Paul Casselle, John Hassett and Bill Hirst (championship teams), David Barton, Alan Jones, Leslie Klein, Jeff Morris (consolation teams), David Baskin, Jenny Morris, Bill and Joyce White (C final teams).

Newcomers events over the weekend proved popular. Well done especially to young players Amy Stout (14) and Katie Roberts (17), who won one of the sessions.

The delayed 2003 Ben Franks Trophy was held at Manchester Bridge Club and was won by John Holland and Alan Purdy, who were joined as qualifiers for the Corwen Trophy by Irving and Joy Blakey, Bernard Goldenfield and Bill Hirst and David Audley and Frank Brown.

Manchester finished a disappointing equal sixth out of eight in the Tollemache final at Coventry. The

team was Bill Hirst, John Hassett, Jeff Morris, Leslie Klein, Alex Morris, Michael Byrne, David Debbage, Michael Newman, David Barton and Alan Jones.

In the county teams of eight for the Gazette Trophy, held at Manchester Bridge Club, the home teams took the top three places. The order was 1 Manchester A, 2 Manchester C, 3 Manchester B, 4 Cheadle Hulme, 5 Altrincham Z, 6 Prestbury, 7 Altrincham A.

The winners (B and R Goldenfield, B.Hirst and J Hassett, M Byrne and M Newman, C Fisher and M Goldsmith) will represent Manchester in the regional final of the Garden Cities Trophy.

Eleven teams took part in the GolfPrint qualifier at Manchester BC. Result: 1 Dunham Forest A' (Eve Lighthill, Murray Sherman, Nathan Marks and Geoffrey Fink), 2 Whitefield (Bernard Goldenfield, Irving Abrahams, David Tobias and Gerry Cohen). These two teams went forward to the regional final, again took the first two places, and now go on to the national final.

Well done to Mark Bass, Dave Audley, Peter Jones and Frank Brown on finishing third of 87 in the Swiss teams at the EBU Harrogate Congress.

Diary dates: April 4 Roy Higson Cup and Plate finals, Manchester BC 1pm; May 27 MCBA AGM, Manchester Bridge Club 7.30pm; July 17 North West Green Point Swiss pairs, Risley 1pm; July 18 North West Green Point Swiss teams, Risley noon.

Merseyside/Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk

THIS season's county trials was won by Stuart Matthews and Alan Stephenson, with David Flacks and John Leather second, and Joan Marray and Chris Ryall third.

The county ladies' teams event for the Jean Keen Trophy was won by Jill Oddie, Sally Clark, Frances Davies and Jean Keen. Second place went to Doris Colman, Julia Dearing, Pat Ferguson and Sheila Grey.

The Merseyside Cup is a Swiss teams event for players below the rank of National Master. This year the event was won by Roger Arnold, Leo Bridges, Julie Pye and Chris Wentworth. Runners-up were Rekha Gatfield, Joan King, Gill O'Neill and Chris Whaley.

The Smedley Hydro Trophy for the inter-club teams of eight was won by a team representing the Merseyside League. The successful players were John Drake (captain), Richard Silcock, Bernard Krasner, Dave Shaw, Stuart Scholes, Steve Downes, Bob Pitts and Pete Broster. We wish them good luck for the regional final.

Chester Congress main results: pairs 1 S Webster and D Dutton, 2 K Boulton and N Pearce, 3 I Clarke and C White; teams 1 N Thomas, D Pennington, D Hammonds and H Stubbings, 2 I Webb, J Day, J Mills and D Mills, 3 J Hurst, B Goldsmith, J Withers and V Lupton.

Diary dates: April 7 BGB simultaneous pairs, clubs; April 25 Preece Rosebowl (ladies' pairs),

Blundellsands BC; April 28 EBU simultaneous pairs, MBC; May 3 Mayday Swiss pairs, MBC; May 14 Lady Connell and Cheshire Silver finals, LBC; May 15-16 Green Point events, Risley; May 22 Garden Cities regional final, Bradford; May 27 Andrew Rosebowl, LBC; June 3 Jim Davies Swiss teams, Heswall; June 6 Eric Howarth open Swiss teams, Deva BC.

Middlesex

www.btinternet.com/~mcba

MIDDLESEX players have continued to hold high rank in county, national and international events. This status was confirmed with the Camrose clash of Scottish Englishman Andrew McIntosh and his county colleagues, English Welshmen Gary and Dafydd Jones. On this occasion the English won. Also on the international scene the recent three-way English women's trials were won by a team containing Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith.

Heather and her husband Jeremy have been as ubiquitous as ever on results sheets lately and their recent star turn was taking both first prizes in this year's National men's and women's pairs. On this occasion Nicola Smith could manage only third place, but she reunited with Heather in the National women's teams, where they helped to capture the Whitelaw Plate. At the same congress the all-Middlesex team of Charlotte Vine, Jennifer Nutt, Barbara Sennett and Janet Cohen came third in the Swiss teams.

The Year End Congress in London was almost a benefit event for the county. Aside from Brenda Foley and Charlotte Vine triumphing in the ladies' pairs, Wasim Naqvi was able to weave his inimitable magic in the A flight of the Swiss teams, walking off with the trophy along with county colleagues Philip Levy, Ignac Fogelman and Victor Silverstone. Besides this, Jeremy Dhondy took third place in the men's pairs and Richard Bowdery had a fine game to come third in the Swiss pairs.

Peter Kaufmann has not allowed the pressures of high office to affect his bridge and he has maintained his recent vein of fine form by triumphing in the National Swiss teams with Dick Shek. Gary and Dafydd Jones came fifth in the same event.

This year's Middlesex ladies' and gentlemen's pairs were as chaotic as ever; the ladies' event was dogged by an unfortunate scoring error, but it was comforting to see the county's players able to comport themselves, as they always do. In the ladies' event Valerie Durbin and Simone Gold eventually triumphed over Judy Babani and Barbara Cohen. For the gentlemen, Peter Tobias and Richard White enjoyed a very good second session to see off a particularly determined challenge from Stephen Abad and Alastair Kent. It was good to see Steve Capal back in the gentlemen's ranks for the first time in some years.

