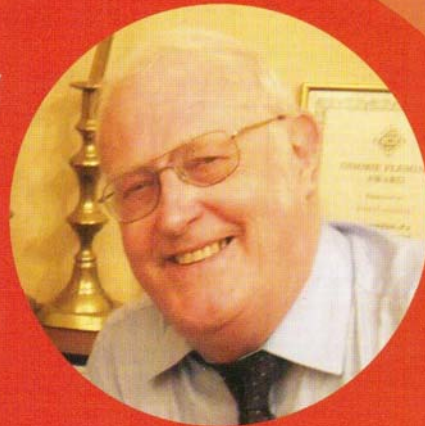


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from the
heart*



*– with the benefit
of bridge in mind*

page 3

INSIDE: HELP FROM THE EXPERTS ■ COUNTRYWIDE NEWS ■ EVENTS DIARY ■ MASTER POINTS RANKINGS

5* SUNRISE QUEEN, SIDE

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4* AVANTI HOTEL, PAPHOS

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Do not think what bridge can do for you: think what you can do for bridge

THE English Bridge Union could not put its case better than John Cattanch did in a recent issue of *Worcestershire Bridge News*, a bi-monthly publication put out by the county association and now up to issue number 117.

John, who is Worcestershire's membership secretary, wrote an article headed 'Reasons why club players should think in terms of being EBU club members'.

This is a major extract from what John had to say:

MANY of us who play in bridge clubs are EBU members. How can we try and get the others to join? The answer is that we can do very little. It will be entirely up to them to make that step.

In other countries, in Europe and elsewhere, a club member has to be a member of his country's bridge union. The French go a step further. You pay the full country sub when paying your annual subscription to your primary club and half that sum for each club of which you are a member.

Similarly, incorporated in your subscription as a tennis club member is your subscription to the Lawn Tennis Association.

Furthermore, as a golf club member, you pay an amount to both the county and national golf associations as part of your subscription to your primary golf club.

In bridge in England there is no such requirement - so why should a non-member change his status and pay an annual subscription of £20?

Certainly the non-member is not interested, by definition, in Master Points. Oddly enough, this is the major reason people give in telling me why there would be little point in them becoming members (as if this is the only reason to become a member).

Nor is the non-member interested in receiving six free copies of *English Bridge* a year, delivered to their door every two months. Incidentally another bridge magazine (albeit one with 12 issues a year) costs £50 per annum.

A bridge club (like any other sports club) runs smoothly under a set of rules. These rules and bridge movements come down to us from the national body. EBU members pay for this, while



By John Cattanch

alongside them, playing each week, the non-member pays nothing.

Do we need rules? Would we prefer every club to have its own set of rules?

I cite two examples that I have come across recently. The scorer of one unaffiliated club gives a bottom to both pairs when the board is passed out. When players try to explain the nonsense of this their objections are swept aside for 'the very good reason' that this is how she has always scored passed-out boards.

Another unaffiliated club insists that its members bid in particular ways. INT is always 12-14; transfers are not allowed etc and any deviances from these Draconian laid down rules will not be tolerated.

Several years ago a young couple could not tolerate being shouted at for their every misdemeanour and they broke off and started another club, which fol-

lowed the more flexible EBU standards.

This was how Worcester Bridge Club, which has been in national finals in four of the last six years, was started by Chris and Joyce Skelton.

Modern day bridge is accompanied by many add-ons that simplify our game, such as boards, bidding boxes etc. Where do they come from? Do they appear from nowhere, or do they come down to us from our national body to make our evenings easier? EBU members pay for these. Non-members do not.

It would be inconceivable that England does not field national teams to compete against other European and World countries. I am sure most would agree that we should be represented. This can be very expensive. But where does this money come from? It comes from EBU members. Non-EBU members contribute nothing.

The national body provides the foundation for teaching bridge to schools and for training people to teach the adults who become the new blood in our clubs. EBU members pay for this structure. Non-members do not.

Barry Capal, the EBU general manager, tells me that if every bridge club member paid a subscription to the EBU the cost to individuals could be lowered from the present figure. This means that non-EBU members not only enjoy all the benefits paid for by their EBU colleagues, they are currently also costing them money.

Paraphrasing JFK, one could say to non-EBU members: 'Do not think what bridge can do for you: think what you can do for bridge.'

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Decent start in Camrose, but where were England supporters?

By Colin Simpson

THE 2007 Camrose Trophy is underway. England hosted the first phase of the competition at the Belfry Hotel in Oxfordshire. The format has been tweaked a bit this year following some grumbles by the players. In the past each of the home nations, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, together with Eire, met over two weekends on an all-play-all basis. Unfortunately the odd number of teams meant a lot of sit-outs. As an experiment the holders of the trophy have been invited to enter a second team to balance the numbers.

It appears to have met with approval. Unfortunately the event was not publicised so the spectators were outnumbered by officials and the camp followers of the opponents. It is a pity that in an area with hundreds if not thousands of bridge players so few turned up to watch their top players in action. There is the opportunity either to sit behind the players in the open room or follow the play in the Yugraph theatre with commentaries and expert analysis.

After years of dominance by England, Eire, the European silver medalist, has won the trophy for the past two years, so the extra team

was also from the Republic of Ireland.

Our campaign was off to a good start against Wales, but throughout the weekend there was a bit of the curate's egg about our play, generally excellent, but let down by one or two poorer moments.

John Armstrong showed sensible aggression in the bidding and fine powers of deduction in the play from this exhibit:

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

The bidding was short and sweet. John opened 5♦ as South and everyone passed. West started with the ♠K and switched to a small heart, won by ♥K. Declarer now played a club, which was won by the ace. In the knowledge that West had started with ace-king ace in the

black suits and probably the ♥Q John reasoned that East must hold the ♦K, otherwise West, with that card as well, would surely have doubled. So, when he advanced the ♦Q and West played small he rose with the ace and was duly rewarded with a game swing.

The last match was the crucial encounter with the holders. England started well and were up at half time, but the second stanza was not so good and they came out winners by 14-12vps (both teams being fined 2vps for slow play).

The table after the first weekend reads: Holders (Eire) 95vps, England 86, Northern Ireland 72, Wales 70, Republic of Ireland 64, Scotland 56.

England was represented by Jason and Justin Hackett, Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski and John Armstrong and John Holland, with Raymond Brock as npc and Janet de Botton assistant npc.

The second and final phase of the competition is in Aberdeen over the first weekend of March. Support your team and watch the play on Bridge Base on Line.

Huge response to survey – and our holiday prizewinner is...

WE are delighted to announce that Linda Macfarlane from Argyll has won our membership survey draw for the £500 Bridge Overseas holiday voucher.

The survey has proved to be very popular, with more than 3,500 members completing it. We will give a report of your responses in the next issue of *English Bridge* when we will have had time to analyse the results. In the meantime we would like to thank Bridge Overseas for its sponsorship of the survey and to all of you for taking the time to give us your views.

Equally amazing!

AT the end of a duplicate evening at Bury Athenaeum Bridge Club a colleague offered to score up for the director, Stanley Blaiwais, who had run a Mitchell movement for five tables, playing five boards a round.

Each traveller had the usual assortment of scores and the East-West results showed a normal pattern, but to the amazement of Stanley and his friend all five North-South pairs had exactly 50%.

Said the director: 'I took the travellers home and rescored them on a different programme, but I got the same result. Has anybody had this happen before?

Gold Cup goes across the border



THE Gold Cup, most coveted teams trophy in Britain, had some nail-biting finishes in the closing rounds, but it would have been hard to top the excitement of the final, won by a sextet of Scots by two imps from an all Manchester line-up. The score was 109-107.

Pictured after their triumph are, from left, John Matheson, Brian Short, Dave Walker, Brian Murdoch, Malcolm Cuthbertson and Dougie Piper.

The Manchester team was Michael Byrne, John Hassett, Alex Morris, Michelle Brunner, John Holland and Bill Hirst. Match details are on the EBU and BGB websites.

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24-28	CHESTER	Queen Hotel	£339 hb
30-1/2Apr	NORTH COTSWOLDS	Ettington Chase	£179/£239 hb

APRIL

6-9 (Easter)	WORTHING	Berkeley Hotel	£239 hb
20-22/23	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb
27-4 May	JERSEY	St. Brelades Bay Hotel	£755 hb† <i>inc excursions & flights from Gatwick (other airports available on request)</i>

MAY

4-7 (Bank Holiday)	WINDSOR	Beaumont House	£255 hb
11-13/14	EASTBOURNE	Hydro Hotel	£195/£259 fb
18-20/21	NR SWINDON	Alexandra House	£179/£239 hb

JUNE

8-10/11	WINDSOR	Beaumont House	£189/255 hb
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JULY

10-13	THORPENESS	Golf/Bridge	£295 hb
20-22/23	WORTHING	Berkeley Hotel	£175/£229 hb <i>for anyone on their own, of any age</i>
27-29/30	NORTH COTSWOLDS	Ettington Chase	£179/£239 hb

August – November Nottingham, Lavenham, Worthing, Windsor, Cote d'Azur, Eastbourne, Jersey, North Cotswolds, Cambridge, Chester and Wolverhampton

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 1-6 EBU Overseas Congress, **Cyprus**
- 10-11 Tollemache Cup final, **Kettering**
- 17-18 National women's and Men's pairs, Paramount Hotel, **Hinkley, Leicestershire**
- 17-18 Junior Camrose weekend, **Republic of Ireland**
- 23-25 Spring Congress, **Harrogate**
- 24 GolfPrint regional finals, **various**

March

- 2-4 Camrose final weekend, **Scotland**
- 3-4 Ranked Masters pairs, **Kettering**
- 10 One day events, **Avon/Wiltshire, Leicestershire, London, Manchester/Merseyside**
- 11 One day events, **Avon/Wiltshire, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, Channel Islands, Kent, Manchester/Merseyside**
- 16-18 Cumbria Congress, **Bassenthwaite**
- 17 Young Bridge Challenge (including Schools Cup), **Loughborough**
- 18 Portland Pairs, **various**
- 23-25 Cornwall Congress, **Newquay**
- 24 GolfPrint national final, **Kettering**
- 25 National pairs regional finals, **Bradford, Bristol, Kettering, Leatherhead, Solihull**
- 25 National Newcomers Pairs, **counties**
- 25-26 Isle of Man Congress, **Isle of Man**
- 30 Lords v Commons

April

- 6 G W Arnott-Davidson Trophy final, **London**
- 6-7 Under 25s pairs, **London**
- 6-8 Easter Festival, **Blackpool**
- 6-9 Easter Festival, **London**
- 7 Under 19s pairs final, **London**
- 11-13 BGB Spring sim pairs, **clubs**
- 13-15 Devon County Congress, **Torquay**
- 13-15 Norfolk Congress, **King's Lynn**
- 13-15 Lady Milne Trophy, **Wales**
- 21-22 National Pairs final, **Kettering**
- 21-22 Shrewsbury Congress, **Shrewsbury**

Master Points 'season' to be the calendar year

RECENT months have seen changes in the way the Master Points scheme operates. Two new ranks, Premier Master and Premier Grand Master, have been successfully introduced and many clubs have joined the growing number that register their members' points electronically, at regular intervals. At present about 250 organisations submit awards in this way.

A further important change is now taking place. In the early days of duplicate bridge there was a definite competition 'season', centred on the winter months, and it was

for that reason that the Master Points year went from July 1 to the end of the following June.

Nowadays tournaments are held all year round, so there appears to be little point in retaining a format that has led to confusion on more than one occasion. Would it not be much simpler if the Master Points year was the same as the calendar year?

Well, that is exactly what is going to happen. The current Master Points year, which started on July 1 2006, will be extended to finish at the end of December 2007, with

ranking lists and prize winners announced early in the new year of 2008. Further yearly competitions will be based on points earned during the current calendar year only.

We hope, ultimately, that all clubs and counties will directly credit their Master Points awards, which will result in an annual statement to members, plus the opportunity to access an individual's online records at any time of the year, as well as the publication of MP promotions in English Bridge.

Questions such as 'Why are my points split into different years?' and 'Why is my competition category different from my rank?' are still frequently asked, so please turn to page 45, where we offer an explanation of how the yearly MP competition works. Happy collecting!

Book in for the Portland Pairs

WHY not have a go at the Portland Pairs this year? It's a two-session event for mixed pairs; the date is March 18 and there are 10 venues around the country where you can take part with your favourite partner of the opposite sex. Match-pointed over the entire field via the Internet it's a hugely popular event and a lot of fun.

Enter by contacting the EBU competitions department at Aylesbury, stating your choice of venue (Bristol, Darlington, Exeter, Kettering, London, Manchester, Richmond, Solihull, Tunbridge Wells or Welwyn Garden City).

Harrogate ahoy

ANOTHER event not to be missed is the Harrogate Spring Congress (February 23-25), but you will have to be quick if you want to play there. Closing date for entries is February 12. The Cairn Hotel is the venue for this popular congress, which offers Swiss pairs, Swiss teams, mixed pairs and open pairs.

Changes of format in Ranked Masters Pairs

THREE alterations have been made to the basic format of the Ranked Masters Pairs, to be played at Kettering. All events will be scored by imps, employing the Butler method of scoring. This is a new feature for 2007: previously only the top two events have been scored this way.

Any two of the Life Masters, National Masters, Regional Masters and Masters pairs categories may be paired together with an adjoining category in order to create a single competition should numbers so dictate. However, were this to arise, Master Points and prizes would still be issued as advertised within the separate categories.

The eligibility regulations for competing in the new Premier Grand Masters pairs event and Grand Masters pairs have been slightly modified and now read as follows:

Premier Grand Masters pairs: This new event for 2007 is open to Premier Grand Masters and to players in the top 20 Gold Point rankings as at January 1 2007 (however, such players may elect to play in their normal rank category instead). Additional pairs may also be invited to participate in order to facilitate numbers. Were this to happen invitations would be based strictly on the combined Green Point holdings of the pair concerned.

Grand Masters pairs: This event is open to Grand Masters (but not Premier Grand Masters) and to players ranked 21st to 40th in the Gold Point rankings as at January 1 2007 (however, such players may elect to play in their normal rank category instead).

All other details are as already contained in the EBU diary. Please see also the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk.

Next stop Rhodes!

MANY of the bridge players who support the EBU's programme of overseas congresses are spending the first days of February enjoying the delights of the Baker Tilly Cyprus Congress at the Amathus Beach Hotel in Limassol. But soon their thoughts will be turning to Greece and to the EBU's second autumn congress, this time at the five star Rodian Amathus Beach Hotel in Rhodes (October 11-16).

Brochures are available and travel and accommodation packages can be arranged with Bridge Overseas on 0800 0346 246. A deposit of £10 will reserve your place. Bridge fees are payable to the EBU at Aylesbury, which can be done by emailing peter@ebu.co.uk or calling 01296-317203.

Revised dates for four events

THE following are dates of EBU events in 2007 that are changed from those shown in the EBU diary. In two cases there is a change of venue. The confirmed dates and venues are: men's and women's pairs (Hinckley) February 17-18; National women's teams (Hinckley) September 7-8; Autumn Congress (Bournemouth) November 2-4; Seniors' Congress (Daventry) November 9-11.

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♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

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PRIZES were won at the latest Lederer Trophy event by contestants judged to have achieved the best bid hand, the best defended hand and the best played hand.

North-South
Game.
Dealer North

♠ A Q J 8 7 6 2
♥ J
♦ 10 5
♣ J 10 9

♠ 10 3
♥ K Q 9 6
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 7 6 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ K
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ A Q 8 4 2

♠ 9 5 4
♥ 10 8 7 5
♦ K Q J 9 2
♣ K

West	North	East	South
Daniela	David	Sabine	Colin
von Arnim	Price	Auken	Simpson
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

Our next hand is from the match between the 2005 Gold Cup winners and the defending champions, Ireland. At the other table East-West were one down in 2♦.

North-South
Game.
Dealer North

♠ 7
♥ K 9 5 4
♦ Q J 6 3
♣ K 10 5 4

♠ Q J 9 5 2
♥ 2
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ J 7 2

♠ K 10 8 6 4
♥ J 7 6
♦ A 10 9
♣ A 3

♠ A 3
♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ 8 7
♣ Q 9 8 6

West	North	East	South
Artur	John	Nick	Hugh
Malinowski	Carroll	Sandqvist	McGann
1NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	2♥
	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the opponents had come to rest in 1NT, three Souths decided to protect with 2♥. One played there and went three down. Two Wests doubled 2♥, but one East removed to 2♠ and West bid and made 2NT. At the featured table Artur Malinowski's double of 2♥ was for penalties, a very sensible treatment when you have responded 1NT, and so was left in.

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

West	North	East	South
John	Martin	Willie	John
Matheson	Garvey	Coyle	Howard
			Pass
1NT	2♥*	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

* nine cards in majors



Three pairs reached game on the East-West cards, West opening 1NT, North overcalling 2♣ or 2♥ to show both majors, and East ending the auction with 3NT.

The other two declarers in 3NT played for North to hold ♣9 x, finessed South for the ♣Q and were three down. One of the unsuccessful declarers was Zia, playing for the All Stars against The A Team. The clues from the defensive bidding and play were different in that North had led ♥A and then switched to the ♠K and ♠J. Zia reasoned that North might just have doubled 1NT if he had held the ♣Q as well as all those points in the majors, or that South (holding ♣Q 9 x x) might not cover the ♣10 when it was led from dummy.

Thomas Bessis, at 22, is the youngest ever male winner of the Lederer, but Nicola Smith won when she was 21 (when she was Nicola Gardener). The last women's pair to win the Lederer was Nicola Smith and Pat Davies in 1993. Our apologies for not having the facts right in the December magazine.



Read his blogs on www.ebu.co.uk

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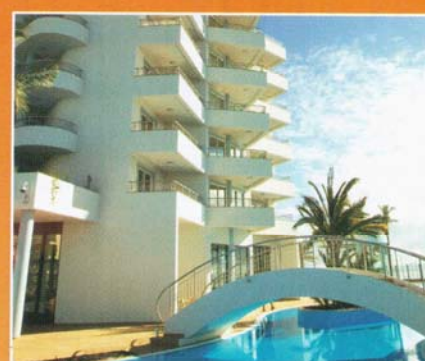
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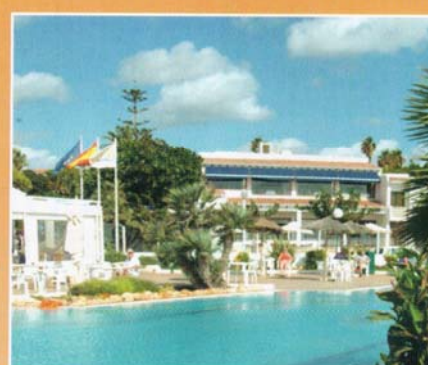
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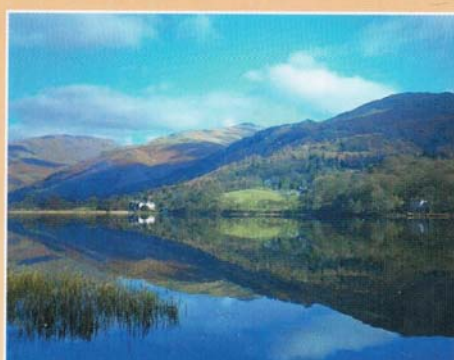
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Our seniors hopes punctured, but a great result for Alan and Jette

THIS year 130 pairs contested the main event at the Seniors Congress and Giles Foster and I looked forward to improving on last year's third place. This was not to be, as the return journey in the evening from our favourite eating place to contest the semi-final saw Giles's car the victim of a puncture. Rumour has it that Yorkshire's Stan Collins and Agnes Blewitt, the leading non-qualifiers who took our place, had played a part in this, but they continue to strenuously deny it!

Congratulations to Alan and Jette Bailey, winners of the A final by a clear margin. They deserved their good result on this deal, with the aid of some expert declarer play:

Dealer South. ♠ K Q 8 Love all ♥ 9 ♦ J 5 4 ♣ A Q 10 8 5 2			
♠ A ♥ K Q 8 7 4 ♦ K 9 6 2 ♣ K 4 3	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N W E S</div> </div>	♠ 10 7 3 ♥ A 10 6 2 ♦ A 10 8 7 ♣ 9 7	
	♠ J 9 6 5 4 2 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ J 6		
Alan West	North	Jette East	South Pass
1♥	2♣	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Jette's 3♣ was a value raise to 3♥, over which Alan had no difficulty bidding game.

North led his singleton trump, to the 10, jack, and king, after which Alan decided the best line was to reverse dummy, simultaneously preparing the way for an endplay.

After cashing the ♠A, dummy was entered twice with trumps to ruff two spades.

Alan then cashed two top diamonds and played a third round.

When North won this he had only clubs left and had to present Alan with the ♠K for an overtrick.

The Swiss teams was won by the evergreen outfit of Roger Bryant, Phil Topley, Mike Allen and Margaret Armstrong. This was an absorbing deal:

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

Strangely, at one table, spades were never bid. After East opened 1♣ and North-South competed vigorously in diamonds East-West settled in 5♥ doubled.

By Bill Townsend

North led the ♦10 and South was disappointed to see dummy's void. When dummy ruffed and his ♥K fell under dummy's ace he was pessimistic about the hand.

Declarer could see that the contract was cold so long as he could get safely back to hand to draw trumps. He played a low club from dummy, which South won with the jack, North playing the 10 as a hoped-for suit preference signal for spades.

A spade switch at this point would have

defeated the contract, but South attempted to cash his ♦A.

Disaster! West ruffed, drew trumps and claimed, losing just a spade and a club.

North complained that his partner might have found the spade switch, but South excused himself on the grounds that the partnership was playing reverse length signals, the ♣10 being the normal card to show three. He went on to say that, had West had a diamond more and a spade fewer, a spade switch would have presented him with an otherwise unmakeable contract.

However, perhaps West was the more culpable here, as he should have played the ♣K from dummy, rather than a small one. Now there is no way that South can get in to give his partner a ruff.

Brenda and Geoff Foley won the pairs B final and Ray Cornell and Tessa Beer won the Swiss pairs.

Help make bridge history – play in the world's first one day bracketed teams event

By Brian Crack

IE, like me, you are getting bored with the seemingly ubiquitous Swiss teams and Swiss pairs you may wish to consider playing in a new type of event at the University of Kent on March 11. Kent CBA, with the agreement of the EBU, is holding a one day, Green Point, bracketed teams event.

The idea first came to me at an EBU tournament committee meeting at which Paul Hackett suggested running a bracketed KO teams during the week at Brighton.

Bracketed KOs are well known in the USA, but require several days to complete. Basically, they involve the bracketing of teams into sections of eight, based on the aggregate Master Point ranking of the team members. The top eight ranked teams form the top bracket (division one) and so on,

and play up to three rounds of knockout.

Was it possible, I wondered, to adapt the concept for a one day event? My basic idea was to use the same criteria to establish the brackets of eight teams and for the teams in each bracket to play a round robin of seven seven-board matches.

In principle, the teams in each bracket would be fairly evenly matched and I hoped that would encourage more of the less experienced players to take part. However, there were a few potential challenges, ranging from getting Master Point rankings for team members, through the basis for awarding Master Points and prizes, to how to handle the situation if the number of teams entering was not divisible by eight.

So I consulted Max Bavin, the EBU chief tournament director. We were able to resolve most of the issues fairly readily, but the ques-

tion of a total entry not divisible by eight proved more difficult. Max consulted his contacts in other national bridge organisations, but none had tried anything like it. We were on our own!

After a lot of head-scratching Max came up with a formula that we think will work, but space constraints preclude spelling out the detail in this article. If you want the details, you will find them on the Kent CBA website at www.kcba.org.uk

Green Point awards for matches won or drawn will be the same as for Swiss teams and there will be bonus awards to the top two teams in each bracket. The winners of each bracket will receive prizes, with the total prize pool being slightly larger than normal.

So, if you want to take part in a piece of bridge history, come and join us on March 11.