The Middlesex clubs championship teams of eight was especially rumbustious, no doubt due to the large amount of wine on offer. A nail-biting finish ensued with three

Master Point promotions

Middlesex cont	8* Star
2* Star Premier	Tournament
Regional Master	Master
P Levy	E Brown
3* Star Regional	1* Star
Master	Tournament
Mrs H Greenholtz	Master
Tournament	J Hodgson
Master	Tournament
Mrs S Fisher	Master
5* Star Master	Mrs M
Mrs IE Lee	Chipperfield
4* Star Master	Rev R Smith
PR Shah	5* Star Master
3* Star Master	Mrs J Charlton
Ms M Page	Dr PW Johnstone
J Sofier	Mrs T Lenaghan
Mrs M Sofier	4* Star Master
2* Star Master	Mrs K Adair
MJ Davis	Mrs JR Anderson
1* Star Master	Mrs D Chapman
RH Coleman	Mrs D Morris
Mrs H Lowy	Mrs D Parsons
DH Wing	3* Star Master
Advanced	C Stenning
Master	2* Star Master
Ms S Grant	Mrs M Neal
H Hirschberger	1* Star Master
N Winer	Dr PJ Prince
Master	Advanced
Dr I Budden	Master
N Freedman	Dr ML Andrew
CS Goldsmith	D Thunder
Mrs HJ Kochane	K Ward
K Shah	Master
County Master	AA Allsop
Ms A Haughey	Mrs C Bainbridge
Mrs MS Taylor	Miss BM
District Master	Cheetham
Mrs D Finnamore	Mrs PK Taylor
J Finnamore	Mrs M Wilkinson
SAL Kanter	County Master
Ms H Sanderson	BF Blenkinsop
Club Master	Dr J Sellers
N Cullen-Bown	M Wilcock
Mrs VJP Cullen-Bown	District Master
Mrs SE Holman	P Johnson
P Maton	P Jones
	Ms LE Leach
	Club Master
	D Brickland
	Ms SM Horne
	Findlay
	Mrs L Jones
	Mrs V Porter
	V Price
	Miss BA Youngs
Norfolk	
Premier National	
Master	
Dr JR Worters	
3* Star Premier	
Regional Master	
Mrs SD Gill	
5* Star Regional	
Master	
G Ip	
1* Star	
Tournament	
Master	
R Thornley	
Tournament	
Master	
RJ Cortis	
5* Star Master	
JE Thickins	
4* Star Master	
Mrs P Reed	
3* Star Master	
A Little	
Mrs MA Smith	
2* Star Master	
DC Ellis	
Mrs Y Mills	
1* Star Master	
AJ Legg	
Master	
M Baggallay	
Mrs HM Carney	
County Master	
Mrs JA Dunmore	
DA Ellis	
RD Hunt	
District Master	
Mrs JS Allen	
Mrs S Beecham	
A Jefferies	
Club Master	
Mrs LJ Bailey	
Mrs P Cook	
North Eastern	
Life Eastern	
R Flute	
National Master	
LA Monkhouse	
7* Star Premier	
Regional Master	
PA Bell	
7* Star Regional	
Master	
D Benison	
6* Star Regional	
A Erskine	
1* Star Regional	
Master	
Mrs A Cunningham	

teams separated by 2vps with one round to go. However, the host club, the Acot, had a good last round win and finished clear winners from the bandidos of the newly formed Diamond Bridge Club. Teams from Pinner Bridge Club filled the next two slots.

This year's Masters pairs had to be cancelled due to lack of entries and we hope that next year there will be more interest shown in this event. Numbers in the county's graded competitions have tailed off in recent years, so we exhort all eligible players to strap on their competitive boots next season and support Middlesex bridge.

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk
MATT Hillson, the county captain, offers his congratulations to the Norfolk A team on clinching the Eastern Counties League for the second year running. They have won all seven of their matches after beating Northamptonshire at the end of February.

Mike Dignen is the new newsletter editor. Please submit entries for the next edition as soon as possible, either to mikedignen@patrol.i-way.co.uk or 01603 665537.

Barclays Bank Trophy pairs 1 J Harrison and N Hill, 2 E Cobbold and J Edwards, 3 G Ip and E Lloyd; Smart Trophy 1 R Cortis, A Holland, J Innes and A La Chapelle, 2 R Amey, D Newstead, T Noble and M Whiting, 3 J and J J Aspinall and A and S Warner; Committee Cup (teams of eight below regional master) 1 Norfolk and Norwich (A Hound, J Massey, R Thornley, C Mallon, P and H Gaskin, P Reed, L Taylor), 2 Kings Lynn (P Clemens, D Gage, G Allen, T Payne, H Marshall, J Thickins, D Appleby, B Ellerker), 3 Beccles (T Hogarth, R Alfonso, B Bensley, J Howitt, P and B Howlett, P Carruthers, M Tipler).

Kings Head BC beat Norfolk and Norwich BC in the final of the Allwood Wharton Trophy and will go on to represent Norfolk in the Garden Cities Trophy.

Diary date: April 2-4 34th Norfolk Congress, Duke's Head Hotel, Kings Lynn. The championship pairs on the Saturday is a Green Point event (Entry forms are available from Sheila Warner 01553 675816).

North Eastern

www.neba.co.uk
OUR first event of 2004 was the Cleveland teams, organised by Stockton Bridge Club. Congratulations to winners Peter Prince, Alan Lester, Fred Robinson and Peter Liping. Darlington's annual one day congress at St George's was won by John and Jacqui Graham, ahead of Peter and Val Allan. The consolation event was won by Eric Knight and Lloyd Jones. An excellent buffet was provided by that wizard of the cold meats, Bev Godfrey.

The final of the NEBA's major pairs event, the Chronicle Cup, was won by Damian Hassan and Ian Rankin. Runners-up were Leslie Milner and Peter Curnow. The St

George's Shield goes to Peter Allan and Ken Pattison.

The association's ladies' pairs competition, the King Cup, was won by Nichola Cockerill-Smith and Felicity Kay, from Longnewton Bridge Club, with Inga Aiston and Mary Page, from Brunton Bridge Club, runners-up.

A new event, The Arnold Deane Memorial Bowl, was held at Brunton Bridge Club and this will become an annual event to commemorate Arnold's enormous contribution to the game in our region. Two sessions were played with a very good meal in between. Fittingly the winners included one of Arnold's regular partners, Marion Curran, playing with Pat De Leeuw. In second place was another of Arnold's ex-partners, Sydney Leigh, playing with the wife of yet another ex-partner, Elaine Purvis. Arnold's daughter Avril came along and made a moving speech before presenting the trophy that she had donated.

Further afield Liz Muir was in the team that won the Scottish women's teams competition at Perth, while in second place was a complete team of NEBA players - Margaret McCabe, Marion Curran, Pat Barton and Georgia Ray.

In the EBU overseas congress at Estoril, a team of NEBA players came a creditable fourth in the Swiss teams. They were Aileen Cunningham, Alistair Kemp, Rosemary Donnelly and Norman Gray.

Members should note that Ann Caygill has taken over as NEBA Master Points secretary.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.co.uk
SPECIAL congratulations to John and Irene Auld, Bill Whalley and Clive Kaye, who won Leicestershire's invitation teams (the Joyce Cup) again. They have made this competition their own.

The results of NCBA competitions are as follows: anniversary teams 1 Jon Downing, Richard Trounce, Margaret Armstrong and Nanette McWhirter (Warwickshire), 2 Robert Northage, Gary Duddle, Marjorie Gilbertson and Pat Watson (Leicestershire); Swiss teams 1 William and Barbara Bucknall, Doreen Ratcliffe and Cath Waldron; individual 1 Clive Kaye, 2 William Crook; mixed pairs 1 John and Irene Auld, 2 David and Joan Burgess; GolfPrint heat 1 Stanton on the Wolds A (Mick Gauntley, Peter Fox-Andrews, Brian and Barbara Philbin); national pairs heat 1 David and Joan Burgess, 2 William Crook and Rob Sharpe.