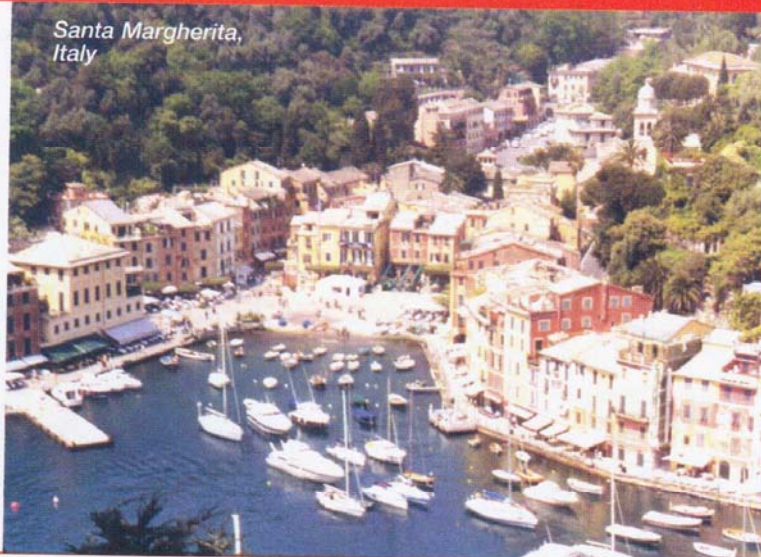


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SANDRA LANDY

STANDARD ENGLISH

Overcalling in a suit

AN opponent opening the bidding doesn't mean you cannot make a bid, too. It would be very unfair if you couldn't!

Say you held this hand:
 ♠A K J 9 5 ♥6 ♦8 6 2 ♣K Q 9 8

You were just about to open 1♠ when your right hand opponent (RHO) opened 1♦. Now you don't have to pass, you are allowed to overcall and you do this by saying 1♠ or putting the 1♠ card from your bidding box on the table.

It can be right to make this overcall for several reasons:

- Perhaps your side can make a spade contract, maybe even 4♠ if partner has a suitable hand.

- If opponents win the contract, partner will know what to lead as you have shown your best suit.

- Going down in a spade contract, say -50 or -100, may concede a smaller minus score than opponents would get for making their own contract.

- Your overcall will interrupt opponents' natural auction. Here it will stop third hand bidding 1♥ and opponents' heart contract may get lost.

As there are lots of potential benefits from overcalling you will be keen to know what you need to make an overcall. The most important thing is a good suit. It should have at least five cards with good honours. Your hand does not have to be as strong as the one shown. Replace the ♠K with a small club, giving you only 10 points, and a 1♠ overcall is still acceptable, although you wouldn't open 1♠ on such a hand. Overcalling and opening do not have quite the same requirements because the positions are different.

Of course you take a risk every time you overcall. Third hand may be strong in your suit and opponents may be able to catch you with a penalty double. Now going down could be expensive. That is why you need the protection of a good suit. Look at the next hand:

♠K Q J 10 9 ♥4 2 ♦8 7 6 5 ♣K 6

With a 9 HCP hand and five good spades you wouldn't dream of opening the bidding, but it is correct to overcall an opening bid of 1♣ with 1♠. Bridge is a battle; opponents may have struck the first blow, but you needn't give in tamely. Interrupt their auction by getting in the way. If you overcall 1♠, left-hand opponent cannot respond 1♦ or 1♥. If opponents win the contract, partner will lead a spade and set up winners for your side. With those solid spades you must make four spade tricks and probably ♠K, so your contract won't go more than two down, even if partner has no points at all.

Here is the complete deal that this hand came from:

N/S game ♠ 6 5			
Dealer South ♥ A K Q 10 8 5			
♦ 9 2			
♣ 10 9 4			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ K Q J 10 9 ♥ 4 2 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ K 6 2 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> N W E S </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ A 8 7 3 ♥ 7 ♦ Q J 10 5 4 3 ♣ 8 3 </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> ♠ 4 2 ♥ J 9 6 3 ♦ A K ♣ A Q J 7 5 </div> </div>			
South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When West overcalled 1♠, North could still bid hearts with a solid six-card suit. Holding a very shapely hand with four spades and only one heart, East tried 4♠. Now it was unclear to South which contracts were making. In fact South passed and 4♠ went one down. N-S scored +50, which was a great deal better than bidding 5♥ and going one down.

In fact the best score N-S could get was to penalty double 4♠ and collect +100 instead of +50, still a poor result when other N-S pairs were making +620 in 4♥. This wonderful result for E-W was all because West overcalled 1♠.

A simple overcall shows:

* A one-level overcall shows at least eight HCP and a five-plus suit with at least two honours, including one of the ace, king or queen. The fewer the points, the better the suit needs to be. Stronger hands with opening bid values may have weaker suits.

* A two-level overcall shows a better suit, either six-plus cards or three high honours in a five-card suit and 10-plus HCP, as it is a level higher.

* A simple overcall usually has a maximum of 16 HCP, but can be made on strong hands up to 18 HCP when no other bid seems better. Very strong hands often start with a double.

Consider what action you should take with the following hands after RHO opens 1♣.

♠Q 8 4 ♥K 10 6 3 2 ♦Q J 2 ♣9 2
 Pass – suit and points too weak.

♠Q 8 4 ♥K J 10 9 8 ♦Q J 10 ♣9 2
 Bid 1♥ – suit is stronger

♠A Q 5 4 ♥K J 9 8 6 ♦7 ♣9 3 2
 Bid 1♥

♠4 ♥K J 10 9 8 ♦A Q J 9 7 ♣A 2
 Bid 1♥ and diamonds next

♠A Q 4 ♥J 9 8 6 2 ♦Q J 7 ♣Q 2
 Pass – you don't want a heart lead!

♠A Q 8 ♥J 9 8 3 2 ♦Q J 7 ♣A Q
 1♥ is possible, but with hands of 16-18 HCP and good stoppers in opponents' suit 1NT is better

Since an overcall might be made on thin values, overcaller's partner must take care in responding, particularly when they don't have a fit with the overcalled suit.

- Don't bid just because you don't like partner's suit. An overcall may have fewer points than an opening bid, but it shows a better suit. Pass with not much to offer and no liking for the ♥ suit.

- Raise with three-card support, since partner has shown at least five. Value your hand as you would if partner had opened the suit.

- With four or more cards in support raise more strongly. The more distribution you have, the more you can bid. But watch the vulnerability because going down vulnerable can be expensive, particularly if opponents make a penalty double.

- If you have a good long suit of your own and high card values, then bid it. If you can't support partner – maybe partner can support you.

- Since partner can be a king less than an opening bid, you need quite a bit extra to bid no trumps and you need a good stopper or two in the suit opened.

There is an opening bid of 1♣ and partner overcalls 1♥. What do you bid with the following hands?

(a) ♠J 10 6 3 2 ♥Q 7 4 ♦K 8 6 ♣8 6
 Support hearts with three

(b) ♠K J 10 3 2 ♥Q 4 ♦A K 6 ♣8 6 4
 Bid 1♠ – we might have game on

(c) ♠K J 7 6 ♥Q ♦K 10 8 4 ♣8 6 4 2
 Pass, despite the heart singleton

(d) ♠6 ♥Q 10 7 6 5 4 ♦K 10 6 4 2 ♣8
 4♥ – bid up with a strong fit

(e) ♠J 9 7 6 ♥Q 4 ♦A 6 4 2 ♣K 9 8
 Bid 1NT, showing 9-12 points and a club stop

(f) ♠7 6 3 ♥Q 10 7 4 ♦A 8 6 4 2 ♣8
 Jump to 3♥ with shape and four-card support



DAVID BIRD

Beat today's experts ⚡

WE start at the European Champions Cup, where the champion teams of Europe's top 10 countries faced each other. England was represented by our Crockfords champions: Paul Gibbons, Jon Cooke, Alexander Hydes and Richard Probst. After a tough start, they played very strongly to finish third out of six in their group, not far short of a semi-final place.

This deal came from the match between Germany and one of the two Italian teams:

1. Game all. Dealer North.

<p>♠ 8 6 5 3 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ 9 7 3</p>			
<p>♠ K 10 9 4 ♥ 7 5 3 2 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ J 4</p>	<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A Q ♥ K J 10 9 6 ♦ K 5 ♣ A Q 10 8</p>	
<p>♠ J 7 2 ♥ 4 ♦ J 7 6 4 2 ♣ K 6 5 2</p>			
West Duboin	North Piekarek	East Bocchi	South Gotard
1♠	Pass	Dbl	Pass
4♥		2♥	

There are two points of interest in the auction. First, West responds 1♠ instead of 1♥. One reason is that his spades are stronger, yes, but he would do the same when holding Q-x-x-x in both majors. That is so that he can rebid 2♥, giving partner a choice of suits, on various continuations.

The next important point is that East shows a strong hand when he doubles and then bids a new suit. West should not therefore pass the 2♥ rebid. As I see it, a raise to 4♥ is somewhat excessive. At the other table, the German West raised to 3♥ and his partner then said 4♥ - an excellent auction.

When South led the ♣2, Bocchi rose with dummy's jack and played a trump to the jack. He managed to discard his diamond losers on the spades and scored 12 tricks. At the other table the Italian South found the more fortunate lead of a diamond. North won with the ace and returned a diamond to the king. Declarer overtook the ♠Q with the king and led the only one of dummy's remaining cards that would result in defeat: the ♠J. When this lost to South's king, declarer knew that North must hold the ♥Q to

make up his opening bid. However, there was only one entry to dummy and he had to lose two trump tricks. Had he played low to the queen, on the first round of clubs, the ♠J would have remained as a second entry to the table.

■ Awards: 4♥ - 10, part scores 5

Without pausing for breath we will see a deal from the World University Bridge Championships, contested in Tianjin, China. The age limit for this event is 28. The USA faced Germany on this deal:

2. East-West game. Dealer East.

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

Well, that was the auction - short, but not very sweet. Both the ♥Q and the ♦K were onside and the Germans recorded an easy +650 at the other table. Who do you blame for stopping short on the auction shown, East or West?

From a European perspective the East hand was ridiculously strong for a weak two-bid. If you play a 6-10 point range, you are of course allowed to hold 10 points every now and again, but that will usually include a few that are wasted. There was every chance of missing a game by opening a weak two on a hand containing six solid tricks, even though Americans do tend to play such openings slightly stronger than we do.

Do you blame West at all? Many players overbid facing a weak two and would think they had to make some sort of try with 14 points. However, give East a trump suit of K-J-10-x-x and the ♦K and there could easily be five losers. So, I lean towards a 'Not guilty, m'lud' verdict on the West player.

■ Awards: 4♠ - 10, 4♥ - 8, part scores - 4.

The England team performed strongly in the Women's Elite Tournament in China. They lost by just 4imps to the eventual winners, China, in the semi-final. Then they defeated the USA 83-44 in the third place play-off. Our congratulations go to Nicola Smith/Heather Dhondy, Sandra Penfold/

Nevena Senior and Christine Jagger/Sarah Teshome. Well played, indeed!

After that roll of the drums, it may seem uncharitable to choose a deal where the English auction went adrift. Still, we are all here to improve our bidding and there were several instructive points on this board from the England-Germany match:

3. North-South game. Dealer East.

<p>♠ J ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 10 6 4 3 ♣ K Q 10 8 4</p>			
<p>♠ 10 6 5 4 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 8 7 5 ♣ A J 5</p>	<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A Q 8 7 ♥ K J 8 5 4 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ 3</p>	
<p>♠ K 9 3 ♥ A Q 10 9 6 ♦ 2 ♣ 9 7 6 2</p>			
West Penfold	North Weber	East Senior	South Gromann
1♠	1NT	4♣	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	4♦	Dbl
Rdbl	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ♠K and, as you see, the contract was too high. Sandra Penfold eventually went two down. What do you make of the auction?

As I see it, the splinter bid of 4♣ was too much on the East hand. A simple raise to 3♠ would suffice or, even better, a mini-splinter of 3♣. The German South decided to double 4♣. It is possible to play such doubles as either encouraging or discouraging a club lead. Presumably the Germans play the latter variant, since South held four small clubs. Anyway, Penfold took advantage by redoubling to show her club control. When Nevena Senior cue-bid her diamond control, South was there with a double again! It is foolish to make such doubles, giving the other side more options in their own auction. Once again Penfold redoubled, showing the ♦A, and Senior now cue-bid in hearts. Victor Mollo would have relished the situation. 'Strange hand,' observed Oscar the Owl. 'East overbid three times at the four-level!'

Although East had bid her hand too strongly, as I see it, West should surely have signed off now. Her trumps were moderate and she had already indicated the two aces. Another reason to hold back was that North's 1NT bid had suggested that the breaks would be unfavourable. There were several ways to make the lesser contract of 4♠.

■ Awards: 4♠ - 10, 5♠ - 5, part scores - 4, slams 2.

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We travel next to the 60th holding of the Lederer Memorial Trophy, at the Young Chelsea Club in London. Once again, Simon Cochemé had accumulated a fine field, including Zia, Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim from Germany, the Ireland open team, the Hackett twins, Townsend and Gold, Price and Simpson, Forrester, Bakhski and Robson.

The Young Chelsea champions (Andy Bowles, Graham Osborne, John Howard, and Martin Garvey) finished in third place, a fine achievement in such illustrious company. They faced England in the last round when this potential slam deal arose:

4. Love all. Dealer West.

The 1♠ opening might have been based on a short suit, but became natural when Osborne rebid 1♠. Although Bowles had a solid stopper in hearts, it would be premature to bid 3NT at his second turn when partner was still relatively unlimited. Correctly he marked time with a game-forcing bid in the fourth suit. I am told that the 3♣ continuation promised 6-4 shape in the black suits, which implies that they would have had to find some other call on a 4-2-2-5 shape with no heart

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

West	East
Osborne	Bowles
1♠	1♦
1♠	2♥
3♣	4♣
4♦	4♥
4♣	6♣

stopper (presumably 3♥).

The key point of the auction had now been reached. Bowles judged that he was worth an advance to 4♣ and this seems right to me. Three cue bids followed and Bowles then leapt to 6♣, attaching some weight to the fact that his cue bid in hearts had not been doubled by South. Well bid!

As you see, the slam would be an excellent one even if you remove East's ♦K. Two spade losers could be ruffed with the ace and queen, after which you would lose just one trick in the trump suit. Helped by a big swing on this board, Young Chelsea defeated England handsomely, allowing Zia's All Stars to win the event - a splendid seventh win in the event for Zia.

■ Awards: 6♣ - 10, 6NT - 7, games - 5, grands - 2.

We travel next to the final of the 2006 Dong Ming teams in Shanghai, contested by some of China's finest players. Lixin Yang and Jian Ming Dai made short work of this grand slam deal:

5. North-South game. Dealer East.

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

West	East
Dai	Yang
2♦	1♥
7♦	5NT

An excellent, and eminently practical, auction! East's 5NT was Josephine Culbertson's famous enquiry, asking how many of the three top trump honours West held. With two such cards in his hand, West duly bid the grand slam. An alternative bid, nowadays, is 4♠ by East at his second turn. This would be Exclusion Roman Key-card Blackwood, asking how many key cards West held outside the spade suit. West would respond 5♦, showing two without the queen of trumps, and East would then bid 7♦. East was prepared to gamble that West would not hold three low hearts. With any other heart holding the grand slam would surely offer excellent play. Note that 7♥ is not a good contract because the diamond suit will provide only one club discard.

You may wonder how East-West stopped short at the other table. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Rdbl	2♠	1♥	Dbl
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
		Pass	Pass

South entered with a light take-out double. Had West bid 2♦ (ignoring the double, as is common practice in this country) the bidding could have proceeded as at the other table. No, he preferred to redouble, an action that would be forced upon most Americans since they play 2♦ as non-forcing. A less clear auction ensued and the grand was missed.

■ Awards: 7♦ - 10, 6♥/6♦ - 6, games - 3, 7♥ - 1.

We will end in Sydney at the Lindfield Grand Prix. We have already seen one heavily overladen pre-empt (Wooldridge's 2♠) and I am sorry to report that we're about to witness another. Somewhat surprisingly, the culprit is

again one of the world's top younger players - this time, Ishmael Del'Monte of Australia. See what you make of it:

6. East-West game. Dealer West.

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

West	East
Del'Monte	Demuy
3♥	4♥

Do you see a three-bid anywhere? I don't. That West hand is simply too strong for 3♥, even when vulnerable against not. Game is possible when partner holds nothing more than ♠K Q and a wasted card or two. Will he raise to game on so little? Of course not. As you see, the small slam is a good prospect here. Dummy's spade suit may well provide discards for any club losers that you cannot ruff. Twelve tricks were duly made.

With a seven-card suit headed by the ace-king and a four-card side suit, West was strong enough to open 4♥. If that didn't appeal to him, there was nothing at all wrong with a 1♥ opening bid. After a start of 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♥ - 4♣ (splinter bid) the good fit would come to light and there would be every chance of reaching a slam.

■ Awards: 6♥ - 10, games - 5.

Our experts scored a respectable 44 out of 60. If you managed to beat them on this occasion, you did well. I am sure we can find a few useful tips from the featured auctions.

Tips to remember

- A three-level opening bid shows a weak hand and denies the values to open with a one bid. Be wary of opening with a three bid when you have a side-suit void, or two side-suit singletons. The chance of missing a game is then too great.
- Be sparing with your doubles of opposing cue bids and Blackwood responses. Each time you double you give the opponents extra options. The player to your left may now pass or redouble, for example. You have made available two extra cards in his bidding box!
- A mini-splinter bid at the three level (for example 1♣ - 1♠ - 3♦) is best played as forcing to only 3♠. It does not show a better hand than a raise to 3♠. Instead it explains why your hand is worth a raise to 3♠. If instead you raise to 3♠, partner is entitled to expect a 4-2-2-5 shape.
- A weak two bid denies the values for a one bid. Do not open a weak two when you hold 10 working points - open at the one level.
- The same would be true in an auction such as 1♠ - 2♣ - 4♣. Since you have declined to make a mini-splinter of 3♥ or 3♦, responder can assume that your shape is 5-2-2-4.

Orange Book additions procedure

ADDITIONS to the *Orange Book 2006* are made yearly, published in the August edition of *English Bridge* and come into effect from September 1.

If you wish to apply to the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee for the approval of any agreement not already licensed please send a submission in writing (email perfectly acceptable) to the L and E secretary (contact details on page three of this magazine and page five of the *Orange Book*) by February 28. Please see pages 38 and 39 of the *Orange Book* for further information.



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BRIAN SENIOR

ALL ABOUT TRUMPS

Avoidance play in suit contracts

WE saw one example of an avoidance play in the previous article. Avoidance play is all about losing the lead to the safe hand, to the defender who cannot hurt you, and keeping the dangerous hand, the defender who can hurt you by attacking your potential weak spot, off the lead. Of course, this will often not be possible but, where it is, declarer simply needs to think clearly and play accordingly.

Take this first example:

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

Say that a club is led against 4♠. While there may be the complication that trumps split four-zero, it appears declarer should always be able to find 10 winners even if he loses a trick to the trump queen. He has four spade winners, four hearts, one club and a club ruff. The only danger is that declarer may lose four tricks before he can win 10 and that would require that he lose three diamonds as well as a trump trick.

We all know the old rhyme about 'eight ever, nine never', regarding whether or not to finesse for a missing queen, and the unthinking declarer will invoke this rhyme to decide how to play the trump suit on this deal. If there is any justice in the world the unthinking declarer will go down, finding that South holds three trumps to the queen and North the ♦A over the king.

The thinking declarer will have spotted that he can afford a trump loser, as long as he does not also lose three diamond tricks. Forgetting the old rhyme, he will win the opening lead

and play the ♠A, then low to his jack. If that loses to the queen, North cannot hurt him. Declarer wins any return and can cash four rounds of hearts, throwing a diamond from hand, after which there are at most two diamonds to be lost. If South did begin with three trumps to the queen, declarer has avoided losing a trick to the dangerous defender, the one who could switch to a diamond through the king, and so the contract is secure.

Sometimes, a rather unnatural-looking play may be required to give the best chance of

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

success:

North leads the ♦K against 5♣. The simple line is to win and draw the outstanding trumps then try to establish the 13th heart for a spade discard before relying on the ♠A being onside. That is fine, but if South wins a heart trick, then a three-three split in the suit will not benefit declarer at all as South will have an opportunity to lead a spade through the king.

The best chance to establish the 13th heart without allowing South to gain the lead is to duck the ♦K at trick one! Yes, it looks strange to duck when holding the ace facing a singleton, but it can hardly cost a trick and could well make the difference between success and failure.

Declarer wins any continuation, draws the missing trumps, discards a heart on the ♦A and plays three rounds of hearts. If they break evenly he discards a spade on the remaining heart to claim his contract – having executed a perfect avoidance play. If the hearts fail to break then his last hope is to find the ♠A onside.

It is not only kings that one might prefer

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

the lead to come up to rather than through:

The contract is 4♠ and North leads the ♦A, then finds the one challenging switch, a low heart to South's king. It is hard to imagine that any benefit can be gained from ducking this trick, so declarer wins the ♥A and pauses to take stock (Actually, it would be even better to pause to take stock, then take the ♥A). There are plenty of tricks courtesy of the solid club combination, so the only danger is the loss of both a trump and two heart tricks to go with the diamond lost at trick one.

There can be two heart losers only if the heart lead comes through the remaining jack-four, and only South can make such a threatening lead. The solution is simple. Again spurning the beloved rhyme, declarer should continue by playing a spade to the ace then a second spade, finessing the jack if South follows with the remaining small card. If North wins with the ♠Q, he cannot threaten the contract, while if South began with queen to three, cashing the king next completes the process of drawing trumps and declarer can take the club tricks at his leisure.

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

This last one is a little more complex:

The contract is 4♥ and the opening lead is a low club to the king. It would be unlucky to go off in this contract, as there are at least 10 tricks to be had even if a trump is lost. Nonetheless, one trump, one club and two spade losers would be sufficient to defeat the game. That can only happen if North regains the lead to put a spade through dummy's vulnerable holding. Declarer can prevent North from winning a trump trick by taking a first round trump finesse through him, leading the jack or nine and running it. If the finesse is successful, he is then in the correct hand to repeat the process.

Many players would get as far as this in their analysis, win the ♣A and take the immediate heart finesse through the dangerous North hand. They would have followed a good plan, but not good enough. The danger is that South wins the ♥Q, leads a club to North's queen and the spade comes through.

The solution? Declarer should duck the opening lead, win the continuation, and then take a first round heart finesse as already discussed. The difference is that South can no longer get his partner in with a club to lead a spade through. Even if a heart is lost, there should be only three losers and 10 winners.

Before leaving the deal I should just point out that this line of play is not quite secure. If South switches to a diamond at trick two, declarer will have to give serious consideration to this being a singleton. Now a losing heart finesse could be followed by a spade to North's ace and a diamond ruff, going down in a contract that was cold simply by relying on finding the ♠A onside. The speed of any diamond switch should be a strong pointer to whether it rates to be a singleton, but should declarer decide that it is a singleton, he will have to take a view as to whether or not to follow his original plan. This does not, however, mean the plan was in any way unsound.

DOUBLES QUIZ

By Bob Rowlands

Dealer South. Love all

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	4♣	?

What would you bid with:

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

Answers on page 32

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PRACTICAL NO TRUMP BIDDING: The 1NT 'dustbin bid' response

The 1NT response

YOUR partner opens 1♠. You have a hand with six, seven or eight HCP. How many bids do you have available?

A change of suit at the two level shows at least nine HCP. Before you think about compromising on this remember that we have used this as a cornerstone of our system of no trump rebids: 1♠ - 2♣ - 2NT is game forcing; an arrangement that has huge benefits.

If you feel like passing, remember that you might miss game.

So that leaves you with only two options: raise 1♠ to 2♠ or respond 1NT. We must consider how best we can use the limited choice we have. So what do you bid with hands (a) to (d)?

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

With (a) and (b) I really haven't left you much choice. You cannot raise spades so you can only respond 1NT. I call the 1NT response a dustbin bid. You put everything into it that doesn't fit anywhere else.

Do you still want to respond to 1♠ with 1NT with hands (c) and (d)? If you do then it seems that you have allocated to 1NT about 80% of 6-8 HCP hands in response to 1♠, and only 20% to 2♠. How is opener ever going to find out whether you have no spades or three spades?

I believe that virtually all experts would raise 1♠ to 2♠ with (c). Some would prefer to respond 1NT with (d), because the hand has no ruffing value: a completely flat 3-3-3-4 shape.

At this stage I would like to bring together some themes that have surfaced previously in this series of articles.

Provided you are willing to open all 4-3-3-3 and 4-4-3-2 hands in the range 12-14 HCP with 1NT, and provided you are happy to accept the principles for bidding 4-4-4-1 hands that I described two months ago in *English Bridge*, it follows that an opening bid of 1♠ either has five spades or has a balanced hand with four spades too strong to open 1NT.

If opener has five spades then raising 1♠ to 2♠ will put you into the correct denomination, and a large proportion of the times opener will have five spades.

If opener has only four spades with 15-16 HCP then he will have to pass if 1♠ is raised to 2♠, leaving him in a 4-3 fit, but with extra values. If you follow my opinion and raise 1♠ to 2♠ with (c) but not the completely flat (d) then you also have some ruffing value in the hand with short trumps.