County match v Leicestershire: Dawes lost 20-0, Porter lost 5-15, Markham won 18-2.

Diary dates: April 4 Journal Cup (NCBA pairs championship), Nottingham BC 1pm (information from David Burgess on 0115 9372947); April 25 NCBA AGM, Nottingham BC 6.30pm, followed by wine and cheese, plus bridge if time permits; May 8 Keyworth Bridge Club charity Swiss teams in aid of the Rainbows Children's Hospice 2pm (information and application

forms from Stephen Southorn 0115 9374157); May 30 2pm Retford Swiss teams 2pm (entry forms from Daphne Coggles 01777 703610).

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk
OXFORDSHIRE's Keith Bennett, partnering Jeremy Dhondy, came third in the men's pairs in the London Year End Congress and, with the same partner, won the National men's pairs from a field of 67 partnerships.

In the National Swiss Teams Congress Geoff Nicholas, Debbie Roberts, John Slater and Nelson Stephens finished sixth.

Again Lynne Hayes and teammates performed extremely well to reach the finals of the National Women's Teams for the second consecutive year.

Qualifiers in the Beck Cup heat (Oxfordshire's invitation teams of four) were: 1 David Bygott, Jeremy Bygott, Mike Webley and Nigel Wilkes, 2 Jo Murray, Malcolm Currie, Margaret Sloper and Bob Sloper, 3 Marian Day, Nick Perceval-Price, Gillian Lonsdale and John Clifford.

In the local GolfPrint heat, held at Oxford BC, two leading teams qualified. They were 1 John Bowen, Carol Wadsworth, Sue Bowen and John Barlow (Frilford GC) and 2 John Simpson, Keith Sadler, Hazel Reason and Gillian Willison (North Oxford GC).

In response to the Bid For Life campaign sponsored by Andrew Robson in aid of Cancer Research UK, Oxfordshire Bridge Association agreed to donate a generous proportion of its table money to this worthy cause from its special county night event. In addition the charity will benefit from the proceeds of Summertown BC's initiative of running a rubber bridge knockout event.

The annual Haddenham Swiss teams attracted an entry of 17 teams and raised £800 for Arthritis Research.

For the first time in its history Oxfordshire fielded a third team in the Midlands league this season. A most successful appeal to local clubs to furnish new players has resulted in its C team winning the Markham League at its first attempt! In both the Dawes and Porter leagues Oxfordshire finished in third place, having won the Porter cup last season.

Diary dates: April 1 Oxfordshire BA management committee meeting, Oxford BC; April 4 OBA county pairs final, Oxford BC; May 2 OBA Beck Cup final, Oxford BC; May 23 OBA mixed pairs championship, Oxford BC; June 6 Dawes league v Staffordshire, Oxford BC.

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk
SOMERSET is holding its head high, thanks to a superb win by our ladies' team in the national final. We are very proud of them and extend our warmest congratulations to Gina Howard, Caroline MacPherson, Jackie Waters and Sheila Coda on bringing home the Whitelaw Cup.

On the home front the first event of the year was the Swiss pairs in

Master Point promotions

Nottinghamshire
cont
District Master
JR Pearson
Mrs D Snowden
Club Master
Mrs Fli Haddon
K Haddon

Oxfordshire
Premier Life
Master
A Wilson
5* Star Regional
Master
Mrs ME Howells
1* Star Regional
Master
Mrs A Smith
Regional Master
JD Strachan
3* Star Master
CJ Pavellin
1* Star Master
Dr JC Mitchell
Advanced
Master
Mrs K
Chamberlain
Mrs M McGivern
Master
J Bowen
Mrs S Strode
County Master
J Cecil
Mrs D Irvine
Mrs TM Scott
Prof N Stephens
District Master
MJ Bennett
ARC Humphreys
Club Master
Mrs JM Bennett
M Booker
Mrs P Cheval
Mrs K Gray
Miss S Gray
J Morgan
P Murphy
Mrs V Stevenson
Mrs I Woods
Mrs G Woolley

Suffolk
Life Master
J Gobert
Premier National
Master
Prof MJ Sherer
Tournament
Master
JM Garbutt
5* Star Master
Mrs ME Garbutt
1* Star Master
S Browne
Master
Mrs JA Havard-Davies
R Ling
Mrs HC Mason
County Master
Dr G Lesser
Club Master
PT Martin

Surrey
Premier Life
Master
JW Sease
Premier National
Master
Ms A Forsyth
Mrs C Talbot
8* Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs JK Retter
7* Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs MR Scott
6* Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs LP Lockhart
Miss JM Morgan
5* Star Premier
Regional Master
N Furse
Ms JA Knott
2* Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs MP Roomes
14* Star
Regional Master
Mrs MM Pollitt
6* Star Regional
Master
Mrs A Hughes
DA Hughes
5* Star Regional
Master
Mrs GF Fernald
4* Star Regional
Master
K Bedrossian
Mrs MR Mansell
2* Star Regional
Master
CJ Thorn
Mrs EC Whitfield
Regional Master
Miss SR Pritchard
Mrs KL Pryor
9* Star
Tournament
Master
Mrs SM Grimshaw
4* Star
Tournament
Master
Mrs L Petter
Mrs PA Pigott
2* Star
Tournament
Master
Mrs M Davey
1* Star
Tournament
Master
Mrs KP Byramji
LG Chandler
Mrs M Grinter
Tournament
Master
Mrs E Currie

Somerset
6* Star Regional
Master
RJ Walder
2* Star Regional
Master
Mrs GA Shave
Tournament
Master
Mrs E Roach
5* Star Master
D Hoong
4* Star Master
Mrs A McCann
3* Star Master
RWA Jepps
D Thrush
2* Star Master
Mrs L Baker
Mrs PM Platten
EJ Whitehead
Advanced
Master
KH Caddy
Mrs S Dewdney
Miss J Moody
County Master
NA Carp
CP Knight
District Master
CT Loughlin
Mrs CD Nicholls
Club Master
Mrs BC Burridge
RS Burridge
R Howe
G Little

Staffs and Shrops
1* Star Regional
Master
D Clarke
Tournament
Master
Mrs JM Matthews
4* Star Master
D Bird
3* Star Master
K Healey
2* Star Master
Mrs D Bird
Mrs J Healey
1* Star Master
N Jones

Staffs and Shrops
1* Star Regional
Master
D Clarke
Tournament
Master
Mrs JM Matthews
4* Star Master
D Bird
3* Star Master
K Healey
2* Star Master
Mrs D Bird
Mrs J Healey
1* Star Master
N Jones

Staffs and Shrops
1* Star Regional
Master
D Clarke
Tournament
Master
Mrs JM Matthews
4* Star Master
D Bird
3* Star Master
K Healey
2* Star Master
Mrs D Bird
Mrs J Healey
1* Star Master
N Jones

Staffs and Shrops
1* Star Regional
Master
D Clarke
Tournament
Master
Mrs JM Matthews
4* Star Master
D Bird
3* Star Master
K Healey
2* Star Master
Mrs D Bird
Mrs J Healey
1* Star Master
N Jones

Staffs and Shrops
1* Star Regional
Master
D Clarke
Tournament
Master
Mrs JM Matthews
4* Star Master
D Bird
3* Star Master
K Healey
2* Star Master
Mrs D Bird
Mrs J Healey
1* Star Master
N Jones

(continued on next page)

Taunton, contested by 34 pairs. It was won by Colin Juneman and Roger Sweet, with Graham Heal and David Howard second and Jackie Waters and Heinz Brunsch third.