If opener has only four spades with 17-18 HCP, then he will continue with 2NT, allowing you to escape from the 4-3 fit that you temporarily agreed.

If opener has only four spades with 19 HCP then he will continue with 3NT.

How about if the opening bid is 1♠ and responder has a hand with nine HCP?

- | | |
|--|---|
| e) ♠ -
♥ K Q 8 2
♦ K 10 5 4 3
♣ J 6 4 3 | f) ♠ K 2
♥ K 10 8
♦ K 10 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 6 |
|--|---|

You seem to have a choice between responses of 1NT and 2♦ with (e) and (f). However look again at (e). A 2♦ response forces opener to rebid. What will you do if (as is highly likely) opener rebids 2♠? You don't have the 10-12 HCP required for 2NT and you can hardly upgrade your hand with a gross misfit, so you will presumably pass, leaving partner in a stupid contract. 1NT shows much better judgement. It keeps the bidding low and allows opener to pass. A 2♦ bid is reasonable with (f) because you can happily pass a 2♠ rebid.

Principle: If you have two possible bids available, but your hand is poor, choose the cheaper one, particularly if it allows partner to pass.

By now you will have realised that on average a 1NT response to 1♠ contains only one or two spades: occasionally none at all. Opener must make allowances.

- | Opener | Responder |
|---|---|
| 1♠ | 1NT |
| g) ♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 7 6
♣ A Q 2 | h) ♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 7
♣ A Q 3 2 |

With (g) opener must pass 1NT. A 2♠ rebid guarantees a six-card suit. Do you want to play in 2♠ opposite (e)?

With (h) it is sensible to bid 2♣. If responder now bids 2♦ he is showing a weak hand with six diamonds. It would then be automatic to pass.

So far I have dealt only with responses to 1♠, but similar constraints are present opposite other one-level openings.

Opposite a 1♥ opening if you have 6-8 HCP you have three possible responses: 1♠, 1NT and 2♥. The 1NT response denies four spades. I suggest you also raise 1♥ to 2♥ with three-card support as described for raising 1♠ to 2♠.

Opposite a 1♦ opening if you have 6-8 HCP you have four possible responses: 1♥, 1♠, 1NT and 2♦. The 1NT response denies a four-card major.

The lower the opening bid the more options you have, so the smaller the chance that you will have to respond 1NT with highly unsuitable hands. However, if partner opens 1♦ you have no sensible alternative to

- i) ♠ 6 5 4
♥ K 6 2
♦ 6
♣ K J 7 5 4 3
- 1NT if you hold hand (i). Opposite a 1♠ opening you should never have to respond 1NT with a really misshapen hand because you can either support clubs or bid a four-card suit at the one level.

Natural higher no-trump responses.

Do these exist any more?

Traditionally 1♠ - 2NT showed 11-12 HCP balanced, while 1♠ - 3NT showed 13-15 HCP balanced and guaranteeing three spades. Alternatively you could respond with a new suit and rebid 2NT with 10-12 HCP or 3NT with 13-plus HCP. This seemed like two different ways of doing the same thing. Therefore it is not surprising that many players nowadays have a conventional use for an immediate jump to 2NT or 3NT, usually showing strong hands with four-card support

- j) ♠ 7 4 3
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ K 8 7
♣ Q J 7
- for partner's suit. This makes sense, but just beware of the implications.

Partner opens 1♠. You cannot bid 2NT because that is conventional. You cannot bid 2♥ because that guarantees a five-card suit. Therefore you must respond with 2♣. Opener must make some allowances for the possibility of your 2♣ response being made with just three clubs.

Bidding 3NT opposite partner's pre-empt

- | | |
|--|---|
| k) ♠ A 9 8
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ A 6 5
♣ A 3 2 | l) ♠ -
♥ A K 7 6
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A 6 5 4 3 |
|--|---|

If your partner opens with a vulnerable 3♠, what should you bid with these hands?

You should bid 3NT only if one of two conditions is satisfied.

1) You have enough in his suit to suggest that you can run nine tricks with the help of his suit. It would be reasonable to bid 3NT with hand (k).

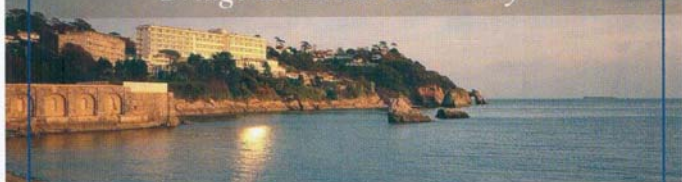
2) You have almost all of the nine tricks you need in your hand: maybe a solid suit.

The right bid with hand (l) is 4♠. The only way you will make tricks from his spades will be if they are trumps, otherwise you have no entries to his hand.

If one hand is weak, but has a long, fairly strong suit, the hand is likely to play better if that suit is trumps.

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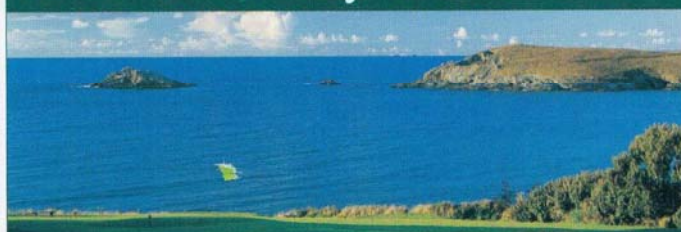
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GET EVEN WITH THE ODDS

The dog that didn't bark



OVER a drink, Susan asked Clark about the last hand of the event.

'I still can't work out why you chose that particular line in that 3NT contract, Clark' where the whole field seemed to go down. I don't see anything in the play or bidding that could possibly have guided you.'

'Well, it was all pretty obvious once I got my mind working,' said Clark smilingly. 'To make an inference from an opponent's bidding or play is a fairly routine part of the game, but sometimes a vital piece of information can be gleaned from their failure to do so. Usually the better the opponent the more reliable is the inference.'

Clark pointed to the deal in the hand records.

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

Colin Pendle	Clark	Davina Scott	Susan
East	South	West	North
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
2♣	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Davina Scott had led ♠J, overtaken by Pendle and ducked by Clark, who won the spade continuation.

Clark then finessed the ♦10 and, when Pendle had shown out, gave the hand a little more than his usual thought.

Most declarers had failed when they elected to give up a heart, hoping that West held the king, but not Clark. Crossing to the ♣A he had taken a second diamond finesse before giving up a club.

Davina Scott had won the king and switched to a heart, but Clark had risen with the ace and cashed his winners, just making his contract.

'The key to the hand was East's overcall of 2♣,' said Clark.

'But how could you possibly tell from his bid that East held the king of hearts rather than the king of clubs?' Susan asked. 'Surely it was a pure guess?'

'Not exactly,' replied Clark. 'You may recall me looking at the opponent's convention card. I saw that they were playing the Multi.

Do you see where I'm heading?'

'Not really,' said Susan, puzzled.

'Well,' replied Clark, 'East had declined to open a Multi despite having a good six-card spade suit. There could be only one reason why a good player would do that. He must have four cards in the other major!'

'Yes, I see that now, but he still might not have had the king,' persisted Susan.

'True,' said Clark, 'but with only six hearts out and East having four of them, he was favourite to hold it. Odds of 2-1 on, in fact. In addition, having only three clubs he would be 5-3 against holding the king of that suit, making it about 3-1 on in favour of playing on clubs, rather than hearts.'

'So, it really was the failure of East to open 2♦ that was the key,' said Susan.

'Yes,' replied Clark, 'as I think Sherlock Holmes once said, it was a case of the dog that didn't bark!'

Although Susan had followed Clark's logic perfectly, she knew she would never be a good

enough player to work out that kind of thing at the table. It was clear to her that Clark's game was of a completely different class.

'Tell me Clark, how on earth did you manage to become such a good player?'

'Sign of a misspent youth, I suppose,' Clark replied. 'I happened to be up at Cambridge at a time when there were a few talented individuals around. I'd always been interested in cards and picked up the game simply by watching and reading. How I came out with a degree at all I can't imagine. It's just as well there was no-one quite like you around at the time,' he added. 'Between that and bridge, the results would have been disastrous.'

You have been reading an excerpt from Bill's recently published book, *Bridge out of School*, a humorous tale of romance, intrigue and strange goings on in education and bridge administration, with plenty of hands thrown in. A SQueeZe book from Vivisphere Publishing.

Sheffield celebrates



Pictured at Sheffield Bridge Club's 70th anniversary event, having just cut the celebratory cake are, from left, Philip Mason, chairman of Yorkshire County Bridge Association, Peter Stocken, chairman of the EBU, June Dyal, retiring chairman of the club, Jackie Drayton, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Ann Wall, retiring secretary of the club, and Barrie Partridge, senior tournament director. Almost hidden at the back is the mayoress.

No other club in England is thought to have owned and resided in the same premises for as long as Sheffield.

The celebration continued with a two-session Swiss pairs event for The Lord Mayor's Trophy. It was won by Frank Littlewood and David Ripley.



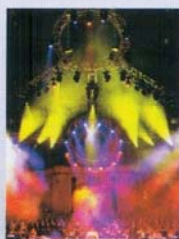
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Your questions answered by David Bakhshi

Time to tackle the scrums?

A YEAR or two ago at the Cheltenham Congress the Swiss teams was played in a number of different rooms, both upstairs and downstairs. The result was a terrible scrum between matches as players moved to their new tables.

It occurred to me that it would have been simpler if each team had its own home table, where North-South played each round (as happens already when someone is disabled). There would then be only half the number of players moving about.

I have tried to think of reasons why this should not happen in all Swiss teams. Yes, the teams in the lead would not have the kudos of sitting at tables one and two, but current positions could be posted.

With duplicated boards there is always the risk of overhearing something at an adjacent table, but if two teams playing each other found themselves next to each other it would be very easy to arrange a swap for that round.

What have I overlooked?
– Paul Wickham, Taunton.

80.16% leaves me in shock

I'M still recovering from the shock!

My partner has just let me know that at last week's Thursday afternoon club pairs (five-and-a-half tables Mitchell movement) we scored rather well.

OK, so my partner is a Grand Master and the field was not particularly strong – but it did include a former county pivot teams champion.

So what does rather well mean? It means 80.16%, or 101 out of a possible 126. I've had three or four mid 70s in 30 years at the table, but never in excess of 80%! I'm sure this score is not a record, but scores like it can't happen too often. It would be interesting to hear if any other readers have even more incredible results.

Keep up the good work!
– Tim Greenhill, by email

Well, what about 81.94%?

PETER Ransom and Barry Thomas, two of my former partners from Nursling and Rownhams Bridge Club (Hants and Isle of Wight) achieved an incredible score of 81.94% in a club duplicate in December contested by seven pairs.

Does anyone know the highest percentage achieved in a club duplicate?
– Pasky A Paskaran by email

Please email or post your letters to: Brian Cook, Hill Crest, 8 Kingsley Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1EY email: englishbridge@internet-today.co.uk The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Publication does not mean the EBU agrees with the views expressed or that the comments are factually correct.

NOW YOU HAVE YOUR SAY

I agree with chairm

I am in total agreement with the points made by EBU chairman Peter Stocken in his article in December's *English Bridge*. Only a very small minority of students wish to play in the outside competitions arranged by the EBU.

None of them showed interest in *Bridge for All*, which was a very good idea, but too expensive and very lengthy.

I have been a teacher for around 20 years. I originally had 30 students, but since cutting down to improvers only I have 20. My method is to hand out notes and then play with prepared wallets. Apart from squeezes (which I have never managed to teach successfully) I go the whole hog, shedding students on the

way up as it all becomes more than they w

Students fall into two categories: the learning bridge will improve their social li (younger retireds), very keen to become. Whereas you can possibly teach the class a of conventions, it becomes clear, particul that the two types cannot be taught happi

All my students have ever wanted is to either fight their way to the top or just play a lot of friendly people. – Sylvia Hardman

See response on page

My joy that Benji 2♣ is clarified

I NOTE with joy that the rules have been clarified regarding a Benji 2♣, with a decree that it shall conform to the rule of 25 or have at least 14 points.

It was annoying to have people make this bid with a hand that was defensively powerful or a hand that was defensively powerless. Its ambiguity affected the opponents both in the auction and in the play.

I am quite sure that those who employed this bid in a double-edged way are upset that it has been taken away from them and I am equally sure that they are writing to the EBU in droves asking for this clarification of a Benji 2♣ to be relaxed.

But it is the nature of human beings that those who are content say nothing, while those who are not complain. I fear, therefore, that the EBU mailbag may suggest the majority dislike this new clarification when in fact this may not be so.

– Ann Husk, Yelverton, Devon

Greens and welcome co

I READ with interest letters in *English Bridge* from Gerald Everitt (June 2007) and Alan Boyes (October 2007), both critical of the introduction of the award of Green Points for the leading performers in sim

It's our opportu

IN contrast to the negative response to awarding Green Point point out that many/most? club players can never hope to r because we lack the time or resources to go countrywide to pl

Since my husband and I work full time and have livestock, w Anglia, where there are few Green Point events.

Like many other players in duplicate clubs, we collect Master improvement in the game and are thrilled when we step up one of the ladder. Sim pairs gives us some chance of reaching heights of Regional Master before we reach a hundred! – Fleu

Checkback sequ

I WOULD like to make a suggestion regarding Andrew Kambites' article on Checkback in October's *English Bridge*.

The system described by Andrew means that you can never play in 3♣. With the hand Andrew gives as an example – ♠J 8 6 2 ♥K2 ♦5 ♣Q 7 6 5 4 3 – the bidding may start 1♥ – 1♠ – 1NT. You would very much like to sign off in 2♠ or 3♠, but you can't.

I use a system that was described by Crowhurst in the early years of Checkback. The only response to 2♣

with a (except show e

Eg al to show 3♣ to d

And respons have In th

Why not announce number of cards in partner's bid suit?

I LIKE the announcing of the INT range, even though I still struggle to remember to do it myself.

I have a suggestion to make – very simple, but I think with lots of benefits.

When a player opens one of a suit, his partner should announce how many cards in the suit are promised. No need to ask if one of a major promises five cards – the partner simply says 'Four' or 'Five' as appropriate.

Playing five-card majors, 1♦ and 1♣ could be announced as 'Four' and 'Two' respectively, or 'Three' and 'Three',

according to partnership agreement.

I leave it to be considered whether a Precision or Blue 1♣ should be announced as 'Strong', or 'Strong, 16 plus' etc, or whether it should be put into a catch all alert category.

A Roman or Polish 1♣ would have to be alerted.

Even this procedure is not perfect, of course. Some pairs play that 1♣ can be clubs, a balanced hand, or 4-4-4-1 with a singleton club, so 1♣ would technically be announced as 'One', which is quite informative, but probably confusing the first time you hear it.

Some play that 1♥ is either five cards, or four in a strong balanced hand. Announcing 'Four', while technically correct, is perhaps unhelpful.

I would like to encourage players to qualify their announcements when this is helpful, but I can see that legislating for this would be difficult.

– Rob Cliffe, London

Announce before the round starts

I AGREE wholeheartedly with the comments made by David Ellis in the December issue of *English Bridge* when he says that the only announcements that need to be made are at the start of the round, when players should announce their basic system and state whether playing Stayman and transfers etc.

Also, I disagree with the reply by Martin Pool, chairman of the EBU's laws and ethics committee, in what he offers as justification for the changes.

– Colin Wood, Swindon

Awash with aces, kings and queens

READERS may be interested in this hand, which I held on the last board during a duplicate evening at Newquay a few weeks ago.

♠AKQ9 ♥AK ♦AKQ ♣AKQ6

Playing Benji Acoll the bidding went: 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT (with fingers crossed that partner has at least one point) - 3NT. Thank you, thank you – partner has at least one point and a four-card minor and I will never have a hand like this again. So, 7NT.

Partner turned up with four clubs to the eight and four diamonds to the jack. The clubs broke, so 13 tricks were cold for a shared top.

I have kept the curtain card, which for once is very neatly written.

– Bill Thomson Bodmin, Cornwall

And here is an even bigger hand

AT a recent evening at St Leonards Bridge Club the following hand was dealt at the table:

♠AKQ2 ♥AKQ ♦AK ♣AKQJ

And where was the ♠J? Partner held ♠J 10 x x and the spades were split 3-2.

Some opened 7NT and some 6NT. All made 13 tricks, except one, who made only 12. How, you may ask? Apparently declarer was in 6NT, tabled his hand and claimed 12 tricks. Defenders declined his amended claim for 13 tricks, presumably saying he could have played a small spade from each hand.

– Peter Carbutt, St Leonards-on-Sea

Sims are a combination

Simultaneous pairs events. I would consider the fact that a lot of very competent players of all sizes throughout the country for one reason or another, are unable to travel to many Green Point events (the majority of which are held in the south of England), but do attend local competitions as often as possible.

Maybe the EBU has given some thought to this (See Alan Nelson's comment in the June magazine), endeavouring to encourage more clubs to join in the fun of sims and thus give more players a bite at the cherry of enhanced rewards.

It seems to me that attitudes like those of Gerald Everitt and Alan Boyes will surely not help the EBU in its efforts to increase membership.

– Jocelyn Gordon, Hexham, Northumberland.

Sequence that allows playing in 3♣

Maximum was 2NT. This was game forcing (as described below) and now responder could choose length or shape.

1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2NT responder bids 3♥ to show three-card support (may also have five spades), or three hearts and show five spades.

or example: after 1♣ - 1♥ - 1NT - 2♣ - 2NT responder bids 3♥ to show five hearts (may also have five spades), 3♠ to show four-four majors. In any way all the advantages described by

Andrew in the article can be achieved.

The advantage of this arrangement comes when responder has a weak hand with a long minor and a four-card major. With the example hand given by Andrew responder would bid 2♣ and rebid 3♣, to play. In his exposition of the system Crowhurst referred to the 3♣ bid as meaning 'I wish I'd never heard of Crowhurst!'. It is also possible to use 3♦ as a sign-off. With ♠J 8 6 2 ♥K 2 ♦Q 7 6 5 4 3, ♣5 the bidding could start 1♣/♦ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♣. Now responder can

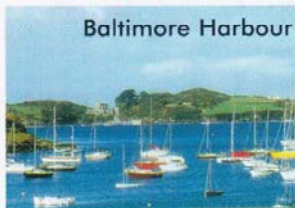
pass a 2♦ bid from partner or convert any other response to 3♦, to play.

As Andrew says, a new suit at the three-level is generally played as forcing. However, in these sequences with a hand of forcing strength responder would jump to the three-level over 1NT. Eg with ♠K Q x x x ♥A x x ♦♣K Q x x x would bid 3♣ (forcing) over 1NT and, of course, if the clubs are longer than the spades would respond 2♣ (forcing) to 1♦ and then reverse into spades. – Mike Ralph, by email

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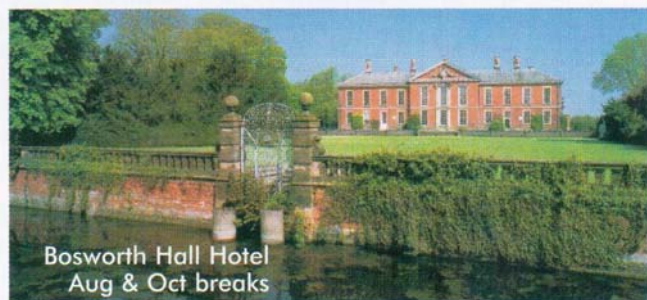
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BARRY RIGAL'S DEAL FROM AMERICA

Too late I see the winning defence



THE Fall Nationals this year were held in Hawaii, a little slice of heaven five hours flight from the West Coast. As a consequence, perhaps, attendance was rather down, but they still managed about 10,000 tables in play over the 10 days.

The British representation was short on quantity but long on quality. Special credit to Jack Mizel's team (Brian Senior, John Armstrong, Paul Hackett) for reaching the multi-team finals of the Reisinger, the toughest event in the US calendar, in which they finished 10th. John and Paul also just missed out on winning the Life Masters Pairs.

The selected deal features me in my usual position, of the goat not the hero. It comes from the first semi-final session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs. A normal auction would see East-West compete to 2♠ or 2♦, so North-South might well bid up to 3♠.

As it happened we sold out to 2♣. To get an average on the board we needed to hold declarer to nine tricks. Could we do it?

Dealer South. ♠ 10 8 6 E-W game ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ K 10 4 3 2 ♣ K 9			
♠ J 9 5 3 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ A 8	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N W E S</div> <div style="text-align: center;">♠ K 4 ♥ J 6 5 4 2 ♦ Q J 8 ♣ J 10 7</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 7 ♥ K 10 7 ♦ 9 ♣ Q 6 5 4 3 2</div> </div>	
West	North	East	South
1♠	1NT(!)	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣

Well, consider a club contract on the lead of a low spade to the six, king and ace.

Declarer needs to build a quick discard for that spade loser, and the natural play is a diamond. To get the best possible result on defence, West must hop up immediately with the ♦A.

That was not hard to do, but at the table I made the mistake of playing the ♥A and now it was too late to revert to spades, since declarer could use the ♥Q as an entry to dummy if necessary and pitch her spade loser on the ♦K, then cross to hand by ruffing a diamond and leading a club up to the king, and ducking the return. All the defence took was their three aces.

The winning defence to save the overtrick is to take the diamond ace and shift immediately to the ♠J! This has the effect of locking declarer in hand, unable to reach the ♦K or draw trumps. The best declarer can do is win the ♠Q and play a trump. I can take the ace and give my partner a spade ruff.

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4) ♠ 9 8 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 ♣ K Q 4 2			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N W E S</div> <div style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 4 ♥ A 4 3 2 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A J 5 3</div> </div>			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

How should you defend?

Partner's ♠10 lead is covered by dummy's ♠K and taken by your ♠A. How should you continue the defence?

Entries to Andrew Kambites, 1 Stratford Court, Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 4AO. Entries to arrive by February 20. Please indicate on the top left hand corner of the envelope which category you are entering. Andrew Kambites will judge the entries and the first one in each category that he considers gives the best answers will win a Piattnik prize.

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1) What would you lead as West from the hand below after the auction shown?

♠ 8 5 4 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ K Q 10 ♣ K Q 9 7

South	West	North	East
2♣	1NT Pass	2♣* Pass	Pass Pass

* 2♣ shows the major suits

2) ♠ J 7 ♥ 2 ♦ Q 7 6 4 3 ♣ Q 6 4 3 2			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">N W E S</div> <div style="text-align: center;">♠ 5 4 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ 10 9 8 2 ♣ 10 9 7 5</div> </div>			

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

Your partner leads the ♠2, taken by dummy's ♠J. Declarer then calls for a heart from dummy. Can you play your part in beating this contract? What vital holding might partner have which makes the correct action from you essential?

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

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

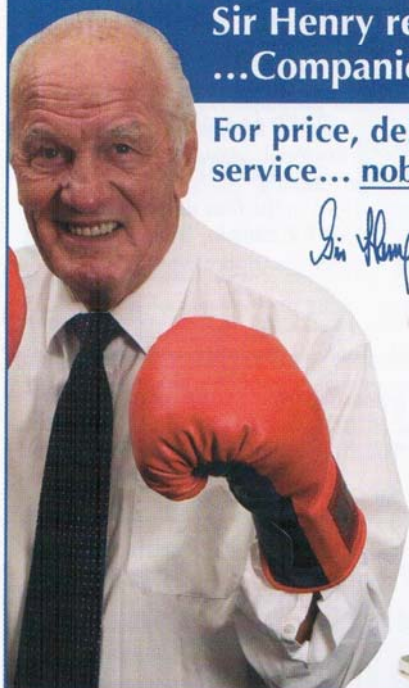
West leads the ♦2. This is clearly a singleton, because your methods are to lead second best from suits without an honour.

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Ed Scerri

There's a better thing to do than stamp your foot when opponents bid your suit

DO you have an agreement with your partner as to the meaning of a double when opponents bid your suit?

Most pairs will have discussed the meaning of sequences such as 1♣, 2♣, Double or 1♥, 2♥, Double, when the opener's partner is doubling the cue bid, but what does it mean when the opener himself doubles a cue bid?

The Ed Scerri story

A LITTLE more about Ed, who is new to the ranks of *English Bridge* contributors. There was not space to introduce him properly when his first article appeared in the December magazine.

Ed lives in Amersham, where he regularly plays and directs at various local clubs and, if he is not careful, usually ends up as hon treasurer, because of his banking background.

He is also a consultant for the online Bridge Club Live, with particular responsibilities in the area of ethics. Over the years he has given many seminars on bridge holidays and he plans to write a series of such seminars, aimed specifically at experienced club players who want to 'take the next step'.

Ed's bridge story is one of perseverance, as he has been playing tournament bridge for some 20 years, with a slow and gradual improvement in results.