Our most successful charity simultaneous pairs event has 14 clubs taking part, two of them running two heats. Cerebra, a charity for brain damaged children, is to receive the highest amount yet raised by the county.

Many thanks to all who supported the event, especially those affiliated clubs for less experienced players, many of whom figured high in the overall result. We look forward to continued support next year.

The county is introducing a new simultaneous pairs event, to be held in June. It is not too late to register your club for this competition. Contact Ann Bawdon.

Langport won the inter-club teams of four, narrowly beating Clevedon.

Nailesea took third place. The restricted teams event, run at the same time, saw Taunton bridge clubs doing well. For some people it was their first experience of this type of competition.

The Victor Ludorum has Heinz Brunsch leading at the halfway Point, but several players are snapping at his heels. At the time of writing county league leaders are Langport B in the A division and Taunton P in B division.

After a disappointing start in the Western League the Somerset A team have had two excellent wins, against Dorset and Cornwall. The B team also won against Dorset.

The Somerset team failed to qualify for the Tollemache final, but were victorious when playing Yorkshire, Oxfordshire and Norfolk.

Colin Norman and Roger Sweet were 14th in the National men's pairs.

Somerset now has 30 affiliated clubs, although worryingly the overall membership is still dropping.

Diary dates: April 3 Lundie Rees Cup final, Taunton; April 23 county Swiss teams, Bridgwater; May 22 Wilton Red Cross Swiss teams; May 23 Percentage final, Street.

Staffs and Shrops

www.newcastleulbc.btinternet.co.uk
THE first two partnerships in the county simultaneous pairs both played at Stone Bridge Club. John Seymour and Anne Jones took first place, with Arnie Copeland and Michael Johnson the runners-up. Des Biott and Neil Sargeant were third playing at Wolverhampton. Club heat winners were Bee and Rajiv Talathi (BASFORD), John Pollard and Bob Haycocks (BORDER), Rob Reynolds and Andrew Crawford (CHASSETOWN), Beryl Edwards and Mildred Chaytor (MONDAY, SHREWSBURY), E Vernon and P H Jones (NANTWICH), Harold Goodwin and Roy Martin (NEWCASTLE), Ginge and David Hook (OSWESTRY), Barbara and Michael Allen (TAMWORTH).

On the nationals scene Jason Hackett was in the winning team in Dubai and finished third in the pairs. He also finished second in the Cairo teams. Meanwhile his brother Justin was in the winning pivot team, sec-

ond in the Swiss teams and third in the pairs at the EBU Estoril Congress.

Congratulations to Sandra Fenton and Dan Crofts on winning the Silver Plate.

Diary dates: April 24-25 Telford Congress, Radbrook Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury - pairs Saturday 2 pm, Green Point Swiss teams Sunday 1pm (Congress secretary is Judy Mitchell 01743 235374); May 12 men's and ladies' pairs, Stafford BC, 7.15pm; June 9 mixed pairs and fitch, Stafford BC.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk

SUFFOLK has held four events since the last edition of English Bridge. In the Mid-Anglia pairs the winners were Joan Mayhew and Basia Malinowska, with Jyl Marsh and Peter Carlisle second and D Hume and M Debenham third. This was followed 10 days later by the Bury St Edmunds Swiss teams where the result was 1 Anne Wilmer, Howard Morris, Jyl Marsh and Peter Carlisle, 2 Norman Less, Marion Berry, Alan Barnes and David Gee, 3 Peter Markwell, Joan Spearing, Colin Bamberger and Robert Green.

The club teams of four became an open event, in which clubs from Suffolk could enter teams to represent their club. Result: 1 Marie Coates, Mike Del-Bo, Robert Dines and Malcolm Stredwick (Woodbridge), 2 Bill Wilson, Hans Ehrlich, Julian Lang and David Morran (Colchester), 3 Sue Flin, Graham Beeton, Rosemarie Mascall and Norman Denny (Sudbury).

The semi-final of the Suffolk pairs, with the top half of the field to qualify for the final (24 pairs), had the leading positions as follows: N-S Colin Bamberger and Robert Green, Peter Markwell and Joan Spearing, David Gee and Alan Barnes; E-W Rosemarie Mascall and Norman Denny, Joe Marshall and John Leigh, Marie Allnutt and Debby Sutcliffe. The final of the knockout teams will be, as last year, between Julian Lang (David Morran, Peter Markwell, Claude Stokes) and Peter Sutcliffe (Peter Gemmell, Debby Sutcliffe, Maria Allnutt).

With email addresses for more than 200 Suffolk members on the Suffolk database, information and publicity can be interchanged efficiently. Care is taken to ensure privacy for each address. If any member changes his/her email address or wishes to supply the information (which will be kept confidential and used only for Suffolk bridge purposes), please contact claudestokes@frintonx.freemove.co.uk

One of the county's most enjoyable events is the Suffolk pivot teams. It will be held on April 18 at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club. The event starts at 12.30pm, thereby encouraging players to take an early lunch before play starts.

Diary dates: May 9 Clare Swiss pairs 2pm; May 16 Suffolk AGM, Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club 3pm, followed by AGM pairs.

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk
DESPITE beating London, the hold-

ers, in the first round of the Tollemache inter-county championship final, Surrey eventually finished second, just 3vps behind London. The Surrey team was Peter Bentley (non-playing captain), Margaret Lee (scorer), Bob Rowlands, Peter Lee, Cameron Small, Graham Osborne, Jon Cooke, Alex Hydes, Ian Swanson, Ken Ford, Frances Hinden and Jeffrey Allerton.

The Surrey senior pairs was again played at two locations (Wimbledon and Yateley) with 58 pairs in total. The winners were Keith Jackson and Aubrey Pengilly, with John Durden and Norma MacMillan second.

David Hamilton and Chris Loughton won the county pairs final, with Frances Hinden and Jon Cooke runners-up. Peter and Margaret Lee won the county plate, with Peggy Moss and Shri Deskmuth runners-up.

Carrie Eden, Frankie Harper, Cheryl Ould and Susan Millard won the ladies' teams (16 entries) and Mary Muccini and Marie Thorne won the Newcomers pairs (18 entries), just ahead of Jennifer Faulkner and Rory Foreman.