Over the years he has represented London, Middlesex and Berks and Bucks at various levels, but national success has manifested itself only recently, with his winning the NICKO, the National Swiss Teams and the Premier Life Masters Pairs (each with a different partner), as well as three one day events, all within the space of eight months.

His articles in *English Bridge* will generally involve an instructive hand from a recent EBU event in which he has taken part.

The most common example of this situation arises when your opponents are playing unassuming cue bids, a convention that is becoming more and more popular to differentiate hand types in competitive situations and which works like this:

When one opponent overcalls and the other has a sound (high card point) raise, then an unassuming cue bid (UCB) is used to show this: eg 1♣, 1♠, Pass, 2♣. The overcaller can now describe the strength of the original overcall and is well placed to judge competitive situations in the knowledge that partner has some values.

If, on the other hand, the overcaller's partner has a pre-emptive raise, with no defensive values, then a jump raise in the overcall suit is used: eg 1♣, 1♠, Pass, 3♠. Once again the overcaller is well placed to judge competitive situations, knowing that partner has no defence.

UCBs are very effective and useful for your opponents, but they do allow you to use a double of the UCB to send a particular message to partner: eg 1♣, 1♠, Pass, 2♣, Double.

It is the meaning of this double that needs to be explored.

Some of those partnerships that have discussed this situation will play double here either to show a good suit, or to show extra values, but the vast majority will have no agreement and will simply double as a 'foot-stamp' because 'they bid my suit partner!'

Many experts have adopted another approach on the basis that:

1) There is no need to show a good suit, as partner has heard your opening bid, and is extremely likely to lead your suit anyway, so why double to tell him to do this?

2) Given that your left-hand opponent has

overcalled, partner has passed and your right hand opponent has shown a 'values' raise, to double now, showing additional values, is pointless, as partner will hardly ever have sufficient strength to compete.

3) Foot-stamping might make you feel better for a moment, but it achieves little else.

Bearing this in mind, they have found that it makes sense to pass if you are happy for partner to lead your suit, but to double when you have opened on a poor suit, which you do not want led: eg if you opened a suit such as J 9 7 6 3, you would certainly not wish partner to lead this suit, especially if he has king doubleton or some other critical holding.

Double therefore becomes a specific request not to lead your suit and is in fact known as a non-lead double.

The same principle applies when you open one of a suit, left hand opponent overcalls 1NT and right hand opponent then bids your suit as a transfer or as Stayman: eg 1♦, 1NT, Pass, 2♦ (transfer to hearts) or 1♣, 1NT, Pass, 2♣ (Stayman). Double now should tell partner not to lead your suit.

The following hand came up recently in a teams match and demonstrates how useful this agreement can be:

East-West	♠ K 10 4 3
game. Dealer	♥ 8 6
South	♦ 7 6 4
	♣ J 5 4 3

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

♠ A Q 5
♥ 3
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 2
♣ A 10 8

At one table the auction was:

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

North led partner's suit and declarer promptly discarded three spades on ♦A K J to make his contract with an overtrick.

At the other table North-South had agreed to play non-lead doubles, so after an identical start to the auction, South doubled the 2♦ transfer bid, thereby telling his partner not to lead diamonds. North chose the ♠3 instead and the defence had no difficulty in cashing the first four tricks, thus defeating the contract and gaining 13 imps.

There will be other situations where opponents bid your suit; for example if you overcall and right-hand opponent then makes a directional asking bid:

eg 1♦, 1♥, 2♣, Pass, 2♥, when the same agreement can be utilised.

				6				
			1		5			
		2	8		7	9		
	9	7				4	6	
4								5
6			3		4			9
7		9		8		6		1
	4			7			8	
			5		1			

SUDOKU

BRIDGE-STYLE



NOW to the spade symbol in Richard Whéen's short series of bridge-style Sudoku brain teasers. Richard says this one is fairly difficult to complete, but promises that the final one, the NT (no trump), will be a little easier.

The task is to fill in the grid, with one of each number (1 to 9) in each line and in each of the nine sub-squares.

Solution on page 45



A quick trip across the water

IT was with a sense of trepidation that I embarked on the 18.24 from Stockport to Euston, before boarding the Eurostar to Lille, where I was to captain the England under 20 team in the 2006 Channel Trophy.

After all, at the age of 25, I was not quite out of the junior ranks myself. Did I have what it would take to overcome the various obstacles that were likely to be thrown at me? Well, fortunately, I did.

The only unexpected thing was the hotel fire alarm going off in the night and for the rest of the event the job was made easy for me by my great team of James Thrower from Harrogate, Tom Rainforth from Sheffield, Bingyaun Yang and Ed Jones from Loughborough, Tom and Ben Paske from the depths of Herefordshire, and coach Duncan Happer from a small village in Leicestershire. They were a joy to captain and although the bridge was slightly sub-optimal, we finished second of the four competing countries (France, England, Belgium and Netherlands) and lost only one match throughout the contest.

This was a good hand played by Tom Rainforth in an early encounter against winners France. He was East in 3♣ after South's takeout double of his third-in-hand pre-empt was passed by North:

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



By Michael Byrne

South kicked off with a top heart, followed by a top diamond, the other top heart and then another diamond. Tom ruffed the second diamond and calculating that hearts were almost certainly three-three (South would not have doubled with two and would have given his partner a ruff with four) he crossed in hearts to play a club to the 10 and drew two more rounds of trumps before going back to the ♠A to ditch a losing spade on the long heart.

Although North had ♣Q J 7 4 Tom escaped for one off, which was a swing to England when the declarer in the other room lost the plot and went more off in the same contract.

In case you were thinking that the six-card

pre-empt got his side into trouble, North-South were cold for a vulnerable 3NT if played properly, (by ducking the first club), so Tom had earned a swing for England.

Ben Paske also produced a good declarer play effort involving a pre-empt later on against France. 3♠ is bid on your right; you overcall 3NT and all pass. The lead is the ♥K and your younger brother produces:

♠ 2 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ K 9 2 ♣ J 9 7 6 3 2

to go with your

♠ A J 9 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ A J 6 5 ♣ A K 8

Ben ducked the heart lead and won the second one (North, the pre-emptor, producing ♥J 8, suggesting a doubleton). Now ♣A K were cashed, North showing out on the second round. Needing the diamond finesse Ben took it and cashed four rounds of diamonds before throwing in North with ♠9. Down to all spades North had to return one and, after ducking ♠K, Ben had A J tenace over him and duly made his eighth and ninth tricks for +600 to England.

Alas this was a flat board when the French girl at the other table bid the hand in eccentric fashion and reached 5♣ by passing a response to Blackwood.

There is no substitute for blind luck!

It is interesting also that in England under 25s against France under 25s it was 3NT off four and 3NT off two on the same lead and defence – both declarers having gone astray.

The team showed great character and bonded well. Hopefully England under 20s will put together a good performance in the Junior European Championships next summer.

The under 25 team that accompanied us (Tom Slater, Andrew Murphy, Simon Cope, Stuart Haring, Susan Stockdale, Dave Cropper and npc Mel Starkings) was far less experienced, with no player having taken part in a European-style event before. Although they finished bottom no doubt the exposure to this type of competition will have done them a world of good.



More than 10,000 students have learned the Bridge for All way

IN response to the letter on page 24 from Sylvia Hardman, EBU education manager John Pain comments: 'The EBU's new Focus on Value initiative will reduce the costs for both teachers and students. Well over 10,000 have learned bridge using Bridge for All since it started in 1999, recognising it as a quality product. Many continue to play either socially or within clubs and have progressed to local leagues and county novice events.'

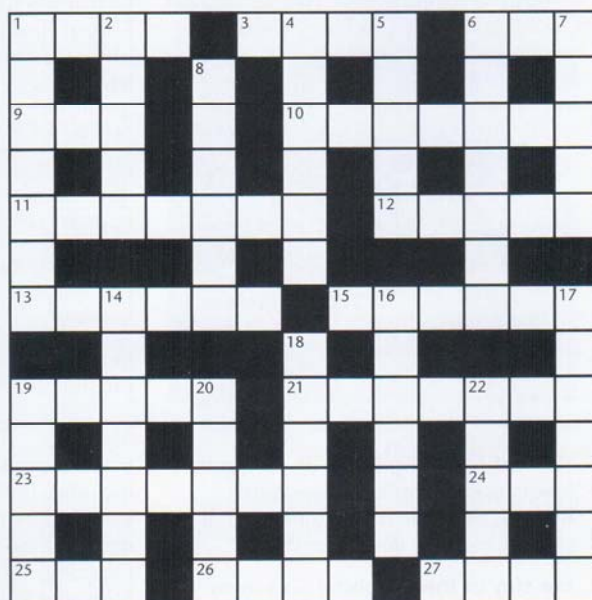
Peter Murdoch's bridge crossword

Across:

- 1 Willingly lose a trick to this hand (4)
- 3 Improve your liquidity with cheques or tricks (4)
- 6 Indispensable ability for the bridge player (3)
- 9 This expert is a real card (3)
- 10 Future games for experts? (7)
- 11 The most famous Pakistani? (7)
- 12 Goes and surrenders the lead (5)
- 13 There's nothing to it (6)
- 15 Not so bright, not so strong (6)
- 19 Escape from a scrappy duel with East (5)
- 21 A book that runs about a gong (7)
- 23 Pleasure or pain, depending on circumstances (7)
- 24 English Bridge Union (3)
- 25 Still nothing to it (3)
- 26 Go into to make tricky decisions (4)
- 27 Contract killers may draw blood thus (4)

Down

- 1 Convention invented by George Rapee! (7)
- 2 Like a new pack (5)
- 4 Stops one opponent leading, as it's about nothing (6)
- 5 Authoritative rule book for cards (5)
- 6 Such intelligence may solve problems at the table (7)
- 7 Clear them or mix them (5)
- 8 KO his first boxer to stop shenanigans (6)
- 14 An extraordinary bid (7)



- 16 One of the world's best bridge players (6)
- 17 Upset by that brute Sid, not East (7)
- 18 Opponents' hands at start of play (6)
- 19 Company sponsor for the first worldwide bridge contest (5)
- 20 Choose one's bid or procedure in play (5)
- 22 A contest between 17 teams (5)

Solution on P44

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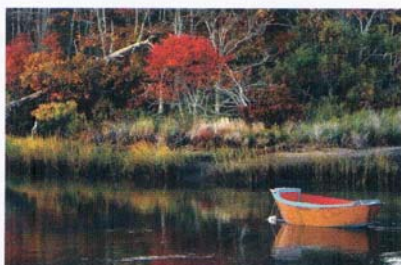
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Please see page 2 for overseas holidays and page 26 for UK breaks



When should we alert a double

AD of Northants and others are coping (just) with announcements, but are finding it difficult to know when to alert a double or not.

The changes made may be more logical, but they require some effort to unlearn what was previously an automatic reaction. In the early months it is difficult to rely totally on whether opponents do or do not alert in the middle of an auction. This is what you should do:

The opponents bid NT naturally:

If you double it will be expected to be for penalty, so no alert if it is. Similarly, if your opponents bid NT in an auction such as (1H) Pass (1NT) and you double for penalties you do not alert, but if your double means something else, including takeout, then you do alert. Both these auctions require an alert:

- a. (1NT) DBL to show the majors and
- b. (1H) No (1NT) DBL to show a takeout of hearts.

Similarly if the opponents bid 3NT in an auction and you double just because you think they are going down then no alert is required, but if you double to demand a specific lead then your partner should alert.

The opponents bid a suit rather than NT. This time the requirements are reversed. The expectation in most games these days is that double of a suit bid, especially early in the auction, is for takeout, so this does not require an alert. If you double after your right hand opponent opens 1♠, 2♠ or 3♠ showing the suit bid, your partner does not have to alert it, just as was the case before the rule changes. It's the same if the opponents open a potentially short minor. In addition a double further into the auction does not require an alert if it is for takeout, so each of these examples won't need an alert:

- a. 1♦ (1♠) Double
- b. 1NT (2♣ natural) Double
- c. (1♥) Pass (2♥) Double

For most people that just means giving up alerting negative doubles, which they have done everywhere else in the world apart from the South Sandwich Islands.

What happens if you double an artificial bid? A simple example is a Stayman response to a 1NT opener. If you double it will be assumed to show clubs if you do not alert so if you play it as something else then an alert will be required.

What happens above the level of 3NT? In most cases alerts have been abolished at this level, leading to a reduction in players telling their partner whether 4NT is Blackwood or not! There are, however, two exceptions. One

is to alert any artificial opening bid, eg 4♣ to show a good 4♥ opening bid and the other is with doubles, redoubles and passes that convey special meaning.

So, if your double of their response to Blackwood means lead the suit, then there is no need to alert, but if your double means something special then you do alert. An example might be that if the opponents open 1♠ and responder bids 4♠ splinter, you could play (with a good memory) that double asked for a diamond lead. The other side would not guess this and, more important, might need this information in the auction, so it is alertable.

Similarly some players may pass to indicate something and if it asks for a specific lead then it requires an alert whatever the level. In my regular partnership I play that if you bid a suit and then the opponents cue bid it at the three level or above then a pass asks for the suit to be led and a double asks for it not to be led. Both the double and the pass are alertable. Incidentally if you double a slam to suggest an unusual lead, then this is also alertable. If you double on lead because you have several aces then it is not.

What happens if you or your opponents fail to alert? It is an offence, but the EBU recognises it will take some getting used to, so some leeway is being given until next August. However, it is not a licence to refuse to do the right thing, although for the time being it will be rare for any fine to be issued for a failure to alert or alerting when you should not.

Remember that because your opponent fails to alert does not mean you will automatically be damaged. When it goes 1H (Pass) 2NT (Dbl) and your 2NT response shows a game forcing hand with lots of hearts you will have a hard time persuading a director you have been damaged if an unalerted double turns out to be for takeout of hearts rather than showing about 18 points.

Orange Book page 25 gives further detail, as does www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/ where there is a summary in the publications section

Boris Ewart of Manchester thinks the EBU has got it wrong with the new EBU20B convention card in terms of overall design and also what is now on the front page. He thinks that after the main body of the card, as many pages as needed of supplementary details should be catered for. He also believes that a call of 'system card' to alert opponents to something unusual is preferable to announcing specific bids.

The revised convention card was designed to replace the two previous ones and also to make some improvements. It takes time to adjust to the new places where some things are found and the EBU laws and ethics committee has committed to reviewing it in the light of comment after some months, so if you have comments you should let the secretary to the laws and ethics committee know (lecsec@ebu.co.uk). In my view lots of supplementary detail (See note 47) is not helpful unless you are playing a long match against a team. For a small number of boards what you need is headlines and a way to find out whatever else you need to know.

In the matter of what is announced I think it is useful to know your opponents' NT range and their two-level openings. At present too many people forget to make it completely reliable, but as things settle down this will improve. A number of people have commented on the potential problem of overhearing, so I asked one director at a recently completed national congress to let me know how many problems had been drawn to the attention of the directing staff as a result of overhearing a bid or announcement made at another table. The answer was none, suggesting that this, perhaps, is more of a perceived problem than a real one.

R G Ackland, via email, is going on holiday to France and Spain. He hopes to play some bridge and wants to know if the new rules on announcements and alerting will be applicable in either of those countries. He is also of the view that with bidding boxes bridge is an international pastime and needs no knowledge of another language, but with announcements this changes.

As far as I am aware neither France nor Spain announces any calls. Different European countries have arrangements for alerting than those that apply in England, but it is usual not to alert above the level of 3NT and certainly in France and several other European countries negative doubles are not alerted.

In terms of relying on the bidding box it does simplify matters, but playing a strong club system in France did mean some explanations were needed from me, with the result that my mediocre French is better when it comes to describing a three-suiter, short in diamonds with opening values than when it comes to ordering lobster thermidor in a restaurant.

Email your questions to Jeremy on ebuproblems@btopenworld.com or write to the editor, Brian Cook at Hill Crest, 8 Kingsley Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1EY. Please include your name and address.



PRIZE DEFENCE ANSWERS

QUESTION master Andrew Kambites gives his view of the best line of defence in our December competition and awards prizes in three categories:

1)

♠ 10 9
♥ 8 6
♦ A 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A 6 5

♠ 7 6
♥ K J 10 9
♦ K Q 9 8
♣ K Q 10

♠ 8 5 3
♥ 7 5 4
♦ J 10
♣ J 9 8 4 2

♠ A K Q J 4 2
♥ A Q 3 2
♦ 7
♣ 7 3

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

With a powerful holding in declarer's second suit (hearts) and no reason to believe that he can discard heart losers on a strong suit in dummy, you should try to protect your heart holding by leading a trump. When you regain the lead with your ♥K a second trump lead will leave declarer with three heart losers.

2)

♠ 8 6
♥ 8 6
♦ Q J 10 9 8 7
♣ Q 5 2

♠ K 5 4 3
♥ A J 7 5 3
♦ 6 5
♣ 8 4

♠ Q 10 9 2
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 2
♣ A 10 9 7 6

♠ A J 7
♥ K Q 9
♦ A K 4 3
♣ K J 3

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass

West leads the ♥5 to your ♥10, declarer winning the ♥Q. Declarer now cashes the ♦A K, partner following suit with the ♦6 and ♦5. Whatever you discard declarer will now switch to the ♠K.

Partner's diamond peter (high-low) has shown an even number of diamonds. Do you assume he has four and keep your ♠A to deal with dummy's ♠Q in the hope of cutting declarer off from dummy? You will be disappointed, because declarer has two more diamonds! If you duck the ♠K he will run for home with nine top tricks.

The purpose of this problem is to point out that it is not sufficient for defenders to agree that high-low on declarer's suit shows an even number. They should discuss precisely what cards to play from four small. Modern practice is to start with the second best and

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follow with the third best, so the ♦6 followed by the ♦5 is not consistent with a holding of ♦6 5 4 3. However, if you have said that your reasons for withholding the ♠A were that in your methods you start with the highest from four small than I must allow your answer as correct.

3)

♠ Q 7 5
♥ A
♦ A 7 6
♣ A 10 8 7 5 3

♠ J 2
♥ Q J 10 9
♦ K J 9
♣ Q 9 6 4

♠ K 10 9 8
♥ 8 7 5 3
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ 2

♠ A 6 4 3
♥ K 6 4 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K J

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass

Your ♥Q lead is taken by dummy's ♥A, East following suit with a discouraging ♥3. Declarer then leads the ♠3 from dummy to your partner's ♠2 and his ♠J.

This really isn't difficult. If you win the ♠Q declarer won't find it hard to take five clubs, the ♠A, the ♥A K and ♦A. Even if you attempt a Merrimac Coup by switching to the ♦K declarer will just allow it to hold, taking any diamond continuation with the ♦Q in his hand and preserving the ♦A in dummy as an entry for his clubs.

The defence that is almost certain to succeed is to allow the ♠J to hold. Declarer then lacks sufficient entries to dummy to establish and enjoy his club winners.

4)

♠ Q 8 7
♥ 5
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 10 8 5 4 3

♠ K J 10 6
♥ Q J 4 2
♦ A K 8
♣ 7 6

♠ 2
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 10 9 5 4 2
♣ Q J 9 2

♠ A 9 5 4 3
♥ A K 10 8 7
♦ J
♣ A K

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

You lead the ♦A, declarer following suit with the ♦J and partner playing the ♦2, showing an odd number of diamonds.

You need to try to cut down on heart ruffs in dummy. However, a switch to the ♠J doesn't work: dummy's ♠Q wins: ♥A K, heart ruff, club to ♠A, heart ruff, club to ♠K and declarer just cashes the ♠A and plays his winning heart.

Suppose you play a neutral club. Declarer wins ♠A, cashes ♠K and ♥A K, ruffs ♥7, ruffs a diamond, ruffs ♥8, ruffs a diamond and leads his last heart, leaving West helpless.

However try the effect of switching to the ♠K at trick two. Declarer wins the ♠A, cashes ♥A K and ruffs a heart, but if he tries to ruff another heart with the ♠Q West has three trump tricks. Declarer simply cannot arrange to come to 10 tricks.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Open: A J Wilson, Hadlow Kent

Regional: Brian O'Donnell, Great Somerford, Wiltshire

County: Goeff Lacey, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Bob Rowlands DOUBLES QUIZ

Answers from page 17

Dealer South. Game all

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	4♠	1♠

What do you bid with?

(a) ♠K 10 2 ♥5 2 ♦A Q J 6 ♣A J 8 5
Double – Expressing your desire to defend. If partner wants to remove the double he can, but this will stop partner sacrificing in 5♣ with, say, a 1-5-3-4 shape and moderate values.

(b) ♠- ♥A J 7 ♦K Q 9 5 ♣A K 10 8 6 3

4NT – In competitive auctions such as this 4NT should be a general takeout rather than ace asking. Whatever partner now chooses is likely to be your side's best contract.

(c) ♠A 7 4 ♥5 3 ♦Q 8 ♣A K 9 6 5 4
Pass – If 5♣ is right you must hope partner can bid it. Bidding 5♣ yourself is a wild gamble that could cost 800 or so, with no certainty that 4♣ can make.

(d) ♠2 ♥K Q 8 5 ♦J 10 ♣A K 9 8 4 2
5♥ – Risky, but with such strong heart support and good shape it is a reasonable gamble.



BOOK REVIEWS by Nick Smith

A perfect companion



Julian Pottage, *The Bridge Player's Companion*, pub. Apple Press, £12.99

This is one of the most beautifully produced bridge books I have ever seen, a real credit to Apple Press of Hove and Quarto Publishing of London. It's a spiral-bound hardback stuffed with photos and illustrated strategies for 'staying ahead of the game'. It aims to be the ultimate compendium for both beginners and more experienced card players. Indeed it covers everything from the first principles of

suits and scoring to scissors coups and strip squeezes. Outstanding value.

Augie Boehm, *Demon Defense and Demon Doubling*, pub. HNB New York, \$13.95

Professor August Boehm is one of America's most prolific writers and theorists, although his name is a little less familiar on this side of the pond. His specialism is a kind of Socratic dialogue between the august professor and Sally Fourth (chortle, chortle), a lesser player

who starts out with the attitude that 'defense is dullsville' and has to be coaxed into a more thoughtful approach to doubling and greater precision in defence.

Boehm claims that the Socratic method 'promotes thinking in a way that promulgating rules cannot'. True enough, but there are many other ways of exploring ideas and I found the formalised dialogue distracting.

Although the second half of the book is *Demon Doublin* (sic - the proofreading isn't great!), the accent is on the play of the hand throughout. Although patterns emerge, there is no systematic attempt to categorise doubling situations as penalties, takeout, or whatever, which is a shame, because that is an area in which most partnerships can improve.

R Jayaram, *Serendipity in Bridge*, SQueeZe Books, \$16.00

This is Book Three in the 'Two-Brain Bridge' series and I must confess that I had not come across this particular Indian master before. Barry Rigal compliments him on bringing players to our attention that we would otherwise not come across, as players in the sub-continent are not as well known to us as they should be. Well, quite. If you'd like to know more about the stirring deeds of B Prabhakar, Subhash Gupta and Sireen Barakat (of Jordan), you will not be disappointed by Jay, as he is affectionately known.

As the title suggests, *Serendipity's* common theme is the discovery of things you didn't know you were looking for some time in the middle of the play. As in his earlier books, he explores the relationship between logic and intuition, straying into neuro-science and philosophy as he goes. Not one for the faint-hearted, but perhaps you'll find it when you are looking for something else!

James S Kauder, *Return of the Bridge Philosopher*, SQueeZe Books, \$18.00

What is it with all these philosophers? Must every hand yield some sort of epistemological verity? Does the author need the extra initial to add a little gravitas to his picaresque tales? I doubt it.

Kauder is an accomplished analyst, affable and crotchety by turns, not afraid to use his stories as a soapbox. It is his hope 'that the publication of this book will persuade the ACBL to change the way it runs bridge tournaments. No one should be told that he must wait till a session is over to speak to a friend...' That's American bridge, Jim, but not as we know it.

Thirty years on from his original *Philosopher* collection, Kauder's strengths lie in speedy characterisation and snappy dialogue, featuring the Gorilla, the Sleep-deprived Man, the Dentist, and many others. But it may sell better in New York than it does here.

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By Fran Bramzel

OUR roll of honour continues to grow, as new names are added with almost every competition.

At the end of December one of our most popular members, Josie Boryn from East Sussex, won the first outing of a new competition, The Hands of Friendship. Designed so that the winner would play with as many people as possible in a 24 hour period, Josie played at least one board with 115 different online players. I think you will agree that was no mean feat.

First place in The Charity Memorial Pairs, sponsored by Oleochem Scotland and played in honour of the many good friends we have lost over the years, went to a Pakistan partnership. Their winnings were sent to the Shawkat Khanam Cancer Hospital in Lahore that was founded by Imran Khan.

The Timber Trophy knockout pairs was won by Chrys and Steve 8 (Chrys Poole and Steve Lee, both of Buckinghamshire), with Rupert and Mrs Bear (Patsi and Geoff Fielding from Powys), taking first place in the consolation Swiss.

Throughout 2007 Bridge Club Live will add even more features to the raft of competitions, as well as member, technical and social issues that we are already familiar with.

In addition to:

- A fully functioning ethics administration, with professional TDs and administrators, that protects, guides, rules and enforces best practices.
- A successful structure to welcome new members and guide new players around the website and into the playing areas.
- An ever-growing, member-led, support system to help less experienced players during supervised practice sessions.

There will be:

- Even more automated competitions.
- An increase in competitions available and functioning outside the UK time zone.
- A teaching facility that will offer all players anywhere in the world professional bridge teachers, as well as a web-based archive with lessons and other learning support features.
- Improved technical specification to speed up and simplify the online game (Our technical team members are tireless in their efforts to

provide what the members ask for).

The competitions schedule offers something for everyone and the widest possible variety of bridge is on the menu, many events offering OMPs to EBU members.) Teams, individuals, pairs, flighted competitions, imps and mps are all available on a regular basis - organised by our competitions team headed up by Tramp.

This year we are especially pleased to include a new tournament for our less experienced players. Every Wednesday at 8pm there is an automated 16 board improvers' tournament. What's so special? Well, entry is restricted to non-expert players as defined by the club's own system. Our highest rated players will not be in competition with 'newbies' who, as a result, can enjoy a regular event where they will learn about competitions and compete against others of a similar standard to themselves.

Add that to the very well supported supervised practice sessions on Mondays at 9am and again at 9pm and our growing group of novices and beginners is pointing itself firmly in the direction of the more established players.

Moving from beginners to serious contenders, Michael Byrne, newly appointed manager of the England under 20 squad, has been made an honorary member of Bridge Club Live. The membership documents were handed over by Ed (Whoopsie) Scerri, who caught up with Michael at Peebles, Scotland, in December. Ed is a key member of the club and of the BCL management team.

Access to BCL will facilitate Michael's new role, as most of the junior squad members (who may have been geographically separated from partners/team-mates while away at university) now play regularly in the club and find the facilities invaluable in the development of their systems and agreements.

We wish Michael every success in his endeavours.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CBA & HEREFORDSHIRE BA

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SUNDAY 17TH JUNE

Swiss Teams – 11.00am

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Entries accepted by email

In the picture

Josie Boryn played
bridge with 115
different
online to win
Bridge Club Live's
newest
competition.
See the club's
report on
page 35



Pictured below: David
and Marion Branson
with their trophy as
the latest winners of
Suffolk's annual
novices event. See
Suffolk news page 43



Patsi and Geoff Fielding (above),
known in Bridge Club Live as Rupert
and Mrs Bear, were prizewinners in
the club's Timber Trophy event. See
page 35



Alaric Cundy, Jill and Roger Tattersfield and Chris Megahey,
winners of the Essex 60th anniversary Swiss teams, for the Tony
Kelvin Trophy. See Essex report page 39

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COUNTY NEWS

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Mr M D Huggins

1 Star Regional Master
Mr S J T Stafford

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Ms J Griffiths-Baker

7 Star Premier Master
Mr T Purches

2 Star Master
Mrs S Stevens

Advanced Master
Mr P Keightley

Master
Miss E E Barwell

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Mr A Snell

District Master
Dr G M Allan

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Bedfordshire

10 Star Regional Master
Mr B E Taylor

Berks & Bucks

1 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr D R Small

11 Star Regional Master
Mr R Sheridan

2 Star Regional Master
Mr D N Hudson

1 Star Regional Master
Dr E Brennan

12 Star Premier Master
Mrs CE Moir

5 Star Premier Master
Mrs A Banner

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Mrs A Miller

Mr J L Miller
Mr M Scott

Premier Master
Mrs MJ Summerfield

5 Star Master
Mr I Adnams

Mrs B Sinclair-Brown

4 Star Master
Mr WA Wells

3 Star Master
Mrs J M Turpie

2 Star Master
Mrs C Bell

Mrs J Greaves
Mr EB Holmes

Mr S Mian

1 Star Master
Ms JR Day

Mrs U Henzell
Mrs H Hoskins

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Mr M Fraser

Master
Mr RK Donnelly

Mr K Hawkins
Mr M Stroud

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Mrs E Merlyn

Mr J Pendered
District Master

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Cheetham
Mr L Ellis

Mr R Findlow
Mr R Knowland

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Mr R Razzak

Mrs E A
Treadgold

Mrs J Turpin

Congratulations to the newly promoted Premier Grand Masters...

Mrs C Draper of Kent

Mr J M Mason of Leicester

...and the newly promoted Grand Masters

Mr W T Oke of Devon
Dr H L Wayne of Dorset

Mrs P P Serby of Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Avon

www.avonba.org.uk

IT is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Lewis Morton and Mark Peers.

Lewis was a former chairman of the West of England Bridge Club and enthusiastic supporter of county bridge, as well as a regular director at club level. Lewis was originally from Preston, but lived in Bristol for most of his life. He had a continual battle with diabetes. We extend our sympathies to his family.

Mark Peers was also primarily a West of England player, but in addition played at Tudor Bridge Club and at county and national level. We extend our condolences to his wife Anita and family.

Lewis and Mark had many close mutual friends, mainly at the West of England club and we extend our sympathies in particular to Damian Nicholls, a regular bridge partner of both players.

The Avon Tollemache team of Mike Elliott, Tim Brierley, Duncan Cairns, David Jones, Graham Hartley, Richard Dunn, Andrew and Cathy Smith, Robert Covill and Aidan Schofield came a creditable third in their nine-team group and were in contention for a final place throughout.

Congratulations to Mike Elliott and Tim Brierley on their fine seventh place in the Swiss pairs at Brighton.

The field comprised almost 500 pairs and included many international players. This follows on from their eighth place in the same event the previous year.

In the Crockfords Cup Avon's Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith and Steve Tomlinson have reached round three. Also through to this round is a team that

includes Avon's Duncan Cairns and David Jones.

The championship teams, first county event of the season, was held at Bath BC and attracted eight teams. The winners were Graham Hartley, Richard Dunn, Duncan Cairns and David Jones.

At the EBU's overseas congress in Turkey the teams championship was won by Peter Sherry and Brian Dyde, playing with Celia and Derek Oram from Hertfordshire. Congratulations to them.

The Spielman Cup (Bristol BC pairs championship) has been won by June Forte and David Hamper.

Bristol Bridge Club's Christmas Swiss teams (Samuels Trophy) resulted in a popular win for Pauline Morris, Phillip Bradshaw, David Gregory and Peter Owens.

The county leagues have 18 teams comprising three divisions as follows: division one Tony Gammon, Diane Harris, Graham Hartley, David Jones, Mike O'Brien and Andrew Smith; division two Christine Bickerstaff, Pat Chant, Mike Davies, Gerry Gowing, Damian Nicholls and Eric Page; division three Tim Butler, Brian Dury, John Doran, Karen Monaghan, Sue O'Hara and Mark Reeve.

Sixteen teams entered the county knockout event and in the first round Robert Covill beat David Jones, Colin Cheek beat Eric Page, Diane Harris beat Mark Reeve, Christine Bickerstaff beat Mike O'Brien, Karen Monaghan beat Tim Butler and Andrew Smith beat John Doran. Phil Green v Mike Davies and Brian Goalby v Damian Nicholls were the remaining first round matches.

The county mixed teams took place at Bristol BC and the winners were Sandra

Cooper, Deborah Ogilvie, Mike Davies and Mike Elliott.

At the Somerset Congress in Weston Super Mare Andrew, Cathy and Ralph Smith, with Steve Tomlinson came second in the Swiss teams.

David Jones was a member of the winning team in the Welsh National men's teams, playing with three Welsh internationals.

Mark Reeve has stepped down as Western League convenor for the county and Margaret Harris has taken on responsibility.

Berks and Bucks

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

IN division one of the league of eight, New Amersham A and Reading B had won all their matches at the halfway stage. In Division two Burnham A had also won all of their first four matches, but were lying second to Thame A, who won their first two matches convincingly. Captains are reminded that league of eight results can now be entered directly on to the website. Prompt submission of results helps to keep the league tables up to date.

Friendly pairs 1 John Clarke and Thelma Wall, 2 John Thrower and Hilda Hope, 3 Erica and Christopher Sheppard; county teams qualifier 1 James Bond, Joyce Baldock, Nigel Dent and John Greenhalgh, 2 Richard Palmer, Richard Davey, Peter and Dee Lindon, 3 Ian Reissman, Peter Hawkes, Mike Perkins and John Howard; married pairs 1 Russell Brown and Pat Hamilton-Brown, 2 Dory and Nigel Thompson, 3 Amanda and Tony Hawthorn; mixed Swiss teams for the Carole Mueller Trophy 1 Carole and Herb Mueller, David Perkins and Philip Thornton, 2 June Booty, Brian McMillan, John England and Chris Cooper, 3 Alan Boothroyd, Pauline Serby, Nigel Lancaster and Nigel Marlow.

Diary dates: March 4 club teams final; March 25 national newcomers pairs heat, Lane End; April 1 club pairs final; April 18 novice pairs, SBBC; April 25 seniors' pairs, SBBC; April 29 friendly pairs.

The county website contains details of all current events and location maps.

Channel Islands

www.gtonline.net/community/ciba

FIRST of all apologies to three Jersey players who were runners up in the Swiss teams at the Guernsey Congress and were missed from our last report. Brian Youd and Sue Rankin and Marion Miles playing with Andrew Thompson put up a very fine performance. Well done team and sorry you were left out.

The big event in the Islands since then was the Inter Insular Teams, in which Guernsey carried off the honours in both the A and B matches. Although Jersey managed to reduce the margins after falling well behind in the first half,



A message about logos and deadlines

WITH a view to adding a little visual interest to the county news pages the editor has been contacting contributors inviting them to supply a copy of their county logo to use alongside the reports. The logos shown here are those that have been received to date. Some counties do not at present have a logo, but that does not mean things have to stay that way. Already several are considering creating one. The

editor's aim is to achieve a complete set! Please see what you can do in your county.

Deadline date for the receipt of copy for the April edition of English Bridge is February 26. Please try to comply with this date and let the editor know if for any reason you need a little grace (englishbridge@internet-today.co.uk). Photographs of events in your county are always welcome.

Master Point promotions

Club Master
Mrs I Bakewell
Ms E Foster
Mr PV Scrivener
Mr M Williamson
Mr T Williamson

Cambs & Hunts

National Master
Mrs M C Burrows
8 Star Regional Master
Mr P Morgan

3 Star Tournament Master

Mr JJA Wood
Mrs M Wood
3 Star Master
Mr A Edwards
1 Star Master
Mr IG Hill
Mr JC Lambden
Master
Mrs LM Mason

Cornwall

12 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr SF Collings

5 Star Master
Mrs D V Pritchard

4 Star Master
Mrs M D Walker

2 Star Master
Mr R J Eaton
Mrs EA Williams

Master
Mr P C Scott
Mr W F P
Thomson

Club Master
Mr C Roose

Cumbria

3 Star Premier Master

Mrs I Moritz
1 Star Premier Master
Mrs B Bullamore

Premier Master
Mr A James

4 Star Master
Mr G J Maskall
Mr ID Smith

3 Star Master
Mrs L Murray

Club Master
Dr K Longstaff

Derbyshire

Premier National Master
Mrs A Grimsey

4 Star Regional Master
Mr G Alderman

4 Star Premier Master
Mr R E Floutier

2 Star Master
Mrs A Barnett

1 Star Master
Mr MP Heaney

County Master
Mrs A R Beecroft

Devon

Grand Master
Mr WT Oke

Life Master
Miss C Lee

Premier National Master
Mr C Rogers

National Master
Mr F Akyol

3 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs AM Husk

5 Star Regional Master
Mrs MC Hugo

2 Star Regional Master
Mr R Lingham

12 Star Premier Master
Mr B Cook

9 Star Premier Master
Mr D Gilbert
Mrs C Taylor

5 Star Premier Master
Mrs P Ward

2 Star Premier Master
Dr P Wood

1 Star Premier Master
Mr C Stares

12 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs G Wiseman

4 Star Master
Mrs C R Elberg

1 Star Master
Miss N Sandom

Master
Mrs R Caddy
Mr I J Dalrymple

County Master
Mrs EM Elliot
Mr C J Ley

District Master
Mr J Abbott
Dr M Dalton

Club Master
Mrs J E Ridgewell
Mr B Williamson

Club Master
Mr KRC Evans
Mrs M Strachan

Direct Premier Regional Master
Mr R Luchford

Club Master
Mrs M E Cross
Mr J Mitchell

Dorset
Mrs J C Rostollan

Grand Master
Dr H L Wayne

Premier National Master
Mrs P Hirst
Mrs J Norman

5 Star Regional Master
Mr RD Andrews

4 Star Regional Master
Mrs ML Stebbing

Tournament Master
Mrs JP Reeves

5 Star Master
Mr C Marsh

Advanced Master
Mrs A J Lungmuss

Master
Mrs N I Willis

County Master
Mrs E Rundle

Club Master
Mr P G Birch

Essex
Life Master
Mrs S C Smith

4 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs LV Seymour

Premier Regional Master
Mr C J Chorley

9 Star Regional Master
Mr R Bright

9 Star Premier Master
Mr D Piper

6 Star Premier Master
Mr J C Birch

10 Star Tournament Master
Mr AW Fifield

2 Star Tournament Master
Mr E A L Stuart-Jones

1 Star Tournament Master
Mrs DJ Warner

5 Star Master
Mr N R Smith

3 Star Master
Mr M Cooper
Mrs CM Love

2 Star Master
Mrs M Beecher
Mr T J Connell

1 Star Master
Mrs L V Moran
Mrs J M Taylor

1 Star Master
Mrs JKT
Drinkwater

2 Star Master
Mrs M Perry
Mrs V Quinlan

Club Master
Mr DB Rundle
Mr K Wallace

Advanced Master
Mrs J White

Master
Mrs R J Clegg
Mr J R Court

Major A J Field
Mr A F S Deeley

County Master
Ms W Logan
Mr J M Patel

Mr L Platt
Mr A Rogers

Mrs D M Sparks
Mrs D M Sparks

County Master
Mr C Gilbert

District Master
Mr R Orange
Ms J Simmons

Gloucestershire
Premier National Master
Mr KA Rahim

7 Star Regional Master
Mr T D Beach

10 Star Premier Master
Mrs OSE Davies

5 Star Master
Mr TW Goddard

2 Star Master
Mrs D Vowles

1 Star Master
Mrs D H Cronin
Mr G Thompson

Advanced Master
Mrs EP Grieves
Mrs L Stewart

Master

Mr D J Amery
Mr J Dewhurst
Mr J Stirrup

County Master
Mrs A Bruckshaw

District Master
Mr APD Coombes
Mrs M Lander

Club Master
Mr R G Miles

Hants and IoW
Grand Master
Mrs PP Serby

Life Master
Mr OG Leigh

15 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr WR Boswell

1 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr D Spencer

4 Star Premier Master
Mr D Exell

3 Star Tournament Master
Mrs AR Chill

Tournament Master
Mr G Quinton

4 Star Master
Mr S Appleby
Mr N Coulson

3 Star Master
Mr C Bury
Mr J W Pearson

2 Star Master
Mrs G F Benton
Mr B R Jubb

1 Star Master
Mrs S Ruffell
Mr DJG Banks

Mr S Mundy
Mrs S Mundy
Mr AJ Wagg

Advanced Master
Mrs S Gorley
Mrs S Shapland

Master
Major A J Field

County Master
Mr C T Broughton
Pipkin

Mrs G Greenslade
Mr R B Hutchings
Mr J Knight

District Master
Mr W J Davies
Mrs L Diaper

Mrs J N Hammond
Mr F McLeod
Mrs J McRobert

Club Master
Mrs E Baldwin
Mr W G Gunston

Mrs J A Gunston
Mr P J Humphreys
Mrs D LB

Sissingh
Herefordshire
4 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs JA Shadforth

1 Star Regional Master
Mr R Underhill

5 Star Premier Master
Wg.Cdr N Shorrick

2 Star Master
Mr J Poole

Guernsey held on well to win the A match by 88imps and the B match by 20imps.

Best performances were by Lynda Mildon, Colin Tostevin, Andy Hall and Mike Allen with 94imps for the As and Margaret and Peter Keeling, Brenda Lihou and Brenda Walker who scored 89 for the Bs.

The score in the first team match now stands at 18-17 to Guernsey since the contest started 35 years ago.

Although it is not quite the same thing Jersey got some compensation when they took the top three places in the Channel Islands county open pairs. David Friswell and David Hole were first, Jane Knight and Chris Hill put up a very good performance to be second and Harold Walden and Carl Harrison were third. Guernsey's best pair, in fourth place, were Lynne Williamson and John Robert.

In domestic competitions Guernsey's mixed pairs was won by Winifred de Putron and Hugh Bacon by a wide margin from Brenda Walker and Dick Langham.

In Jersey the Highfield club teams championship was won by Gwyneth Fauvel, Sheila Harrison, Carl Harrison and Harold Walden, while Guernsey's Island Bridge Club teams was won by Brenda Walker, Brenda Lihou David Trestain, Pat Merriman and Dick Langham.

Finally, and very sadly, we have to report the death of Jan Dorey. Jan was not only a good player, but was a very efficient county and Jersey district secretary for many years.

Cornwall

www.jkeast.freeserve.co.uk

THE autumn competitions have been dominated by a small group of players who have been among the leaders several times.

The popular county Swiss teams, played at the Queen's Hotel, Penzance, was won by Jo Brown, Wendy Brown, Bill Thomson and Rob Mabley, with Jan and Ken Keast, Rod Bell and Ian Macfarlane a close second and John Finch, Dave Mattos, Jill and David Newton third.

We returned to Ladock for the Bee Clarke Memorial pivot teams, which was won by Sallie Green, Rob Mabley, Bill Thomson and Barrie Benfield. As this team had won the Kingsbridge Swiss teams only a short while before, Bill and Rob had achieved the unusual feat of winning three consecutive competitions – and Bill has been playing serious bridge for only three years. Ken and Jan Keast were again a close second, this time with Joe Bryant and Mick Robson, while John and Pauline Deal, Janet Heath and Margaret Warner were third.

John Harnett points out that, according to the printed results, he finished equal sixth in this competition, a truly amazing achievement as he was in New Zealand at the time. And he is still waiting for his 30 Master Points! (Perhaps they were given to John Hardisty.)

Our next venue was Lanhydrock Golf Club for the Bodmin Swiss pairs, won narrowly by Ian Hopkins and Maureen Baser, with a three-way tie for second. Appropriately this included John King, who organises this competition, and John Finch, who does so much of the essential donkeywork. They were bracketed with Mike Booth and Pat Meade, and John Vaughan and Roger Eaton. Last year, with a different partner, Roger was the winner.

Falmouth Swiss pairs, the first competition to be held in the club's new hall, resulted in another narrow victory, this time for Jan and Ken Keast (who were regaining the trophy). Laurie Burley, who organises this competition, partnered

Keith Warren to be second and Dave and Dommie Boxall were third.

The Charles Gerry Cup for men's and women's teams of four produced yet another close finish, with Mike Booth, Colin Pote, Roger Eaton and Martin Turner beating Lawrence Haynes, Geoff Warren, Rob Mabley and Bill Thomson, three of whom were in last year's winning team. Mick Robson, Dave Stone, Ken Keast and Wally Heaton were third.

The number of tables at these competitions has been encouraging and we must congratulate those who have organised these events, especially Pauline Deal, who handled entries for three of them.

In November Wadebridge said farewell to John and Gwen Tremain, who were founder members of the club. They played nearly every week and were always there to set up tables and distribute paperwork. John was an excellent chairman for a number of years.

Diary dates: February 4 county teams of four, Ladock; February 11 Penventon Swiss pairs, Penventon Hotel, Redruth; February 18 club teams of eight, Ladock; March 4 John Perks Cup qualifying heat, Ladock.

Cumbria

www.ccdba.co.uk

OUR county teams of four was won by Mike Ash, Ian Reeves, Ken Johnson and Colin Smith with a score of 45 vps. Second, just 2vps behind, were John McLachlan, Bruce Denwood, Glenda Lloyd and Peter Boardman.

We entered the Tollemache qualifier for 2006 and our team was justifiably pleased with one of our best results ever. We finished fourth, with our usual dip on Saturday evening at the end of a long day, what with our travel from the frozen north.

Two of our county events take place in February. On the fourth is the championship pairs and on the 25th the pivot teams, both in Keswick and both starting at 1pm.

The Cumbria Congress is from March 16-18 at the Castle Inn near Keswick. Further details from Janet Sheppard on 01900 821421.

Devon

www.devonbridge.co.uk

IT is with great sadness that we report the death of Kevin Slee. He had been ill for some time, but was able to enjoy bridge until recently.

Kevin was a stalwart of the DBA, organising and helping to run local events. He served on the county committee for many years and worked hard behind the scenes, willingly and cheerfully giving up his time to help with all aspects of bridge.

In recognition of this, Kevin was made a life member of the association last year. With his wife Ann he was extremely successful in competitions, both in Devon and further afield. He represented the county on numerous occasions and was a very loyal supporter of DBA events. He and Ann were joint winners of the Victor Ludorum countless times. Kevin will be sorely missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to Ann and their sons.

Many congratulations to Alan and Jetta Bailey on winning the championship pairs at the National Seniors Congress from an entry of 130.

Congratulations also to Maureen Baser and Ian Hopkins on winning the Bodmir Swiss pairs.

Master Point promotions

1 Star Master
Mr B Snell

Master
Mr G R Baker

County Master
Mrs Y Wilken

District Master
Mr N Edmondson

Mr C Funke
Mrs J G Funke
Mr D J Furnival
Mrs P T Whittall

Club Master
Mrs J Knipe
Mrs M H Russell

Hertfordshire

2 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs AE Corlett

2 Star Regional
Master
Mrs S Ellis

6 Star Premier
Master
Dr C Eveleigh

4 Star Premier
Master
Mrs J Vos

1 Star Premier
Master
Mr E Cirket

5 Star Master
Mrs M Ainsworth
Mr R Ainsworth

4 Star Master
Mr M C Barnett
Mrs S A Goldsmith

2 Star Master
Mrs ML Bolton
Mrs L Jones
Mrs S H Tucker

1 Star Master
Mrs PJ Browne
Mrs V R Hayes
Mrs MP Wishart

Advanced
Master
Mr R Bourne
Mr CPP Byron
Mr B Hassell
Mrs P Hassell
Mr N Lewis

Master
Mr J Hanlon
Mr D Reid
Mr R Senior
Mr C J Thomas

County Master
Mrs M Beckley
Mrs A Futerman
Mr M Futerman
Mrs F V Paterson

District Master
Mr T McCann
Ms J Mumford
Mrs M Wynn

Isle of Man

Master
Mrs F E Simons

Kent

Premier Grand
Master
Mrs C Draper

Premier Life
Master
Mrs C Kempton

Premier National
Master
Mrs K L Pryor

6 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr GF Foreman

4 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mrs PE Butler

1 Star Premier
Regional Master
Mr D W Steele

11 Star Premier
Master
Mr MD Harper

6 Star Premier
Master
Mrs M Phillips

5 Star Premier
Master
Mrs A S M Jeffery

Premier Master
Mr M Bourne

2 Star
Tournament
Master
Mrs JT Simms

Tournament
Master
Mr D J Tyrell
Mrs C J Whyman

4 Star Master
Mr H Burnett
Mrs EA Fox
Mr CPM Francis

3 Star Master
Mrs H H Ford
Mr RE Hover
Mrs N Mace

2 Star Master
Mrs D F Baxter
Mr D N Parkinson

1 Star Master
Mr O Jamall
Mr MJW Pearson
Mrs J V Wilson

Advanced
Master
Mrs M Godden
Mr S M Hogg
Mrs N L Horsman
Mr N D Robinson

Master
Dr C J Brian
Mrs S Child
Mrs M Gibson
Mr K D Harrap
Mrs K Morgan
Ms T Musgrave

County Master
Mrs M Ashford
Mrs M D A Davies
Mrs C A Rees
Mr C M Wall

District Master
Dr A H W Bain
Mr J Kinlay

Club Master
Mrs S Brown
Mr J S Chapman
Mr B Forty
Mr C Sawyer
Mr C Scoones
Mrs J A Scoones
Mr T Sherwen
Mr R W Thomson

Lancashire

Premier Life
Master
Mr PD Sizer

Premier National
Master
Mr JM Morrell

National Master
Mrs B Heaton

The popular Torquay Bridge Club Congress was held at the Palace Hotel again and continues to go from strength to strength. Results: championship pairs 1 Robert and Jacqueline Baker, 2 Maria Budd and Malcolm Harris, 3 John Beard and Michael Hamon; Marjorie Bean Cup 1 Roy Button and Karima Basse, 2 Andy and Cathy Smith, 3 Oya Konuralp and Sue Grant; Wotton Printers Trophy 1 John Osmond and Pat Hore, 2 John Gardner and Margot Wilson, 3 Jeanine Keith and Gwen Watkins; consolation pairs 1 Michael Booth and Colin Pote, 2 Ruth Edmondson and Brigid McElroy, 3 Vera Smith and Helen Bryant; Swiss teams 1 Timothy Mantle, Patricia Mantle, David Gilbert and Alan Beard, 2 David Hugo, Mary Hugo, David Stone and Valerie Pitman, 3 Colin Floyd, Lesley Floyd, Brian Greenwood and Pat Ashford; mixed pairs 1 Alan and Jette Bailey, 2 Jenny Flood and Phil Palmer, 3 Titch Glenday and Dick Andrews; Flitch Warner and Louise Solomon.