The Surrey heat of the GolfPrint event at Kingswood Golf Club again attracted 30 teams, about a third of the total UK turnout, and five teams qualified for the semi-final at Horsham.

The only regional level Surrey event, the Croydon Congress, organised by John Flower, had 82 pairs and was won by N Rosen and P Crouch, with John Williamson and Alan Powys runners-up. The No fears/friendly pairs event was won by J Churchill and J Hitchman, while the Sunday teams (42 entries) was won by N Benn, Ian Draper, M Prior and G Waters, with John Williamson, Alan Powys, Malcolm Grimston and Mike Cast second.

The Pegasus Valentine's Weekend event organised by Les Roffey was dominated by the ladies. Billie Stephens and Miranda Fellows won the pairs, ahead of Denny Wade and Christine Dyer, while Renate Lane, Audrey Randall, Ruth Gallagher and Sheila Partington were the teams winners, with Doreen Charteris, Marie Horlock, Abdul Afghan and Malcolm Wilcox runners-up.

The Richmond club continues to run successful bi-monthly Swiss pairs events. Ting To and Alison Browne have been recent winners, as have Nigel Barnes and Jos Beresnier. On both occasions there were 25 tables.

Tandem had 20 tables for their Swiss teams event, won by two fitches, Audrey and Simon Jones and Sheila and Graham Barrett. In keeping with their relaxed atmosphere, prizes were awarded to the 'ooh-ah' bottom pairs halfway and at the end!

Surrey members made up about 10% of the total turnout of about 200 for the EBU Estoril Congress. Although none managed to take top place rankings it is pleasing to report the tremendous tribute at the congress made by Philip Mason, the EBU vice-chairman, to two of our well-known 'youngsters', Kit and Alma Platt. See Estoril report on centre pages.

Master Point promotions

Surrey cont

Tournament

Master

Mrs MF Gayner

P Jenkins

JH McKimmie

J Neal

Mrs VJ Smith

Mrs J Spratt

5* Star Master

JR Balson

Mrs JF Gardiner

DD Hyams

Mrs R Stirling

TP Wallace

4* Star Master

Mrs ZH Greville

Mrs J Laitwood

MJ Mulligan

RC Proctor

Mrs M Sherwood-

Lundqvist

3* Star Master

JF Lambeth

Mrs S Lynes

Mrs BF Mullins

CJ Phillips

AG Pratt

MJ Reeder

2* Star Master

Dr RP Corbally

RR Davis

A Jenkins

GJ Jenner

DW Makin

Mrs VM Morris

VJ Rainbow

Mrs A Sprague

JN Stewart

Mrs D Versteegh

1* Star Master

RA Collins

Mrs K Colton

TC Hoad

ED Humphrey

MA Keith

Mrs P Plinston

Mrs K Pullen

Mrs PA Rhys-

Davies

RF Sayer

Advanced

Master

AP Cadge

Mrs F Cernuschi

JP Cernuschi

LM Christmas

Mrs V Clubb

Mrs M Cudworth

Mrs I Greene

Mrs PA Scammell

DM Thomas

Mrs P Wightwick

Master

Mrs B Guest

J Hodges

Mrs PM Hunter

C Jones

Mrs P Knutton

Mrs AJ McNab

Mrs SEM Osborne

N Proddow

RW Rothwell

Mrs RA Saw

RMH Smith

Mrs J Wolf

JN Woolf

County Master

Mrs M Cox

A Dollard

Mrs ML Franklin

Dr LR Hiorns

EJ Jones

G Jones

Mrs JM Lawrence

Mrs C Lievens

DRW Perrett

PJ Phipps

Mrs L Saunders

Mrs J Smith

District Master

Mrs J Cadge

JA Cumming

PL Hainsworth

WA Johnstone

Mrs JS Joseph

R Peters

Dr W Russell

NG Steere

Mrs AI Tebbott

Mrs PL Yeldham

Club Master

A Barnett

Mrs VG Douglas

Mrs J Dyas

Miss KJ Milliner

Dr M Shearer

Mrs C White

5* Star Premier

Regional Master

NR Hardy

4* Star Premier

Regional Master

PJ Bates

3* Star Premier

Regional Master

JA Huikeshoven

Mrs S Peters

2* Star Premier

Regional Master

Mrs KS Kent

Premier

Regional Master

Mrs R Wolfarth

4* Star Regional

Master

Miss J Ivins

3* Star Regional

Master

Mrs J Clinton

Mrs JMA Mayall

7* Star

Tournament

Master

F Ghaleb

1* Star

Tournament

Master

Mrs EG Harris

Tournament

Master

Mrs MV Dalton

Mrs C Pratt

5* Star Master

LG Chiswell

Mrs AE Cook

JM Cook

Mrs JFM Glynn

MR Godfrey

A Symons

4* Star Master

Mrs P Coulter

AD Gasking

Mrs CA Gasking

3* Star Master

JH Arthur

Mrs SA Hall

Mrs SM Parish

Mrs MA Porter

Mrs JM Taylor

2* Star Master

DR Blake

JM Taylor

P Warren

Advanced

Master

R Morris

Mrs CK Peeke

Master

Mrs SD Bassett

Mrs PJ Callaghan

RH Horswell

Mrs G Spall

County Master

S Ackroyd

Mrs GR

Bainbridge

GWB Cowan

D Harris

JD Knight

Mrs SE Lawson

A Lea

MP Symons

JS Walker

Mrs W Walker

District Master

PD Billings

PA Hutley

Mrs SE Oades

R Roberts

Mrs PK Tredinnick

Club Master

Mrs P Creed

Mrs E Pavey

J Ponsford

Mrs SM Russell

RG Sneddon

Warwickshire

Life Master

Mrs MGR Andrew

1* Star

Tournament

Master

JS Wright

Tournament

Master

Dr M Thorley

5* Star Master

GJ Blakeway

Mrs E Carr

MR Morris

3* Star Master

Mrs O Martin

2* Star Master

Mrs B Boylin

TA Edge

DE Francis

Diary dates: April 4 affiliated teams of eight, Richmond; April 9 Pegasus Swiss teams; April 23 Golf-Bridge at Tyrrells Wood; April 25 Aileen Filose and men's pairs, Kingswood May 2 Rotary Swiss teams, Twickenham; May 7 Kortright and intermediate league finals, Oxshott; May 9 Tandem Swiss teams; May 10 and 17 Ditton Swiss teams; May 14 affiliated clubs league final, Oxshott; May 23 Wanborough club teams championship, Wimbledon; June 6 Mary Edwards club pairs championship, Wimbledon; June 13 AGM, Oxshott.

Sussex

www.sccba.co.uk

NATIONALLY our year has started well, with Matthew Hoskins and Andrew Southwell, playing with Alan Oddie and Jon Williams (Bedfordshire), coming second in the national Swiss teams. At the women's teams the Sussex four of Vida Bingham, Carole Sear, Jill Armstrong and Liz Hoskins took second place in the Whitelaw Cup.