The annual Torquay Bridge Club Swiss pairs attracts players from throughout the county, certainly in part due to the superb food on offer. Results 1 Robin and Margaret Mardlin, 2 Bob Blackmore and Ann Slee, equal 2 John Harriman and John Vajda.

Diary dates: February 10-11 Southern section Petit Congress; February 25 Devon pairs final (Julia Chadwick); March 18 EBU Portland Pairs heat; April 13-15 Devon County Congress.

Essex

www.essexbridge.co.uk



SADLY we report the death of Bob Allen, who was our county tournament secretary for five years. This was a job Bob carried out extremely efficiently and courteously. He always dealt successfully with various problems in a quiet and pleasant manner, enabling events to run very smoothly. He was also a tournament director at Hutton BC for a number of years and played in many Essex and national events, including county matches on several occasions. Bob will be missed by all and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Daphne and family.

On a happier note, the 60th anniversary of the Essex CBA was commemorated with a day of celebration, centred on the Tony Kelvin Trophy. This is a Swiss teams event, with a break for lunch with wine and celebration cake.

Monty Krimholtz and Bob Bowman were national winners of the Wednesday heat of the BGB autumn sim pairs, with John Williams and David Cooper the runners-up – many congratulations.

Essex players also took five of the 11 top places in the Eastern Counties (David Boston) simultaneous pairs. Charles and Pat Read were second, Jill Day and Susan Everitt sixth, Geoffrey Mann and Theresa Fitzgerald seventh, Mary Homer and Roger Bright ninth and Michael Watson and Jacek Lapszys 11th. A total of 168 Essex pairs took part and £672 was raised, which has been donated to the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Results of recent Essex competitions are as follows: seniors' pairs 1 Tessa Beer and Ray Cornell, 2 Brian Robinson and Paddy Murray, 3 Margaret Curtis and David Sherman; Tony Kelvin Trophy 1 Roger Tattersfield, Jill Tattersfield, Alaric Cundy and Chris Megahey, 2 Val Mollison, Paul Mollison, Steve Cade-Bowyer and David Cooper, 3 Margaret Curtis, David Sherman, Sid Prince and Nigel Bardsley;

winter novices pairs, intermediate level 1 Rick Westover and Veronica O'Brien, 2 Trevor Archer and Carol Archer, 3 Bryan and Jill Booth; winter novices pairs, beginner level 1 Peter Baker and Ralph Colling, 2 Bobbie Hall and Ellen Davies, 3 John McKie and Clive De Brugn; mixed pairs 1 Ann Segal and Frank Morrison, 2 Ann Savory and Ray Clarke, 3 Mary Homer and Tom Fox, flitch winners Angela and Bill West.

Diary dates: February 4 Essex non-expert pairs; March 14 Essex Spring Seniors; March 23 Gwen Herga trophies; March 25 National newcomers heats.

Hants and IoW

hantsbridge.org



ON April 1 there are No Fear competitions at Romsey and on the Isle of Wight. This is a good time to play for those members who enjoy competitive bridge, but do not feel able to take on the top county players, as these events are limited to players below the rank of Regional Master. It is not even necessary to be an EBU member, so tell your friends and come along. Our entries secretary, Lillian, will be pleased to answer any queries you may have and you must contact her with your entry at least a week before, although late entries will always be taken if possible.

County results: Jubilee Cup teams of eight 1 John Jones, Mac Nurmohamed, Bo Deyal, Mike Gwilliam, Steve Hurst, Karen Dewar, Mac Lowcock and Chris Barrable, 2 Stuart Strachan, Bill Weeks, Lyn Kirby, Lynne Hall, Ann McMahon, Evelyn Archer, Liz Madeley and Enid Spragett; Simple systems pairs 1 Janet Smith and Geoff Bailey, 2 Marilyn and Mike Mollett-Rogerson, 3 Inge Westwood and Nigel Foster; Bloxham Swiss teams 1 Stuart Strachan, Eleanor Rice, Madeline Lawson and Mac Nurmohamed, 2 John Dakin, Richard Harris, Chris and Richard Ray, 3 John Jones, Bo Deyal, Chris McNiven and Mac Lowcock; Roll of Honour pairs 1 John Carter and Wolf Klewe, 2 Nick Press and Charlie Chisnell, 3 John Moore and Pauline Serby; charity event 1 John Moore and Kathy Vaile, 2 Pauline Serby and Peter Cherrett, 3 Chris Waye and Jeroam Wieland; Yuletide mini-Swiss teams 1 Barbara and Bill Boswell, Celia Carter and Brian Stapleton, 2 Lesley Lewis, Dave Willis, Tim Dinsby and Chris Guy, 3 Guy Lawrenson, Kathy Vaile, Pauline Serby and Eleanor Rice.

Diary dates: February 8 IBM simultaneous pairs, clubs; February 11 Valentine mini-Swiss teams; February 25 pivot teams; March 17 Pottage semi-final A, Andover 2pm; March 25 Candover mini-Swiss teams; April 1 Bayer No-Fear pairs (plus IoW heat)/Pottage semi-final B (check time); April 15 Pottage final 1pm and Farley Trophy pairs 1.30pm; April 22 Phillip Graham Swiss teams. Unless otherwise listed all the above will be held at Romsey starting at 2pm. Entries to Lillian Craigen at events2@hantsbridge.org or 02380 254276.

Herefordshire

www.herefordshirebridge.com

THE performance of the county team in the Tollemache qualifying round was encouraging and a definite improvement on the results of recent years. The team won three and drew one of its eight matches.

After two rounds of the inter-club teams of four, Hereford E is in the lead

with 84vps, followed by Leominster with 79 and Ross D with 75.

Ben and Tom Paske (members of Hereford and Wyese bridge clubs) were in the England under 20s team that came second to France in the Junior Channel Trophy competition played in Lille. The England team won four of its six matches and drew one. Their only loss was in one of their two head-to-head matches with the winners, France.

County competition results: ladies' pairs for the Lambe Corner Salver 1 S Munday and C Brown, 2 L Delahay and M Panniers, 3 S Dowle and G Goddard; men's pairs for the Country Gentlemen's Association Trophy 1 P Edwards and M Cox, 2 B Meadows and G Ling, 3 A Brown and D Munday.

Herefordshire clubs were strong supporters of the Children in Need sim pairs this year. Best results were by Peter Watts and John Griffiths at Wyese (67.8% and 13th position) and by Marjorie Archer and Greta Dallimore at the Bromyard club (66.1% and 17th).

Diary dates: February 2 No Fear teams (no more than one player ranked Advanced Master or above), Bartestree Village Hall 7pm; February 11 Swiss pairs, Tarrington Community Hall 10.30am; March 16 inter-club teams, round four, Ledbury Community Centre 7pm; club teams of eight, Tarrington Community Hall 2pm; March 31 multiple teams of four, Tarrington Community Hall 10.30 am.

Kent

www.kcba.org.uk



IN the NICKO, Catherine Draper, Ian Draper, Anne Rosen and Neil Rosen won their semi-final match and went through to meet the 77 Club A team in the final.

Kent is pioneering one day Green Point bracketed teams competitions. The rules have been agreed with EBU tournaments manager Max Bavin and the first event is to take place at the University of Kent in March. See the website for the full rules. Secretary Brian Crack has written an article on this unique event in this magazine.

Barbara Evans and Terry Jack of the Aces club were the top Kent pair in the David Boston charity simultaneous pairs.

The pairs title at the Malvern Congress went to John Amor, with partner Richard Currie.

Maidstone Bridge Club held a successful Christmas Swiss teams with 22 tables in play. Results: first division (Westbrook Trophy) 1 D Kendrick, P Collins, D Stretton and J Cullingworth, 2 G Ford, J Henderson, R Bird and I Galletti; second division (Bob King Trophy) 1 Roselyne Willemetz, Marie Jeane Bollier, Liliane Glot and Jacques Descamps, 2 Hilary Havre, Cherelyn Howarth, Peter Stacey and Christine Stacey.

The Count to 13 Club is staging a teams of eight competition for Kent clubs this spring. Contact John Cullingworth at jc@count213.com for details.

Diary dates: February 18 George Griffiths Cup, seniors pairs, Tunbridge Wells 11am; February 23 Larkspur Cup, Kent pairs championship, Canterbury heat; February 26 Larkspur Cup Beckenham heat; February 27 Larkspur Cup Ashford heat; March 11 Green Point bracketed teams, University of Kent 1pm; April 15 Larkspur Cup final, Tunbridge Wells 11am.

Any Kent club bridge news for this column should be sent to Alison Burt alison@cherrytc.co.uk

Master Point promotions

3 Star Regional Master
Mr M M Richman
Mrs S Richman

1 Star Regional Master
Dr JA Kirby

8 Star Premier Master
Mrs P Cox

Premier Master
Mr J Duck
Mrs V Petrie

5 Star Master
Mrs D Gilbert

1 Star Master
Mrs JF Dutton
Mr R B Halsall

Advanced Master
Mrs SJ Hampson
Mrs B R Lawless

Master
Mrs C Munro
Mrs M Nelthorpe
Mrs JA Solomon
Mr H Stansfield

County Master
Mr R A Pinson
Mr R I Robinson

District Master
Mr B Cooperthwaite
Mr J Gooch

Club Master
Mrs P Dukinfield

Leicestershire Premier Grand Master
Mr J M Mason

Premier National Master
Mr TE Hyde

5 Star Master
Mr DN Petrie

3 Star Master
Mrs R Payne

1 Star Master
Mrs JP Benton

Advanced Master
Mrs G Chivers
Mrs A Crispin
Mr P Newton
Mrs M Williams

Master
Mrs M V Gibson

County Master
Mrs O McClain

District Master
Ms M Sperrings

Club Master
Mrs G Skinner
Prof H Yang
Mrs K Yang

Lincolnshire

10 Star Premier Master
Mrs R Hancock

1 Star Tournament Master
Mrs MA Green

3 Star Master
Mr A B Barlow
Mrs MM Blakeney
Mrs DM Dickinson
Mr J M Sizer

1 Star Master
Mr J S Hill
Miss M Milnes

Advanced Master
Mrs J S Gardner

Master
Mr P Ison

County Master
Mr J C Farmer

District Master
Mrs SP Rouse

Club Master
Ms H Dunning

London

National Master
Mr J Wickens

1 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr K Barnett

Premier Regional Master
Mr N Davidson
Mr L Porter

2 Star Premier Master
Mr K Jackson

Premier Master
Mr T W Pelling
Ms D J Sandford

4 Star Tournament Master
Mrs E A C Freeman

1 Star Tournament Master
Mrs S Cooper

2 Star Master
Mr M Galgut
Mr DS Glass

Advanced Master
Mrs A E Alridge
Ms S M Taylor

Master
Mrs D Green
Mr D J Moseley
Mr D A Nelson

County Master
Mr G Hart
Mrs C Warren

District Master
Mrs S Cowen
Mr J Drummond

Club Master
Mrs I E Loat

Manchester

Life Master
Mr D Audley

National Master
Mrs Y Atherton
Mrs P Clarke
Mr MJPA Hodgson

3 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr N G Clarke

2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr N J K Thomas

4 Star Regional Master
Mr C Cull

3 Star Premier Master
Mr E Humphrey

Premier Master
Mr G M Fink
Mr C Skelton

Lancashire

www.lancsbridge.co.uk



THE Lancashire team finished fourth out of 10 counties in its Tollemache qualifier behind Manchester, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. The team was Nick and Sue Woodcock, Tony and Alexander Wilkinson, Paul Fearnhead, Gareth Roberts, Austin Barnes, Stuart Norris, Stephen Haley and Mike Nicholson.

The selection committee for next year will be Austin Barnes, Tony Woollin and Barry Brelsford. They will take responsibility for the A team, B team and C team respectively.

LCBA Congress Swiss teams 1 Colin Mitchell, Bill Alston, Andrew Woodcock and Andrew Petrie, 2 John and Judy Brearley, Clive and Barbara Henderson, 3 George and Maureen McConkey, Monica Cartwright and Alan Wilkinson.

Bury Athenaeum Swiss teams 1 David Audley, Frank Brown, Neil Thomas and Gillian McMullan, 2 Gary Hyett, Brian Cornelius, John Holland and Boris Ewart, 3 Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Kevin and Celia Comri.

Lytham Rose Bowl final 1 David Olliver and Ian Kane, 2 Pauline Holden and Ken Renno, 3 Derek Williams and Bill Winter.

Diary dates: February 4, LCBA championship pairs, Blackburn Bridge Club; February 11 Doyle Trophy Swiss teams, Southport Bridge Club; February 18, LCBA teams-of-eight championship, Bury Athenaeum; February 23-25, EBU Spring Congress, Harrogate; March 3-4 EBU Ranked Masters pairs, Kettering; March 16-18 Cumbria Congress, Bassenthwaite; March 25 Sowerby Cup, Lancaster Bridge Club; March 1 Bury Spring Swiss pairs, Bury Athenaeum.

Leicestershire

www.leicsbridge.org.uk

IN the fifth and sixth rounds of the 2006-07 Midland Counties League Leicestershire first team recorded 18-2 and 15-5 victories against Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire respectively and a similar performance against league leaders Oxfordshire will give them real hopes of retaining the title. Mixed performances by the second team (0-20 and 16-4) and the third team (2-18 and 16-4) leave both still above average overall.

The semi-final line-up in the aggregate-scored Leicestershire Cup is Anne Moncrief, Brian and Sheila Stockdale and Steve Wright v John Thompson, Brenda Colman, Ray Le Vesconte and Alan Lord and Susan Bowyer, Paul Bowyer, Duncan Happer, Jim Mason, Tony Odams and Simon Stokes v Robert Northage, Brian Chamberlain, David Fletcher and Antony Marshall.

The Wilde Cup (non-expert teams of four) was won by Dennis Yates, the runner-up for the last two seasons. His teammates were Phil Bennett and Michael and Valerie Bull. Steve Foster, John Lawson, John Briant and John Richards came second, while Keith Savage, Mary Danahar, Marian Tegg and Chris Leader took the special prize for best placing by a team comprised entirely of players ranked County Master or lower.

Stanley Trophy 2006-07 leading scores at heat three were Gerry Bucciero and Bob Parker +73 Butler imps, Jenny Grant and Bharat Thakrar +53, Geoff Shaw and Jon Worters +26.

The efforts of the Ashby, Blaby,

Bradgate, Grantham, Loughborough and Westcotes clubs in running heats of the David Boston simultaneous pairs raised nearly £420 for LOROS, with a seventh heat at the County Club raising £100 for Rainbows. Neil and Pat Beasley, playing at Blaby, were awarded the prize for best performance in a Leicestershire heat.

Diary dates: February 5 LCBA National pairs heat, Loughborough Grammar School (LGS); February 7 Buckby (men's) and Olga (ladies') pairs, Barkby; February 18 Midland counties league Leicestershire v Derbyshire (LGS); March 7 Stanley Trophy heat five, Glenfield; March 10 Green Point Swiss pairs, LGS; March 11 Green Point Swiss teams, LGS; March 25 Barkby charity Swiss teams, Gedding Road; March 27 Leicester Mercury Learners' Pairs Trophy, County; April 1 Midland Counties League, Leicestershire v Warwickshire (away).

Lincolnshire

www.lincsbridge.org.uk



SADLY we lost some long-established members in 2006: Mary Shannon and Dr Ken Allardyce from Scunthorpe, Anne

Wakelin and Marjorie Bevan from the Woodhall Spa/Horncastle area and, most recently, Maurice Woodhouse from Grimsby. Bridge was always a family affair with Maurice and is carried on in fine tradition by his daughter Sandy Davis and her son Danny in Yorkshire. Our heartfelt condolences to all the families.

Latest results: Swiss teams 1 Dennis Mellor, Andrew Green, Al Brown and Andy King, 2 Drene and Alan Brown, Nick Dyer and Mike Perry, 3 Helen Gillatt, Carole Rushforth, Barbara Maplethorpe and Mary Milnes; Lincoln Imp 1 Fred Davis, Hildred Harman, Maggie Neal and Quentin Lockwood on a split tie from Philip Harland, James Rowe, Alan Millington and Nick Hunter, 3 Bill and Eileen Herbert, Bill and Shirley Holmes; Charles Heward 1 Eileen Herbert, Sheila Marlow, Mari Bebbington and Graham Johnson, 2 Helen Gillatt, Richard Watson, Pauline and Terry Smith, 3 Mary Milnes, Bill Gibbs, Joyce Gregory and Joan Robertson.

Diary dates: February 11 random seeded teams (East-West pairs drawn with a seeded North-South pair – pre-entry essential); March 4 Garden Cities heat, clubs; March 18 men's and women's pairs.

London

www.metrobridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS to the London members who have been selected to represent England in the Camrose home internationals this year.

They are Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski, who play in the first weekend, with Janet de Botton as assistant npc, and David Bakhshi, Tom Townsend and David Gold, who will play in the second weekend, along with npc Colin Simpson.

There are not many tournament successes to report this time, but we must say well done to those players who reached the last eight of the Gold Cup. They included Simon Gillis's team, who were beaten by just one imp by Tom Townsend and David Gold in the quarter-finals. The only remaining London member after the semi-finals went on to win the event – yes, John Matheson is a London member

despite the fact he lives in and plays for Scotland!

Sadly, the London run of success in the Tollemache Trophy has come to an end. Our team had an unlucky weekend and did not qualify for the finals this time.

Results: under 19 pairs championship 1 Alex and Charles Bishop, 2 Sarah O'Connor and Nick Mock, 3 Alastair Gartenburg and Anthony Martinelli;

Daily Telegraph Cup 1 London (Ian Payn, Rob Cliffe, Brian Callaghan and David Burn), 2 Kent (Catherine Draper, Ian Draper, Michael Prior and Jeremy Willans), 3 Hertfordshire (Ron Howey, John Phalp, Arni Anidjar-Romain and Robert Teesdale)

Diary dates: February 4 London championship pairs, YCBC 1pm (Contact Nigel Freake on 020 8801 2884 or nigel.freake@paper.co.uk); February 25 Palmer Bayer Trophy. No Fear pairs, YCBC 1pm (Contact Chris Duckworth on chris.duckworth@lineone.net or 020 7385 3534); March 22 Garden Cities Trophy heat, inter-club teams of eight, YCBC 7pm (Contact Chris Duckworth as above); April 22 Fox Shammon Trophy senior pairs, Queen's Club (Contact Steve Eginton at steve@eginton.co.uk or on 01628 780862).

Manchester

www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk

THE year ended with Tom Slater and Andrew Murphy winning the under-25 trials and representing England in the Channel Trophy and Dave Collier and Mark Reeve being selected for the Junior Camrose in February.

Kath Nelson's Hubert Phillips team (Michael Byrne, Andrew Woodcock, Ollie Burgess and Alan Nelson) have reached the semi-finals for the first time. At the Year End Congress at Blackpool Jeff Smith, playing with Jackie Pye from Lancashire, won the Swiss pairs. Manchester Bridge Club management team Dave Debbage and Jeff Morris won the Ben Franks Trophy, pipping last year's winners Peter Jones and Peter Foster.

Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won the Santa Claus pairs for the first time after playing in it most years since the early 1970s.

The Manchester Congress was a huge success all round, with a large number of juniors and novices taking part. Manchester chairman Jeff Smith and treasurer Bernard Kaye won the championship pairs and Michael Byrne, Duncan Happer, John Hassett, and Bill Hirst won the championship teams. Novice events winners were Joan Hill, Marjorie Blackham, Yvonne Barnes, David Geary, Duncan and Diane Ault, Juliet and Alick Rocca, Stella Beswick, Rita Braddburn and Ivor and Elaine Rosenberg.

Diary dates: February 4 Gazette Cup teams of eight, Manchester BC; February 25 newcomers' pairs, Altrincham BC; March 18 Portland Pairs, Manchester BC; March 25 National newcomers' pairs, Manchester BC 1pm.

Merseyside & Cheshire

www.mcba.org.uk

THE Merseyside and Cheshire teams met with mixed fortunes in the newly-formed Northern Counties League. In the A division we have struggled to find any consistency, but the B and 'C' teams have performed well. In particular, the B team won its third round, despite the long drive to the venue in Darlington, and this excellent performance followed by a steady final match secured a second place finish.

Master Point promotions

2 Star Master Mrs H Sethi	2 Star Master Mr RC Boskin
1 Star Master Mrs J Morgan	Mr L Fodor Mrs J Harris
Advanced Master Mr P L Harrison	1 Star Master Mr L Bartlett
Master Ms P Chetham	Miss AC Talbot
County Master Mr CB Cheslett	Master Mr T H Lemon
Mr S Mattison	Mr M McIvor
District Master Miss J L Marvin	Mr D V Mithani
Mr J Parsons	District Master Mrs T Mithani
Club Master Mrs B A Scholes	Club Master Mrs B Morris
Mr A Turner	Mr S Rai
Merseyside/Cheshire	Mr A Shackman
Premier Life Master Mrs S Webster	Mr M Walker
Premier National Master Dr T Prior	Norfolk
National Master Mrs M Borley	6 Star Premier Master Dr BB Dewhurst
Dr JA Leather	Mrs M Dewhurst
Regional Master Mr D Burrows	5 Star Master Mrs S Hutchings
2 Star Premier Master Mr P Holt	4 Star Master Ms J Anderson
3 Star Master Mr N Worthington	2 Star Master Mrs J Broughton
1 Star Master Mrs E Marshall	Mr W Broughton
Master Mrs M W Walster	Mr P Quinn
County Master Mrs P A Norman	1 Star Master Mr B H Learner
Club Master Mr A G Catchpole	Mrs P Whittle
Middlesex	Advanced Master Mr R W Boote
Life Master Ms M I Campbell	Mrs B Ellerker
Mrs I V Fine	Mr R Knott
Premier National Master Mrs DZ Sanitzer	Mrs Y M Knott
Ms C Seale	Master Mrs S C Beecham
Premier Regional Master Mrs FE Liew	Mr R Stenson
6 Star Regional Master Mr N J Morris	County Master Mr D E Ellis
Regional Master Mr S P Cope	Mr RG Harrowven
Mr M Sudjic	Mrs GM Snow
8 Star Premier Master Mrs P Van Gene	District Master Mrs M Abel
2 Star Premier Master Mr S Foster	Mr P Bowman
1 Star Premier Master Mr M Levy	Mrs AG Brown
Premier Master Ms F Hutchison	Mrs A G Middleton
4 Star Master Mr LH Dreebin	Club Master Mrs B Wilson
3 Star Master Mr D J Kilby	Northamptonshire
Mr PN Ryan	Life Master Mrs P Peacher
Ms C Stafford	Premier National Master Mr J J Bainbridge
	Mr J A Larkin
	3 Star Premier Regional Master Mr C Ramamoorthy
	Regional Master Dr M J Kennedy
	5 Star Premier Master Miss D Simpson
	1 Star Premier Master Mrs J Swannell
	Premier Master Mr AN Heslop
	2 Star Master Mr AJ Ross

Tim Prior had a good Great Northern Swiss pairs, partnering Chris Cooper of Oxford to finish fifth. Bill Niccol also did well, partnering Dave Musson of Yorkshire to take seventh place.

Ray Parkinson and Bill Carr have won the county open pairs (Waterworth Cup), with Dan LeMasurier and Peter Sumption second and Lollo Murthwaite and Bunny Davies third.

Congratulations to Ted Reveley and Bill Niccol, who were members of the team that finished second in the Llangollen Swiss teams.

The annual fixture against Derbyshire produced a comfortable win for the M&CBA team by 88imps. The team was John Hampson (captain), Paul Roberts, Tony and Helen Carsley, Joan King, Ian Stanley, Margaret Lloyd, David Howe, Louise and Arthur Orme, Rekha Gatfield and Chris Whaley. Many of these players were also in the team that was successful in the head-to-head match against Cumbria. The full team was Chris Whaley (captain), Rekha Gatfield, Cameron Boyd, Geoff Cowie, Earl O'Keeffe, Joan King, Ian Stanley, Olwen Brown, John Griffiths, Margaret Lloyd, David Howe, Louise and Arthur Orme, Ric and Julia Dearing.

The main final in the Chester Bowl charity pairs event was won by Gillian McMullan and John Fitzgerald, with Pam Booth-Jones and Emrys Jones second and Bill and Joyce White third. In the consolation final Jim and Jenny Morris were top North-South and Bob Mitchell and Cress Murless were top East-West.

Diary dates: February 4 county trials, MBC; February 18 Jean Keen Trophy (women's teams), MBC; February 25 county pivot teams (Merseyside and Deeside Cup), MBC; March 15 Charity challenge simultaneous pairs, MBC; March 18 Portland Pairs; April 11-13 BG pairs, clubs; April 22 Preece Rosebowl, Blundellsands BC; May 7 May Day Swiss pairs, MBC.

Middlesex

www.btinternet.com/mcba

CONGRATULATIONS to Heather Dhondy and Nicola Smith, on their selection for the Lady Milne and to Neil Rosen and Martin Jones on their selection for the Camrose. Martin was also selected as npc for the Lady Milne.

Our Middlesex team finished second in the Tollemache qualifier, a mere two vps off top spot. Well done to Jeremy Dhondy, Keith Bennett, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Tony Waterlow, Victor Silverstone, Heather Dhondy and Bill Pencharz. The same team will represent Middlesex in the final.

Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Glyn Liggins and Peter Crouch of Kent qualified for the semi-final of the Gold Cup, losing a close match to Walker, the eventual winners. Jack Mizel and Tony Forrester, with London team-mates David Gold and Tom Townsend, were also semi-finalists in the Gold Cup.

As usual the London Year End Congress proved very successful for Middlesex players. Waseem Naqvi and Jerry Harouni won the pre-congress pairs and Manny Marks finished second with Jerry Stamatov of Bulgaria. Charlotte Vine and Valerie Durbin won the women's pairs, Catherine Seale and Neil Rosen won the mixed pairs and Ian Pagan and Jeremy Dhondy won the men's pairs. In the men's pairs Jerry Cope finished second with Alan Kay of Hertfordshire, Andrew Robson was fourth with his London partner, Moza Panahpour, and Heather Dhondy took fifth place with Alan Kay.

In the Swiss teams Ignac Fogelman and

Victor Silverstone, with Stefan Lenardic and John Maier, finished second, Richard Johnson and Heather Bakhshi, with London team-mates David Bakhshi and David Gold came third and Neil and Anne Rosen, with Kent team-mates Catherine and Ian Draper, were fifth.

Several Middlesex members travelled to the Porthcawl Congress. Brenda and Geoff Foley finished 12th in the Red Dragon pairs final and third in the championship teams with Brian and Rita Keable. Jeremy Dhondy won the Little Dragon pairs final with Alan Kay and was eighth in the championship teams final with Diane and Filip Kurbalija.

Brenda and Geoff Foley also won the B pairs final at the Seniors Congress. Martine Rothschild and Norman Agran finished third in the Swiss pairs in the Malvern Congress.

The Dorset Challenge Cup was won by Waseem Naqvi, Tony Waterlow, Jerry Harouni and Richard Bowdrie. In second place were last year's winners, Gary Jones and Jacqui Tobias, with Derek and Celia Oram of Hertfordshire. The Dorset Plate was won by Charlotte Vine, Irene Fine, David Clarke and Tony Mutukisna.

Diary dates: February 11 Middlesex women's and men's pairs; February 25 Middlesex clubs championship, Acol Bridge Club; March 6 and 13 Acol pairs championship. There are a multitude of qualifying heats scheduled for the National pairs, the Middlesex mixed pairs, and the Middlesex championship pairs. An extensive competitions calendar may be found on the county website. See the above internet address.

Please do not hesitate to report any points of interest for this column to the Middlesex county press officer, Heather Bakhshi - email hsbakhshi@aol.com

Norfolk

www.norfolkbridge.co.uk

THE Norfolk CBA presented a cheque for £508 to Musical Keys, a charity set up to help the families of children with special needs. The cash was raised by the players who entered the Boston Bowl simultaneous pairs event.

The county teams were back to their winning form in the match against Essex. The A team won 11-9, the B team drew 10-10 and the C team won 17-3.

The Allison Wharton Trophy for club teams-of-eight was won by the Kings Head BC team of Steve Dannel, Paul Darby, Mike Walsh, Matt Milson, Steve Shepperson, Mike Dignen and Geoff Bowden. They will represent Norfolk in the Garden Cities Trophy.

The Orb Pacquet Trophy was won by Andrew Brown and Malcolm Connelly and the Buxton Trophy for restricted teams was won by Jolanta Allison, Liz Portbury, Jacqui Murfitt and Tony Metcalf, with Ann Howard, Jan Wells, Bridget Starking and John King second. The Barclays Bank Trophy was won by Maurice and June Scotting, with Stuart Farquharson and Graham Hardman second.

Diary dates: March 4 Committee Cup; March 18 general meeting and North Walsham Trophy, Bawburgh Village Hall.

North East

www.ncba.co.uk

THE Gazette Cup final, a two-session event for qualifiers from the heats, was won by the evergreen Fred Dalton and Tony Jackson, with John Brandon-Joyce and Harold Wells runners-up. Steve and Georgia Ray filled third spot. The consolation final for the Gazette Shield was won

by Peter Lisle and John McCourt, with Bill Ainsley and Dan Benison second.

Rainy weather discouraged participants from sampling the local countryside during our North East Congress at the Derwent Manor Hotel, Allensford, but the coffee shops did a brisk morning trade.

Bev Godfrey, the new congress secretary, continued the splendid work of Sue Green over the last decade and the weekend passed quickly and smoothly. We were delighted to welcome visitors from as far away as the Midlands to augment the entries from our own area.

The men's pairs was won by Clive Owen and Malcolm Oliver, with Terry Jones and Mike Thorley second, and the ladies' pairs winners were Jocelyn Gordon and Joyce Gallimore, ahead of Margaret Wiles and Lou Badcock. Mixed pairs winners were Liz Muir and Ian Spoor, with Babs Matthews and David Strawbridge runners-up.

Bev Godfrey found time to contest the Friday night speedbridge pairs and won it playing with Nigel Durie.

Saturday's Swiss pairs went to Clive Owen and Malcolm Oliver. Steve and Georgia Ray tied for second place with Hayden Dando and Martin Kane.

The formidable pairing of Clive Owen and Malcolm Oliver linked up with Val and Julian Gibson to win the Swiss teams on Sunday ahead of Peter Mollart, John Halliwell, Gary Bryson and John Farmer. The Steve Purvis Salvors were won by Freda Simpkin and Hazel Ord from Jennifer and J Foster in the increasingly popular event for newcomers.

The autumn sim pairs, which drew 255 entries, was won by Whitley Bay's R Flute and I Dobson. Cramlington was represented by John and Jane Edmunds in second place and the top three were rounded out by Win Booth and Tony Wardle of Hurworth.

Newcastle was the venue for the Niman-Israel Trophy mixed pivot teams. The winners were Robert Stead, Pat de Leeuw, Mike Stanbury and David Morrison, with second place taken by Tony Bell, Desmond Dunleavy, Kathleen Armstrong and Marlene Davison.

Further afield Clive Owen and Malcolm Oliver, playing with Manchester's Kath and Alan Nelson, were third in the Swiss teams at the EBU's Seniors Congress and our Tollemache team was defeated by the draughty corridors of Kettering in its bid to qualify for this year's final.

One of the highlights of recent months was to see 13 tables of young people, between the ages of eight and 16 playing in the EBU schools sim pairs at St George's Bridge Centre, Darlington. Nine tables were playing bridge and four were playing Minibrige. Some mums and dads stayed to experience a taster session, which hopefully will stimulate their interest. Ken Pattison and his team ran a smooth morning's activity and the welcome refreshments were organised by our excellent manageress, Bev Godfrey. Sarah Bendle and Emily Knaggs (Polam School) were second nationally, Jak Newby (Wolsingham) and William Pallister (Hunwick) were third and two other pairs, from Polam and Wolsingham, were sixth and eighth.

The final NEBA event of 2006, the Deane Salver for mixed pairs, was won by Bob Cuerden and Pam Gladwin, followed by Frank Springett and Janet Teague.

Diary dates: February 3 Chronicle Cup final; February 11 King Cup; March 4 Newcastle Congress; Mar 5-7 NEBA spring sim pairs; March 18 Portland Pairs heat; April 1 Swiss pairs. Details of all events updates are on the web at www.neba.co.uk

Master Point promotions

North East

Premier National Master
Mr A Kemp

2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs M Tuke
Mrs M Wiles

1 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs A Bainbridge

Premier Regional Master
Mr R L Reay

11 Star Regional Master
Mrs SF Bateman

2 Star Regional Master
Mrs E I Twamley

1 Star Regional Master
Mrs M Davies
Mr N G Davies

Regional Master
Mrs E Day

29 Star Premier Master
Mr E Brown

14 Star Premier Master
Mrs A Welsh

13 Star Premier Master
Mr A M Welsh

8 Star Premier Master
Mrs E Shotton

2 Star Premier Master
Mrs J Harvey
Mrs M Ord

Premier Master
Mr R Maude

1 Star Tournament Master
Dr PW Johnstone

Tournament Master
Mr B Crawford
Mrs J Harrison
Mrs M Martin

5 Star Master
Mrs MN Davies
Mrs J Meth-Cohn
Mrs F Simon

4 Star Master
Mrs A Ritz

3 Star Master
Mr D Pentland

2 Star Master
Ms V P Henshaw
Mrs A Linton

1 Star Master
Mrs MM Alexander
Mr J Shotton

Advanced Master
Mr R G Hornsey
Mr D Wooff

Master
Mrs E Bratton
Ms LE Leach

County Master
Mrs S Allan
Mr E Lodge
Mrs AM McConnell

District Master
Mr W J Bell
Mr D Seymour
Mr E A Wrangham
OBE

Nottinghamshire

2 Star Master
Mrs M Mawhood

Advanced Master
Dr A Macey

Master
Mr G B Moore

County Master
Mrs J Stevenson

Club Master
Mr S Prince

Oxfordshire
4 Star Regional Master
Dr J H Freeman
Dr R H Lawton-Smith

Regional Master
Mrs L Jones

6 Star Premier Master
Mr S E Powell

Premier Master
Mr A Humphreys

5 Star Master
Mrs F McCarthy

1 Star Master
Mr J Cecil

Advanced Master
Mr P Murphy
Mrs J Naccache
Mr P Naccache

Master
Mrs D M Thorne

County Master
Mr P Bramley
Mrs P Cheval
Mrs E M Crump
Mrs E Parkinson

District Master
Mrs D M Elliott
Mr P Sherry

Club Master
Mr R Farrow

Somerset
Premier National Master
Mrs A McBride

4 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs L C Floyd

7 Star Premier Master
Mr JR Cockram

5 Star Premier Master
Mrs B S May

1 Star Premier Master
Mrs L McEwen
Mr P McEwen

1 Star Master
Miss M Stephens

Advanced Master
Mr N A Carp
Mrs C D Nicholls

Master
Mr JH Lamb

County Master
Mrs A Allsopp
Mr M J Duckett

District Master
Mrs H L Lilly

Staffs and Shrops
Regional Master
Mr C Fisher

Premier Master
Mr J H Scurfield

2 Star Master
Mr R G Martin

1 Star Master
Mr AJ Brian

2 Star Master
Mr P J Barnet
Mr M E Cleasby
Mr C M Penrice
Mrs R Smith

Club Master
Mr G Paddison

Suffolk
2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr P Carlisle

5 Star Regional Master
Mr M W O'Reilly

8 Star Premier Master
Mr JM Garbutt

7 Star Premier Master
Mrs G L Page

6 Star Premier Master
Mrs M Garbutt
Mr J R Newton
Mr T D Shearman

5 Star Premier Master
Mrs A Wayman

3 Star Master
Miss E M Knowlson
Mrs EB Lysandrides

Advanced Master
Mrs D J Ferrier
Dr G Lesser

Master
Mr T Barrett

County Master
Mr S E H Chechinski
Mrs M E McLaren
Mrs P Melvin

District Master
Mrs M R Knight

Club Master
Mrs B Ditchburn

Surrey
National Master
Mr G Rangarajan

6 Star Premier Regional Master
Dr W L Price

2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr M G Ulyett

1 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr C Webley

8 Star Regional Master
Mrs LK Pinnock

4 Star Regional Master
Mr PR Webb

2 Star Regional Master
Mr G Clarke

1 Star Regional Master
Mrs S Birnage
Mrs J Kennedy

24 Star Premier Master
Mr GJ Wells

14 Star Premier Master
Mr RK Boothman

13 Star Premier Master
Mrs MM Govier

Northamptonshire

www.northantsbridge.info

THREE heats of the Eden Cup have taken place. Winners of the Northampton heat were Len Shulman and Ross Stacey, with Daniel Baines and Rob Miller second and Margaret Bryant and Trevor Wray third. The first three places at Peterborough were Mark Tilley and Ufuk Cotuk, Joyce Gardner and John Walker, Mike Kennedy and Richard Brewer, while at Towcester the first three were John Larkin and Jim Bainbridge, Val Walker and Brent Hill, Ray Clemmets and Brian Jackson.

In the first division of the inter-club league Stamford A are leading, but Kettering A are only 5vps behind. The second division also looks close. Kettering C are leading, but Stamford B and Peterborough B are close behind, both having played one match fewer. Orton and Stamford D are level in third division north, but Stamford D have played one match more. Kingsley are leading the southern division on 108vps, hotly pursued by Northampton B and Northampton C.

In the north-east section of the winter league the team of Marcus Witt, Trevor Thrower, Mike Gore Browne and Bill Chadwick is leading with 248vps, ahead of Peter Fountain's team on 198 VPs. In the south-west section the leading team is Mike Wiggins, Len Shulman, Ross Stacey and John Josephs on 363vps, with Kevin Fogarty's team second on 343.

The county bridge team took part in the Tollemache qualifier. The county did well on the first day and held third place. Unfortunately the second day was not successful and the team finally finished sixth.

In the Eastern Counties league the A team has won three of its four matches this season and currently holds second place. The B team has won all four matches and leads B division, while the C team has won three out of four and is close behind the C division leading teams and has a match in hand.

Northampton Eden Cup heat 1 Len Shulman and Ross Stacey, 2 Daniel Baines and Robert Miller, 3 Margaret Bryant and Trevor Wray; Peterborough Eden Cup heat 1 Mark Tilley and Ufuk Cotuk, 2 Joyce Gardner and John Walker, 3 Mike Kennedy and Richard Brewer; Towcester Eden Cup heat 1 John Larkin and Jim Bainbridge, 2 Val Walker and Brent Hill, 3 Ray Clements and Brian Jackson, equal 3 Brian Barrett and David Smith; December winter teams N-E 1 Marcus Witt, Trevor Thrower, Mike Gore Browne and Bill Chadwick, 2 Mollie Cooke, Jo Henbury, Rodney King and Colin Tuton; December winter teams S-W 1 Tony Philpott, Brenda Bale, Florence Followell and Paula Ollive, 2 Kevin Fogarty, Margaret Bryant, Eifion Jones and Richard Gibson, equal 2 Mike Wiggins, Len Shulman, Ross Stacey and John Josephs.

Diary dates: February 10 winter league N-E, Kettering; February 14 winter league S-W, Northampton; March 10 winter league play-off, Kettering; March 31 Broke Cup final; April 1 Eden Cup final, Peterborough; April 1 Murchie Lerner final, Kettering.

Nottinghamshire

www.nottsbridge.org.uk

IN the county match versus Lincolnshire, the Nottinghamshire first and third teams won 11-9 and 14-6 respectively and the second team lost 6-14. Against Leicestershire the Nottinghamshire teams lost 5-15, 4-16 and 4-16.

The NCBA anniversary teams was won

by the Nottinghamshire quartet of Frank Ball, Gordon Fullerton, Graham Lee and Eric Nunn, with Leicestershire second. The NCBA Swiss teams championship was won by Brian Chamberlain, Marjorie Gilbertson, Tony Marshall and Robert Northage, with David and Joan Burgess, Gordon and Angela Fullerton second.

The NCBA heat of the under 19s championship was won by S Spencer and A Khandelwal.

Diary dates: on Wednesdays the President's Cup drives and the Butler imp drives continue to alternate at Nottingham Bridge Club, 401 Mansfield Road at 7pm until March 14. From March 21 The Friday Cup drives are held. March 10-11 Green Point weekend, organised by Leicestershire - Swiss pairs Saturday, Swiss teams Sunday, Loughborough Grammar School (Entries to Robert Northage on 01509 412189); April 4 Journal Cup (Enquiries and entries to Graham Brindley on 0115 9232186); April 29 NCBA AGM.

Oxfordshire

www.oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



ANDREW Robson, internationally acclaimed bridge player and teacher, will be in Oxford on April 2 to present a bridge seminar, hosted by Oxfordshire Bridge Association at the county's headquarters at Oxford Bridge Club, 147 Banbury Road.

Andrew's expertise and entertaining style of teaching have proven an inspiration to all. This seminar will be targeting both the less experienced player and the average club player. Due to anticipated high demand, you are advised to contact Brenda Harris (01865-511136) asap to ensure your place and obtain further details. The session starts at 7.30pm.

Prior to this event the Oxfordshire Bridge Association will be hosting the Oxford Times Cup for less experienced players on March 18. This pairs competition has recently received generous sponsorship from the Oxford Times for a handsome honours board and annual prize monies.

The European Bridge League's autumn simultaneous pairs featured David and Jeremy Bygott of Summertown BC, who achieved reaching the second highest score in Europe in the Monday event.

The county Swiss pairs again drew a large entry, from which Chris Cooper and Denis Talbot emerged as winners.

Congratulations to David Watkins and Angela Manders, winners of the county pro-am pairs competition.

The county men's and women's pairs events were again played on the same day, with Alan Wilson and Stuart McPhee winning the former and Mary-Ann Sheehy and Cathy Rowland winning the latter.

The popular seniors' pairs events continue to be held on the second Monday of every month. Gordon Carroll and Betty Yearling were the winners in November and Geoff Nicholas and Krishan Jalie in December.

Diary dates: February 11 county pairs first semi-final, Oxford BC; February 12 seniors' pairs, Roke village hall; February 18 Dawes league v Warwickshire, Oxford BC; February 25 county pairs second semi-final, Oxford BC; March 12 seniors' pairs, Roke village hall; March 18 Oxford Times Cup pairs championship, Oxford BC; March 26 Oxfordshire Bridge Association management committee meeting, Oxford BC; April 2 Andrew Robson seminar, Oxford BC, 7.30pm.

Master Point promotions

Master

Mrs G Brock
Mrs C Franklin
Mr A G Gall
Mrs L Gall
Mrs HGM
Hampshire
Mr J E Hurst
Mrs J R Robson
Mr D J Webster
Mr J Willis

County Master

Mr P Bonnor-Morris
Mrs M P Bradbourn
Mr P M Camp
Ms M Chahine
Mr D Gliddon
Mr T Jack
Mrs DBM Lee
Mr P Lumsden
Mrs HC Purcell

District Master

Mrs A Barclay
Mrs S Bradbury
Mrs C M Haines
Mr M B Haines
Mrs G Lumsden
Mr D Maysey
Mrs P L McIntosh
Mr B J North
Mr G Tripp
Mrs CA Westcott

Club Master

Mr J M Granville
Miss L Poole
Mr J F Sheppard
Miss D Trayler
Mrs V E Turner

Sussex

Premier National Master
Mr G N Phillips
National Master
Mrs V Frearson
6 Star Regional Master
Mrs J Whiteway
3 Star Regional Master
Mr K R Baker
Mrs S Dyball

1 Star Regional Master

Mrs C Backholer
10 Star Premier Master
Mrs J Sangster
5 Star Premier Master
Mr R W Whiting

1 Star Premier Master

Mr A A Bradley
Mr M J Davies
Tournament Master
Mr T J Garside
Ms B E Herold
Mrs I Richards

4 Star Master

Mrs D R Collick
3 Star Master
Mrs ME Ayers
Mrs M N Robertson
Mrs DJ Westbury

2 Star Master

Mrs K J Genders
Mrs P Roberts
Mrs E Scott
Mr R E Webster

1 Star Master

Mrs M Ball
Mrs K M Barry
Mrs I Dickie
Mrs C Wigan

Advanced Master

Mrs S M Baker
Mrs FT Fuller
Mrs W J Woods

County Master

Mr CHA Fleurent
Mrs G Hawgood
Mrs B J Piper
Mrs J Raymond
Mr R K Slatter

Club Master

Mrs A Cullen
Mr W G Hensby
Mr J D Rollings
Mr J Simon

District Master

Mrs M Brzezicki
Mr V J Cole
Mr C E Gibson
Dr M Greeley
Mrs S M Mead
Mr I Sanderson
Mr C Wigan

Warwickshire

Premier Life Master
Mr RG Johnson
National Master
Mr B Osmond

8 Star Premier Master

Mr JD Jones
3 Star Premier Master
Mrs L Birch
Mr R Birch

2 Star Premier Master

Mr M Parle
Premier Master
Mrs S Squires
4 Star Master
Mr T King

3 Star Master

Mr MJ Allman
2 Star Master
Mrs K Long
Mr A Manders

1 Star Master

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Mr P Randall

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Mrs J Miller
District Master
Mrs J E Cumming
Mrs M Gallagher

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Mrs P A Hack
Mrs M Pinner
Mrs A S Shah
Mr J Sparkes
Ms M Wood

Club Master

Dr S Dobson
Westmorland Master
Mr R H Gregory
Mr A F Wallis

Somerset

www.somersetbridge.org.uk

IN the annual challenge match against Devon, both Somerset teams had wide-margin victories, which suggested that we might have a good Tollemache. However, in the Tollemache we flattered to deceive. Despite an excellent 16-4 victory against group winners Surrey, a 20-0 win against Dorset and good performances against the strong teams of Yorkshire, Kent and Norfolk, we played poorly against the so-called weaker counties and finished a disappointing seventh in our group. Somerset's team was Sheila Coda, Gina Howard, Graham Heal, Colin Juneman, Rob Lawy, Steve Tomlinson, Eric Cummings, Colin Flood, Michael Whittaker and Roger Sweet, with David Howard as non-playing captain.

In the Western League there have been excellent results in the matches against both Devon and Dorset. Against Devon the A team won 17-3, the B team won 18-2 and the C team lost 8-12. Against Dorset the A team won 14-6, the B team won 15-5 and the C team pulled back a huge deficit in the last 10 boards to lose only 8-12. In the Somerset C team two octogenarians, Helena Dodge and Michael Grogan, made their debuts for the county, proving that age is not a barrier for the county selection committee.

Congratulations to Rob Lawy and his team who comfortably won their Silver Plate semi-final and we wish them luck in the final.

Congratulations also to the winners of the men's and women's pairs event – namely Stewart Upton and John Durrant and Ann Allsopp and Glenda Shave. Slightly belated congratulations also to the winners in the mixed teams of four – Graham Heal, Roger Sweet and David and Gina Howard.

Andrew Robson paid his second visit of the year and again was very popular, catering for both the relatively inexperienced and those who have been playing for years.

Diary dates: February 11 inter-club teams-of-four, Cotford St Luke; February 24 mixed pairs, Street; March 4 Yeovil Swiss teams; March 17 championship pairs and plate, Staplegrave.

Staffs and Shrops

www.wolverhamptonbridge.org.uk/staffs

PAUL Cutler successfully captained our Tollemache team, who not only won their group, but also eliminated last year's winners, London, from the competition. The successful team was Robin Adey, Geoff Davies, David Beavon, Roger Keane, Brian Cornelius, Gary Hyett, Barbara and Justin Hackett, Judy and Malcolm Mitchell, Ian Pendlebury and Dave Smith. Special Congratulations to David Beavon and Roger Keane, who were top of the Butler.