The SCCBA New Year Swiss teams at Henfield Hall was full, with 50 teams playing and more on the waiting list. Result: 1 M Keeping, M Read, R Buddery and R Burnett, 2 P and T Brooks and R and K Gaylor, 3 M Langmaid, R Lewis, M Collins and R James.

Individual semi-finals: Crowborough 1 Per Lindsten, 2 J Cattermole, 3 R Underwood, 4 R Webster; Worthing 1 T Whitely, 2 R Stevens, 3 C Reimoser, 4 A Foley.

The SCCBA sim pairs resulted in a clear victory for Worthing's Fran Thornton and Ernie Rivett, ahead of N Hills and A Southwell, J Williams and S Kaplan, R Best and V Chandler, C Gray and M Shillaker and M Folland and O Knapp.

East Grinstead no fears prize winners were N-S 1 T Horsfield and G Skelton 2 C Endean and C Genders, 3 R Best and S Ebsworth, 4 V Chandler and A Lawson; E-W 1 D Cook and B Lecky-Thompson, 2 M Smith and J Westcott, 3 J and D Comer, 4 R Stevens and R Lyford.

Bognor mini Swiss teams 1 F North, J Albuquerque, A Jeffery and Mary Oates, 2 B and B Boswell, B Stapleton and C Carter, 3 R Skelton, F Ghaleb and H and M Birch, equal 3 A Williams, J Austin, M Duffy and E Connell.

SCCBA ladies' pairs final 1 Brenda Cross and Sally Thompson, 2 Valerie Chandler and Patricia Lee, 3 Sheila Stedman and Joan Ethridge, 4 Phyl White and Marion Hart; men's pairs final 1 Tom Bradley and Harold Birch, 2 David Galpin and Jeff Stanford, 3 Ron Cowpland and Maurice Reeves.

Elizabeth North teams semi-finals: Crowborough 1 Bill Nicolle, L Gardiner, Robert Weir and Alan Gardener, 2 A and H Gimson, S and W Walker, 3 W and L Campbell, M North and K Pawsen; Worthing 1 Mike Davies, Steve Ackroyd, N and A Gillespie, 2 R Lyford, C Wigan, J and H Westcott, 3 D Hughes, M Gregson, C and L Smith.

David Pavey semi-finals: Horsham E-W 1 P Hart and D Wigan, 2 G Sneddon and A Lea, 3 R

Rafferty and G Parker, N-S 1 G Crawford and J Gratwick, 2 A Constable and S Lawson; Worthing E-W 1 D Harris and Sue Ebsworth, 2 G and G Cowan, 3 W Woods and M Winn, N-S 1 M Adkin and D Keay, 2 N Roussel and A Baxter.

Chairman's Cup 1 Aubrey Pengelly and Keith Jackson (Surrey), 2 David Galpin and Joan Hootman, 3 Colin Wilson and Diana Avis (Kent), equal 3 John Williams and Shefton Kaplan, 5 Gavin Park and Tony Roxburgh.

Sussex individual final 1 Ron Buddery, equal 1 Andy Foley, 3 Mike Keeping, 4 Brian Loasby.

SCCBA seniors sim pairs 1 Brian Loasby and Peter Cattermole, 2 B and J Hootman, 3 A Harding and C Blackburn, 4 T Whiteway and J Whiteway, 5 Ann McCarthy and Elizabeth Churchill, 6 Bertie Wallace and Bill Adams.

The Camrose Trophy match England v. Wales was staged by SCCBA and the EBU at Crawley. Match manager was Tom Bradley and Rachel King directed. The EBU Vugraph team did a superb job and enabled a large and appreciative audience to benefit from Paul Bowyer's amusing and informative commentary and analysis of the hands.

Diary dates are all shown in the county newsletter and calendar.

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk

BELATED congratulations to Martin Jones and his Leicestershire partner Paul Bowyer on their successes in the Camrose series, and to John Collings and David Jones, winners of the recent Senior Congress pairs.

In the EBU National men's pairs four Warwickshire pairs finished in the top twelve. Ben Green and Glyn Preece were the runners-up, with Colin Dean and Mike Summers-Smith eighth, Martin Cox and Rob Helle 10th and David Kenward and John Robbins 11th. Very well done Dan Crofts, Andrew Thomson, David Stevenson and Sandra Fenton in winning the Silver Plate.

In general the county teams faded against Leicestershire (5-15, 9-11 and 8-12), Oxfordshire (6-14, 20-0, 2-18) and Worcestershire (5-15, 20-0 and 2-18), but finished well against Gloucestershire (16-4, 9-11 and 20-0). These were the Dawes, Porter and Markham competitions respectively, so the inter-county season closed with the Dawes Trophy results 1 Gloucestershire, 2 Leicestershire, 3 Warwickshire (from eight teams); Porter Trophy 1 Leicestershire, 2 Warwickshire, 3 Oxfordshire; Markham Trophy 1 Oxfordshire, 2 Worcestershire, 4 Warwickshire. Details are on the web site.

Warwickshire pairs enjoyed their share of the Midland Counties Congress, with mixed pairs winners Rudi Beran and Ruth Coubrough, flieth winners Bob and Stephanie Galvin, men's pairs runners-up Steve Gore and Cyril Hall, mixed teams A runners-up Andrew Crawford, Darren Evetts, David Quine and Martin Lythel, mixed teams B winners Dodo Georgevic, Robin Ogg, Nannette McWhirter and Peter

Chapman, Foster Cup pairs runners-up Ben Green and Brian Senior, Cooke-Porter Cup runners-up Carolyn Fisher and Jane Hall, and West Midlands Cup runners-up Pat Watson and Judy Hulland.

Also, in the championship teams, the Hayward Cup runners-up were Ben Green, Brian Senior, Peter Heatherington and Glyn Preece, the Littleford-Healey Cup winners were Geoff and Sue Morris (with Lesley Reece and David Franks) and the Joyce Hare Plate runners-up were Ruth Coubrough, Rudi Beran, Sheila Wand and Pam and Tony King.

At Arden BC's introductory pairs, Dianne and Vicky Taylor took top place, followed by Pam Wernick and Prue Knight. In the winter session of Steve Green's popular pairs/teams event at Coventry BC the division one winners are Steve Green and Rob Helle, with Mike Allen and Roger Bryant second; division two 1 George Cuthbertson and Phil Glanville, 2 Derek Berk and Nigel Wain; division three 1 Guy Kendall and John Robbins, 2 Adrian Knight and Tony Poole; division four 1 Bala Maniam and Matt Haag, 2 Joyce Hare and Dan Crofts; division five 1 Malcolm Green and Graham Cope, 2 Brian and Liz Cave.

In the Kenilworth Congress the open pairs winners were Aileen Stockham and Roger Williams, with runners-up Sheila Darby and Dennis Greaves. In the Swiss pairs Matt Haag and Bala Miniam took first spot, followed by Marion Dixon and Chris Malthouse and in the Swiss teams David Kenward, John Robbins, Peter Oldbury and Brent Wormald came home ahead of Joan Macleod, Edward Legg, Judy Hulland and Ian Woodward.