Brian Cornelius, Gary Hyett, Michelle Brunner and John Holland won the Coronation Cup, our county invitation event. Roger Bowles, Keith Shuttleworth and Judy and Malcolm Mitchell finished second and the Warwickshire team of Margaret Armstrong, Mike Allen, Adrian Knight and Leslie Reece finished third.

Pat Poxon, James Vickers, Dave Clarke and Norman Jones won the Nottinghamshire invitation teams.

The county simultaneous pairs was won by Paul Leese and Roy Martin, with A Harris and D Glasscock second and R Bleasdale and L Glasscock third.

The Wolverhampton Yuletide pairs was won by Jackie Rose and Brian Windmill, ahead of Jill Charles and Alan Davies, with Roy Edwards and Jane Storton third.

Neil Sergeant and Sue Yardley won the Wolverhampton mixed pairs, with Rita and Paul Braddock runners-up. Winners of the championship pairs were Dave Clarke and Norman Jones, with Jenny Matthews and Dan Croft second.

The £100 runners-up prize in the Santa Claus pairs was won by Jane Charnell and Albert Tipton, while Paul Hackett finished third.

On the International scene Jason Hackett won the teams at Donegal, while Paul Hackett won the pairs and the teams in Cuba and then went on to finish second in the Life Masters pairs in the American Nationals in Honolulu and completed the week by qualifying for the final of the Reisinger, considered by many to be the world's toughest event.

Suffolk

www.suffolkbridge.co.uk



CONGRATULATIONS go yet again to Norman Denny and Rosemarie Mascall: this time on finishing third in the National seniors' pairs at Daventry. They are enjoying an excellent spell of bridge.

The annual novice event was a great success. Thanks must go to Jane Moore and teachers Celia Jeal, Janet Gardiner, Rachel Neal and John Standley for their valuable contribution on the day and for their enthusiasm and encouragement of newcomers to bridge. Twenty hands were played across three sections and the cup was awarded to David and Marion Branson, with the Wivenhoe Plate for the best second year pair going to Jayne Richardson and Jayne Gilbert.

The Suffolk knockout championship teams produced the following semi-finals: Peter Markwell, Claude Stokes, David Moran and Julian Lang v Marie Coates, Mike Del-Bo, Bob Dines and Malcolm Stredwick; and Colin Bamberger, Robert Green, Jeff Orton and Graham Beeton v Maria Allnutt, Debbie and Peter Sutcliffe and Peter Gemmell.

The Suffolk Plate was won by Malcolm and Barbara Carey, Ralph Parish and Tony Shearman.

Nineteen teams took part in the Stowmarket Swiss teams. The winners were Nigel Mortimer, Joan Mayhew, Eric Newman and Mike Malin, with Michael O'Reilly, Mick Spencer, Doc Lacey and Paddy Shannahan second.

The November Suffolk simultaneous pairs attracted 188 entries and the winners by an enormous margin were Andrew and Jane Moore (Clare). Bill Johnston and Claude Stokes (Frinton-on-Sea) came second, with Joan Watson and Patsi Barnes (Bury St Edmunds) third.

Diary dates: February 4 Bury St Edmunds Congress, Bury 2pm; February 11 singles, Colchester 2pm; February 21 championship pairs semi-final, Needham Market 7.15pm; March 4 Sudbury Congress, Sudbury Resource Centre 2pm; March 18 club teams-of-four, Stoke-by-Nayland 2pm.

For more information about Suffolk competitions, please contact Jyl Marsh on 01206 322546 or by email at jyl@gotads1.co.uk

Surrey

www.surreycountybridge.org.uk

THE first county champions of the season have been decided and it was nearly a husband and wife double act! Frances Hinden, playing with Paula Leslie, won the women's pairs, and Jeffrey Allerton, playing with Michael Wilkinson, finished sec-

ond to Richard Currie and Paul Kirton in the men's pairs.

The Surrey team qualified first in their group for the final of the Tollemache. Special congratulations to one member of that group, Ken Ford, who also becomes a Grand Master.

A team representing The Monday Club reached the final of the NICKO Plate, only to be beaten in a very close match by 8imps. The team was John Williamson, Malcolm Grimston, Mark Cast, Alan Powys and Angela McCready. For a small club with only 80 members this is a very creditable achievement.

Diary dates: February 11 30K Cup, Oxshott (For members with fewer than 30,000 Master Points); February 25 affiliated teams-of-eight, Richmond.

This year's Surrey schools event will be held on February 23 at Cranmore School, West Horsley, starting at 3.45pm. For further enquiries, please email county youth officer Bomi Kavarana on b.kavarana@virgin.net

Sussex

www.scba.co.uk



MAUREEN Norman and Sue Peters took top honours in the women's pairs at Eastbourne, at which there were 19 tables in play. Sandy Blunt and Brenda Garrini finished second and Tilly Hennings and Fran Thornton third. The men's pairs at Worthing, played on the same day, had six tables in play and was won by Duncan Curtis and Andy Morris. Mick Carrington and Richard Fedrick finished equal second with David Cross and Ralph Thompson. Congratulations to both sets of winners.

The Chairman's Cup is a much-coveted trophy contested each year by all the winners and runners-up in Sussex competitions. This time round it was played at West Sussex and resulted in a well-deserved success for Ian and Liz Lancaster, with Leon Northeast and John Jackson second and Colin Wilson and Diana Avis third.

The Tollemache qualifier saw the Sussex team of Martin Pool, David Franklin, Mick Carrington, Richard Fedrick, Dave Clifton, Chris Jepson, Duncan Curtis, Andy Morris, Ian Lancaster, Gerry Stanford and npc Andrew Southwell qualify for the first time in more than 10 years. Congratulations to them and lots of luck in the final.

Congratulations go also to Sue Baker and Maureen Dufficy, who won the basic bridge pairs in Chichester, with Sue Dyball and Mike Rounds second and Laurence Chiswell and Chris Reimoser third.

Our county pivot teams competition for the Devonshire Cup was won by Magnus Berger, John Murrel, Eddie Lucioni and Jean Smallwood, with the Devonshire Plate collected by Jill and Dave Armstrong and Ros and Geoffrey Wolforth. Congratulations to all.

Diary dates: February 3 David Pavey Trophy final, Worthing; February 11 SCCBA teams-of-eight, Eastbourne; February 14 seniors' simultaneous pairs, clubs; February 18 Sussex pairs semi-final, Avenue; February 24 Sussex individual final, Worthing; February 25 Eastbourne open Swiss teams, Eastbourne; March 4 Sussex pairs semi-final, Eastbourne and Worthing; March 6 mixed pairs heat, Eastbourne; March 17 Elizabeth North final, Worthing; March 25 Eastbourne open Swiss teams, Eastbourne.

Master Point promotions

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Mrs W Ellwood

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Mr C Webb

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Mrs S M Phillips

4 Star Master
Mr C C Goldsmith

2 Star Master
Mrs VE Atkins

Club Master
Mr K Williamson

Worcestershire

Premier National Master
Ms S Sharp

5 Star Premier Regional Master
Mrs H M Westcott

3 Star Regional Master
Mr D R Halford

1 Star Regional Master
Dr D Sheerin

9 Star Premier Master
Mr D D Clarke

4 Star Premier Master
Mrs V Enticknap

3 Star Premier Master
Mr C Enticknap

2 Star Premier Master
Mr R C Rutter
Mrs J M Rutter

1 Star Premier Master
Mr I A Gervis

Premier Master
Mrs R Cannon

3 Star Master
Mrs L I Wright

2 Star Master
Mr R Cooke

Master
Mrs J E Billingham
Mrs L Gervis

County Master
Mrs E D Cooke
Mr H D Popplewell

Club Master
Mrs F Glen

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Mrs M E Rodger

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Mrs L J Larrabee

2 Star Premier Regional Master
Mr CS Coggrave

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Mrs G Copeland

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Mr M A Cooper
Mrs J P Powell

7 Star Premier Master
Mr AFP Abraham
Mrs G Thompson

3 Star Premier Master
Mrs JF Shedden

1 Star Premier Master
Mrs A Kimberley

Premier Master
Mr T W Copeland
Mr J E Swiers
Mrs S Swiers

1 Star Tournament Master
Mr S Reed

Tournament Master
Mr RW Montgomery
Mrs A Simpson

5 Star Master
Mr R Gascoyne
Mrs H E Montgomery

4 Star Master
Mr D Webber

3 Star Master
Mrs B Jackson
Mrs S Knight
Mrs C F Walker

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Mrs C Blackburn
Mr D Conley
Mr S Kelly
Prof RJ Nicholson
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Ms C Kyffin

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Mrs MA Trickett

Master
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Mr P J Londesborough
Mr B McCarthy
Mr C Monaghan
Mrs A Rostron
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Mr D G Garczarek
Mrs S Holland
Mr W I Mills
Mrs J R Reeves

Warwickshire

www.warwickshirebridge.co.uk

BRIDGE in Warwickshire will never be quite the same. Michael Allen, a stalwart of the county since the early 70s, has died aged 75. Michael represented England internationally and was consistently successful at national and county level. His achievements include wins in the Crockfords Cup, National Pairs, Portland Pairs and Grand Masters Pairs and he was twice runner-up in the Gold Cup. A thoughtful and precise player, Michael was a gentleman of the game. He was a gracious, friendly opponent and a reliable, supportive partner.

Towards the end of his life a long illness made him increasingly frail, but he was playing and enjoying, bridge till the end. We will all miss him.

In general the county teams have enjoyed improved performances of late, winning against Worcestershire 12-8, 14-6 and 19-1 in the Dawes, Porter and Markham competitions respectively.

Congratulations to Margaret Armstrong, Michael Allen, Brian Topley and Roger Bryant on winning the Seniors' Swiss Teams at Daventry, and to Adrian Knight and Leslie Reece on taking second place in the championship pairs.

Coventry BC, comprising David Jones, Gary Watson, Steve Green, Graham Link, Roger Bryant, Rob Helle, Ian Handley and George Cuthbertson won the inter-club Garden Cities heat and we wish them another successful run in the final.

In the Marion Murtagh Memorial Trophy Margaret and Alan Buck snatched first place, with David Kenward and John Robbins close behind. The 909 Cup was stolen by Barry Holloway and John Wright, in front of Hylda Townsend and John Robbins.

Diary dates: February 4 Warwickshire pairs final, Moseley BC 2.30pm; March 25 Newcomers pairs heat West Midlands BC, Solihull; March 3-4 EBU Ranked Masters, Kettering.

For entries to Warwickshire events, please contact the Warwickshire secretary, Mr D Evetts, at 53 Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Warws CV31 2JJ, telephone 01926 429 039.



Michael Allen

Worcestershire

www.wcba.freeseve.co.uk

WE are very proud that Ian Thompson represented England in the senior teams in Warsaw. England did not do so badly, either.

The Worcestershire open teams was won emphatically by local horses in the shape of Nigel Laville, John Turner and Georgina and Ian Lineker. Second place went to Nottinghamshire's E Nunne, G Brindley, B Moore and S Cook.

Sharleen Weir and Sue Page made it the second time around when they won the county women's pairs this year, edging the Mesdames Newton into second place. The ever-successful Mike Orriel and Ross Garratt won the men's pairs. Ken Carpenter and Paul Hammond finished equal second with Steve Allerston and Nick Forward.

Each year the Irene Allen Swiss pairs is contested at the Stourbridge Institute. This competition is open only to partnerships whose rankings do not exceed that of Five Star Master. Incorporated within the Irene Allen is the Richard Lewis Cup, which is played for by those whose ranking are County Masters or below. This year the Irene Allen was won by The Two Ronnies - Veronica Enticknap and Ronnie Moore from Evesham. The nature of this competition is that The Two Ronnies are now over-qualified to enter next year. Amazingly, second place was taken by Maureen Riley and Pauline Griffiths of Stourbridge, a pair whose rankings would not have suggested such a high position. Derrick McClelland and Maggie Eaton and Christopher Enticknap and Barry Sayers were third and fourth respectively.

The county mixed teams trophy went to Sue Lane, Marian Wilcox, Sue Evans and Dennis Loynes, who got the best of a split tie decision over Nick Forward, Steve Allerston, Richard Jephcott and Stephanie Forward. The county mixed pairs also ended up in a squeaky close finish. This time the split tie between David Thomas and Susan Sharp against Mike Theelke and Marian Wilcox was resolved in favour of Thomas and Sharp.

Three members of Stourbridge BC and a retired doctor from Pershore won our annual charity Christmas Swiss teams. They were Carol and Brian Varley, Peter Edwards and Michael Cox.

Diary dates: February 19 county and open teams, Holt 7.15pm; February 25 club championship pairs, Cookhill Village

Hall on A441 (note change of venue) 2pm; March 5 championship pairs qualifier, Holt 7.15pm; March 17 championship pairs final, Stourbridge Institute (change of venue) 2pm; March 19 county and open teams, Holt 7.15pm; April 15 Garden Cities qualifier, Cookhill 2pm.

Yorkshire

www.ycba.freeseve.co.uk



IN the qualifying round of the Tollemache Cup inter-county event, Yorkshire finished in fourth place, nine vps short of reaching the final. The Yorkshire team was Phil Godfrey and Mark Bratley (York), Mike Pomfrey and David Robinson (Sheffield), Danny Davies and Sandy Davies (York and Sheffield), Richard Winter and Sarah Teshome (Bradford) and Nick Woolven and Bill Townsend (Leeds and Bradford).

Leading performances by Yorkshire pairs and teams in the EBU Seniors Congress included the following: Ted and Janet Latham were eighth and Sandy Davies and Tom Gisborne 10th in the championship pairs; Alan Martindale and Pauline Cooper were eighth in the Swiss pairs and Barbara Boaler, Chris Quigley, Sheila Galloway and Sue Pell were seventh in the Swiss teams.

Yorkshire players Mike Urmston and Phil Godfrey won the inter-county David Boston simultaneous pairs event.

The Ryedale pairs was won by Steve Knight and Derek Bland. Runners-up, less than 1% behind, were Penny and Roger Gowland, while Richard Hilton and Pauline Cooper were third.

Runaway winners of the Yorkshire mixed pivot teams were Bradford's Giles Foster, Sue Logan, Tony McNiff and Bill Townsend. Bryony Youngs, Rebecca Brian, Adam Dickinson and Alan Jarvis were second and Stan Collins, Heather Hobson, Pearl Murphy and Roy Garthwaite were third.

Diary dates: February 7 Margery Cartwright simultaneous pairs, clubs; February 11 Yorkshire Cup final (New Earswick); February 18 sixth round of the Yorkshire league; February 23-25 EBU Spring Congress (Harrogate); March 11 seventh and final round of the Yorkshire league; March 18 Doncaster Swiss teams; March 27 Peter Littlewood seniors' pairs (Tickton).

Sudoku solution from page 29

8	1	4	9	6	3	2	5	7
9	7	6	1	2	5	3	4	8
5	3	2	8	4	7	9	1	6
1	9	7	2	5	8	4	6	3
4	8	3	7	9	6	1	2	5
6	2	5	3	1	4	8	7	9
7	5	9	4	8	2	6	3	1
3	4	1	6	7	9	5	8	2
2	6	8	5	3	1	7	9	4

Crossword solution from page 31

1	S	A	2	F	E		3	C	4	A	S	5	H		6	A	D	7	D
	T		R				8	K		V		O			P		E		
9	A	C	E		I			10	O	L	Y	M	P	I	C				
	Y		S		B					I		L		L		K			
11	M	A	H	M	O	O	D					12	E	X	I	T	S		
	A				S					S					E				
13	N	O	14	U	Q	H	T			15	S	H	A	D	E	16	D		
				N						17	U		A				I		
18	E	L	U	D	19	E			20	N	U	M	B	21	E	R	S		
	P		S		L					S		M		V		T			
22	S	Q	U	E	E	Z	E			A				23	E	B	U		
	O		A		Q					E		N		N		N	A	R	
24	N	I	L					25	T	A	N	K			26	S	T	A	B



How the Master Points scheme works

ALL members who submit Master Points take part in the competition, which is split into ranking bands, so that beginners are not competing against top players. Only points awarded and registered during the current Master Points year are eligible for inclusion in the competition, which is why it is essential that claims be split between current year and previous years. Earlier points will still be registered, but will not count towards competition totals.

Which band a member competes in is determined by his or her rank at the beginning of the competition – their competition category. The category might change during the current year if sufficient previous year points are registered that would have resulted in a higher category if they had been registered when earned. Otherwise, players could retain a lower category by not registering points when earned. However, the category will never change as a result of current year points being registered.

At the end of the Master Points year, members are given a couple of weeks or so to get their last awards in and the competition is then closed. In the three top bands prizes are awarded on a national basis, while prizes in the lower bands are awarded in each county to each band winner.

The way in which direct credits are registered is apparently a possible source of confusion. Clubs that process awards directly do so at regular intervals, typically every month or every three months, so there can be some delay between awards

being earned and them arriving at the EBU. Most such clubs will advise their members when submissions are made and what period is covered.

Awards from the EBU's own events, such as the Easter festivals or Brighton Congress, will usually be credited to members' records within four weeks of the event. Note especially that in all cases awards are registered when the Master Points department receives them. It is not necessary, therefore, to claim such points, or ask for them to be added on when submitting a claim.

Members may, if they wish, examine their Master Points record on the EBU website by selecting Master Points, then following the 'Check your points on line' link. Individual registrations may be looked at by clicking on the member's rank when displayed – the most recent being at the top. While the EBU will investigate any discrepancy involving awards from its own events, it cannot do so for awards originating from elsewhere and members should contact the issuing body in such cases.

With so many clubs now routinely crediting awards for their members, some players may no longer receive any paper certificates. Since, at present, statements are produced only as a result of receiving a claim, such players would no longer receive their promotions unless an alternative was offered. Any member who would like an updated statement, whether or not it includes a promotion, is welcome to request one by calling the

Master Points help line on 01296 317202 or by sending an email to points@ebu.co.uk

When submitting a claim it helps if you use the claim form provided. Please also sort your certificates into current and previous years and enter those totals into the correct boxes on the form. Note that Local Points containing a 'valid for three years' clause will not be accepted if out of date. All Green Points and any certificates without such a clause will be accepted. It is also important to clearly indicate any change of address.

Please do not use pins or staples to secure your certificates – they all have to be removed to facilitate counting. Please do not include any direct credits or carry forward totals in the boxes – the totals should be only those of certificates accompanying the claim.

It does not help if you list all your certificates individually. No attempt is made to match certificates to such a list in the case of discrepancies, since only the certificates actually received will be counted. They will be counted again if totals arrived at are different to those given. (We often notice that expected 'direct credits' are included in such lists, in which case, of course, there would not be a matching certificate).

The time taken to process claims can vary enormously, especially at busy times of the year. A statement will be sent to all those submitting claims, which will include recognition of any promotion attained.

Improve by working it out for yourself

IN the December magazine I looked at the basic bridge scoring table without any doubles and redoubles. While doubled contracts are rare and redoubled contracts very rare, it is still important to know how the scores are calculated. Relying on the scores written on the backs of the cards in the bidding box is not a good way of knowing what your score is. Here is the complete scoring table:

Trick scores - scored by declarer's side when the contract is fulfilled	Normal play	Doubled	Redoubled
For each trick above the first six in ♠ and ♦	20	40	80
For each trick above the first six in ♥ and ♣	30	60	120
For the first trick above six in NT	40	80	160
For each additional trick in NT	30	60	120
A trick score of 100 points or more on one board is game			
A trick score of less than 100 on one board is a part score			
Bonus scores	Not vulnerable	Vulnerable	
For making a part score	50	50	
For making a game	300	500	
Small slam bid and made	500	750	
Grand slam bid and made	1000	1500	
For making any doubled contract	50	50	
For making any redoubled contract	100	100	
Overtricks			
Normal play undoubled	Trick value	Trick value	
Doubled overtricks	100	200	
Redoubled overtricks	200	400	
Undertricks			
For each undertrick undoubled	50	100	
For the first undertrick doubled	100	200	
For second and third undertricks doubled	200	300	
For fourth and subsequent undertrick doubled	300	300	
For first undertrick redoubled	200	400	
For second and third undertricks redoubled	400	600	
For fourth and subsequent undertricks redoubled	600	600	

By John Pain, EBU education manager

You can see how dramatic the effect of doubles and redoubles can be. Suppose you play in 1NT redoubled, vulnerable. 1NT redoubled is worth 160 trick points; since that is over 100 you also get the game bonus of 500 and you get an extra 100 points just for making a redoubled contract. So altogether you get 760. Plain, good old 1NT would have got you only 90.

You might think that 7NT is the highest score you can get for making a contract – a grand slam bid and made must be worth a lot. It is. A vulnerable 7NT will score 220 trick points, 500 for the game bonus and 1500 for the grand slam bonus – 2220 altogether. But the largest possible score you can get for making a contract is 3160 – for making 1NT redoubled with six vulnerable overtricks: 160 for 1NT redoubled, 500 game bonus, 100 redouble bonus and six lovely overtricks worth 400 each.

Undertricks can be very expensive when you are doubled – more so when redoubled. Four down doubled not vulnerable is $100 + 200 + 200 + 300 = 800$. That sounds dreadful and most of the time it will not be a good score. But suppose your opponents bid to 6♥ not vulnerable. If they make it, it scores $180 + 300 + 500 = 980$. So if you can bid 6♠, be doubled and go down for 800 you will concede less than letting them make 920.

The largest possible score you can concede is for bidding and playing seven redoubled, vulnerable and not making a single trick: $400 + 12 \times 600 = 7600$.

Knowing that 3NT is 400 or 600 isn't rocket science. Try to learn the scores for the common contracts that you play in week after week. For the less common results, try to work out the scores rather than relying on the bidding box to help. A little effort will reap big rewards and will turn you into a more successful player.



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Feb 26 2007



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Chobham	Saturday 21st April
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Stourbridge	Saturday 17th March
Oxford	Saturday 24th March
Southport	Saturday 14th April
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Brighton (£37)	Tuesday 14th August

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Richmond, Surrey	Saturday 17th March
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Stourbridge	Saturday 14th April
Southport	Saturday 19th May
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ASSESSMENT £41

Welwyn Garden City	Saturday 10th February
Richmond, Surrey	Saturday 14th April
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For further information, or to register for a course, call **01296 317203** or email **peter@ebu.co.uk**

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For further details call **01296 317217** or email **lisa@ebu.co.uk**

PLAY BRIDGE ALL YEAR ROUND IN TUNISIA

Tunisia First provide the opportunity for groups and bridge clubs as well as those on their own to play bridge all the year round at the popular 4-star Hotel Kanta in Port El Kantaoui. There is a lovely purpose-built and fully-equipped bridge room with seven tables. There are no bridge fees.

The Kanta has an excellent reputation for good food and service with many clients returning each year to enjoy the facilities which include

two large outdoor swimming pools, indoor pool (heated in the winter), gardens, 4 tennis courts, 2 lounges, Piano bar, poolside snack bar, fitness and wellness centre and new for 2007 and Irish style pub serving food and providing entertainment.

Guests can enjoy a mixture of help yourself buffet-style dishes and waiter service in the spacious restaurant which extends on to the outside terrace.

Guest rooms can accommodate up to three persons and are equipped with private bathroom, separate toilet, direct dial telephone, satellite TV,

mini-bar, balcony or terrace with views of either the golf course, the marina, the swimming pool or the countryside.

The Kanta has its own section of private beach at a distance of 400 metres from the hotel complex complete with sun beds,

Guests have free access to the Bridge room, use of the equipment and the services of a resident Bridge host.

Tunisia First will arrange for groups and clubs to have extended options on both flight seats and accommodation (contact Peter Kirk on ☎ 01276 600100. Large Bridge Clubs can be accommodated in one of the hotel's other meeting rooms.

Within the resort is the 36-hole El Kantaoui golf course, just 15 minutes walk from the hotel where Tunisia First can arrange the pre-booking of tee times and payment of green fees.

From the marina you can take a variety of boat trips. Just down the road by public transport is Sousse, where you will find a walled town, with medina and souks.

umbrellas and showers plus a popular beach bar open in the high season. Guests are accommodated on the usual half-board basis (dinner, bedroom and breakfast)

Guests may also be accommodated in the spacious studio or single bedroom apartments which have their own kitchenette, fridge and cooking rings.



From
£389* for
7 nights

The Hotel Kanta is located in the heart of Port El Kantaoui just a few minutes walk from the beach and the marina surrounded by cafés, shops and restaurants.

**TUNISIA
FIRST**

For brochure and booking form
contact Tunisia First
☎ 01276 600100



*2007 Holiday prices quoted are person and include scheduled flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, resort transfers and airport taxes. Regional flying is available for 7 or 14 night durations on request at a supplement from Manchester, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Stansted, East Midlands & Glasgow. Every evening there is a bridge host on duty, but numbers will always determine the format of the bridge to be played.