The Joyce Hare mixed pairs results at Moseley were 1 Alan and Sylvia Rose, 2 Julian and Pam Wernick. The Weston Trophy Swiss pairs event at West Midlands BC finished 1 David Kenward and John Robbins, 2 Mike Amos and Julian Wernick, 3 Pat Watson and Bill Hood. The winners of the Marion Murtagh Trophy were Cyril and Jane Hall, with runners-up David Kenward and John Robbins, while the Doyle Plate mixed pairs was won by Jeff Jones and Pamela Booth-Jones, with Pat Watson and Bill Hood second.

It is with sad regret that we have to record the passing of another Warwickshire stalwart. Peter Millar was one of our leading county players and personalities of the 60s and 70s, greatly admired for his excellent humour and masterful card dexterity, winning most of the honours in his day. He always enjoyed his bridge immensely and had a most infectious laugh, even in the face of adversity. He later became an able and very patient tournament director, and subsequently retired to his holiday home in Sark, where he took part (very successfully) in the EBU Internet League. We remember him well.

Diary dates: April 4 Greswolde Bowl Swiss teams, WMBC 1.45pm; April 18 Earl Shanks Swiss teams,



Peter Millar

Master Point promotions

Warwickshire	Premier National Master
GB Caygill	
AG Dean	
Mrs DC Dean	
National Master	
LK Brown	
Mrs JM Foggitt	
6* Star Premier Regional Master	
Mrs P Oglesby	
Premier Regional Master	
Mrs K Bradley	
RE Wright	
5* Star Regional Master	
PC Morris	
4* Star Regional Master	
Miss AM Bamforth	
3* Star Regional Master	
Mrs SM Baty	
2* Star Regional Master	
Dr JD Seddon	
1* Star Regional Master	
Mrs M Allison	
2* Star	
Tournament Master	
Mrs D Western	
1* Star	
Tournament Master	
F Jones	
5* Star Master	
Mrs PM Jackson	
D Simpson	
4* Star Master	
Mrs M Green	
BR Hardey	
Mrs U Lee	
3* Star Master	
IF Bottom	
Mrs V Bottom	
DGR Brown	
N Robertshaw	
Mrs JF Sheddin	
2* Star Master	
CA Boyes	
Mrs J Cochrane	
A Fell	
DO Horsley	
AV Kent	
S Knight	
Mrs JW Mair	
Mrs B Manning	
1* Star Master	
Ms J Dyal	
Mrs D Kelly	
Mrs JL Lewis	
Mrs SJ Mackellar	
D Morris	
R Wardell	
Advanced Master	
R Andrews	
E Batty	
MD Booth	
CJ Close	
Mrs D Close	
J Dyson	
Mrs AM Ramsden	
Master	
JP Bradley	
Mrs ME Croll	
Mrs M Hargreaves	
Mrs K Mullally	
JD Poynton	
Mrs KMR Rooke	
County Master	
Mrs JK Davies	
S Elvidge	
A Fileman	
AR Newson	
GK Sissman	
MN Surr	
Mrs SE Tasker	
IL Walker	
District Master	
J Andrews	
Mrs J Edwards	
BL Garlick	
CW King	
G Shepherd	
Mrs J Wilding	
Club Master	
M Akeroyd	
N Barr	
Mrs E Cooper	
G Fiorentino	
Mrs E Hutton	
D Langmead	
Mrs J Lyne	
Mrs E Rothwell	
BE Rowell	
J Spencer	
Mrs J Stocks	
R Thompson	
Mrs PM Walker	

Coventry BC 1.45pm; May 2 Arden Charity Swiss teams in aid of the Acorn Children's Trust, 1.45pm; May 13 Warwickshire men's and ladies' pairs, Moseley BC 7.10pm; May 16 Warwickshire Green Point Swiss teams, Sutton BC, Walmley 1 pm; June 6 Cock o' County pairs, WMBC 1.45pm; June 23 Frank Cup multiple teams, WMBC.

Please contact Mr P Whitehouse, 27 Northdown Road, Solihull B91 3LY (0121 704 9287) for your entries in Warwickshire events.

Wiltshire

www.wcba.co.uk

THE Premier League continues, with six matches played and three to go. The teams come from all around the county and the order currently is as follows: 1 Bob Bannister, 2 Sam Sloan, 3 Barry Kibble, 4 Richard Samter, 5 Danny Miller, 6 Jim Corbett, 7 David Thackaberry, 8 Phil Bennett, 9 Diana King, 10 Martin Buck.

It was decided by the committee that any team not attending, for whatever reason, will gain no points if they are unable to play a match, with the exception that if a match can be rearranged ahead of schedule there is no penalty. However, if a match cannot be rearranged then the defaulting team gets zero, even if they notified their inability to play in advance.

Sam Sloan's team beat Vic Holden's team in the semi-final of the Wiltshire knockout and will play the final against the winner of the other semi-final Gwenda Merriott or Ron King's.

In the Western League the fourth match of the season was against East Wales at Newport. Both the A team and B team were unsuccessful.

The Sarum team of Danny Miller and Colin Jones, Sue Hands and Vikky Crawford, Sonia Blandy and Georgie Dalton, and Roger Metcalf and Dave Hale, have qualified for a place in the regional final of the Garden Cities Trophy, to be played at Bristol Bridge Club on May 22.

Taking part in the final of the championship pairs at the Nursteed Centre in Devizes on April 4 are Gayle and Colin Webb, Chris Starr and Reg Thorpe, Ron King and James Dunlop, Marion and Ian Cowley, Phil Green and Roger Karn, Norman Lambert and Barry Kibble, Gill Messer and Kathy Hodgson, Roy France and Sam Sloan and Esme Siderly and Joan Flavin.

The Butler pairs event resulted in victory for Doug Evans and Brian Johnson, with Ron King and James Dunlop second and Bob Bannister and Andrew Law third.

The National pairs qualifying heat was cancelled owing to lack of support.

The mixed pairs was played and the winners were Andrew Law and Kathy Hodgson, with Diana King and Phil Green second and Gill Messer and Bob Bannister third.

The Wiltshire AGM has been moved to May 9, as it would have clashed with the Green Point event in Hampshire. It will be held at the Nursteed Centre and Wiltshire members are urged to attend in order to ensure that they have their say in the

running of their county. The handicap pairs event always runs after the AGM. It is a fun competition that always attracts worthy winners.

Five players from Wiltshire, Colin and Gayle Webb, Margaret and David Thackaberry and Jenny Gray, journeyed to Portugal to play in the EBU Estoril Congress. They all enjoyed the experience and Jenny had the best results of the week, winning her section in the pivot teams and coming second in the open pairs.

At the Year End Congress at Blackpool Gwenda Merriott and Nick Pegg finished second in the mixed pairs.

Bridge teaching is being undertaken this year in Trowbridge by Diana King and Phil Green. Please check the web page for details.

Diary dates: April 4 championship pairs final; April 25 mixed teams; May 9 AGM.

Worcestershire

www.wcba.freemove.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS to Simon Harrison and Sue Page, who came first in the Wednesday BGB Winter simultaneous pairs, registering a 75.42% score.

Worcestershire successes at the Midland Counties Congress were upheld by the following stars: Richard Jephcott and John Sansom won the men's pairs, while the ladies' pairs trophy went to Jennifer Romer and Heather Westcott. The mixed teams was won by Richard Jephcott and John Sansom with county colleagues Grahame and Shaleen Weir. John Turner and Sue Page registered a third place in the championship pairs.

Worcestershire's premier knockout teams was won by John Sansom, Richard Jeffcott, Hayden Dando and Gordon Roxborough, who will represent the county in the Pachabo Cup.

The MCC championship teams was won by Stewart Fishburne, Joyce Skelton and Arthur and Diana Williams, while second in the consolation teams were Richard Jephcott, John Sansom and Grahame and Shaleen Weir, with Jessie and Jean Newton, Mike Orriel and Ross Garratt third. Susan Sharp and David Thomas, with congress secretary Arthur Bloxham and his Staffordshire partner Rod Ewan, won the Swiss teams.

Diary dates: May 10 Worcestershire's first veteran pairs (all players to be 65 or over), Holt Fleet 7.15pm; May 14 AGM, Holt Fleet 7pm (Note the earlier start).

Yorkshire

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YORKSHIRE players were well to the fore at the EBU/Baker Tilly Estoril Congress. Roy Garthwaite, Heather Hobson and Ted and Janet Latham won the Swiss teams and Bobbie Sissons, Jill Foggitt, Ian and Mary Rodger took ninth place. In the Swiss pairs Heather Hobson and Roy Garthwaite were fifth, Philip and Janet Mason seventh and Sheila Galloway and Sue Pell ninth. Janet Mason, playing with Jenny Gray of Wiltshire, was second in the open pairs. There was victory for Stan Collins and Philip Mason in the men's pairs, with Roy Garthwaite and Ted Latham in third place. Janet

Mason and Shelagh Flett won the ladies' pairs. In the pivot teams Philip and Janet Mason, Stan Collins and Shelagh Flett were second in the red section and Janet and Ted Latham, Heather Hobson and Roy Garthwaite were second in the yellow. Third in the green section were David and Pam Oglesby, Sheila Galloway and Sue Pell. Third in the white section were Tricia Pearce, Sue Boag, Pauline Cooper and Madge Allison. Sheila Galloway and Sue Pell were second in the pre-congress pairs, with Ian and Mary Rodger fourth and Ann Ledgard and Ann McKenzie fifth.

Giles Foster and Tony McNiff, along with John Armstrong and Willy Crook, were third in the National Swiss Teams Congress. Cedric Cockcroft, along with Alex Hogg, David Adelman and Jeff Smith, was 10th.

At the EBU Blackpool Year end Congress Bazil Caygill and Martin Cantor, along with Howard Kay and Bob Cooke of Manchester, were third in the Swiss teams, while in the Swiss pairs Mary and Diana Gerrard were seventh and Rob Turner and Mary Whymms ninth. Sandy Davies and Bazil Caygill were fourth in the mixed pairs.

In the National women's pairs Sarah Teshome, partnering Catherine Jagger, was fourth and Sandra Penfold, partnering Anne Rosen, was sixth.

Yorkshire teams are doing well in the Crockford's Cup. Alan Martindale and Dave Waxman's teams have both reached the fourth round and Bill Townsend's team has reached the fifth round.

Winners of the Yorkshire pairs were Bill Townsend and Tony McNiff, with Dave Robinson and Pete Waterman second and Sandy Davies and Tom Gisborne third.

The Yorkshire schools pairs was won by Guiseppe Fiorentino and Robert Myers, with Tom and Mark Dessain second and James Thrower and Liam Jones third. These three pairs qualify for the EBU under 19s pairs final.

Yorkshire Cup final 1 Maureen Tebb, Tony Swiers, Tom Hodgson and Frank Jones, 2 Jim Smillie, Janet Easter, Stephen Hinch and Kevin Hagan, equal 2 Peter Camm, Janet Thomson, Jonathon Brayshaw and Glyn Foley.

Yorkshire simultaneous pairs for the Margery Cartwright Trophy 1 Dorothy Dransfield and David Audley (Halifax), 2 Tim Smith and Nevena Senior (Graham's), 3 Pam and Stuart Coggrave (York).

Doncaster Swiss pairs 1 David Fletcher and Roger Taylor, 2 Martin Cantor and Bazil Caygill, 3 Richard Pike and Dave Waxman.

Diary dates: May 2,3 Bridlington Congress; May 9 Yorkshire mixed pairs final; May 15 Yorkshire individual final; May 16 Castle Swiss pairs; May 23 Yorkshire graded Masters pairs; June 4,5,6 Yorkshire Congress, Harrogate; June 8 Non-League Clubs Trophy.

Please send results or other items of interest for inclusion in this column to Bill Townsend, email billtoyp@btopenworld.com

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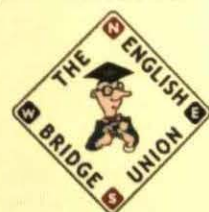
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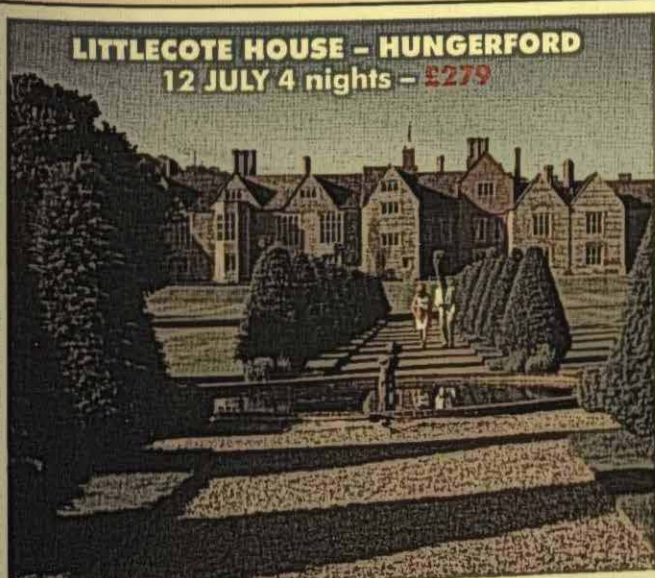
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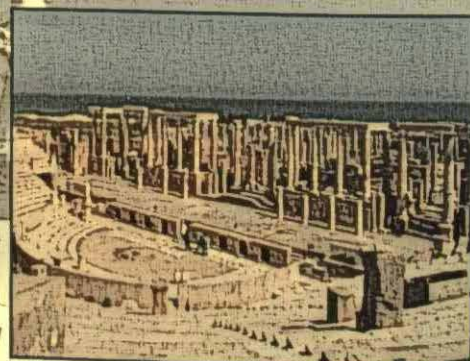


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